

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

Weekly Update

January 10, 2024

Dear Beloved,

Do you remember that one Sunday, last July, when we fried fish for supper and then worshiped at night?

I love that memory. It demonstrated so many beautiful aspects of the family of God. It broke our routine, brought a group of men together for a purpose (frying fish and potatoes), and showed generosity in the donation of 80 lbs of fish by Paul and his brother. It was a moment of celebration, fellowship, and meaningful worship.

I still remember the songs (from my childhood) that Earl played around the campfire and the liturgy that Beth led called "A liturgy for the enjoyment of bonfires in the night." It is a good memory and good memories increase our joy when we remember them!

That night I shared with you an ancient prayer for Compline (night) that still hits me in the feels. See if you remember it:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

The thing about that prayer (and many good prayers) is that it rings differently at different times. When we ask the Lord to keep watch over those who **work**, or **watch**, or **weep** - there are many different settings and emotions attached to each of these three conditions. Workers who love or hate the night shift. Keeping watch at airports, state parks or parking lots. Weeping in sadness or pain; loneliness or loss; worry or wondering.

What I could not articulate that day, but can see in looking back, is the mixture of joy and sorrow. The Lord dwells with us in our full range of experiences good and bad, even the peculiar way that things unexpectedly works out, clearly showing God's hand.

That July morning, when we did not have church, I was with Fonda Schlegel and the Nelson family in her final moments. She went home to Jesus, on Sunday morning, in her home overlooking their farm. That night we gathered and celebrated as a family of faith. God is in the highs and lows. God dwells among his people.

These are some of the memories that I cherish as I prepare to complete my time with you. Even this morning, I felt tenderness and tears with the women who attended GLOW. We have joy because we spent this time together, and sorrow that what has been will come to a close. God meets us in both.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

May you know this reality - God keeps watch. He tends and blesses and soothes and shields us. AND the family of God is a blessed place to be.

With great grace,

Nancy





You are all invited to a taco party in honor of Pastor Nancy & Bryan's last Sunday with us.

On January 14, following worship, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate with tacos, haystacks, and dessert!



PRAYER COVERAGE

The next few weeks will be busy ones for the church, and for Pastors Jos and Nancy. Let's keep them and us in prayer. Some areas for prayer:

- Pastor Jos packing up there (Peoria) and unpacking here in the 'burg
- Pastor Nancy and Bryan packing up here at the manse and unpacking there (Westerville)
- The moving van/drivers/route. Safety and no complications.
- The weather. Safe travels for everyone on the road.
- Repairs and maintenance at the manse
- The Trustees in charge of the repairs and maintenance.
- For the church that we would be supportive in all ways during this time of transition.
- For Pastor Jos, Session, Deacons and staff as they begin to learn about each other and form working relationships.
- For all of the church and Pastor Jos as we get to know each other.



Come play Euchre with us this Saturday, January 13 at 6 p.m.

MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE. THERE'S ALSO EUCHRE

All skill levels are welcome and if you don't have a partner, we'll find you one! Join us!



Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Praises

- **For the holiday worship services.**

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

- Pastor Jocelyn moving into the manse**
- Pastor Nancy moving back to Westerville**
- Unspokens
- Tracy & her son, Cody
- Israel

Health Concerns:

- Beth Miller - shoulder issues
- Theresa Smith - recovering from brain tumor
- Rob Striebe - complications from diabetes
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Judy Schlauch - Scott's mother, she has received a terminal diagnosis and the family was told she has 3-4 weeks left
- 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

Condolences

- The family of Leslie Carr
- The family of Mark Dalessandro

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

**First
Friday**

Attention Ladies
First Friday
February 2 at 6:30 pm
at the home of Shirley

Swinehart. Bring a snack to share and a poem that you have written or one that you enjoy.

**It's
Chili
Time!**

CALLING ALL COOKS!
Got a favorite chili recipe?
We are planning a chili
cook-off on March 16.
There's a sign-up sheet in
the Gallery with additional
info.



CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

- January 13 - 6 p.m. Euchre
- January 14 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship. Pastor Nancy's last Sunday with us
- January 14 - A farewell party to follow worship
- January 15 - 7 p.m. Session meeting
- January 16 - 6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting
- January 17 - 10 am GLOW (women)
- January 17 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- January 21 - Sunday morning worship with Rev. Jocelyn Smolik
- January 21 - 2nd Hour for all
- January 23 - 7:30 p.m. - The Grind (men)
- January 24 - 10 am GLOW (women)
- January 24 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- January 28 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship
- January 30-February 2 - National Gathering in Greenville, South Carolina (ECO)
- January 31 - 10 am GLOW (women)
- January 31 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team

*Happy
Birthday*

January 15 - Earl Rhamy
January 15 - Bridget Rhamy

SECOND HOUR INFORMATION

Second Hour classes will begin on January 21st. We will have three classes all doing the same topic - "Make it count", a look at Biblical relationships that will strengthen ours.

YEAR END REPORTS

It's that time! Team Leaders and Board presidents, Year end reports are due in the church office by January 31. If you have questions, Please talk to Secretary Jeann.

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

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

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Follow us on Facebook too!

Rev. Nancy Dumford

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Church office hours

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