



Weekly Update

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

March 8, 2023

Hello Church Family!

This isn't Pastor Nancy; this is Matt Smith. Nancy asked me to write this after I approached her after the service last Sunday. Nancy and I have had the opportunity to have some fun conversations about things like theology, Biblical themes, how we ought to read the Bible, etc. Something that I've said a few times in our conversations is that *"Everything in the Bible points back to the first few chapters of Genesis. One way or another, it always leads you back there."* After her sermon last Sunday, I just had to pull her aside because the vineyard parable of Matthew 21 is just *dripping* with symbolism and parallels to early Genesis. Before we move on, I'd encourage you to read through [Matthew 21:33-44](#) with this context in mind. Now let's connect this parable to Genesis:

Jesus tells us of a landowner who planted a vineyard (Genesis 2:8-9). The landowner brought people to work the land that was his (Genesis 2:15-17, 1:26-30). There was even a watchtower so the workers could watch over the vineyard (Genesis 2:15). But when harvest came, the people chose not to honor the one who rightfully has authority over the vineyard, the fruit, and the workers, instead choosing to do what is good in their own eyes. They saw the fruit that was not theirs to take and took it for themselves (Genesis 3:6). The vineyard workers even wanted to *"take his inheritance"* (Genesis 3:4-5). The parallels to Eden are abundant, aren't they?

The Bible is meditation literature. Meditation literature is written in a way that forces the reader to seriously contemplate what a given passage is trying to convey. It is ripe with symbolism, parallels to other stories, thematic archetypes, repeated phrases, while details are left intentionally ambiguous. This forces you to read it over and over, constantly pondering it, and learning to interpret each part of the Bible in light of other parts by treating it as a unified text. Psalm 1 says *"How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night."*

People often talk about how the Bible is hard to understand. Well, that's okay. You're not *supposed* to understand the meaning of meditation literature the first time you read it. It's by design. But when one devotes their life to reading and pondering these texts, you begin to get a really robust picture of what the Bible teaches, and how it teaches it. We could dig much deeper into this topic, but Nancy said I wasn't allowed to write a 13-page essay for the weekly update (boo!). So, if you are to have one take-away, let it be this:

The Bible almost never *tells* you what it means. Instead, it *shows* you.





March 9 - Adelynn Kidd
 March 10 - Mary Lee Wirick
 March 14 - Anita Spencer
 March 14 - Logan King



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

UPDATED YOUTH SCHEDULE (grades 7-12)

March 12: "Bluebird Bash Part 1." During the second hour we'll prep bluebird nesting boxes to install along the Holmes County Trail as a community outreach project. We already have the boxes (built by Triway FFA). Bluebirds have lots of predators, so we'll be using various tools to fasten predator guards to the mounting posts to give them a better chance of success. Meet in the youth room. Bring leather gloves if you have some since we will be working with wire/hardware cloth.

March 19: "Bluebird Bash Part 2." We'll install our bluebird boxes along the Holmes County Trail after church as a community outreach project. Feel free to invite friends to help us out! We'll plan to leave from the church at 10:45 or after the worship service. This will probably take longer than just the second hour so we'll have packed lunches we can eat on the trail. Wear old clothes and shoes and bring gloves. If you need a ride home after we are done let Michelle know. We should be done by 1:00 at the latest.

Military Service:

- Isaiah Styer - in Norway
- Gavin Bee - Turkey
- Rusty King - in the Middle East
- Jeff & Veronica's nephew in National Guard

Prayer Needs

- Batha - traveling back from Zimbabwe & her new work
- Palestine, OH & train derailment
- Earthquake in Turkey
- Darcy's search for a new job.
- UNSPOKENS!

Health Concerns:

- **Kingston Douglas - recovering from surgery**
- Tina Hurt - heart attack
- Mary Fry - infection in knee.
- Doc Gwin - health concerns
- Mike Covert - recovering from heart attack
- Edna's brother holding his own on hospice
- Lillian Duncan - non cancerous brain tumors
- George & Jane Ann Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Leslie Carr - completed chemo - prayers for good report
- Dale & Tonya
- Heather
- Bill
- Andrew Miller - 7 years old.
- Kacen's grandma, Susie Parrot - inoperable brain tumor
- Bonnie Stryker - breast cancer
- Dale James
- Herb Martin - stage 4 lung cancer

Condolences

- The family of Beverly Wood
- The family of Mike (Adam's co-worker)
- The family of Barry Henderson's aunt (mother's sister)
- The family of Rhonda Burkey

SET YOUR CLOCKS
 AHEAD THIS
 WEEKEND!

*Spring forward
 You must...*



*Or late to church
 you will be...*

2022 Annual Church Reports are now available. Folks with email will receive a copy along with this newsletter. Hard copies will be available on the table in the Gallery, or you can call the church office and a copy will be mailed to you.

Get Your Easter Flowers! The order form is located on the sign-up table in the gallery. The cost varies from \$6 for mini daffodils to \$22 for a hanging fern basket. Details are on the table with the order form. Be sure to list who the flower is in honor or memory of. And please include payment with your order. Final day to order is March 19. You can take your flowers home with you following the Easter morning service.



CALENDAR FOR MARCH

- March 8 - 6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting
- March 8 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- March 8 - 6:30 p.m.—Trustees Meeting
- March 12 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Worship
- March 12 - 2nd Hour for all. Table talk discussion about the sermon topic meets in the Fellowship Hall
- March 12 - Youth Bluebird Bash
- March 15 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW Ladies
- March 15 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- March 19 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship
- March 19 - 2nd Hour for all. Table talk discussion about the sermon topic meets in the Fellowship Hall

Do you have questions or concerns or just curious about something within the church? You are invited to reach out to our Church Elders:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Joe Chupp | 330-466-5305 |
| Beth Miller | 513-319-6447 |
| Paul Miller | 330-465-8329 |
| Earl Rhamy | 330-988-4285 |
| Steve Schlegel | 330-317-3898 |
| Matt Smith | 330-464-4698 |
| Adam Swinehart | 330-641-1575 |
| Claudia Ward | 330-466-3417 |
| Randy Wirick | 330-473-2362 |

To contact church leaders & staff:

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. Nancy Dumford
614-425-2552
nancydumford@gmail.com

* * * * *

Church Office Hours
 Monday thru Friday
 9:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Maple Syrup
 open house
 March 12, 2023
 10am-5pm

- Maple Syrup tours
- Ice Cream
- Maple Syrup for sale
- Free admission
- Kids activities
- Bake sale

Pleasant Hill Outdoor Camp
 4654 Pleasant Hill Rd,
 Perrysville OH

Pleasant Hill Outdoor Center’s Annual Maple Syrup Open House is this Sunday, March 12 from 10 am to 5 pm. Included in the menu is pancakes, sausage, and ice cream. Camp and maple syrup making tours will be offered. The meal is free, but donations are appreciated. Maple syrup sales and all donations will go toward the camp scholarship fund. The address for the camp is 4654 Pleasant Hill Rd. Perrysville, OH. Come enjoy a Sunday afternoon in the woods.

- Free admission
- Kids activities
- Bake sale

