



November Weekly Update November 26, 2025

This past Sunday we reflected on the idea that Thanksgiving is a time to remember, not just **what** we are thankful *for*, but **whom** we are thankful *to*! Gratitude is the proper response to the abundance of God; so this week, I wanted to use this space to thank God for FPC!

Here are just some of the things about our church that I am thankful to God for -

- I am thankful that God has made our church a place where worshiping and glorifying Jesus is the most important thing we do. FPC always puts Jesus first.
- I am thankful for the hunger I see among us to know Jesus better and to be grounded in His word. We believe Scripture has authority over us, and it is a blessing to share that commitment amongst us all.
- I am thankful for the legacy of faith represented at FPC. This church has faithfully proclaimed the good news of Jesus for centuries, and it is a blessing to be a part of that legacy.
- I am thankful for our church officers – our session elders lead with a desire to see God glorified and the ministry and mission of the church flourish. And our deacons lead with care and diligence. Our church is blessed to have so many people guiding us with faithfulness and love.
- I am thankful for the MANY people who regularly give their time to make our church operate – from our paid staff (I’m thankful for Jeann, Dean and Jenny) to the dozens of individuals who run our ministries, serve on teams, keep the books, teach Bible studies, care for the building, lead in worship, and so much more. This church is blessed with people who give of themselves for the benefit of all – each of them is a gift from God to us.
- I am thankful for the ways that God is opening doors for us to meet the needs of our local community **and** the needs of our mission partners around the world. And I am grateful for an Outreach Team that is pouring itself into efforts to help us all connect and care for others.
- I am thankful for those among us who sacrificially give to the work of the church. The tithes and offerings given to FPC are a blessing from the Lord, who uses our financial gifts to ensure the ministry of the church can flourish.
- I am thankful that there are more things to be thankful for than I can possibly list; and that there are things to be thankful for that I don’t even know about. God is abundantly good.
- Most importantly – I am thankful for God’s presence among us. I sense that God is leading us into a season of deepening commitment, spiritual growth and service to others. I am thankful that we are focused on becoming a community that cultivates faith and faithfulness to Christ.

I hope this week that you join me in thanking God for our FPC family!

ADVENT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE



December can get pretty crazy and hectic. There are holiday concerts, parties, shopping, cookie baking, decorating and so many other responsibilities that keep our calendars full. So, naturally it can be challenging to find the time and space to really re-

fect on the season of Advent. The busy can distract us from the things that really matter during Christmas time.

So, this season we want to offer an opportunity for a time of quiet advent worship.

On Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 7-8pm we will be holding a time for reflection and praise centered on the themes of Advent. It will feature simple worship songs, time for quiet prayer, contemplation activities and short teachings about advent. Our students will help leading us as we pause from the busy and focus on Christ.

If you are looking for something simple to help you prepare your heart for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, I hope you can spend a short time with us next Tuesday. All ages welcome! Invite a friend!

What: Advent Worship Experience

When: 7-8pm, Tuesday, December 9

Where: FPC Sanctuary

What: worship, prayer, reflection

There is a Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 14 following worship. We will be voting on our church officers for 2026.

Christmas Eve – It's not too early to be thinking about who you can invite to our Christmas Eve Service. December 24 at 8:00 p.m. It is a beautiful service of music and candlelight.



Nov. 27 - Molly Parrot
Nov. 30 - Jeff Styer
Dec. 01 - Steven Machamer
Dec. 02 - Brayden Kidd
Dec. 02 - Mark Lemon

PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Praises

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

- Kadaimba in Sierra Leone - wind blew roof off school building
- Prayers for our country
- Prayers for victims of recent violence
- Pastor Albert
- Unspoken

Health Concerns

- Jenny Reed - outpatient surgery & recovery
- Karen - health concerns
- Jessica - 2nd trimester high risk pregnancy
- Mayson White - injured HS football player
- Susan (James) Halliday
- Mark Lemon - cont'd prayers for progress
- Those needing/seeking mental health help
- Pat Thomson
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Mike Sherrick - lung cancer
- Justin Myers - considering hospice
- Mariann Stutzman - pancreatic cancer
- Logan - 13 yr. old with brain tumor
- Nicki
- Janet Lee
- Diane Scott
- 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.

November Calendar

November 27 Happy Thanksgiving
November 30 Sunday morning worship
November 30 1st Sunday in Advent

The Children's Ministry Team has a special request for our church family. We are asking you to join with us in praying for the kids of the church and for growth and blessing in kids ministry. We are eager to see more children and families connect with our programming for kids; but as we work toward that goal, we are asking all of you to join us in prayer. We know that God is the one who can help us reach more children and so we want to be asking Him to be at work in these things. Each week in the weekly update we will be sharing a simple prayer prompt for each day of the month and it will be connected with a Bible reference that the prayer is based on. We encourage you to pray with us but lifting up the children in your life, or by praying a general blessing on the children of our community. Your commitment to join us in praying for these things is a blessing to us and makes a difference! Thank you!

Praying for Kids – November 26 - December 2

November 26 - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now, God of peace, make children holy in every way. May their whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God, make this happen, for you have called me to reach children, and you are faithful.”

November 27 – 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

So I keep on praying for these children, asking you to enable them to live a life worthy of your call. Give them the power to accomplish all the good things their faith prompts them to do. Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way they live, and they will be honored along with you. This is all made possible because of your grace, and because of Jesus Christ.

November 29 - Philemon 1:6

And I am praying that children will put into action the generosity that comes from faith as they understand and experience all the good things we have in you, Jesus.

