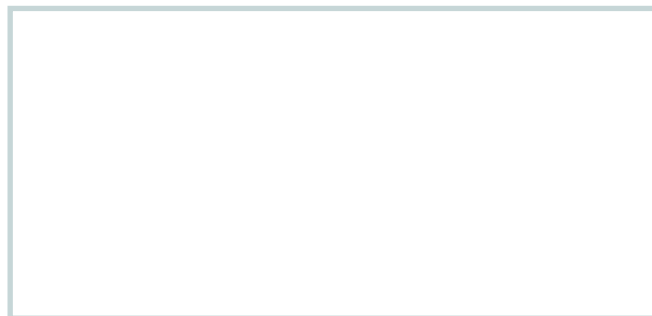


Franklin Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.  
Franklin, Texas 77856



**February 2025**

Visit us on the web  
[www.franklinmethodist.org](http://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

*“For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for Him and how you have shown your love to Him by caring for other believers, as you still do.” Hebrews 6:10*

Sunday evening, January 26, 2025 the church family joined together to share a meal and to celebrate what the Lord has been doing among us over the last year. Rev. Jim Jackson, Brazos Area Connecting Elder and Pastor of Madisonville Methodist was with us to preside over the meeting. We are grateful for his willingness to serve in this manner. There are copies of the Charge Conference Report available in the church office and you are welcome to come and look it over.

During the meeting we looked toward goals for 2025. The focus will be on 1. Discipleship through small group development. 2. Catechism study, which is Global Methodism 101. 3. We will work to build on the volunteerism we already experience and seek to increase it in the areas of Youth, Blast, and Missions. And we gave Certificates of Recognition to three individuals, who have stepped down from years of ministry in a specific area. It was a great evening.



**Elizabeth Reinhardt** has given her life to the education of children, both as a professional and as a volunteer. Very few of us remember a time when she was not serving as the Children’s Sunday School teacher. In addition, she has a long running history of volunteering at the Vacation Bible School programs. It was a great honor to recognize her years of service and to see Mary Kamas present the certification. Elizabeth was greatly moved by the presentation.

**Rhonda Miller** has used her musical talents in many ways over the years. She has worked with our children and our adults through her gifts as a Choir Director. She has been serving in this capacity for all the fifteen years that I have

been with the church. It is sad to see her relinquish this responsibility. However, as sad as it is to see her give up choir it is equally exciting to know that she will continue to lead the Ukulele group, “Sunshine Strummers”. Join me in both giving thanks for Rhonda and in the prayer for new leadership to step forward. It was an honor to see Deborah Hicks and Cathy Reed present the certificate to Rhonda. Rhonda was really surprised and clearly emotional as were Deborah and Cathy.



By now you see a pattern of years of service that are not continuing in the particular ways that they served in the past. Our final recipient follows in that pattern. But there is one difference between the previous two and this last one – **Maria Cottrell** is not a member of the church – but is no less a part of this family of faith. Maria has served in the preschool program for as many years as I can remember. She began her service as a classroom teacher and then moved into assistant director to Sherry Buchanan, Preschool Director. Her humble servant attitude was evident in her service as church custodian. It was a pleasure to see Sherry present the award and receive it on behalf of Maria, who was unable to attend.

I know you will join me in celebrating the way God has used these three women in His service here at Franklin Methodist. And I ask that you join me in praying for the way God continues to use them as witnesses of His love in their families, church, and community. We are blessed to have them among us.

*Pastor Polly*



**Our Youth will be discussing how life and faith were not meant to be done alone.**



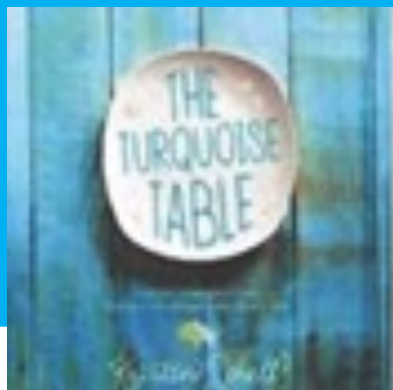
## Prayer Committee

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.**

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

**Turquoise Table Ladies  
Thursday, February 6  
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.

## Our Amazon Wish List

has been updated with some new items that the church and preschool 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. You should also be able to search by the church's name and email address. If you have any questions please give the church office a call.



### Wednesday Nights

Kids K-2nd & 3rd-5th are invited to join us from 6:00-7:30pm for dinner, worship, games, & small group time. Blast meets at the Wesley House.



### 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



This month it is all about hearts, love, and kindness. This is an especially nice time of the year to show those we love just how much we care for them and appreciate them. The FUMP staff hopes that each one of you know the love that our Lord and Savior has for you. That is our main message that we convey to our children every Tuesday and Thursday.

Busy is an appropriate description for February. We have our Valentine's Day Party on February 11th and class pictures on the 13<sup>th</sup>. As usual, the Daddy Daughter Dance is coming up February 8, 2025, from 6:00-9:00. This memorable event is one of our largest fundraisers, which enables us to be financially self-sufficient. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor and make a donation, please contact us.

