



Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

Weekly Update February 14, 2024



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I didn't grow up in a church that celebrated Ash Wednesday – or even Lent for that matter. So, every year when friends would show up to school one morning in late winter/early spring with a dark smudge on their forehead, I never really knew what it meant. The few times I asked; they would respond: "It's Ash Wednesday" (as though that explained it) and I never inquired more about it.

Eventually I learned that those smudges on people's foreheads were created with ash and drawn in the shape of the cross as a symbol of repentance and mortality. That explanation didn't make it any less weird. And so, I don't think I could have ever anticipated that Ash Wednesday would become one of my favorite "holidays"; and that I would get excited to be the person who every year got to make that ashy cross on people's foreheads.

But I do love it. I love the opportunity to look the members of the church family in the eye as we remind each other that we are "dust and to dust you shall return". This sentiment can seem bleak - even dark - to those who may not be familiar with the practice. But for followers of Jesus, the reminder that we will die is not meant to scare us; it's meant to help us remember something glorious: that we death is not the end of our story.

Yes, we are dust; yes, we will die. But we follow a Savior who has defeated death! Jesus went through death in our place; and His sinless sacrifice was vindicated by God when He was raised from the dead. He has now made a way for those who belong to Him to follow Him through death and into resurrection life with Him forever. This is what we proclaim to the world when we put ashes on our foreheads. We are taking a representation of death upon us as a reminder of the victory that Jesus has over death!

But the ashes are also a symbol of our need for repentance – our need to turn from the sin that brought death in the first place. If Jesus' sacrifice has set us free from sin and death, then we need to choose to WALK in that freedom; we need to turn from the things that keep us from Him. That's why the cross of ash on our heads also becomes a symbol of our contrition and repentance from the things that have caused death to come into the world.

This is exactly what the Scripture says in 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57: "Death has been swallowed up in victory.

'Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

So, I invite you to join us tonight at 7pm for this weird practice; as we stand alongside centuries and centuries of fellow Jesus-followers who have gathered on this day of the year to have ashes rubbed on their foreheads, and to remember the joyful hope and the call to repentance that comes with the words: "remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return".

- Pastor Jos



February 16 - Cody Daugherty
February 18 - Reid McKelvey

Dear Church Family,



We are delighted to announce the Installation Service of Rev. Jocelyn Smolik during a worship service on Sunday, February 25 at 3:00 p.m.

A meal will follow the service in the church's Fellowship Hall.

We hope you will put this on your calendar and join us for this blessed occasion.



Join us Wednesday February 14 at 7:00 p.m. for our Ash Wednesday Service.



Here's the upcoming FPC Youth schedule for the next month. Please join in the youth room during second hour after worship (10:45 am).

February 18: Brent St. John will be our speaker. And it's Reid's birthday, so there will be cake!

February 25: Hang out with Lydia Styer & Josiah Parris!

March 3: Erika Schuch will share photos and info about FPC's ongoing mission outreach in Sierra Leone.

March 10: Swamp float

PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Praises

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Military Service:

- Shannah Swinehart - Army National Guard
- 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

- Unspokens
- Israel

Health Concerns:

- Charles Sears - serious car accident**
- Ken - health concerns
- Karen & Tom
- Theresa Smith - recovering from brain tumor
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Marianna Miller - recent diagnosis with aggressive form of cancer
- Jonathan Barker - Janine's cousin
- Kevin Hanna
- 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
- Dale James

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



It's time to order Easter Flowers

The flowers come from Buchwalter's Greenhouse (as they have for many years). The order form is located on the sign-up table in the gallery. The cost varies from \$5.75 for mini daffodils to \$22 for a hanging fern basket.

The choices are:

- Easter lilies (6" pot)
- Hyacinths, Tulips, and Daffodils
- Pansy market basket
- Hanging fern basket
- "Bulb Garden" which is a mix of tulips, daffodils and pansies.

Details are on the table with the order form. Be sure to list who the flower is in honor or memory of. And please include payment with your order. Final day to order is March 10. The flowers will be displayed Easter morning, and you can take your flowers home with you following the Easter morning service.

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

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|----------------|--------------|
| Angie Chapman | 330-465-0963 |
| Beth Miller | 513-319-6447 |
| Darcy Miller | 330-440-4155 |
| Paul Miller | 330-465-8329 |
| Earl Rhamy | 330-988-4285 |
| Steve Schlegel | 330-317-3898 |
| John Scott | 330-466-0226 |
| Adam Swinehart | 330-641-1575 |
| Claudia Ward | 330-466-3417 |

To contact the church:

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Phone 330-695-2511

Email: fredpresby@gmail.com

Website: www.fredericksburgpres.org

Follow us on Facebook too!

Rev. Jocelyn Smolik

314-749-1315

jossmolik@gmail.com

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Church office hours

Monday thru Friday 10:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

- Feb. 14 - 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
- Feb. 15 - 6:30 Music Team NOTE new day for this week only.
- Feb. 15 - 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting
- Feb. 18 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship and 2nd hour for all.
- Feb. 21 - 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
- Feb. 21 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Feb. 25 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship and 2nd Hour for all
- February 25 - 3:00 p.m. Service of Installation for Rev. Jocelyn Smolik. A meal will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited.
- Feb. 26 - 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- Feb. 27 - 7:30 p.m. The Grind (Men)
- Feb. 28 - 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
- Feb. 28 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team

Lent

A SEASON OF SORROW AND HOPE



Ash Wednesday - February 14; 7pm

Sunday Worship - Feb 18- Mar 24; 9:30am

Mundy Thursday - March 28; 7pm

Community Sunrise Worship - March 31; sunrise

Easter Sunday - March 31; 10am



Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church - fredericksburgpres.org

CHILI COOK OFF AND GAME NIGHT

If you want to participate in the Chili Cook-Off, you need to sign up soon in the Gallery for the 6:00 p.m. March 16 event. All ingredients should be homemade and you should prepare enough for approximately 80-100 people to taste your concoction. **Church family - you have a job too! You are all invited to come and try each entry, then vote for your favorite!** The favored chef will be awarded a prize!

And, bring your favorite board game! We'll have a game night following the chili feast! Everyone is welcome. Come and vote for your favorite chili then stick around and enjoy games and fellowship.

