



The Weekly Update

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

January 15, 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Toward the beginning of His ministry, Jesus preached His Sermon on the Mount. In it He said this:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

I have been reflecting a lot on this verse as I have been watching the news coming out of Southern California and the wildfires there. People have lost homes and livelihoods. Just as with the devastation in North Carolina and Florida following the hurricanes, the recovery will be long and difficult.

As I watch the news and talk to friends in that area, I have been wondering about how I would react in the same situation. What would be my response if I lost my home, my possessions, my community and had little idea of what the future would hold? In thinking about this I keep coming back to Jesus' words in His sermon. I want to be a person who stores up treasure in God's Kingdom, not on earth.

Jesus seems to be teaching us that moths and vermin – storms and fires – can, and will, bring destruction. And forces outside of our control – thieves, scammers and unscrupulous humans – will steal and rob. We can't control any of these things. What we can control is what we put our trust in.

We don't trust and hope in our wealth and our possessions, those things can be - and often are - easily taken from us, just as we've seen with hurricanes and fires. Instead, as followers of Jesus we put our hope in trust in Him alone; because when we treasure the things of the Lord, our treasure can't be taken away or destroyed.

Maybe like me you have been watching the devastation of the fires thinking about where your treasure lies. My encouragement to all of us is to reflect on what it means to store treasure in heaven and set our hearts on those things.

We have many ECO churches in two presbyteries in the areas affected by the wildfires. The Presbytery of Southern California and Mission Presbytery are establishing a fund to support people in need and they will jointly administer the aid they receive. If you want to make a financial gift to this fund you can click here https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=RCHLJVTZ7ULYE

These presbyteries are also asking for our prayers as they serve during this crisis. Pray that they may extend the Gospel with the fullness of the peace and hope of Christ.

You can also support the efforts of World Renew, who will be working to minister following the fires as well. You can support them by clicking here - <https://connect.clickandpledge.com/w/Form/92b6c523-d149-48a3-8297-5de871dc6e9f>

VOLUNTEERS FOR January 19

Greeters	Janine Schlauch Shirley Swinehart
Ushers	Adam Swinehart & Keith Hewitt
Café	Jenny Reed
Nursery (Worship)	Melinda Moffitt
Nursery (2nd Hour)	Jenny Miller
Kidz Jam	Beth Miller
Kids 2nd Hour	Beth Miller
Elder Assist	Darcy Miller
Safety Team	Joe Chupp

January Calendar

January 16	7:00 p.m. Kids Ministry Team
January 19	Sunday morning worship and 2nd Hour
January 21	7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
January 22	10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
January 22	6:45 p.m. Music Team
January 26	Sunday morning worship and 2nd Hour
January 27	National Gathering in Dallas, Texas (thu 1/29)
January 29	10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
January 29	6:45 p.m. Music Team

Happy Birthday

January 15	Bridget Rhamy
January 19	Janet Albright
January 20	Adam Swinehart
January 20	Shawn McKelvey



PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Praises

- Praise for Pat Thomson progress in recovery.
- Praise for all the road crews
- God's faithfulness

Military Service:

- Shannah Swinehart - Army National Guard
- Christa Nelson - Navy
- Steven King - Army
- Ryan Chabak - stationed in Arizona
- Isaiah Styer - stationed at Camp Lejeune in NC
- Gaven Bee - stationed in Dayton, OH

Prayer Needs

- **Mandarin Baptist Church of LA**
- **All of southern California**
- **West Holmes FFA Senior Trip to Denver**
- Josiah's friend, Luke
- Direction & options for someone having financial difficulties

Health Concerns

- Genevieve's teacher's surgery
- **Katie Gehring - (infant) she is home, long health journey ahead.**
- **Roger Stroud - continued healing, less pain**
- **Pat Thomson - continued recovery**
- Edna's daughter in law, Tonya
- Aimee Lorentz - surgery complications
- Pastor Albert continued healing from accident
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- **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 Larry Wood**
- The family of Mitch Arnholt

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

Advice from a SNOWMAN

*Be a jolly, happy soul
Spend time outdoors
Avoid meltdowns
Be well-rounded
Live well, life is short!*



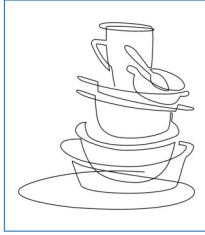
FIRST FRIDAY

Ladies First Friday in
February is at

6:30 p.m. on February 7 at the church.
The topic is "Loving Each Other. Snacks
are provided.

A Bit of House-keeping

On the far kitchen counter, to the right of the roll-up window, casserole and serving dishes and plastic left-over containers are piling up. Please take a moment or two to take a look and pick up the items that belong to you, so we can declutter that space. Thanks for your cooperation!



Questions or concerns or just curious about something within the church?

You are invited to reach out to our Church Elders:

Angie Chapman	330-465-0963
Beth Miller	513-319-6447
Darcy Miller	330-440-4155
Earl Rhamy	330-988-4285
Mike Rhamy	330-464-0961
Steve Schlegel	330-317-3898
John Scott	330-466-0226
Adam Swinehart	330-641-1575
Claudia Ward	330-466-3417

2nd Hour Has Returned to follow the morning worship service. There are classes & discussion groups for all ages. Adult discussion groups meet in the classrooms on the left-hand side of the hallway, kids' classrooms are on the right-hand side of the hallway and Youth are at the far end of the hall on the right. We hope you will remain after the service and join one of the groups.

NATIONAL GATERING

Welcome to the 2025 ECO National Gathering! (January 27-29) Being held this year at Highland Park Presbyterian Church, in Dallas, TX.

In the midst of the joys and challenges, privileges and heartaches of ministry, we long for connection with Jesus more than ever. As we deep dive into what it means to abide in Christ, we will prayerfully grow closer to the God who created us to depend on Him and bear fruit in our lives and ministries...for apart from Him we can do nothing.

You can follow along on some of the events at National Gathering by clicking here <https://www.econationalgathering.org/>

Later this month, Pastor Jos, Angie Chapman, Earl and Vickie Rhamy, Darbee Rhamy and Jim and Claudia Ward will be traveling to Dallas for the Gathering. Keep them and the event in your prayers.



If there's one thing I've
mastered in winter, it's the art
of the penguin walk on icy
sidewalks