

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN NOVEMBER:

November 3 - "Wait Your Turn"
 November 10 - "Giving Constant Thanks"
 November 17 - "Plenty for All"
 November 20 - Service of Gratitude and Thanksgiving, 7:00 pm
 November 24 - "A Ready Heart"

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Nurturing Our Faith and Discipleship

Yes, "the times they are a changin'." The church is not exempt from this change. Fewer Americans identify themselves as Christians on demographic surveys, and the number of Americans who do not identify with any religion continues to increase. One reason people often give is that the institutional church has no relevancy for their lives. The PC(USA) Mission Agency writes, "As much as this new reality is alarming, it is also an opportunity for our congregations, worshiping communities and mid councils to wake up and seize the moment." In other words, churches are called to increase congregational vitality.

What then is congregational vitality? Is it based on how many members and programs a church has? No. Is it based on financial contributions and having a huge budget? No. Congregational vitality is based on the spiritual strength of the members and the willingness and ability of the members to join in purpose-driven mission.

"Congregational vitality is evident in a worshiping community when its structural systems, finances and discipleship practices are aligned in such a way that the community is actively engaged in the mission of God in their local community and the world, and they are powerfully focused on growing as disciples in the way of Jesus Christ. Faith comes alive when we boldly engage God's mission and share the hope we have in Christ." (PCUSA Mission Agency)

What does this mean? It means in all that a church does everything is aligned, so that the church is "actively engaged in the mission of God in [the] local community and the world." This means the church's primary focus is not inward but outwards, seeking to serve the needs of those in the local community and in the world. It also means that it is not something that just church leaders or the pastor does, but is something that all members are called to do. How can each one of us "engage in the mission of God" locally and globally?

I am also struck by the words "faith comes alive." The focus is not only on mission but on individual faith and discipleship. How can we as a congregation encourage and support each other on our journey to become better disciples? It is also an opportunity for each of us to do our own self-check up on our discipleship. Is my own faith a living faith? Am I willing to allow God to direct my life?

One sign of a vital congregation is: "A commitment to forming disciples over every member's lifetime. This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today's culture." (PCUSA Mission Agency).

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Special points of interest:

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

2019 PER CAPITA

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So a first step is then a commitment to a growth in personal discipleship. So this month, take some time to consider what discipleship means and nurture your own faith. A good starting point is to read and reflect on Matthew 25 and on the other Scripture passages listed below.

Scriptures for study and reflection:

Matthew 25:31–46

Acts 2:42–47

John 4:1–41

John 13: 2–17

Isaiah 6:1–13

Acts 6:1–7

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

Nurture your discipleship through prayer and worship. In addition to our regular Sunday services and Sunday morning study and discussion opportunities, on Sunday November 3rd we will have our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner after worship. That is also Stewardship Commitment Sunday. In addition, we will also have an opportunity to gather on Wednesday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m. for a Service of Gratitude and Thanksgiving. Eastside Presbyterian will be joining us for this time of worship and fellowship. All are welcome! A time of fellowship and light refreshments will follow the service.

Pastor Julie

PAPERLESS NEWSLETTER OPTION

Thank you for all of your responses so far! You still have November and December to respond, so if you have not already done so, please fill out the form on the right to let us know how you would like to receive your newsletter!

Please mail it back to the First Presbyterian Church at 120 S. Park Ave, Fremont, OH 43420. Or you can let us know your preference at office@fremontfpc.org, or call the church office at 419-334-7171.

****Please note:** *Electronic newsletters by email will begin in January 2020. Thank you for your patience and understanding!*

NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE:

Name: _____

Please indicate how you would like to receive your newsletter:

For a ***paper*** copy of the newsletter, please select one of the following options:

I will pick up my ***paper copy in church***.

I would like my ***paper copy in the mail***. (please provide mailing address)

I would like an ***electronic*** copy of the newsletter by ***email***. (please provide email address)

I ***no longer*** wish to receive the newsletter.

Please call or email the church office,
or mail this form to:

First Presbyterian Church
120 S. Park Ave.
Fremont, OH 43420

RAINBOW STATION NEWS



Happy Thanksgiving! We have a lot to be thankful for this fall. We have a lot of new families

and friends. We have wonderful staff, subs and volunteers and we have a wonderful place for our preschool and daycare. God has also blessed us with weather warm enough we can still go out and play. We also thank all of you for your prayers, financial support and donations. You are greatly appreciated.

The children have enjoyed running, climbing and also digging for worms. They are learning that when it is colder, the worms dig down deeper. There are a lot of things to explore in our little play yard. They have also enjoyed watching the construction going on outside. Several of the children want to drive those "big trucks" when they get older. We will miss the construction equipment when the job is completed.

