



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This past Sunday we gathered with fellow brothers and sisters in our community at the ballfield to join in worship together. It was a beautiful Sunday morning, and we participated together in praise, prayer, God's Word and the Lord's Supper.

The Bible text shaping the message offered that morning from Pastor John Risner at MCA, was a set of parables from the book of Matthew. They are short but packed full of significance. Here is the text from Sunday morning:

Matthew 13:44-46

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy²⁰ went and sold all he had and bought that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

These twin parables teach us something important that Pastor Risner pointed out; its something important that we can reflect on. The kingdom of God – the setting right of all things through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus – is something we take possession of. We surrender our lives to God and chose to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior of our lives.

But the kingdom of God is ALSO something that takes possession of US! It is a merchant that finds a beautiful pearl and sells everything to have it! Jesus comes to choose, rescue and adopt us! He gave His life for us so that we could be with Him forever.

The Kingdom of God, and the message of the Gospel, is **both of these things** at the same time. It is both God's pursuing love, coming to rescue and redeem His beloved AND it is our response, to say yes in trusting faith and to give Him our very lives in return!

There is a children's song written by Andrew Peterson that I used to sing to my nephews when they were very little. This song captures well the beauty of the truth of God's grace that chases after us to make us His own. The first verse of this song says:

***"There once was a man
Who found him a treasure
Buried out under a tree.
He sold all he had
Just to own it forever
That treasure is you, you see."¹***

Friends – you were the treasure that God gave everything to have! His very Son, His very life, all that He had, He gave, so that He might have us with Him.

What a beautiful truth to celebrate together

¹"You Can Always Come Home" Andrew Peterson, 2007

FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday this Friday, September 6! We will gather at the church at 6:30 and have an in-depth discussion about intrusive thoughts and how we can deal with them when they pop up. If you'd like, bring scripture to share that helps you fend off those annoying moments that Satan uses to get our attention. Refreshments provided and great conversation with each other is a great reason to join us!



Join us on a hayride!

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.

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



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.



PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Praises

- **The Community Worship Service**

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

- All the back-to-school changes & adjustment
- Stress and drama in the workplace

Health Concerns:

- Veronica's mom - doctor recommending Hospice
- 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 7 - Henry Miller

September 9 - Kim Crosby

September 11 - Jessie Kidd



September 8 - Joyce & Don Rhamy

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 6 - 6:30 p.m. First Friday (Women) at the church
- Sept. 8 - Sunday morning worship
- Sept. 11 - 10:00 a.m. GLOW (women)
- Sept. 11 - 6:30 p.m. Music Team
- Sept. 11 - 6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting
- Sept. 12 - 6:00 p.m. Emmaus 4th Day Gathering
- **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

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

Regarding the Weekly Update for August 28, there is a correction from the Finance Team on their figures for July.

The correct information is printed below. We apologize for any confusion.

As of July 31, 2024 the following figures represent our financial status at FPC:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Year to date operating Income | \$112,422.29 |
| Year to date operating Expense | \$141,740.91 |
| <u>Year to date operating Gain/Loss - \$29,318.62</u> | |
| <u>* this line has been corrected.</u> | |
| Year to date Net Income | - \$14,442.77 |
| Unrestricted Funds | \$193,181.03 |

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 |

Here's your reminder
 that 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.