

Weekly Update

Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church

December 7, 2022

Pastor Nancy's News and Notes

Hello Faith Friends;

I had more fun yesterday than I expected. I was looking forward to the plan, but slightly unsure of what it would "feel" like to carry it out. It was Michelle Wood's idea. Mary Ann and Claudia helped to develop and execute it. We gathered to create "cute" door hangers made by stringing together our 2 invite cards [Home for Christmas and Christmas Eve Service - 8 PM, don't forget!]. We added a white Christmas Eve candle, fresh greenery, some ribbon, and a jingle bell - all strung together with twine. Having accomplished this craft, we drove to the nearest, new neighborhood just off the town square. This is where we got to the "unsure" part for me.

We broke up into pairs and rang each door bell. If we got an answer, we said we wanted to welcome them to town and invite them to "The Presbyterian Church" right down the road. What amazed me was the conversations. We caught at least ten people home and all of them were willing to talk. A senior who moved to a ranch home closer to her kids, a newly-wed who was married last June, several people who were transplanted from South Africa (the country!). We handed them the door hanger, a small loaf of sweet bread, and a smile of friendship. For those who were not home, we hung our welcome gift on the front door and wondered if they would like it.



It wasn't hard. Why did it feel hard? We had to risk how we would be received. Our current culture does not just "stop by" homes anymore. We were going to invite them to church and our society is increasingly pluralistic. It required me to make time in my schedule for something extra. But what could the Lord do with this offering?

My partners in crime were not scared. It reminded me that "hard jobs are better with a friend" and I'd add that "fun jobs are also more fun with a friend." Please join us in praying for the Lord to use this Christmas season to draw people to worship. I tell you this story to "normalize" how it can feel hard to engage people around faith, but also to encourage you that with some thought and execution, it is really quite enjoyable. May we all grow in this gift of extending friendship and hospitality to strangers. May we creatively work together as a community to invent ways of reaching out. It's part of our "commission."

Don't forget Once Upon a Manger this Sunday followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

May the One who came to us, empower us to go to others!

With Much Love, Nancy

Advent Reading (<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/index.php>) Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55, James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

614-425-2552 | nancy.dumford@gmail.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Dec. 10 - Roger Shannon



The church will present “Once Upon a Manger” this Sunday, December 11 during the worship service. Refreshments and a time of fellowship will follow. You don’t want to miss it!

LUNCH IS GIFT FROM DEACONS

Next Sunday, December 18 there will be a home-cooked luncheon served by the Deacons. Everyone is welcome. Come enjoy a lunch prepared for you, and some fellowship, then tackle the rest of your Christmas “to-do list”. A thank you to the Deacons for this gift of food and time. (the Deacons would like some extra help with serving Sunday morning.)

WILL YOU BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS?

“I’ll be home for Christmas, you can count on me”, sings Bing Crosby as he describes with longing what home will be like. Yet the reality of homes is often not so smooth. From a faith perspective, Jesus left his home to make a way for us to “come home” to God. May we glimpse the greater purpose of Christmas as we celebrate being “Home for Christmas.” Join us for Christmas 2022!

- Homegrown 12/11, 9:30am youth play, reception
- Homeless 12/18, 9:30am stay for lunch!
- Welcome Home 12/24, 8 PM candlelight service
- Cozy Christmas 12/25, 9:30 AM, dress comfy



PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers.

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

Military Service:

- Rusty King - Middle East
- Isaiah Styer currently in North Carolina
- Jeff & Veronica's nephew in National Guard

Prayer Needs

- Unspoken
- Safe travels through the holidays
- The holiday season & those who have lost loved ones
- Session, Trustees & the PNC
- The Ukraine & Danny

Health Concerns:

- Corky’s sister Didi recovering from Covid
- Veronica’s mom - assisted living - prayers for support
- Pat Thomson - healing after out-patient procedure
- Edna’s nephew - heart attack
- Lillian Duncan - non cancerous brain tumors
- George & Jane Ann Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Kacen’s grandma, Susie Parrot - inoperable brain tumor
- Leslie Carr - battling cancer & Covid
- Dale James
- Herb Martin - stage 4 lung cancer
- Delores Schlegel’s sister Rose’s finance
- Mike Harter
- Art Wetmore
- Renee Wood

