

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Steadfast Love: A Lenten Playlist

March 30, 2025

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

franklinumc.org
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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

When we struggle to live as you teach us, and we fail to answer your call...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When the truth clogs up in our throat, and we fear what will happen if we speak and if we keep silent...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When we open our hearts and let the truth of our sorrows, our sin, our joys, and our doubts flow freely...

God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

When our stubborn hearts encounter the grace that teaches and guides us into a life of trust and joyful obedience.,.

God, your steadfast love surrounds us today and every day.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SONG

“HOW VAST IS GOD’S UNFAILING LOVE”

Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith

TUNE: ST. PETER (UMH 549, “Where Charity and Love Prevail”)

How vast is God's unfailing love to those by grace forgiven!
It reaches to the skies above and scales the heights of heaven.

What loving-kindliness is ours, what steadfast love is this!
For mountain-high his wisdom towers and deep as the abyss.

And bird and beast and humankind, with all created things,
beneath his hand their shelter find, the shadow of his wings.

His children, precious in his sight, receive what love imparts,
to drink from rivers of delight, to feast with joyful hearts.

From him alone the fountains flow of life and health and peace;
so may we still salvation know, and light and love increase.

O God of glory, known of old, draw near in love divine,
that in your light we may behold the light eternal shine!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

SONG

“THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD”

Words & Music by Edith McNeil

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end.
They are new ev'ry morning, new ev'ry morning,
Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord,
Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord,
Great is thy faithfulness.

PSALTER

PSALM 32

SONG

“THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD”

Words & Music by Edith McNeil

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end.
They are new ev'ry morning, new ev'ry morning,
Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord,
Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord,
Great is thy faithfulness.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

SONG

“THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD”

Words & Music by Edith McNeil

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end.
They are new ev’ry morning, new ev’ry morning,
Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord,
Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord,
Great is thy faithfulness.

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

SONG

“AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)”

No. 3104, *Worship & Song* (2011)

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

T’was Grace that taught my heart to fear. And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear The hour I first believed.

Chorus

*My chains are gone, I’ve been set free.
My God my Saviour has ransomed me.
And like a flood, his mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing grace.*

The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.

[Chorus] x2

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below, Will be forever mine.
Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

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.**

PRAYER

SONG

“YOUR LOVE, O GOD”

No. 120, *UMH* (1989)

Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.
You leave us free to seek you or reject you,
you give us room to answer "yes" or "no."

Refrain:

*Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.*

We long for freedom where our truest being
is given hope and courage to unfold.
We seek in freedom space and scope for dreaming,
and look for ground where trees and plants can grow. [*Refrain*]

But there are walls that keep us all divided;
we fence each other in with hate and war.
Fear is the bricks and mortar of our prison,
our pride of self, the prison coat we wear. [*Refrain*]

O judge us, Lord, and in your judgment free us,
and set our feet in freedom's open space;
take us as far as your compassion wanders
among the children of the human race. [*Refrain*]

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

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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

FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY COLLECTION

This month we are collecting toothpaste or any other personal hygiene items.

EASTER FLOWERS

Flowers are available for sanctuary decoration on Easter morning. 7" Easter lilies \$20.75, 12" Pansy bowls \$18, 12" hydrangea \$34.50 pink or blue. See Dawn Harlow for signups.

BOOK CLUB

April we'll read *How to Age Disgracefully* by Pooly Clare . The next meeting will be on **Monday April 14 at 6:30 pm**. The group will meet in a hybrid format, at Dawn P's home or online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), 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 **Longhorn, Franklin Village on April 16 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.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT & DONATIONS

The Franklin UMC will host its 4th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, April 20**. Children ages 0-10 are invited to hunt eggs in designated areas separated by age-group. Participants are asked to bring their own basket or bag. Participants will be released to find eggs at 11:15a. Light refreshments and coffee will be served inside the church. If you would like to donate candy and/or small prizes for this event, stuff eggs, or help with refreshments, please contact Dawn Harlow or Pastor Jacob.

COMMUNITY CONCERT: MICHAEL RIVELIS

Saturday, April 26, at 7pm.

Michael moved to the Boston Metro area after graduating from Northeastern in 1984. For over 15 years, he's been performing Folk Rock and Classic Rock hits from the '60s to the '90s, including songs by Bob Dylan, John Prine, The Beatles, Bruce Springsteen, and more. . Michael has played at numerous benefits, pubs, and bars, and has hosted open mics throughout the Metro West area.