



After living in Chicago for a dozen years, I got used to some fairly big snowfalls; and still the snow we had this weekend was pretty significant! I watched out my windows all day Sunday as the snow piled up, first blanketing everything in white and then slowly the lawn chairs, small bushes and bottom rungs of fences started to disappear.

My favorite part about big snowfalls like the one we've just had is the silence. Have you ever noticed how *quiet* a heavy snowfall is? It's not just in your head. Science tells us that because snow is porous and fluffy it acts as a natural sound absorber, trapping sound waves in the spaces between the flakes. It's as if God decided the world was getting a little too noisy and hit the "mute" button.

And I don't know about you, but after some of the crazy of the past month, I needed a little quiet. In our usual lives, we don't often experience very much silence. We are more likely constantly hearing the hum of the traffic rumbling by, the buzz of our phones trying to get our attention or the sound of the shows on the screens in front of us.

And it's not even audible clamor that can be hard to escape, sometimes it's the internal drone of our to-do lists or the ringing of worries and frustrations in own heads. We live in a world of noise – inside and out. But when a heavy snow falls, the world can become hushed, inside and out. Our schedules change, things get cancelled and the pace of life slows down – even if for a day or two.

In Isaiah, the prophet says: "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow..." (Isaiah 1:18)

I used to think of this verse as a laundry metaphor—God scrubbing out the stains of mistakes and replacing them with the clean white of forgiveness. But looking at a snow-hushed street, I see it differently. "Let us settle the matter" isn't a forceful command; it's an invitation to a quiet conversation.

It can feel hard to "settle" anything when it seems like life is screaming at you. The normal pace of everyday living makes it hard to hear God's invitation to be with Him – to tell Him about our lives, our concerns or fears – yes, even our sin.

But we learn from the exiles, that talking to God about the broken, hard, scary, frustrating parts of life is exactly what God wants us to do. God invites us to lament, even to lament our own sin. The snow was a reminder to me that sometimes I need the quiet in order to do that lamenting – I need the pause from all the demands and the noise of the world so that I can hear God in the gentle conversation He offers.

I hope that you found some things to appreciate about these snowy days we've had – and that you're learning to follow the exile example of trust in God - even when things are hard. I pray that from time to time, we all hear God's quiet invitation, to settle things with Him, and to be reminded that His grace is there for us when we quiet down enough to hear it.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH CHURCH CAMP/MISSION TRIPS AVAILABLE

The Outreach team has set aside funds to provide up to \$250 in financial assistance toward Christian church camp registration expenses in 2026. Likewise, up to \$500 is available to support non-FPC mission trip expenses.



Kids and youth, if you are interested in a nearby summer camp, Camp Luz near Kidron offers a variety of Christ-centered camps for all ages. Talk to Veronica Styer for more information.

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:**
[\[https://www.facebook.com/fredericksburgpres\]](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.*

PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Praises

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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

- **Kay-leigh Botha—3yr old heart surgery today**
- Ben Reed - health concerns
- Edna Wade - health concerns
- Shelda Spurck - recovering from a stroke
- 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

- **John - end of life hospice care**
- 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 Janet Derr -
(Georganne Stevenson's mother)**

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

VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY 1

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

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

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.



Becoming a community that cultivates faith and faithfulness to Christ



January 31 - Matthew Smith
February 1 - Jay Haver
February 4 - Scott Schlauch



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



PRAYING FOR OUR PASTORS IN SIERRA LEONE



Albert Allen Kargbo
Director CCMSL

Pursuing: Pastors Degree
Age: 39

A significant portion of our church's mission budget goes to support students in a pastor training school in Sierra Leone. We have had a long-standing relationship with Pastor Albert (who coordinates these students) and his ministry efforts in his region of Sierra Leone. Among the support we offer are scholarships for students attending pastoral training. These pastors and ministers serve throughout the region, and FPC's support of these growing leaders means the good news will spread far beyond our little community here in Ohio. Your gifts to the church are helping cultivate faith and faithfulness to Christ all the way across the world!

But, our friends need more than just financial support – they need our prayers as well. Each week we will be featuring a different scholarship recipient and encouraging you to pray for them, their families and their training. The outreach team is also in touch with these pastors in training and is receiving personal prayer requests from each of them. How cool is it to know that we can support our friends in Sierra Leone through prayer and care?!? Please take some time each week to lift these fellow believers up in prayer.

This week we are praying for:

Pastor Albert Llen Kargbo – who coordinates community churches in Kakamba.

Albert has asked for: *"Prayers for my health and family. Challenges are many with me and my family."*

Women's Brunch January 24, 2026

