



The Weekly Update

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

April 2, 2025

I've shared many times that my first career was in journalism. I completed my bachelor's degree in news and editorial journalism and worked as a reporter and editor for a few years before God changed my path. But, during that time I learned a lot about what to do with "news".

Here's the most crucial thing to know about news: news is supposed to be shared! News is true and important information about events that have taken place. It's a message for those who will listen regarding what has really happened and why it matters.

Around 500 years before Jesus' birth, a prophet named Isaiah received a message from God – it was a promise that the Lord was going to send a Messiah to proclaim the good news that the Lord was coming to announce liberty from sin and death. (Isaiah 61)

Centuries later, Jesus said that this promise was about Him! He declared that He was the promised One who had come to bring freedom, rescue, forgiveness and salvation to His people. He was not just the announcer of the good news – He was the good news itself! And He was on a mission, to achieve and then share the salvation He had come to proclaim!

Later Biblical authors will describe the good news like this:

- "The good news that Jesus is the Messiah" (Acts 5:42)
- "The good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ" (Acts 8:12)
- "The good news of peace through Jesus Christ who is Lord of all (Acts 10:36)
- "The good news about Jesus and the resurrection" (Acts 17:18)
- "The good news reveals the righteousness of God" (Romans 1:17)
- "Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my good news." (2 Timothy 2:8)

After His life, death and resurrection Jesus passed that work on to His people. We now have the mission He had: to share the good news that the King has come and rescued those who will trust in Him.

If we belong to Jesus, then we belong to His mission – we become the bearers of the news - the news that Jesus has lived, died and lives again so that we may know Him as King of all. Remember: the most important thing about the news is that it is supposed to be shared!

Easter is an especially important time for us to commit to the mission to share the news! We aren't responsible for what people DO with the news that we share, but we are responsible to faithfully speak it whenever we have the opportunity.

What can you do this Easter season to share the news? We have the best news ever: the Creator of the universe has come to His creation as one of them; and through His perfect life, His sacrificial death and His victorious resurrection He has shown Himself to be King of all. The King offers restoration, rescue and forgiveness to all who will believe.

That is AMAZING news – and it was meant to be shared!

Happy Birthday

April 5 - Jerry Herman
April 5 - Josiah Parris
April 5 - Emily Yacapraro
April 9 - Jane Ann Heillman



FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

February YTD Operating Income \$31,133.77

YTD Operating Expense \$39,953.35

YTD Gain/ Loss -\$ 8,819.58

YTD Other Income \$ 951.34

YTD Net Income -\$7,868.24

Unrestricted Funds \$251,710.51



APRIL FIRST FRIDAY

Ladies! Come join us for our First Friday event April 4 at 6:30 p.m. here at the church. The topic will be Easter Bonnets. Bring a hat of some sort , and enjoy some great conversation. Snacks provided.

VOLUNTEERS FOR April 6

Greeters Jim & Candi Kinney
Ushers Shad Swinehart
 Scott Schlauch
Café Shirley Swinehart
Nursery (Worship) Kim Morrow
Nursery (2nd Hour) Bridget Rhamy
Kidz Jam Sherri Machamer
Kids 2nd Hour Georgie Miller
Elder Assist Claudia Ward
Communion Prep Marcy Speelman
Communion Servers Claudia Ward,
 John Scott, Mike Rhamy, Beth Miller
Safety Team Duane Wood



PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

The prayer needs listed in **BOLD** are new to the list.

Military Service:

- Isaiah Styer new post in Hawaii
- Hunter Amolotte deployed to southern border
- Shannah Swinehart - Army National Guard
- Christa Nelson - Navy
- Steven King - Army
- Ryan Chabak - stationed in Arizona
- Gaven Bee - stationed in Dayton, OH

Prayer Needs

- **Triway students Ava, Annette and Viv injured in car accident over the weekend.**
- Victims of recent natural disasters

Health Concerns

- **Continued prayers for Zach Stevenson's stepfather's recovery from a stroke**
- **Mark Lemon - recovering from stroke**
- Carla Oxenrider - kidney issues
- Jeff Styer's cousin - stroke and recovery
- Candace - facing surgery following accident
- Parents Caleb & Tatum and baby Theo - newborn in ICU with blood sugar issues.
- Tim - Alzheimer's disease
- Pat Thomson
- Kelly - thrown from a horse
- Pastor Albert continued healing from accident
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Janet Lee - cancer surgery 3/27/2025
- Jamie - brain tumor
- Diane Scott
- Susan Halliday
- Janet Lee
- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Keylee - leukemia
- Dale James

Condolences

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

The Children's Ministry Team has a special request for our church family.

