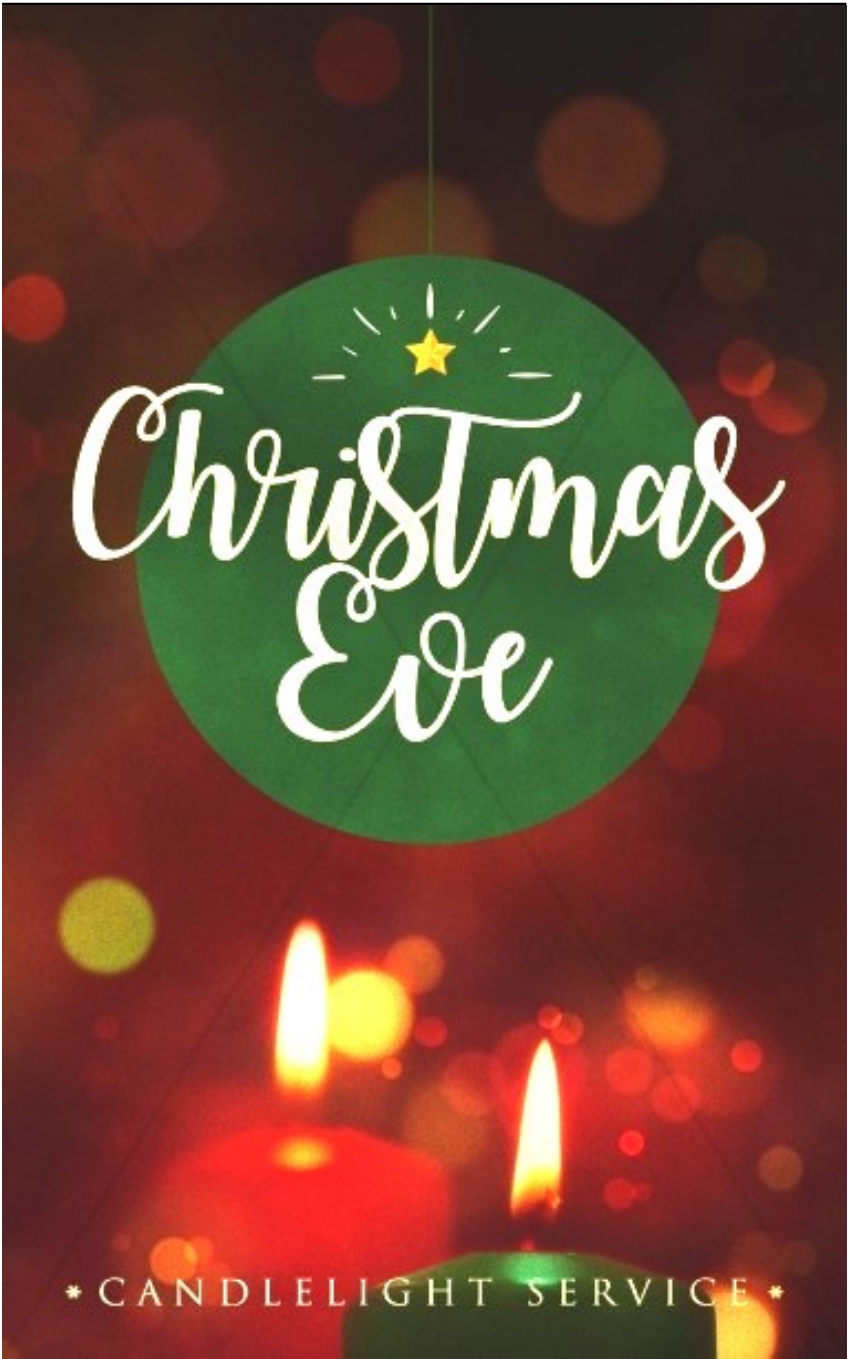


FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

[franklinumc.org](http://franklinumc.org)  
[office@franklinumc.org](mailto:office@franklinumc.org)

# WELCOME TO FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

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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](http://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](http://franklinumc.org/giving)**.

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**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**SONG**

**“ONE HOLY NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM”**

*No. 2097, The Faith We Sing (2001)*

One holy night in Bethlehem  
the air was filled with song.  
Angelic voices sang on high  
and shepherds piped along:

REFRAIN

Sing glory, glory, Gloria!  
God’s love is given birth!  
Be not afraid! Sing Gloria,  
and peace to all the earth!

