



# *The Weekly Update*

## *Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church*

### *April 30, 2025*

## **From the Pastor's Desk**

Did you ever take a science class where you got to do experiments? I took chemistry classes in high school and college; and I loved lab days. These were the class session where you didn't have lecture or homework – instead you had EXPERIMENTS to do. We would use test tubes, beakers, Bunsen burners and all kinds of chemicals and tools; and we would discover what would happen when we combined all those things in different ways. It was fun and it was exciting and sometimes you really didn't know what to expect as you did your work.

In the same way many of us did experiments in chemistry or physics classes, we can do experiments in our walk of faith as well. We can try things out, test our feelings and abilities, see what happens when we live our lives just a tiny bit differently for a change.

This spring we are going to be looking at how to have spiritual conversations with other people. Using examples from the ministry of Jesus and from the rest of Scripture we are going to investigate different tools that might help us connect with other people in new and meaningful ways.

Along with learning from scripture during worship, we are also going to be challenged with some experiments each week. These will be a handful of simple tasks we can undertake that could help us grow in connection with other people about the good news of Jesus.

This past week we talked about hospitality; we learned how interpersonal relationships are the primary venue for living out God's mission to tell the world about Jesus. Hospitality is the tool that lets us create space in our lives and our hearts to connect with others! An attitude of hospitality is the first step we can take to telling other people about King Jesus and His love for us.

I want to reiterate my encouragement to all of us to undertake AT LEAST ONE experiment in hospitality. The experiments you could choose from this week were:

1. Make a list every night for a week – who are the people you spoke to today in real life? (Phones and electronic communications don't count for this experiment) How many of those people are you already in a meaningful relationship with? Are you happy with those numbers? Think through your answers!
2. Go out of your way to greet someone you normally wouldn't talk to – embrace the awkward! – Jesus walked up to two strangers on the road and said "WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?" Can you follow Jesus' example and start a conversation with others in a similar way?
3. Talk to a close friend and family member – ask them to help you think about the level of hospitality you have in your life. Be open to honest feedback! Ask them about your strengths and weaknesses and see if the two of you can think of ways to challenge yourself to grow.

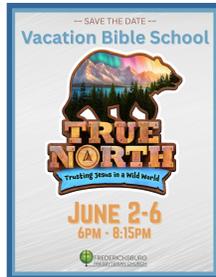
I want to encourage all of us – do an experiment! We don't have to have it all figured out, but we can learn a lot from making an effort to try something new and see what happens!

## VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

You can sign a kid up to attend VBS by going to:

<https://forms.fillout.com/t/61bPBAUZWdus>

Please invite your grands, extended family members and neighborhood children to join us. We need ALL OF US to make personal invitations – this is what makes the difference!



## DECORATING ITEMS NEEDED FOR VBS

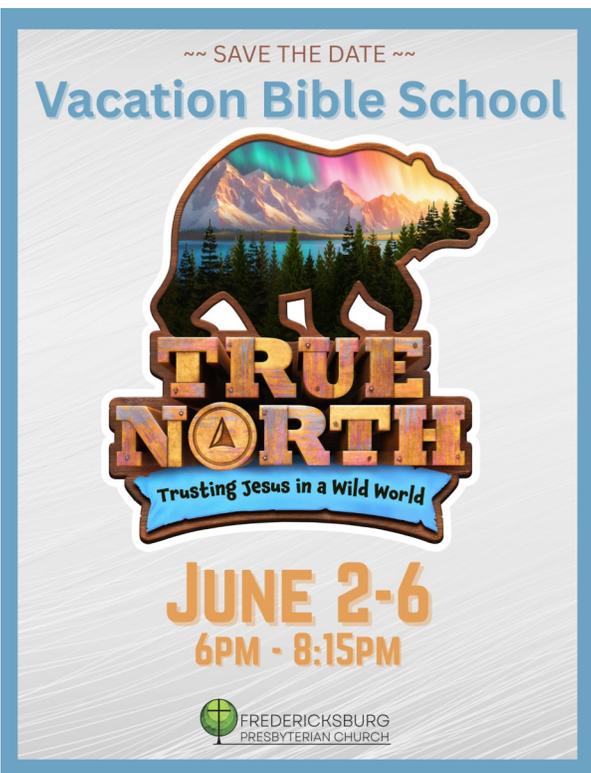
VBS is only a few weeks away and the VBS volunteers are planning out the decorations they need for the week of June 2-6. The theme is “True North - Trusting Jesus in a Wild World” The items needed all have to do with camping and the wilderness. Below is a list of needed items. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Gallery. Remember to label your items. Bring them to church by May 18 and store in the pre-school room. If you are unable to get to church to sign up, call or email the church and we’ll get you signed up.

