

# Weekly Update

September 25, 2024

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Many of you, like me, probably grew up regularly attending church worship services. As a young child I remember sitting  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way back in the row of pews on the piano side of the sanctuary. (In my church you either sat "piano side" or "organ side".) I remember asking my mom why we sat that far back, and she told me it was because my grandfather liked being able to lean against one of the columns that held up the balcony. She said, laughing, that leaning on the support beam helped him disguise that he was nodding off during the preacher's sermons. (you can see a contemporary picture of the sanctuary below – my grandfather was a master strategist)

Even as a young child, my family made sure we were present in Sunday worship. I remember singing songs from the hymnals, barely tall enough to see over the pew in front of me. I remember the other families we sat near, some of those people in church were our family's closest friends. I remember lying on the pew, looking up at the balcony and wishing my family sat up there. I remember getting antsy during the sermon, but getting even MORE antsy waiting to leave while my mom had to talk to every single person we encountered for what seemed like the entire afternoon.

I was so blessed to be raised with a habit of worship. It wasn't until later in my childhood that I understood WHY we sing songs and listen to the teaching of Scripture. And as I grew older, I learned to appreciate MY role in worship. I was not there just to be a passive observer of a worship service, but I was there to add my attention and affection for God to the community of faith. All of us have an opportunity in church service, not to OBSERVE worship but to PARTICIPATE in it!

Last Sunday morning we explored this definition for worship: that it is our **response** to God for who He is and what He's done. This response can look very different in different settings, in different cultures and even in different seasons of life. But there is an essential part that remains the same: we express our love to God for who He is and for all that He has done.

First, like a spotlight, we focus our attention on God – we make HIM the center of our thoughts and awareness. We set aside other distractions, and instead work to really notice who He is and what He is doing.



Also, like a telescope, we allow worship to help us see God for who He really is – in all of his splendor and majesty and "bigness". Worship is a tool for seeing and remembering the WORTHINESS of God and responding to that worthiness with praise and blessing.

This is why worship is a "BASIC" for us. In worship we accept the invitation to demonstrate our love for Jesus and to do it together. It is my prayer for all of us that we will continue to make worship a key part of our commitment to Jesus; and as we do, we will nurture the spiritual growth God wants to do in our lives.





The church's annual hayride and hot dog roast is this Sunday, Sept. 29. Bring a friend, your own hot dogs & buns, a well-filled picnic basket to share and your lawn chairs. You'll

enjoy great food and fellowship and a tractor ride through the countryside. Time - 5:00 p.m. at Don & Joyce Rhamy's 7766 Cutter Rd. Fredericksburg. Beverages, Table Service & Condiments will be provided

### Save the date!

**October 19, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Fall Hike at the Wilderness Center**  
**Details to come.**



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September 26 - Val Haver  
 September 26 - Butch Speelman  
 September 28 - Georgie Miller  
 September 30 - Chad Badger



Sept. 30 - Delores and Steve Schlegel

### VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY, SEPT. 29

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Greeters</b>           | Don & Joyce Rhamy<br>Duane Wood |
| <b>Ushers</b>             | Reid & Shawn McKelvey           |
| <b>Café</b>               | Wendy McKelvey                  |
| <b>Nursery (Worship)</b>  | Emily Brown                     |
| <b>Nursery (2nd Hour)</b> | Judy Badger                     |
| <b>Kidz Jam</b>           | Beth Miller                     |
| <b>Kids 2nd Hour</b>      | Beth Miller                     |
| <b>Elder Assist</b>       | Angie Chapman                   |
| <b>Safety Team</b>        | Tom Machamer                    |

# PRAYER

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

#### Praises

- Rain

#### 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:

- 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*

### KLEENEX /SANITARY WIPES FOR WAYNEDAL 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.



## Sierra Leone (SL) Ministry Update

The Outreach Team recently spoke with Karen Asher of West African Education and Medical Missions (WAEMM). While not currently in SL, Karen, and her husband, Tom, are still very committed to the ministry in Kakamba, Sierra Leone and help to provide support to Pastor Albert, the schools, and the Community Church Ministry (CCM). Karen and WAEMM are extremely grateful for FPC's continued commitment to Pastor Albert and the Community Church Ministry. Karen provided some updates on the areas that FPC has supported this year:

**Pastor Albert:** Pastor Albert continues to recover from his April motorbike accident at Masanga Hospital. He will stay there until at least December and then the doctors will re-evaluate his healing progress. Masanga is about 3 hours away from his family. Due to the severity of the broken bones in his leg and the level of medical care provided in SL, healing will be very slow and he will more than likely have a permanent limp. Pastor Albert continues to oversee the work of the CCM by phone.

**School Building Project:** The Kakamba school building is still being built. The blocks were up to 9 courses high before the rainy season began in July. Construction is expected to continue now that the rainy season is over and the building will include an area for chemistry and biology labs. The school building is necessary to create additional classroom space to be in compliance with government regulations in SL.

**Pastor Training:** Karen shared that the Pastor Training program that FPC solely supports is an integral part of the ministry in SL. The trainings are being taught by a licensed pastor, Pastor Abdul, and being attended by pastors and key leaders from all the CCM churches. The last pastor training was held in June and the next training is expected to happen in October.

Trainings are not held during the rainy season because of transportation concerns for the pastors. Continued ongoing trainings are necessary not only for educational purposes, but also to minimize the possibility of any outside influences from other sources and religions.

If you have any questions about the Church's Sierra Leone Ministry, please reach out to Missy Lemon, Outreach Team Chairperson.



## CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

- Sept. 29 - Sunday morning worship & 2nd Hour for all
- Sept. 29 - 5:00 p.m. All church Hayride & hotdog roast
- Oct. 1 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (Women)
- Oct. 1 - 6:45 p.m. Music Team
- 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 Prsbytrn Church, Cincinnati
- Oct. 13 - Sunday morning worship & 2nd Hour for all
- Oct. 14 - 6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting
- Oct. 16 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (Women)
- Oct. 16 - 6:45 p.m. Music Team
- Oct. 19 - 2:00 p.m. Fall Hike at The Wilderness Center

### To contact the church:

201 N. Mill St. Fredericksburg, Ohio 44627

**Phone** 330-695-2511

**Email:** fredpresby@gmail.com

**Website:** www.fredericksburgpres.org

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 |