Condolences

- **The family of Chris Henderson**
- Connie Herman’s cousin Darold, who recently lost both his father and his brother

To contact church leaders & staff:

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. Nancy Dumford

614-425-2552

nancydumford@gmail.com

Steve Moffitt, Session President

234-249-2371

Darcy Miller, Pastor of Congregational Care

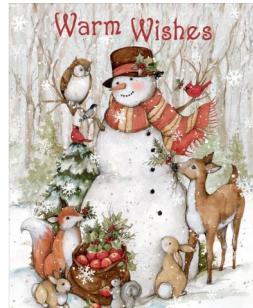
330-440-4155

PNC UPDATE

Greetings friends,
This week, your PNC came to Session to update us on their work. I've been tasked with giving you the next update. The PNC a few weeks ago said that they had narrowed the search down and had chosen a candidate. While that is true, the PNC has discerned that there are additional steps needed to confirm this conclusion, in light of ECO guidelines. In consultation with Session, they have decided to further interview this candidate while continuing their conversation with a second candidate, and entertaining future applicants as they present. Some of the tools at their disposal include a visit to our village, preaching at a neutral pulpit, and meeting with Session and the Great Lakes Presbytery. When the time is right, after more engagement, our PNC will present a candidate to the congregation, in person, to preach, and the congregation will be able to vote (yes or no) on the candidate and the pastoral package.

As an outgoing session member, I felt it was important that I be the one to deliver this message to you, because starting January 1st, I will be in your same position, only knowing what PNC shares with the congregation. While it may be frustrating, there is a secretive component to this process, but that secretiveness is about care for our applicants (as well as ECO protocol). We live in a small world where through social media and other relationships we have connections to people that we don't even know about. We want to respect the privacy of the candidates, some of them do not want their current church to know that they are applying for other positions. Let's be honest, many of us do the same thing when job searching, we don't announce it to the world. So, I guess my message is that I trust the work of the PNC, seeing how great is the burden they carry. I am grateful for the spiritual leadership and direction that Pastor Nancy has brought to FPC for this current season. That will be a good thing as we wait for what is likely to be a longer process than we want.

Gratefully and God Bless,
Jeff Styer



FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

YTD Operating INCOME	\$157,367
YTD Operating Expenses	156,851
YTD Loss or Gain	515
Available Cash	\$236,833

FROM THE SESSION

The Session met Monday , December 5.

- The Session welcomed elder-elect new members Claudia Ward and Steve Schlegel.
- Warm and heart-felt thanks were given to Jeff Styer and Steve Moffit who are leaving Session after serving a total of 6 years each.
- Session met with the PNC to hear their thoughts, and to share encouragement and further guidance.
- Session was made aware that \$700 from ECO is available in scholarship for attending the National Gathering January 30-Feb 1. Pastor Nancy plans to attend, and several Session members expressed an interest in attending.
- The sermon series "Surprise the World" will launch January 22. Books will be available for the congregation.
- Session gave approval to pursue updating the church website.
- Session gave approval for Don Rhamy to look into any church records that might still be held at the Muskingum Valley Presbytery office.
- The next meeting is January 23 at 7:00 p.m.

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

- Dec. 8 - Fredericksburg Cookie Tour
- Dec. 11 - Third Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 11 - Christmas Program during worship
- Dec. 11 - Refreshments following program
- Dec. 13 - Fredericksburg Elementary Christmas program here in the church.
- Dec. 14 - GLOW @ 10 a.m.
- Dec. 14 - Music Team @ 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 18 - Fourth Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 18 - No Second Hour
- Dec. 18 - Home-cooked luncheon for the church
- Dec. 21 - GLOW @ 10 a.m.
- Dec. 21 - Music Team @ 6:30
- Dec. 24 - 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas
- Dec. 25 - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service.
- Dec. 26 - Church office closed