

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FILL ME WITH LAUGHTER



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Steadfast Love: A Lenten Playlist

April 6, 2025

82 West Central Street, Franklin, MA
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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

We come to worship, remembering God's goodness that has carried us and sustained us to this present moment.

We remember the days when God covered us in love and filled us with joy.

We come to worship, weary of stress, heavy with grief, and wondering when relief will come.

We long for the days God covered us in love and filled us with joy.

We come to worship to remember and remind one another that God's love has never left us, and God's joy cannot be extinguished.

God, restore us that we know your love and your joy once again.

We come to worship to remember and become the Body of Christ, a community called to restore the world around us.

God, empower us to be your restoration people who fill the world with love, laughter, and abundant life. Amen.

SONG

"WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE"

No. 2220, FWS (2001)

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord
Born of the Spirit, established by the Word
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Christ we stand
O let us live transparently and walk heart to heart and hand in hand

We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ, our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured.
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given;
O let us share each joy and care and live with a zeal that pleases Heaven.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Christ, now risen from the dead.
God wills us be a family diverse, yet truly one;
O let us give our gifts to God and so shall God's work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace.
We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire;
Yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light and to inspire.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
SILENT PRAYER
PRAYER OF THE DAY
PSALTER

PSALM 126

SONG

“JOY COMES WITH THE DAWN”

No. 2210, FWS (2001)

Refrain:

*Joy comes with the dawn; joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.*

Weeping may come; weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight. *R*

Sorrow will turn, sorrow will turn into song,
and God’s laughter make us strong. *R*

We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace. *R*

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 12:1-8

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

SONG

“O YOUNG AND FEARLESS PROPHET”

No. 444, UMH (1989)

O young and fearless Prophet of ancient Galilee,
thy life is still a summons to serve humanity;
to make our thoughts and actions less prone to please the crowd,
to stand with humble courage for truth with hearts uncowed.

We marvel at the purpose that held thee to thy course
while ever on the hilltop before thee loomed the cross;
thy steadfast face set forward where love and duty shone,
while we betray so quickly and leave thee there alone.

O help us stand unswerving against war's bloody way,
where hate and lust and falsehood hold back Christ's holy sway;
forbid false love of country that blinds us to his call,
who lifts above the nations the unity of all.

Stir up in us a protest against our greed for wealth,
while others starve and hunger and plead for work and health;
where homes with little children cry out for lack of bread,
who live their years sore burdened beneath a gloomy dread.

O young and fearless Prophet, we need thy presence here,
amid our pride and glory to see thy face appear;
once more to hear thy challenge above our noisy day,
again to lead us forward along God's holy way.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE CONFESSION AND PARDON

Like Judas, God of new things, we like to complain about your generous ways, rather than living in your grace. The poor are always with us, we believe, which justifies our ignoring them. In our memories, we focus on a perceived golden past, and so we ignore the new things you do in our midst. We are so enamored with our achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus. Forgive us, Restoring God, and help us to notice the kingdom springing forth in our midst. By your grace, may our fears turn to faith, our seeds of grief produce a bumper crop of joy, and our tears turn into torrents of tenderness as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to Jerusalem.

All pray in silence.

Making a way through all the foolishness and mistakes of our lives, God leads us into new life, where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.

Do we notice what God has done for us, what God is doing in us? This is good news for everyone. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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.

... As the grains and grapes, once dispersed in the fields, are now united on this table in bread and cup, so may we and all your people be gathered from every time and place into the unity of your eternal household and feast at your table for ever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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 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

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

EASTER FLOWERS

Flowers are available for sanctuary decoration for 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.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

We reached our collection goal of 45 bottles of cleaning spray! Now it's time to assemble the baskets. **Wednesday, April 23rd 2025 10am - 11:30am** at First Universalist Society in Franklin. Please join the Franklin Interfaith Council to assemble and deliver "Welcome Baskets" filled with donated household supplies to the Franklin Family Shelter. The shelter is set to close this summer and each departing family will receive a basket to welcome them into their new residences. This is a wonderful opportunity and we look forward to serving with you! Please show up as close to 10am as possible. Assembly will likely only take 30 minutes and then we will load baskets into our cars and deliver them to the shelter together!

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.