



FREDERICKSBURG
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

the Weekly Update



A note from the Editor: Holly will be on vacation September 21-27, so there will be **no Weekly Update on September 23rd**. We're still working on formatting the new Weekly Update, so be sure that you have read everything. Some browsers may have you click "view entire message" or "see quoted text." We're working out the kinks and learning as we go, but in the meantime we don't want you to miss anything!

From the Pastor's Desk

Next week is the fall equinox, which means summer will officially draw to a close in a handful of days. But before we turn the page on summer 2026, I wanted to re-visit some of what God has taught us during our Sunday Best series!

This summer, fourteen of our fellow church members shared one of their favorite passages of Scripture with us. We heard Jesus' teaching on generosity, Isaiah's prophesy of renewed strength, James' encouragement to be patient. Ecclesiastes' poem of life and Paul's call to prayer. Along the way we were reminded of the God who blessed us, formed us, loves us and for whom all things are possible. And after three months a pattern began to emerge: God wanted us to be reminded of WHO HE WAS so that when things were at their most difficult, we would be encouraged to TRUST Him.

It became pretty clear to me a few weeks into the summer that a theme was emerging: and it was God who was orchestrating the connections. Several times as I was studying and preparing for Sunday mornings I would stop and marvel at the similarities that kept popping up each week. It seemed to me as if every week this summer we were given a new and fresh glimpse into the sovereign and divine nature of God; to me it was almost like God was reintroducing us to Himself this summer. Look at what we encountered:

- In Matthew 25:31-46 we learned that Jesus sits on the eternal throne
- In Isaiah 40:28-31 we learned that God is greater than the whole universe
- In Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 we learned that God has arranged all creation that we might know Him -
- In Ephesians 1:3-14 we learned that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ -
- In 1 John 4:15-20 we learned that we love because God first loved us
- In Luke 1:35-38 we learned nothing is impossible with God
- In James 5:7-11 we learned the Lord is full of compassion and mercy
- In Psalm 139 we learned God is omniscient, omnipresent and omnifigent
- In Hosea 2:23-3:5 we learned God is a covenantal God whose covenant is based on love
- In Philippians 4:4-9 we learned that God is a God of peace who will always be with us
- In John 6:66-69 we learned that Jesus is the only one with the words of life
- In Matthew 6:25-34 we learned we can trust the character of God and need not worry
- In 1 Corinthians 10:13 we learned God is always faithful
- In Mark 4:35-41 we learned that Jesus is God in human flesh – even the wind and waves obey

Him

This God, the God we worship, to whom we belong and who we have learned about all summer long, is worthy of our FAITH. Because He is who He is, we are always wise to trust His character and His promises. I pray that as this summer ends, you have been encourage to know and to trust God all the more!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jos". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style, and "Jos" is written in a simpler, more legible cursive.

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 attender 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.

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!

Fall Presbytery Meeting

October 9-10, 2026

Friday, Oct. 9, 4:30 PM – 9 PM (Dinner incl.)

Saturday, Oct. 10, 8 AM – 3:30 PM (Lunch incl.)
\$25 Registration Fee

At First Presbyterian Church of Marion

143 S. Prospect St., Marion, OH 43302

SPIRITUAL FIRST AID

Facilitator: Jacob Loer

To register or ask questions contact
GLP Stated Clerk Janet Dumford

Register

Congregational Inquiry by the Outreach Team

After meetings of prayer and discernment, the Outreach Team feels that one of its missions is to help FPC become a light and presence in our community. A presence of sharing God's Love that is felt by the community through FPC's congregation members.

Looking ahead, the Fredericksburg Village Trick-or-Treat is scheduled for October 29th from 6:00 – 7:30. The Outreach Team has “kicked around” a variety of ideas – from a Trunk-or-Treat style event in the parking lot to a light meal being provided that evening. However, these ideas would require lots of congregational support as the Outreach Team could not accomplish it on its own. The Outreach Team has funds available, but lacks the many hands and feet needed for such an event!

So, this is where the “INQUIRY” comes in! The Outreach Team is looking for congregational feedback by **September 27th** to determine how and if FPC will participate in the Village Trick-or-Treat. Would you, your family, or a group be willing to participate in a Trunk-or-Treat style event that evening? Would you, your family, or a group be interested in helping to organize, serve, and/or clean up a light community meal for that evening? Would you just be interested in passing out candy or donating candy?

