

# Update

I don't know about you guys, but I hear something over and over from people: they are TIRED! People are busy and hurried and going, going, going. Many people are worn out. But I think this isn't just physical tiredness, though that's there, too; but a deeper weariness that comes from constantly feeling evaluated, awkward or on edge around other people. We often have conversations or interactions that can make us feel drained. Sometimes we say "no" to activities and connections just because we know it will be exhausting and might make us feel small or hurt. We carry a low-grade sense that social settings are demanding, and we'd rather just be at home than commit to activities that will leave us feeling even MORE tired and exhausted.

Into our modern disconnected reality the New Testament drops an almost startling instruction: Let your gentleness be evident to all (Philippians 4:5).

Not your productivity. Not your convictions. Not even your generosity, though all of those matter. Your gentleness is the quality of your presence. It's the way it actually feels to be around you – let THAT be a soft place that's OBVIOUS to others.

We don't talk about this enough. Our culture has a complicated relationship with softness. We prize boldness, efficiency and directness. But somewhere along the way, we filed "gentleness" under weakness and moved on. The result is that many of us, even well-meaning, kind-hearted people aren't prioritizing "gentleness".

Think about the people in your life whose presence genuinely relaxes you. You're not performing for them. You're not bracing for a critique. When their name shows up on your phone, you don't feel a knot in your stomach, but you feel a small lift.

That is a person who is gentle, and that gentleness is a cultivated character trait. Those people have made small choices: to listen rather than respond, to stay curious rather than evaluate and to let things be imperfect without drawing attention to it. Gentleness, as the Bible tells it, is a daily decision about how we will hold ourselves toward others.

The remarkable thing about Jesus is that He chose this as a defining self-description. Not powerful. Not righteous. Not holy, though He is all of those things. He said: "I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29). He wanted His presence to be comfortable, not harsh.

We can live into being the gentle people God wants us to be. Not through gritting our teeth and trying harder to be nice, but through remembering the gentleness of Jesus and seeking to be more like Him.

This week, consider one small experiment: pay attention to whether people seem to relax or tighten when you enter the room. Not to judge yourself, but just to notice. Gentleness begins with awareness, and awareness is what we can bring to God in prayer. The world tells us to be impressive. Scripture invites us to be gentle!

## MAY CALENDAR

May 14	Outreach Team Meeting (time TBA)
May 14	7 pm Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)
May 17	Sunday morning worship & 2nd Hour
May 18	6:30 pm Deacons Meeting
May 18	7 pm VBS teaching-core meeting
May 19	6 pm Seasons Study
May 19	7 pm Session Meeting
May 20	10 am G.L.O.W.
May 20	6:45 pm Music team
May 21	7 pm Intercessory Prayer
May 23	7 am - 11 am Boy scout Pancake Breakfast
May 24	Sunday morning worship <b>NO 2nd Hour</b>
May 25	Memorial Day - church office closed
May 26	6 pm Seasons Study
May 26	7:30 pm The Grind
May 27	10 am G.L.O.W.
May 27	6:45 pm Music Team
May 28	7 pm Finance Team Meeting
May 28	7 pm Intercessory Prayer
May 31	Sunday morning worship & 2nd Hour



## 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 later in May. 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?

## VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY 17

<b>Greeters</b>	Abby Rhamy Marcy Speelman
<b>Ushers</b>	Brent St. John Keith Hewitt
<b>Café</b>	Adam Swinehart
<b>Nursery (Worship)</b>	Wendy McKelvey
<b>Nursery (2nd Hour)</b>	Jenny Miller
<b>Kidz Jam</b>	Bridget Rhamy
<b>Kids 2nd Hour</b>	Bridget Rhamy
<b>Safety Team</b>	Gary Graham
<b>Elder Assist</b>	Beth Miller

May 15	Steven King
May 18	Vickie Rhamy
May 20	Gerald Stephan



# PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

### Praises

- **For answered prayers regarding health issues for Randy Wirick, & congregation sending cards and prayers**
- **Claudia's sister Deb's surgery and outcome**
- **Edna's sister's answer to prayer**

**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

- **Carla Oxenrider in the loss of her husband**
- Prayers for our military troops
- Prayers for our country
- Unspoken

