

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church
Weekly Update
April 1, 2026



Have you ever noticed a specific kind of stillness that comes just before dawn? On Sunday mornings, I'm up before sunrise – and I always take some time to notice as the first sliver of daylight starts to break over the horizon. For many of us, Lent can feel a little like those minutes before dawn: a time of anticipation and eagerness for the light that is just around the corner. As we approach Easter Sunday, I've been thinking a lot about why we gather, why we celebrate and why this particular morning remains the heartbeat of everything we believe.

I wanted to share three Easter thoughts with you as we are heading into the end of Lent.

First, it is easy to get swept up in the traditions, the daffodils popping up, the Easter candy everywhere and the (slight) warming of temperatures. But at its core, Easter isn't just a change in the seasons; it is a recognition of the **single most important event in human history**.

When we talk about the resurrection of Jesus, we aren't just discussing a beautiful story or a metaphor for "new beginnings." We are marking a literal pivot point in the destiny of humans. The resurrection is the moment where the impossible became reality, where death was defeated and where the hope of eternal life with Jesus was made secure.

If Jesus' tomb was really empty – and Christians for 2000 years are convinced of the literal truth of the resurrection - then everything about the world changes. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has ascended the throne of the universe, and we get to experience the love and mercy of God in our lives. Easter is the most important day on our calendars.

Second, when we grasp the magnitude of the resurrection, there is only one response: **Worship**. Worship is often misunderstood as singing songs or attending Sunday service. But worship is how we respond to God for who He is and what He has done. On Easter, we are invited to respond to God's love. We have two wonderful, distinct opportunities to gather for worship of the risen Jesus.

- **The Community Sunrise Service (6:30 AM) in the East Cemetery:** There is something profoundly moving about gathering in the cemetery as the sun rises. It is a visual and spiritual reminder that even in a place marked by loss, life has the final word, not death.
- **FPC Easter Worship Service (10:00 AM):** Don't miss our regular Sunday service where we'll have special music, nursery care, kids programming and communion.

Finally, the last thought I have been dwelling on is about the witnesses on that first Easter. All the initial visitors to the empty tomb had a remarkably similar reaction once they realized Jesus was alive. They didn't just sit there quietly and ponder the theological implications; **they went and told others**.

Easter is, by its very nature, a day of invitation. The news was too good to keep secret then, and it is too good to keep secret now. We live in a world that is often hungry for hope, for community, and for a sense of belonging. Easter provides the perfect "open door" to invite a neighbor, a friend, or a coworker to come and see what the joy is all about.

Think for a moment: Is there someone in your life who needs to hear that they are loved? Is there someone who has been looking for a place to call home? I want to encourage you to be the "messenger" this week. A simple, "Hey, would you like to come to church with me this Sunday?" can be a life-changing moment for someone else.

See you Sunday!

Join us...

MAUNDY THURSDAY

...for a time of reflection and communion

April 2nd @ 7:00 PM



FREDERICKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

201 N. Mill Street
Fredericksburg, OH 44627

Join us for the Fredericksburg Community

SUNRISE SERVICE

April 5th @ 6:30 AM | Fredericksburg East Cemetery

Breakfast will follow at:
Fredericksburg Church of Christ
131 E. Clay St.
Fredericksburg, OH 44627



Come worship with us...

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5th @ 10:00AM



FREDERICKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

201 N. Mill St., Fredericksburg, OH 44627

Spring Into Action!

The Outreach Team, Church Trustees and Fredericksburg Community Park committee are hosting a spring clean up day on Saturday, April 18 from 9:00am-noon to spruce up the community park and the church landscaping. All are encouraged to help out even if you can't stay the entire time. Mulching, weeding, and cleaning are on the agenda. Please bring gloves and landscaping tools (rakes, shovels, etc) if you have them. Lunch will be provided! We have set Saturday, April 25 as a rain date if necessary. If you have any questions, talk to Frank, Michelle or Jenny.

PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers. The prayer needs listed in **BOLD** are new to the list.

Praises

Military Service: We have 7 young men & women serving in the Armed Forces. Please keep Abraham, Isaiah, Shannah, Christa, Steven, Ryan and Gaven in your prayers.

Prayer Needs

- Prayers for our military troops
- Prayers for our country
- Unspoken

Health Concerns

- Mike Covert
- Melinda Moffitt - recovering from surgery
- Edna Wade - health concerns
- Susan (James) Halliday
- Mark Lemon - cont'd prayers for progress
- Pat Thomson
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- **Len Wilk - blood disorder, starting chemo**
- Mike Sherrick - lung cancer
- Mariann Stutzman - pancreatic cancer
- Nicki
- Janet Lee
- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Condolences

The Deacons encourage you to send cards or notes of encouragement to those in the church family experiencing prayer needs.



Vacation Bible School

June 15-19. Be watching for more details!

Questions or concerns or just curious about something within the church? You are welcome to reach out to our Church Elders:

Angie Chapman	330-465-0963
Beth Miller	513-319-6447
Darcy Miller	330-440-4155
Frank Morrow	330-201-4847
Earl Rhamy	330-988-4285
Mike Rhamy	330-464-0961
Steve Schlegel	330-317-3898
John Scott	330-466-0226
Claudia Ward	330-466-3417

You can make your tithes and contributions in a variety of ways:

- Use the box in the sanctuary on Sunday morning
- mail checks to P.O. Box 259 Fredericksburg, OH
- text to "Give" to 833-648-1702
- drop off your contributions during regular church office hours
- Use this link <https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=54989dfd-ce72-447c-bbc1-6109d5ecbd89>



Becoming
a community
that cultivates
faith and
faithfulness
to Christ

APRIL CALENDAR

April 1	10 am G.L.O.W.
April 1	6:45 pm Music Team
April 2	7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service
April 5	6:30 a.m. Community Sunrise Service
April 5	Breakfast at Church of Christ Following the Sunrise Service
April 5	10 a.m. Easter Sunday Service FPC No 2nd Hour today only
April 7	6:00 pm Seasons Study
April 8	10 am G.L.O.W. 6:30 pm Trustees meeting 6:45 pm Music Team
April 9	7 pm Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)
April 12	Sunday morning worship 2nd Hour for all

VOLUNTEERS FOR APRIL 5

Greeters	Jim & Candi Kinney Michelle Wood
Ushers	Shad Swinehart Jerry Herman
Café	Shirley Swinehart
Nursery (Worship)	Veronica Styer
Nursery (2nd Hour)	No 2nd Hour
Kidz Jam	Delores Schlegel
Kids 2nd Hour	No 2nd Hour
Safety Team	Joe Chupp
Elder Assist	Mike Rhamy
Communion Prep	Connie & Jerry Herman
Communion Servers	John Scott, Darcy Miller, Angie Chapman, Earl Rhamy



April 5 - Jerry Herman
April 5 - Emily Yacapraro

