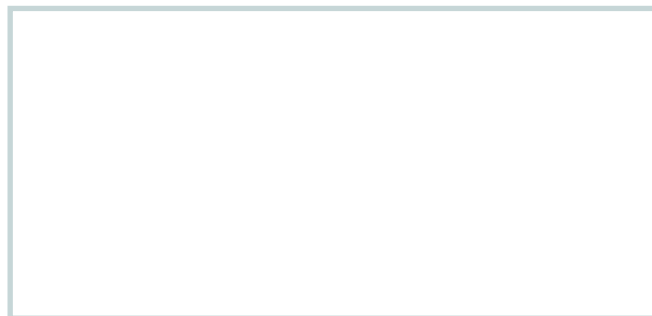


Franklin Methodist Church
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.
Franklin, Texas 77856



February 2024

Visit us on the web
www.franklinmethodist.org

Purpose Statement

Franklin Methodist Church is a fellowship of believers who have come together as a family of faith. Together we have established the following purpose, vision, and mission statement:

Purpose:

Willing and ready to follow and serve Jesus Christ.

Vision:

Franklin Methodist Church shares God's love, Christ's sacrifice, and our faith for the salvation of the world.

Mission:

We believe in Jesus Christ whom we follow, serve, and share.

Key Verse:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” John 3:16-17

POLLY'S PONDERING

*“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near. This is He who was spoken through the prophet Isaiah”
Matthew 3:2-3a*

I was a young 22-year-old mother of one when I took the job as an Examiner in the home office of an insurance company. I was a bit overwhelmed when I discovered that all the other individuals in my position were lawyers, and I was the first female to hold the position. I learned a lot of things while becoming proficient at that job. Most of the things I learned were about the job, some things were about the people I worked with, and there were even things I learned about myself and my faith.

The secretary for the President of the company worked in the same area of the building as the four of us serving as Examiners. She had served in this position for years. She was kind, a bit quiet, and full of wisdom. I trusted her. One day upon arriving at work I noticed that she had a smudged mark on her forehead. To be helpful, (I consider this one of my strengths...but every now and then...) I reached up to wipe the smudge off her forehead. With a quickness that was unfamiliar from this gentle woman, her right hand reached up and halted my efforts just before I wiped the mark away. Polly I am surprised at you, you know it's Ash Wednesday. I instantly knew I had overstepped my ground. I didn't have the heart to tell her that I knew nothing about Ash Wednesday. I had raised myself in the Baptist church in which we never celebrated Ash Wednesday. And it was only after I had married, and we moved to Broken Arrow Oklahoma that we began worshiping at the local Methodist church.

I still remember the first time I knelt at the altar and had the pastor anoint me with the ashes of the previous year's Palm Sunday branches. It reminded me how easily I rejoice in the presence of God, and unfortunately how often I fall short of taking up his cross. But it never felt like condemnation, but more like conviction. Conviction that God's love is unearned, undeserved, and yet so freely given. Conviction that I fall short, mess up, forget to carry my cross and follow Christ, and yet that same cross reminds me that Christ came to redeem me from my very brokenness that seeks to separate me from God. That is when I realized that the ash smudged cross that I tried to wipe away from the secretary's forehead was her reminder that God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not die but have everlasting life. That cross was a witness to her belief in God's love that covered her sin and redeemed her for an eternal life that was already begun on earth.

I hope you will join us in the Activity Building on February 14 to celebrate the greatest act of love ever given to you and me. We will fellowship around the table with a soup supper at 6:00pm and finish with a brief and meaningful service where you too can experience the reminder of God's goodness as you receive a cross of ash upon your forehead.

Pastor Polly



We will begin the Lenten season on February 14 in the Activity Building with our traditional soup supper followed immediately by our worship service. Please join us for this special evening. Special music will be presented by the BLAST children.

Youth Ministry NEWS

6th-12th Graders!
Join us Wednesday for

Food
Faith
Fun

6-8 p.m. in the
Activity Building

Did you order

Salsa?

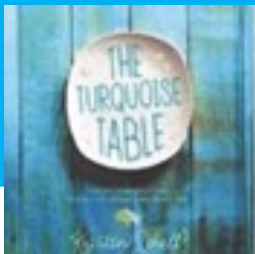
You can pick it up
either Sunday,
February 4
between noon and
2pm or
Monday, February 5
between 3pm and
6pm.

Movie Night

Friday, February 2
we will be travelling
to College Station to
attend the
Premier of Season 4
of



Turquoise Table Ladies
Thursday, February 1
11am—Activity Building



Come share lunch and stay for fun and games!!

