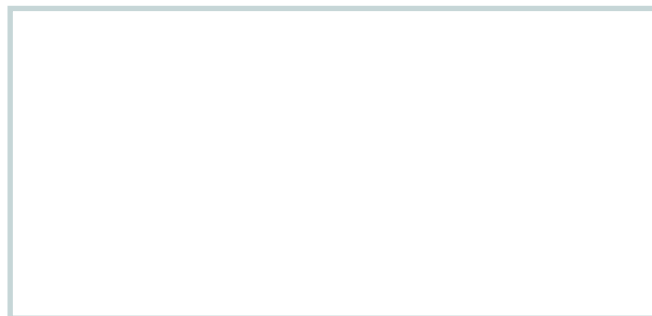


Franklin Methodist Church
P.O. Box 556 - 116 W. Decherd St.
Franklin, Texas 77856



April 2025



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

"If God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?" Matthew 6:30

I must confess I'm not an enjoy-the-scenery-along-the-route kind of gal. When I get in the car I am focused on getting from A to B, in fact, if I'm not the one driving, I am usually asleep between the A and B part of the journey. I probably should stop and enjoy the journey along the way. Stop and smell the roses, isn't that how the phrase goes? Most of the time I am too focused on the destination to notice the in between time.

But for some odd reason today was different. I had a tight time frame to get to the next meeting, which was two hours away. So, I headed out focused on driving and watching the time. Yet out of the corner something caught my eye. It was color on each side of the road; vivid blues, and spectacular oranges – blue bonnets and Indian paint brushes. I didn't notice them on the last drive through this area. No, sometime between destinations they had emerged from the shackles of the previous season. How sad that I was not aware of their appointed arrival. Here they were evidence of spring. My mind wandered to a time long ago when I was more watchful for signs of spring.



My father was diagnosed with cancer in the last days of fall before the cold, snow piled, ice slicked days of winter arrived in South Dakota. He fought but the cancer had spread everywhere and the inevitable was already ordained even then he looked out and saw the purple pansies so loved. Evidence there were still moments of joy in the heavy burdens of the winter days. He would soon take his last earthly breath. He was not afraid; he knew his destination. What he wanted for those who were on this journey with him was that they not focus on his destination but rather notice the simple signs of hope along the way. So, he asked the Lord if he could be allowed to die in the spring, when the snow was melted, and the flowers were bursting forth. He had those around him focused on looking for signs of spring. Dad died January 29, deep in the winter season in Sioux Falls South Dakota. And yet that day after he took his first eternal breath, we saw two bunnies hopping toward the cemetery just behind his bedroom window. And a few days later as we were laying him to rest in the frozen ground, the sound of water trickling from melting snow filled us with a bit of hope, early signs of spring could be heard. And I could swear I saw a crocus emerging from the frozen ground a good month before they were to be expected.



Suddenly, I realized that as I was driving to my meeting place, I had missed the longing, the expectation, the waiting for signs of hope. Focused solely on the getting from A to B (the place of my destination), I had missed the expectation of the emerging presence of creation and hope along the way. And in missing the expected waiting time I had also missed the joy of the arrival of these flowers and their testimony to hope.

This Lenten season as we travel through the wilderness with Christ until the arrival of his bursting forth from the grave, I pray that we will take the journey more slowly and seek signs of hope along the way. I pray we long for his emergence from the shackles of the season and the sin and death that has held us captive for so long. I pray we will enjoy freedom at the end of the journey, the emergence of the resurrected Savior into the world. I pray that we will all look for the presence of the God of creation, who sends flowers along the way to remind us that while we are walking through wild places we are not alone. Even in the most desolate moments of life, the darkest of places where despair and grief try to overshadow God's gift of hope, even there signs of His love and His care for us can be found.



Pastor Polly

Youth Ministry NEWS

6th-12th Graders!
Join us Wednesday for

Food Faith Fun
6-8 p.m. in the
Activity Building



Saturday, April 12

Youth will assist some of their classmates who are participating in the Special Olympics Spring Games being held in College Station. Then we will stay to cheer them on!

Current 5th grade students attending BLAST are invited to experience the Youth Group on Wednesday, April 23 in anticipation of the upcoming year.