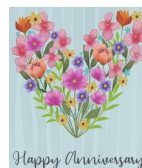
### Health Concerns

- **Janet Lee - skin lupus**
- **Laura Scott**
- **Craig Walton - congestive heart failure**
- Tonya Wade
- Emily Stephan
- Aaron Spencer
- Mike Covert
- Edna Wade
- Susan (James) Halliday
- Pat Thomson
- Jane Heilman

### Battling Cancer

- **Mike Sherrick - lung cancer surgery May 12**
- **Mariann Stutzman - end of life- family called in**
- Tom Jefferies - thyroid cancer
- Nelson's neighbor, Vickie
- Nicki
- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma

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



May 17 Kim & Frank Morrow

# Save the Date Vacation Bible School

When: June 15<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00–8:15pm

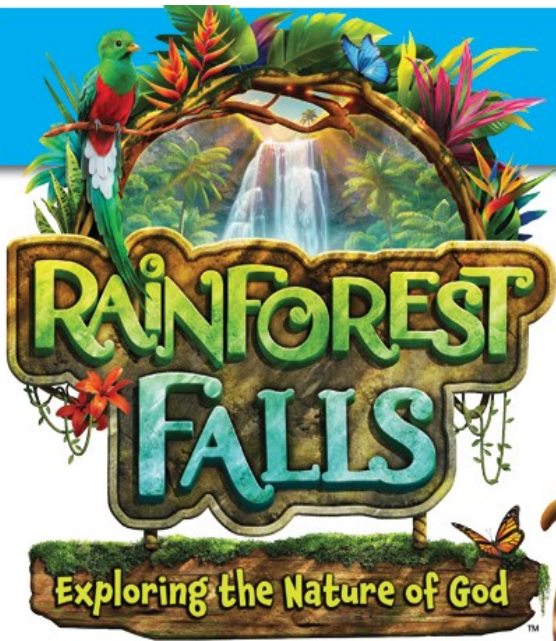
Where: Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

Who: KIDS! (Age 3 by January 1<sup>st</sup> through current 5<sup>th</sup> graders)

Cost: **FREE!**

Register information will be available at a later date.

(Registration is appreciated, but walk-ins welcome!)



FREDERICKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 201 N. Mill Street  
Fredericksburg, OH 44627



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

— ★ SCOUT ★ —  
**TROOP 66**  
**PANCAKE**  
*Breakfast*  
★ FUNDRAISER ★

AVAILABLE FOR BOTH  
DINE-IN  
AND  
TAKE OUT  
★ ★ ★

Enjoy a hot breakfast and support our local scouts!

 **SATURDAY,  
MAY 23, 2026**  
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

 **FREDERICKSBURG  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
201 N Mill St  
Fredericksburg, Ohio

 Bring your family, friends,  
and appetite!

 Enjoy pancakes, good company,  
and a chance to give back to  
the community.

 **DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED  
TO FUND OUR YEARLY ACTIVITIES.**

 **SCOUT TROOP 66**  
★ AND THEIR ACTIVITIES. ★

*All proceeds support*

**Come HUNGRY.  
Leave HAPPY.**





FREDERICKSBURG  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# JOIN OUR TEAM!

## NOW HIRING: Administrative Director

FPC is looking for a part-time (25-30 hours per week) faithful disciple of Christ who combines a servant's heart with high-level administrative and technical proficiency. This role is a vital resource for leadership, congregation and community and will facilitate coordination of ministries.



### RESPONSIBILITIES (include but are not limited to):

- Primary point person and expert for the church database
- Proactively maintain and oversee both the church ministry and building calendars
- Oversee digital and physical environments
- Maintain high-level of comfort with digital programs
- Possess administrative and secretarial competency

To learn more about this position and/or to apply, please email a cover letter and current resume to: [jsmolik@fredericksburgpres.org](mailto:jsmolik@fredericksburgpres.org)

Becoming a community that cultivates faith and faithfulness to Christ

## PRAYING FOR OUR PASTORS IN SIERRA LEONE



**Abu Bakarr Bangura**  
Village of Kukuna

Pursuing: Pastors Degree  
Age: 33

This week (May 13 – May 19) we are praying for: Abu Bakarr Bangura with Kakuna Church. Abu has a specific request – he says, “I need a prayer as I am not well and also am not active with my feet now, even to walk for a few distance is very disturbing. Please pray also for my family and the development of my school.”

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.