

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

Weekly Update October 11, 2023

Happy Fall y'all

Dear Friends,

I think I've been a relatively "low-drama" Transitional Pastor. I mean, I like approval and you have done a great job of making me feel appreciated. But every now and again, even a well-behaved Transitional Pastor can make a wave or two. Have I gained your attention with this opening?

There has been a lively discussion within the nominating committee. Actually, the conversation started in Session. Matt Smith and I had just finished an ECO Cohort about Men and Women in Ministry Together. In that group, we were struck by the realization that while our elder board had been mixed gender for years, our current deacon board has been solely served through the gifts of women in the congregation for as long as we could remember. A little research (thanks, Jeann!) led us to discover that a small number of men had consistently been on the deacon board from the 1950s through 1981 when the last man standing rolled off.

Session had a lively discussion about this, with some wondering if the gifts of men on the deacon board could enhance the congregation. I mentioned this in a sermon shortly afterward and the topic came up again for discussion in the initial nominating committee meeting. The team began to notice that there were men that seemed like a "good fit" for the role of deacon. Deacons are ordained to lead ministries that nurture fellowship and caregiving.

When the Nominating Committee re-gathered to begin the process of selecting deacons, men were among the candidates that were brought forth. At this point, the nominating committee intends to call men to join the Deacons. We are trusting that if the Lord desires, some may respond to this call.

Please be praying about this potential new development. If you have thoughts or concerns, I'd love to talk with you or email about it. Just reach out. We want to think through this topic and communicate about it enough that there is broad support and a careful transition if it happens. For now, we are entering in a time of reflection and listening, as the calls have not yet gone out.

With Great Grace,

Pastor Nancy



The Schuch family celebrated the end of Becca's "reign" and offered me a ride on their big combine.

Psalm 46:8-11, ESV

Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”

The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*

I want to acknowledge that over the weekend tragedy and terror took place in Israel and now full-blown war has broken out there. Let us join together in calling to the God of heaven to help and to be at work, even as war now continues in two places on the globe that God made and loves. Let us not lose heart, but let us continue to hand to the Lord these big problems and the destruction that is happening both in Israel and Ukraine.

God knows. He cares. May his purpose prevail.
- Pastor Nancy

FPC Youth Group this Sunday: Plan B

Unfortunately, Sunday's weather does not look compatible with lake life (we were planning to take you all to our family's cabin at Charles Mill for kayaking, etc). There's really no point to going to a lake if it's cold and miserable to be in the water. So, we have a Plan B. Duane and I are going to attempt to tape out a temporary Pickleball court in the fellowship hall for play during second hour (wear sneakers for pickleball). Bar and Mary Ann have offered a backyard campfire for lunch (or in the barn if it's raining). We'll do pumpkin carving/painting, and play yard games if possible. We will likely have a shorter day than originally planned but it will be fun. Duane is building a secret project in the garage that's going to be a blast, haha. Hope to see you Sunday for a fun day!

Thanks,
Michelle Wood



Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Praises

- **Praise for First Friday wreath making**
- **Praise for Presbytery meeting**

Military Service:

- Ryan Chabak - stationed in Alaska
- Isaiah Styer - Stationed at Camp Lejeune in NC
- Matt Burkhardt - National Guard
- Gaven Bee - Turkey

Prayer Needs

- **Zach Stevenson - OK following car accident**
- Mapleton Schools and community
- Unspokens

Health Concerns:

- **Theresa Smith - move to retirement facility**
- **Josiah Parris's mom Claire - illness**
- Paula Barron - recovering from emergency surgery
- Jane Heilman

Battling 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)
- Leslie Carr
- Linda Snyder (ECO Pastor)
- Laurie Miller
- Steve Gordon
- Andrew Miller
- Bill Opie
- Sonya Griffen
- Bonnie Stryker
- Dale James

Condolences

- The family of Mark Weaver

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



Happy Birthday!
 October 12 - Ezekiel Rhamy
 October 12 - Emma Brown

October 14 - Hailey Schlegel
 October 14 - Sadie Schlegel

**NO! NO! YOU CAN'T PLAY
 EUCHRE WITHOUT ME!**



**WE'RE PLAYING
 EUCHRE
 SATURDAY
 OCTOBER 14
 6:00 P.M.
 IN THE GALLERY
 ALL AGES AND SKILL
 LEVELS WELCOME.**

**ASSISTANT BOOKKEEPING
 POSITION OPENING**

The church is seeking someone with bookkeeping experience to fill the position of Assistant Bookkeeping Secretary. The duties include but are not limited to:

- Pay all church bills
- Prepare information for payroll
- Track special donations
- Maintain financial records
- Tax filing
- Monthly Financial Reports to Session.

Questions can be directed to Joe Chupp or Randy Wirick.

FOLLOWING RANDY SMITH'S TRAVELS

Randy is in the middle of his pilgrimage across Spain. Follow his adventures here:

<https://www.polarsteps.com/PapaSmurf/8780747-camino-frances-2023>

WORK DAY IN MARION

There will be work for men and women so if you want to be part of this exciting day, you can use this link to "sign-up": [MARION MISSION DAY](#)

Leave from our church at 6:30 PM, share lunch at 12:30 PM, and leave for home at 5 PM.

This is Amish country, this thing could be as fun as an Amish "barn-raising" for the kingdom of God.



A note from our treasurer, Angie Chapman: *I am so excited to report that \$2,178.40 has been donated through FPC offerings for our Marion Mission.*

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

- Oct. 14 - Work Day to Hands of Hope in Marion
- Oct. 14 - 6:00 p.m. Euchre
- Oct. 15 - 9:30 p.m. Sunday morning worship
- Oct. 15 - Youth activities at the church
- Oct. 17 - 7:00 p.m. Worship Team Meeting
- Oct. 18- 10:00 a.m. GLOW Women's Study
- Oct. 18 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Oct. 22 - 9:30 p.m. Sunday morning worship
- Oct. 23 - 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- Oct. 24 - 7:30 p.m. Grind Men's Group
- Oct. 25- 10:00 a.m. GLOW Women's Study
- Oct. 25 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Oct. 29 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship
- Oct. 31 - 7:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting

To contact us:

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Follow us on Facebook too!

Rev. Nancy Dumford

614-425-2552

nancydumford@gmail.com

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Church Office Hours

Monday thru Friday

9:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

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

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|----------------|--------------|
| 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 |
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