We are asking you to join with us in praying for the kids of the church and for growth and blessing in kids ministry. We are eager to see more children and families connect with our programming for kids; but as we work toward that goal, we are asking all of you to join us in prayer. We know that God is the one who can help us reach more children and so we want to be asking Him to be at work in these things. Each week in the weekly update we will be sharing a simple prayer prompt for each day of the month and it will be connected with a Bible reference that the prayer is based on. We encourage you to pray with us but lifting up the children in your life, or by praying a general blessing on the children of our community. Your commitment to join us in praying for these things is a blessing to us and makes a difference! Thank you!

Praying for Kids – April 2 – April 8

April 2 - Ephesians 1:16b-17

I pray for the children in my ministry constantly, asking you, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give those children spiritual wisdom and insight so that they might grow in their knowledge of you, God.

April 3 - Ephesians 1:18

I pray that children's hearts be flooded with light so that they can understand the confident hope you have given to those you called—your holy children who are your rich and glorious inheritance.

April 4 - Ephesians 1:19-21

I also pray that children will understand the incredible greatness of your power when they believe in you. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at your right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.

April 5 - Ephesians 1:22-23

God, I praise you because you have put all things under the authority of Christ and made him head over all things for the benefit of the church, including our children's ministry. Our group of children is your body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

April 6 - Ephesians 3:14-16

When I think of what Christ has done to unite us, and what he has called me to in ministry, I fall to my knees and pray to you, Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from your glorious, unlimited resources you will empower me with inner strength through your Spirit, to teach your children with excellence.

April 7 - Ephesians 3:17

Jesus, make your home in children's hearts as they trust in you. Give them roots that grow down into God's love and keep them strong.

April 8 - Ephesians 3:18

May children have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.

Trail Mix

The Outreach Team is prayerfully seeking to build personal interaction and relationships within the community. One idea being pursued is using the Holmes County Trail as an active outreach tool. We're calling it Trail Mix—because we want to convey that we want a mix of people to join us. Basically the vision is to set regular times—once or maybe twice a week—to meet at the church and walk over to the trail for low key and no prep fellowship. Being a leader would just mean committing to getting the group started on a certain date.

Because the trail is accessible to all, we can invite anyone to join us, from parents with kids in strollers, to all ages of walkers and runners.

We need congregational input to get this started. Basically we are asking if you are willing to show up for this, even if occasionally, and fellowship with others. We introduced this idea during "Minute for Missions" a couple of weeks ago and got a good response. But if you missed that Sunday, here's your chance to help us figure out days and times that work for the most people. Scanning this QR code will take you to a quick 3 question survey. Be sure to scroll left to see all the time slots.



More details will be coming in the next few weeks. Please pray about this outreach effort and join us if you can. If you have any comments or questions, see Michelle Wood or Missy Lemon or any of the outreach team. Thanks!



Did anyone "get you" on April Fool's Day? If so, you are not alone! Be thankful you don't live in Ireland. There, one custom of an April Fool's prank was to entrust the victim with an "important letter" to be given to a named person. That person would read the letter, then ask the victim to take it to someone else, and so on. The letter when opened contained the words "send the fool further"



The Outreach Team is also partnering with the Park Committee, Fredericksburg Church of Christ, and students in Waynedale's National Honor Society for a park clean-up on April 26 from 10-2. Projects will include: trimming shrubs, weed-eating, mulching, edging, power washing (and possibly painting) play equipment, painting pavilion posts, and general cleanup. The Outreach Team will provide a light lunch. Talk to Missy Lemon, Connie Herman or Jenny Reed for additional information.

SUNRISE SERVICE

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

East Cemetery • April 20 • 6:30 a.m.

**Breakfast will follow at
Mennonite Christian Assembly
10664 Fryburg Road Fredericksburg, OH
All Are Welcome**

**Sponsored By:
Mennonite Christian Assembly
Fredericksburg Church of Christ
Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church**