Bring your own sandwich/salad or lunch of your choice (the chips, drinks and your dessert are provided.) After lunch we will break out the games and you can have your choice from several fun activities. For more information contact Deborah Hicks at 979-255-8333 or Julie Jarrell 979-255-2966.



Prayer Committee

Are you getting the weekly email of Prayer Request from Your Church Family? If you are not, please call the church office to confirm your email address. Also, always check the Prayer Request in this newsletter for others in need of prayer.

Please consider joining the Prayer Committee. There are not a lot of meetings, we communicate mostly via email, but we would love for you to join us at the upcoming meeting on February 18 immediately following worship.

For your Lenten Devotional the Prayer Committee will have copies of *How to Pray: The Best of John Wesley on Prayer* available for you to pick up.

*Be joyful always; pray continually
1 Thessalonians 5:16-17*

Our Amazon Wish List

has been updated with some new items that the church and pre-school can use, please check it out at this link.

[FMC Amazon Wish List](#)

This Wish List contains various items that might not be a priority in the church and preschool's budgets, but that are needed. You can purchase items and they will be delivered right to the church. Of course, we want to acknowledge all the gifts, so be sure to fill out the gift receipt. You can access the wish list by following the link above.



Wednesday Nights
February 7th, 21st, & 28th
kids Kindergarten- 5th
grade are invited to join us
from 6:00-7:30pm for
dinner, worship, games, &
small group time. Blast
will meet in the church
Education Building.



Sunday Small Groups at 9:00 am

ARK—Nursery, Pre-K & Kindergarten
Kingdom Kids—Grades 1 thru 4
Encounter—Grades 5 thru 8
Fusion—Grades 9-12
Home Builders—Adult
Wisdom—Adult



Click below to see a short video.

We often feel alone, abandoned, isolated. But God didn't leave us on our own—He's with us and He's given us relationships with others. Use this illustration to teach about friendship. This dramatic illustration was originally featured in *Better Than One* with Dhati Lewis.

A Light in the Darkness

This is just one of the THOUSANDS of resources available through your FREE RightNow Media account.

The FUMP CORNER



It is so wonderful to have a whole month to remind us of love. Our monthly theme is friendship and love. The Bible story, The Good Samaritan, reminds us that we should be kind and compassionate to everyone and count everyone as our neighbor. I can't think of a better example of love. This is what Jesus's love is like. I can't wait to see the different ways that the teachers demonstrate this parable.

We are in full swing here with the Daddy Daughter Dance preparations. This is our 10th year to put on this memorable event for fathers and their daughters. The theme, *A Royal Event*, will be February 17th at The Venue at Bonita Canyon. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor this amazing fundraising benefit, please contact me. We hope to raise enough money to make improvements to the turf side of the playground and replace the carpet in two of the rooms. In addition, we are in need of a PA System to communicate with the staff in emergencies. We have been very blessed over the years to have many sponsors donating awesome amounts.

God has always been faithful in the past and we know He will continue to bless this ministry. We appreciate your prayers.

Ministry is not something we do for God; it something God does in and through us.

Warren Wiersbe

In Christ,
Sherry Buchanan,
Director, FUMP





Give thanks to the Lord for he is good!
His faithful love endures forever!
Psalm 136:1

Come check out MOPS&MOMSNext
this month we meet:
Feb 7th and Feb 21st
We would LOVE to have you!

Sign up for a Summer Camp Adventure with God!



SAVE THE DATE

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 8-11, 2024
9 AM TO NOON**

February Mission of the Month and Lenten Mission Franklin Food Pantry

This year, for Lent, the Mission Committee is providing you the opportunity to help fill the shelves at the Franklin Food Pantry. At the Ash Wednesday service, February 14, there will be boxes available along with a calendar that suggests items needed by the pantry for each of the 40 days of Lent. Fill the box, fill the shelves and fill the stomachs of your neighbors. The calendar is also the last page of this newsletter so that you can start your grocery list. If you have any questions you can contact the church office or contact Julie Jarrell at 979-255-2966..



Ash Wednesday is February 14 this year. Services for this special day are being planned along with Lenten observances. As these plans come together, the Worship Committee will see that the congregation is informed.

Lenten Brown Bag lunches will begin Wednesday, February 21. Please join us at noon each Wednesday during Lent for a devotional and fellowship.

We are looking forward to celebrating this important season as we worship Jesus Christ our Lord and praise God for the sacrifice of his only begotten Son as atonement for our sins.

