

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

Weekly Update January 31, 2024

Greetings from Greenville, South Carolina where the annual gathering of our denomination (ECO) is taking place this week. Eleven of us from Fredericksburg made the trip down south in order to attend the conference (called the National Gathering) that lasts until Thursday morning and is being held at First Presbyterian Church – Greenville.

I'm writing this on Tuesday night after our first full day of learning and connecting with our fellow ECO Presbyterians (there are more than 1500 attendees at this year's event!). A highlight so far is that we have had the opportunity to participate in some pretty amazing worship experiences. We attended the morning traditional worship time with a full choir, orchestra and beautiful pipe organ in an amazing worship space. And this evening, our group attended worship service led by a contemporary praise band that was fantastic as well. In between and all day long we were treated to teaching times, breakout sessions and lots of conversation and yummy food.



Most of all we are getting to experience the encouragement that comes from being with hundreds of fellow followers of Jesus. As I walk around the jam-packed hallways and squeeze into full meeting rooms I am reminded that God has truly blessed us with a healthy, wise and faithful denominational home. We are surrounded by church leaders who are serious about following Jesus, making disciples and serving the world. I am so glad that our church calls ECO its family.

Thank you for your prayers as we've been away this week, and I'm sure we'll have a lot more to share with you when we return!

Blessings –
Pastor Jos





February 1 - Jay Haver
 February 4 - Scott Schlauch
 February 7 - Kaylee Parrot

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons are in the process of organizing for 2024, and one of their goals is to encourage whole church participation in some of their ministries. Sunday there will be two clipboards passed around asking for volunteers for 2024. The first clipboard will have spaces for volunteers to sign up to assist with funeral meals.

The second clipboard is for volunteers willing to prepare a meal for someone (or a family) for a special need such as surgery, birth or other special occasions.

You can also reach out to any of the Deacons in charge of meals : Deb Hewitt or Beth Reed (funerals), Connie Herman or Wendy McKelvey (Special Occasions), or call the church office (330-695-2511) to volunteer.



This coming Sunday, February 4, Randy Smith will talk to us

about his pilgrimage across Spain last fall. He has photos to share from his 500-mile trek starting in Southern France and going across Northern Spain to visit the remains of the apostle James at the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela. He used an electric mountain bike for this journey. Be sure to come and hear about Randy's adventure (during second hour in the youth room).

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.



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:

- **Shannah Swinehart - Army National Guard**
- 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

- Unspokens
- Israel

Health Concerns:

- 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.

PRAYER COVERAGE

The next few weeks will be busy ones for the church, and for Pastor Jos. Let's keep her and us in prayer. Some areas for prayer:

- Pastor Jos (and several others from our congregation) are attending the National Gathering in Greenville, South Carolina this week. Keep this event in your prayers.
- The repairs and maintenance currently going on at the manse
- The Trustees in charge of the repairs and maintenance.
- For the church and Pastor Jos that we would be supportive in all ways as we get to know one another.
- For Pastor Jos, Session, Deacons and staff as they begin to learn about each other and form working relationships.

TAKING ROOT



Hey everybody - It's been a while! I wanted to let you all know that after a very busy 3 months, I've *finally* finished the final part in our blog series examining the flood as meditation literature. This article explores the parallels between *Noah & the flood* and *Lot & the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah* - [Check it out!](#)

More importantly, I wanted to reach out to all of you and ask **“What kind of articles YOU would be interested in reading in future Taking Root posts?”** Topics could include anything - broad biblical themes, specific Bible verses, the Bible's trustworthiness, Bible translations, common misconceptions, etc. Ultimately, I'm interested in writing what you are interested in reading! If you have a suggestion or idea for me, please email me at 15matthewsmith@gmail.com!

ARE YOU SKILLED

IN COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY?

FPC is seeking to add a part-time (20 hrs./month) Communications Director to the church staff. This role involves managing social media, updating our website, creating content, and work in graphic design. Reach out to Jeann in the FPC office soon to learn more and pick up a job description.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

- January 29-February 1 - National Gathering in Greenville, South Carolina (ECO)
- February 2 - 6:30 Ladies First Friday at the home of Shirley Swinehart. Bring a snack to share and a poem you have written or one that you enjoy.
- February 4 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship and communion
- February 6 - 6:30 p.m. Discipleship Team Mtg
- February 7 - 10:00 a.m. Women's G.L.O.W.
- February 7 - 6:30 p.m. Music team
- February 10 - 6:00 p.m. Euchre

ATTENTION G.L.O.W. LADIES considering the recent days of snow and cold and ice, please listen to the school closings on Wednesday mornings. If Southeast Local is closed, GLOW will not meet that day. You can also check in with Joyce Rhamy to verify.

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:

201 N. Mill St. Fredericksburg, Ohio 44627

Phone 330-695-2511

Email: fredpresby@gmail.com

Website: www.fredericksburgpres.org

Follow us on Facebook too!

Rev. Jocelyn Smolik

314-749-1315

jossmolik@gmail.com

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Church office hours

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