

# December 2025

## Weekly Update

### December 10, 2025

Do you like roller coasters? I have always loved them. One of my absolute favorite coasters is at the Six Flags park in Chicagoland. It's called "Superman: Ultimate Flight". For this attraction, riders are strapped into seats that tilt up and back, so that as you ride the coaster your back is parallel with the track (you can see how it works in this picture). After the first climb, the track twists and then does a huge loop, and because your body is oriented horizontally, you loop on the outside of the track – it's the closest I've ever felt to what it might be like to actually fly! As the track bends you upside-down, the world spins around you and it's difficult to even discern which direction is sky or ground. That coaster is the best!



On a roller coaster you get the chance, not just to see the world from a different perspective, but to *experience* it upside-down. I think the season of Christmas can do the same thing for us. At Christmas we get to experience how God himself has come into the world to upend the status quo and to flip our expectations of His presence and work in the world!

Do you need to have some of your expectations of this season overturned?

Maybe – like the ancients Israelites, you think that God is silent and not speaking. Maybe you think that every Christmas is the same old thing – but what if this Christmas, God wants to remind you of His presence in a special way? What if this Christmas, God is breaking His silence in your life?

Maybe – like Zechariah, you think that God has ignored your prayers, that He has failed to give you what you most wanted in life. But what if God is working behind the scenes and in His perfect timing, and what if God hasn't ignored you, but instead He is working out the best for you in ways you just aren't able to see yet?

Maybe – like Mary, you feel like you don't matter much to God. Like you are a small person in a big world and God can't have special plans for you. But what if God is actually with you RIGHT NOW! What if God was truly, deeply connected to you and invested in your life? And what if He wants to remind you that you really do matter to Him?

Maybe we just don't expect much from God – but what if God is planning in His perfect timing to do more in and through us than we could possibly imagine?

The Christmas season provides us the perfect opportunity to get on the roller coaster and let God show us how the arrival of Jesus changes everything in our lives! If you are ready to take a ride, I encourage you to do three simple things: First: consistently pray – ask God to show you where He is at work in your life and the lives of those around you. Second: worship – together and alone, set apart time to praise and thank God for who He is and what He's done. Third: share – ask others to join you in prayer and worship this season – share your heart for seeing God's presence in your life and invite them into your desire to see God move. You never know, you may just see God give YOU an upside-down Christmas.

**There is a Congregational Meeting** this Sunday, December 14 following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers for 2026. Nominated for Elder are Frank Morrow, Steve Schlegel and Claudia Ward. Nominated for Deacon are Kim Morrow, Beth Reed and Veronica Styer.



**Tonight, Wednesday December 10 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. is the Cookie Walk and Live Nativity. Come enjoy the festivities! And, if you can be here to help greet people and hand out cookies, it would be greatly appreciated!**



**Our Christmas Eve** service is a time of music, candlelight and quiet reflection on a holy night. You are invited to come and share this special service with friends and family.



**Calling All Women**

Beginning in January, Seasons Study group is welcoming women of all ages in all seasons of life to come, join us for fellowship and Bible study. We meet Tuesday evenings 6-7:30pm in the Seasons cafe. It's a great time to build relationships, open up, laugh and encourage one another in our walks with Christ. January 6th we will begin a new study, Strength in the Struggle by Lauren Ibach, a study to help women let go of fear and anxiety. Interested in joining or have questions? Contact Claudia Ward 330-466-2417. Looking forward to digging in deeper together!

## VOLUNTEERS FOR DECEMBER 14

<b>Greeters</b>	Don & Joyce Rhamy Duane Wood
<b>Ushers</b>	Brent St. John Keith Hewitt
<b>Café</b>	Adam Swinehart
<b>Nursery (Worship)</b>	Connie Herman
<b>Nursery (2nd Hour)</b>	Wendy McKelvey
<b>Kidz Jam</b>	Shirley Swinehart
<b>Kids 2nd Hour</b>	Shirley Swinehart
<b>Safety Team</b>	Duane Wood

# PRAYER

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

**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 country
- Pastor Albert
- Unspoken

### Health Concerns

- Sandy Schlegel - recovering from surgery due to a fall
- Jenny Reed - outpatient surgery & recovery
- Karen - health concerns
- Jessica - 2nd trimester high risk pregnancy
- Mayson White - injured HS football player
- Susan (James) Halliday
- Mark Lemon - cont'd prayers for progress
- Those needing/seeking mental health help
- Pat Thomson
- Jane Heilman

