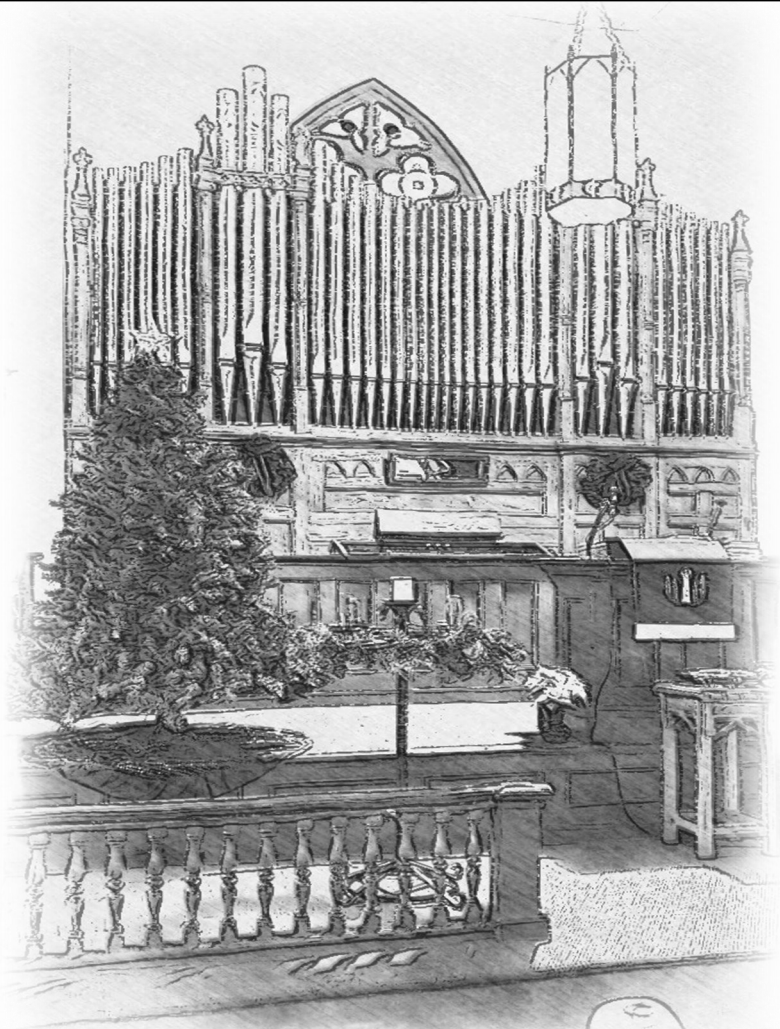


# FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Come, Let Us Adore Him  
**Preparations**  
Sunday December 1, 2024

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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**.

Prayer requests can be made by filling out the offering form enclosed with the print bulletins, or by going to **[franklinumc.org/pray](http://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](http://franklinumc.org/give)**.

To learn about ways you can volunteer, and sign up, go to **[franklinumc.org/volunteer](http://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.

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## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, pay attention! The days are coming when God's peace will reign and all creation will flourish under the reign of our Creator.

**The days are surely coming!**

Children of God, prepare your hearts! The days are coming and are already here when God will come near and show us how to recognize God's reign among us.

**The days are surely coming and are already here!**

Children of God, be alert and listen! God has come near to build the kin-dom on the earth here and now. Will you join in?

**The days are surely coming and are already here! We come to prepare our hearts to pay attention, to listen, and to follow God's call to build the kin-dom of earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

## SONG

## “O DAY OF GOD, DRAW NIGH”

No. 730, *UMH* (1989)

O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power;  
come with thy timeless judgment now to match our present hour.

Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,  
the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.

Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,  
and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.

Bring to our world of strife thy sovereign word of peace,  
that war may haunt the earth no more, and desolation cease.

O day of God, draw nigh as at creation's birth;  
let there be light again, and set thy judgments on the earth.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## SILENT PRAYER

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

## SCRIPTURE READING

**JEREMIAH 33:14-16**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

**While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.**

### RESPONSE

### “LIGHT ONE CANDLE” v.1

Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth

Light one candle for hope,  
One bright candle for hope,  
He brings hope to every heart,  
He comes, He comes.

