

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



A Short Man

STORIES OF THE FAITH || JULY 16, 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

Faith demands choice. By the grace of Christ, we can choose.

**We choose to believe
that light is better than darkness,
sharing is better than hoarding,
truth is better than deceit,
mercy is better than revenge,
love is better than indifference,
God is stronger than chaos.**

We choose to have faith in the God who is love
and choice will verify itself
on the long and narrow road of life.

**By grace, we choose to choose faith.
Thanks be to God.**

SONG

“CRY OF MY HEART”

No. 2165 , FWS (2001)

**It is the cry of my heart to follow You
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You
It is the cry of my heart to follow
All of the days of my life**

**Teach me Your holy ways oh Lord
So I can walk in Your truth
Teach me Your holy ways oh Lord
And make me wholly devoted to You**

**It is the cry of my heart to follow You
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You
It is the cry of my heart to follow
All of the days of my life**

**Open my eyes so I can see
The wonderful things that You do
Open my heart up more and more
And make me wholly devoted to You**

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

“A SHORT MAN”

The Beginner's Bible

SONG

“ZACCHAEUS”

Words and Music by Elsie Leslie

Arr. by Paul Thompson

Zacchaeus was a wee little man,
And a wee little man was he,
He climbed up in a sycamore tree
For the Lord he wanted to see;
And as the Savior passed that way,
He looked up in the tree,
(spoken) And He said, “Zacchaeus, you come done,
For I'm going to your house today,
For I'm going to your house today.”

REFLECTION

SONG

“ZACCHAEUS WAS A TAX MAN”

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

TUNE: AURELIA (UMH 545, “The Church’s One Foundation”)

**Zacchaeus was a tax man who one day climbed a tree,
For he was short in stature and said he could not see.
And yet he had a problem that mattered even more:
He didn’t see the suffering his greed had caused the poor.**

**O Lord, you saw Zacchaeus — so wealthy, yet alone.
You said, “Come down — and hurry! I’m coming to your home.”
For you broke bread with sinners and saw within each one
A person loved and treasured — God’s daughter or God’s son.**

**It wasn’t just the treetop that helped Zacchaeus see;
Your love and welcome showed him how different life could be.
He said that he’d start over and work to make things fair;
He’d speak the truth, bring justice, and find new ways to share.**

**O Christ, you bid us welcome and help us all to see!
May we respond by building a just society.
Then children won’t be hungry and all will share your bread.
Then those who now must struggle will live in joy instead.**

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER

SONG

“WELCOMING GOD”

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

TUNE: ASSURANCE (UMH 369, “Blessed Assurance”)

**Children are welcome, Christ said one day,
When the disciples just urged them away.
Children are welcome at Jesus’ knee:
God’s own examples for ministry.
Welcoming God, you open the Way;
Even the smallest worship and pray,
Singing with faith and serving you well,
Your life to know and good news to tell.**

Women are welcome, as are the men;
Through God's own Spirit, we're partners again.
Partners as prophets, ministers, too:
No more divided — made one in you.
Welcoming God, you open the way;
Those once divided join now to pray,
Serving at Table, preaching your Word,
So that your love for all will be heard.

Outcasts are welcome; sinners are, too,
Eating with Jesus and being made new:
Some like Zacchaeus turned right around;
Wounded and poor ones felt peace profound.
God of great love, you stand at the door,
Welcoming people outcast and poor.
So you forgive and call us to be
Filled with the joy of your jubilee.

So may we welcome into our pew
All who in Jesus are being made new —
All those who seek him, wanting to know,
Wanting to love him, wanting to grow.
Welcoming God, you stand at our door,
As someone different, outcast or poor.
With longing eyes, Lord Jesus, you search.
May we all welcome you in your church.

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

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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.

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

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet (virtually) on **Tuesday August 8 at 7pm.** We will be reading *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover. Joining information can be found on the church calendar.