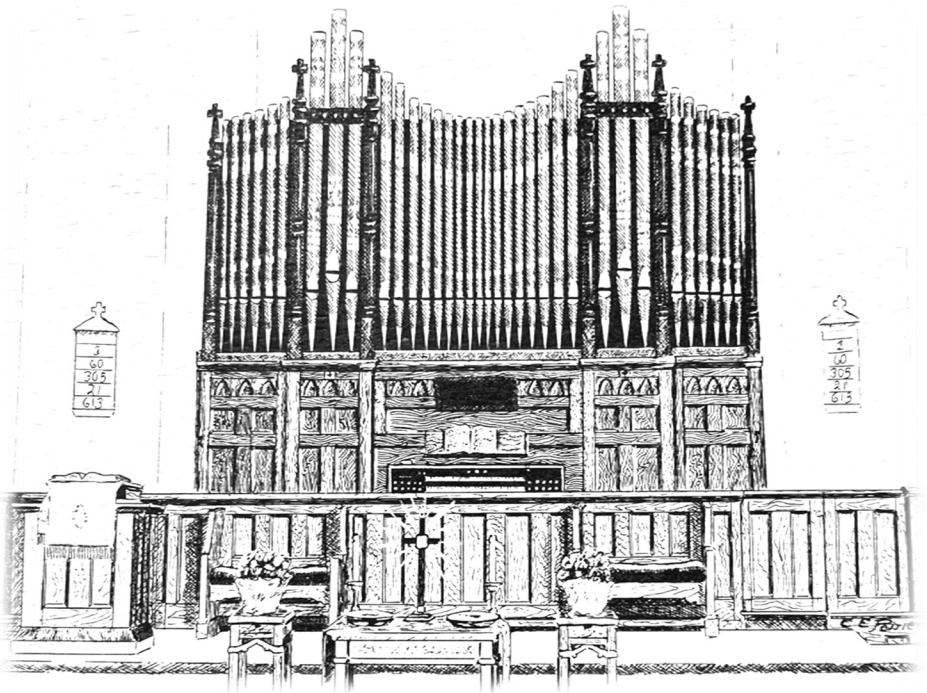


FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Who Do We Choose To Be?

Perception

May 25, 2025

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

We gather together to *remember*, to once again tell the wonderful stories of our faith---stories told throughout the millennia and passed down from generation to generation; stories of faithfulness and love, of mercy and compassion, of miracles and new life.

We tell these stories over and over so that we don't forget.

We tell these stories to remember who we are—people of God.

We tell these stories so that new generations can also come to know the love of God found in Jesus Christ and share that love with the world.

SONG

“TELL ME THE STORIES OF JESUS”

No. 277, *UMH* (1989)

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

As sabers rattle in lands both close and distant we confess that we are in pain, fear has taken root in the souls of our being.

Even as we turn to the parables, familiar stories that we thought we loved, we find troubling stories offering ever more questions .

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, have mercy upon us.

We are loathe to take account of the many ways in which we unwittingly profit from the machinery of war and greed.

Still we read the parables of Jesus which fly in the face of social convention offending those who dare to listen.

Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy, have mercy upon us.

Believing that we are insignificant, and at the same time fearful that we might become so, we are timid to use our voices to speak truth to a world of bent toward violence, division, and war.

Now the parables of Jesus offer a new vision; now the servants dine and the masters serve, now the last becomes first and the first becomes last.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, have mercy upon us.

Hear the good news of the Story that no sheep is unworthy of rescue, no coin too small to be missed. Hear the good news that love is stronger than hate and that this power is alive within you now and forever. 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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 13:10-17

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

SONG

“OPEN MY EYES, THAT I MAY SEE”

No. 454, *UMH* (1989)

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

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

“BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM”

No. 2190, FWS (2001)

[You are salt for the earth, O people:]
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
[Share the flavor of life, O people:]
Life in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

*Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
bring forth the City of God!*

[You are a light on the hill, O people:]
Light for the City of God!
[Shine so holy and bright, O people:]
Shine for the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

[You are a seed of the Word, O people:]
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
[Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,]
grow in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

[We are a blest and a pilgrim people:]
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
[Love our journey and love our homeland:]
Love is the Kingdom of God!

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

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
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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

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

MONTHLY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Baking Goods: Baking items such as flour, sugar, baking soda/powder, frosting, cake, cookie, brownie mixes, assorted extracts. All food will be delivered to the Franklin Food Pantry at the end of the month.

BOOK CLUB

For June we'll read *Cher: Part 1: The Memoir*. The next meeting will be on **Monday June 9 at 6:30 pm**. The group will meet in a hybrid format, at Nancy's home or online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), phone (224-501-3412, access code 789-141-869).

2025 COMMUNITY COOKOUTS SCHEDULED!

The Franklin UMC is excited to announce dates for the 2025 Community Cookouts—**June 28, July 26, August 23, and September 27!** Free burgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be served from 5:30-6:30p in the grassy area behind the church. Vegetarian options will be available. All are invited. In case of rain, these events are cancelled. To learn more, go to franklinumc.org/community/cookouts.

COMMUNITY CLOSET

Looking for a closet refresh - or shopping for those with a need ? The generosity of our community and the staffing by volunteers helps us provide pre-loved and new clothing to all. The closet is now open every Tuesday 11a-1p. You can sign up to volunteer at franklinumc.org/volunteer.

FISH OF FRANKLIN SEEKS VOLUNTEERS:

FISH of Franklin's mission is helping Franklin residents get to their medical appointments. Volunteers are needed to either answer telephone requests from those needing rides and volunteers willing to drive clients to medical appointments once a month. If you are interested in volunteering for FISH, call 508-528-2121, leave a message and a member of the Steering Committee will return your call.

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).