

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church Weekly Update October 18, 2023



Hello FPC Family,

Autumn is in full swing. I'm hearing so many wonderful comments about the splendor of God's sunset to summer. the changing of seasons before our eyes.

Beth Reed, "If I had to choose to live in just one month for the rest of my life it would be October."

Darcy Miller, "My favorite color pallet is the autumn gray-blue sky, brown-green grass, and the golden fields."

It reminds me of a favorite essay from Parker Palmer's book, *Let Your Life Speak*, where Palmer compares Autumn to a death that leads to new life and to seeds that are scattered in preparation for the Spring. How often do our own lives move in a cycle similar to the change of seasons?

What Autumn Teaches Us (by Parker J. Palmer)

Autumn is a season of great beauty, but is also a season of decline: the days grow shorter, the light is suffused, and summer's abundance decays toward winter's death. Faced with this inevitable winter, what does nature do in autumn? She scatters the seeds that will bring new growth in the spring--and she scatters them with amazing abandon.

In my own experience of autumn, I am rarely aware that seeds are being planted. In the autumnal events of my own experience, I am easily fixated on surface experiences--on the decline of meaning, the decay of relationships, the death of a vocation. And yet, if I look more deeply, I may see the myriad possibilities being planted to bear fruit in some season yet to come.

In retrospect, I can see in my own life what I could not see at the time--how the job I lost helped me find work I needed to do, how the 'road closed' sign turned me toward terrain I needed to travel, how losses that felt irredeemable forced me to discern meanings I needed to know. On the surface it seemed that life was lessening, but silently and lavishly the seeds of new life were always being sown.

Autumn constantly reminds me that my daily dyings are necessary precursors to new life. If I try to "make" a life that defies the diminishment of autumn, the life I end up with will be artificial, at best, and utterly colorless as well. But when I yield to the endless interplay of living and dying, dying and living, the life I am given will be real and colorful, fruitful and whole.

(Parker Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*, 98-100).

May this be a reminder that the Lord is always at work in our lives, sowing seeds we may not even perceive until they begin to sprout. We can trust Him to bring the rain we need, and cultivate a bountiful harvest in our hearts and lives.

*May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.
The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.
May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him. (Ps 67:5-7)*

With Great Grace, Pastor Nancy

Great video on 1 Peter at:
The Bible Project - [First Peter Video](#)



*More photos from my adventure in the fields with Erika and Jason Schuch.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

The Children's Ministry Team needs your help (yes, everyone's help!!) You might be asking yourself how you could help. We are a small team that work hard each week to help grow the children of our congregation into disciples of Christ. We are looking for some help in growing the children not only as disciples but also deepening their relationships with members of our church. Our 2nd hour is looking different this year than it has in years past. This is where you can step up and get to know our young kids (ages 4 through 6th grade). We are doing interest based learning during our second hour that doesn't have to be tied to a curriculum (we all know that we are afraid to teach Sunday school ☐) The children are getting a lesson every week during KidszJam that dives them into the stories of the Bible so they are still getting curriculum weekly.

We are looking to make the 2nd hour FUN for them so they will want to stay and their parents can enjoy 2nd hour too. We are looking for volunteers to have fun with the kids and share with them a time of something you enjoy that could be brought down to their level. You can bake with the kids, you can do a craft, teach them songs and read stories, paint, etc. The possibilities are endless! There is a signup sheet in the gallery for you to sign up and help. It can be a week lesson or multiple weeks. If you need help gathering supplies please just reach out and we can help. If you have any questions please see Bridget Rhamy or any team member.

Also, we are looking for some help in the nursery. We are looking to start a list of people who are willing to help but not on a commit every month but are willing to sub in as someone needs a Sunday off. We are currently running nursery for both church and 2nd hour so we need many hands to help ease the load. If you are willing to fill in on some Sunday please let Bridget or Nancy know. We would love to have you!

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, October 22: "Running the Good Race." As a long distance runner, our speaker Missy Lemon will compare running to living a Christian life. Please encourage your youth to join us in the youth room during second hour after worship (10:45-11:45).



Hank shooting the potato gun



Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Praises

- **The birth of Oliver Allan Stidam on October 12, 2023**

Military Service:

- **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**
- **Smithville's 8th grade trip to Washington D.C.**
- Mapleton Schools and community
- Unspokens

Health Concerns:

- **Tanya Chupp having shoulder surgery Friday 10/20**
- **Haden - 9 month old recovering from surgery**
- **Linda Yoder - heart concerns**
- Theresa Smith - move to retirement facility
- Josiah Parris's mom Claire - illness
- Paula Barron - recovering from emergency surgery
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- **Heather - recovering from chemo & monthly infusions**
- 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

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



Happy Birthday!

October 20 - Veronica Styer
October 21 - Edna Wade

October 23 - Isaiah Styer



Happy Anniversary!

October 20 - Debbie & Keith Hewitt
October 21 - Tanya & Joe Chupp

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>

FOR YOUR PRAYERS



Sherri Machamer's sister, Susan Halliday, is undergoing a 12 hour cancer surgery Thursday Oct. 26th. Susan is a 6 time cancer survivor and now needs

help fighting number 7! Please use this link to sign up to be a prayer warrior.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084AAEAA28A1FCCF8-45137147-susan>

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

- 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. 29 - Potluck dinner following worship
- Oct. 31 - 7:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting

To contact us:

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Email: fredpresby@gmail.com

Website: www.fredericksburgpres.org

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.

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



No 2nd Hour on October 29. You are invited to stay following worship and enjoy a potluck meal with family and friends. Bring a covered dish to share. Beverages and table service will be provided. Hope to see you there!