

THE BULLETIN

FRANKLIN UMC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026 || TENTH WEEK AFTER PENTECOST, YEAR A

franklinumc.org

lections

GENESIS 32:22-31

PSALM 17:1-7, 15

ROMANS 9:1-5

MATTHEW 14:13-21

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

reflections

When Jesus sees the crowds, he is moved with compassion. When the disciples see the crowds lingering into the evening, they ask Jesus to send them away. Were the disciples acting out of compassion, or out of something else? What might have been motivating their response?

The disciples see only scarcity. "This is a deserted place..." (v. 15). "We have nothing here..." (v. 17). When you look at the ministry God is calling you (and our church) to, what do you see? How does a mindset of scarcity threaten your imagination and your belief in what God might make possible?

Matthew doesn't tell us how the disciples reacted to the feeding of the crowds. What do you imagine they felt as abundance broke out around them? When have you witnessed God's abundance spring forth in places where you expect only limitation and insufficiency.

worship

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

OPENING PRAYER

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

No. 454, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

PRAYERS

READ

REFLECT

"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

No. 589, *United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (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 AND CUP

"A Place at the Table"

No. 3149, *Worship & Song* (2011)

GO IN PEACE

Want to revisit a reflection, prayer, or other moment from a worship service? You can find archived services and snippets from services on [YouTube.com/@FranklinMAumc](https://www.youtube.com/@FranklinMAumc). Follow us there and stay connected, catch up, or share worship with someone who might need it.

NEWS & EVENTS

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FOOD PANTRY

We will be collecting assorted cookies and crackers, 8-12 oz sizes preferred. All items will be brought over to the Franklin Food Pantry at the end of the month. Thank you!

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club is reading *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. The next meeting is Monday August 10th at 6:30 pm. The group will meet in a hybrid format. For the address and link, view the group's page in Realm Connect.

LUNCH BUNCH

We will meet on Wednesday August 19th at Liz's Tavern in Bellingham. All are welcome. Please notify Nancy B by phone or email by 10 am if attending.

AUGUST COMMUNITY COOKOUT

Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 29 and come enjoy a fun-filled evening at the **Franklin UMC!** From **5:30–6:30 PM**, we'll be serving up **free burgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks** in the grassy area at the church. Vegetarian options will be available, and all are welcome—bring your friends, family, and a lawn chair!

This is a great chance to connect with neighbors, relax, and celebrate community. In case of rain, the event will be canceled, so keep an eye on the forecast.

REALM CONNECT

The Franklin UMC uses a 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.

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.

Make your contribution to the
Franklin UMC

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