

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



March 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

*When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. Luke 9:51*

I am wrestling today with what it means that Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem. I mean I have usually thought about this in relationship to Palm Sunday – the day we see Jesus riding into Jerusalem, knowing it will be his last Passover with the disciples on earth and knowing that the cross is in sight. But this verse comes much earlier in Luke's account of the ministry of Jesus.

Perhaps the clue to understanding comes from the conversation Jesus had with a man who declares that he wants to follow Jesus wherever he goes. Jesus responds to this man's declaration with a simple command: "Follow me" (9:59.) Jesus has said yes, come follow me or perhaps he has responded with; well then if that is indeed what you want to do, do it; Follow me. What happens next is that the man who seemed intent on following Jesus, has second thoughts, or perhaps he wanted the idea of following Jesus but not the actually *doing* of following Jesus. "I will follow you, Lord; but first..." (9:61)

Suddenly, I am quite aware of the struggle there is in following Jesus. We are people of divided focus. We have not set our face toward following Jesus. We are still distracted by things that pull us away. The Greek word is *epakoloutheo*; it means to carefully follow after someone with the goal to replicate what he does...

So, this Lent I am wrestling with two questions. I know I want to follow Jesus but where and in what ways am I like the man in the scriptures who says "I will follow you, Lord; but first..."? The second question is what do I see in the life and actions of Christ that I need to mimic more closely?

I remember playing the mimic game where you sit or stand face to face with someone and you try to do what they do as if you are their reflection in a mirror. To be really good at it you must focus intently on each movement of the individual you are mirroring. You must notice not only the more obvious movements like raising a hand or shifting the body, but you must also notice the subtle things like a raised eyebrow or a slight movement of the mouth. To mimic one must be focused on the movements, actions, attitudes of the other.

Here are some of the actions of Christ I am looking at: He was a man of prayer and committed to a relationship with God the Father. He was a man who served others. He was a man who believed in community. He was a man who lived with integrity and honesty. He was a man who willingly shared his faith journey with others. He was a man who demonstrated love and forgiveness. He was a man willing to set aside his own will for the Will of God. He was a man willing to face challenges for the good of the Kingdom.

How good are you at mimicking Christ?

In Deuteronomy 13:4 we find these words: "*You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.*" And in John 14:9 it states "*He who has seen Me has seen the Father.*"

*Pastor Polly*

## Easter Cheer Baskets

Since the Christmas and Easter Baskets have been such a great success and visiting some of our members who aren't able to make it to church is a true joy, the Mission Committee has decided to do it again this Easter!

The "baskets" will be provided by the Mission Committee and will be ready to be filled with your items. The date for assembling the baskets has not been set~will update you on details in the April Newsletter.



The plan is to have 10 baskets put together and ready for delivery before Easter. If you have someone you would like to add to our list, please call the church office.

Some suggested items for the baskets are: Wooden Crosses; Pastel Nonslip Socks; Lip Balms; Homemade Cards/Tags; Muffins; Cookies; Lotions; Popcorn Bags; Tea Bags; Granola Bars; Oranges; Bottled Water; Bookmarks; Gum/Mints; Easter candy; Easter Decorative Items; Individual Drink add-ins (could be electrolyte) Other Ideas?

**SAVE THE DATE**



**Sign up to Glorify the Lord at this year's Vacation Bible School.**

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



The celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is almost here and we look forward to worshipping together during the upcoming days.

**March 5-6:00 p.m.** Ash Wednesday fellowship soup supper in the Activity Building

**6:30 p.m.** Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary

**Lenten Mission Food Pantry Boxes will be available for pickup in the sanctuary after the service.**

May each member of our congregation receive a special blessing from this season of renewal and recommitment.

*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. – Kristie Kissinger, Chairman Worship Committee*

## JESUS IN THE WILD

Lessons on Calling  
for Life in the World



What can we learn from the story of Jesus going into the wilderness in Luke 4? The story of Jesus in the wilderness is about the surprising, unexpected places we must go—often led by the Holy Spirit—in order to face our enemy and to discover more deeply who God is, who we are, and what this life is truly all about. *Calling* is a hot topic in the church today. We all want to understand our purpose, our meaning, our reason for living. And we equate our calling with our sense of purpose. But how to receive our calling in all its fullness, embrace our calling, and fulfill our calling, is the vital truth that sits at the center of the journey ahead of us. What happened between when Jesus was blessed and *called* into his name and vocation at his baptism, and then when Jesus launched into the fullness of his ministry *calling* in Luke 4:14-21 (Isa. 61:1-2)? What happened between the naming and the doing, the calling and the ministry? The *wild* is what happened. And what happens in the wild determines the end result, of your life and mine. *Dan Wilt, Author, Jesus in the Wild*



## New Study for March



The Youth will also be assisting at the Ash Wednesday Service on March 5.



**Saturday, March 29**  
The Youth will be going to see **The Chosen-Last Supper** at the theater.

Tickets are \$11.50  
See Roye to purchase your ticket.



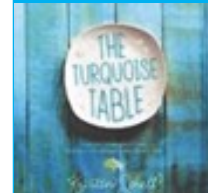
## Bible Study

Tuesday 10:00am  
Book of Ezekiel

Bring your Bible and a notebook and come join us in the kitchen of the activity building.

For more information contact John "Carty" Hicks or the church office.

**Turquoise Table Ladies Meets 1st Thursday every month 11am—Activity Building**  
Next meeting is March 6



For more information contact Deborah Hicks at 979-255-8333 or Julie Jarrell at 979-255-2966.



