

November 1, 2020

Dear members and friends of the Franklin United Methodist Church,

Faith is a communal endeavor. In the preface to his *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1739), John Wesley (the founder of the Methodist movement) wrote, “Solitary religion is not to be found [in the Gospel of Christ]. ‘Holy solitaires’ is a phrase no more consistent with the gospel than holy adulterers. The gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness, but social holiness.” In short, we need one another to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. We cannot live our faith or grow our faith alone. We need each other.

Paul likened our interdependence—our need for togetherness—to that of the organs in the body. It is only as each organ does its part that the body can grow and find life (see Ephesians 4:16). “If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets glory, all the parts celebrate with it. You are the body of Christ and parts of each other” (1 Corinthians 12:26-27, *Common English Bible*). As each part contributes to the whole, the body grows and finds life. If any one-part refuses to do its part, the body’s growth is stunted, other organs become strained, and necrosis begins to set in. We each have a part to play in supporting and building up the body. *We each have a responsibility to participate in the community of faith—in its worship, life, and work—so that together all may grow in faith and love and find life together.*

Enclosed with this letter you will find a form inviting you to participate in the worship, life, and work of the Franklin United Methodist Church in the coming year. I invite you to prayerfully consider the ways in which you will contribute so that we may grow in faith and love together. I challenge you to do your part—make a pledge of financial support (see also reverse side) *and* commit to worshipping regularly, participate in a small group, and join a work team. Utilize the faith formation resource, “Taking Faith Home,” in your personal and household devotions. As you grow in your faith and commitment, doing your part to build up the body, we *will* find new life together.

Once you have filled out the form, please return it to the Church Office via USPS or by placing it in the drop box outside the main door of the church building. You can also complete the form online by going to franklinumc.org/together2021.

Thank you for doing your part in building up the body of Christ. Thank you for participating in our worship, life and work together as the people of the Franklin United Methodist Church. I look forward to the ways in which we will experience new life together as each one of us does our part to build up the body.

Peace.

Rev. Dr. Jacob W. Juncker
Pastor

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Franklin United Methodist Church

The financial pledges and regular giving of our members is the church's primary funding source. Many people have requested some guidance and insight into what constitutes an appropriate financial pledge for you and your family. Below is a chart which illustrates historic giving levels of our members, and it may be helpful as a guideline. Pledges are not contracts, but rather commitments under current circumstances. It is understood that changing personal circumstances may necessitate changes in your pledged giving. Pledges allow us to better anticipate receipts and more prudently and efficiently control expenditures.

Dollar Amount Per Week	Annual Amount	No. of Giving Units*
\$1to \$10	\$52 to \$520	21
\$11to \$20	\$521 to \$1,040	8
\$21to \$40	\$1,041 to \$2,080	10
\$41to \$60	\$2,081 to \$3,120	9
\$61to \$80	\$3,121 to \$4,160	5
\$81to \$100	\$4,161 to \$5,200	1
\$101to \$200	\$5,201 to \$10,400	2
\$201-\$400	\$10,401 to \$20,800	2
\$401+	\$20,801+	1
Total		59

*Giving units were determined based on contributions given from October 29, 2019 through October 29, 2020

Financial contributions are collected as part of in-person worship. They can also be mailed to the church (P.O. Box 313, Franklin, MA 02038) or given online by going to franklinumc.org/giving.

Many members utilize their bank's on-line and/or electronic banking services to automate their giving to Franklin United Methodist Church. For more information, you may want to contact your bank directly, or see Greg Biello (Financial Secretary) for help.

Some employers provide match programs for charitable giving to verified non-profits. If your employer provides a match program, check to see if they will match your contributions to the church. We can supply your employer with any necessary paperwork. Our non-profit status can be verified through GuideStar.