

WEEKLY UPDATE

March 18,
2026

In the summer of 2019 I led 25 students and adults to Jackson, Mississippi on a mission trip. I thought it would be a pretty normal summer adventure, but it turned out to be one of the most spiritually significant weeks of my life. While there we met a family who truly lived out the Gospel and who encouraged, challenged and spurred us on to do the same. We had come to serve with a partner organization called the John and Vera May Perkins Foundation; and instead, WE were the ones who were served, blessed and ministered to.

I didn't know much about John Perkins before we went to Mississippi. I knew he was a well-respected evangelical civil rights leader who loved Jesus and advocated for racial reconciliation and justice. He did this by (among MANY other things) authoring multiple books, leading a Christian movement for racial justice, serving his needy community faithfully and hosting groups like us. And John took the role of host SERIOUSLY.

John was already an elderly man at the time – in his late eighties – but he faithfully obeyed God's call on His life and took his valuable time to invest in some random church folks from Illinois. He joined us for many meals, came to the host home he opened for us and shared with us the story of his life. He even opened his personal home to us, inviting us to visit him for his weekly Bible study in his own living room.

In the days of interacting with John and his family, we learned first-hand how he had suffered in truly unspeakable ways from the horrors of the Jim Crow south. Despite his suffering, John was absolutely convinced that Jesus was the one who empowered forgiveness, restoration, reconciliation and love for our enemies. John sat with us for hours and taught us about the love of Jesus, as one who had experienced that love in ways we couldn't imagine. John and his family left a lasting impact on me and on many of us on that trip. I stayed in minimal contact with John and his family over the years, sometimes invited to participate in zoom Bible studies, or keeping up-to-date on the meaningful community work they were doing among the seriously poor in Mississippi. Always remembering what I learned from him and how God used his witness to strengthen my faith and to open my eyes to the need for racial justice in our world.

I share all of this with you because John passed away last Friday. I had heard John had entered hospice; but it was still a sad piece of news to learn of his homegoing.

One of the most profound things John taught us is something I think about on a near weekly basis. John had been working on a book about friendship during our visit, and one early morning in his living room he began to share about the friendship he experienced from Jesus. Jesus, John said, is the best friend we can have. With a passion I will never be able to replicate, John shared how being friends with God is the thing that sustains Him through his life, his suffering, his ministry and his future. This wasn't an abstract concept to John – John truly considered Jesus a friend and urged us to open our eyes to the truth that Jesus WANTS to be our friend; we have only to take Him up on the offer.

You can learn more about the John and Vera Mae Perkins Foundation by visiting: <https://jvmpf.org/>

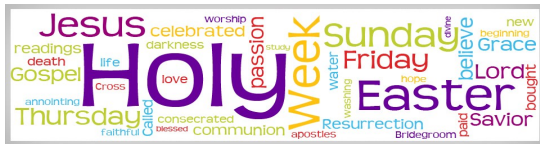


SEASONS BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, here's your invitation to join Seasons Bible study Tuesdays 6-7:30pm at the church. We will be starting a new study March 31 - None Like Him: 10 ways God is different from Us by Jen Wilkin. Cost of the books is \$6. Contact Claudia Ward if you are interested or have questions - 330-466-3417. Join us as we grow our faith, draw closer to one another and Him, and ... eat yummy snacks! Hope to see you there!



It's not too late!! We are having a choir of people sing one number during the Easter Sunday service. If you didn't get to sign up, it's not too late! Just come to practice Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. and sing with us!! Or, you can reach out to Pastor Jos. We'd love to have you.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 29 - Palm Sunday. Worship Service at our regular time. 2nd Hour for all.

April 2 - Maundy Thursday. 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

April 5 - Community Easter Sunrise Service will take place at 630 a.m. at East Cemetery, and everyone is invited back to the Church of Christ for breakfast following the Sunrise Service.

April 5 - Easter Morning 10 a.m. worship service here at FPC. Nursery and Children's Church will be available.

Please note: There is no 2nd Hour on Easter Sunday.

Who are you inviting to the Easter Service?



The Deacons are putting together a list of people in the church willing to assist with funeral meals in **2026**. Assisting comes in the form of providing a specific food item or helping with the set-up, or the serving or the clean-up. The Deacons are also putting together a list of people who would be willing to provide a meal in case of a special need such as surgery, births or other special occasions. You can sign-up for either or both on the sheets on the table in the Gallery



Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

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

- Prayers for our military troops
- College students traveling on spring break
- Josiah's friend Mikey - feeling burdened
- Prayers for our country
- Unspoken

Health Concerns

- **Jessica - high risk pregnancy, baby due 3/20**
- Mike Covert
- Genevieve's grandmother surgery this week
- Connie McKelvey (and family)
- Melinda Moffitt - upcoming surgery
- Mike Covert's grandson Spencer - surgery and recovery
- Larry Oxenrider - surgery and recovery
- Cindi Doll - brain aneurysm
- Edna Wade - health concerns
- Susan (James) Halliday
- Mark Lemon - cont'd prayers for progress
- Pat Thomson
- Jane Heilman

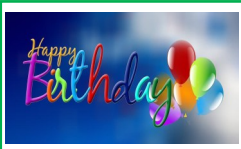
Battling Cancer

- Mike Sherrick - lung cancer
- Mariann Stutzman - pancreatic cancer
- Nicki
- Janet Lee
- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Condolences

- **The family of Connie McKelvey**
- **The family of John Welsh**
- The family of Wilda McDaniel

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



March 19 - Mike Rhamy
 March 22 - Ean Miller
 March 25 - Shannah Swinehart



March 19 - Sharon & Dale Cramer

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
Frank Morrow	330-201-4847
Earl Rhamy	330-988-4285
Mike Rhamy	330-464-0961
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>



Becoming
 a community
 that cultivates
 faith and
 faithfulness
 to Christ

MARCH CALENDAR

March 19	7pm Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)
March 22	Sunday morning worship & 2nd Hour for all
March 23	7 pm Lenten Bible Study
March 24	6 pm Seasons Study
March 24	7:30 pm The Grind
March 25	10 am G.L.O.W.
March 25	6:45 pm Music Team
March 26	7pm Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)
March 29	Palm Sunday Worship and 2nd Hour for all
March 30	7 pm Lenten Bible Study
March 31	6 pm Seasons Study

VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH 22

Greeters	Beth Reed Delores Schlegel
Ushers	Reid & Shawn McKelvey
Café	Wendy McKelvey
Nursery (Worship)	Kim Morrow
Nursery (2nd Hour)	Vickie Rhamy
Kidz Jam	Bridget Rhamy
Kids 2nd Hour	Bridget Rhamy
Safety Team	Cody Daugherty
Elder Assist	Angie Chapman

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

February 2026

YTD Offering	\$29,607.51
YTD Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$48,877.52</u>
YTD Net Operating Income	-\$19,270.01
YTD Net Other Income/Loss	-\$24,296.12
(Includes ; Interest, rents, special donations, gain or loss on investments)	
YTD Net Income	-\$43,566.13
(Operating income plus other income)	
Available Funds	\$191,920.48
(This represents any funds available to FPC which session has not set aside for a specific purpose)	



PRAYING FOR OUR PASTORS IN SIERRA LEONE



Michael Emmanuel Samura
Village of Kadabie

Pursuing: Pastors Degree
Age: 33

This week (March 18 – March 24) we are praying for: **Michael Emmanuel Samura with Kadabie Church**. Michael shares three prayer requests with us: 1. “to have a church (building) for my community.” 2. To also make the people of the community visit church any week. 3. “let the children like the Words of God”. 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.



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!