THE MOMCO

## March Newsletter

- ❖ Meetings for the month of March will occur on March 5 and March 19 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm!
- ❖ If you would like to help in the nursery, please contact Christin at 979-595-8079, we still only have 1 nursery worker and she (as well as all of our group) would be so thankful if another adult would join her in the blessing of keeping the kiddos. This is also a paid position 😊.



**March Schedule**  
 March 5—Ash Wednesday Service  
 March 12—No BLAST  
 March 19 & 26—Regular BLAST

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.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS.**



## EASTER LILLY ORDERS



Again this year you have the opportunity to purchase Easter Lilies in honor of, or in memory of, that special someone. Pick up an envelope in the church Narthex or call the church office to place your order.



## Prayer Committee

Are you getting the weekly email of Prayer Request from Your Church Family? If you are not getting the emails please call the church office to confirm your email address. Remember to fill out the Prayer Request cards at worship~it helps us get the names and prayer requests recorded correctly. Also, always check the Prayer Request in this newsletter for others in need of prayer.

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



## March Mission of the Month and Lenten Mission Franklin Food Pantry

Again this year, for Lent, the Mission Committee is providing you the opportunity to help fill the shelves at the Franklin Food Pantry. As we journey in the desert this Lenten season we want to continuing our mission to fill those shelves with food items. Boxes with a calendar showing suggested items needed by the pantry will be available at the Ash Wednesday service and thereafter in the sanctuary. Fill the box, fill the shelves and fill the stomachs of your neighbors. If you have any questions you can contact the church office or Julie Jarrell at 979-255-2966. (SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 7.)



### Sunday Small Groups Begin at 9:00 am

- ARK** - Nursery, Pre-K & Kindergarten
- Kingdom Kids** - 1st thru 4th grades
- Encounter** - 5th thru 8th grades
- Fusion** - 9th thru 12th grades
- Home Builders** - Adult
- Wisdom** - Adult



Your life looms before you like a mountain. There are so many questions, so many unknowns, and you don't yet know the way. But this is testing ground, a place where God will forge you. You will never go alone. His goodness follows you. Your mountain is calling.

**Your Mountain is Calling**  
**This is just one of the THOUSANDS of resources available through your RightNow Media account.**

**Music Note:**

The Sonshine Strummers, that fabulous ukulele band of ours, has practice on Wednesday afternoons beginning at 4:00pm. If you are interested in learning to play the ukulele or singing with the band, please contact Rhonda Miller or the church office. The band performs around the area at nursing homes and other community events.  
"Sing"cerely, Rhonda

*Praise to the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious and a song of praise is fitting."*

### The FUMP CORNER



March 2 is Dr. Seuss' birthday, and we will celebrate March 6 by having *Crazy Hair and Silly Socks Day!* This is such a fun time for not only the kids, but the staff has a grand time, as well. March 20 is our annual Rodeo Day with live animals, games, western snacks, and prizes. Please feel free to stop by and see all our little cowboys and cowgirls.

Our themes for the month are based on *Joseph and His Coat of Many Colors*. Our emphasis will reflect that God can use bad situations for good, and He has a plan for everyone's life. The second Bible story is taken from the *Woman Who Touched Jesus' Cloak* which will help the children understand that Jesus cares about our needs.

A huge shout out of thanks to all our sponsors for the Daddy Daughter Dance who helped the preschool raise an amazing amount which will go to good use. Our hope is to replace deteriorated parts to our playground equipment and hopefully renovate the turf side of the playground. It is also our goal to raise the staff's salary, as they are committed to sharing the gospel with our children.

Please be in prayer for our preschool as we minister to our little ones and their families. God reminds us to go out into the world and share the good news of the gospel. Our mission at FUMP is to always share God's Word with our children.

In Christ,  
Sherry Buchanan,  
Director FUMP



We will begin the Lenten season on March 5 in the Activity Building with our traditional soup supper followed immediately by our worship service in the Sanctuary. Please join us for this special evening.

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



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 Issues      Hudson Swinnea-7 year old with      Peace in the world
- leukemia
- All who have lost family members

**Giving for Last Month**

General Offering	\$	24,477.80
Building Fund	\$	820.00
Memorial- Designated~Other	\$	4,943.00

**Thank You for Your continued support.**



Lay Readers

2nd	Christan Rawson
9th	Pam Barger
16th	Olivia Campbell
23rd	Mary Kamas
30th	Julie Jarrell

Preliminary Financial report for the month of February & Year-to-Date

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Funds received for the General Budget	\$ 24,478	\$ 49,244
Expenses Paid	<u>\$ 28,167</u>	<u>\$ 52,276</u>
Net for Period(s)	<u>\$ (3,689)</u>	<u>\$ (3,032)</u>

**Ushers for March**  
Ken Reinhardt & Todd Neyland



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

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

2nd	Jill Harris	19th	Howard Hoegemeyer
	Jessica Richardson	20th	Autumn Cloat
4th	Aiden Peterson		Bayley Janacek
	Robbie Reinhardt	22nd	Beth Vickers
	Hudsyn Huggins	24th	Keith Foltermann
9th	Leah Davis	25th	Gwen Harper
	Amy Huggins	28th	Kathy Brimhall
11th	Todd Neyland		Bless Cloat
	Caleb Chanley	30th	Robyn McKinney
12th	Buddy Baxter	31st	Jim Miller
15th	Rex Vickers		
18th	Mikayla Sexton		
	Joni Bailey		

**March Anniversaries**

- 1st      Buddy & Toni Baxter
- 19th    Andy & Jill Harris
- 20th    Grady & Debbie Harris

