



At Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church we are becoming a community that cultivates faith and faithfulness to Christ.

That's our vision – that we would become a church where we are working to nurture the growth God wants to do in us and in our community. But HOW are we going to do that? To help us we have identified FIVE BASIC activities that will cultivate growth, and our hope is that every meaningfully connected FPCer will pursue at least one basic strategy for cultivation! We'll be exploring in the weekly update the stories of some of our congregation members and how THEY have experienced growth in faith.

This past Sunday we discussed the strategy of STUDY. We think that we experience growth when we commit to studying God's Word in community. I asked Barry Henderson to have a chat with me about how Scripture has helped him experience God and how he has grown through studying God's word. Among lots of other things, Barry is the chair of the Finance Committee here at FPC, he also serves on Outreach Team and helps with many other ministries. Here are some paraphrased tidbits of our conversation together.

Me: Barry, how have you experienced growth in reading God's Word? What are some ways you have encountered God in Scripture?

Barry: The first thing that comes to mind is how often I have encountered a passage of the Bible that I thought I knew but then I read it again and it can impact me in a totally different way. It knocks your socks off when you can read a passage you think you knew but then see a new twist or see it in a totally different way.

Me: That's so true – can you give me an example of a passage of Scripture that did that for you?

Barry: Obviously, a big one for me is the story of the Prodigal Son. I know that Scripture; I've read it a lot of times, and I thought it didn't apply to me; I didn't live a wild and crazy life. But then one time when I read it, I realized it was really a story about the older brother not the younger one. I related to the older brother and even though I knew that story before, I saw it in a totally different way when I realized it was really talking about the Pharisees and those who think they have it together.

Me: Can you think of any specific times when you really grew by connecting with God's word in community?

Barry: The Walk to Emmaus really had a big impact on me and brought me into a closer walk with God and an experience of his love. But actually, a huge thing was just coming to this church. I grew up in church, Mary Ann and I made sure to go to church in college and after; but it wasn't until we came and experienced the fellowship of this church that my faith went from just being something important to me to being something that was personal. The fellowship of this community really helped me change and grow. Another thing for me was being asked to teach and preach a few times. Digging into the Scripture closely and really having to pay attention to what it said was something I hadn't experienced before. I wanted to handle it right, and I saw first-hand how much depth there is in the Bible.



Scholarships for 2027 ECO National Gathering

Because we believe it would be beneficial for our church and our mission to cultivate faith and faithfulness, Session has set aside money from a recent donation to help members of our FPC family be able to attend the **2027 ECO National Gathering**. Any FPC Covenant Partner or regular attendee can request financial support to be used toward registration, travel and/or lodging at the Gathering. Individuals or couples are invited to request whatever amount (up to \$750) would actually help them be able to attend.

We especially want to support two kinds of folks: those who have never been to a National Gathering and those for whom cost would otherwise keep them from going. Maybe you've never considered going to the Gathering before, or maybe you didn't even know it was a possibility; either way, perhaps this is the nudge you might need to consider it.

The National Gathering happens every year, but this financial gift is only currently available for this year's event; so now is the time to come along and see why we all love the Gathering so much. Requests are due back to the church office by October 15 – that way people can take advantage of the early bird pricing. You can find the Request for Support from [here](#) or in the church office; and please reach out to me directly with any questions.

Calendar of Events

- October 15, 2026 7:00pm — Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)
- October 15, 2026 7:00pm — Outreach Team Meeting
- October 18, 2026 10:45am — 2nd Hour
- October 19, 2026 6:30pm — Deacons Meeting
- October 19, 2026 7:00pm — Nominating Committee
- October 20, 2026 7:00pm — Session
- October 21, 2026 10:00am — G.L.O.W.
- October 21, 2026 6:45pm — Music Team
- October 22, 2026 7:00pm — Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)
- October 25, 2026 10:45am — 2nd Hour
- October 27, 2026 6:30pm — Seasons Study
- October 27, 2026 7:30pm — The Grind
- October 28, 2026 10:00am — G.L.O.W.
- October 28, 2026 6:45pm — Music Team

For Your Prayers

MILITARY SERVICE

Please keep our military troops, specifically those near and dear to our congregation: Abraham, Isaiah, Shannah, Christa, Steven, Ryan and Caven in your prayers.

PRAYER NEEDS

- Abraham's safe deployment and return before baby
- peace understanding and love among families

HEALTH CONCERNS

- Don Rhamy
- Butch's sister Connie
- Martin Lemon
- Mike Covert's sister
- Janet Albright
- Mike Covert
- Edna Wade
- Pat Thomson
- Jane Heilman

PRAISES

- West Lebanon Church celebrating 185 years
- Darcy's Dad improved health

BATTLING CANCER

- Tiana's friend's mom
- Cody's boss, John
- Miriam's coworker's family member
- Mike Sherrick
- Chad Hinkle
- Tom Jefferies
- Nelson's neighbor, Vickie
- Nicki
- Landon Sommers

CONDOLENCES

- The family of Dave Crosby
- The family of Rick Spencer
- The family of Kay-Leigh Botha

Volunteers – October 18th

- Greeters **Beth Reed and Bridget Rhamy**
Ushers **Keith Hewitt and Cody Daugherty**
Cafe **Connie Herman**
Nursery **Wendy McKelvey**
Nursery 2nd Hour **Jenny Miller**
Kidz Jam **Sherri Machamer**
Kidz Jam 2nd Hour **Sherri Machamer**
Elder Assist **Claudia Ward**
Safety Team **Gary Graham**

Happy Birthday!

- October 14 Hailey Schlegel
October 14 Sadie Schlegel
October 20 Veronica Styer

Happy Anniversary!

- October 15 Cody & Holly Daugherty
October 20 Keith & Debbie Hewitt

Calling All Creatives

This Advent, FPC's theme is Jesus, the Light of the World, and we want your help celebrating! Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" -John 8:12

We'd love to display your art, crafts, or designs around the church this Advent season — new or old, original or repurposed, painted, sewn, built, or doodled. If you've made something (or want an excuse to), this is your glowing invitation.

We'll collect pieces to display through Advent and return them after Christmas. So get those creative juices flowing now and we'll let you know more as Advent approaches!

Tithes and Contributions

There are many ways to contribute to FPC.

- THE BOX** in the sanctuary during worship
MAIL CHECKS to P.O. Box 259 Fredericksburg, OH
TEXT "GIVE" to 833-648-1702
DROP OFF during FPC office hours
Scan the **QR CODE**



or

GIVE HERE



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