

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Letters of John
What're We Working For

Sunday February 4, 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**.

Prayer requests can be made by filling out the offering form enclosed with the print bulletins, or by going to **franklinumc.org/pray**. Confidential requests will be sent to the pastor. Non-confidential requests will be distributed to the Prayer Team.

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/give**.

To learn about ways you can volunteer, and sign up, go to **franklinumc.org/volunteer**. You can also sign up to volunteer by filling out the offering form enclosed with the print bulletins. All persons who sign up to volunteer will receive an email confirmation of your volunteer registration.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here, in this place, we discover the great things God has done.

In story and song, in silence and sacrament, we are reminded that God's relationship with us lasts forever.

Here, with these people, we find our true home:

where we can run home laughing after being lost for so long.

Here, we are reminded of the promises made so long ago:

**of the One who repairs all our mistakes,
of the One who reshapes our brokenness.**

Here, we come to know ourselves loved

and sent forth to reach out in love to others.

SONG "YOUR LOVE, O GOD, HAS CALLED US HERE"

No. 647, *UMH* (1989), vs. 3, adapted by Jacob Juncker

O God of love, inspire our life, reveal your will in all we do;
join every person, end all strife let all be loved and love you too.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, because love is patient...

Help me to be slow to judge, but quick to listen, hesitant to criticize, but eager to encourage, remembering your endless patience with me.

Because love is kind...

Help my words to be gentle and my actions to be thoughtful. Remind me to smile and to say "Please" and "Thank You" because those little things still mean so much.

Because love does not envy or boast, and it is not proud...

Help me have a heart that is humble and sees the good in others. May I celebrate and appreciate all that I have and all that I am, as well as doing the same for those around me.

Because love is not rude or self-seeking...

Help me to speak words that are easy on the ear and on the heart. When I'm tempted to get wrapped up in my own little world, remind me there's a great big world out there full of needs and hurts.

Because love is not easily angered and keeps no record of wrongs...

**Help me to forgive others as you have forgiven me.
When I want to hold onto a grudge, gently help me
release it so I can reach out with a hand of love instead.**

Because love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth...

**Help me stand up for what is right and good. May I
defend the defenseless, and help the helpless. Show
me how I can make a difference.**

Because love always protects and always trusts...

**Help me to be a refuge for those around me. When
the world outside is harsh and cold, may my heart be
a place of acceptance and warmth.**

Finally, because love always perseveres...

**Help my heart continually beat with love for You and
others. Thank you for showing us what the word love
really means. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

2 JOHN 4-11

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

REFLECTION

SONG “LET US BUILD A HOUSE (ALL ARE WELCOME)”

No. 58, The Upper Room Worshipbook

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live
A place where Saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where prophets speak and words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek To dream God's reign anew
Here the cross shall stand as witness And a symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome, all are welcome, All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet
Here the love of God, through Jesus is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome, All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face
let us bring and end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as word's within the Word
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, All are welcome in this place

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (SUNG RESPONSES)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

No. 3171-a, Worship & Song (2011)

... And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living
sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the
mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

No. 3171-b, Worship & Song (2011)

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

No. 3171-c, Worship & Song (2011)

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.**

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

RESPONSE “PEACE BE TO THIS CONGREGATION”

Words by Charles Wesley

TUNE: PROMISE (No. 707, 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

THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*All are encouraged to share signs of peace and greetings through the congregation
as they exit the worship space.*

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

Franklin United Methodist Church
PO Box 313
82 W. Central Street
Franklin, MA 02038

508-528-1092
office@franklinumc.org

Rev. Dr. Jacob W. Juncker, Pastor
jacob@franklinumc.org

Deidre Bassignani, Administrator
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

NEW WORSHIP SERIES: THE LETTERS OF JOHN

We have started a new worship and discussion series on the letters of John. This set of letters is one of four general epistles (along with James, 1 and 2 Peter, and Jude) found in the New Testament.

Join us for worship (in-person at the church and via Google Meet on Sundays at 10am or streaming on YouTube) and discussion (in-person via Google Meet on Wednesdays at 7pm) as we reflect upon the nature of God, who Jesus is, what Jesus does, and who we're called to be as Christians.

If you have any questions about this series and/or would like to get the joining information for the discussion on Wednesdays, contact Pastor Jacob (jacob@franklinumc.org).

FEBRUARY COLLECTION

This month's Food Pantry item is **cookies & crackers**. Donations can be brought on Sunday's. At the end of the month all items will be brought over to the Franklin Food Pantry.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club is a monthly gathering where people discuss a book. For February, the Book Club will be reading "The Magnificent Life of Marjorie Post" by Allison Pataki. The next meeting will be on **February 13, at 7pm**. The group will meet in a hybrid format , online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), or by phone (224-501-3412, access code is 789-141-869).

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 **Medway Café, Main Street, Medway on February 21 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.

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.