

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

The Christmas Gifts

In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2, verse 11, we hear about the very first Christmas gifts: *“And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother and they fell down and worshipped Him. Then opening their treasure bags, they presented to him gifts, gold and frankincense and Myrrh.”* Traditionally, we know the bearers of these gifts as The Three Wise Men or The Three Magi. They are the subject of many stories, songs, carols, and Christmas cards. But who were they? How many were there? The Bible only says they were *“wise men from the east.”* (Matthew 2:1).

So we know they traveled from eastern countries. They are also traditionally believed to be magi, philosophers, or astrologers, but wherever they were from, they knew about the God of Abraham and the promise of a Messiah. They, like other Jewish believers, were hoping this child was the longed for consolation of Israel. Therefore, these wise ones, since they followed the star, studied the heavens but were also familiar with scripture. Mathew, chapter 2, verses 1 and 2 state: *“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him.”*

We do know that these wise magi brought some precious gifts. Gold was considered a precious metal then, as it is now. Frankincense was used in worship (Exodus. 30:34), and was used to accompany offerings (Lev. 2:1, 16; 6:15; 24:7). Frankincense when lighted had a fragrant smell and became a symbol of prayers rising to heaven (Ps. 141:2; Luke 1:10). Myrrh was one of the ingredients in anointing oil (Exodus 30:23).

In the Old Testament, prophets anointed kings and priests with oil. However, the child these men came to worship was the true anointed one: Christ means the anointed one. In Luke 4:18, Jesus states: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

As we complete Christmas gift-buying and wrap presents, let us allow time amidst the busyness and preparation to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Remember that night over 2000 years ago when the wise ones traveled many, many miles following the brightness of a star in order to worship a new born child. Remember the gifts they gave, but more importantly remember the great gift God gave to us: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* (John 3: 16)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Pastor Julie

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastoral Reflections	1
Calendar	4
Anniversaries	4
Birthdays	4
Assisting in Worship	6

Special points of interest:

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

2019 PER CAPITA

\$33.20

Please join us at 7:30 pm on
Tuesday, December 24 for a can-
dlelight Christmas Eve Service.



2019 – 2020 Mission Opportunity:

The children will be selling baked goods and treats every month to raise money for our mission opportunity, which will be going toward Operation Christmas Child and Samaritan’s Purse International Relief. Last year the children raised \$277.80 so we hope to increase that amount throughout 2019 - 2020. The following is the 1st half of the schedule we have put together so that the congregation can be prepared to buy goodies during the month of December.

Selling Dates:

December 8 – Candy Cane Prayer/Treat

December 22 – Baby Jesus Snack

Thank You, The Christian Growth and Nur-
ture Team



**FINAL MONTH TO
RESPOND**

This could be your final news-
letter! If you have not already
done so, please fill out the
form on the right to let us
know if you would like to con-
tinue to receive your newslet-
ter. If you do not respond by
December 24, your name will
be dropped from the mailing
list. (Responses received after
this date will be added back
to the mailing list, but you
might not receive January’s
edition.)

Please mail the form 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:** If you re-
quested electronic newsletters
by email, this will be your final
paper copy. Your emails will
begin in January 2020.

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



We would like to wish everyone a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS! It is hard to believe that it is that time of year again. We are so thankful for

God's gift of His Son, to prepare the way of salvation. Please enjoy the gift He has given us.

We currently have 2 open spaces in the toddler room(18m-36m) if you know of anyone needing care. If interested, please call the center at 419-334-7173. Due to children moving up within the program, we now have 5 toddlers and 20 preschoolers.

We are doing our Happy Birthday Jesus! Party again this year. We will be collecting baby gifts to donate to Heartbeat Hope Medical, as we have done in the past. This helps the children to know that Christmas is about helping others too.

Thank you for all your support through prayers, donations and just stopping by to say hello. We greatly appreciate you. Remember that we no longer accept tin cans. We do however, collect the alumi-

num cans.

From all the staff at Rainbow Station, we wish you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

KROGER FUNDRAISER

Thank you to the 126 households who shopped at Kroger between August 1, 2019 and October 31, 2019. You helped Rainbow Station earn \$654.08!! If you don't see Rainbow Station listed at the bottom of your Kroger receipt, please call the church office at 419-334-7171 to be enrolled. Every little bit helps!



CELEBRATE!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

23	Hannah Sebetto
31	Ethan Willer



DECEMBER

1 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship - Potluck Luncheon 5:00p - VIDA Church	2 10:00a - PW Mtg 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	3	4 6:00p - Choir 6:00p - WOLT 6:30p - Admin & Finance 7:15p - Session	5 6:00p - Girl Scouts 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	6	7 1:00p - Time to make Buckeyes!
8 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 1:00p - Time to make Buckeyes! 5:00p - VIDA Church	9 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	10	11 11:30a - Satellites 6:00p - Choir	12 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	13 10:00a - Cookie Walk Setup	14 10:00a-2:00p - Cookie Walk
15 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	16 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	17 7:00p - Rachel Circle	18 6:00p - Choir 6:30p - Deacons	19 6:00p - Girl Scouts 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	20 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	21
22 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	23 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	24 7:30p - Christmas Eve Service CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	25 	26 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	27	28
29 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	30 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED				

Birthdays

6	Steve Kennedy	23	Melissa Detwiler
13	Larry Van Dyne	25	Jeannie Crispen
15	Kay Stover	25	David Detwiler
17	Justine Oprie	27	Gerrie Hensley
19	Valentine Ross	27	Hal Mills
20	Leo Kinsey	30	Amy McKnight
21	Lisa Zimmerman		

Anniversaries

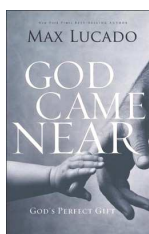
22 John & Diane Roush

DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Please make plans to join us for a Potluck luncheon on Sunday, December 1, immediately after the worship service. Fellowship and Service will provide the meat. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Invite a guest! We hope to see you there!