THE MOMCO



The facilities that are used for the preschool, MOMCO and Sunday School classes have some special needs of which we are asking for assistance. There are carpets in several classrooms that need to be replaced. There are several pieces of the playground equipment that have wear and tear on them (they are the original equipment installed when playground was established.) A piece of equipment that will vacuum up the turf on the playground.

This facility is a vital part of our campus and it is very important that it is maintained to the highest standards.

Can you find it in your heart to make a special donation earmarked for the Education Building Repairs over and above your current giving? Any funds received will be specifically used for the items needed and continued maintenance of those items.

GRAB YOUR FRIENDS AND JOIN US FOR

Kickin' it with Jesus

KICKBALL TOURNAMENT
BENEFITTING FRANKLIN
METHODIST CHURCH
YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS

\$10 PER PERSON

10+ PLAYERS PER TEAM

SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH AT NOON

THE FRANKLIN RANCH FOOTBALL FIELDS

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CREATE YOUR TEAM AND REGISTER HERE



SAVE THE DATE



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 14-17, 2025

9 AM TO NOON

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES.

The FUMP CORNER

APRIL

We only have a few more weeks to share God's Word to our littles. April is jam packed with great events. Of course, the most important one is to share the Easter story and tell the children the sacrifice our Lord paid for us, demonstrating His great love for each of them.

Grandparents Day will be celebrated at the preschool on April 10 with refreshments in the Activity Building. The kiddos will have so much fun as they run around finding all of the colored eggs at the Easter Egg hunt on April 15. The Executive Board members are invited to any and all of events. Of course we hope to see all of the grandparents who have grandchildren attending our amazing preschool.

Please continue to pray for all the staff each Tuesday and Thursday as we minister to some of God's youngest treasures.

In Christ,
Sherry Buchanan,
Director FUMP



Thank you for honoring
your loved ones with an
Easter Lily.
You can take your lily home after the
Easter worship service.

By Tommie Engler in memory of J.D. Engler

*By John "Carty" and Deborah Hicks
in honor of John and Polly Standing*

*By Howard and Sandra Hoegemeyer
in memory of Dorothea Allen*

*By Bobby and Alisa Mireles in memory of their
parents Hays and Dorothy Allen and
Domingo and Olivia Mireles*

(Lily purchases as of March 31, 2025)



FOOD PANTRY SERVICE DAY APRIL 5

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 service day is April 5.

Please join us from about 8:30 to noon to help distribute food to your neighbors in need. **MEN are especially encouraged to attend to help with some of the heavy lifting needed.** 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 office.



The Food Pantry is in need of egg cartons to distribute the bulk eggs that they get. If you have some that you want to get rid of you can bring them to the pantry on Saturdays or drop them off at the church anytime.

Music Note:

*"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."*

Psalm 147:1

Want to have fun and spread that fun around? The Sunshine Strummers are always looking to add to the band. There are spots for players and singers. Come be a part of that ministry. Practice is on Wednesdays at 4:00pm.



The band has two performances already set up for April:

April 2, at 1:30pm at Crossroads in Hearne
April 23, at 4:00pm at Serenity at Briarcrest

"Sing"cerely, Rhonda



April Schedule
 April 2, 9, 16, 23 and
 April 30 will be the last BLAST for
 the year.

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.



HELLO
 Spring

APRIL MOMCO NEWSLETTER!
 WE WILL MEET THIS MONTH ON
 THE 2ND, 16TH AND 30TH FROM
 10AM-12:00 PM, INVITE A MOM
 AND JOIN US FOR A MEETING IF
 YOU'D LIKE!



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.

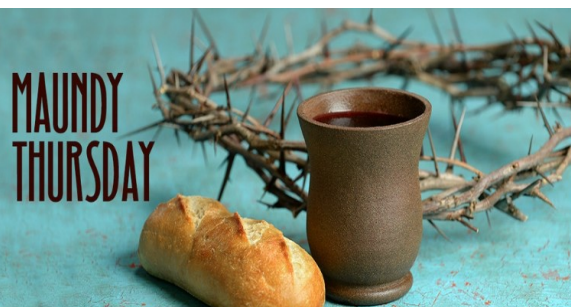
April 13 – Palm Sunday – Children will walk through sanctuary with palm branches and then they will join the youth in leading the praise music. Pot luck Easter Brunch with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg hunt will follow worship.