Stay tuned!!

As always, if you have any ideas or suggestions, or would like to participate or volunteer to help the Worship Committee with these special opportunities of worship, please contact the church office and we will be happy to have your input and participation. Deborah Hicks

**Will you be my
volunteer?**

Youth Group
BLAST Children's Ministry
Children's Sermons on Sunday
A.S.K.
Vacation Bible School
Clothes Closet
Franklin Food Pantry
Call the church office for details.

Katie's Korner

This month has felt like a major emotional rollercoaster and I've got some WILD news to share with you all. So come along for the ride. As I shared in my last newsletter, I was planning to move to Oregon to study a YWAM Foundations of Counseling Ministry course, emphasis on the 'was.' At the start of the New Year I found out that the course in Oregon was being postponed until 2025...and the emotional rollercoaster began.

However, after a day of panic, I began a two week process of prayer and research to consider my options for this year. I had really felt God's direction to complete this specific course and still wanted to do that this year. So after that time I applied and am now enrolled to study this course in Auckland, New Zealand. It still begins in March so after I wrap up here in Australia at the end of February, I will have a quick 10-day trip to visit family in Texas and then head back over the Pacific to New Zealand.

The first 3 months in New Zealand I will be living at the YWAM center and will have lectures each week, as well as engage in their community living and ministry opportunities. I also have the option to complete an additional 3 month outreach in which we will be doing hands-on ministry and practically applying the basic counselling skills to support others. I am leaning toward completing these additional 3 months as well.

It has been confronting to consider living in a new nation and culture and starting fresh with building local community for those months on the course, but God continues to confirm His presence and purpose with this change, and I am mostly feeling curious.

It's wild how much can change in just a few weeks—and I'm sure you have those same kind of experiences.

Peace + Love
Katie

FOOD PANTRY LENTEN DONATION CALENDAR

Each day add an item to your box.

On Easter Sunday, or soon thereafter, bring the box to the church.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday FEBRUARY	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			14 Can of Soup	15 Peanut Butter	16 Mustard	17 Boxed Potatoes or a bag of potatoes
18 First Sunday in Lent	19 Macaroni & Cheese	20 Canned Fruit	21 Cake Mix	22 Frosting	23 Mayonnaise	24 Canned Beans
25 Second Sunday in Lent	26 Box of Crackers	27 Pancake Mix	28 Jar of Jelly (Preferably Plastic)	29 Dry Package of Pasta	MARCH 1 Spaghetti Sauce	2 Can of Chicken Noodle Soup
3 Third Sunday in Lent	4 Can of Corn	5 Bag or Box of Cereal (Not individual ones)	6 Can of Cream of Chicken Soup	7 Can of Chili	8 Powdered Milk	9 Hearty Soup
10 Fourth Sunday in Lent	11 Can of Cream of Celery Soup	12 Dried White Beans	13 Dry Package of Pasta	14 Canned Tuna	15 Evaporated/Condensed Silk	16 Refried Beans
17 Fifth Sunday in Lent	18 Hearty Soup	19 Can of Green Beans	20 Cooking Oil	21 Peanut Butter	22 Coffee	23 Canned Fruit
24 Palm Sunday	25 Ketchup	26 Canned Spam or Vienna Sausage	27 Toilet Paper	28 Corn Tortillas	29 Macaroni & Cheese	30 Case of Water
31 Have a Blessed Easter He is Risen!!						



To keep the prayer list as up-to-date as possible, please contact the church office with any changes to the specific need for each one on the list.

Denver Richard
Continued Healing

Terrie Foltermann as she goes through
radiation

Peace in the world



4th Jeff Ripley
11th Meghan Moran
18th Julie Jarrell
25th Julie Neyland

**Ushers for
February**
The Reinhardt



Eric Michael (Air Force)
Benjamin Standing (National Guard)
PFC Joseph Pawley (Army)

Giving for Last Month

General Offering	\$	24,118.00
Building Fund	\$	845.00
Memorial- Designated~Other	\$	2,996.00
Wesley House	\$	25,000.00

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

6th Darron & Marlo Davis
8th Ed & Kathy Tomko
9th Bryan & Jeannie Reed
26th Kevin & Amy Marak



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2nd Kristi Kissinger	19th Grady Harris
5th Anne Vickers	22nd Anisa Zahn
Ronald Gresham	23rd Pat Turner
9th Warren Kastner	Tina Ripley
12th Wayne Huggins	25th Lou Whatley
13th Aubrey Harper	26th Christopher Zahn
18th Susan Nelson	Joe Corn