



The Weekly Update

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

August 26, 2026

From the Pastor's desk

You probably remember the hymn "It Is Well with My Soul" – we even sang it a few Sunday mornings ago. Some of you may even be familiar with the story behind it. It's a story worth knowing; especially this week, as we sit with Jesus' words in Matthew 6 about not worrying over tomorrow.

Horatio Spafford was a Chicago lawyer in the 1870s, a devout Presbyterian elder. He was a lawyer with real estate investments, a wife and five children. Then it all started falling apart. In 1871, his four-year-old son died suddenly of Scarlet Fever. Later that year, the Great Chicago Fire wiped out nearly everything he owned.

Two years later, Spafford planned a trip to Europe. Business held him back at the last minute, so he sent his wife, Anna, and their four daughters ahead by ship and he planned to come along later. Partway across, the ship collided with another and sank almost immediately. All four of Spafford's daughters drowned. Anna survived, and when she reached shore she sent Horatio a famous telegram with just two words: "Saved alone."

Spafford boarded a ship to go be with his grieving wife. As it crossed near the spot where his daughters had died, he sat down and wrote what would become one of the most famous hymns in the English language. It was a song about peace "like a river" and a soul that is, amazingly, well.

It's not that he didn't have anything to worry about. He had buried a son, lost a fortune and lost all four daughters in a single moment. He would have been worried for his wife, worried for the future, worried for how he could manage the hurt and pain that would be with him forever. But in the midst of that, he could steer into faith that trusted that God was still good. Spafford's faith wasn't the ABSENCE of a reason to worry. It was a settled trust in God. A trust he returned to even in hard circumstances.

This story is a different kind of evidence than birds and flowers. It's a picture of what it looks like for one ordinary man to choose faith instead of worry. I try to imagine what it would have been like for him to stand on that boat in the ocean and contemplate all that he had lost and have real concern for the future. He must have constantly had to aim his thoughts at trust when the concern, grief and sorrow must have been unbearable.

Spafford's story is a reminder for us that Jesus' admonition: "Do not worry" was never a promise that hard things won't happen to you. It's an invitation to trust that God is still good in the midst of all the hard circumstances of life.

If you're carrying something heavy this week, you're in good company; the company of a God who knows and loves you. May it be well with your soul, too.

Community Worship & Communion Service

We are joining with the MCA and Church of Christ at MCA Sunday, September 6 for the Community Worship & Communion Service. The service begins at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend, and bring your lawn chairs – the service will be outside. Then, plan to stay for a meal afterwards! Bring a dish to share if you are able. (There will not be a service at FPC September 6)



VOLUNTEERS FOR AUGUST 30, 2026

Greeters	Janine & Scott Schlauch Shirley Swinehart
Ushers	Reid McKelvey Shawn McKelvey
Café	Wendy McKelvey
Nursery (Worship)	Shyler Swinehart
Kidz Jam	Sherri Machamer
Safety Team	Shirley Swinehart
Elder Assist	Beth Miller

AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Aug. 27 7 p.m. Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)
Aug. 30 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship
Aug. 30 Blessing of the Backpacks
Aug. 30 Pool Party
Aug. 31 6 p.m. Deacons Meeting
Sept. 2 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W.
Sept. 2 6:45 p.m. Music Team tonight
Sept. 3 7 p.m. Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)
Sept. 6 10 a.m. Community Worship service @ MCA
Sept. 7 Labor Day - Church Office closed
Sept. 8 6:p.m. Congregational Life Team Mtg.
Sept. 8 6:30 p.m. Seasons Study
Sept. 8 7:30 p.m. The Grind
Sept. 9 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W.
Sept. 9 6:45 p.m. Music Team
Sept. 10 7:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)

Calling all women! Looking for a place to connect and grow? Season's study group began meeting this week in the cafe. **We will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Come, join us as we dig into scripture, encourage one another, and do life together. For those who are new to study groups, or even new to finding their way around the Bible, we say Come! For those who are seasoned veterans to study and scripture, we say Come! We would love to journey with you! Interested in joining or have questions? Reach out to Claudia Ward 330-466-3417. Hope to see you there!

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

- **Kim Crosby - cataract surgery**
- Janet Albright
- Beth Miller
- Darcy's dad health concerns
- Mike Covert
- Edna Wade
- Pat Thomson
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Moffitt's friend, Waldo, facing end of life
- Miriam's coworker's family member
- Mike Sherrick
- Chad Hinkle - leukemia
- Tom Jefferies - thyroid cancer
- Nelson's neighbor, Vickie
- Nicki
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Condolences

- **The family of Corky's niece, Debbie Hoxworth**
- **The family of Connor Schlauch**

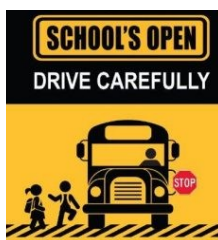
The Deacons encourage you to send cards or notes of encouragement to those in the church family experiencing prayer needs.



August 30 Natalie Schlegel
August 31 Pastor Jos



All students regardless of age or grade including college, adult classes, and vocational education are invited to bring their backpack, bookbag or briefcase, etc. to worship this Sunday - **August 30** for a blessing of the backpacks and the new school year. Everyone attending or working in the schools this fall are invited to participate



Becoming
a community
that cultivates
faith and
faithfulness
to Christ

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>

FPC Deacons are asking for

DONATIONS

OF:

-  **Tissues**
-  **Clorox Wipes**
-  **Paper Towels**
-  **Baby Wipes** (for Pre-K)
-  **Napkins** (for Pre-K)
-  **Facial Wipes** (for 1st Grade)

to help

WAYNE DALE LOCAL SCHOOLS



Donations will accepted beginning Sunday, August 16th and continue through Sunday, September 13th.

Boxes will be set up in the gallery to collect donations.



Youth Pool Party

Middle and High School students
you are invited to our annual
summer pool party at the
McKelvey's house!



Following worship on Sunday, August 30,
(11am-ish),
you're invited to the McKelvey's backyard
for a Back-to-School Pool Party!
There'll be pizza, snacks, swimming, and a
friendly (but fierce) Phase 10 showdown.
Open to all 6th-12th graders —
come one, come all!



Important details:

When: Sunday, August 30 following worship

Where: McKelvey's house - 6886 Harrison Rd,
Fredericksburg

To bring:

- Swimsuit and towel if swimming

Know if your student can make it?
Email jsmolik@fredericksburgpres.org
so Wendy and family can plan the food!
Questions? Just ask — and please forward
to anyone we might've missed!



Calling all crafters, artists, and creatives — of any skill level!

This Advent, FPC's theme is
Jesus, the Light of the World,
and we want your help
celebrating!

Jesus said:

*"I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk
in darkness,
but will have the light of life."
John 8:12*



We'd love to display your art, crafts, or designs
around the church this Advent season —
new or old, original or repurposed,
painted, sewn, built, or doodled.

If you've made something
(or want an excuse to),
this is your glowing invitation.



Even if you've never done
something like this before,
consider this an encouragement to try your
hand at something new.

Need inspiration? Try John 1:1-14,
Isaiah 9:1-9, John 12:35-36,
or Revelation 22:1-5.

Questions? Email Pastor Jos at
jsmolik@fredericksburgpres.org.

We'll collect pieces to display through Advent
and return them after Christmas. So get those
creative juices flowing now and we'll let you
know more as Advent approaches!

