



The Weekly Update

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

April 24, 2024

Last week in the update I shared a little about what a presbytery is and why it's good to be a member of one. I thought this week I might share about what our session is and what our session has been up to this year so far.

A "session" is what we call the currently-serving elders of a church when they meet as a group. There are nine ruling elders – they are nominated and elected by the congregation to serve three-year terms. Each year, three new elders are elected which means there are always three "classes" (like a high school graduating class), and every year we nominate three new elders for that year's "class." A church's session is moderated by the pastor; that means the pastor sets the agenda for meetings but does not vote on items except in the very rare times there is a tie vote.

Session meets at least once a month and has many different kinds of items on its agenda. For example session reviews reports from our ministry teams, it oversees the staff and the many committees that do the work of our congregation, it receives financial reports, it votes on motions and requests regarding church policy and governance, it appoints representatives to presbytery and denominational meetings and it troubleshoots motions from groups who may need some help or direction in ministry at the church.

According to our polity (that's the world for church governance) the session has a handful of clear obligations in leading and guiding the church among these: it is responsible for overseeing the mission of the church in making disciples, it is responsible for providing worship services where the Word of God is proclaimed, the sacraments are rightly celebrated and discipline is present. (You can learn more about our polity by visiting: <https://eco-pres.org/constitution/> - section 1.06 deals specifically with a church's session.)

But, I believe - and your session elders do to - that the most important job we do is pray for our congregation and consider how God wants us to grow, serve and represent Him in our community. The most critical work our session does is care for the spiritual health of our church. What a gift to know that God has set apart our elders to listen for His voice and to lead as He directs!

To get an idea of the work Session has been doing lately, here are some key action items from our meeting last week.

- Received a report from safety team and approved a request to update and replace equipment that helps keep our campus secure
- Discussed and approved spending for critical and necessary repairs at the manse
- Affirmed and celebrated the Adult Discipleship team's recommendation to continue Second hour groups through June and July and take a pause in August to restart with Fall Kickoff in September

If you ever want to know more about what is happening in Session, please feel free to ask me or any elder; we'd love to share about what's going on and how you can best be praying for the work that God is doing in our church.

Pastor Jos



Here's the youth group schedule through the end of this school year. Be sure to join in!

May 5: Pastor Jos will lead. And, we'll celebrate Josiah's 18th b-day a day late.

May 12: Mother's Day--under Mary Ann Henderson's leadership, we're going to make something for the Moms in the kitchen. We're trying to keep the actual treat a surprise, but have several options for you to pick from, so see Michelle or Mary Ann if you plan to participate!

May 19: Tailgate party and yard games in the church side lawn.

May 26: Memorial Day weekend, no second hour. Wyatt's grad party will be at the church from 4:30-7:00ish--all are invited!

Stay tuned for summer info. And remember, we are going to decorate a float for the July 4 parade!

GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL and COLLEGE SENIORS...

If you are a graduating high school or college senior, or if you have a graduating high school or college senior in your immediate family, the church office would like to recognize them during the worship service **on May 19**. If you could supply Secretary Jean with a Senior or recent photo, that would be great! We'd also like to know what after graduation plans are - College? Trade school? Career plans?



A Reminder About Scheduling

A reminder to all Ministry Teams and groups that meet at the church; please check with the office when scheduling a meeting. We'd like to know who is in the building and when. This avoids conflicts over space and facilities. We can also put your meeting in the newsletter/bulletin to serve as a reminder to people on your team.

Following your meeting, please be sure to turn off all the lights and make sure the door locks behind you. Your cooperation is much appreciated!



Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

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 - stationed in Dayton, OH

Prayer Needs

- **Unspokens**
- Yoder family - fire
- Annie Hines - going through tough times
- Israel

Health Concerns:

- **Pastor Albert - motorcycle/vehicle accident**
- Dorinda Hoff - fractured foot
- Don Rutt - health concerns
- Dan Rutt - health concerns
- Carter Gasser - ATV accident/multiple surgeries to save his foot
- Lee Hunter
- Mike Rhamy's upcoming surgery
- Rick Spencer - heart issues, health concerns
- Melodie's mother Carol - fluid on lungs
- Pastor Cory - recovering from heart attack
- Kevin Walton recovering from heart surgery
- Al Amstutz - Parkinson's Disease,
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Unnamed person newly diagnosed/w cancer
- David
- Keylee recently diagnosed with leukemia
- Jonathan - stomach cancer
- Marianna Miller
- Kevin Hanna
- Mary Hardesty - colon cancer
- Tara
- Dale James

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

May 2 - Lydia Bee
May 3 - Jeann Burkey
May 4 - Josiah Styer
May 6 - Beth Collins



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 4 - Heidi & Mark Yacapraro

CALENDAR FOR MAY

- May 3 - 6:30 p.m. First Friday (Ladies)
- May 5 - Sunday morning worship and Communion. 2nd Hour for all ages
- May 8 - 10 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
- May 8 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- May 8 - 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting
- May 8 - 7:30 p.m. Congregational Life Mtg.
- May 12 - Sunday morning worship and 2nd Hour for all ages
- May 12 - Happy Mother's Day
- May 15 - 10 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
- May 15 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- May 19 - Sunday morning worship and 2nd Hour for all.
- May 22 - 10 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)



Shawn McKelvey
2024
Ohio Fire Officer of the Year.
Congratulations!
Thank you for all you do
to serve our Community.