



# December 2025 Weekly Update December 3, 2025

Hey FPC friends –

I wanted to take a chance this Wednesday to extend a handful of invitations to events that are happening this coming week in the life of our church.

1. This advent our sermon series is called “An Upside-Down Christmas” and in it we’ll be looking at all the ways God turns things upside-down when He comes into the world at Christmas. For the rest of our **advent Sundays** we’ll explore the idea that Jesus’ arrival in the flesh means that all our expectations get flipped on their heads. At Christmas, Jesus unexpectedly came into the world, and in doing so, He revealed that things are often different than we expect – God isn’t silent – He’s preparing! Faith is in a young trusting heart, not a rigid religious one. The hungry will be filled and the rich will be empty. And God reveals Himself most fully in human flesh. Most amazing of all, the King of all Creation takes His throne in a humble manger and in doing so, He turns the whole world upside down.
2. This coming Tuesday, December 9 we will be holding our annual **Advent Praise and Worship Night**. We’ll gather for a short worship service together as we focus our hearts and minds on the themes of advent. Sometimes we can get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season and miss what it’s really all about – this service will help us slow down and lift our hearts to God for the gift of Jesus at Christmas. If you aren’t familiar with what the advent season is all about, or if you just want to come and have your heart encouraged in worship, I hope you will join us at 7pm in the sanctuary.
3. Wednesday will be a big night for our church as we become a stop on the **Fredericksburg Cookie Walk**. It struck me last year that we had an amazing opportunity with dozens of people coming in and out of our building on this night! We can show hospitality and point to the true meaning of Christmas. We’ll have a live nativity outside, with readings of the Christmas story. We’ll have a warm welcome inside, with cookies and hospitality. And we even have books for Santa to give families, where they can learn about the true meaning of Christmas. We could still use your help that night – and even before! So if you are available, please let us know. And feel free to stop by and encourage those who are serving – I’m so grateful for the chance to be a light to our community!
4. Who will you invite to **Christmas Eve** service? It’s not too late to consider who in your life might appreciate an invitation to join us for worship on the night before Christmas. Studies have shown that many people indicate they would be willing to attend a worship service at a new-to-them church if they were only invited by someone they know. Christmas is a great time to reach out to coworkers, neighbors, friends and family and make a special effort to show hospitality and welcome to those in our lives who could use a reminder of Jesus’ love.

## ADVENT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE



December can get pretty crazy and hectic. There are holiday concerts, parties, shopping, cookie baking, decorating and so many other responsibilities that keep our calendars full. So, naturally it can be challenging to find the time and space to really re-

fect on the season of Advent. The busy can distract us from the things that really matter during Christmas time.

***So, this season we want to offer an opportunity for a time of quiet advent worship.***

On Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 7-8pm we will be holding a time for reflection and praise centered on the themes of Advent. It will feature simple worship songs, time for quiet prayer, contemplation activities and short teachings about advent. Our students will help leading us as we pause from the busy and focus on Christ.

If you are looking for something simple to help you prepare your heart for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, I hope you can spend a short time with us next Tuesday. All ages welcome! Invite a friend!

What: Advent Worship Experience

When: 7-8pm, Tuesday, December 9

Where: FPC Sanctuary

What: worship, prayer, reflection

**Christmas Eve** – It's not too early to be thinking about who you can invite to our Christmas Eve Service. December 24 at 8:00 p.m. It is a beautiful service of music and candlelight.

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

## 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

- Kadaimba in Sierra Leone - wind blew roof off school building
- 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.*



Dec. 6 Mel Walton  
Dec. 6 Sydnee Rhamy

**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 3 - December 9**

### ***December 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.

### ***December 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.

### ***December 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.

### ***December 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.

### ***December 7 - Ephesians 3:17***

Jesus, make your home in children's hearts as they trust in you. Give them roots that grow down into God's love and keep them strong.

### ***December 8 - Ephesians 3:18***

May children have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.

### ***December 9 - Ephesians 3:19***

May children experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then may they be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from you, God.



