



**FRANKTOWN**  
United Methodist Church

Updates, Happenings & More...

# UMW Art & Food Festival

Pandemic Style



by **Debbie Bridges, UMW President** August 2020

Preparations for our annual Fall Art & Food Festival, pandemic style, are underway. This year's festival will take place Saturday, October 31st from 10 am to 3 pm, rain or shine, at the church.

Local artisans will be set up displaying their wares. If you know of someone interested in selling their goods, have them contact Debbie Bridges. This year's spaces are once again \$35 for a single or \$55 for a double; all space will be **outdoors** and vendors will need to provide their own tent. Deadline for applications is Wednesday, October 21st. The health and safety of our vendors and visitors is the UMW #1 priority!

The UMW will be selling frozen foods, soup and chicken salad for take-out ONLY. There will, unfortunately, be no bake table this year. We are still working on providing music but singing will NOT be allowed.

This year's festival will include a silent auction that will premier during the festival and be available to bid on through December 6th. Mark your calendar and plan to come support our UMW in their biggest fundraising event of the year. Monies raised help our UMW support missions at the local, district, state, country and world levels.

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This business of the Church  
2020 Conferences



## Charge Conference Dates Set: Thursday, 11/19 @ 6:30 pm

by **Amie Booker** on August 2020

This year's Charge Conference will be held Monday, November 9th at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

All church members are welcome to attend however, only voting members of the church council may vote on motion set before the conference. More information may be found on the District website at the following link: [2020 Charge Conferences](#)

If you are interested in attending, you may contact the church office or the district office for the meeting link. You will need access to the internet to participate/attend live. If internet access is an issue, you call dial in by phone using a toll free number. Anyone participating will be asked to mute their connection whether it be via phone or internet.

## District Conference: Stay Tuned

This year's District Conference was slated to be held Saturday, October 31st via Zoom. However, with the newly released date of Annual Conference this date will change. Stay tuned for updated information on District Conference date/time.

# Update on Annual Conference: Now Set for 10/31 @ 9:30

Due to technical difficulties on September 19th, the Annual Conference was postponed. Here are a few words from Bishop Sharma Lewis:

*“Because of the technical difficulties and because we were not able to properly organize the annual conference according to our Standing Rules” she said, “I am immediately invalidating and postponing the 238th Virginia Annual Conference to another date in 2020 if possible.” The bishop emphasized her preference is to have a complete annual conference in 2020, but if not, the conference will meet in 2021 in Hampton.*

The Bishop’s office announced this morning that **Annual Conference will be held October 31st, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**

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Changing Times  
Continuing a 25-year ministry more vital now than ever before



## Sending A Gift of Love & Hope Around the World

by [Cheryl Nottingham](#) on October 2020

During this coronavirus pandemic, children all around the world are hurting and more scared than ever. Receiving a shoe box full of special gifts, filled with love, will bring many of these children much needed joy; and it may be the only gift the child ever receives. Children and their families, from the far ends of the world, need to know of God’s love for them and hear the Good News and Gospel story.

On Friday, October 23rd at noon and 4:30 pm, there will be a drive-by communion offered and boxes and gift ideas will be distributed. Communion will be given by the old kitchen entrance of Franktown UMC.

Beginning Sunday, October 25th, there will be a table set up outside, near the entrance for in-person worship, to distribute boxes and gift ideas. We will be delivering shoe boxes to the Montessori and a couple of our Bible study groups as well. Shoe boxes may also be packed on line at [samaratinspurse.org/buildonline](http://samaratinspurse.org/buildonline)

Collection dates for shoe boxes will be November 25th-23rd, 2020. If you would like to have your packed shoe boxes picked and delivered please contact Cheryl Nottingham at (757) 442-3035 or (757) 710-3974.

## Kits for Conference Update

Franktown UMC has collected enough money for 16 cleaning kits, 10 health kits, 24 school kits, toothpaste and shipping. These monies will be sent to the Annual Conference Treasurer for purchase of the supplies. WooHoo!!! As always, I am grateful for your loving hearts.

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[Sign up for in-person worship](#)

[Share joys & concerns](#)

[Visit our website](#)

[Offer your financial support](#)

# October Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Kerry Tracy Pat Arnold	2 Bill LeCato	3
4 Smith James	5	6	7	8 Roberta Sherman	9 Lee Johnson Gordon Ward	10 Marlene Richards
11 Hunter Burger	12	13 Beth Robins	14	15 Kolette Stith	16	17 Julie Floyd
18	19 Peggy Downing	20	21	22 Emma Rhyne Bill Neal III	23 Suzanne Hiler	24
25 Nancy Mears Samuel Tankard Brian Charnock	26	27 Jonathan McClaskey	28 Spencer Nottingham	29	30	31 Susan Gibb



## Crossing Bayside

with Rev. Rachel

October 4 is the feast day of St. Francis. I associate it with the blessing of the animals services that in prior years have been hosted by parishes all over the world. What a delight!

The man loved his animals, for sure. That love, however, was situated in a wider, deeper, most extraordinary care for creation. "Whatever God made, he treasured." Fellow Methodist James Howell elaborates:

[He] saw the creative work of God in every person, and in flowers, birds, fish, trees, and rocks; he slept out of doors, even on hard stones, partly to experience the discomforts Jesus must have known, *and partly to be as close as possible to what God had made.*

The italics are mine. Francis of Assisi commanded a capacity to see the image or imprint of God where others did not. And he wasn't celebrated for it; not in his lifetime, anyway. How fellow Christians spoke of him! Many quotations attributed to him were responses to his critics. Like this one: "If we had any possessions we should need weapons and laws to defend them."

Francis wasn't reacting to a presidential debate or using social media to call out the idolatry that is the worship of personal property. He was addressing *his bishops*. 'If we had any possessions we should need weapons and laws to defend them.' It did not go over particularly well.

As far as Francis could see, there wasn't a whole lot of life in playing defense 'til you die. That was what possessions did. They put you on defense. For the young Frenchman, possessing something was the death of love. He preferred to be possessed by God's love for the dispossessed.

And so he began to nurse lepers in the houses near Assisi. He traveled to Rome, where he was moved to join the poor in begging outside the churches. There, a vision of Christ led him to sell silk from his father's store to assist the priest of a struggling church. With threats and beatings, his father attempted to change the course of things. The course of Francis' life was irreversible.

It remains distilled in the simple rule he composed for his followers in the year 1209: "To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps." October 4 is the feast day of St. Francis, the day of his death, the day we remember that he was and is more than a garden statue, more than a believer... he was a follower. Seek God. Love neighbor. *Follow Jesus*, friends.