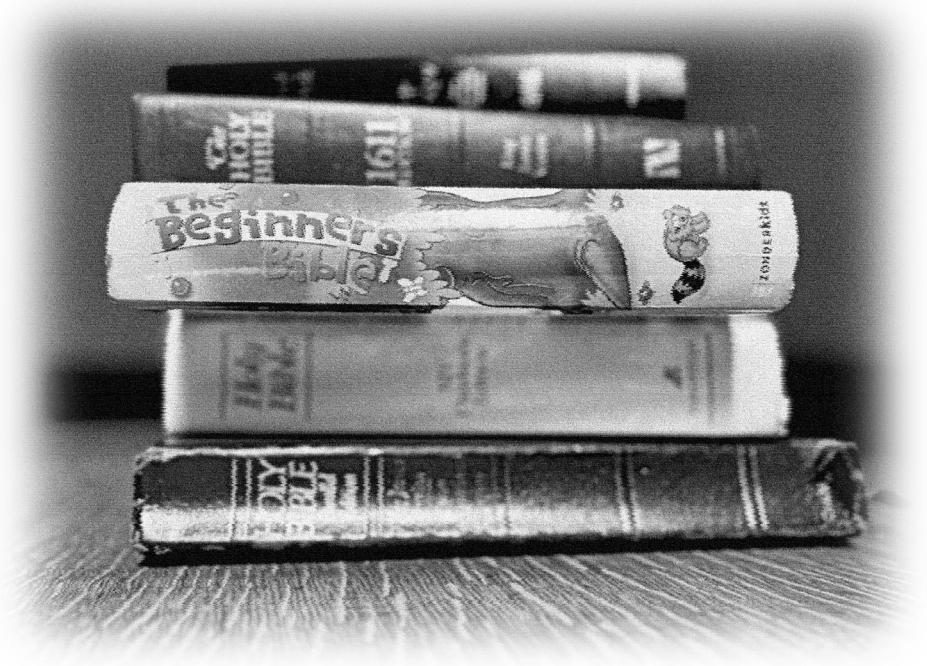


FRANKLIN UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



Stories of Faith
A Gift for Jesus

Sunday September 1, 2024

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

The buzz of the world interrupts our lives and fills our ears.

Call us into Your way of life, O God.

The complaints of others settle in our mind and cloud our vision.

Lead us into Your vision of life, O God.

The cries of the poor, the oppressed and the outcast pierce our hearts.

Guide us in Your example of living for others, O God.

Fill our hearts, fill our eyes, fill our ears with Your love, O God.

Let us be Your hands and feet in the world, O God. Let us worship You together.

SONG

“JESUS CALLS US”

No. 348, *UMH* (1989)

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

*Come home, come home; you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!*

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? [*Refrain*]

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
coming for you and for me. [*Refrain*]

O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. [*Refrain*]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

SCRIPTURE READING

“A GIFT FOR JESUS”

The Beginner's Bible (Zondervan, 2005)

REFLECTION

SONG

“SAID JUDAS TO MARY, ‘NOW WHAT WILL YOU DO’”

No. 1296, *Voices United* (1989) Words & Music by Sydney Carter, 1964

Said Judas to Mary, "Now what will you do
with your ointment so rich and so rare?"

"I'll pour it all over the feet of the Lord
and I'll wipe it away with my hair," she said,
"wipe it away with my hair."

"Oh Mary, Oh Mary, oh think of the poor --
this ointment, it could have been sold,
and think of the blankets and think of the bread
you could buy with the silver and gold," he said,
"buy with the silver and gold."

"Tomorrow, tomorrow I'll think of the poor
Tomorrow," she said, "not today;
for dearer than all of the poor in the world
is my love who is going away," she said,
"my love who is going away."

Said Jesus to Mary, "Your love is so deep
today you may do as you will.
Tomorrow you say I am going away,
but my body I leave with you still," he said,
"my body I leave with you still."

"The poor of the world are my body," he said,
"to the end of the world they shall be,
the bread and the blankets you give to the poor
you'll know you have given to me," he said,
"you'll know you have given to me."

"My body will hang on the cross of the world tomorrow," he said, "not today, and Martha and Mary will find me again and wash all the sorrow away," he said, "wash all the sorrow away."

INVITATION

CONFESSION & PARDON

We confess, O God, that we excuse ourselves from reaching out to those who need your care. We take your words—that there will always be unmet needs—as a reason not to try to meet the needs we can.

Forgive us, and help us to change. Renew our determination to live as faithful followers, faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Help us to work with you for the well-being of your creation, that the fortunes of all your peoples may be restored.

Even we are part of God's will for restoration. We are called, through Christ, to strive for restoration, but we are not called to do this work alone. The One who has made a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, will surely equip us for all we are asked to do in Christ's name. God will empower us to attain all the potential God has placed within us.

Thanks be to God.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 always.
And also with you.

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 STUDY/SMALL GROUP SERIES || UPWARD!

We will be starting a new study and small group discussion series on Sunday, September 8 at 8:45 am entitled *Upward!* based on the book by Steve Harper and Paul Chilcote. [*Upward! : Wesleyan Formation in Three Movements*](#) is an accessible primer on the Wesleyan way. It covers the theology, practices, habits, and attitudes that characterize the Methodist people. This study and small group discussion/gathering is an invitation to a life of wisdom and wonder in our world. It is appropriate for persons exploring their faith. It is also suitable for those interested in deepening their understanding of Methodism. We will meet in person in the chapel space off the sanctuary and via Google Meet. This group will be led by Pastor Jacob and will meet for 12 weeks. The exact schedule of Sundays will be determined by the group. Participants are encouraged to purchase their own book. You can buy the book through Cokesbury or your favorite book distributor. If you have questions please contact Pastor Jacob.

COMMUNITY CLOSET VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteering is a great way to meet others (both those volunteering and those who are shopping). *Please note: volunteers must be able to navigate stairs as the Community Closet is in the old balcony of the church.* You can sign up to volunteer at franklinumc.org/volunteer.

The first and third Tuesdays are OPEN SHOPPING DAYS.

The second and fourth Tuesday is a day to SORT ONLY.

The Community Closet will not be open for shopping on these days.

If you would like to sign up a group to volunteer, outside the listed times, please contact Pastor Jacob at jacob@franklinumc.org.

BOOK CLUB

This month we will be reading “Go As a River” by Shelley Read . The next meeting will be on **September 17 at 7pm**. The group will meet in a hybrid format, at Linda’s home for those who would like to meet in person, or online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), or by phone (224-501-3412, access code is 789-141-869).

ICE CREAM TRUCK SOCIAL

Sunday September 22 after worship

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! Join us for an ice cream social on Sunday, September 22 following worship. FREE ice cream sundaes from TC Scoops will be provided. Bring a friend!

COMMUNITY COOK OUT SAT SEPTEMBER 28

Cookouts will be held in the grassy area behind the church. Food will be served from 5:30-6:30p. Limited seating will be made available, please bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.