



Weekly Update

August 23, 2023



Hey everybody, Matt Smith writing. I'm very excited to announce my new blog on the church website - Taking Root!

This blog is focused on learning to understand the Bible in a more mature way. This week I am launching it with an introduction about what Taking Root is, and why I am writing it.

~ Matt

Hello FPC Family,

We are grabbing a hold of every last drop of summer! The church picnic last Sunday was a great success with beautiful weather, delicious food, a good turn-out, and the entertainment of a really exciting cornhole tournament. Counting back from 1817, and the founding of our first church (of four), the picnic marks our 206th year as a community rooted in Jesus Christ!

Happy Anniversary, FPC!

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. (Col. 2:6-7)

In walking with the Schlegel and Heilman families this month, I am reminded that this church (and all churches) stands in the faith that was handed down from generation to generation. The vibrancy and depth of that faith and faith practice depends upon the seeds we received from those who went before and our determination to grow roots and fruit in our time.

In this spirit, Matthew Smith and I have been talking about *how* we could start a conversation that allows our community to grow in their love and depth of understanding of scripture (God's written word), and ultimately Jesus (the Living Word). So Matt is writing a blog on our new church website! We invite you to read along and join in the conversation.

God is so great,
Pastor Nancy

PS: Go to our website at fredericksburgpres.org
Then click Explore→Blog→Taking Root



The victors in an epic cornhole tournament battle!



Happy Birthday!

August 24 - Hank Miller

August 24 - Jason Schuch

August 30 - Natalie Schlegel

FALL PLANNING MEETING

All Members of the **Children's Ministry team**, the **Youth Ministry Team**, the **Adult Discipleship Team**, the **Worship Team**, the **Welcome Team**, the **Congregational Life team** and the **Outreach Team** are asked to meet Sunday, August 27 following worship. We will be working on our plans for Fall. A meal will be provided.

Please RSVP to fredpresby@gmail.com or give Secretary Jeann a call 330-695-2511

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- August 27 - Ministry Team Meeting after worship
- August 28 - 6:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Team
- August 28 - 7:00 pm Session Meeting
- August 30 - GLOW Women to Pine Tree Barn
- August 30 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Sept. 01 - 6:30 p.m. First Friday Dinner & Movie
- Sept. 03 - 10:00 a.m. Community Worship Service @ the ballfield. **No Worship Service here at the church**
- Sept. 04 - Labor Day Church office closed
- Sept. 06 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW Women's Study
- Sept. 06 - 6:30p.m. Music Team
- Sept. 09 - 6:00 p.m. Euchre
- Sept. 12 - 7:00 p.m. Worship Team Meeting
- Sept. 11 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW Women's Study
- Sept. 11 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Sept. 11 - 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting
- Sept. 17 - Second Hour returns
- Sept. 19 - 7:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting
- Sept. 20 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW Women's Study
- Sept. 20 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Sept. 24 - Covenant Class
- Sept. 25 - 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- Sept. 26 - 7:30 p.m. The Grind Men's Group
- Sept. 27 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW Women's Study
- Sept. 27 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Sept. 30 - (time TBD) Senior Brunch & Hymn Sing



Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Praises

Military Service:

- Ryan Chabak - stationed in Alaska
- Isaiah Styer - Stationed at Camp Lejeune in NC
- Matt Burkhardt - National Guard
- Gaven Bee - Turkey

Prayer Needs

- The PNC Team and the process
- UNSPOKENS!

Health Concerns:

- **Mary Fry - broken ankle**
- Ron Dailey
- Lydia's friend dealing with mental health issues
- Jane Heilman
- Jeff Bowers - in pain following surgical procedure
- Theresa Smith - surgery Aug. 22 for 2 brain tumors
- Janine Schlauch's father recovering from hip surgery
- Janelle Raber's mother - fell and in the Cardiac Care Unit at Aultman
- Mary Alice Shade - recovering from broken hip
- Tonya Wade - hospitalized
- Anita Spencer recovering - knee surgery

Battling Cancer

- **Cole Hubacher - 11 yr old battling cancer**
- Alec & Judy Hagerty (Alec has cancer)
- Michael & Belinda Witt (Michael has cancer)
- Leslie Carr
- Linda Snyder (ECO Pastor)
- Laurie Miller
- Steve Gordon
- Andrew Miller
- Bill Opie
- Sonya Griffen
- Bonnie Stryker
- Dale James

Condolences

- **The family of George Heilman**
- **The family of Delmar Haun**
- The family of Margie Henderson

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

From the PNC

What to expect moving forward - Shared during worship on August 20, 2023

Pastor Jack was with us for 11 years, and it has been about 3 years since he departed to serve elsewhere. That means it has been 14 years since a PNC has called a lead pastor. Many members of our congregation were not here when Jack was called as our lead pastor, and we can't expect those who were here to remember the process. For goodness sake, we weren't even part of ECO at that time, so the process wouldn't even be the same anyway. So we, the PNC, want to make sure you all know what to expect moving forward.

After a long time, we have narrowed down our search for lead pastor to three tremendous candidates. We have stopped asking the question of "who is the best candidate?" because all three of them are genuinely phenomenal. There is no one candidate that is better than the others. Instead, we have begun to ask the question "what does God have in store for our church, and which candidate do we see embodying that vision in their ministry?" Regardless, we are confident that the end of our pastor search is in sight.

We have invited and hosted the candidates to come here to Fredericksburg. We have gotten to know them a little more personally, shown them our church building, as well as shown them what it means to live here in Amish country. Traditionally the PNC would set up a neutral pulpit for us to watch each candidate give a sermon, but in the era of YouTube, we have already watched dozens of sermons by each of our candidates. We had decided that focusing on getting to know the candidate better as a person was a more productive use of our time. Now we enter a time of prayer and discernment in order to make our nomination.

After we make our nomination, the chosen individual will go through a process with ECO and Great Lakes Presbytery. This process includes background checks, another interview, as well as confirming that they fit comfortably within ECO's theological boundaries. If the nominee is not already an ECO pastor, they will need to become ordained within ECO, either by transferring their ordination from another denomination, or going through ECO's ordination process. Naturally, if the chosen candidate is already ordained within ECO, they have already been through the majority of this process.

Once approved by ECO and GLP, our nominee will be announced and invited to visit our church publicly. The nominee will then have time to meet and fellowship with our staff and session and during a Sunday worship service they will be introduced to the congregation, give a sermon, and stay after the service to meet people.

A congregational meeting will be held wherein all Covenant Partners will vote "Yea" or "Nay" on whether the nominee will be installed as our lead pastor. A simple majority is needed to move forward with the individual. If they are voted in, they will be our lead pastor! If they are not voted in, that candidate is off the table, and the PNC will reconvene to prayerfully choose another candidate.

Thank you very much for letting us serve you in this way, and thank you for your praying for us in this process.

The Pastor Nominating Committee