



We've all seen films where the main character is backed into a corner, the music turns ominous, the threats are enormous and the moviemakers want us to think: *"Well, this is it. It's over."* A lot of stories have that turn: where our heroes believe all seems lost, the bad guys have won and it appears there is no way happy ending coming.

It must have felt a little like that for God's people who were taken into exile in Babylon. Imagine being a teenager and suddenly your world is turned upside down. You're kidnapped, taken to a foreign country and forced into a three-year "re-education" camp where they literally try to scrub your identity away. They even give you a new name—which means every time they address you, you are reminded of all you have lost and of all the power they have over you.

As we learned on Sunday, for Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, the "Babylonian Makeover" was relentless. They were surrounded by a culture that didn't share their values, eating food that violated their conscience and serving a king who thought he was a god. From the outside, it looked like their God – YHWH - had abandoned them and disappeared. At this point in their history, it must have seemed hopeless. But if it seemed that way, it wasn't ACTUALLY that way.

Here is the "Spoiler Alert" that I love. It's tucked away in the very last verse of Daniel chapter 1: "And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus." That one sentence is a massive spoiler. It tells us that Daniel outlasted the entire Babylonian Empire. He outlasted Nebuchadnezzar. He outlasted the guys who tried to rename him. He stayed faithful for at least 65 years in a place that wasn't his home.

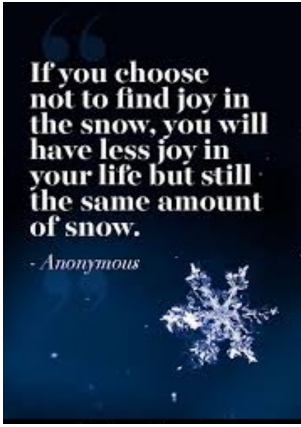
Daniel didn't survive by being the loudest person in the room or by picking a fight over every single thing. He survived through a skill we called "cooperation without compromise." He learned the Babylonian languages, he did his job with excellence and he built healthy relationships—but he drew a firm line at things that threatened his devotion to God.

Sometimes we can feel like we're in a kind of exile. Maybe it's a workplace that feels spiritually draining, a family dynamic that's constantly tense – or more often – it's just the general "far country" feeling of living in a world that doesn't prioritize the things of God.

Daniel's longevity is a reminder that our job isn't to fight or to surrender, our job is to walk faithfully one day at a time. Daniel and His friends cooperated where they could—learning the language and the culture—but they refused to compromise their core devotion to God. They knew that God's promises were rooted in His character, not in their current comfort.

As we navigate our own "exiles," remember that the same God who gave Daniel favor and wisdom is the same God working in your life today. You might feel like you're in a "far country," but you are following the ultimate Exile—Jesus—who entered our world to bring us all the way home.

Don't be discouraged by the darkness of the moment. Like Daniel, you are part of a story that outlasts the empires of this world. Things are never hopeless. Keep praying, keep trusting and remember, the spoiler alert; God wins in the end.



LADIES BRUNCH THIS SATURDAY

Ladies, join us **this Saturday, January 24th from 9 to 11 AM.** Let's turn ice to nice as we enjoy a scrumptious breakfast to melt away the winter blues. Then we'll share games and reminisce about warm memories of

this frosty season. It will be Snow much fun!!

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

For December 2025

YTD Offering	\$244,443.43
YTD Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$230,040.05</u>
	\$ 14,403.38
YTD Net Operating Income	\$230,040.05
YTD Net Other Income/Loss	\$38,883.37
<small>(Includes; Interest, rents, special donations, gain or loss on investments)</small>	
YTD Net Income	\$53,286.75
<small>(Operating income plus other income)</small>	
Available Funds	\$235,856.61
<small>(This represents any funds available to FPC which session has not set aside for a specific purpose)</small>	

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

PRAYER

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

Praises

- **Our newly-ordained church officers**

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

- Corbin - involved in a traffic accident that involved a fatality.
- Prayers for our country
- Unspoken

Health Concerns

- Ben Reed - health concerns
- Edna Wade - health concerns
- Shelda Spurck - recovering from a stroke
- Steve Schlegel - recovering from knee surgery
- Mary Lee's brother Don - serious health issues
- 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

- Art Wetmore - lung cancer
- Mike Sherrick - lung cancer
- Mariann Stutzman - pancreatic cancer
- Logan - 13 yr. old with brain tumor
- Nicki
- Janet Lee
- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Condolences

- The family of Leah Matthews
- The family of Ron Dobson

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

VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY 25

Greeters	Beth Reed Michelle Wood
Ushers	Shad Swinehart Brent St, John
Café	Wendy McKelvey
Nursery (Worship)	Kim Morrow
Nursery (2nd Hour)	Vickie Rhamy
Kidz Jam	Delores Schlegel
Kids 2nd Hour	Delores Schlegel
Safety Team	Joe Chupp
Elder Assist	Angie Chapman

JANUARY CALENDAR

January 22	6:00 p.m. Congregational Life Tm Mtg
January 22	7:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)
January 22	7:00 p.m. Outreach Team Meeting
January 24	9:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast
January 25	Sunday morning worship
January 27	6:00 p.m. Seasons Study
January 27	7:30 p.m. The Grind
January 28	10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W.
January 28	6:45 p.m. Music Team
January 29	7:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)

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>

Lost & Found Item



An item was turned in to the church office containing a sum of money. If you are missing your property, it can be claimed at the church office by identifying the sum of money and a description of the container.



January 24 - Becca Schuch
January 26 - Olivia Brown
January 28 - Wyatt Wood



Becoming a community that cultivates faith and faithfulness to Christ



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: jsmolik@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 jsmolik@fredericksburgpres.org



Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church Weather Cancellation Policy

To ensure the safety of our congregation and clarity for our ministry leaders, the following policy applies to all inclement weather situations:

- **Standard Operations:** Unless otherwise notified, the church building will remain open, and all scheduled services and events will proceed as planned, regardless of weather conditions. Unless otherwise noted, the building is open and events will continue.
- **Prioritize Your Safety:** We trust our members to make wise, individual decisions regarding the safety of travel in their specific areas. We understand that road conditions vary greatly; please prioritize your personal safety when deciding whether to travel to and from the church.
- **Leadership Oversight:** If church leadership (elders and staff) determines that weather conditions have become too hazardous, we will officially cancel events and close the building.
- **Communication of Closings:** In the event of a closure, we will notify the congregation and community through the following channels:
 - ◇ **Facebook:** [<https://www.facebook.com/fredericksburgpres>]
 - ◇ **Email:** An all-church email blast
 - ◇ **Text Message:** Via our church notification system.
- **Facility-Wide Impact:** If the building is officially closed, **all** scheduled services, meetings and ministry events are cancelled or rescheduled. No groups should meet on-site during a building closure.
- **Developing Situations:** We recognize that weather conditions can change. A morning that is inclement may clear by the evening (or vice-versa). Leadership will monitor conditions and provide updated "partial-day" closing or opening information as circumstances warrant.

Note for Ministry Leaders: While the church building may remain open, we grant full discretion to our ministry leaders (small group hosts, choir directors, etc.) to cancel their specific meetings if they feel the conditions are unsafe for their particular participants. If you choose to cancel your specific event while the church remains open, please notify your group members directly.