



Fredericksburg
Presbyterian Church
Weekly Update
November 22, 2023

Thanksgiving Greetings FPC,

*Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
Your king is coming!
a good king who makes all things right,
a humble king riding on a donkey.
[Zech. 9:9 RR,MSG]*

This verse is usually a prophetic word for Palm Sunday, but it rings true at all times, and especially on the cusp of Thanksgiving, headed towards Advent. We will soon sit for a meal, in the presence of family (hopefully), and even as we give thanks, we may be aware that all is not right. The pains of the fall, separate us from steadfast peace and harmony. And so we long for “a good king who makes all things right.”

And we know that this king comes, he did come and he will return again - a reason for rejoicing. So be the turkey a little dry, the conversation a little taxing, the loneliness ever ready to pounce... be of good cheer. “Rejoice heart and soul,” be free to “shout with gladness” because make no mistake, our good king comes. And when he does, our circumstances and response to our circumstances will change. We are people of hope, a living, eternal hope. May that be a reason for thanksgiving in the days to come.

I can't wait to see you on Sunday. It will be another action-packed worship as we receive new Covenant Partners, dedicate and baptize two of our youngest at FPC, and light the first candle of Advent. Yes, it is one week early, for those who follow these liturgical nuances, but I just can't light the fourth candle and the Christ candle on the same day (12/24). So we break the rules for the sake of tradition!

Our Advent series is called “Making Room” and we will wander through the stories found in Luke 1 of Zechariah, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, and Mary, even as we wonder about the things we desire to find space for in our crowded lives.

Then on December 2-3, we will host Pastor Jocelyn Smolik for a “Candidating Weekend.” Join us Saturday for an open house style Meet and Greet from 4 - 7 PM in the Gallery. On Sunday, come hear Pastor Jos preach during worship, and stay for the congregational meeting and vote afterwards. We will know the outcome of the vote as the meeting concludes.

So much life to share, lets seek to dwell with one another this holiday season.

May the blessings of God Almighty be yours this week,

Pastor Nancy



Happy Birthday!

November 27 - Molly Parrot
 November 30 - Jeff Styer
 December 01 - Steven Machamer
 December 02 - Brayden Kidd
 December 06 - Mel Walton
 December 06 - Sydnee Stidham

Youth Group 2nd Hour Schedule

November 26: Church wide Christmas decorating during the second hour-- no youth group.

January 19&20: MCA and Martins Creek Menonite Church have invited our youth to participate in The WKND retreat. I will pass along more info when I get it!

Join us Sunday, November 26 following worship for a time of fellowship, and preparing the church for Advent and Christmas.



There will be no second hour that morning. Following worship, everyone will decorate the church for Christmas. Then we'll gather together as a church family to decorate the tree. We'll play Christmas Carols and enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies along with some fun and fellowship. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

Do you enjoy planning outings & gatherings?

The ladies First Friday Group is looking for some leadership for 2024. You can talk to Tanya Chupp for more information.



Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Military Service:

- 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 - Turkey

Prayer Needs

- Tuscarawas Valley High School and Community
- Israel
- Unspokens

Health Concerns:

- Rob Striebe - complications from diabetes**
- Edna's brother - heart issues
- Brian Baker - surgery on burns from fire
- Wayne County Care Center - many w/Covid
- Theresa Smith - move to retirement facility
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Leslie Carr - chemo
- Mary Hardesty - colon cancer
- Tara
- Susan Halliday - Sherri Machamer's sister
- David Stoltzfus - Sherri Machamer's nephew
- Cole Hubacher - 11 yr. old battling cancer
- Michael & Belinda Witt (Michael has cancer)
- Linda Snyder (ECO Pastor)
- Laurie Miller
- Steve Gordon
- Andrew Miller
- Bill Opie
- Sonya Griffen
- Bonnie Stryker
- Dale James

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



Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for next Sunday, December 3 after worship. We will vote on the call of Rev. Jocelyn Smolik to our church. Let's continue to pray for

both Jos and the last steps in this process.

Also, Next Sunday, we will be voting on our church officers for 2024. Nominated as Elder: Angie Chapman, Darcy Miller and John Scott. Nominated for Deacon: Jim & Candi Kinney, Connie Herman (for one-year term), Barry Henderson and Scott Schlauch.

We will not have KidzJam on December 3.

All the kids of KidzJam age will remain in the sanctuary for the entire service. We will still offer a nursery for those little ones 3 and under. Feel free to bring a coloring book or other quiet activity for the kids who will remain in the service.

Office closed – The church office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday November 23 & 24. The office will be closed Nov. 27 – Dec. 1.

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER-

- Nov. 23 - Happy Thanksgiving
- Nov. 24 - Church office closed
- Nov. 26 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship
- Nov. 26 9:30 a.m. - Reception of new Covenant Partners
- Nov. 26 - 9:30 a.m. Dedication of Finley Oliver Smith Baptism of Theron Michael Swinehart
- Nov. 27 - 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- Nov. 28 - 7:00 p.m. The Grind (Men's Group)
- Nov. 29 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (Women)
- Nov. 29 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Dec. 02 - 4-7 p.m. Meet & Greet in the Fellowship Hall with Rev. Jocelyn Smolik
- Dec. 03 - Sunday morning worship. Rev. Smolik will be speaking.
- Dec. 03 - Congregational Meeting to vote on receiving Rev. Smolik as our pastor and to vote on the church officers for 2024.
- Dec. 5 - Fredericksburg Cookie Walk
- Dec. 6 - 10:0 a.m. GLOW (women)
- Dec. 6 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Dec. 9 - 6:00 p.m. Euchre

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Oh, Heavenly Father,
We thank Thee for food
and remember the hungry.

We thank Thee for health
and remember the sick.

We thank Thee for friends
and remember the friendless.

We thank Thee for freedom
and remember the enslaved.

May these remembrances
stir us to service.

That Thy gifts to us
may be used for others. Amen.

Abigail VanBuren

Over the River & Through the Wood

Over the river and through the woods,
To grandmother's house we go;
The horse knows the way
to carry the sleigh,
Through white and drifted snow!

Over the river and through the woods,
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes and bites the nose,
As over the ground we go.

Over the river and through the woods,
Now Grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!

Did you know? "Over the River and Through the Wood" was originally published in 1844 as a poem written by Lydia Maria Child. The poem was published in Child's book of poems *Flowers for Children*, Volume 2, and was originally titled "The New-England Boy's Song about Thanksgiving Day." In time, Child's poem was set to music by an unknown composer, and over the years many children have grown up singing the song in school or community holiday programs.

Traditionally "Over the River and Through the Wood" is sung as a Thanksgiving song, in which the original lyrics say, "Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!" Another lyrical change was that the original poem read "Grandfather's house" rather than "Grandmother's house." The original poem also contained 12 verses.