### Battling Cancer

- Mike Sherrick - lung cancer
- Justin Myers - considering hospice
- Mariann Stutzman - pancreatic cancer
- Logan - 13 yr. old with brain tumor
- Nicki
- Janet Lee
- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma

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



Becoming  
a community  
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## **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 – December 10 - December 16**

### **December 10 - Ephesians 3:20-21**

*Now all glory to you, God. You are able, through your mighty power at work within our children's ministry team, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to you in our children's ministry and in Christ Jesus through this generation we lead, and all generations forever and ever! Amen.*

### **December 11 - Ephesians 6:19-20**

*And God, I pray for myself. Give me the right words so I can boldly explain your mysterious plan that the Good News is for children and grown-ups alike. No matter what happens, I pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for you, as I should.*

### **December 12 - Philippians 1:3-5**

*Every time I think of our volunteer team, I give thanks to you, God. As I pray, I make my requests for all of them with joy, for they are my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ with the kids at our church.*

### **December 13 – Philippians 1:6**

*And I am certain, God, that you began a good work in the children I teach and will continue your work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

### **December 14 – Philippians 1:7-8**

*So it is right that I should feel as I do about the children in my church, for they have a special place in my heart. They share with me the special favor of God. God, you know how much I love these children and long for them with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.*

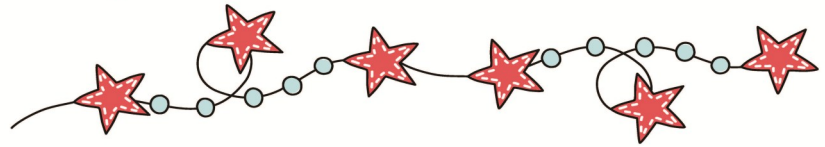
### **December 15 – Philippians 1:9**

*I pray that your love will overflow more and more in the children I serve, and that they will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.*

### **December 16 – Philippians 1:10**

*I pray that children truly understand what really matters, so that they may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.*

# An Upside-Down Christmas



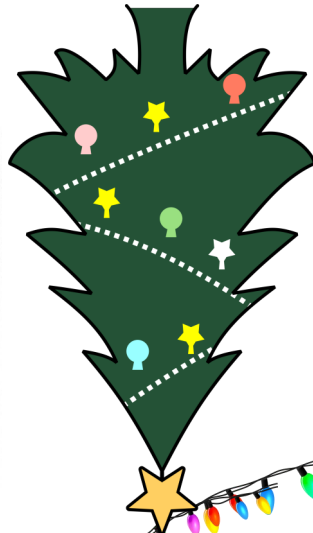
**November 30<sup>th</sup>:** Silence Turns to Song - Amos 8:11-12;  
Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 1:1-4

**December 7<sup>th</sup>:** A Priest and a Peasant - Luke 1:5-38

**December 14<sup>th</sup>:** The Empty Rich - Luke 1:46-56

**December 21<sup>st</sup>:** God in the Flesh - John 1:14-18; Phillipians 2:6-11

**December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve):** A Manger for a Throne - Luke 2:1-20



## Blessing our Backyard Buckeyes

All items for the Buckeye Christmas Tree should be turned in (unwrapped) this Sunday, December 14. The Outreach Team will be assembling the meal kits on Monday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Extra hands to help out would be greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, see Veronica Styer or any of the outreach team.



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

**NOW HIRING: Director of Music and Worship**

FPC is looking for an enthusiastic and respectful Director of Music and Worship who demonstrates an active faith in Jesus that falls in line with ECO's theology, and is skilled in vocal and instrumental music leading. This role also requires good verbal and written communication skills and works well in a highly collaborative setting.

### RESPONSIBILITIES (include but are not limited to):

- Coordinate worship experiences for the whole church; provide guidance for all worship experiences; work to incorporate worship in all areas of church life
- Coordinate music, media, and overall worship service with Pastor, Worship Team, Music Team, and Tech Team
- Lead music at regular Sunday morning worship services and other services of worship throughout the year
- Offer suggestions and observations which would improve FPC's music/worship ministries
- Assume other duties as may be assigned by the Pastor; participate in regular staff meetings

To learn more about this position and/or to apply, please email a cover letter and current resume to: [jsmolik@fredericksburgpres.org](mailto:jsmolik@fredericksburgpres.org)

Becoming a community that cultivates faith and faithfulness to Christ



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this  
information  
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you think  
might be  
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in