CHRIST UNIVERSITY

God Came Near by Max Lucado



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, November 17 through December 22.

Christian Resources International in need of Bibles

In January, 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 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 in the shipping expenses.



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). You can also check our Facebook page for a link to the Sheriff's snow emergency info.



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!

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The annual Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday December 22nd. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

At the conclusion of the joint Christmas Eve service, an exit offering will be received for Liberty Center of Sandusky County, the shelter for the homeless in the county. Just as the Joy Offering honors the Lord's gift that first Christmas, Liberty Center provides temporary shelter in a family living environment and opportunities for personal and family development.



END OF YEAR DATES TO REMEMBER

- ◇ The church office will be **closed** on Tuesday, December 24. The last day to turn in all receipts and vouchers for reimbursement will be **Thursday, December 26**. Please be sure your voucher is signed by the committee chair and the account number is filled in.
- ◇ The last day for 2019 contributions will be **Sunday, December 29**. The church office will be **closed** on Tuesday, December 31.
- ◇ Annual Reports will be due by **Friday, January 31**. Please email them to Amy at office@fremontfpc.org

Thank you all in advance! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

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)

December

1 - Corn

8 - Cereal

15 - Peaches

22 - Spaghetti

29 - Spaghetti Sauce

December Assisting In Worship

DATE	USHERS	COMMUNION PREP, SERVING &	LOCK DOORS
December 1	Team 4 Susan Myers - Captain Larry & Barb Stout		Bob Gamble
December 8	Team 5 Pam Clark- Captain Russ & Ellen Abbott	No Communion	Bob Gamble
December 15	Team 1 Dannita Cowdrey - Captain Bob Cowdrey Rod Combs		Bob Gamble
December 22	Team 2 Bill Taylor - Captain Carolyn Taylor Janice Zimmerman	No Communion	Bob Gamble
December 29	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. There is a sign-up bulletin board by



the Garrison Street door listing items that you can help us provide. Monetary donations will also be accepted and 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 November Stated Session was held in the church library on Wednesday, November 6, 2019. Session members present included: Linda Hamilton, John Roush, Larry Stout, Bill Taylor, Nicole Whetstone, and Rev. Dr. Julie Kling, moderator. Don Steen, Bob Humberger, and Jody Amor were excused.

Pastor Kling reviewed the first three of the seven marks of a vital congregation and discussed the fourth, "Empower Servant Leadership." She then asked several reflection questions concerning leadership such as "Do you think of yourself as a servant of Christ and how does the church identify, equip, and train our leaders?" Pastor Kling concluded the discussion in prayer.

The clerk reported the following Sunday Worship Attendance in October: 6 – 53; 13 – 47; 20 – 46; and 27 – 41.

Pastor Kling gave a verbal report of her activities in October. 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 consulted with Bill Taylor on the Stewardship Emphasis. She participated in a Pastors' Maumee Presbytery retreat on leadership and assisted in a funeral for a non-member. She did some visitation. Pastor Julie announced her vacation that included missing Sunday services on Dec. 29 and Jan. 5.

The Treasurer's report is summarized as: October Income - \$8,693; October Expenditures - \$9,195; October Net - -\$502; Year to date income - \$115,822; Year to date expenditures - \$90,335; Year to date net - \$25,487

Administration and Finance – Budget proposals for 2020 requested from Leadership Teams before November 30. **Christian Growth and Nurture** – Christmas bulletin covers will be provided in December. Consider giving unused books in Church Library to Christian Resources International (CRY). **Fellowship and Service** – 65 at Thanksgiving luncheon with \$213 donated. Thanks Mike!!!

Music, Worship, and Sacraments – Battery candles sought for Christmas Eve service. **Witness and Outreach** – Operation Christmas Child underway, used bible collection in January for CRY Mission, special invites will be provided for members to use for Christmas services. **Rainbow Station Board** – Session will offer \$500 to assist Rainbow Station family obtain housing. **Personnel Committee** – Still seeking organist. **Stewardship Task Force** – 28 of 81 pledges returned for \$82,984 to date. Better total pledges at this point than 2018. **Presbytery Report** – Next meeting November 19.

Pastor Kling closed the meeting with prayer.

POINSETTIAS 2019

Red poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas again this year.

The cost is \$12.50 per plant.

Prairie Flowers will bill you directly.

If you wish to place an order, please fill out the blank below and mail to the church office.

You may also order by calling the church office (419-334-7171).

Last day to order is December 8th.

PERSON ORDERING AND TO BE BILLED:

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ QUANTITY: _____

Given by: _____

In loving memory of (Deceased):

In honor of (Living):

To the Glory of God:

Please take your Poinsettias after the evening service on December 24th,

Or, no later than Sunday, December 29th.



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.



Follow us on Facebook