

September 30, 2020

Dear members and friends of Franklin United Methodist Church,

It is hard to believe that more than seven months have now passed and we continue to find ourselves in the midst of a global pandemic that continues to drastically alter our lives. While much has changed, the mission of the church remains. We continue “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” by “seeking to be a community where all can experience meaningful relationship with God, grow in Christ, and reach out in love to others; a community where all can love and be loved and be accepted as you are.” We continue to live into this mission and vision through our worship together, life together, and work together.

### **Worship Together**

*We worship together every Sunday at 10am.* Our worship has evolved rapidly over these last few months, moving from a pretty informal time of checking-in to a hybrid service where in-person-in-the-sanctuary worshippers and virtual worshippers can see and hear and interact with one another. No matter how (virtual or in-person) or where you may be worshipping (in the church, at home, or on the beach) you will have the same ability to participate in our shared worship.

*Our services continue, at present, to meet virtually. You can join in our worship together virtually using a phone, device, or computer by going to [meet.google.com/ens-kcoq-bgg](https://meet.google.com/ens-kcoq-bgg) or by calling 1-262-885-7027 (PIN: 172 874 072#).* If you have trouble accessing our worship gatherings virtually, please contact me or the Church Office ([office@franklinumc.org](mailto:office@franklinumc.org), 508-528-1092) and we will help you get connected.

Note: Only worship volunteers and their families are participating in-person, in the sanctuary, at this time. If you would like to help by being a reader, usher (in-person or virtual), greeter, or work with the audio/visual aspects of worship, please let me or the Church Office know and we can help get you on the volunteer schedule. On the day you come to volunteer, please bring your family with you to worship.

### **Life Together**

Faith cannot be lived alone. As people of faith, we are called to “shoulder the burdens, share the risks, and celebrate the joys of fellow members of the body of Christ” (§219, *Book of Discipline—2016*). We are called to live and share life together—to encourage and support one another along life’s Way.

Life Together small groups provide an opportunity for each of us to read and discuss Scripture together and encourage and support one another along the Way. There are currently two opportunities for you to meet with others in small—Life Together—groups: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30pm. These gatherings currently meet virtually and run for one hour or less. You can join the group via your phone, device, or computer by going to [meet.google.com/txp-ndfa-ivu](https://meet.google.com/txp-ndfa-ivu) or by calling 1-440-467-1448 (PIN: 220 679 745#).

### **Work Together**

Each of us, through our baptism, “are called to share in the ministry which is committed to the whole church of Jesus Christ” (§220, *The Book of Discipline—2016*). We are each called to do

our part, by working together, to accomplish the mission and vision of the church together. Each of us has something we can offer to further the work of Christ through the church. Through our shared work (within and beyond the church), we grow as individuals and strengthen our community.

To learn about the different ways you can volunteer and share in the work of the church, go to [franklinumc.org/work](http://franklinumc.org/work) or contact the Church Office ([office@franklinumc.org](mailto:office@franklinumc.org), 508-528-1092). If you would like to volunteer in a way not listed explicitly on our website, or would like help discerning a way for you to uniquely contribute your time and talent to the work of Christ through the Franklin United Methodist Church, contact me directly and we can work out a time to meet/talk.

These have been trying financial times for the church. Our expenses, while running below budget, are outpacing income. Our deficit at the end of August was approximately \$13,000. While our deficit for this time of year is not all that different from previous years, he had anticipated having (pre-COVID) one of our best years in recent history. I understand how difficult and uncertain these times are. If your financial situation has changed and you need to adjust your pledge, please do. Contact our Financial Secretary, Greg Biello ([gbiello@juno.com](mailto:gbiello@juno.com)). For those who may be looking to “catch up” or give a little extra, know that you can always mail your check to the church (PO Box 313, Franklin MA 02038) or you can give online by going to [franklinumc.org/giving](http://franklinumc.org/giving). To all who have given and all who will give: thank you!

These last seven months have been challenging. Much has changed, but the mission of the church remains. We are adapting. And now, as always, we need your support and participation. We cannot be the church without you. We’re in this together.

In our worship and Life Together groups throughout the month of October, we will be encouraging one another to get more involved. We will talk about the importance of worship, shared life, and working together. And, at the end of the month, you will be encouraged to set goals, make a financial pledge, and get more involved in the coming year so that the work of the church might be strengthened by your support. The truth is: not one of us can accomplish the mission and vision Christ sets before us alone. We need each other. We’re in this together.

I hope you will make plans to join in our worship together Sundays at 10am and/or gather in a Life Together small group on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays at 7:30pm as we discuss and recommit to being “in this together.”

As always, if you have any questions or simply want to chat, do not hesitate to email, text, or call so that we can setup a time to meet (virtually or in-person).

Peace.  
Jacob

Rev. Dr. Jacob W. Juncker  
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