We will be collecting non-perishable food during the month of November to be given either to the food pantry or a family in need. We will be talking to the children about sharing what we have with others who do not have as much. If

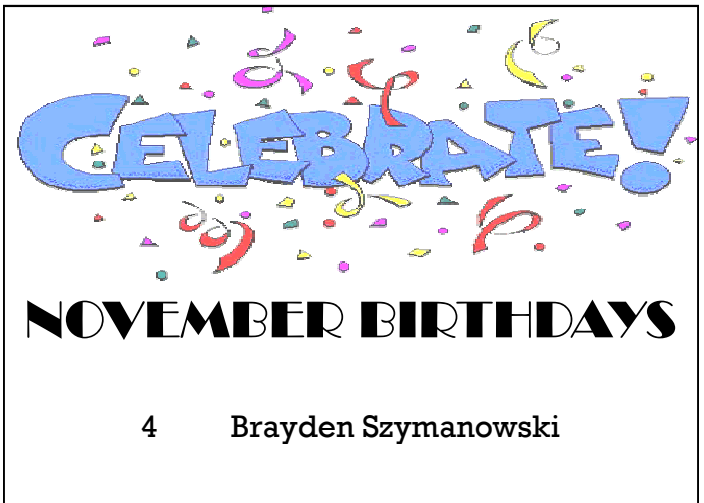
you wish to come in and share a story/book with us, please feel free to do so. Contact Miss Roberta to set up a time.

We wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Rainbow Station Staff

RECYCLING NEWS

We will **no longer** be accepting tin cans for recycling (eg. soup cans). We **will** still collect and recycle aluminum cans (eg. soda cans. If a magnet sticks to your can, it is **not** aluminum.) We appreciate your continued help and support in every way!



NOVEMBER

					1	2
3 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship - Turkey Luncheon 5:00p - VIDA Church	4 10:00a - PW Mtg 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	5 ELECTION DAY	6 6:00p - Choir 6:00p - WOLT 6:30p - Admin & Finance 7:15p - Session	7 6:00p - Girl Scouts 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	8	9
10 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	11 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA VETERAN'S DAY	12	13 11:30a - Satellites 6:00p - Choir	14 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	15	16
17 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	18 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	19 7:00p - Rachel Circle	20 6:00p - Choir 6:30p - Deacons 7:00p - Service of Gratitude and Thanksgiving NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	21 5:30p - Habitat 6:00p - Girl Scouts 6:30p - Vida Bible Study (in library)	22 4:30p - Christmas Church Decorating	23 10:00a - OCC Shoebox Packing Party
24 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	25 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	26	27 6:00p - Choir	28  Happy Thanksgiving CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	29	30

Birthdays

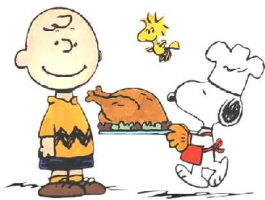
- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------------|
| 10 | Robert Cowdrey | 26 | Paul Livingston |
| 16 | Jody Amor | 26 | Diane Roush |
| 18 | Lori Damschroder | 27 | Chad Crispen |
| 22 | JoAnne Elder | 30 | Penny Deffenbaugh |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 11 | Ralph & Rina Oxley |
| 13 | Paul & Karla Stout |
| 17 | Robert & Dannita Cowdrey |
| 23 | Chad & Jeannie Crispen |
| 25 | Steve & Sherri Kennedy |

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

Please join us for our annual Turkey Dinner hosted by Fellowship and Service on Sunday, November 3rd, immediately after the worship service. Come for church at 10:00 am, then stay for a time of food, friends, and giving thanks for all we have. Bring a guest! We hope to see you all there!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are will be having an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox packing party on Saturday, November the 23rd at 10:00 am. If you have any questions about how you can help or donate please contact me at 419-307-1462. Thank you! Josh Ross



Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00 in the Library. We will discuss chapter 3 of *Becoming a Woman of Extraordinary Faith*. Nikki will lead us in a discussion of "Extraordinary Healing: When Life Hurts." Join us!

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Please join us on Friday, November 22 at 4:30 pm to decorate the church for Christmas! We would love to have extra hands, if you are available to help. Thank you in advance!

"Mission Cry" Is Coming for Your Old Bibles

"Mission Cry," Christian Resources International (CRI) is holding a nation-wide drive for the collection of used Bibles and religious books in January 2020. Witness and Outreach Leadership Team will be participating as a local collector of your new and used Bibles. Later, WOLT will transport the collected volumes to CRI in Michigan. You may want to look over the unused Bibles and Christian books on your bookshelves for candidates to donate in January. For more info on "Mission Cry" go to www.cribooks.org/about.

Christ University

Don't Give Up by Kyle Idleman.

October 27 - November 10

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.

God Came Near by Max Lucado

November 17 through December 22

Travel back in time and relive Christ the Son of God becoming man as *God Came Near*. Max Lucado invites you to comprehend Jesus' humanity through this insightful perspective of Christ's life.

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 am

Looking for Unique Christmas Gifts?

If you are looking for truly unique Christmas gifts for your giving list, please check out the 2019-2020 Presbyterian Giving Catalog on the Witness and Outreach Leadership Team's bulletin board by the church's parking lot entrance. It offers lots of small gifts with big impact. The featured gift is a fishing net for \$15. You may give online at www.presbyteriangifts.org. Enjoy your Christmas shopping.

