

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUSTAIN IN ME



ASH WEDNESDAY

Steadfast Love: A Lenten Playlist
Sustain In Me

March 5, 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

GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

SONG

“JESUS PAID IT ALL”

No. 3100, W&S (2011)

I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
find in me thine all in all."

Refrain:
Jesus paid it all,
all to him I owe;
sin had left a crimson stain,
he washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find
thy power, and thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
and melt the heart of stone. [*Refrain*]

For nothing good have I
whereby thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments clean
in the blood of Calvary's Lamb. [*Refrain*]

And when, before the throne,
I stand in him complete,
"Jesus died, my soul to save,"
my lips shall still repeat. [*Refrain*]

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 51:1-17

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

SONG

“DEPTH OF MERCY”

No. 3097, W&S(2011)

Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God his wrath forbear, me, the chief of sinners spare,
me, the chief of sinners spare?

I have long withstood his grace, long provoked him to his face,
would not hearken to his calls, grieved him by a thousand falls,
grieved him by a thousand falls.

I my Master have denied, I afresh have crucified,
oft profaned his hallowed name, put him to an open shame,
put him to an open shame.

There for me the Savior stands, shows his wounds and spreads his hands.
God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps and loves me still,
Jesus weeps and loves me still.

Now incline me to repent, let me now my sins lament,
now my foul revolt deplore, weep, believe, and sin no more,
weep, believe, and sin no more.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

SONG

“DUST AND ASHES”

No. 3098, W&S (2011)

Dust and ashes touch our face,
mark our failure and our falling.
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,
take us as disciples, washed and wakened by your calling.

Refrain:

*Take us by the hand and lead us,
lead us through the desert sands,
bring us living water, Holy Spirit, come.*

Dust and ashes soil our hands -
greed of market, pride of nation.
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,
as we pray and struggle through the meshes of oppression. [*Refrain*]

Dust and ashes choke our tongue
in the wasteland of depression.
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,
through all gloom and grieving to the paths of resurrection. [*Refrain*]

LITANY OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

On this first day of Lent we pause, look within,
and examine our consciousness.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Where we have neglected prayer, been apathetic in worship,
found reasons to avoid generosity, or lacked compassion:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Where we have colluded in the oppression of those who become in-
visible in their suffering, and ignored on the streets:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

Where anxiety has eroded the gift of Your peace, and where we have
cared too much about what others think:

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

As Lent begins, know that God understands how we struggle to stay
open and compassionate. The invitation is not to focus on our inade-
quacies, but on God's gift of grace and love which transforms our
hearts and minds. That gift is given to us again, here and now.

Be encouraged. May God's grace lead to holiness.

Amen.

HYMN

"OUT OF THE DEPTHS I CRY TO YOU"

No. 515, *UMH* (1989)

Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord, now hear me calling.

Incline your ear to my distress in spite of my rebelling.

Do not regard my sinful deeds. Send me the grace my spirit needs;
without it I am nothing.

All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with favor.

All our good works are done in vain without our Lord and Savior.

We praise the God who gives us faith and saves us from the grip of death;
our lives are in God's keeping.

It is in God that we shall hope, and not in our own merit;
we rest our fears in God's good Word and trust the Holy Spirit,
whose promise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the holy signature
inscribed upon our temples.

My soul is waiting for the Lord as one who longs for morning;
no watcher waits with greater hope than I for Christ's returning.
I hope as Israel in the Lord, who sends redemption through the Word.
Praise God for endless mercy.

THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

SONG

"SUNDAY'S PALMS ARE WEDNESDAY'S ASHES"

No. 2138, *FWS* (2001)

Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes, as another Lent begins;
Thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.
We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray;
Now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!

We have failed to love our neighbors, their offences to forgive,
Have not listened to their troubles, nor have cared just how they live,
We are jealous, proud, impatient, loving over much our things;
May the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings.

We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need;
And our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed;
We have wasted earth's resources; want and suffering we've ignored;
Come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us, Lord!

BLESSING & 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

HELP PLAN FELLOWSHIP & MEMBERSHIP CARE!

You're invited to join the Fellowship & Membership Care Team as they seek to develop opportunities for the church to fellowship with, support, and care for one another. If you have any questions about this team, or upcoming meetings please contact Inger Anderson (inger1210@aol.com).

INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH?

Sunday March 9 after worship

You're invited to join the Community Outreach Team as they seek to build bridges between the church, other communities of faith, and the surrounding community. We'll be discussing the Community Closet, Concerts, and Cookouts among other things. If you have any questions about this team or upcoming meetings, please contact Tricia Prewitt (pptricia198@gmail.com).

BOOK CLUB

March we'll read Ladies Midnight Swimming Club by Faith Hogan. The next meeting will be on **March 11 at 6:30 pm**. The group will meet in a hybrid format, at Cynthia's home or online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), or 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 **Mak's, West Central St, Franklin, on March 19 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 CONCERT

Join us for a FREE Community Concert @FranklinUMC featuring The Padula Bros. Trio on **Saturday, March 22, at 7pm**.

FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY COLLECTION

This month we are collecting toothpaste and/or any other personal hygiene items.