

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church
Weekly Update
December 6, 2023



Dear FPC Family,

If you have not yet heard the news, we called a new pastor to FPC on Sunday! **Pastor Jocelyn Smolik** received overwhelming support on a Sunday that drew 116 people for in-person worship, 88 of whom cast a vote. I am grateful for this news and for your faith and trust in the Spirit of God and the discernment of the PNC.

To the committee, we say a heartfelt “thank you!” Additionally, a shout-out to the PNC Chair, Delores Schlegel. It was a whole team effort, but Delores navigated all the details, communication, and leadership. Well done!

Let me continue with a few more gifts of gratitude:

- Thank you to those who hosted Jocelyn for a meal: Wards, Hendersons, and Swineharts.
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- Thanks to all who planned and executed the Open House on Saturday. I heard it was well done and well attended.
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- Thank you to the congregation - for your patience, positive energy, and faithfulness to walk as a faith family through three long years of transition.
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As a signal to the end of transition, I've invited the McClelland family to join us for worship on **December 31**. Pastor Jack will bring a message, and we will have some fellowship time after worship for lingering and connecting. Lisa and the kids plan to be with us as well!

On **January 14**, I will offer my last message as your Transitional Pastor and we will enjoy a lunch together, under the capable hands of a newly expanded Congregational Life Committee. Talk to Adam if you'd like to help with this event. Don't worry, I'll get a little sappy as it gets closer. For now, I'm going with a British “stiff upper lip”!

On **January 21**, Rev. Jocelyn will begin. We will get to watch and wonder at what the Lord has planned for us in this new season. He has been faithful to us for 206 years, I can hardly wait to hear about what he brings in 2024!

We are hoping to “make room” this year for Christmas preparation (Advent) that really matters. I want to make room to savor the moments, to make room to listen - to people I encounter and to the Lord. Together, we want to wonder and watch the unfolding of God's plan in the reality that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The truth of that is astounding and a mystery.

You know I can't resist quoting from the ECO Essential Tenets. Consider these words:

Jesus Christ is indeed Immanuel, God-with-us, not one who used to be God, nor one who has merely been sent from God. Rather, in His coming we have seen God's glory, for Jesus is the exact imprint of God's very being and in Him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. ... This is a mystery that we cannot explain, but we affirm it with joy and confidence.

This mystery of the incarnation is ongoing, for the risen Jesus, ... remains truly human. ... When we are promised that one day we will see Him face to face, we acknowledge that it is the face of Jesus of Nazareth we will someday see.

Oh that we would live with anticipation for that moment when we will be able to see what we cannot now see; when we will be able to experience all that we have only dared to hope. We are God's people and he is our God. One day we will be with him and we will live in the “fullness of God.”

Praying for you this week,
Pastor Nancy



There is still time to order a Christmas poinsettia. Colors are limited, red, marble and maybe pink are still available. The blooms are in 6-inch pots are \$7 each. On the order form, you can list who the flower is in honor or memory of. Sunday, December 10 is the final day to place an order.



**Christmas Eve
Service
December 24
8:00 p.m.
Everyone is
welcome.**

WELCOME NEW CHURCH OFFICERS

Last Sunday, the Nominating Team presented the congregation with their list of nominees for the 2024 church officers. All nominees were approved without exception, and we welcome their wisdom and guidance in the coming year.

Elder - elect: Angie Chapman, Darcy Miller & John Scott.

Deacon - elect: Barry Henderson, Jim & Candi Kinney, Scott Schlauch and for a one-year term, Connie Herman

Leaving Session (Elders) at the end of 2023 is Joe Chupp, Matt Smith and Randy Wirick

Leaving the Deacons at the end of 2023 is Tanya Chupp, Melinda Moffitt, Shirley Swinehart and Edna Wade.

Thank you for all your work on your respective boards, and for the love, wisdom and prayers you offered up on behalf of the church & the church family during your term as church officers.

PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Military Service:

- Christa Nelson - Navy
- Tristan Burns - Air Force stationed in Africa
- Ryan Chabak - stationed in Alaska
- Isaiah Styer - Stationed at Camp Lejeune in NC
- Matt Burkhardt - National Guard
- Gaven Bee - Turkey

Prayer Needs

- Sabrina Yoder - caregiver for her child, her father and her grandmother all facing surgical procedures next week.**
- Israel
- Unspokens

Health Concerns:

- Chance Yoder - 4 yr old tonsil surgery Dec. 11**
- Lois Morris - hip replacement surgery Dec. 12**
- Theresa Smith - doctors figuring out correct dosages pf medication, struggling with putting thoughts to speech. Has had setback in PT & OT.**
- Rob Striebe - complications from diabetes
- Edna's brother - heart issues
- Brian Baker - surgery on burns from fire
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Kevin Hanna**
- Leslie Carr - chemo
- Mary Hardesty - colon cancer
- Tara
- Susan Halliday - Sherri Machamer's sister
- David Stoltzfus - Sherri Machamer's nephew
- Michael & Belinda Witt (Michael has cancer)
- Linda Snyder (ECO Pastor)
- Laurie Miller
- Steve Gordon
- Andrew Miller
- Bill Opie
- Dale James

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



We're playing Euchre
this Saturday
December 9 at 6 pm
Everyone is welcome!
Even newbies!

ATTENTION YOUTH & PARENTS

January 19&20: MCA and Martins Creek Menonite Church have invited our youth to participate in The WKND retreat. I will pass along more info when I get it!

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

- Dec. 9 - 6:00 p.m. Euchre
- Dec. 10 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship
- Dec. 12 - 7:00 p.m. New Elders & Deacons Training
- Dec. 13 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (Women)
- Dec. 13 - 6:00 p.m. Music Team
- Dec. 17 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship
- Dec. 18 - Fred'burg Elementary School Christmas Program at the church.
- Dec. 19 - 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- Dec. 20 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (Women)
- Dec. 20 - 6:00 p.m. Music Team
- Dec. 21 - First Day of Winter
- Dec. 24 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship
- Dec. 24 - 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 31 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship



Enjoy the sounds of Christmas with Sonnenberg Station, Saturday, Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Apple Creek.

The concert is free, a love offering will be accepted. Refreshments to follow.

You are invited to reach out to our Church Elders if you have any questions or concerns about the church.

Joe Chupp	330-466-5305
Beth Miller	513-319-6447
Paul Miller	330-465-8329
Earl Rhamy	330-988-4285
Steve Schlegel	330-317-3898
Matt Smith	330-464-4698
Adam Swinehart	330-641-1575
Claudia Ward	330-466-3417
Randy Wirick	330-473-2362

To contact us:

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Follow us on Facebook too!

Rev. Nancy Dumford

614-425-2552

nancydumford@gmail.com

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Church office hours

Monday thru Friday 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who provided cookies the past couple of weeks. They were greatly enjoyed by many church family and visitors. Thank you for sharing your treats with us.

