

Weekly Update

November 6, 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

Is it ever okay to be disappointed in God? Is it ever right to be angry with God? There are plenty of stories in the Bible of people who wrestling through their frustration with the Lord. Sometimes they are mad for what God has done, and sometimes they are mad that God seems absent; but many times in Scripture God's people don't understand why God allows the difficult things to come.

When Job looks on the loss and suffering of his life, he can't understand why God would let all that hardship happen to him, and he says to God: "I cry out to you, God, but you do not answer; I stand up, but you merely look at me." (Job 30:20). ***Job feels abandoned by God.***

In the book named after him, Jonah is so angry he wishes he were dead. He unrighteously accuses God of wrongdoing in the case of Nineveh and tells God all about His anger. ***Jonah feels that God is acting unjustly.***

King David also challenges God, asking why He won't help him in His time of struggle. In Psalm 13:1-2 he says: "How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?" ***David feels that God is uncaring.***

This Sunday we started our study of the book of Ruth, and noticed that one of its main characters, Naomi, believes that God has afflicted her. She accuses God of making her life bitter and bringing her misfortune. ***Naomi feels that God has hurt her.***

In all of these stories (and others throughout Scripture) we encounter individuals who are suffering. There have been hard things in their lives, and they are struggling to reconcile their belief in a GOOD God with the reality of BAD circumstances.

This is something we all often feel. It is normal to question what God is doing when He feels distant, unfair, silent or hurtful.

But it's important to note, that even though we FEEL these things about God, that doesn't mean that God is actually the way we perceive Him to be. Job will come to see that God has been faithfully overseeing all things in his life. Jonah will understand God's compassion. David will recognize how much God cares for Him. And Naomi will experience the goodness of God again.

The key thing to learn from these stories is that God doesn't shy away from our frustrations, but instead He loves us through them. In all these stories, those who were suffering brought their pain and confusion to God himself; they turned to the Lord in the midst of their struggle, and He heard them. This can be an encouragement to us when we feel the same way. We, too, can bring our heartache to God and trust that He is good, even when we don't experience it in the here and now.



POINSETTIAS We are collecting orders for Christmas poinsettias Friday, Nov. 22. The cost is \$7 for a 4 ½ inch pot. The color options are red, white, pink, marble or speckled. You can list who the flower is in honor or memory of. The flowers will be displayed December 22 and Christmas Eve. You can take yours home following the Christmas Eve service. An order form is on the signup table in the Gallery. Please pay for your plant at the time of ordering.

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

- November 8 – Pizza Giving
- November 10 - Sunday morning Worship & 2nd Hour for All
- November 11 - 6:30 p.m. Congregational Life Team Meeting
- November 13 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (Women)
- November 13 - 6:45 p.m. Music Team
- November 13 – Trustees Meeting
- November 14 – Emmaus 4th Day
- November 14 - 7:00 p.m. Outreach Team Meeting
- November 17 - Sunday morning Worship & 2nd Hour for All
- November 20 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (Women)
- November 20 - 6:45 p.m. Music Team
- November 24 - Sunday morning Worship NO 2nd Hour
- November 24 – Christmas Tree Decorating during 2nd Hour
- November 25 – Session Meeting
- November 26 – The Grind (Men)
- November 28 - Happy Thanksgiving



VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER 3

Greeters Butch & Marcy Speelman
Melinda Moffitt

Ushers Danny Brown & Brent St. John

Café Shirley Swinehart

Nursery (Worship) Connie Herman

Nursery (2nd Hour) Jenny Miller

Kidz Jam Shirley Swinehart

Kids 2nd Hour Shirley Swinehart

Elder Assist Steve Schlegel

Safety Team Gary Graham



Looking a bit ahead... Nov. 24 there will be no 2nd Hour following worship. Instead, we will gather together and decorate the church for Christmas.

The First Sunday in advent is December 1.

PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Praises

- **Freedom to vote in elections**

Military Service:

- Shannah Swinehart - Army National Guard
- Christa Nelson - Navy
- Ryan Chabak - stationed in Alaska
- Isaiah Styer - stationed at Camp Lejeune in NC
- Gaven Bee - stationed in Dayton, OH

Prayer Needs

- All victims of Hurricanes Helene & Milton
- Rusty King - guidance in attending seminary

Health Concerns:

- Health concerns for both grandmothers of Zach Stevenson.
- Julie - health concerns
- Melodie Stroud's grandson's recovery
- Paula Shrader - broken hip
- Pastor Albert continued healing from accident
- Tiana - prayers for her and baby
- Karen - Parkinsons Disease
- Tom - Dementia
- Wendy Scott - severe health concerns
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Janet Lee - lung cancer diagnosis
- Mary Hardesty - entering hospice
- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- David
- Keylee - leukemia
- Dale James

Condolences

- The family of Vonnie Jugan

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

BYOM Just a friendly reminder from our Seasons Café folks - you are encouraged to bring your own coffee mug, cup, travel mug, thermos, jug, or flask to collect your Sunday morning coffee. It helps reduce the cost of paper cups and lids





FREDERICKSBURG

Join us for our Fall Kids Night...

Pizza-giving!



... us heals ten men - Luke 17:11-19

Parents & Grandparents!
It's not too late! Bring
your kiddoes and come!

When: Friday, November 8th from 5:30-7:30pm

Where: Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

Who: EVERYONE! Kids (6th grade & under),
parents, grandparents, & friends.

Cost: FREE!

Email jsmolik@fredericksburgpres.org if you're planning to attend.
(You can still come if you don't RSVP, we just want a basic idea for supplies & pizza)

Pizza dinner
will be provided
at 5:30pm



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

November 11 - Tom Machamer

November 11 - Tiana Smith

November 12 - Darbee Rhamy

November 13 - Laura Scott



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

November 8 - Connie & Kelly McKelvey

November 11 - Wendy & Shawn McKelvey

Our Deacon Of the Week!



Wendy McKelvey

Free Day Fun

Go to the greenhouse/Relax at home

Overseas Vacay

Anywhere with a beautiful beach

Something Interesting

I am deathly afraid of frogs!

Favorites

FOOD: Hibachi

COLOR: Brown

SPORTS TEAM TO FOLLOW: Cleveland Guardians/
Waynedale Golden Bears

Hobbies

Camping (Glamping), buying too many
house plants

Quick Hits

Mountains or Beach
Chocolate or Vanilla

Baseball or Football
Mexican Food or Chinese Food
Late Nights or Early Mornings