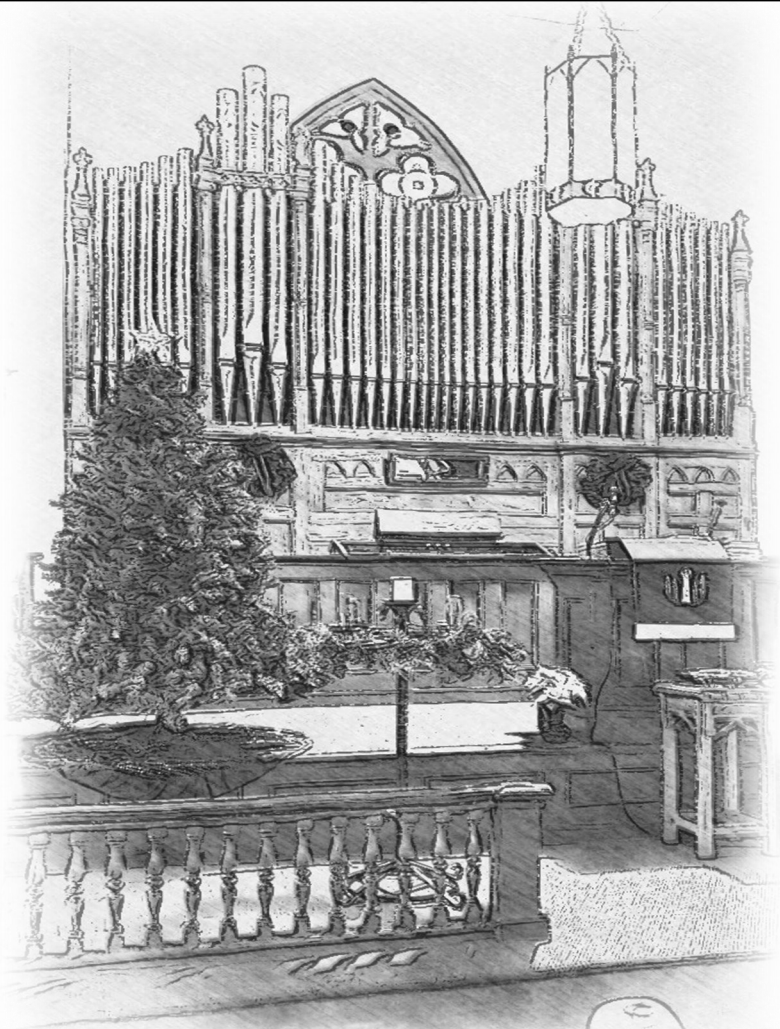


FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Come, Let Us Adore Him
Passion

Sunday December 8, 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

Children of God, prepare the way! The Word of God is coming!

We come to listen and receive God's Word among us.

Children of God, the prophets call to us now and from generations past, urging us to prepare and refine our hearts for the coming of the Word of God. Are you listening?

We come to listen and prepare to receive God's Word among us.

Children of God, this is the mark of our preparation: that passion for God's Word would burn within us, cleansing us and renewing us to reflect God's love throughout the world.

May God ignite our passion for God's Word that has come among us as we listen, prepare, and receive all that God has for us today. Amen.

SONG "WORD OF GOD, COME DOWN ON EARTH"

No. 182, *UMH* (1989)

Word of God, come down on earth,
Living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth
Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere You;
Word made flesh, we long to hear You.

Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring,
Speak to us, Your love outpouring.

Word that caused blind eyes to see,
Speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are: our healer be;
Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken,
Heal the world, by our sin broken.

Word that speaks your Father's love,
One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above,
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us,
Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

MALACHI 3:1-4

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger with a passion for God’s coming salvation. “For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness” (Malachi 3:2b-3).

**In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo,
we choose to live with a passion for God’s peace, to listen to
those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves
to God’s grace, that we might be refined and purified until
we reflect God’s love throughout the earth.**

RESPONSE

“LIGHT ONE CANDLE” v.1-2

Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth

Light one candle for hope, One bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev’ry heart, He comes, He comes.

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to ev’ry heart. He comes! He comes!

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 3:1-6

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Grace,
you blow the breath of life into our lungs,
you have formed us in your image.

**And yet we acknowledge that sometimes we are not who
you would have us be.**

You challenge us to embrace the refining fire of your love, to meet
you on the threshing floor of life, to be washed as with fuller's
soap.

**But in our heart of hearts we would rather keep those
things that would be removed in such an encounter.**

Through your Grace, life-giving God, accept us as we are,
un refined, unwashed, the chaff mixed in with the grain.
And help us to move into a new way of being.

Listen! For this is Good News!
God's grace is wider than our wildest imagining.
God's grace embraces us as we are and where we are
and draws us out to be the people we were created to be.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SONG "GIVE ME THE FAITH WHICH CAN REMOVE" No. 650, UMH (1989)

Give me the faith which can remove
and sink the mountain to a plain;
give me the childlike praying love,
which longs to build thy house again;
thy love, let it my heart o'er-power,
and all my simple soul devour.

I would the precious time redeem,
and longer live for this alone,
to spend and to be spent for them
who have not yet my Savior known;
fully on these my mission prove,
and only breathe, to breathe thy love.

My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord,
into thy blessed hands receive;
and let me live to preach thy word,
and let me to thy glory live;
my every sacred moment spend
in publishing the sinner's Friend.

Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart
with boundless charity divine,
so shall I all my strength exert,
and love them with a zeal like thine,
and lead them to thy open side,
the sheep for whom the Shepherd died.

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

No. 95, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

PRAYER

SONG

“MAKE WAY”

No. 3044, *Worship & Song* (2011)

Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendor arrives.
Fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.

Make way, make way for the King of Kings.
Make way, make way and let his kingdom in.

He comes the broken hearts to heal, the prisoners to free.
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.

Make way, make way for the King of Kings.
Make way, make way and let his kingdom in.

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
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82 W. Central Street
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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

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look to 2025, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. We aim to expand our programs, strengthen our community partnerships, reach out to more individuals, and continue to restore and renovate our facility. To achieve our goals, we are counting on your continued support. We invite you to make a year-end gift to help close out 2024 on a strong note. Additionally, we encourage you to renew your pledge for the coming year. Thank you for being a vital part of our church family. Your faith, generosity and dedication are truly appreciated. Please return your pledge card by December 22nd.

BLOOMING & GIVING IN DECEMBER

This season, let your purchase do more. Head over to the Franklin Stop & Shop location this month and purchase a specially marked \$10.99 *Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet*. Every bouquet sold will send us a \$1 donation!

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

WINTER COAT GIVE-A-WAY

New England Chapel and the Community Closet @FranklinUMC have partnered up to collect new and gently used, washable winter coats for our Franklin-area neighbors. On **Saturday, December 14**, we will be opening the Community Closet and offering a FREE Winter Coat Giveaway from 10a-2p.

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 by 10 am if you plan to attend.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7PM

Join us on Christmas Eve at 7pm for a Candles & Carols traditional service. All are welcome. Details for the service can be found on the church website.