We have two Bible Stories this month. One is Joseph and His Coat of Many Colors showing that God has a wonderful plan for our lives and will never forget us. The second Bible Story is the Wise and Foolish Builders. The goal of this story is to teach we must be obedient to Jesus and our foundation is the Bible.

*"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."* Helen Keller

In Christ,  
Sherry Buchanan,  
Director, FUMP



## February Mission of the Month The Clothes Closet

Did you know that there is usually someone working at the Clothes Closet almost **EVERY DAY**? Even though the “store” is only open on Friday and Saturday mornings, there are volunteers there sorting donations, arranging the clothes throughout the building and getting everything ready for those customers to come on Friday and Saturday. **AND** did you know that the sales receipts from those Friday and Saturday sales go to assist our neighbors with utilities, medications and emergency food needs? How can you help this vital mission of the church? Can you spend a few hours helping sort donations? We will be scheduling some “workdays” as there is currently an abundance of donations (thank God.) **OR** would you like to man the store on one of the open days. (Don’t worry you will have help.) If you are interested in getting more information or ready to sign up for one of the workdays just give the church a call and you will be put in touch with the correct person.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL  
JULY 14-17, 2025  
9 AM TO NOON**

### Recap of 2024 Monthly Missions:

February & March	Franklin Food Pantry~~Over 40 Lenten Food Boxes delivered to the food pantry
April	The Clothes Closet~~Volunteer Recruitment
May	Vacation Bible School~~Volunteer Recruitment
June	Elizabeth House~~Baby Bottle Campaign raised \$539.00
July	HOPE Mission~~Raised \$200.00
August	Gideons~~Raised \$970.00
September	Homegrown Missionaries~~Donated \$530.00
October	Coats~~Able to provide 57 coats to Roland Reynolds Elementary School children.
November	Christmas Angels~~Provided Christmas Gifts for 25 children and donated \$350.00
December	Cheer Baskets~~Provided 13 baskets to homebound church members

**Thank you for supporting these missions!**

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink. When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ Matthew 25:35-40*



It's a new year for our church. The Worship Committee is happy to welcome new chairwoman Kristie Kissinger. Kristie is a well-known and valued member of our church. We look forward to a great year under Kristie's leadership. At the same time, let us give our hearty thanks and take time to express appreciation to Deborah Hicks who has lead this committee for many years and has contributed mightily to the worship opportunities of our congregation .

Stay tuned!! As plans are starting for the Lenten and Easter seasons that are fast approaching. The next committee meeting is Monday, February 10 at 4:00pm

*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.* Kristie Kissinger

**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

### Final Weeks on Outreach:

In the last couple of weeks in Kazakhstan we organized final catch-ups with some of our local friends and fellow YWAMers. We were hoping to have one final time with the Talgar English Club, but it had to be canceled due to some severe cold weather. One of my favorite times was our final time spent with our friends Yesengul and Bakhet. Yesengul taught us how to make Kazakh dumplings from scratch. And when it was time to go, they shared with us a Kazakh tradition in which the hosts offer 'anything' from their home for the guests to take with them. We didn't know what to say/what would be proper to ask for -- but they sent us home with a fresh box of tea, some chocolates and one of Bakhet's novels for our friend Lyndee.

### What Now?

During the second half of the FCM, I began to pray and consider some various options for this year. In that process, I felt to transition out of full-time missions with YWAM and into something new [and partially unknown!]. God has led me to return to Newcastle, Australia for this year on a work holiday visa and search for some new job opportunities. I am hoping that I'll be able to work in some jobs that are connected with kids/youth and perhaps around the education realm/in schools. I am still exploring and applying to job opportunities. I have been so blessed by my community in Newcastle over the last six years, and I am thrilled to be heading back that way for 2025. While I am moving out of full-time ministry, I have really felt God's leading to look for new ways to engage in sharing His love and truth. I don't know if this will be through my workplace, through volunteer opportunities, through friendships -- but I know that God has a beautiful purpose in this move.

