

# Weekly Update

October 2, 2024

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

One of my favorite places to visit when I'm home in St. Louis is the St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame Museum. It is legitimately awesome and has some fantastic features: you can see all ELEVEN of our World Series trophies (Cleveland has....2, right?); you can watch highlight reels of decades of Cardinals history; see examples of all the iterations of St. Louis uniforms; you can try on championship rings, or take swings with game-used bats; they even have a display of every Cardinals bobblehead ever made! (you can see pictures of the museum and my nephews and I visiting it below)

But let's be honest – the Cardinals memorabilia is WAY more significant to me than it would be to someone who isn't a Cards fan! What I consider a prize - and a source of pride - wouldn't be the same to someone who doesn't support the team.

In Philippians, Paul writes that what he takes pride in – what he considers his prize – is not what you might expect. He says: "Whatever was to my profit, I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord..." – Philippians 3:7-8a.

For Paul – the biggest achievement, the most significant desire of his life is to KNOW Jesus. Paul doesn't care about status, wealth, honor, knowledge, success or anything else. In HIS Hall of Fame is one simple thing: KNOWING JESUS.

He goes on to say, "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I **press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**" (Philippians 3:10-14)

We live in a world where what people celebrate most is wealth and security. People see success, achievement and social status as indicators of a life well-lived and as goals to achieve. But as followers of Jesus, we value something different. As followers of Jesus, we can be people whose ultimate prize is to know God.

This is the invitation that God makes to us – to come and know Him, to be in relationship with Him and to experience fellowship and connection with Him. We do that best by studying His word – by learning who He is, what He does, what He values, and by encountering Him through the words of Scripture.

How can you begin to prize knowing Jesus more in your life?



## Fall Hike at the Wilderness Center



Saturday, October 19.

Meet in the Upper Parking Lot  
at 2:00 p.m.

We'll hike the 1 1/2 mile trail together.

The trail is rated easy to moderate.

Wear appropriate shoes

Dress for the weather!

Talk to Emily Brown if you have questions.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October 4 - Jim Ward

October 6 - Finley Smith

October 7 - Matt Chabak

October 8 - Heidi Yacapraro

## VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

<b>Greeters</b>	Butch & Marcy Speelman Melinda Moffitt
<b>Ushers</b>	Shad Swinehart & Keith Hewitt
<b>Café</b>	Shirley Swinehart
<b>Nursery (Worship)</b>	Veronica Styer
<b>Nursery (2nd Hour)</b>	Bridget Rhamy
<b>Kidz Jam</b>	Delores Schlegel
<b>Kids 2nd Hour</b>	Georgie Miller
<b>Elder Assist</b>	John Scott
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Marcy Speelman
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Wendy McKelvey, Beth Reed, Scott Schlauch
<b>Safety Team</b>	Joe Chupp

## KLEENEX /SANITARY WIPES FOR WAYNE DALE SCHOOL

The Deacons will continue to accept contributions to the Kleenex & Sanitary Wipes being collected for Waynedale Schools until October 13. Although the students are all in one building now, the Deacons are providing supplies for what was four schools. That's a lot of kids and a lot of Kleenex!! Your donations are greatly appreciated.

# PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

### 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

- **Florida, Georgia, Tennessee & North Carolina**
- **All victims of Hurricane Helene**
- Rusty King - guidance in attending seminary.

### Health Concerns:

- Tim Petrie - surgery & Paralysis
- Dee Petrie - dialysis
- Pastor Albert injury not healing correctly
- Tiana - prayers for her and baby
- Tonya hospitalized with infection
- Veronica's mom Unspoken health concerns
- Karen - Parkinsons Disease
- Tom - Dementia
- Wendy Scott - severe health concerns
- Jane Heilman

### Battling Cancer

- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- David Meulenberg
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- David
- Keylee - leukemia
- Dale James

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



## Nominations for Elder and Deacon

We're entering the season of accepting nominations for elders and deacons for 2025. As per our church's bylaws, the Session has appointed a nominating committee to do the work of providing the congregation with a list of nominees to 3-year terms as elders or deacons. Nomination of church officers is a spiritual task that involves prayer, discernment and examination. The Nominating Committee works to listen for the leading and directing of God as it prayerfully seeks out God's will regarding who will form the leadership of the church.

Elders and Deacons serve important roles in church life. Elders and Deacons are **ORDAINED** ministers to the congregation. (see ECO Constitution, Ch. 2 - <https://eco-pres.org/wp-content/uploads/ECO-CONSTITUTION.pdf>)

*From ECO Constitution, 2.02* - Elders are given authority and responsibility, along with pastors, to oversee the spiritual health of the congregation as well as the congregation's faithfulness to God's mission. Elders may also be asked to preach and teach. Elders shall be elected by the congregation.

*From ECO Constitution, 2.03* - Ordinarily, the biblical office of deacon shall be utilized by the congregation. Deacons lead ministries that nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation. Deacons may also be asked to preach and teach. The congregation shall determine the manner in which they are selected for service. The session shall oversee and direct the ministry of the deacons.

A simple way to describe this is to say that - in general - Elders are called and equipped for serving in spiritual ministry leadership, and Deacons are called and equipped for serving in ministry of care.

Our church's bylaws also indicate that the congregation may submit names to the committee for possible nomination; and the Nominating Committee is inviting any current covenant partner of FPC to nominate any other current covenant partner of FPC for consideration as elder or deacon.

You can do this one of two ways. Between now and October 13 you may email the chair of the nominating committee (Claudia Ward - [cjward3@yahoo.com](mailto:cjward3@yahoo.com)) with your recommendation; OR you may submit a name through a nomination form provided with the Sunday morning bulletin for the next two Sundays (Oct. 6 and Oct. 13). This form can be placed in the offering box at the back of the room and will be retrieved by the nominating team prior to its next meeting.

If you have any questions, please let us know, and thank you in advance if the Lord puts it on your heart to nominate someone for the role of elder or deacon.

### CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

- Oct. 4 - First Friday (Women)
- Oct. 5 - Fredericksburg Bicentennial "Night of History"  
4 - 8 p.m. FPC Fellowship Hall
- Oct. 6 - World Communion Sunday,  
Sunday morning Worship & 2nd Hour for All
- Oct. 9 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (Women)
- Oct. 9 - 6:45 p.m. Music Team
- Oct. 9 - 6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting
- Oct. 10 - 6:00 p.m. Emmaus 4th Day
- Oct 11-12 Presbytery Meeting at College Hills Prsbytn  
Church, Cincinnati
- Oct. 13 - Sunday morning worship & 2nd Hour for all

### To contact the church:

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Follow us on Facebook too!

**Rev. Jocelyn Smolik**

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Church office hours

Monday thru Friday 10:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.