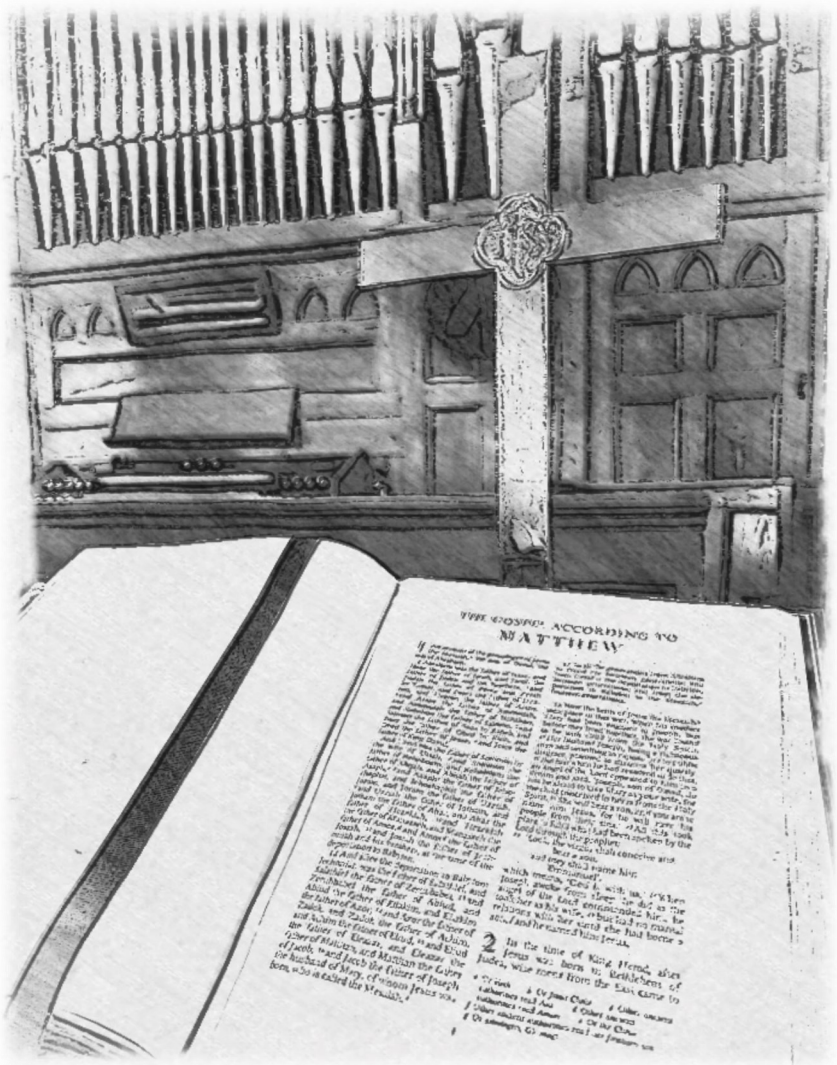


# FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## Searching for Dignity?

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW || SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

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

franklinumc.org  
office@franklinumc.org

# WELCOME TO FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

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

This worship aid, or “bulletin,” will guide you through this service, offering you a brief outline and instructions for the service along with the responses, prayers, and lyrics to the songs we will sing together. Congregational responses are typically **bolded**.

Please record your gift of presence and make your other offerings using the offering card included in the print bulletin. Online worshippers are encouraged to record their presence and offerings online at **[franklinumc.org/offering](https://franklinumc.org/offering)**.

Financial contributions can be made in the offering plate (cash or check made payable to “Franklin United Methodist Church”) or online by going to **[franklinumc.org/giving](https://franklinumc.org/giving)**.

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## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

“Truly I tell you,” says Jesus, “whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

**May we be bound with love.**

To bind, to be bound, to be bound with. So many competing demands and expectations: aging partners and parents, unplanned expenses, demands at work and home and school and church.

**May we be bound with love.**

Bound now, bound forever. Bound with whom and for what?

**May we be bound with love.**

What shall we carry with us into eternity? Our gold? Our politics? Our relationships? Which? For with this choice we will be bound in heaven.

