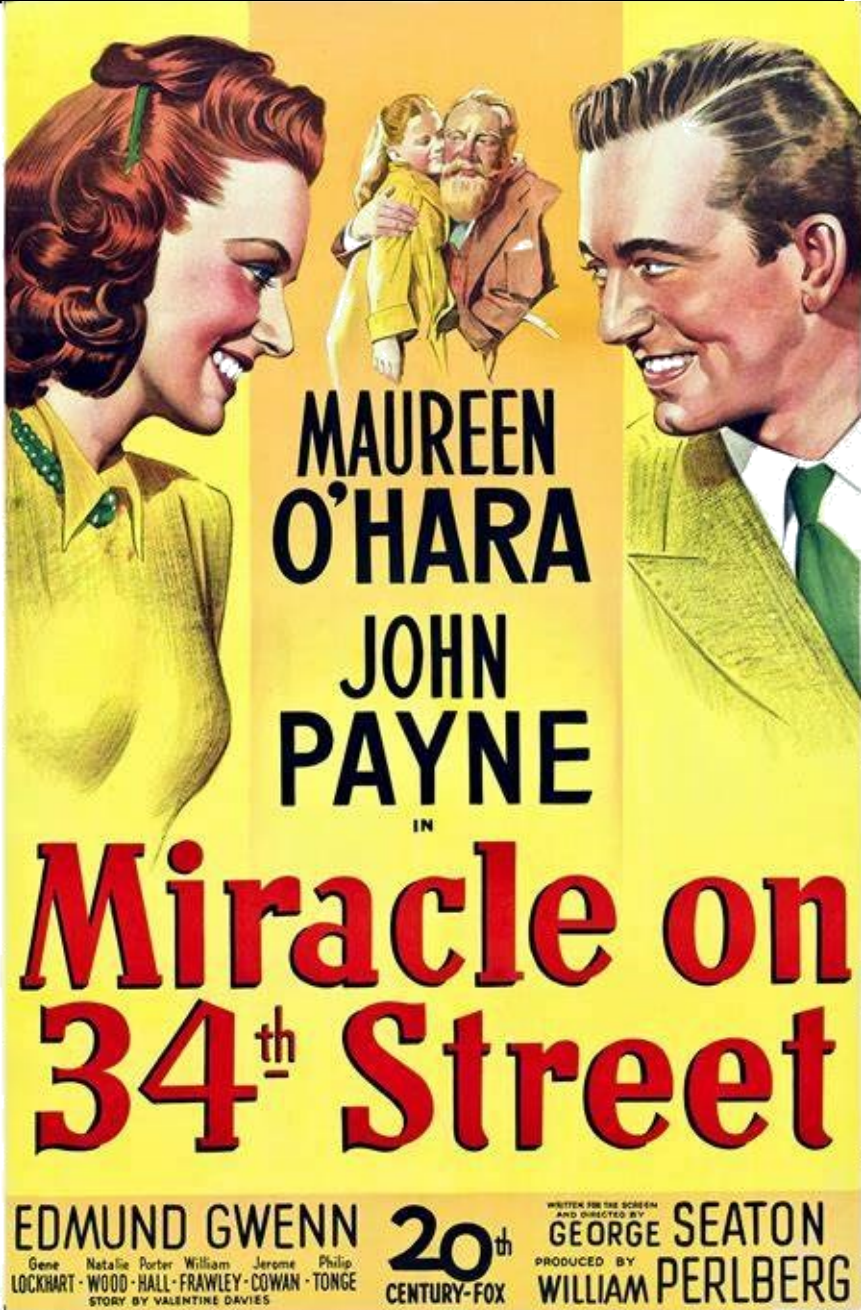


FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ADVENT I: HOPE

DECEMBER 3, 2023

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

franklinumc.org
office@franklinumc.org

WELCOME TO FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

This service of worship is gathering in-person at the church building, 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**.

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**.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you” (Isaiah 64:1-3).

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come” (Mark 13:35).

**We wait as people surprised again and again
by God who shakes us out of our complacency
and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom
all around us.**

We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

SONG

“PEOPLE, LOOK EAST”

No. 202, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

People look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Through earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 64:1-9

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

GOSPEL READING

MARK 13:24-37

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

SONG

“HOPE OF THE WORLD”

No. 178, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, thy people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God’s gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let thy spirit unto us be given,
to heal earth’s wounds and end all bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light,
walk thou beside us lest the tempting byways
lure us away from thee to endless night.

Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,
we render back the love thy mercy gave us;
take thou our lives, and use them as thou wilt.

Hope of the world, O Christ o’er death victorious,
who by this sign dist conquer grief and pain,
we would be faithful to thy gospel glorious;
thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PARDON

Hear the good news: God is the Potter, and we are the clay. We are the work of God’s hand. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God. Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER No. 895, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

**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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

RESPONSE "PEACE BE TO THIS CONGREGATION"

Words by Charles Wesley

TUNE: HYFRYDOL (No. 196, *The United Methodist Hymnal*)

Peace be to this congregation,
peace to ev'ry soul therein,
peace, which flows from Christ's salvation,
peace, the seal of cancelled sin,
peace that speaks its heavenly Giver,
peace, to earthly minds unknown,
peace divine that lasts forever
here erect its glorious throne.

Jesus, Prince of peace, be near us;
fix in all our hearts your home;
with your gracious presence cheer us;
let your sacred kingdom come;
raise to heav'n our expectation,
give our favored souls to prove
glorious and complete salvation,
in the realms of bliss above.

SENDING

POSTLUDE

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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.

franklinumc.org

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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

CHURCH/CHARGE CONFERENCE

The annual church/charge conference for the Franklin United Methodist Church will be **TODAY, following worship**. Our District Everyone is invited to attend the meeting, all professing members are encouraged to vote on the matters brought before the conference.

EMERGENCY SHELTER HUMANITARIAN AID

The State of Massachusetts has opened an emergency shelter in Franklin for those persons who have entered the state and are in need of shelter. There are multiple layers of need that must be met, if you'd like to know about the evolving needs and opportunities to donate and volunteer, please email info@franklininterfaith.org.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is a monthly gathering where people talk and fellowship over a meal at area restaurants. The next gathering will be at **Mak's (451 West Central St., Franklin), on December 20 at 12 PM**. All are welcome. Please notify Nancy Boates by phone 508-654-2833 or email NancyBoates49@hotmail.com by 10 am if you plan to attend.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club is a monthly gathering where people discuss a book. For December, the Book Club will be discussing *The Kitchen House* by **Kathleen Grisson**. The next meeting will be on December 12, at 7pm. The group will meet in a hybrid format at the home of Linda Zardeskas (1103 Old Bridge Lane, Bellingham), online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), or by phone (224-501-3412, access code is 789-141-869).

GET & STAY CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH

The Franklin United Methodist Church uses Realm, an online database software, to better communicate with and connect people into the life of the church. It is simple and easy to use! Every person in the church gets a unique profile. Your profile enables you to RSVP to events (including volunteer opportunities), track your giving, update your contact information, change your family details, and replace that outdated directory photo. And, most importantly, it allows the church to communicate better with you. To create and log into the database, go to **onrealm.org/FranklinUMC**.