

JANUARY 2020

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

120 S. PARK AVENUE FREMONT, OH 43420 419-334-7171 WW.FREMONTFPC.ORG

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN JANUARY:

January 5 - TBA (Guest preacher)

January 12 - Scripture: Isaiah 42: 1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon Title: "Jump In: The Water's Fine"

Jan 19 - TBA

Jan 26 - TBA

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

### Trees or Light Poles, Roots or Anchors?

As I look out my window at The Landings, I see a beautiful field of trees across the road, mostly pines, which are the home to deer and other wildlife. The other night I counted ten deer in the field! Closer to my window are several large light poles. The light poles and the pine trees are a stark reminder of contrast between nature and human technology. While yes, I value human technology (I cannot live without indoor plumbing, electric lights, and my computer!), I often think we overlook the beauty of nature, a reminder of God's presence in our lives.



Carolyn Massiah reflecting upon the trees and poles outside her window writes:

"When I compare and contrast the tree and the pole, I know I would much rather be a tree....light poles are inorganic entities of concrete or metal, created through some form of human intervention. The shape and size in which these poles are created will forever be their shape and size, as inorganic entities will not change during their existence unless there is additional intervention. Trees, on the other hand, are organic. They are living organisms that continually change. They will lose and gain leaves and branches but they will also grow and mature throughout their existence. Continual growth and development is what I want for my own life. This is why I would rather be a tree than a light pole."

In her comparison between light poles and trees, Massiah also states that one of the main reasons she wants to be a tree is because a tree has roots! She writes:

"Because trees are organic living creatures their roots continue to grow and strengthen as the tree grows and matures. When a storm comes, the roots....allow trees to bend but not break in the storm. Poles do not have that same anchor support. That is why we see more poles than trees down after severe hurricanes."

As we look to the New Year, perhaps what we need to develop are roots, not anchors. Often we want to develop anchors and stand straight and stiff, unbending, not budging, like light poles or the ships that have dropped anchor near the quarry at Marblehead. Anchors chain us to the past and keep us from looking to the present and

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### Special points of interest:

- ◇ Worship 10 am
- ◇ Christ University 9 am
- ◇ Session Summary
- ◇ Announcements

### 2020 PER CAPITA

\$35.70

creating something new. Instead, perhaps we need to think of ourselves as trees with good sturdy roots. Remember, the roots are fixed points that give the trees strength and give them flexibility.

As we face the new year, we need to rejoice that we have or can have strong roots in the Gospel. We sit in the midst of the mystery, awe, and wonder of God! Can we see the promise and hope of the future? (Advent just reminded us of this!) Can we be trees rooted in Christ and embrace the potential of God to do great things? Can we embrace the new things that God is doing among us and in our lives? Can we be flexible enough to not only see what lies behind us but also look forward to what lies ahead? For we are rooted in Christ!

Have a blessed and peace-filled new year!

Pastor Julie

Work cited: Massiah, Carolyn. "Relationships that Have Roots are the Anchors in Our Lives." *University of Central Florida Forum*, 11 Jan. 2017.

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



Thank you to all those who helped with the newsletter production in 2019! Your willingness to help, your faithfulness, and your

dedication were all greatly appreciated!

Amy

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Church "Undecorating" will take place on Friday, January 10th at 4:30pm. We would love to have extra hands if you are available. Thank you!!

## Coffee with Calvin



Coffee with Calvin will resume on Sunday, January 19 at 9 am. If you are interested in attending, have ideas for topics of discussion, or if you are interested in church membership, please see Pastor Julie.



## JANUARY LUNCHEON

Please make plans now to join us for a luncheon hosted by the Presbyterian Women on Sunday, January 5 immediately after worship. We hope to see you all there! Bring a guest!

## SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

Services are automatically cancelled whenever a *Level 2 Snow Emergency* is in effect for Sandusky County as of 8 am on Sunday morning. Information about what level the county is at is available on the Sheriff department's recorded information line: (419-332-2613) or website ([www.sandusky-county.com/index.php?page=sheriff-s-snow-emergency](http://www.sandusky-county.com/index.php?page=sheriff-s-snow-emergency)). You can also check our Facebook page for a link to the Sheriff's snow emergency info.



## NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE:

To change how you receive your newsletter or to unsubscribe from our mailing list, please email the church office at: [office@fremontfpc.org](mailto:office@fremontfpc.org)

Thank you!!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

To contact the pastor, call the church office at 419-334-7171.

In case of a pastoral emergency, call 419-341-2548.

# **RAINBOW STATION NEWS**



Welcome to  
2020?  
Where did  
2019 go?  
We are  
looking  
forward to  
a new year  
with a  
fresh  
start. We

have some new ideas to help the children with calming themselves down as well as helping them express their feelings. We learn as they learn and at times it can be challenging. We would appreciate your prayers.

A huge thank you for all the ways you participate in and support our program, whether it be donating materials, finances, or helping with projects we simply can't do on our own.

We wish each and every one a very Happy New Year!

Rainbow Station Staff

## **CLEANING HOUSE?**

Are you going to be doing some cleaning and tossing as we move into the new year? Don't throw away those



little odds and ends! The children would love to use them in arts and crafts! Buttons, ribbon, fabric scraps, bottle caps, cotton balls, seeds, paper plates, etc....so many things can be used for creative works of art!

Thank you for all you do!

## **RECYCLE!**



Don't forget to bring in your used ink and toner cartridges to be recycled.

These are returned to Staples, and Rainbow Station receives credit toward future purchases on needs such as paper and ink. Every little bit makes a difference! Thank you for your continued help!



		1	1	2 6:00p - Girl Scouts 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	3	4
5 9:00a - Christ University 10:00a Worship - Luncheon hosted By PW 5:00p - VIDA Church	6 10:00a - PW Mtg 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	7	8 11:30a - Satellites 6:00p - Choir	9 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	10	11 Social Room reserved
12 9:00a - Christ University 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	13 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	14	15 6:00p - Choir 6:30p - Deacons 6:30p - Admin & Finance 7:15p - Session	16 6:00p - Girl Scouts 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	17	18
19 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	20 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA  NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	21 7:00p - Rachel Circle	22 6:00p - Choir	23 5:30p - Habitat 6:30p - Vida Bible Study (in library)	24	25
26 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	27 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	28	29 6:00p - Choir	30 6:00p - Girl Scouts 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	31	

# JANUARY

## Birthdays

3 Mary Ann Perry  
9 Courtney Miarer  
11 Dick Adams  
12 Bert Livingston  
13 Elizabeth Biller  
17 Kyle Amor

24 Jane Reinbolt  
25 Amanda Herman  
26 Aaron Miarer  
28 Audine Leeper  
30 Helen Cominsky

## Anniversaries

22 Larry & Barb Stout  
28 Donn & Joyce Jones

## Bibles Being Collected for Christian Resources International

This month the Witness and Outreach Leadership Team will be collecting used or new bibles and religious reference books to be taken to Christian Resources International (CRY) ministry in Michigan. These bible and book contributions will help CRY fulfill its mission to bring glory to God by telling the stories of His work around the world through His people in a way that activates the body of Christ to pray, give, and go. Financial contributions will also be welcome to assist with the shipping expenses. Used bibles and religious books may be placed in the labeled container in the Fellowship hall.



## Rachel Circle

Ladies, join us on Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 in the church library to discuss "Forgiveness, From Guilt to Grace." Nikki will lead us in a discussion of Chapter four of Becoming a Woman of Extraordinary Faith. The focus in the video will be a reflection by Angela Thomas, one of our favorites from the past. Hope to see you there!

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Members of First Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you all so very much for being there for us during the grieving process of the passing of our dad & husband, David. We truly appreciate all your support & love. You brought light into a very difficult time.

The Family of David Stull

Nicole, Phebe, Jarred & Amanda, Jenna & Codey, and Stephanie

## SATELLITES



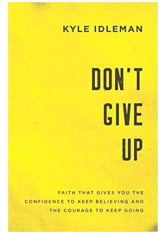
For our Jan. lunch, we'll be meeting on Wed., Jan. 8th at 11:30 at Applebee's in Fremont if the weather is decent. If you need a ride, please call Audine 419-334-3494. Please call Audine with your reservation by Mon., Jan. 6th.

