



The Weekly Update

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

February 26, 2025

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

One of the words most often associated with God in the Old Testament is the word “hesed”. You have probably heard this word before. It is often translated as “mercy”, “faithfulness” or “steadfast love”. It’s one of the key words God uses to describe Himself. In Exodus 34:6, God says that He is: “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”

But there is an important sense of the word “hesed” that we sometimes overlook. That’s the aspect of “kindness”. Throughout the Scriptures, God isn’t just described as loving, but He is described as being kind. We all know kindness when we experience it. Kindness is found when someone is generous, or considerate. When a person offers expressions of care or meets a need, they are kind. When someone recognizes the best in another instead of the worst, they are kind. When someone speaks gently and calmly, not being easily angered or put off, they are kind. When someone sees another’s pain or struggle, and they go out of their way to help them, that is kindness.

Kindness is more than being nice. Kindness is embodying care, love and generosity of spirit; and this manner of kindness finds its origin in God. Because we follow the Lord who embodies kindness to us, we ought to be people of kindness as well. When we listen to others, speak to others and interact with others we should be people eager to express care and compassion!

Our church has a very specific and practical way it expresses kindness and care for others. The deacons administer something called the “Benevolence Fund”. (Benevolence is a synonym for kindness!). This fund is set apart in a number of ways: First, the money is held separately from the rest of the church finances. Second, only one deacon and the pastor know how the money in the benevolence fund is spent. Third, it has a very narrow use: to meet the needs of those around us as an act of kindness! The fund is set up this way so that giving and receiving from the fund can be anonymous and so that we can respond quickly when a need arises.

The deacons and I thought it would be good to remind everyone about this benevolence fund for a couple reasons.

First: the monies of that fund are available! If you learn of a very specific need for financial support in our church family or surrounding community, please let your deacon or I know. If it is appropriate, and if we can help, we will! We want to offer kindness to those around us.

Second: you can always directly contribute to this fund. If the Lord ever stirs your heart, you can direct some financial support to the benevolence fund at any time by indicating it on a giving envelope or with a note along with your financial gift.

If you have any questions, or if you would like some examples of how the benevolence fund has helped our community in the past, please talk to a deacon or I, we would love to answer any question you might have. And most importantly: Don’t hesitate to reach out for some kindness when you need it, or to offer it when you have it – in this way we reflect the God who has poured out His kindness into our lives in more ways than we can know or count.

Pastor Jos

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

January YTD Operating Income	\$13,774.98
YTD Operating Expense	\$21,806.17
YTD Gain/ Loss	-\$ 8031.19
YTD Other Income	\$ 5346.64
YTD Net Income	-\$2684.55
Unrestricted Funds	\$252,110.51



The church's Ash Wednesday Service, the beginning of Lent, is planned for next Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m. We hope you will join us

March Calendar

March 1	7:00 p.m. Ballroom dancing
March 2	Sunday morning worship & 2nd Hour
March 5	10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
March 5	7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
March 6	6:45 p.m. Music Team
March 7	6:30 p.m. First Friday (Women)
March 8	Move Your Clocks Ahead Tonight!!
March 9	Sunday morning worship and 2nd Hour



Ladies First Friday at the church.
March 7 at 6:30 p.m. Snacks provided.
Topic—"Sharing with Others"

VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY 9

Greeters	Genevieve & Beth Miller Michelle Wood
Ushers	Reid & Shawn McKelvey
Café	Wendy McKelvey
Nursery (Worship)	Veronica Styer
Nursery (2nd Hour)	Bridget Rhamy
Kidz Jam	Sherri Machamer
Kids 2nd Hour	Georgie Miller
Elder Assist	Angie Chapman
Safety Team	Tom Machamer
Communion Prep	Connie & Jerry Herman
Communion Servers	Angie, Adam, Steve and Darcy

Ballroom Dancing - this Saturday from 7-9 p.m. In the fellowship hall. Light refreshments will be served. It will involve a basic group instruction. Everyone welcome. Even if you don't want to dance, come join the fun and fellowship!

PRAYER

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

Praises

- Praise for family
- Praise for the gift of friends
- **Baby Katie is home and doing well**

Military Service:

- **Isaiah Styer leaving for assignment in Hawaii**
- Hunter Amolotte deployed to southern border
- Isaiah Styer flying home Feb 3, 1 week to pack and process for assignment in Hawaii.
- Shannah Swinehart - Army National Guard
- Christa Nelson - Navy
- Steven King - Army
- Ryan Chabak - stationed in Arizona
- Gaven Bee - stationed in Dayton, OH

Prayer Needs

- **Triway's play production**
- Victims of recent natural disasters

Health Concerns

- **Barry Walton emergency back/neck surgery**
- **DeeDee Sinnett - health concerns**
- **Pat Thomson Pomerene Hosp. blood clots**
- **Gerald Stephan - pneumonia**
- **Kelly - thrown from a horse**
- **Jenny Reed - surgery March 12**
- Pastor Albert continued healing from accident
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- **Jamie - brain tumor**
- Diane Scott
- Susan Halliday
- Janet Lee
- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Keylee - leukemia
- Dale James

Condolences

- The family of Curt Raber
- The family of Kodi Brenner

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

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 – February 26 – March 4

February 26 - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now, God of peace, make children holy in every way. May their whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God, make this happen, for you have called me to reach children, and you are faithful."

February 27 – 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

So I keep on praying for these children, asking you to enable them to live a life worthy of your call. Give them the power to accomplish all the good things their faith prompts them to do. Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way they live, and they will be honored along with you. This is all made possible because of your grace, and because of Jesus Christ.

February 28 – Philemon 1:4-5

I always thank God when I pray for _____, because I keep hearing about his/her faith in the Lord Jesus and his/her love for all of God's people.

March 1 – Ephesians 1:15-16a

God, I thank you for the faith in Jesus children in my church have shown, and their love for your people.

March 2 – Ephesians 1:16b-17

I pray for the children in my ministry constantly, asking you, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give those children spiritual wisdom and insight so that they might grow in their knowledge of you, God.

March 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.

March 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.

Happy Birthday

March 1 Russ Brinkerhoff
March 3 Judy Badger
March 5 Kristin Chabak



It's time to order 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 March 15.