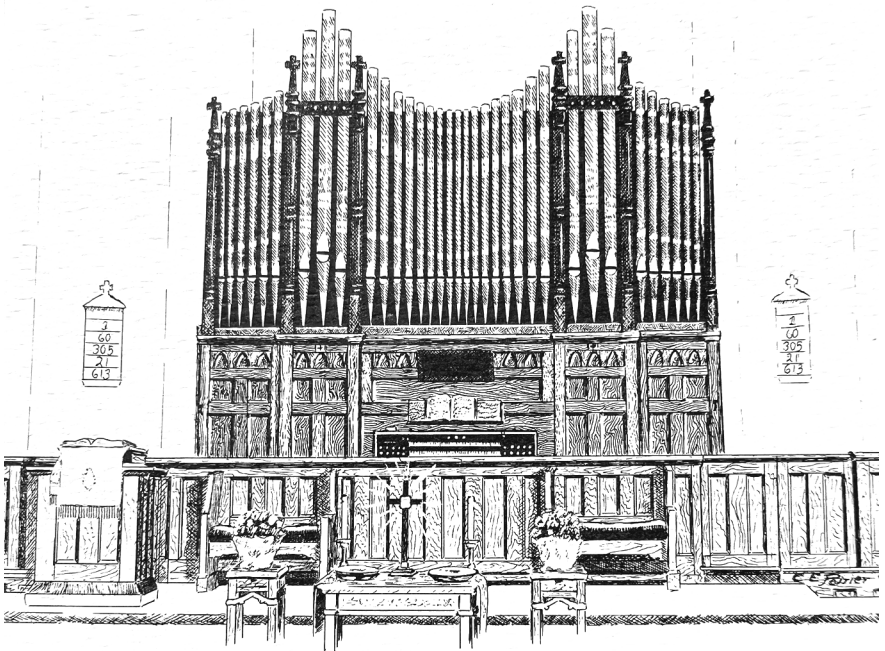


# FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## A Beacon Of and To

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW || MAY 21, 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)

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

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# WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

## PRELUDE

## GREETING

The grace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**Christ has prepared a feast of love.**

We, who are many are one body in Christ,

**and individually we are members one of another.**

## SONG

### **“JESUS, UNITED BY THY GRACE”**

No. 561, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

1.

Jesus, united by thy grace  
and each to each endeared,  
with confidence we seek thy face  
and know our prayer is heard.

2.

Help us to help each other, Lord,  
each other's cross to bear;  
let all their friendly aid afford,  
and feel each other's care.

3.

Up unto thee, our living Head,  
let us in all things grow;  
till thou hast made us free indeed  
and spotless here below.

4.

Touched by the lodestone of thy love,  
let all our hearts agree,  
and ever toward each other move,  
and ever move toward thee.

5.

To thee, inseparably joined,  
let all our spirits cleave;  
O may we all the loving mind  
that was in thee receive.

6.

This is the bond of perfectness,  
thy spotless charity;  
O let us, still we pray, possess  
the mind that was in thee.

## SCRIPTURE READING

**MATTHEW 22:34D-40**

## REFLECTION

## SONG

### **“THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE”**

No. 2223, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

1.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

*Refrain:*

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

2.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. *R*

3.

We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride. *R*

4.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. *R*

## SETTING THE TABLE

On the table in the midst of this community, we set symbols to remind us of Christ's promises to us:

A candle, to remind us of the way, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Bread, symbol to remind us of God's love, "I am the bread of life. The bread that I shall give is myself for the life of the world.

**God, we welcome your presence with us. May the food and companionship we share nourish our bodies, hearts, and minds. And, may our spirits be refreshed as we live in the light of your presence with us now, and at all times and places. Amen.**

## PRAYER AT THE TABLE

No. 621, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Be present at our table, Lord;  
be here and everywhere adored;  
thy creatures bless, and grant that we  
may feast in paradise with thee.

## SHARING AROUND THE TABLE

As you share bread, share a story with one another. Describe a moment when you felt loved by the church and God. Describe a moment when you felt embraced by God and grateful for the church.

## BRUNCH

## DEFINING OUR GENERATION

## NEXT STEPS

## CLOSING SONG

## TOGETHER WE SERVE” No. 2175, *The Faith We Sing* (1989)

1

Together we serve, united by love,  
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.  
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,  
extending your love to the last and the least.

2

We seek to become a beacon of hope,  
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.  
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through  
until we see Christ in each person we meet.

3

We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,  
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.  
We offer a home to those who will come,  
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

4

Together, by grace, we witness and work,  
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.  
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,  
remembering love is the strength of our song.

## CLOSING PRAYER

# 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

# UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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## MAY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: DIAPERS

*We will be collecting diapers for the Food Pantry.* Donations can be placed on the table in the sanctuary.

## BLOOMIN 4 GOOD

FUMC has been selected as a beneficiary of the Franklin Stop & Shop *Bloomin' 4 Good Program* for the month of May. FUMC will receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 bouquet in the sleeve marked "Bloomin' 4 Good" purchased. Money raised will be used to offset the cost of our community garden beds.

**"VOICES OF FAITH" Concert will be held Sunday, May 21st , 7pm @ 91 Jordan Rd, Franklin** (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints). The Franklin Interfaith Council has chosen the **theme of "Unity & Community"** and the donations we collect will become a matching grant for SNAP recipients to double their purchasing power at the weekly Franklin Farmer's Market (via Franklin Food Pantry). The concert lasts 45 mins - 1 hour with refreshments served afterward :)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held the first Sunday of every month. Children ages 4-12 (preschool—6th grade) will be dismissed during worship and will be returning to the sanctuary for communion. There is no need to RSVP or register.

The curriculum we are using is [Mini Revolutions from Illustrated Ministry](#). In addition to the (current) once-per-month class during worship at the church, we will be providing supplementary materials for persons who would like to use the curriculum for family devotions. Print materials will be made available each week at the church. We can also email you materials in a monthly packet, if you're interested in using them in your home. If you are interested in volunteering please see Inger Anderson

## BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet (virtually) on **Tuesday June 13 at 7pm**. We will be reading *We Are the Light* by Matthew Quick . Joining information can be found on the church calendar.

## LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet at **noon on June 21 at The 45, 45 Milford Street, Medway**. Please contact Nancy Boates (NancyBoates49@hotmail.com, 508-654-2833) by 10 am the day before if you plan to attend.