

The Steeple Bell – December 2019

“Under the *Green* Steeple”

Shining God’s Light Since 1798

Making disciples...Building Christian community...Transforming lives!

Twas the Night Before Christmas

‘Twas the NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS A LONG
TIME AGO

‘Twas the first night of Christmas a long time ago,
The hillside was peaceful, the moon was aglow.
The world couldn’t know from what happened before,
That men would remember this night evermore.

The sheep on the hillside—their days journey over,
Were dreaming sweet dreams of a field full of clover.
The shepherds were watchful while guarding their flock,
The earth was their pillow, the stars were their clock.

Then all of a sudden, they jumped at the sight
Of the sky all a blaze with a heavenly light.
They huddled in fear, then they started to rise
As the lightening-like flash tore open the skies.

The heavens were split by the silvery ray,
The dark disappeared and the night became day.
And lo, at the end of the rainbow of light
Appeared then an angel to banish their fright.

The angel brought news of a birth in a manger
And bade them to hasten to welcome the stranger.
For Mary had just given birth to a boy
Whose coming would bring so much comfort and joy.

A choir of angels looked down from the sky
And heavenly voices were heard from on high:
Peace be on earth and good will to all men.
The Savior has come on this night, Amen.

The heavenly angels then faded from sight,
The sky once again turned from day to night.
The shepherds all quietly rose from the ground,
And hurried to go where the child would be found.

As they reached Bethlehem and the inn was in sight
From the barn came a trickle of half-hidden light.



It led like a path to a soft little bed
And shone very tenderly on a child’s head.

The child in the manger was sleeping so sound,
His eyes were still closed, as the shepherds stood round.
From that instant of grace on that night long ago
Thousands of years would be warmed by the glow.

Guided by light from a bright shining star
Came a pilgrimage led of three kings from afar.
They were dressed in the finest of satins and lace,
Their complexions were that of an Orient race.

The three wealthy kings were wise men and proud,
But they went to the Christ child and solemnly bowed.
They came bearing treasures of incense and gold
To that sweet little child, still not very old.

The star in the sky twinkled down from above,
The world was awakened to kindness and love.
The past was forgotten, the future was bright,
And the spirit of Christmas was born on that night.

Reference: Zenoch’s View

<https://zenoch.org/mormon-stuff/favorite-stories/christmas-stories/twas-the-night-before-christmas>



Invite family and friends to join us in worship at 7:00 pm on December 24. We will enjoy a special candlelight service that will be family friendly in nature. The service will last about one hour and will provide a perfect opportunity to keep Christ in our celebrations. Merry Christmas.



On December 15, brings guests and get into the Christmas spirit with music of the season provided by the Franklin High School choir, along with the choirs of Franklin First and Otterbein. We recommend that you arrive early as this yearly concert always draws a big crowd.



Children's Christmas Program December 15th

Experience Christmas through the eyes of children during worship on December 15 as our kids share their program with us. All children are welcome to participate. Talk

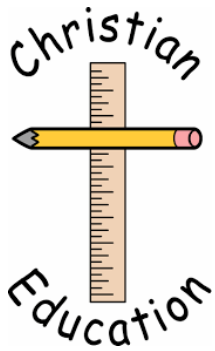
to Judy Bowman or Lisa Dillon for details.



Free Medical Clinic

The Free Medical Clinic started the first week of November and is being held weekly on Tuesdays, with registration starting at 5:30 pm and patient care beginning at 6:00 pm. The clientele base expanded after Franklin Schools agreed to distribute a flyer informing families of this new service to the community. Thank you to the many volunteers who have been working to bring this ministry to fruition. We would also like to thank Rotary International and the local Rotary Club for the grant that provided funds for equipment and supplies necessary to set up the clinic.





Christian Education Update

✚ A big thanks you to all volunteers who have served in the nursery and children's church school. Bless you!

✚ We welcome our new volunteers: Karen Anderson, Carol Runyan, Jessica Lucas and Madeline Lang.



✚ We are in need of a person to take the Children's 9:30 am Sunday school starting at 10 AM from January through March, so Pam Bishop can go to choir, you would work with Pam on what she wanted you to do for the class.