**May we be bound with love.**

## SONG

### **“LORD GOD, YOUR LOVE HAS CALLED US HERE”**

No. 479, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

1.

Lord God, your love has called us here,  
as we, by love, for love were made;  
your living likeness still we bear,  
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed;  
we come, with all our heart and mind,  
your call to hear, your love to find.

2.

We come with self-inflicted pains  
of broken trust and chosen wrong,  
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,  
by social forces swept along,  
by power and systems close confined,  
yet seeking hope for humankind.

3.

Lord God, in Christ you call our name,  
and then receive us as your own;  
not through some merit, right, or claim,  
but by your gracious love alone;  
we strain to glimpse your mercy seat,  
and find you kneeling at our feet.

4.

Then take the towel, and break the bread,  
and humble us, and call us friends;  
suffer and serve till all are fed,  
and show how grandly love intends  
to work till all creation sings,  
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

5.

Lord God, in Christ, you set us free  
your life to live, your joy to share;  
give us your Spirit's liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair,  
and offer all that faith can do,  
while love is making all things new.

## **PRAYERS**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **SILENT PRAYER**

#### **COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)**

#### **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.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**MATTHEW 18:1-20**

**REFLECTION**

Pastor Jacob

**SONG “IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST”**

No. 548, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

1.

In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north;  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

2.

In Christ shall true heart everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.

3.

In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,  
and neither slave nor free;  
both male and female heirs are made,  
and all are kin to me.

4.

In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north;  
all Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.

**OFFERTORY**

**SHARING OUR TITHES & GIFTS**

**DOXOLOGY**

No. 95, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy

Ghost. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

# SONG“CHRIST, YOU TEACH US OF YOUR KINGDOM”

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, © Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by Permission.

Tune: W ZLOBIE LEZY (“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly,” UMH 229)

1.

Christ, you teach us of your Kingdom  
And the common life we share.  
You remind us, "Be like children!"  
So we offer you our prayer:  
Make us gentle, make us humble,  
May we cause no one to stumble,  
Sheltered in your church's care.

2.

Shepherd, every lamb is cherished —  
Even those who go astray.  
You want none of us to perish  
Nor to wander from your way.  
When a sister or a brother  
Sins against you or another,  
Give us helpful words to say.

3.

Let your love be our foundation  
When we need to challenge sin;  
May our quiet conversations  
Be the places we begin.  
For our judging and complaining  
And our gossip and our blaming  
Won't bring sinners home again.

4.

May we seek your will together,  
Bound together by rebirth.  
May we care for one another,  
Knowing every sinner's worth.  
Two or three — united, praying,  
Two or three — your love obeying,  
Are your voice and hands on earth.

## SENDING

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## POSTLUDE

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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We hope that you found, 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  
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Deidre Bassignani, Administrator  
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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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## BLOOMIN 4 GOOD

FUMC has been selected again for the Franklin Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program for September. FUMC will receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 bouquet in the sleeve marked "Bloomin' 4 Good" purchased at the Franklin Stop & Shop location in September. For more information about the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program, please visit [stopandshop.2givelocal.com](http://stopandshop.2givelocal.com).

## BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet (virtually) **Tuesday September 12 at 7pm**. The group will be reading *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. Joining information can be found on the church calendar

## COMMUNITY COOKOUT: Saturday September 23

All are invited to a FREE community cookout at the church on **Saturday, September 23. Food will be served from 5:30-6:30p**. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. This event is outside in the grassy lot at the end of the parking area. In case of rain, this event will be cancelled. Notices will be posted to the church's website and FB page. This event is paid for by the Mission Fund.

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Join us for a FREE ice cream social following worship on Sunday, September 24. Ice cream sundaes will be provided by T.C. Scoops. No RSVP is necessary. This event is paid for by the Mission Fund.

## LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet at **noon on Wednesday September 27 at Longhorn Steakhouse in the Stop & Shop Plaza, West Central St, Franklin**. Please contact Nancy Boates ([NancyBoates49@hotmail.com](mailto:NancyBoates49@hotmail.com), 508-654-2833) by 10 am the day before if you plan to attend.