

Weekly Update

September 11 2024

What do these four things have in common?

Many years ago, a friend and I were in an elevator in a tall building riding from the basement to an upper floor. Just a few seconds after the doors closed the car stopped abruptly with a jolt and it was clear we were stuck. We chuckled a bit, rolled our eyes and pressed the call button for help. We had to wait for a time, but somewhere out of sight, help had arrived and we began moving again, grateful we weren't trapped for much longer.

Just a few weeks ago, while some friends were in town visiting, we spent the cool evening around the first bonfire of the season. When the fire burned down to embers, we scooted closer and closer to stay warm. The coals settled, still glowing dimly, but not putting off much heat or light. More logs needed to be added and the fire stoked to keep the chill and dark away.

Last weekend I bought a new houseplant at the greenhouse, but I hadn't gotten the chance to pot it yet and it sat neglected on the corner of the dining room table for days. When I came home late last night, I noticed that it was drooping and wilted and looking close to dead. I quickly gave it attention, watered it generously and put it in a spot where it would get the morning sun. When I left for work today it was standing tall and happy, reinvigorated, like a brand-new plant.


Have you experienced the momentary frustration of a frozen computer? You move the mouse and nothing happens; or the window you're working in gets stuck and you can't click out or get anything to respond normally? You have to safely restart your computer; hit Ctl-Alt-Del and reboot to get things working correctly again. A fresh screen, revived, computer and then you're good to go.

All four of these scenarios can describe what sometimes happens in our spiritual lives. We get stuck, the fire dies down, we need to be revived or to reboot have a fresh start. Many of us who are followers of Jesus have experienced a season (or many seasons) of life where we felt a little stalled or stuck in our walk of faith. The habits of faith may feel boring or repetitive or we may feel like we lost the enthusiasm we had in the past. It's okay to feel this way sometimes! But it's also okay to want to change.

Fall can be the PERFECT time to think about asking God for help to get unstuck, or to fan our faith back into flame, or to care for our struggling souls or to start fresh in commitment to Christ. This is what we are going to be talking about this fall: the invitations God has for us to grow in our trust and faith - to get out of neutral and strengthen our walk with Jesus.

I want to encourage you to join us for our fall kick-off Sunday this week. For the next handful of weeks we'll be learning together about the opportunities we have to get unstuck and to trust and follow Jesus more closely. From time-to-time all of us can use a little encouragement to shake the rust off and to reinvest in our relationship with God – maybe this will be YOUR chance to do that this year!

**Hey Kids! Stick around following worship
to take a turn at ringing the church bell!**



Here's your reminder
that this Sunday,
September 15
we will return to our
regular schedule and
2nd Hour
with discussion groups
and classes for kids, youth,
and adults.

Everyone is welcome and
encouraged to join in.



Youth

Calling all Youth (grades 7-12)
2nd hour begins this Sunday,
September 15.

Meet Pastor Jos in the Youth Room for
Going Into Fall with Faith.
See you there!

NO EMMAUS GATHERING THIS MONTH

There will be NO Emmaus Gathering on
September 12. The next gathering will be
Thursday, October 10 at 6 p.m.

PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.
The prayer needs listed in **BOLD** are new to the list.

Praises

- Don & Joyce celebrating 67th anniversary
- Praise for our church family

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

- House fire in Millersburg claimed one victim
- **Rusty King - guidance in attending seminary.**

Health Concerns:

- 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.



KEY58
ISAIAH 58

Roger and Melodie Stroud,
and Earl Rhamy will be having
a public Worship Event on
September 14th at 7:00pm at
He Brews Coffee House in
Shreve All are welcome!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September 12 - Gary Graham
September 12 - Janine Schlauch
September 14 - Brady McKelvey



September 15
Sherri & Tom Machamer

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 15 - Sunday morning worship Fall Kick-off
- Sept. 18 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (women)
- Sept. 18 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Sept. 22 - Sunday morning worship
- Sept 23 - 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- Sept. 24 - 7:30 p.m. The Grind (Men)
- Sept. 25 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (women)
- Sept. 25 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Sept. 29 - Sunday morning worship
- Sept. 29 - 5:00 p.m. All church Hayride & hotdog roast

VOLUNTEERS

FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15

Greeters	Val & Jay Haver
Ushers	Keith Hewitt & Adam Swinehart
Café	Jenny Reed
Nursery (Worship)	Melinda Moffitt
Nursery (2nd Hour)	Jenny Miller
Kidz Jam	Sherri Machamer
Kids 2nd Hour	Sherri Machamer
Elder Assist	Claudia Ward
Safety Team	Gary Graham



The Deacons are collecting
Kleenex and Clorox/Lysol wipes
for the elementary school.

There will be a collection box
in the Gallery to receive
donations for a couple more weeks.



Save the Date for
the church's annual
hayride and hot dog
roast on Sept. 29.
This is a great
event with lots of
food and fellowship
and a tractor ride

through the countryside. Be sure to invite a friend along!

Time - 5:00 p.m.

Place - Don & Joyce Rhamy's
7766 Cutter Rd., Fredericksburg

What to Bring:

- A well-filled picnic basket to share
- Hot dogs & buns
- Lawn chairs

Beverages, Table Service & Condiments will
be provided

To contact the church:

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Follow us on Facebook too!

Rev. Jocelyn Smolik

314-749-1315

jsmolik@fredericksburgpres.org

Church office hours

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

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

Angie Chapman	330-465-0963
Beth Miller	513-319-6447
Darcy Miller	330-440-4155
Paul Miller	330-465-8329
Earl Rhamy	330-988-4285
Steve Schlegel	330-317-3898
John Scott	330-466-0226
Adam Swinehart	330-641-1575
Claudia Ward	330-466-3417