

# FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## Ash Wednesday

PRAYER SERVICE || FEBRUARY 22, 2023

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82 West Central Street, Franklin, MA  
508-528-1092

[franklinumc.org](http://franklinumc.org)  
[office@franklinumc.org](mailto:office@franklinumc.org)

# GATHER

*This service of worship is gathering in-person in the sanctuary,  
in-person using Google Meet, and streaming on YouTube.*

## WELCOME

## GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**God's mercy endures forever.**

## OPENING PRAYER

No. 353, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

## THE PSALTER

Psalm 130

*The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

Out of the depth, I cry to you, O Lord!

**Lord, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive

**To the voice of my supplications.**

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

**Lord, who could stand?**

But there is forgiveness with you,

**So that you may be revered.**

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,

**And in his word I hope.**

My soul waits for the Lord more than

those who watch for the morning,

**More than those who watch for the morning.**

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

**For with the Lord there is steadfast love.**

It is he who will redeem Israel

**From all its iniquities.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

**JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17**

*The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

## SCRIPTURE READING

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10**

*The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

## INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

## THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*The pastor dips a thumb in the ashes and makes a cross on the forehead of each person. The pastor says: "Repent, and believe the gospel."*

*All offer prayers of confession in silence.*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION      No. 785, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**According to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

**For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless in your judgment.

**Behold, I was born into iniquity, and I have been sinful since my mother conceived me.**

### PARDON & BLESSING

### THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

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## LENTEN STUDY & WORSHIP

Join Pastor Jacob this Lenten season on Wednesdays at 7pm (via Google Meet) and Sundays during worship as we explore the cross in the heart of God. We will explore the centrality of Jesus' passion to Christianity and what it says about God's desire to be with us.

We will be reading together *A Cross in the Heart of God: Reflections on the death of Jesus* by Samuel Wells (Norwich, UK: Canterbury Press, 2020). Limited copies are available. If you would like a free copy of the book, need joining information, or have questions about this study, please contact Pastor Jacob ([jacob@franklinumc.org](mailto:jacob@franklinumc.org)).

# WELCOME TO FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

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Thank you for joining us for worship. We hope that you find, in our community, a place to experience meaningful relationship with God, grow in Christ, and reach out in love to others. We hope that this community has been a place where you feel welcome, acceptance, and love. If you have questions about the church, or are interested in becoming a member of the church, please feel free to contact any of the leaders listed below.

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## **franklinumc.org**

Franklin United Methodist Church  
PO Box 313  
82 W. Central Street  
Franklin, MA 02038

508-528-1092  
[office@franklinumc.org](mailto:office@franklinumc.org)

Rev. Dr. Jacob W. Juncker, Pastor  
[jacob@franklinumc.org](mailto:jacob@franklinumc.org)

Deidre Bassignani, Administrator  
[deidre@franklinumc.org](mailto:deidre@franklinumc.org)

Paul Seaver, Custodian  
Linda Zardeskas, Chair of Church Council  
George Remus, Lay Leader & Treasurer  
Dawn Harlow, Financial Secretary  
Dawn Pokorny, Lay Member to Annual Conference  
Allen Smith, Chair of Personnel Committee  
John Milot, Chair of Resource Committee  
Inger Anderson, Chair of Committee on Ministry