



Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

Weekly Update January 17, 2024

Dear FPC Community,

Our much awaited transition is here at last! Last **Sunday** was a beautiful send-off for Pastor Nancy and Bryan, with music, message, food and gifts. Thank you to the whole team that made our Fiesta so fun. The Congregation Life Team is on a roll and planning more fun events for 2024 - this would be a great time to join Adam and the team!

Monday night we had our January Session meeting with both pastors in attendance (Jocelyn by zoom). We welcomed three new elders and had a really good time of planning, discussion, and prayer. We learned that the December offering was larger than any month in the past 9 years, collectively reaching more than \$44,000. Thank you for your commitment, faith, and generosity to the mission of our church. Be watching for the 2023 Annual Report to see final numbers, but we will end the year with a surplus. Praise God!

This weekend, Pastor Jocelyn will arrive at the manse. Sunday will be the start of a new, and much-awaited season at FPC. She will begin a four-week series called "Being Church". We'll spend some time in the book of Philippians learning about what it means for us to be God's church - together.

Nancy: I felt so blessed and encouraged by your words, hugs, cards, and all around well-wishes. It has been a good season of ministry here at FPC. I have grown in faith and skill, grateful for all that I have learned through the transforming process of being your pastor. Thank you for your time, attention, kindness, and love. I will miss you greatly, but I give thanks that the Lord has positioned FPC to be fruitful in this next season. A few of you asked for my home address. It is: **52. S Hempstead Road, Westerville, OH 43081**. Please feel free to reach out, because our Columbus home is open to visitors!

Jocelyn: The past few weeks of my life have been filled with "goodbyes"; but I am so happy that the next weeks will be filled with exciting "hellos"! I am truly eager to be with you and to get started serving alongside you THIS WEEK! I have been praying for you all and for the next chapter that God is going to write among us. God is faithful, and I know He has faithfully brought us together. I'm especially looking forward for upcoming opportunities to spend time with our elders and deacons, ministry teams and with as many of you as possible; and I anticipate more info about ways we'll connect to come really soon!

Together: We can say some things confidently together: first, we love you, FPC; and we are looking forward with anticipation and joy for what God has planned for the next season of ministry and growth, He has been and will always be faithful. Second, it is a privilege to be your pastor: to care for you, walk alongside you and help us all follow as God leads - we are both blessed to play this role in the life of FPC. Finally, we are so grateful to have found friendship and partnership in this transition. What a picture of the kingdom of God, and a beautiful representation of the love of Christ.

Together in Christ,
Pastors Nancy and Jocelyn

CREATIVITY AND ART AT FPC

We have a new painting displayed in the hallway, outside of Fellowship Hall. It was a gift from artist Kevin Walton. I really like it, because of the verse that it illustrates and the uniqueness of painting a view from our own East Cemetery, the place where we celebrate resurrection each Easter at sunrise.

One of the things that I have thought about over the years is the creative nature of our God. He created the world through a word. He spoke into existence more unique habitats and creatures and the intricate details of the human body and mind than have yet discovered. He is a creator God. And as people made in his image, we too are endowed with creativity.

Back in my days leading a school focused on early childhood, we would annually have a fall show (visual art) and spring show (singing, motions). Often a teacher would say something to me like, "I'm just not very creative" and I'd feel a strong sense of objecting to that sentiment. Our God gave us the ability to create something from nothing. It takes some courage and practice, but each child and adult can (and should) engage in creative pursuits because we are made in the image of a creator God.

One of my hopes for FPC is that you will continue to evolve in your creative expressions of the Gospel. This community has many artists – painters, carpenters, musicians, artisans. Often we think of the gifts needed in the church as apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers. But truly the church needs all of the endless possible giftings – organization, leadership, craftsmanship, graphic design, tech, hospitality, and so many more.

We are called to offer our gifts for God's service and to encourage others to offer theirs. This brings glory to God and inspiration to his people. This year at the ECO National Gathering, the worship & arts ministry strand is offering a breakout called "Beauty in Community – How Art Builds Disciples." Beth Miller is excited to attend that breakout, looking for new ways for creativity at FPC to become worship. Beth is passionate about how artisans worked within the church at different points in history, and how the arts can connect us to God in ways traditional worship does not. It is time that the church reclaim her prophetic voice through artistic expression.

How wonderful it would be if the new painting sparked more, so much so that there became a rotation of visual art within our walls, proclaiming the glory of God and displaying the gifts of many in our community, and offering inspiration to the wider Fredericksburg population. A growing element of the arts within our church would be such a good thing!

With Creativity and Joy,

Pastor Nancy

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.



Attention Ladies
First Friday Feb. 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.

Second Hour Returns

“Make It Count” is the title of our 2nd hour study beginning January 21 and running through Lent. This short series will focus on relationships. Starting with our relationship with God, our lives are defined by our ability to relate to others. The study will focus on enriching our skills in relationships and will help our church thrive in this coming season. Also, the youth are going to follow along in their second hour during this study

- Classroom 1 - Darcy and Nick
- Classroom 2 - Angie, Steve & Melinda Moffitt
- Classroom 3 - Barry and Paul

Don't want to join a fun group? That's ok too - the cafe will be available 2nd hour to just hang out and fellowship.

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. She shared that the movers will come for her belongings on January 18. She will arrive and stay in the manse on Friday, January 19. (and preach on Jan. 21!) Her belongings will arrive on the moving van sometime between January 30 and January 25
- Pastor Nancy and Bryan have moved out of the manse. Pastor Nancy's last day here in the 'burg will be Wednesday, Jan. 24.
- The moving van/drivers/route. Safety and no complications.
- The weather. Safe travels for everyone on the road.
- The repairs and maintenance currently going on 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.



January 19 - Janet Albright
January 20 - Adam Swinehart
January 20 - Shawn McKelvey
January 24 - Becca Schuch

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.

Ready
for a
Fiesta!



CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

- 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 24 - 6:30 p.m. Finance Team Meeting
- 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

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

To contact the church:

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Website: www.fredericksburgpres.org

Follow us on Facebook too!

Rev. Nancy Dumford

614-425-2552

nancydumford@gmail.com

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Church office hours

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

Blaze Winter Youth Retreat

Join us February 9-11 at Camp Luz for a time of spiritual growth through Biblical teaching, worship and fun! Highlights from past winter retreats have included a game lounge, ice skating, snow tubing, indoor mini-golf and Luz Olympics- winter edition; just to name a few! Speakers include Matthew Reed, pastor at Beech Mennonite Church

See Veronica Styer for more details.

PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Praises

- **God's continual provision**

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

- 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

Condolences

- The family of Judy Schlauch**

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

FPC Youth: The Big Reveal

Hi youth parents....here's the message that I sent the kids (but I don't know how many of them actually check email). Please encourage your kids to come to youth group...we are blessed with wonderful youth!

So maybe that's a little dramatic but wait 'til you see the updated youth room since the guys fetched Pastor Nancy and Bryan's furniture. We were going to let the youth do the rearranging, (ahem), but Pastor Nancy went nuts on it and it looks great! But we are taking any and all ideas to make it what you want!

This Sunday, January 21 starts "second hour" again for the entire church (10:45am-11:30am or something like that). We will follow along with what the rest of the church is doing, at least loosely. This coming Sunday is the Healing of Naaman. It's a great story with lots of teaching moments. Please join us for a quick lesson and then we'll have some time to hang out too. And yes, there will be food. And no, Josiah, I'm not baking it.

If you haven't been to youth group before, give it a try-it's a new year with new possibilities to build friendships and your relationship with God. If you have any questions, contact Michelle at 330-464-4723.



Pictures from the taco party

