



# Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church Weekly Update November 8, 2023

Hello Friends,

On Sunday, in the middle of a sermon about “making every effort” to grow in Christian maturity, I offered a list of things I had gleaned from listening to people in our FPC community. It reminds me of Proverbs 27:17 which says, ***As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.***

Have you found that to be true? Often when we share troubles, experiences, and gleanings from the Lord, clarity, inspiration and resolve grow in both speaker and listener. Christian maturity is hard to quantify, what are signs of growing in it? Bible reading, prayer life, generosity, getting along with others?

Peter takes a stab at defining it when he writes: ***Make every effort to add to your faith excellence, to excellence, knowledge; to knowledge, self-control; to self-control, perseverance; to perseverance, godliness; to godliness, brotherly affection; to brotherly affection, unselfish love. For if these things are really yours and are continually increasing, they will keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive in your pursuit of knowing our Lord Jesus Christ more intimately. (2 Peter 1:5-8 NET)***

1. Forgiveness, when given freely, releases the pain of holding to hurt.
2. We blame others until we can see, with God's insight, the way that we have played our part in the problem. True knowledge leads to freedom.
3. Sometimes things get so tough that our hope lies in the rescue of God through the hands and feet of his people
4. At times, we need to cease striving and leading, and instead care for our *own* souls, resting and playing as God's beloved children.
5. When God calls us to something tough, we must let go of the outcome, trusting God to finish it as he sees fit.
6. Faith is like a muscle, when we exercise it, we grow to experience faith as the *assurance of things not seen*.
7. Sometimes God has more for us than what we think we are entitled to. God is gracious. He gives us MORE that we dare ask or imagine.
8. God's ways are not our ways, sometimes we let go, and hold on at the same time.
9. God is at work and usually 10 steps ahead of us. He is orchestrating more than we imagine.
10. Healing comes when we dare to walk where we sense God leading us.
11. God provides even when serving with a heavy heart.
12. Serving in this family of faith is a privilege and something I genuinely love to do.
13. Fun enhances friendship, it takes thoughtfulness and action.
14. The courage to speak up, ensures a deeper friendship
15. When God calls us to something new, we need patience, as God helps us through the steep learning curve.
16. Hard work and faith together bring great satisfaction.
17. When our kids achieve, it affirms our desire to see them thrive.
18. You have not because you ask not. Sometimes we must ask, in order to receive.
19. The collective wisdom of friends is a reliable guide and a great source of support.

Hope that was not too long, and not too random. May these nuggets, give us a clearer vision for our lives, a vision for what growth could look like, trusting in both God's presence and the Spirit's work in us. Feel free to email me your thoughts and observations! **With Great Love, Nancy**



### Happy Birthday!

- November 11 - Tom Machamer
- November 11 - Tiana Smith
- November 12 - Darbee Rhamy
- November 13 - Laura Scott
- November 15 - Miriam Styer



### Happy Anniversary!

- November 11 - Wendy & Shawn McKelvey



### Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

#### Praises

- Great news from the PNC

#### 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

- Israel
- Unspokens

#### Health Concerns:

- Wayne County Care Center—many w/Covid**
- Tanya Chupp recovering from shoulder surgery
- Theresa Smith - move to retirement facility
- Jane Heilman

#### Battling Cancer

- Leslie Carr
- 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

#### Condolences

- The John Leeper family

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



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**

### Youth Group 2nd Hour Schedule

**Sunday, November 12:** The youth will play **pickleball** in the fellowship hall this Sunday, during the second hour. **We invite you to join us then or after 2nd Hour.** The "court" will remain open. Bring gear if you have it. We play games to 5 instead of 11 to keep them moving and give more people a chance to play.



**Sunday, November 19:** Deep Thoughts by Matthew. The insightful Mathew Smith will be our speaker.

**Sunday, November 26:** Church wide decorating for Christmas

**OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE** - Our theme for the Sunday before Thanksgiving (11/19) will be "Great Gratitude." We would love to hear from a handful of people willing to share about a way that they have seen God at work and responded with gratitude. Any kind of story or testimony is needed and welcome. Please reach out to Pastor Nancy or reply to this email and we will contact you!

## LAST CALL!

### RECEPTION OF COVENANT PARTNERS

The church plans to receive new Covenant Partners on November 26 during the worship service. If you would like to become a Covenant Partner, please talk to Pastor Nancy.

### WE NEED BAKERS

Calling all cookie bakers! Between now and Christmas Eve, there are several events coming up that will require cookies as part of the refreshments. We'd like to line up some bakers to help provide them (They don't have to be Christmas cookies! Chocolate chip, oatmeal, snickerdoodles, etc. will be just fine.) The first date cookies will be needed is November 26 when we gather after worship to decorate the church for Christmas. There will be a signup sheet on the table in the Gallery for you to volunteer to bake. **Note:** baked ahead cookies can be frozen and stored in the church freezer.



We are playing Euchre Saturday, November 11 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome

### CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER-

- Nov. 11 - 6:00 p.m. Euchre
- Nov. 12 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship  
Guest speaker Pastor Keon Abner
- Nov. 15 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (Women)
- Nov. 15 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Nov. 19 - 9:30 p.m. Sunday morning worship
- Nov. 21 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team?
- 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. 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

December 2-3, Rev. Jocelyn Smolik will be coming to meet you all. There will be a Meet & Greet on Saturday, December 2. More details next week!



Congrats to Nick St. John and the whole Waynedale Cross Country Team for making it to the State Meet this year for the first time in school history!



You are invited to reach out to our Church Elders if you have any questions or concerns about the church.

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| 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 us:

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Follow us on Facebook too!

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Church office hours  
Monday thru Friday 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m