

The Bulletin

Franklin United Methodist Church

Week beginning Sunday, September 20, 2026

Lections

Assigned Scripture Readings for This Week

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

JOHN 15:4-5

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Reflections

Questions based on the weekly lections and theme for further thinking and reflection.

What do people learn about God by watching your life?

What means of grace or spiritual disciplines help you feel closest to God?

What do the sacraments mean to you? How often do you practice them?

What disciplines anchor your life in God? What means of grace nurture your faith?

How is God shaping your daily interactions and decisions?

Sunday Worship

10am

Join in-person in the sanctuary, via Google Meet, livestream or watch archived on YouTube. Joining information and past worship services can be found at franklinumc.org.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come as learners

students of the Way.

We come as followers

toddling after Christ.

We come to this place

seeking to nurture our relationship with God.

SONG

“God, Whose Love Is Reigning o’er Us”

No. 100, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

PRAYER

This time of prayer is closed with “The Lord’s Prayer” which is No. 895 in *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.

READ

see “Lections”

REFLECT

with Pastor Jacob

SONG

“How Great Thou Art”

No. 77, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

GIVE

DOXOLOGY No. 95, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (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

“Abide with Me”

No. 700, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

GO IN PEACE

Onsite Wi-Fi Access

SSID	FranklinUMC GUEST
PW	URwelcome

Give Now



franklinumc.org

Franklin UMC Announcement

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club is reading *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Story* by Michael Backman. The next meeting is Monday, October 12th, at 6:30 pm. The group will meet in a hybrid format at Linda Z's home. For the address and link, view the group's page in Realm Connect.

SENIOR CENTER EXPO

The Franklin UMC will be participating in the Senior Center Expo on Friday, October 2, from 10a-1p. We will be handing out information about the Community @FranklinUMC. If you would like to help staff the booth, please reach out to Pastor Jacob.

SAVE THE DATE

September 26	Community Cookout
October 2	Senior Center Expo @Franklin Senior Center
October 18	Blessing of renovated education space
October 24	Trunk or Treat
November 22	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service @Franklin Federated Church

Nurture a Relationship with God @franklinUMC

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY SERIES

John Wesley's third general rule calls Methodists to "attend upon all the ordinances of God," reminding us that nurturing a relationship with God is not accidental but rooted in intentional practices of worship, prayer, Scripture, and sacrament.

The rubric below shows how those practices take shape in the life of a disciple—from first witnessing a life centered in God, to being invited into shared spiritual practices, to experimenting with disciplines that deepen faith, and finally to living a God-centered life that guides others. Each stage (impress, engage, experiment, become) describes what a disciple experiences, how scripture guides that moment, and the practical strategies that help them take their next faithful steps.

This pathway is not a checklist but a living process, forming people who perpetually nurture and tend their relationship with God and help others do the same.

STAGE	DISCIPLE'S VOICE	SCRIPTURE	STRATEGY
IMPRESS	Show me how to nurture a relationship with God.	Philippians 4:4-7	Let prayer, worship, and trust in God be visible in everyday life; speak naturally about God without pressure; allow others to see peace, reliance, and gratitude expressed toward God.
ENGAGE	Invite me to nurture a relationship with God.	Psalms 34:3	Invite someone to worship, prayer gatherings, participate in the sacraments, or to pray with you in the moment; explain the importance of the practices that keep you rooted in God.
EXPERIMENT	I nurture my relationship with God.	Luke 11:1-4	Try new spiritual disciplines (means of grace)—daily prayer, Scripture reading, journaling, silence, fasting; explore practices that reveal God's presence.
BECOME	I live a God-centered life.	John 15:4-5	Develop a rule of life; practice discernment; sustain rhythms of prayer, Sabbath, and worship; mentor others in spiritual growth and model a life rooted in Christ.

If you'd like to reflect more on this part of our discipleship pathway, go to franklinumc.org/discipleship/.

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