✚ We have ordered some new Bulletin Board sets for both Children's Sunday school rooms. Curriculum has been ordered and is in for the winter quarter.

✚ The Adult Sunday school at 9:30 AM continues to grow and we welcome all.

✚ The Disciple Class should be completed in early December. A big thanks to Mike and Linda Smith for hosting this class.

✚ Judy Bowman and Lisa Dillion will be handling the children's Christmas program on December 15th. There will be practice during Church school time on December 8th and a short practice after church on the 8th. A big thank you to these ladies, the children and their families.



Salvation Army Distribution

Once again this year, Franklin First will be hosting the Salvation Army Christmas food and gift distribution. Tami Chamberlain works hard to make this a seamless event that benefits families in our community. Many thanks to all who lend their efforts to this worthwhile outreach. Recipients will pick up their items on December 19 between the hours of 1:00 and 6:00 pm.



Specific Dates & Times of the Salvation Army Food & Toy Distribution

- Thursday, December 12th - in the morning city employees will deliver food from the schools, put on stage
- December 15th - all gifts are to be returned to church, wrapped and with gift tags attached
- Tuesday, December 17th - 9:00 a.m. assemble boxes for anyone who would like to help, followed by sorting of donated food
- Thursday, December 19th - 1:00-6:00 food/toys distributed to people, workers to arrive by 11:30



Anthony Wayne News



Winter Hats & Mittens Collection

Franklin First UMC will be collecting winter hats, gloves and scarves for the children at Anthony Wayne Elementary. Please place your donations in the box located in the box in the dining room dining room.



Holiday Staff Appreciation Meal

On Tuesday December 17, Franklin First will be cooking and serving a Staff Holiday luncheon at Anthony Wayne Elementary. This event is an opportunity for our church to express our gratitude for the work of these professionals with the children of our community. If you would like to help cook and/or serve, please see Pastor Laura or Linda Smith.

Tutoring

We will start our second eight-week term of tutoring on January 9, and we need more tutors for the winter session as some of our fall tutors are not available for second term.



Women's Circle A Night of Painting November 2019



Birthdays

December

- 4 Ken Smith
- 5 Jerry Johnson
- 5 Patti Elliott
- 8 Ken Lang
- 10 Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
- 10 Wayne David Stevens
- 11 Mishelle Dicken
- 12 Lisa Dillon
- 20 Judy Bowman
- 21 Mike Smith
- 23 Joseph Tyler Chamberlain
- 25 Janet Kirby
- 26 Amber Ramsey
- 27 Gracelyne Lucas
- 31 Cody Chilcutt

Anniversaries

December

- 4 Jake & Alex Chamberlain
- 16 Marisa & Caleb Humphries
- 27 Jan & Julie Abell
- 28 Robert & Judy Bowman

Christmas Poinsettias for the Altar



Cost: \$9.00

Name: _____

Amount _____

Phone # _____

White _____ Red _____

Pink _____ Ice Punch _____

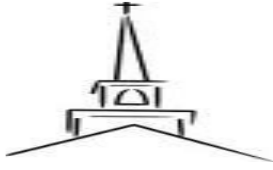
In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Contact Person: Monica Rhude
Orders in by Wednesday, Dec. 16th
Make Checks payable to Women's Circle



Church Life - "Under the **Green Steeple**"



Sunday Worship Schedule

Each week will be a self-contained conversation about selected Bible passages. The class concludes in plenty of time to worship.

9:30 am

Faith Walkers Class (Grades K-6) will meet on the third floor from 9:30 – 10:15am.

10:45 am

Worship Service in the Sanctuary traditional in nature.

Fellowship Following Worship

Join us in the dining room for refreshments after the service.

Communion

The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered during worship on the first Sunday of each month. In the United Methodist Church, the Lord's Table is open to all.