April 20 – EASTER SUNDAY

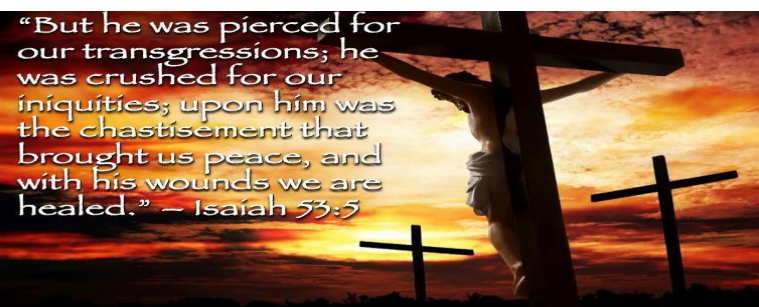
May each member of our congregation receive a special blessing from this season of renewal and recommitment.

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.
 Kristi Kissinger

Holy
 Week



Thursday, April 17 at 6:30pm



“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.” – Isaiah 53:5

Give Thanks on Good Friday!

Turquoise Table Ladies
Meets 1st Thursday every month
11am—Activity Building
Next meeting is April 3



Come share lunch and stay for fun and games!! Bring your own sandwich (the chips, drinks and 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 979-255-8333 or Julie Jarrell 979-255-2966.

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Why Did JESUS Fold the Napkin?

On Easter Sunday, most of us probably heard the story of the first few people to find the empty tomb on that first Easter Sunday. While it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple — the one whom Jesus loved — the one we assume to be John. She said, *"They've taken the Lord's body out of the tomb and I don't know where they have put him."* Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stopped and looked and saw the linen cloth lying there, but didn't go in. Then Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the wrappings lying there, while the cloth or napkin that had covered Jesus' head was neatly folded up and lying to the side. *John 20:2-7*

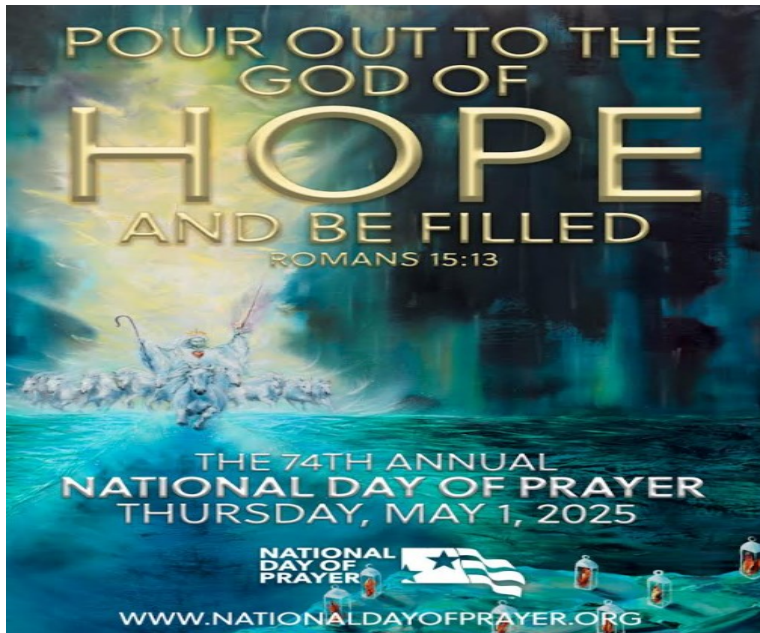
Why did Jesus take the time to fold it? You may wonder, "Is this important?" Yes, it is. In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand some of the Hebrew tradition of the day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and the servant and every Jewish boy knew this tradition. When the servant set the dinner table for the Master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the Master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the Master was finished. Now if the Master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, "I'm finished." But if the Master got up from the table, folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because the folded napkin meant, "I'm coming back." *Excerpt from an article by Phyllis Stoppel*

Prayer Committee



Surely we all have many concerns and loved ones on our hearts and minds. Your Church Family is here to join with you in prayer—just give us a call. If you are not receiving the weekly prayer concerns call the church office to update your information. Prayer is a wonderful thing we can do for each other.

