



The Weekly Update

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

July 8, 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

When I was a young child, my grandmother passed away. It was my first experience losing a loved one and as a second grader it can be hard to understand all of the traditions and customs that come along with funerals and grieving. I remember vividly that at the funeral home, they provided, small remembrance cards for Nanny. You've seen the kind of thing I'm talking about: they had her full name and her birth and death dates, with a picture of Jesus as a gentle looking shepherd. On the back of the card was the King James Version text of Psalm 23.

I didn't understand what the card was for. My parents told me that it was to remember my grandmother. This was strange to a young person, because it didn't seem likely I was going to forget her. But then I asked about the Scripture – why was there a Bible verse on there? "It was Nanny's favorite," I was told, and "reading it brings comfort when we miss her." That was when I learned that reading God's word was supposed to make us feel better.

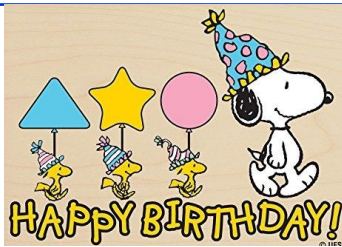
And so, as a grade schooler, I decided it would be wise to memorize that Scripture. To this day, the words of the twenty-third Psalm are still deep inside me. And you know what, my parents were right: it does bring comfort.

This summer, we've been listening to our fellow church members share with us their own favorite passages of Scripture; and something has really come across: Scripture isn't just a book we study, it's a living Word! Every "Sunday Best" has been a small testimony to something Christians have confessed for centuries: the Bible is not merely a record of God's past dealings with His people, but a present means by which He continues to work.

The Bible is God's own word to us, not just a book about Him. Paul tells Timothy that all Scripture is "breathed out by God" (2 Timothy 3:16). When we open the Bible, we're not reading someone's opinion about God, we're hearing from God himself. That's why a verse memorized decades ago can surface at exactly the right moment. It isn't coincidence; it's the Holy Spirit ministering to us and teaching us when we need it.

That's also why the Bible says that Scripture is alive, it doesn't just INFORM us, it FORMS us – it gives shape to our understanding of God and of ourselves. The Bible isn't a static text we master; in a real sense, it masters us: comforting, convicting, healing, teaching, etc. Psalm 119 says that God's Word is "a lamp to my feet and a light to my path". It's not a spotlight illuminating everything at once, but it gives us just enough light for the next step.

I can't wait to see where the rest of this series takes us; as more of you share some of your favorite passages of Scripture. I'm most excited, not that it gives us more insight into one another, but it gives us insight into God! These passages – Our Sunday Bests - are evidence; evidence that Scripture is still doing exactly what it has always done: revealing God, reshaping hearts, bringing comfort and writing each of us into a story much bigger than our own.



July 13 Brian Parrot
 July 15 Sis Donohue
 July 15 Emma Pfeifer
 July 15 Roger Stroud



July 9 - Bridget & Mike Rhamy
 July 11 - Mel & Kevin Walton

JULY CALENDAR

July 8 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W.
 July 8 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting
 July 8 6:45 p.m. Music Team
 July 12 Sunday morning worship. 2nd Hour for all.
 July 14 7:30 p.m. The Grind
 July 15 10 a.m. G.L.O.W.
 July 15 6:45 p.m. Music Team
 July 19 Sunday morning worship. NO 2nd Hour
 July 19 Retirement celebration/brunch following worship
 July 21 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
 July 22 10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W.
 July 22 6:45 p.m. Music Team tonight
 July 26 Sunday morning worship. 2nd Hour for all.
 July 26 Sunday morning worship. 2nd Hour for all.
 July 26 Sunday, Sundaes and Cinema! (details coming soon!)

VOLUNTEERS FOR JULY 12, 2028

Greeters Don & Joyce Rhamy
 Michelle Wood
Ushers Cody Daugherty
 Shad Swinehart
Café Shirley Swinehart
Nursery (Worship) Connie Herman
Nursery (2nd Hour) Melinda Moffitt
Kidz Jam Sherri Machamer
Kids 2nd Hour Sherri Machamer
Safety Team Duane Wood
Elder Assist Mike Rhamy



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

Praises

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

- **The Rittman community**
- Earthquake victims in Venezuela
- Camp Luz & other church camp campers
- Camper dealing with loss of friend
- Prayers for our military troops
- Prayers for our country
- Unspoken

Health Concerns

- Kirby Reed recovering from shoulder surgery
- Veronica Campbell - healing from knee replacement surgery
- Finley Smith - cardiologist & other testing
- Janet Lee - skin lupus
- Tonya Wade
- Emily Stephan
- Aaron Spencer
- Mike Covert
- Edna Wade
- Pat Thomson
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Chad Hinkle - leukemia
- Mike Sherrick
- Tom Jefferies - thyroid cancer
- Nelson's neighbor, Vickie
- Nicki
- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Condolences

- **The family of Enda Wade's brother, Bill**
- The family of Bessie Jefferson

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Retirement BRUNCH PARTY

IN HONOR OF

Jeann Burkey

Let's celebrate 26 AMAZING years with Jeann
as our faithful Church secretary!

**Sunday
July 19, 2026**

**following worship
Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church**

Join us for a BIG breakfast/brunch
meal and a time to thank and
celebrate all Jeann has done for our
church.

Now that we've eaten our hotdogs, waved our flags, watched some fireworks and/or parades, here's a bit of July 4th Trivia for you.

The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia Pennsylvania used to ring 13 times each Independence Day, however, because it is too fragile and has a crack, the Liberty Bell no longer rings. Instead of swinging the clapper, children who are descendants of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence ceremonially tap the bell 13 times at 2:00 PM (Eastern time), honoring the original 13 colonies.

National Bell Ringing: Coordinated with this tradition, bells across the United States ring out 13 times at 2:00 PM in what is known as the "Let Freedom Ring" National Bell Ringing Ceremony.

The Centennial Bell: While the actual Liberty Bell stays silent, the Centennial Bell (made in 1876 and located in the nearby Independence Hall tower) is still used to ring out the hours during Independence Day celebrations.



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->*



Becoming
a community
that cultivates
faith and
faithfulness
to Christ