Parking and Accessibility

We are a fully accessible building. Canes & a wheelchair are available as well as an elevator & an electric chairlift. There are reserved areas for loading & unloading passengers. We have limited street parking, but there are two banks across the street from us and you are welcome to park in either of their lots. **Please reserve the spaces in the front of the church for those who need to use the elevator.**



Rehearsal Schedules

Sunday Choir Rehearsals (Sept. – May)

One Voice Ensemble - Sundays after worship

Wednesday Choir Rehearsals (Sept. – May)

6:40 pm Chancel Choir

7:45 pm Bells Choir

As our church family grows, we are not always aware of the musical gifts in our congregation. If you enjoy singing or playing bells, please see the following ladies:

Monica Rhude & Tami Chamberlain

Groups & Meetings

FUMC has several small study and fellowship groups. The church is also a meeting site for several community groups.

Sunday

NA Meeting

7:00 pm Dining Room

Franklin Aggies 4 H Group

Contact the church office for date and times

Monday

Prayer Group

9:00 am Third Floor Chapel

Women's Circle

6:30 pm 2nd Monday meets monthly Sept. –

May Contact the church office for location

Tuesday

1st, 4th, & 5th Tuesday – Hope UMC

4:30 – 5:30 pm Community Dinner

6:00 pm Free Medical Clinic

Wednesday

Franklin-Carlisle Rotary

12:10pm meets weekly in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday

4:30 -5:30pm Community Dinner

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Friday

NA Meeting

7:00 pm meets weekly in the Dining Room

**Franklin First United Methodist Church
2019 Leadership Ministry**

Making disciples... Building Christian community... Transforming lives!

Church Council

Church Council Chair: Mike Smith
Secretary: Amber Ramsey
Lay Leader: Charlotte Summer
Lay Member of Annual Conference:
Charlotte Summer
Lay Member of Annual Conference Alternate:
Kim Chewning
Treasurer: Tami Chamberlain
Membership Secretary: Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Communications Coordinator: Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Church Historian: Robert Bowman
Pastor: Laura Saunders
Ministry Team Representatives:
Staff-Parish: Julie Abell
Finance: Ken Smith
Trustees: John Lass
Jim Martin
Laura Saunders
Christian Education: Jan Truesdell
Lee Saunders
Missions & Outreach: Linda Smith
Amber Ramsey
Hospitality & Events: Judy Bowman
Welcoming Ministry: Rachel Chamberlain
Dorothy Rayburg
Scouting Coordinator: Cindy Kuntzman

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Julie Abell
Terms expiring 2019: Jenny Chilcutt, Mishelle Dicken,
Cheryl Cyphers
Terms expiring 2020: Tami Chamberlain,
Jessica Lucas, Julie Abell
Terms expiring 2021: Sally Fitzgerald,
Don Chamberlain, Patti Noland

Trustees Committee

Chair: John Lass & Jim Martin
Vice Chair: Cody Chilcutt
Terms expiring 2019: Cody Chilcutt, Connie Bolinger
Terms expiring 2020: Jan Abell, Shirley Berold,
Joe Chamberlain
Terms expiring 2021: John Lass, Jim Martin,
Trisha Dicken, Jerry Truesdell

Committee on Lay Leadership (Nominations)

Chair: Pastor Laura Saunders
Terms expiring 2019: Nancy Osborne, Patti Noland,
Peggy Darragh-Jeromos
Terms expiring 2020: Sally Fitzgerald, Brian Graves,
Charlotte Summer
Terms expiring 2021: Susie Mears, Cindy Kuntzman,
Jenny Chilcutt

Finance Committee

Chairperson: Ken Smith
Treasurer: Tami Chamberlain
Financial Secretary: Julie Abell
Church Council Chair: Mike Smith
Trustees Chair: John Lass/Jim Martin
Staff Parish Chair: Julie Abell
Lay Leader: Charlotte Summer
Lay Member of Annual Conference:
Charlotte Summer
Pastor: Laura Saunders

Worship Ministry Team

Choir Director: Monica Rhude
Bell Choir Director: Tami Chamberlain
Altar Design: Kay Marksberry & Pam Bishop
Technical Support: Trisha Dicken
Lay Leader: Charlotte Summer
Pastor: Laura Saunders

