

January 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

120 S. PARK AVE, FREMONT, OH 43420 419-334-7171 WWW.FREMONTFPC.ORG

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

“Did You Have a Nice Christmas?”

From early Fall on, the preparation, planning, and stress begins to build. The Halloween decorations come down and the shopping, baking, cleaning, and organizing move into warp speed. By the time November rolls around, stress is at an all-time high as Christmas Day is drawing closer and closer. By early December, schedules are full with parties, programs, and more preparation. There is hardly time to breathe. Then all of a sudden Christmas Day has come and gone. A calendar page is torn off, New Year's toasts are made, and school clothes and work clothes are washed and pressed.

As life returns to a routine of work, school, or daily chores, we may run into those we have not seen for several weeks due to the holiday season and vacations. A frequently asked question is often, “Did you have a nice Christmas?” The social, easy answer is usually, “Yes, fine, thanks.” The conversation goes on to another subject. But take time to think about it and reflect on it personally: what kind of Christmas did you have? Yes, there is the usual complaining or rejoicing of the gifts received. “I really needed this...” or “Why did they buy me that...” Thoughts lead to food and time with family or friends with thoughts of “Oh, we had a great time” or “No, not another visit from Great Aunt What's Her Name...” or perhaps, thoughts turn to the lack of time with others... “Another Zoom Christmas” or “I wish I had family” or “My family hasn't spoken to me in eight years.” For some, Christmas is a season of joy, for others it is a time just to get through and endure, and for others it may be a time of loneliness and sadness.

In the midst of all these diverse feelings, do we realize the true reason for Christmas Day? And really, I hate to tell you, Christmas is really not over. We are still in the midst of Christmas. Remember the Advent message of waiting and longing and the prophets' voices proclaiming the One to come? Emmanuel, God with Us? We are still in the midst, we are still on the way, we are still working on becoming what Christmas calls us to be. To quote the group U2, “We still haven't found what we're looking for.”

Take a moment and read Luke 2:41-52. Jesus travels with his parents to Jerusalem for the Passover. Jesus becomes separated from his parents and stays in Jerusalem. His parents don't realize he is not with their traveling party until they are on their way home. (A biblical version of “Home Alone”?) Mary and Joseph return to Jerusalem searching for Jesus for three days. Finally, they find Jesus in the temple sitting with the rabbis. Jesus says to them, in Luke 2:49, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” Even at a young age, Jesus seemed to know that he was to be about doing God's will. Jesus was centered on God, his Father. And this would not and will not stop.

As we reflect not only on the story of Jesus' birth but also on his experiences as a youth, we see that there is a purpose for Jesus' coming to earth. As we reflect on the meaning and message of Christmas, it's not really over. We are called to search for Jesus so that we can be with him and be about living and doing God's business.

Happy New Year, and Happy Living in the Midst of the Christmas Message.

Pastor Julie



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Opportunities for Worship:

- Sunday School - 8:45 am, via Zoom
- Worship - 10 am, in the Sanctuary

CONTACT INFO:

To contact the pastor, call the church office at 419-334-7171. In case of a pastoral emergency, call 419-341-2548.

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

2022 PER CAPITA

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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 choose to 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.

(optional) - Dish Soap and/or Liquid Laundry Soap

January

2 - Cereal

9 - Peas

16 - Peaches

23 - Spaghetti

30 - Spaghetti Sauce

Thanks for your help neighbor!
Rod and Linda Combs

SATELLITES

We will be meeting on Wednesday, January 12 at 11:30 am at The 818 Club. For reservations, call or text Diane Bascone at 419-680-0190 by Monday, January 10. If you need a ride, call Diane. Hope everyone can be there! Invite a friend.



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have moved, changed phone numbers, or have a new email address, please email those changes to the office at:

office@fremontfpc.org.

Thank you! Amy Monk, FPC Administrative Assistant

SNOW CANCELLATIONS

As in years past, if a level 2 snow emergency is declared for our area, we will not be having in-person Sunday Morning Worship Services at church. However, Pastor Julie will be providing a Virtual "ZOOM" service that you can participate in from home starting at 10:00AM.



For your convenience, the Meeting I.D. and pass code will remain the same throughout the Winter Season.

(Please contact the church office for meeting ID and pass code.)

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).

THANK YOU!

The Deacons would like to thank all who donated funds to our 2021 Christmas Project. We were able to bless 8 families with gift cards this year.



Thank you again for your generous giving!
The Deacons



HAPPY NEW YEAR

RAINBOW STATION NEWS



HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope that everyone had a safe, healthy and Merry Christmas and we are praying this new year brings lots of blessings to all our families and friends. We are looking forward to the new adventures that God will bring us.

We have openings in the Toddler Room and are asking God to send us families that we can serve. It is an awesome thing to watch these little ones grow and move up to the next stage of their life.

Thank you for all of your prayers, donations and work that you do for Rainbow Station. All of you are very much appreciated. Without your prayers and support, we wouldn't be the program we are.

We are looking forward to some snow this month so we can go

out and play in it and make snowmen. Sometimes we can only stay out for 20 minutes if it is real cold or real wet snow, but we sure do enjoy going out and the kiddos need that time to run off some of their excess energy.

Until next month,
Rainbow
Station
Staff



Happy Birthday!

22 - Kynzlee Alexander-Pitts

January

							1 New Year's Day
2 8:45a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Indoor Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	3 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	4	5 6:00p - Choir	6	7	8	
9 8:45a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Indoor Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	10 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	11	12 11:30a - Satellites 6:00p - Choir 6:30p - Admin & Finance 7:30p - Session	13	14	15	
16 8:45a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Indoor Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	17 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	18	19 6:00p - Choir	20 Newsletter Articles Due	21	22	
23 8:45a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Indoor Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	24 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	25	26 6:00p - Choir	27	28	29	
30 8:45a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Indoor Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	31 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon						

Anniversaries

3	Mary Ann Perry	17	Kyle Amor	22	Larry & Barb Stout
9	Courtney Miarer	24	Jane Reinbolt	28	Donn & Joyce Jones
11	Dick Adams	25	Amanda Herman		
12	Bert Livingston	26	Aaron Miarer		
13	Elizabeth Biller	28	Audine Leeper		
15	Jeff Hall	30	Helen Cominsky		

Birthdays



THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Kaylee Amor
Pam Clark
Joan Gamble
Gerrie Hensley
Amanda Herman
Anne Humberger
Susan Myers
Lisa Zimmerman

THE CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Julie Kling
Choir Director	Lori Damschroder
Organist Emeritus	Paul Livingston
Secretary	Amy Monk
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Nicole Whetstone
Rainbow Station Director/Teacher	Roberta Patterson
Rainbow Station Teacher	Kathleen Daley
Rainbow Station Floater	Shari Mehling
Co-Treasurers	Larry & Carol Van Dyne
Volunteer Parish Nurse	Linda Hamilton
Custodian	Scott Slatter

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN **COORDINATING TEAM**

Moderator	Dannita Cowdrey
Secretary	
Treasurer	Carol Van Dyne
Funeral Luncheon	Susan Myers
Rachel Circle	Dannita Cowdrey
Rummage Sales	
At Large	Jo Elder
	Lois Livingston

THE SESSION

Rev. Dr. Julie Kling (Moderator)
Bill Taylor (Clerk)
Dannita Cowdrey
Linda Hamilton
Bob Humberger
Ken Myers
Nicole Whetstone
Janice Zimmerman



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