

# THE BULLETIN

FRANKLIN UMC

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026 || LENT 2, YEAR A

franklinumc.org

## lections

Readings for this week

**GENESIS 12:1-4**

**PSALM 121**

**ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17**

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**JOHN 3:1-17**

## reflections

What does it mean to believe in the promises of God? To have faith in that which cannot be seen? and, perhaps, cannot be seen until the promise is fulfilled?

Paul writes that the law brings wrath (see Romans 4:15). Why? Doesn't the law also bring order?

Paul then goes on to say that faith rests on grace (see Romans 4:16). Does faith need the law? Does a lack of law create chaos? How does a reliance upon grace create stability and order (and not just a bunch of pushovers)?

## worship

Sunday at 10am in-person in-the-sanctuary and via Google Meet, also livestreaming/archived on YouTube

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, in Lent we remember that our salvation is an unearned gift, that new life is a matter of faith, not of works.

**We gather to lay down the burden of trying to earn our salvation.**

Like Nicodemus, who met Jesus in the dark of night, we struggle to accept that new life is not just possible but given as a free gift of grace.

**We gather to bring our struggles into the light and embrace God's grace with open arms.**

Like Paul writing to the Romans, we remember God's promise of new life has always rested on grace.

**We gather to receive the promise of salvation by grace through faith.**

Like the many who have followed, questioned, and grown in the faith, we submit ourselves to be formed by grace as we work out our salvation day by day.

**We gather as people guided by the promise of new life, a promise fulfilled by Christ, whose path we follow.**

**"Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom"**

No. 508, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

**PRAY**

**READ**

**REFLECT**

**"We Walk by Faith"**

No. 2196, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Responses can be found beginning on page 15 of *The United Methodist Hymnal* ("A Service of Word and Table III").

**LORD'S PRAYER (sung)**

No. 3068, *Worship & Song* (2011)

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**"Now Let Us from This Table Rise"**

No. 634, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

**GO IN PEACE**

# NEWS & EVENTS

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

## LENTEN DEVOTION & DISCUSSION

You're invited to start a regular devotional practice this Lent. Pickup a 2026 Upper Room Disciplines as a daily practice. These short daily readings, include a scripture reading, devotion, and prayer. Books are \$20 and are for the entire 2026 calendar year. Limited regular and large print copies are available.

If a daily practice seems like too much, start a weekly practice by reading the scriptures on your own before Sunday Worship. Scripture readings will be posted weekly in the bulletin.

Join Pastor Jacob virtually on Wednesdays at 7pm to discuss the scriptures coming up in Sunday Worship. For joining information see the Church Calendar or email the [office@franklinumc.org](mailto:office@franklinumc.org).

## FOOD PANTRY

This month we will be collecting bagged chips, cookies and crackers, 8-12 oz packs. All items will be brought over to the Franklin Food Pantry at the end of the month. Thank you!

## COMMUNITY CONCERT: The Shams

Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm

We are excited to welcome The Shams for our March Community Concert. The Shams are an Irish Pub Band comprised of several Franklin residents. This is a free event and all are welcome to attend.

## REALM CONNECT

The Franklin UMC uses a powerful church management and communication database called Realm. Realm Connect is your personalized portal into the life of the church—a place where you can connect with other people and groups, keep up with what's going on, and manage your personal information so that together we can grow as a more connected community. Realm Connect is accessible by computer and a downloadable app. If you need a login to Realm Connect and/or instructions on how to use it, email the [office@franklinumc.org](mailto:office@franklinumc.org).

## PASTOR'S STUDY

The Pastor's Bible Study meets Wednesday evenings via Google Meet to discuss the scripture readings and themes coming up in worship. All are welcome and invited to attend. The Google Meet link can be found on the Church Calendar, in Realm Connect, or by emailing the [office@franklinumc.org](mailto:office@franklinumc.org).

## BOOK CLUB

The FUMC Book Club is reading *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. The next meeting will be on Monday March 9th at 6:30 pm. The group will meet in a hybrid format at Dawn's house and online. For the address and link, view the group's page in Realm Connect.

### Next Week 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 96

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42