

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.

BOOK CLUB

January we'll read *The Bird Hotel* by Joyce Maynard. The next meeting will be on **January 14 at 7pm**. The group will meet in a hybrid format at TBD or online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), or phone (224-501-3412, access code 789-141-869).

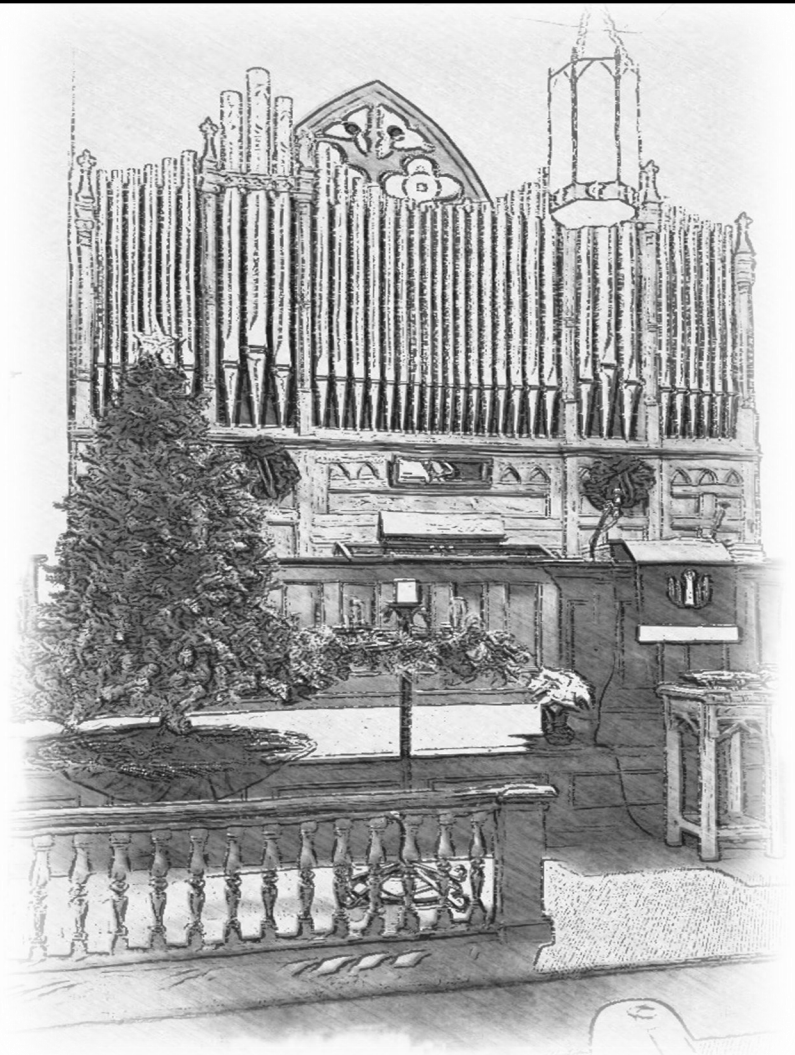
LUNCH BUNCH

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 45 Restaurant, Milford St, Medway on January 15 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.

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Franklin Meals on Wheels office is looking for onsite volunteers, weekday mornings at the church. Meals on Wheels provides nutritious meals to in-need, homebound seniors in Franklin, Bellingham, Blackstone, and Medway. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Jeanne (Monday through Friday, 10a-1p) by phone at [508-520-1422](tel:508-520-1422).

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Christmas in Verse

Sunday December 29, 2024

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

franklinumc.org
office@franklinumc.org

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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.

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

“THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS” by Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY No. 95, *UMH* (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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

CAROL **“LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS”**

No. 242, *UMH* (1989)

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

BLESSING

THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ child be with you always.
And also with you.

POSTLUDE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS” by Brian K. Walters

CAROL **“HE IS BORN (IL EST NÉ)”**
No. 228, *UMH* (1989)

Refrain:

*He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.*

Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming;
thru long ages of the past, now the time has come at last! (*Refrain*)

O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure gracious gift to humankind! (*Refrain*)

Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace. (*Refrain*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE DAY

LORD’S PRAYER No. 895, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

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.

“LOVE HAS COME”

by Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrler-Peacock

CAROL

“LOVE HAS COME”

No. 3059, *W&S* (2011)

Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high .

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking..
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

“A CHRISTMAS CAROL”

by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

CAROL

“AWAY IN A MANGER”

No. 217, *UMH* (1989)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

“ONE SOLITARY LIFE”

by Rev. James Allan Francis (1864-1928)

CAROL

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS”

No. 219, *UMH* (1989)

What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. (*Refrain*)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. (*Refrain*)

“IN MEMORIAM

[RING OUT, WILD BELLS]”

by Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

CAROL

“COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”

No. 196, *UMH* (1989)

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.