



The Weekly Update

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

January 22, 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

It may or may not be hard for us to imagine, but the reality is that more followers of Jesus face severe persecution for their faith today than at any other time in church history. We are blessed here in the West, because we typically do not experience severe oppression because of our trust in Jesus; but our brothers and sisters around the globe ARE facing these kinds of trials.

Throughout Scripture, Jesus warns of coming persecution and encourages His people to live faithfully when faced with opposition. Jesus even says that there is blessing to be found when suffering for His name. In Matthew 5:11-12 - "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Even though we do not have to endure the kind of opposition that other members of our faith family do, we can still be a practical support for those who bear the name of Jesus and yet suffer for it.

First, we can all pray. We can pray for Christians in difficult places in the world to be faithful in the midst of suffering. We can pray for their protection and for the boldness of their witness. We can also pray that God uses their patient endurance to exalt the name of Jesus and to bring others into a saving relationship with Him.

Second, we can learn. There are some fantastic resources available for us to stay connected and aware of the persecution of Christians around the globe right now. Among a few you can check out:

Open Doors - <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/> - They produce a report each year called the Watch List, in which they share information about different nations and the challenges presented to Christians in those places. This is definitely worth a deep dive!

Voice of the Martyrs - <https://www.persecution.com/> - This organization offers free resources like podcasts, prayer guides and partner stories. You can even find helpful tools to pray for those facing persecution around the globe.

Lastly, we can grow in our faithfulness to Christ. We can resolve to be like our suffering brothers and sisters by increasing our faithfulness and patient endurance. We can re-visit and reaffirm our commitment and allegiance to King Jesus. He is worthy of all of our devotion and trust, no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in. We may not be persecuted for our faith, but we all suffer and face challenges. In these things, we can commit to the same faithfulness – trusting in Him no matter what comes.

LEARNING MORE

Are you interested in learning more about Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church? Ever wanted to know what ECO stands for or what it means to be Presbyterian? We are looking to hold a potential new members session in February for those who want to discover more about the church and might want to take the next steps of becoming a covenant partner at FPC. If you would like to hear about this opportunity, please talk to Pastor Jos (314-749-1315, jmolik@fredericksburgpres.org) and she'll give you additional information!



ACCESSING THE CHURCH DIRECTORY APP

Mary Ann Henderson will be available after worship service on February 2 and February 16 in the café to help anyone who may need to troubleshoot and access the online church directory app. If you've been having problems with the app, or if you would like to know more, you can stop by either of those mornings and Mary Ann will be happy to help!



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

CONTRIBUTIONS BENEFIT LOCAL SCHOOLS

Let's show God's love to our local students by providing items for use with the O'Huddle program. Please drop off items for hygiene kits, snacks, drinks, crafts, games, and clothing (hoodies, t-shirts, leggings, sweats-clean/gently used) to the church lobby collection box by Wednesday, February 12th. (See sign-up sheet in lobby for specifics.) Then join us Sunday, February 16th following second hour to compile the kits and pack items for delivery.

PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Praises

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

- **Jaret – gunshot wound**
- Mandarin Baptist Church of LA
- All of southern California

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 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 – January 22-28

January 22 - Colossians 1:10 - *May the way children live always honor and please you, Lord, and may their lives produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, may they grow as they learn to know you better and better.*

January 23 - Colossians 1:11-12 - *I pray that you will strengthen these children with all your glorious power so they will have all the endurance and patience they need. May they be filled with joy, always thanking you, Father. You have enabled us to share in the inheritance that belongs to your people, who live in the light.*

January 24 - Romans 16:25-27 - *Now all glory to you, God, who are able to make kids strong, just as the Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for all these children, a plan you've held from the beginning of time. But now make this message known to children everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey you. All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.*

January 25 - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 - *I thank you, God, for our children's ministry team, and pray for them constantly. As I pray to you about them, I think of their faithful work, their loving deeds, and the enduring hope they have been because of you, Jesus.*

January 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."*

January 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.*

January 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.*

ECO's NATIONAL GATHERING is January 27-29, and is 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/> Beginning next week, 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.

Pastor Jos will be out of town Sunday afternoon January 26 through January 30.

Happy Birthday

January 24 Becca Schuch
January 26 Olivia Brown



Sunday, February 9, plan to stay after worship and hear a recap of ministry from 2024, and what to look forward to in 2025.

January/February Calendar

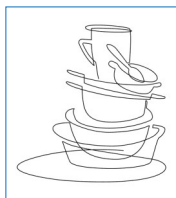
January 22 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
January 22 6:45 p.m. Music Team
January 26 Sunday morning worship and 2nd Hour
January 27 National Gathering in Dallas, Texas (thu 1/29)
January 28 7:30 p.m. The Grind (Men)
January 29 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
January 29 6:45 p.m. Music Team
February 2 Sunday morning worship and 2nd Hour
February 3 6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting
February 5 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
February 5 6:45 p.m. Music Team
February 7 6:30 p.m. First Friday (Women)
February 9 following worship - 2024 recap and 2025 Vision

2nd Hour Meets Following the Sunday 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.

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. Items not claimed by February 9 may be donated to Mission Thrift or Save N Serve. Thanks for your cooperation!



VOLUNTEERS FOR January 26

Greeters Beth Reed
Michelle Wood
Ushers Shad Swinehart & Brent St. John
Café Connie Herman
Nursery (Worship) Kim Morrow
Nursery (2nd Hour) Vickie Rhamy
Kidz Jam Sherri Machamer
Kids 2nd Hour Sherri Machamer
Elder Assist Claudia Ward
Safety Team Nick Miller

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

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

December 2024

YTD Operating Income	\$239,670.08
<u>YTD Operating Expense</u>	<u>\$228,710.60</u>
YTD Operating Gain/Loss	\$ 10,959.48
<u>YTD Other Income</u>	<u>\$34,610.84</u>
YTD Net Income	\$45,570.32
Unrestricted Funds	\$206,840.19