

## 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

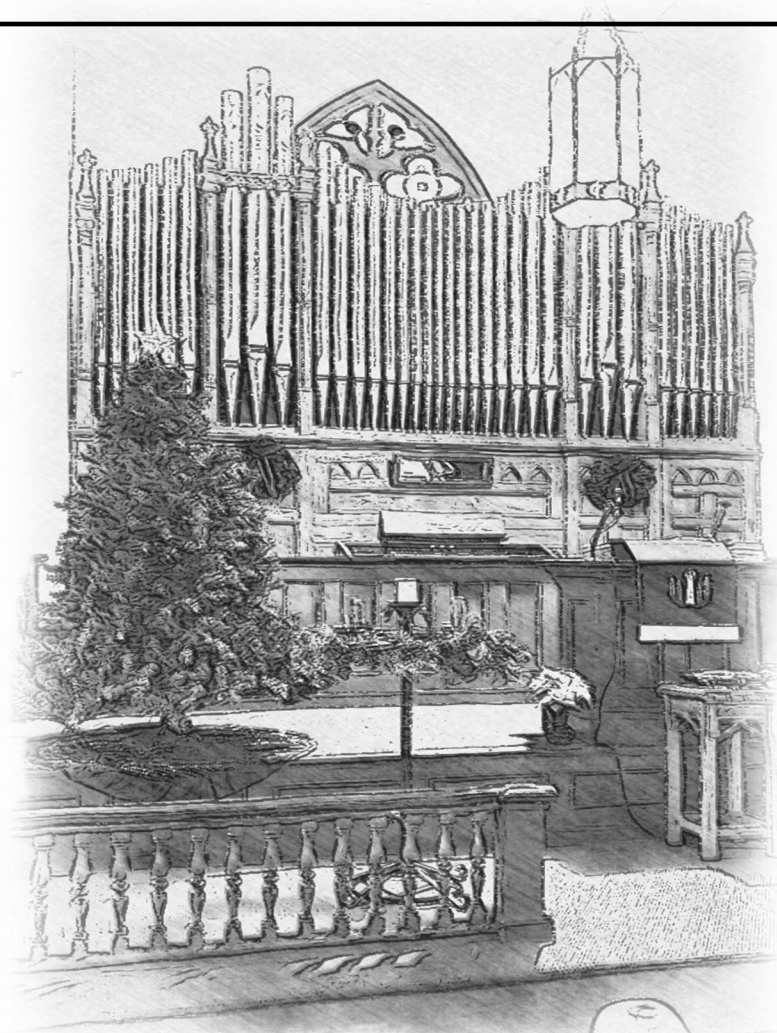
Lunch Bunch is a monthly gathering where people talk and enjoy fellowship over a meal at area restaurants. The next gathering will be at **The 45 Restaurant, Milford St, Medway on January 15 at 12 PM**. All are welcome. Please notify Nancy Boates by phone 508-654-2833 or email [NancyBoates49@hotmail.com](mailto:NancyBoates49@hotmail.com) 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

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Search On  
**Breakout [Church]**

**Sunday January 5, 2025**

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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)

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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## 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**. 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.

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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**

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

...By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

**Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in  
your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,  
now and for ever. Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895, *UMH* (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.**

## SHARING OF THE BREAD & CUP

### RESPONSE "PEACE BE TO THIS CONGREGATION"

Words by Charles Wesley  
TUNE: PROMISE (No. 707, *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

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last:  
gathered together for worship!

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past: "Arise,  
shine; for your light has come."

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of  
the world.

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

So, let us receive the call of Isaiah and follow the example of the  
magi as we begin this new year turning our faces to God whose  
glory shows up among us as a vulnerable child, a poor carpenter,  
and a foot-washing servant who is the salvation of the world.

**We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and  
every day. Amen.**

## SONG

### "THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR"

No. 249, *UMH* (1989)

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!  
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,  
for the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

In the light of that star lie the ages imperaled;  
and that song from afar has swept over the world.  
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing  
in the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song  
that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.  
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,  
and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

### SCRIPTURE READING

**ISAIAH 60:1-6**  
**MATTHEW 2:1-12**

### SONG

**“WE THREE KINGS”**  
No. 254, *UMH* (1989)

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*Refrain:*

*O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

*[Refrain]*

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.

*[Refrain]*

### REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

**SONG “ARISE, SHINE OUT, YOUR LIGHT HAS COME”**  
No. 725, *UMH* (1989)

Arise, shine out, your light has come, unfolding city of our dreams.  
On distant hills a glory gleams: the new creation has begun.

Above earth's valleys, thick with night, high on your walls the dawn appears,  
and history shall dry its tears, as nations march toward your light.

From walls surpassing time and space unnumbered gates, like open hands,  
shall gather gifts from all the lands and welcome all the human race.

The sounds of violence shall cease as dwellings of salvation rise  
to sparkle in eternal skies from avenues of praise and peace.

The dancing air shall glow with light, and sun and moon give up their place,  
when love shines out of every face, our good, our glory, and delight.

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

...Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world.

**Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's light is present in this world.  
Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.  
Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

**God's light is in the world,  
and the darkness did not over come it.  
God's grace is in the world,  
and our missteps will not over come it.  
We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

...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.**