# Calling All Women

Beginning in  
January,  
Seasons  
Study group is  
welcoming

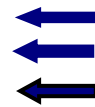
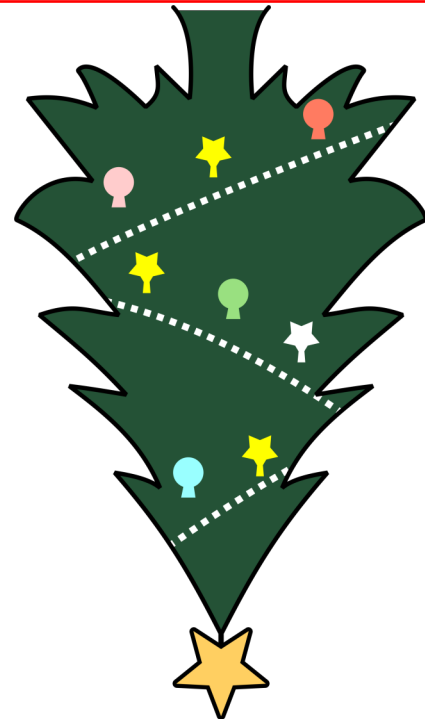
women of all ages in all seasons of life to come, join us for fellowship and Bible study. We meet Tuesday evenings 6-7:30pm in the Seasons cafe. It's a great time to build relationships, open up, laugh and encourage one another in our walks with Christ. January 6th we will begin a new study, Strength 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 7

- Greeters** Genevieve & Beth Miller  
Michelle Wood
- Ushers** Jerry Herman  
Cody Daugherty
- Café** Jenny Reed
- Nursery (Worship)** Veronica Styer
- Nursery (2nd Hour)** Bridget Rhamy
- Kidz Jam** Sherri Machamer
- Kids 2nd Hour** Georgie Miller
- Communion Prep** Marcy Speelman
- Communion Servers** Claudia Ward, John Scott,  
Adam Swinehart, Angie Chapman
- Safety Team** Shirley Swinehart



Becoming  
a community  
that cultivates  
faith and  
faithfulness  
to Christ



## 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)

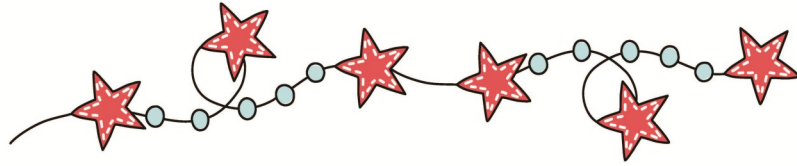
Becoming a community that cultivates faith and faithfulness to Christ

Please share  
this  
information  
with anyone  
you think  
might be  
interested in  
joining our  
team!





# 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



## NEWS FROM OUR OUTREACH TEAM



**Help Needed For the Cookie Walk** - Help Needed For the Cookie Walk - "INSIDE" Cookie Volunteers are needed next Wednesday, December 10th from 5:30-8:00 pm in the Church Gallery to greet guests and pass out the cookies and books. A sign up sheet is located in the Church Gallery or you can text/call Erika at 330-466-5684 to sign up to help inside the Church.

### Outreach Opportunity—Blessing our Backyard Buckeyes

The Ohio State University campus just up the road in Wooster houses hundreds of students from the Agricultural Technical Institute and the Agricultural Research Center.



What a lot of people don't realize is that the campus does not have food service in the evenings or on the weekends. Some students may not have transportation or might not be able to afford to buy meals, so an on-campus Buck-I-Eats Pantry provides free food and personal items to ATI and graduate students to fill the gap.

The outreach team is providing food and personal items for Buck-I-Eats to show these students that we care about them and are praying for them. The team is purchasing the food necessary to put together shelf-stable meal kits which includes everything necessary to make an easy meal (recipe included). We will also add a prayer, scripture, and an invitation to worship with us. **We will be assembling these meal kits Monday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

Check out the Buckeye Christmas tree in the lobby to help us provide personal items for the pantry (thanks to Veronica for putting it together!). There are tags with various personal items and prayer reminders. Please take a tag or two and bring those items in and put them under the Christmas tree (unwrapped) **by December 14** to bless our Backyard Buckeyes. If you have any questions, see Veronica Styer or any of the outreach team.