## Christ University

### *Don't Give Up* by Kyle Idleman

January 5 and 12, 9 a.m. Sundays in the church library.

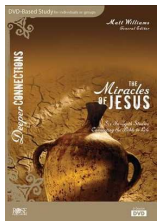
Life can leave you feeling depleted and weary. But God whispers to you, *Don't Give Up*. Kyle Idleman will encourage you to cast your concerns on God, trust in his love and timing, pray for patience and strength, and seek out support in the family of God.



### *The Miracles of Jesus* by Matt Williams

January 19 through February 23 at 9 a.m. Sundays in the church library.

Healer of diseases. Master of nature. Conqueror of demons and death. Jesus not only preached the kingdom of God in word, but he demonstrated it in power through his miraculous deeds. This unique, in-depth look at the miracles of Jesus will open your eyes to their impact on the lives he touched, what they reveal about God's heart, and their significance for us today.





## Neighbors' News



In Matthew 25:35 & 40 Jesus says "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Thanks to all who have put extra items on your grocery list to fill the containers in the Social Room. As always, please look for sales and help only as you are able.

Thanks for your help neighbor!  
Rod and Linda Combs

### January

5 - Spaghetti

12 - Spaghetti Sauce

19 - Green Beans

26 - Pears

*Optional monthly items:*

*Dish Soap*

*Liquid Laundry Detergent*

## Assisting In Worship

DATE	USHERS
January 5	Team 4 Susan Myers - Captain Larry & Barb Stout
January 12	Team 5 Pam Clark- Captain Russ & Ellen Abbott
January 19	Team 1 Dannita Cowdrey - Captain Bob Cowdrey Rod Combs
January 26	Team 2 Bill Taylor - Captain Carolyn Taylor Janice Zimmerman

## SUMMARY OF SESSION MEETING

The regular November Stated Session was held in the church library on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. Session members present included: Jody Amor, Linda Hamilton, John Roush, Larry Stout, Bill Taylor, Bob Humberger, and Rev. Dr. Julie Kling, moderator. Don Steen and Nicole Whetstone were excused.

Pastor Kling led a discussion of the 5<sup>th</sup> mark of a vital congregation, Spirit Inspired Worship. She invited the elders to reflect on the fundamental reasons we come to worship. She suggested we gather each week to praise God, to confess, to question, to contemplate the Word, and to lament. Pastor Kling concluded the discussion in prayer.

The clerk reported the following Sunday Worship Attendance in November: 3 - 61, 10 - 35, 17 - 45, 24 - 49.

Pastor Kling gave a verbal report of her activities in November. She did her normal sermon preparation and preaching on Sundays as well as preparation for Thanksgiving, Hanging of the Green, Advent and Christmas worship opportunities. She met with the Maumee Presbytery Leadership team, did some visitation, worked with the Fellowship and Service Leadership Team to provide a meal for Terra Students, met with two other pastors to discuss leading Mathew 25 churches, met with the FPC Foundation Board, and coordinated some bell ringers for the Salvation Army.

The Treasurer's report is summarized as: November income - \$8,802; November expenditures - \$12,942; November net - (\$4,141); Year to date income - \$124,623; and year to date expenditures - \$103,277; and Year to date net - \$21,346.

**Administration and Finance** – Budget proposals for 2020 are due from all but one Leadership Team; 127 no responses on newsletter survey; team will crosscheck for shut-ins; new property and liability insurance is cheaper. **Fellowship and Service** – Jan. fellowship luncheon will be hosted by Presbyterian Women; Feb will be a potluck hosted by Fellowship Leadership Team. **Music, Worship, and Sacraments** – Battery candles will be provided for Christmas Eve service. **Witness and Outreach** – Operation Christmas Child underway; used bible collection in January for CRY Mission; and special invites will be provided for members to use for Christmas services. **Personnel Committee** – Need to make annual staff reviews and recommend salaries. **Stewardship Task Force** – final pledge report - \$91,000. **Presbytery Report** – Distributed minutes of November 19 presbytery meeting.

Pastor Kling closed the meeting with prayer.