### Items needed

- Small tents (4)
- Camping backpacks (2)
- Sleeping bags (4)
- Portable fire pit (2)
- Paddles (4)
- Coolers (3)
- Camp chairs (4)
- Coleman Stove (2)
- Picnic Basket (2)
- Walking Sticks (2)
- Logs (4)
- Camp cooking Supplies (4)
- Medium Round Stones (2)
- Stumps (4)
- Pencil Trees (4)
- Narrow Christmas Trees (4)

### VOLUNTEERS FOR May 4

- Greeters** Abby Rhamy & Marcy Speelman  
Shirley Swinehart
- Ushers** Shad Swinehart & Keith Hewitt
- Café** Adam Swinehart
- Nursery (Worship)** Kim Morrow
- Nursery (2nd Hour)** Bridget Rhamy
- Kidz Jam** Beth Miller
- Kids 2nd Hour** Georgie Miller
- Communion Prep** Connie & Jerry Herman
- Elder Assist** Angie Chapman
- Communion Servers** Angie Chapman,  
Darcy Miller, Earl Rhamy, Beth Miller
- Safety Team** Joe Chupp



Scan the code to sign up to help at VBS

## **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 – May 1–May 6**

#### **April 30 - Jude 1:24-25**

*Now all glory to you, God, who can keep each child from falling away and will bring them with great joy into your glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to you who alone are God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are yours before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.*

#### **May 1 - Ephesians 1:15-16a**

*God, I thank you for the faith in Jesus children in my church have shown, and their love for your people.*

#### **May 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.*

#### **May 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.*

#### **May 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.*

#### **May 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.*

#### **May 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.*

## *Happy Anniversary*

May 4 Heidi & Mark Yacapraro



## *Happy Birthday*

May 2 Lydia Bee  
May 3 Jeann Burkey  
May 4 Josiah Styer





**Trail Mix May 1  
6:00 p.m.  
In the church parking lot.**

Join us for "Trail Mix", a time to get together as a church family and community at the Holmes County Trail in Fredericksburg. All ages and ability levels are welcome, and please invite your friends and neighbors! Meet each Thursday at 6:00 pm. In the the FPC parking lot and we will walk Diagonal Street to the trail from there. If you'd like to park closer to the trail, Tanya Chupp has offered that you can park at her house at 1851 Pilgrim's Trace (in the new subdivision right by the trail). If it's raining, use your discretion--unless it's raining really hard, the leader will likely go rain or shine once the weather warms up. If you have any questions, contact Michelle at 330-464-4723 or email [trailmixfpc@gmail.com](mailto:trailmixfpc@gmail.com).

**GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL and COLLEGE SENIORS...**

If you are a graduating high school or college senior, or if you have a graduating high school or college senior in your immediate family, the church office would like to recognize them during one of our worship services in May. If you could supply Secretary Jeann with a Senior or recent photo, that would be great! We'd also like to know what after graduation plans are - College? Trade school? Career plans?



You are invited to the graduation party of Nick & Tessa St. John on May 18 at the church from 4-7 p.m.  
You are also invited to the graduation party for Josiah Styer at the church an May 25 from 2-5 p.m.



Ladies First Friday for May will be May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Snacks provided. **Bring a cut flower as we will make a bouquet. Our subject is talking about how April showers (trials) can become May flowers (blessings)!**



**Trustee Work Day**  
May 3 @ 8:00 a.m.  
Bring gloves, rags, buckets, shovels, rakes, & a water bottle. We will provide lunch. Rain Date May 10.



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

**Military Service:**

- Isaiah Styer 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**

- **VBS - kids, helpers, music, community**
- **Sydney Douglas - surgery May 8**
- Unspoken
- Triway students Ava, Annette and Viv injured in car accident

**Health Concerns**

- Melodie Stroud - knee surgery April 29
- Mark Lemon - prayers for progress
- Tonya Wade - upcoming surgery
- Zach Stevenson's stepfather
- Tim - Alzheimer's disease
- Pat Thomson
- Pastor Albert continued healing from accident
- Jane Heilman

**Battling Cancer**

- Janet Lee
- 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 family of Dr. Karen Asher

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



The church office will be closed Friday, May 2