Their music echoed through the town  
into the stable stall,  
where Mary sang a lullaby  
and rocked her baby small:

REFRAIN

As Joseph touched the lamb’s soft wool  
and fed the donkey hay,  
he whistled his own happy tune  
and thanked God for this day:

REFRAIN

Be still, and you will hear tonight  
these melodies of old.  
Then join your voice in harmony  
until the tale is told:

REFRAIN

**IN THE BEGINNING...**

**SONG**

**“WHEN CHRISTMAS MORN IS DAWNING”**

No. 232, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

When Christmas morn is dawning,  
I wish that I could be  
there by the manger-cradle,  
God’s Son, newborn to see.  
There by the manger-cradle,  
God’s Son, newborn, to see.

How kind of you, our Savior,  
for us to come to earth.  
O may we not by sinning,  
despise your lowly birth.  
O may we not by sinning,  
despise your lowly birth.

We need you, O Lord Jesus,  
to be our dearest friend.  
Your love will guard and guide us  
and keep us to life’s end.  
Your love will guard and guide us  
and keep us to life’s end.

**THE WORD MADE FLESH**

**SONG**

**“SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME”**

No. 214 (v.1-2, 5), *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Savior of the nations, come;  
Virgin’s Son, here make thy home!  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood;  
by the Spirit of our God  
was the Word of God made flesh,  
woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.

Now thy manger’s halo bright  
hallows night with newborn light;  
let no night this light subdue,  
let our faith shine ever new.

## JESUS' BIRTH IN BETHLEHEM

### SONG

### “O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

No. 230, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together,  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts on human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him,  
still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

## ANGELS ANNOUNCE JESUS' BIRTH

### SONG

### “HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING”

No. 240, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th’angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th’incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

## JESUS IS KING OF KINGS

### SONG

### “GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE”

No. 224, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:

News, news!

Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today,  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:

News, news!

Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and ye are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this,  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:

News, news!

Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save,  
Christ was born to save!

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### CONFESSION & PARDON

based on John 1:14, 9-11, 16-17

The true light that shines on all people has come into the world.

**The light is in the world,**  
and the world came into being through the light,  
**but we do not recognize the light.**

The light has come to us, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

**but we do not always recognize him. We do not always follow his Way. We linger in the shadows rather than following the lit-path that leads to peace, joy, and love.**

Hear the good news. The light shines in the darkness and nothing can overtake it! God's love is steadfast. Turn your face toward the light and be forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

TUNE: GLORIA

("Angels We Have Heard on High, UMH No. 238)

SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

## GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP



## SHARING THE LIGHT

### SONG

### “SILENT NIGHT”

No. 239 (v. 1, 3-4), *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
oly infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Raise your candle during the singing of the next two verses.

Silent night, holy night,  
son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

### PRAYER

**SONG**

**“JOY TO THE WORLD”**

No. 246, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

**BLESSING**

**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  
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Franklin, MA 02038

508-528-1092  
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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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## WORK CONTINUES

Work began on our sanctuary ceiling on Monday, December 18. As work is being done, the sanctuary will be closed. Sunday morning (10am) worship will be in the vestry and continue in the vestry until the ceiling work and painting has been completed. We anticipate being back in the sanctuary for the season of Lent and the celebration of Easter.

## GET 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](https://onrealm.org/FranklinUMC).

## 2024 PLEDGES

One of the ways we show our commitment and dedication to the work of Christ and the church is through our financial contributions. While our dedication cannot be measured by the amount we give, our dedication is reflected in our commitment to give. As such, we are asking everyone to consider making a commitment (a pledge) as a sign of their dedication to the church. Pledges can be made going to <https://franklinumc.org/dedicated/> and following the link. Paper pledge cards can be found at the entrance to the worship space and can be turned into the church office or offering plate.

## STAY UP-TO-DATE & SHARE THE WORD

The easiest ways to stay up-to-date on all that is going on is to subscribe to the church website and follow our social media accounts. Go to [franklinumc.org](https://franklinumc.org), scroll to the bottom of the page, enter your email address, and hit subscribe. All new posts to the website will be sent directly to your email!

You can also find regular updates on [Facebook.com/FranklinMaUMC](https://www.facebook.com/FranklinMaUMC) and [Instagram.com/FranklinUMC](https://www.instagram.com/FranklinUMC). You can find all past services archived under the “Live” section of our YouTube channel ([YouTube.com/@FranklinMaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/@FranklinMaUMC)). Follow, like, share, and comment on the content to help make others aware of all that we do and are together for Christ’s sake.