

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



January 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 MC 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

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

I was at the state game ready to watch our team's bid for a threepeat. As I was sitting there with the rest of us from Franklin, full of pride in our hometown and our kids, dressed in all kinds of uniforms: football, cheerleading, twirling, and band; I noticed the top running marquee had "Jesus Gets Us"; it was surrounding the whole stadium. I wondered how many others noticed. Then I began to ponder.

How interesting it was running during the beginning of the game. And how appropriate, cause win or lose Jesus gets us all. He knew the high points of recognition when a voice from Heaven declared that this was God's beloved Son in whom God is well pleased. Later at the Transfiguration that same voice would make that declaration again and tell the disciples to listen to him.

But Jesus also knew the low points. He grieved when he heard that John the Baptist was beheaded. He wept when Lazarus was dead and buried. He struggled in the garden when the crucifixion was just hours away. He felt the pull of his own will even asking God if there was a way the cup could pass by him. But it was, as it was in the Passover, the blood of the lamb that would save the people of God. And this time not only for the first born but all those who believed in Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God the Father, who because of His great love for the world sent him into this world as a little baby wrapped in swaddling cloths. Jesus understood that he would be the lamb of God sacrificed for our sin, our forgiveness, our salvation.

He is the reason we can begin again each morning without the shame of sin, which means missing the mark, hanging over us. Each morning starts fresh with possibilities for us to do our best, to do something that honors God, to do something that helps those who are struggling to believe that Jesus gets them. We can pass along words of kindness. We can receive the circumstances of life knowing they are not what defines us. We can kick Satan and his words of belittlement, discouragement, and hopelessness out of play. While things might not always go our way, we can be sure that there is a great gathering of the Saints we have our backs and fellow Christian believers who will help us through tough times. All because we know that it does not ultimately matter if we are put to success or put to failure but rather that we trust in the one who created us, who came to live among us, and who died for us, all because God the Father loves us, God the Son gets us, and God the Spirit encourages, convicts, and teaches us every day.

As we begin this new year, with it's up and downs, successes and failures, moments of affirmation and times of utter humiliation, with moments surrounded by friends and moments when loneliness is your only companion; let's remember that Jesus gets us, each of us, everyone of us! And with bravery face each new day with conviction, faith, courage, and freedom from our past sins. Yes, sometimes we miss the mark. But a saint is a sinner who falls down and gets back up. And know this; God never stops loving us. Jesus' salvation never loses it saving power. And the Holy Spirit never stops cheering us on.

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."
2 Corinthians 5:17*

Pastor Polly



Happy New Year to our Franklin Methodist Church family! What a blessed Advent Season we had with many families able to come together once again. The Worship Committee is looking forward to planning meaningful worship experiences for 2024.

January 7 – Epiphany Sunday

January 8 – Worship Committee will meet at 4:00 p.m. to take down the

Christmas decorations. If you would like to help, feel free to join us, and then stay for a bowl of really fabulous chili.

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 would be happy to have your input and participation. --Deborah Hicks



6th-12th Graders!
Join us Wednesday for

Food
Faith
Fun

6-8 p.m. in the
Activity Building

YOUTH GROUP RETURNS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024
and then will meet every Wednesday night
in January at 6pm.



Jan 26-28



FOOD PANTRY
WORKDAY
JANUARY 13

The Franklin Food Pantry gives food to approximately 100 families each month. Area churches are responsible for distributing the food one Saturday morning every 9 weeks.

Our next scheduled work day is January 13.

Please join us from about 8:45 to noon to help distribute food to your neighbors in need. Just in case you do not know, the Food Pantry is located at 201 South Calvert Street here in Franklin. If you have any questions you can contact Laura Corn at 979-204-8593 or call the church.

The FUMP CORNER HAPPY NEW YEAR

It may be a new year, but we serve the same God! *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”* Hebrews 13:8. Many of us will make resolutions to give up certain things or set goals to achieve something. As Paul says in Philippians 3:14, *“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

January 9 is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. FUMP will celebrate Lieutenant John Key on January 16 with a luncheon. John consistently checks on us to make sure we are ok, and he visits with the kids. His presentation helps the kids understand that police officers keep us safe and there is no need to be afraid of them.

The teachers will share the story of King David and how God used an ordinary person to fulfill His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. The children will hear that God has a plan for their lives, too. Our second Bible story is The Armour of God. Our focus will be that we can only be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

As we enter the new year, continue to pray for our staff, children, and families. This ministry is hard work but oh so very rewarding. As God leads us, He continues to richly bless us.

In Christ,
Sherry Buchanan,
Director FUMP



Katie's Korner Big Changes Coming in 2024

The past few months I've been in the process of seeking God about what to do when my current visa finishes up in March of 2024. As I've shared previously, I've had an open-ended commitment here and have put down roots and really felt like Newy has been home for me. But as I prayed, I felt God speaking to me about making a pretty big change **and here it is** -- in March I'll be heading to Oregon to complete a 3-month 'Foundations of Counseling Ministry' [FCM] school with YWAM Salem. Since my DTS in 2018 I've had interest in this YWAM course but had never felt to pursue it until these last several months. I've loved getting to work with youth and young people in mentorship roles but feel like there's more training and practice that I'd like to deepen to continue serving in areas like this in the future. I don't have a full picture of what will come next, but I've really felt God's loving hand in this process to do the course and trust that He will continue to direct my steps afterwards. All this means that I'll be finishing up here with YWAM Newy/Tahlee at the start of March, heading to Texas for a couple of weeks and then making my way to Oregon to start the course. I'm looking forward to this new change but also processing the bittersweet of saying 'see you later' to a place and people who I've come to know so dearly here in AUS. I'd value your prayers for the transition.



**Blast resumes
Wednesday,
January 10th!**

Wednesday Nights beginning January 10th kids K-2nd & 3rd-5th are invited to join us from 6:00-7:30pm for dinner, worship, games, & small group time. Blast will meet at the church Education Building.

PRAYER requests

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~Health Concerns Those families suffering the loss of family members

All others that are in need of prayer



*The time is now!
Start the new year off right
with a new group!
MOPS/MOMS Next
is for all moms who seek fellowship,
friendship and a much needed break.
In January we meet:
Jan. 10th & Jan. 24th
Hope to see you there! We've saved
a seat for you!
For more info text or call
979-412-1467*

CHURCH CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

The Church Conference will be held immediately following worship and will be facilitated by Reverend Chappell Temple, Area Presiding Elder. Please mark your calendar to attend.

Giving for Last Month
(as of Wednesday, December 27, 2023)

General Offering	\$	22,728.26
Building Fund	\$	1,170.00
Memorial-Designated~Other	\$	1,725.00
Cookie Walk	\$	5,335.76

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3rd	Andy Reed	21st	Keith Zamzow
7th	Kyle Hoegemeyer		Jan Westerman
9th	Austin Ray Corn		Raheem Green
	Ed Tomko		Meghan Moran
10th	Landon Vickers		Caden Perez
11th	John Kamas	24th	Ben Zamzow
12th	Mackenzie Marak	25th	Caitlyn Martin
15th	Sebie Harris	26th	Tabitha Cloat
	Cooper Huggins	28th	Amy Neichoy
18th	Jennifer Garrett	30th	Stephanie Broadus
	Kimberly Perez	31st	Jim Hanks
19th	Maddie Nelson		Samantha Harris Weyer

We appreciate and need your continued faithful giving.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



14th	Todd & Julie Neyland	26th	Lewis Conner & Molly Dean
20th	Bill & Terri Wygle	30th	Frank & Louise Cates
24th	John & Deborah Hicks		