Plan ahead to Thursday, May 1, for our annual National Day of Prayer. We will have a day of collective prayer for our community and nation. Details will be coming soon.



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



Do You Have a Graduating High School Senior?

It is that time of the year where we begin to make our plans on honoring our graduating high school seniors. We have set the date for Senior Sunday as May 18 at our regular 10:15am Worship Service. Traditionally we have put together a slideshow with pictures from throughout their life. Please start gathering up those photos.

If you have any questions contact the church office at 979-828-3355.



Tuesday Mornings at 10:00am
New Study beginning in April
Book of Daniel

Bring your Bible and a notebook and come join us in the kitchen of the activity building on Tuesday mornings~~Everyone is welcome!
For more information contact John "Carty" Hicks or the church office.

Easter Cheer Baskets

The Christmas Baskets were a great success and visiting some of our members who aren't able to make it to church was a true joy...so...the Mission Committee has decided to do it again for Easter!

The "baskets" (see below) have been provided by the Mission Committee and are ready for assembly. **Please let the church office, Beth or Julie know if you can help to assemble the baskets on April 6 after worship and/or help with bringing items to decorate and fill our baskets (let us know what you plan to bring!)** At this time, we are planning on assembling 11 baskets. If you have someone you would like to add to our list, please call the church office.

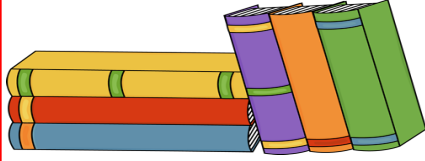
Some suggested items are: Wood Crosses, Pastel Nonslip Socks; Lip Balms; Homemade Cards/Tags, Muffins; Cookies, Lotions, Popcorn Bags, Tea Bags, Granola Bars, Oranges, Bottled Water, Bookmarks, Gum/Mints, Easter candy, Easter Decorative Items, Individual Drink add-ins (could be electrolyte) Other Ideas?



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 Issues Hudson Swinnea-Chemo Treatments Donna Otto-Continued Healing
All unspoken prayers



Lending Library

Be sure to check out the Lending Library located in the Narthex. There are many Christian and motivational books available to borrow! Take a minute or two and browse to find that special something that speaks to you!

There is a whole shelf of new books graciously donated by Laura Hailey. Do you have a book or DVD that you have found helpful or encouraging, we would love your help in growing our library!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1st	Cindy Welty	12th	Michael Homann
2nd	Bettie Jordan		Haley Caubarreaux
3rd	Katie Kamas	14th	Reagan Corn
	Shane Huggins	18th	Monica Stem
	Noah Reinhardt	20th	Pat Cate
	Zachary Davis	21st	Julie Jarrell
	Luke Moran	22nd	Eric Law
4th	Jack Hutchison	23rd	Sara Davis
6th	Kyle Reinhardt	25th	Andy Scasta
	Laurel Lennie	30th	Debbie Harris
7th	Kevin Rawson		Jerry Rawson
8th	Lacey Buckner		
10th	Jason Bailey		
	Lilly Reinhardt		
11th	Karli Morgan		

Ushers for April

Rex Vickers
and
Keith Kamas

Lay Readers

2nd	Karlie Morgan
13th	Meghan Moran
20th	John "Carty" Hicks
27th	Grady Harris

April Anniversaries

9th	Keith & Terri Foltermann
22nd	Kip & Kristi Kissinger
29th	Jack & Pamela Cloat



Giving for Last Month

General Offering	\$	25,066.00
Building Fund	\$	2,320.00
Memorial-Designated~Other	\$	2,290.00

We appreciate and need your continued faithful giving.

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

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
Funds received for the General Budget	\$ 25,066	\$ 74,488
Expenses Paid	\$ 23,436	\$ 75,734
Net for Period(s)	\$ <u>1,630</u>	\$ <u>-1,246</u>