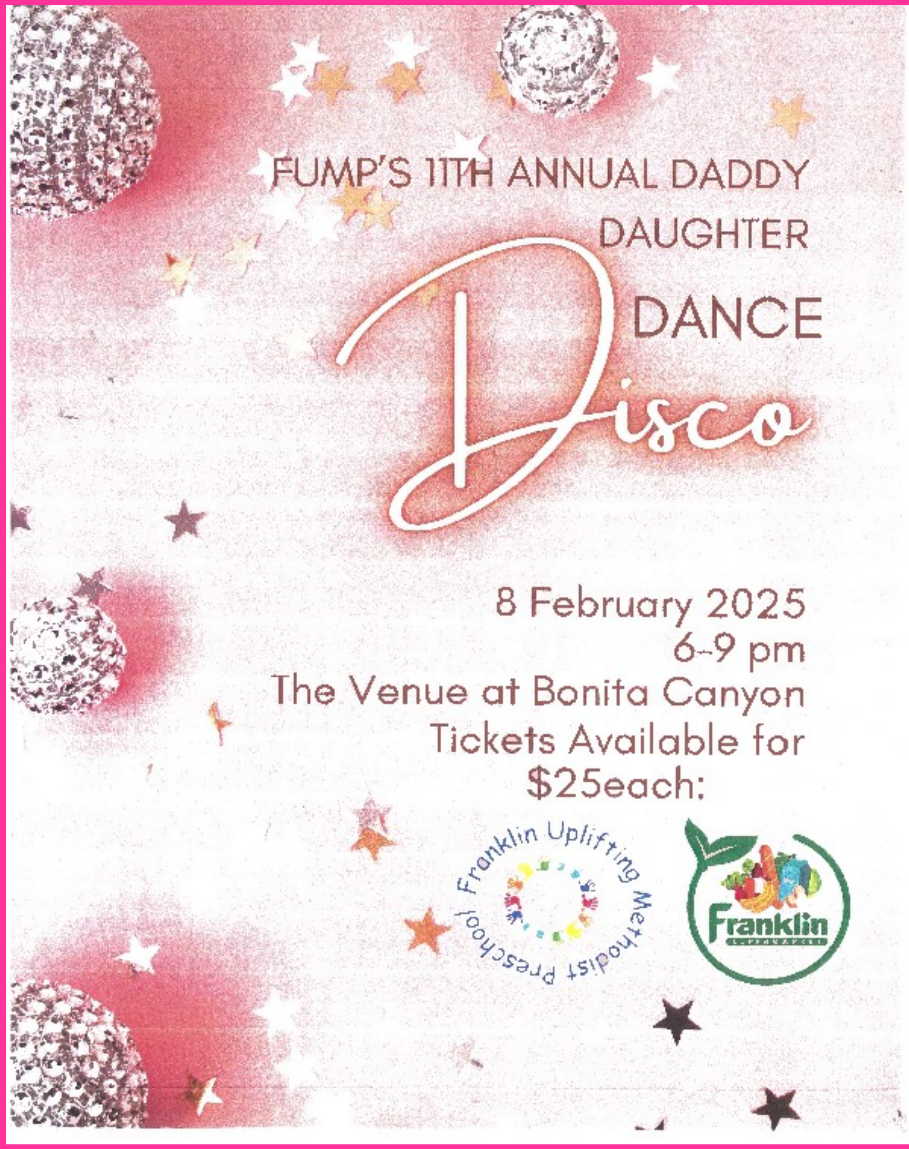
I was able to enjoy a delightful visit with family in Texas and catching up with friends in the area too. I was home for Christmas for the first time since 2018 and that was the sweetest gift! My brother, Matt, also got to visit for the holiday, and so we had 7 out of the 8 Kamas kids all home for the holidays. I spent so much time with my little niece and nephew, Isa and Santi.

Peace + Love  
Katie





## SPONSORSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE

Contact Christian Rawson at 979-224-8118 or  
Sherry Buchanan at 979-828-2019  
for sponsorship information.



FUMP'S 11TH ANNUAL DADDY  
DAUGHTER  
DANCE  
*Disco*

8 February 2025  
6-9 pm  
The Venue at Bonita Canyon  
Tickets Available for  
\$25 each:



**WINTER  
WEEKEND**  
AT CAROLINA CREEK

Pray for those of our youth and adults as they are off to  
They will be in attendance from  
Friday, January 31 to Sunday, February 2.



THE MOMCO

Love Kids?

Want to earn a few extra dollars?

We are in need of someone to help with the children whose mothers attend MomCo (formerly MOPS.) It is 2 times a month on Wednesday mornings from 10am until around noon.

For more information call or email the church office.

**FEBRUARY MEETING DATES:**

February 5

February 19

♪ **Music Note:** ♪

The Sunshine Strummers



Practice is on Wednesday's beginning at 4:00pm. You might be saying "I can't play the ukulele." Just come to ONE rehearsal and find out if it is something that you want to learn. The Sunshine Strummers provide entertainment to several groups throughout the year and are a really fun group to see perform and to be a part of.

Upcoming performances are:

**February 14~10:00am**

Franklin Nursing Home

**February 28~2:00pm**

Watercrest @ Bryan





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  
California fire victims

Hudson Swinna-Leukemia  
Thad and Dorthea Allen

All who have lost family members  
Peace in the world

**Lay Readers**

2nd	Douglas Campbell
9th	John "Carty" Hicks
16th	Brandi Pearce
23rd	Jeff Ripley

**Ushers for February**

Kip & Kristi Kissinger



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

**Giving for Last Month**

General Offering	\$	24,076.25
Building Fund	\$	770.00
Memorial-Designated~Other	\$	2,870.00

**Preliminary Financial Report for the Month of January**

Funds Received for General Budget	\$24,076.25
Expenses Paid	<u>\$24,136.91</u>
Net Income for Month of January	\$ (60.66)
Wesley House Balances	
Mortgage	\$102,515.44
Line of Credit	\$ 75,000.00

**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