SATELLITES

Our Nov. lunch will be held on Wed., Nov. 13th at 11:30 at A's family restaurant on E. State St, in Fremont, just east of Otto & Urban. Please call Audine (419-334-3494) by Mon., Nov. 11th with your reservation. Anyone is welcome to attend. Hope to see you there.



BUCKEYES!

It's time to make buckeyes! We'll be making buckeyes to sell at the cookie walk again this year, and we can use your help. We'll be making them on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8, starting at 1:00 p.m. both days at Chip and Donna Cominsky's house: 1639 Emmett Drive. We guarantee that you will share some laughs as we work together on this project. Join us either or both days. See you then!

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

Dish Soap (optional)

Liquid Laundry Detergent (optional)

November

3 - Saltines

10 - Soup/Chili

17 - Pears

24 - Green Beans

November Assisting In Worship

DATE	USHERS	COMMUNION PREP, SERVING & CLEAN-UP	LOCK DOORS
November 3	Team 5 Pam Clark- Captain Russ & Ellen Abbott		John Roush
November 10	Team 1 Dannita Cowdrey - Captain Bob Cowdrey Rod Combs	No Communion	Bob Gamble
November 17	Team 2 Bill Taylor - Captain Carolyn Taylor Janice Zimmerman		Bob Gamble
November 24	Team 3 Mike Opre - Captain Bob & Lisa Zimmerman	No Communion	Bob Gamble

DEACONS BASKETS

The Deacons will again be preparing and giving out food "baskets" to those in need in the community. The sign-up bulletin board by the Garrison



Street door listing items that you can help us provide will be up by the middle of November. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Monetary donations can be given to Amy in the church office, put in an offering plate, or given to any deacon. Please put money in an envelope and clearly label it "Deacons' Baskets".

We will prepare the boxes on Wednesday, December 18th. Please bring items to the church social room December 10-15.

If you have any questions please ask any Deacon. Thank you in advance for helping us to help others with this ministry.

The Deacons

SUMMARY OF SESSION MEETING

The regular September Stated Session was held in the church library on Wednesday, October 2, 2019. Session members present included: Moderator Rev. Dr. Julie Kling, Jody Amor, Linda Hamilton, Bob Humberger, John Roush, Don Steen, Larry Stout, and Nicole Whetstone. Bill Taylor was medically excused.

Pastor Kling read Matthew 4:17-22 as the opening prayer. She led a discussion of the second of the seven marks of a vital congregation, "Intentional Authentic Evangelism." Pastor Kling followed with several reflection questions concerning evangelism such as "What keeps us from sharing the Good News in our daily lives?" She then concluded with prayer.

The clerk reported the following Sunday Worship Attendance: Sept. 1 – 40 ; Sept. 8 – 41 ; Sept. 15 – 41 ; Sept. 22 – 40 ; and Sept. 29 – 46 .

Pastor Kling gave a verbal report of her activities in September. She did sermon preparation and preaching on Sundays. She consulted with Bill Taylor on the Stewardship Emphasis planning. She attended to the details of the Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas services. She participated in a Pastors' Virtual Conference on future ministry to seniors.

The Treasurers report is summarized as Year to date income - \$102,592, expenditures - \$84,881, and surplus - \$18,495

Leadership Team reports were **Administration and Finance** – New sidewalk completed in front of the church for \$150 in materials and \$30 gift card to Bill Schling for donated labor. Purchased new carpet sweeper. Boiler was inspected during the week of October 8 by AIR-EEZ. Vida Church wedding Saturday, Oct 5. Job search for organist placed in 6 places. **Music, Worship, and Sacraments** – Battery driven candles for Advent Wreath are being ordered. **Rainbow Station Board** – Enrollment is 26 with no openings. Need root removal in playground. Local author Jamey Wilkins will speak at October 12 Family Event. **Nominating Committee** – Will need to fill 2 deacon and 2 elder positions for election next year. **Stewardship Task Force** – Will finish bulletin board, free standing visual, and signs above doorway on schedule. Will speak for 5 min at beginning of Sunday, October 3rd "kickoff."

Pastor Kling closed the meeting with prayer.



THE BOARD OF DEACONS

- Dannita Cowdrey*
- Bob Gamble*
- Susan Myers*
- Diane Roush*
- Anne Humberger*
- Josh Ross (Moderator)*
- Kaylee Amor*
- Amanda Herman*

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 |
| Rainbow Station Floater | Kali Norris |
| 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 | Susan McKnight |
| | Jo Elder |
| | Lois Livingston |

THE SESSION

- Larry Stout*
- Don Steen*
- Nicole Whetstone*
- Jody Amor*
- Linda Hamilton*
- John Roush*
- Bob Humberger*
- Bill Taylor (Clerk)*
- Rev. Dr. Julie Kling (Moderator)*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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



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