

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sneaky Snake

STORIES OF THE FAITH

||

JULY 9, 2023

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

franklinumc.org
office@franklinumc.org

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

GATHER

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning God created all things,
and God saw that they were good.

At our beginning, God created us
**unique and irreplaceable, loved and wanted by God,
known and treasured by God even before God
created us.**

Lord God, King of Creation,
**open our eyes to see your presence, our souls to
sense your presence, and our hearts to love your
presence, even here in your creation, and ever
beyond it in eternity. Amen.**

SONG

“STAND BY ME”

No. 512 , *UMH* (1989)

1 When the storms of life are raging,
stand by me (stand by me);
when the storms of life are raging,
stand by me (stand by me).
When the world is tossing me
like a ship upon the sea,
thou who rulest wind and water,
Stand by me (stand by me).

2 In the midst of tribulation,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of tribulation,
stand by me (stand by me).
When the host of hell assail,
and my strength begins to fail,
thou who never lost a battle,
stand by me (stand by me).

3 In the midst of faults and failures,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of faults and failures,
stand by me (stand by me).
When I do the best I can,
and my friends misunderstand,
thou who knowest all about me,
stand by me (stand by me).

4 In the midst of persecution,
stand by me (stand by me);
in the midst of persecution,
stand by me (stand by me).
When my foes in battle array
undertake to stop my way,
thou who savèd Paul and Silas,
stand by me (stand by me).

5 When I'm growing old and feeble,
stand by me (stand by me);
when I'm growing old and feeble,
stand by me (stand by me).
When my life becomes a burden,
and I'm nearing chilly Jordan,
O thou Lily of the Valley,
stand by me (stand by me).

PRAY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

COLLECT

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

REFLECT

READING

“THE SNEAKY SNAKE”

The Beginner's Bible

“IN THE GARDEN”

Clarice Cargill

SONG

“WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS”

No. 526, *UMH* (1989)

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.

REFLECTION

Clarice Cargill

SONG

“JESUS, TEMPTED IN THE DESERT”

No. 2105, W&S (2011)

Jesus, tempted in the desert, lonely, hungry, filled with dread:
“Use your power” the tempter tells him; “Turn these barren rocks to bread!”
“Not alone by bread,” he answers, “Can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us is our deepest hunger stilled!”

Jesus, tempted at the temple, high above its ancient wall:
“Throw yourself from lofty turret; angels wait to break your fall!”
Jesus shuns such empty marvels, feats that fickle crowds request:
“God, whose grace protects, preserves us, we must never vainly test.”

Jesus, tempted on the mountain by the lure of vast domain:
“Fall before me! Be my servant! Glory, fame, you’re sure to gain!”
Jesus sees the dazzling vision, turns his eyes another way:
“God alone deserves our homage! God alone will I obey!”

When we face temptation’s power, lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter’s hour, come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us lest we fall, your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices, be the Word we hear, obey.

PRAY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Creative, passionate God,
you delight to shape the world in beauty and harmony.
You invite us to participate in the balance of creation.
We grow in wisdom as our experience unfolds; we take good
learning out of difficult situations yet also find our well-meant
endeavors leading to unintended consequences. Too often we give
in to temptation that disrupts the joyous, chaotic order of the
universe. We cannot undo all our mistakes, but we can turn once
more to the living presence of Jesus and find new ways to live and
love each other and the earth.

**Do not let our hearts be fearful,
but let us in silence acknowledge our sin
and seek the forgiveness that restores our peace.**

Even as Adam and Eve faced the consequences of their sin,
our God prepared a way for them still to be connected to the
earth and to the living presence of God.

So it is with all of us: in Christ's life, ministry, death and
resurrection, we are made able to persist, upright and strong,
for our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER

SONG

“I WOULD BE TRUE”

No. 411, *African Methodist Episcopal Church Hymnal* (2011)

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving, and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up, and laugh and love and lift,
I would look up, and laugh and love and lift.

GO

SENDING

THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

POSTLUDE

WELCOME TO FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

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.

franklinumc.org

Franklin United Methodist Church
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Rev. Dr. Jacob W. Juncker, Pastor
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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

JULY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: DRY CAT/ DOG FOOD

We will be collecting 6-10 lb bags of dry cat/dog food for the Food Pantry. Donations can be placed on the table in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet (virtually) on **Tuesday July 11 at 7pm**. We will be reading *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes. Joining information can be found on the church calendar.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet at **noon on July 19 at Lowell's, 75 Cape Road, Mendon**. Please contact Nancy Boates (NancyBoates49@ hotmail.com, 508-654-2833) by 10 am the day before if you plan to attend.

NEXT COMMUNITY COOKOUT

Saturday July 22 5:30– 6:30

Burgers, hot dogs, chips & drinks. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

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