

December 29, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:41–52

## Order for Our Worship of God

(\*those who are able are invited to stand)

Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

*Leader:* Come, all who seek wisdom and understanding.

*People:* **We gather to learn, to listen, and to follow the call of God.**

*Leader:* Just as the boy Jesus stayed in His Father's house, asking questions and seeking truth, we too come to draw near to God.

*People:* **We open our hearts to the teachings of Christ, eager to follow His way.**

*Leader:* Let us marvel at the wisdom of God, who calls us to grow in faith, love, and obedience.

*People:* **We will follow where God leads, trusting in His plans and purposes for our lives.**

*Leader:* Come, let us worship the One who calls us to His presence and guides us in His ways.

*All:* **We come with joy and devotion, ready to follow the call of God!**

Opening Prayer

**Loving and wise God, we gather in Your presence, eager to seek Your guidance and follow Your call. Just as Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, may we also grow in understanding and faith as we listen for Your voice. Open our hearts to the lessons You have for us today. Grant us the courage to follow where You lead and the humility to trust in Your plans. May this time of worship draw us closer to You and inspire us to walk in Your ways. In the name of Jesus Christ, our guide and Savior, we pray. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" No. 206

Passing the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

**Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Children's Time

Special Music

Message

"Following the Call of God"

Shan Gao

\*Hymn of Reflection

"The Summons" (vs. 1, 2, 5)

TFWS No. 2130

Prayer Time

The Giving of Our Offering

Offering Song

\*Presentation "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" No. 95

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, we bring these gifts before You with hearts full of gratitude. May they be used to glorify Your name, to spread Your love, and to fulfill Your purposes in this world. As we dedicate these offerings, we also dedicate ourselves to Your service. Guide us to be faithful stewards of all You have entrusted to us, using our time, talents, and treasures to bring hope, healing, and joy to those around us. Bless the work of this church and its mission, that it may shine as a beacon of Your light. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

TFWS No. 2129

\*Blessing

Postlude

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**WE WELCOME ALL** to this service of worship including newcomers and visitors among us. We welcome also Shan Gao, Drew Theological School Seminarian, as our Guest Preacher this morning and Deborah Holloway as our Guest Organist.

**PARTICIPATING IN OUR SERVICE** ~ Rev. JongIn Lee, Pastor; Deborah Holloway, Guest Organist; and Joan Pandorf, Liturgist. We appreciate them sharing their gifts with us as we gather to worship and praise God today!

**BLESSED BARGAINS THRIFT SHOP** ~ The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9am–2pm to shop and drop off donations. Please see the sign-up sheet in the donation room for open time slots when help is needed. Please contact Barbara Doka or Joan Pandorf with any questions.

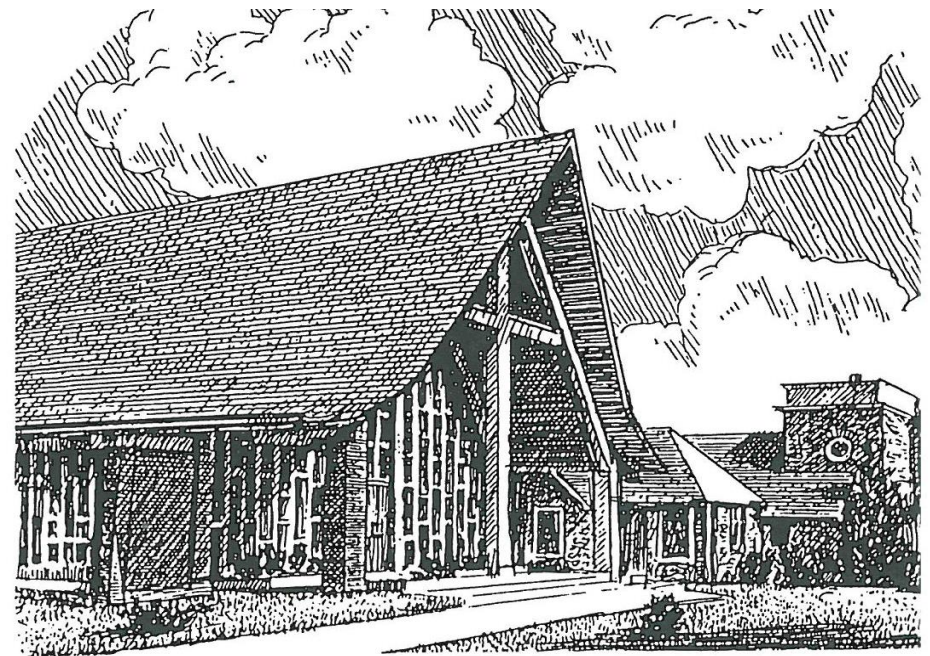
**FLOWER CALENDAR** ~ The 2025 flower calendar is now posted listing all the Sundays in the new year. Sign up for the dates when you would like to order flowers for the altar. Speak to Elaine Watson for details or any special requests.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** ~ On the table in the narthex are offering envelopes for 2025. If you do not find a box in your name and would like one, please contact Donna in the Church Office ([secretary@franklinlakesumc.org](mailto:secretary@franklinlakesumc.org), 201-891-0022).

**MITTEN TREE** ~ You can give the gift of warmth by decorating the mitten tree in the narthex with a new scarf or hat or gloves or mittens, which will then be brought to CUMAC to help keep our neighbors warm this winter.

**SPECIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE** ~ A special charge conference is planned for Monday, January 6, 7:10 PM via Zoom to approve the pastor's compensation report for 2025.

**JANUARY BOOK CLUB** ~ The next Book Club meeting will be Thursday, January 16, at 10:30 a.m. when the discussion will be about the book *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano. All who read the book are welcome to attend the discussion.



**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF FRANKLIN LAKES**

**Organized 1855**

**Rev. JongIn Lee, Pastor**

**AN INVITATION**

***To all who would know God and do God's will;  
To all who would live and work to make  
Jesus' love alive in the world;  
To all who seek comfort and would find rest;  
To old and young, rich and poor, saint and sinner,  
This church opens wide its doors  
And—in the name of Jesus the Christ—  
Bids you welcome to this house of the Lord!***

**PASTOR:** *Rev. JongIn Lee*

**LAY LEADER:** *Dave Murray*

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST:** *Dr. Russell Wagoner*

**CHURCH SECRETARY:** *Donna E. Mulder*

**SEXTON:** *Bonnie Mann*

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