November 30 - Jude 1:24-25

Now all glory to you, God, who can keep each child from falling away and will bring them with great joy into your glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to you who alone are God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are yours before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.

November 28 – Philemon 1:4-5

I always thank God when I pray for _____, because I keep hearing about his/her faith in the Lord Jesus and his/her love for all of God's people.

December 1 – Ephesians 1:15-16a

God, I thank you for the faith in Jesus children in my church have shown, and their love for your people.

December 2 – Ephesians 1:16b-17

I pray for the children in my ministry constantly, asking you, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give those children spiritual wisdom and insight so that they might grow in their knowledge of you, God.

This painting by Gerald Stephan is a “reconstruction “of the original work painted in 1609 by the artist, Caravaggio, an Old Master who greatly influenced later painters. It was entitled “Nativity with St. Francis and St. Lawrence.



The original, about nine feet high, was created for a church in Sicily where it hung for over 360 years before it was stolen in 1969, cut out of its frame.

The Sicilian Mafia was suspected, but the painting was never recovered and is on the FBI’s list of the ten most important art thefts. It has very likely now been destroyed.

The painting style, very distinct in this painting and made famous by Caravaggio is called “chiaroscuro” meaning “light and dark”. It shows the lighted figure coming out of a very dark background, producing a very dramatic effect.

Gerald produced this smaller version of the original using old photographs as reference.

VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER 30

Greeters	Abby Rhamy & Marcy Speelman Shirley Swinehart
Ushers	Shad Swinehart Keith Hewitt
Café	Adam Swinehart
Nursery (Worship)	Shyler Swinehart
Nursery (2nd Hour)	
Kidz Jam	Beth Miller
Kids 2nd Hour	Beth Miller
Elder Assist	John Scott
Safety Team	Nick Miller



Becoming
a community
that cultivates
faith and
faithfulness
to Christ

Attention Prayer Intercessors

Starting Thursday November 20th, we will begin meeting via Zoom for the winter. Same time, same day. (Thursdays at 7 p.m.) Please contact Melodie Stroud at melodie@itsimplifying.com with your email address or call or text her 330-464-5157.

There is no meeting Thursday Nov. 27th.



FREDERICKSBURG
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN OUR TEAM!

NOW HIRING: Director of Music and Worship

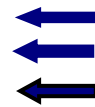
FPC is looking for an enthusiastic and respectful Director of Music and Worship who demonstrates an active faith in Jesus that falls in line with ECO’s theology, and is skilled in vocal and instrumental music leading. This role also requires good verbal and written communication skills and works well 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: jsmolk@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!



An Upside-Down Christmas

This Advent Season we will look at how the coming of Jesus turns our expectations upside down. Jesus unexpectedly came into the world, and in doing so, He reveals that things are often different than we expect - God isn't silent - He's preparing!

Faith is in a young trusting heart, not a rigid religious one. The hungry will be filled and the rich will be empty. And God reveals Himself in human flesh. Most amazing of all, the King of all Creation takes His throne in a humble manger and in doing so, He turns the whole world upside down.



ADVENT READING

Looking for something to read during Advent? Here are a few suggestions from the Worship Team. Available on christianbooks.com and, also available on Amazon.

[In the Manger](#) by Max Lucado

[Hidden Christmas](#) by Tim Keller

[Come Let Us Adore Him](#) by Paul David Trip

[Behold the Lamb of God](#) by Russ Ramsey

[Advent - The Season of Hope](#) by Tish Harrison Warren



Join the Outreach Team on December 15 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to help pack the Blessing our Backyard Buckeyes food kits.

NEWS FROM OUR OUTREACH TEAM



Help Needed For the Cookie Walk - "INSIDE" Cookie Volunteers are needed on December 10th at two different times. First, at 12:30pm to package the cookies in the Fellowship Hall. And, second, from 5:30-8:00 pm in the Church Gallery to greet guests and pass out the cookies and books. A new sign up sheet will be located in the Church Gallery this Sunday or you can text/call Erika at 330-466-5684 to sign up to help inside the Church.

The Live Nativity is also still "in the works" for the Cookie Walk.

Volunteers are still needed, please reach out soon if you are interested in helping with the Live Nativity. You can talk to Erika Schuch or Michelle Wood for additional details, and more ways to help.



Outreach Opportunity—Blessing our Backyard Buckeyes

The Ohio State University campus just up the road in Wooster houses hundreds of students from the Agricultural Technical Institute and the Agricultural Research Center.

What a lot of people don't realize is that the campus does not have food service in the evenings or on the weekends. Some students may not have transportation or might not be able to afford to buy meals, so an on-campus Buck-I-Eats Pantry provides free food and personal items to ATI and graduate students to fill the gap.

The outreach team is providing food and personal items for Buck-I-Eats to show these students that we care about them and are praying for them. The team is purchasing the food necessary to put together shelf-stable meal kits which includes everything necessary to make an easy meal (recipe included). We will also add a prayer, scripture, and an invitation to worship with us. We will be assembling these meal kits **at a later date, so watch for that opportunity to help us so we can deliver them before the second semester begins in January.**

Check out the Buckeye Christmas tree in the lobby to help us provide personal items for the pantry (thanks to Veronica for putting it together!). There are tags with various personal items and prayer reminders. Please take a tag or two and bring those items in and put them under the Christmas tree (unwrapped) by December 14 to bless our Backyard Buckeyes. If you have any questions, see Veronica Styer or any of the outreach team.

