



Weekly Update

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church
February 18, 2026

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

When I moved to Chicagoland from St. Louis, I felt a little like an exile. The two cities are only about 300 miles apart – but they are very different. And when I moved, I didn't know a single person there when I arrived. Little things were different and I had to get used to the ways of a new city, a new church, new friends and a new pace of life – not to mention being a Cardinals fan in Cubs country really makes you feel like an outsider!

Have you ever felt like an outsider in our world; like you were out of step with the ways of the culture that surrounds us? Maybe it's a decision at work that everyone else thinks is "just business," but that you know is dishonoring to God, or a conversation with neighbors where you realize your values are headed in a totally different direction. If you've felt that friction of being an outsider lately, we learned some surprising encouragement this week: that's exactly how it's supposed to be!

This past Sunday, I shared a fictional story of "Marcus," an imaginary stone hauler in the ancient Roman port of Bithynia. Marcus's life was turned upside down when he met Jesus. Suddenly, his refusal to join in small daily rituals to pagan gods made him a "bad luck charm" to his coworkers and a "suspicious character" to his friends. Even his own wife threatened to leave because his devotion to Jesus was making life too difficult. Marcus' life can be a lot like our lives if we take our relationship with God serious.

Peter writes to people like Marcus—and people like us—using a very specific term: Elect Exiles. Those two terms used together seem like a contradiction! But in the church of God, they fit together perfectly. "Exiles" a word indicating where we DON'T BELONG. We are foreigners and sojourners in the world, we don't make our home in the world or follow it's ways. "Elect" is a word indicating where we DO BELONG. We are at home with God. This is the beautiful, vertical side of our identity. Being God's elect means we were chosen and "fore-loved" by God before the stars even began to shine.

Being an elect exile means that you are incredibly valuable to God! He bought you with the blood of Jesus so that you could belong to His family – He made the biggest sacrifice so that you and I would be rescued from sin and death and brought into His kingdom.

The friction we feel with the world isn't a sign that we're doing something wrong; it's a sign of our citizenship in different realm. We feel out of step because we belong to a different Kingdom with different values. Being exiles is a challenge; social alienation and the pressure to fit in can be exhausting. But Peter reminds us that these trials are not random. They are a "refining fire" used to build our faith.

We should have a little bit of joy when we feel the ways we don't fit in – because that "outsider" feeling is a sign that God has called us to a new home with Him. Like Paul says in Philippians – our citizenship is in heaven! If you feel like an outsider today, take heart. You are valuable enough to God that He bought you at the highest price. You aren't just an exile; you are His.



LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

This Sunday, February 22, plan to stay after worship and hear a recap of ministry from 2025, and what to look forward to in 2026.

Following the recap, you are invited to enjoy a simple lunch of soup, salad and dessert in the Fellowship Hall. No need to bring anything—just your appetite!



The meal is being provided by the Congregational Life Team and some gracious volunteers. Everyone is welcome.

He Has Become My Salvation

Pop-up Bible Study with Jos Mondays, Feb. 23 - March 30, 2026 7pm- 8:15; in the GLOW room

A Lenten study in Exodus, from burning bush to parted sea

Lent is a traditional season in which God's people are to consider their NEED for a Savior. And what better way to contemplate our need for rescue than by learning about and remembering Israel's need for rescue? In this study we'll look at the events surrounding God's liberating work as he saves His people from slavery in Egypt, and we'll consider how God is still at work liberating His people from slavery to the greatest of enemies: sin and death. All are welcome - come when you can!



February 17 Jenny & Paul Miller
February 24 Claudia & Jim Ward



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

Praises:

- **Logan - 13 yr old with brain tumor is now in remission**

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
- Unspoken

Health Concerns

- **Cindi Doll - brain aneurysm**
- Brady McKelvey - recovering from surgery
- Steve Moffitt - recovering from pneumonia,
- Everleigh Jean - newborn with health issues.
- Kay-leigh Botha - 3yr old recovering heart surgery
- Ben Reed - health concerns
- Edna Wade - health concerns
- Bill Rock - low blood sugar w/heart issues
- Jessica - 3rd trimester high risk pregnancy
- Susan (James) Halliday
- Mark Lemon - cont'd prayers for progress
- Pat Thomson
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- John - end of life hospice care
- Mike Sherrick - lung cancer
- Mariann Stutzman - pancreatic cancer
- Nicki
- Janet Lee
- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Condolences

- **The family of Don Harvey**

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



Becoming
a community
that cultivates
faith and
faithfulness
to Christ

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

YTD Offering	\$11,076.54
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$30,084.96
YTD Net Operating Income	-\$19,008.42
YTD Net Other Income/Loss (Includes ; Interest, rents, special donations, gain or loss on investments)	\$3,034.54
YTD Net Income (Operating income plus other income)	-\$15,973.88
Available Funds	\$219,962.73
(This represents any funds available to FPC which session has not set aside for a specific purpose)	

Questions or concerns or just curious about something within the church?
You are welcome to reach out to our Church Elders:

Angie Chapman	330-465-0963
Beth Miller	513-319-6447
Darcy Miller	330-440-4155
Paul Miller	330-465-8329
Frank Morrow	330-208-4147
Earl Rhamy	330-988-4285
Steve Schlegel	330-317-3898
John Scott	330-466-0226
Claudia Ward	330-466-3417

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>

VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY 22

Greeters	Val & Jay Haver Shirley Swinehart
Ushers	Brent St. John & Keith Hewitt
Café	Connie Herman
Nursery (Worship)	Kim Morrow
Nursery (2nd Hour)	No 2nd Hour
Kidz Jam	Shirley Swinehart
Kids 2nd Hour	No 2nd Hour
Safety Team	Gary Graham
Elder Assist	Frank Morrow



Order Your Easter Flowers The order form is located on the sign-up table in the gallery. 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 Thursday, March 12.



FREDERICKSBURG
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: jmolik@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!



Save the Date

Cabin Fever Beach Bash

Food • Fellowship • Faith

When: Friday, February 20th from 5:30-7:30pm

Where: Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

Who: Kids (Ages 3 and up) & their families.

What: Indoor picnic dinner provided

RSVP welcome but not required - Email jmolik@fredericksburgpres.org



PRAYING FOR OUR PASTORS IN SIERRA LEONE



Sorie Sarah Kamara
Village of Kakamba

Pursuing: Pastors Degree
Age: 31

This week (February 18-24) we are praying for: Sorie Sarah Kamara with the Kakamba church. Sorie shares: "I want you to help me with prayer for our unbelieving families. I am so happy to hear there are so many people praying for me. Thank you. God bless you."

A significant portion of our church's mission budget goes to support students in a pastor training school in Sierra Leone. We have had a long-standing relationship with Pastor Albert (who coordinates these students) and his ministry efforts in his region of Sierra Leone. Among the support we offer are scholarships for students attending pastoral training. These pastors and ministers serve throughout the region, and FPC's support of these growing leaders means the good news will spread far beyond our little community here in Ohio. Your gifts to the church are helping cultivate faith and faithfulness to Christ all the way across the world!

But, our friends need more than just financial support – they need our prayers as well. Each week we will be featuring a different scholarship recipient and encouraging you to pray for them, their families and their training. The outreach team is also in touch with these pastors in training and is receiving personal prayer requests from each of them. How cool is it to know that we can support our friends in Sierra Leone through prayer and care?!? Please take some time each week to lift these fellow believers up in prayer.