



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We are nearing the end of our summer of wisdom – and last Sunday we thought about the power of words. Foolish words tear down, hurt, distort the truth and cause conflict. Wise words build up, heal, reflect reality and encourage others. Foolish words are spoken at the wrong time and are harsh and impulsive. Wise words are appropriate to the moment, gentle and careful. We want to be wise people who use the power of words in wise ways; so to help us with that, here are some *simple* but *powerful* wise words we can get better at using.

Thank you – Saying a heartfelt thank you is a wonderful tool for building people up. But the key thing is the *sincerity* behind our thank yous. We can sometimes say “thank you” out of habit; but taking the time to look someone in the eye and tell them “thank you” for how they have helped or encouraged you can be a meaningful interaction. Receiving an earnest “thank you” helps us know our actions matter and encourages us to keep doing what we’re doing!

I need help – These can be hard words to speak, but they have a lot of power. I have found that in general, people are EAGER to help others (especially here at FPC!); we’re just looking for the right opportunities. Asking for help when you need it is an instrumental way to build friendship and connections, and to demonstrate our need for each other. It also makes others more likely to ask for help when they might need it in return.

I don’t understand, but I’m listening – A listening ear - that’s backed up by kind, gentle and hopeful encouragement - can be a huge comfort to others. We don’t always need to understand what another person is going through in order to care for them and express compassion. Telling others we are willing to listen without offering solutions or pretending to know how they feel is a ministry that really makes a difference in others’ lives.

I’m sorry – A sincere apology, that owns the harm that was done, that expresses remorse and that offers repair is often the wisest speech we can ever use. Learning to say “I’m sorry” without minimizing, excusing or denying our mistakes is a key aspect of wisdom; and it has the power to repair broken relationships and mend hurting hearts. We are never more wise than when we seek forgiveness from those we hurt.

I love you – Many of us know the strength of these words in our lives. We should work to speak them as often as we mean them. Telling family, friends and loved ones that we love them can actually speak life into someone who is truly struggling. Backing up those words with actions of care and friendship makes our communication even stronger. We will never regret telling the people we love that we love them; and we may actually be soothing their minds in ways we may never know.

The beauty of these five wise “words” is that they also provide the content of the five most important prayers we can pray! We should think about how we speak these words to God in prayer. Take some time and think on how these five statements are reflected in your prayers to God. How can you work these five into your prayers this week? Remember, sincerity is the key – our motives matter – so think about where you can grow in wisdom by using these powerful words in conversation with others and in conversation with God!



COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

We will be joining with the MCA and Church of Christ at the ball field on September 1 for the Labor Day Weekend Community Worship & Communion Service. The service begins at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend, and bring your lawn chairs. (There will not be a service at FPC Sept. 1)

The Winners!!

The winners of the cornhole tournament last Sunday.

1st place
Hank Miller & Miley Raber



2nd place
Cody Daugherty & Shad Swinehart



PRAYER

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

Praises

Military Service:

- Shannah Swinehart - Army National Guard
- Christa Nelson - Navy
- Ryan Chabak - stationed in Alaska
- Isaiah Styer - stationed at Camp Lejeune in NC
- Gaven Bee - stationed in Dayton, OH

Prayer Needs

- West Holmes Schools returning this week
- New school buildings for Triway & Waynedale
- All students, teachers & staff back to school
- Stress and drama in the workplace

Health Concerns:

- Veronica's mom - doctor recommending Hospice
- Dale & Tonya
- Unspoken health concerns
- Al Amstutz - recovering from lung surgery
- Corky Fisher - heart and other health issues
- Mary Lee Wiricks's brother, John, complications following surgery.
- Karen - Parkinsons Disease
- Tom - Dementia
- Wendy Scott - severe health concerns
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- David Meulenberg
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- David
- Keylee - leukemia
- Dale James

Condolences

- The family of Sonny Troyer

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

August 23 - Tanya Chupp

August 24 - Zoey Badger

August 24 - Hank Miller

August 24 - Shannon Miller

August 24 - Jason Schuch



Ladies First Friday 6:30 p.m.

Friday September 6. We will meet at the church for a discussion on taking control of intrusive thoughts.

Refreshments, and good discussion. All women are welcome. Bring a friend!



The Deacons are collecting Kleenex and Clorox/Lysol wipes for the elementary school.

There will be a collection box in the Gallery to receive donations for the next few weeks.



KEY58

ISAIAH 58

Roger and Melodie Stroud, and Earl Rhamy will be having public Worship Events:

August 23 @ 6:30pm Salt Creek Café in Fredericksburg

September 14th @ 7:00pm He Brews Coffee House in Shreve

Everyone is invited!



To contact the church:

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Follow us on Facebook too!

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Church office hours

Monday thru Friday 10:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- August 25 - Sunday morning worship
- August 26 - 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- August 27 - 7:00 p.m. Worship Team meeting
- August 27 - 7:30 p.m. The Grind (Men)
- August 28 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (women)
- August 28 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- August 29 - 7:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Team meeting
- Sept. 01 - Community Labor Day Service at the ball field. (NO Worship here at FPC today)
- Sept. 4 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (women)
- Sept. 4 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Sept. 6 - 6:30 p.m. First Friday (Women) at the church
- Sept. 8 - Sunday morning worship
- Sept. 11 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (women)
- Sept. 11 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Sept. 11 - 6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting
- Sept. 12 - 6:00 p.m. Emmaus 4th Day Gathering
- Sept. 15 - Sunday morning worship Fall Kick-off
- Sept. 18 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (women)
- Sept. 18 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Sept. 22 - Sunday morning worship
- Sept 23 - 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- Sept. 24 - 7:30 p.m. The Grind (Men)
- Sept. 25 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (women)
- Sept. 25 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team