If you are interested in helping with this possible Outreach event, please contact Erika Schuch at **330-466-5684** or **erikaschuch@hughes.net** with your area of interest by September 27th! Need some inspiration? Check out Oriental Trading's website for their faith-based Trunk-or-Treat decoration ideas.

Oriental Trading

Prayer Request Mailing List

Did you know we have a prayer list that receives urgent prayer requests? If you would like to join the distribution list, request to be added by emailing [Holly](#).

For Your Prayers

Military Service

We have 7 young men & women

serving in the Armed Forces.

Please keep Abraham, Isaiah, Shannah, Christa, Steven, Ryan and Gaven in your prayers.

Condolences

- The family of Corky's niece, Debbie Hoxworth

Prayer Needs

- Our military troops
- Our country
- Unspoken

Health Concerns

- Martin Lemon
- Mike Covert's sister
- Kim Crosby
 - cataract surgery

Battling Cancer

- Tiana's friend's mom
- Cody's boss, John
- Moffitt's friend, Waldo
 - facing end of life
- Miriam's coworker's family member
- Mike Sherrick
- Chad Hinkle
 - leukemia

- The family of Connor Schlauch

- Janet Albright
- Beth Miller
- Darcy's dad
 - health concerns

- Tom Jefferies
 - thyroid cancer
- Nelson's neighbor, Vickie
- Nicki
- Landon Sommers
 - Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Praises

- Birth of Oliver Ray Pittman
- Melodie's daughter's new house
- Mike Covert
- Edna Wade
- Pat Thomson
- Jane Heilman

Second Hour is Back!

We are looking forward to resuming second hour classes for all ages! Mark your calendars for **this Sunday, September 20th** and plan to stay, we'd love to have you!

Save the Date!

Saturday, October 3 - Church Fish Fry and Bonfire

5:30pm

Bring a lawn chair and an empty stomach

All are welcome - invite a friend

Calendar of Events

September 17, 2026 7:00pm — Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)

September 20, 2026 10:45am — 2nd Hour Resumes

September 20, 2026 12:00pm — Emmaus Pot Luck in the Gallery

September 22, 2026 6:30pm — Seasons Study

September 22, 2026 7:30pm — The Gring

September 23, 2026 10:00am — G.L.O.W.

September 23, 2026 6:45pm — Music Team

September 24, 2026 7:00pm — Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)

September 27, 2026 10:45am — 2nd Hour Resumes

September 30, 2026 10:00am — G.L.O.W.

September 30, 2026 6:45pm — Music Team

October 01, 2026 7:00pm — Intercessory Prayer (Zoom)

October 03, 2026 5:30pm — Church Fish Fry and Bonfire

October 07, 2026 10:00am — G.L.O.W.

October 07, 2026 6:45pm — Music Team

Volunteers — September 20th

Greeters **Jim & Candi Kinney, Michelle Wood**

Ushers **Shad Swinehart and Brent St. John**

Café **Jenny Reed**

Nursery **Wendy McKelvey**

Nursery 2nd Hour **Jenny Miller**

Kidz Jam **Shirley Swinehart**

KidzJam 2nd Hour **Shirley Swinehart**

Elder Assist **Darcy Miller**

SafetyTeam **Shirley Swinehart**

Volunteers — September 27th

Greeters **Jay & Val Haver, Jeff & Veronica Styer**

Ushers **Steve Moffitt and Jerry Herman**

Café **Shirley Swinehart**

Nursery **Kim Morrow**

Nursery 2nd Hour **Vickie Rhamy**

Kidz Jam **Delores Schlegel**

KidzJam 2nd Hour **Delores Schlegel**

Elder Assist **Angie Chapman**

SafetyTeam **Duane Wood**

Happy Birthday!

September 22 **Bill Nichols**

September 25 **Candy Weaver**

September 26 **Val Haver**

September 26 **Butch Speelman**

September 28 **Georgie Miller**

Happy Anniversary!

September 15 **Tom & Sherri Machamer**

September 21 **Sydnee & Gunnar Stidham**

September 25 **Jerry & Connie Herman**

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**