### SCRIPTURE READING

**LUKE 21:25-36**

### REFLECTION

### SONG “VIEW THE PRESENT THROUGH THE PROMISE”

No. 3048, W&S (2011)

View the present through the promise, Christ will come again.  
Trust despite the deepening darkness, Christ will come again.  
Lift the world above its grieving through your watching and believing  
in the hope past hope's conceiving: Christ will come again.

Probe the present with the promise, Christ will come again.  
Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again.  
Let your loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving  
be a sign to all the living: Christ will come again.

Match the present to the promise, Christ will come again.  
Make this hope your guiding premise, Christ will come again.  
Pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating  
to the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving. We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the stuff of the holiday. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center, which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL  
(No. 211, *The United Methodist Hymnal*)

The Lord our God is with us, lift up your hearts and voices high, let us unto the Lord give thanks in all the world and at all times:

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.***

All glory be to you, O God, as we await your advent here.

We praise the gift of your own son, foretold by prophets from of old. We thank you that you sent to us your only son, our Savior, our Lord, who served the world and gave his life that all who love him die to sin.

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.***

Our Lord, the night he was betrayed, with his disciples took the bread, he blessed and broke it as he said, "This is my body, broken for you." He took the cup when all had supped, he gave you thanks, and giving said, "This cup drink in remembrance of me; this is my blood pour'd out for you."

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.***

When we partake this holy bread, when we this holy wine do drink, we sense anew his presence here, and we await his victory. The mystery of faith we proclaim: proclaim that Christ the Lord has died, he rose the third day from the grave, ascended, and will come again.

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.***

Accept our sacrifice of praise as we surrender of ourselves.  
Send down, O God, your Holy Ghost upon us and upon our gifts.  
Empow'r us through this bread and wine to know the presence of our Lord;  
to make us one with him today and one with humankind, we pray.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

## 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 AND CUP

### RESPONSE

### “PEACE BE TO THIS CONGREGATION”

Words by Charles Wesley TUNE: YFRYDOL  
(No. 196, “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus,” *UMH*)

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!

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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**

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Franklin, MA 02038

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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

## WINTER COAT DRIVE

New England Chapel and the Community Closet @FranklinUMC are partnering up to collect new and gently used, washable winter coats for our Franklin-area neighbors. We will be collecting coats through **December 7**. Coats can be dropped off at the Franklin Fire Department, Franklin UMC, and Hockomock YMCA. On Saturday, December 14, we will be opening the Community Closet and offering a FREE Winter Coat Giveaway from 10a-2p.

## A-WREATH-OF-FRANKLIN | SIP, SHOP, STROLL AND ROLL

Join us for A-Wreath-of-Franklin, a festive community celebration! Local artists, schools, and community members are invited to create their own wreaths! These beautiful wreaths will be paired with local businesses throughout the downtown area. Each display will include a QR code for community members to vote for their favorite wreath. **On December 7th, 12-7pm** enjoy a "Sip, Shop, Stroll & Roll" program and support Franklin's local businesses. Don't miss the fun! (Snow date, 12/14, 12-7pm). Sip, Shop Stroll and Roll will offer festive beverages, raffles and life music! More updates to come on what to enjoy!

## COMMUNITY CONCERT- CAROLS, COOKIES & COCOA

**Saturday December 7th at 7pm** featuring Jamie Barrett

## BOOK CLUB

This month we will be reading **The Christmas Basket** by Debbie Macomber. The next meeting will be on **December 10 at 7pm**. The group will meet in a hybrid format at Dawn's house, 18 Eisenhower Dr or online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), or phone (224-501-3412, access code 789-141-869). January's reading will be **The Ladies' Midnight Swimming Club** by Faith Hogan

## LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is a monthly gathering where people talk and enjoy fellowship over a meal at area restaurants. The next gathering will be at **The Railery, Franklin Village Mall on December 18 at 12 PM**. All are welcome. Please notify Nancy Boates by phone 508-654-2833 or email [NancyBoates49@hotmail.com](mailto:NancyBoates49@hotmail.com) by 10 am if you plan to attend.