

December 2023

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 682, 120 S. PARK AVE, FREMONT, OH 43420 419-334-7171 WWW.FREMONTFPC.ORG

## Pastoral Reflection: "Beware and Be Awake"

We have begun our Advent journey and a new liturgical year as we head towards Christmas. So, Happy New Liturgical Year!

During the Thanksgiving holiday break maybe you watched some new movies or old family favorites. Perhaps you took time to watch TV shows, Christmas specials, or Turner Classic Movies. However, at some point did you watch the evening news? Watching the evening news we find ourselves forced to see the violence humans inflict on other humans as we witness war in Israel, Gaza, or the Ukraine. We may ask ourselves: where is God? How do we live in changing times? How do we cope and have hope?

In chapter 13 of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus speaks to his disciples just before he begins his journey to the cross. He mentions the destruction of the temple (Mark 13:1-8), the persecutions to come (Mark 13:9-13), the promise of Jesus' return (Mark 13:24-27), and the parable of the fig tree (Mark 13:28-31). In the very last section of the chapter, Mark 13:33-37 focuses on watching and waiting for Christ's return. It uses many verbs to give us warning and to call us to readiness.

In Mark 13:33, Jesus tells all to "beware". It is connected with the warning to wait for the coming of Christ. A clear message for our Advent journey is to be ready and be watchful. Also in verse 33 we are told to "Be awake". This verb can also be translated as "to be watchful with alertness". Jesus, in the previous verse (Mark 13:32), indicates the time of his return is unknown to the angels and to him (the Son), as only God knows. Our Advent journey is a time to reflect upon how we are watching and waiting. Do we long and hope for Christ's return? How do we watch and wait? This waiting is not to be a passive waiting. The Greek verb used for watch in the text also means "keeping watch over" or "caring for others".

In Mark 13:34, Jesus shares a brief parable of someone leaving

## CHURCH MAILING ADDRESS

The church now has a post office box to receive incoming mail. If you need to mail checks or other correspondence, please mail to:

**First Presbyterian Church**

**P.O. Box 682**

**Fremont, OH 43420**

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## Opportunities for Worship:

- Sunday School - 8:30 am, via Zoom
- Worship - 10:00 am, in the sanctuary

## 2023 PER CAPITA

\$38.60

## HOLIDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We will be joining with Eastside for joint services during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

**Sunday, December 24th, morning service:** Joint worship at Eastside at 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve:** Joint worship at First Presbyterian at 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 31st, morning service:** Joint worship at Eastside 10:30 a.m. Refreshments following the service.

**Sunday, January 7, morning service:** Joint worship at First Presbyterian at 10:00 a.m.

home and putting the servants in charge. Each servant has a task to do, and the person who is assigned to guard the door is told to keep watch. Jesus explains through the parable that all those left behind have an assigned job to do and are empowered to do their jobs while waiting for the head of household to return. Likewise, as disciples, we are empowered to care for God's world and God's children until he returns—no passive waiting here. God *has* guided and provided, God *does* guide and provide, and God *will* guide and provide.

A peace-filled Advent and joyous Christmas to all!

Pastor Julie

### Let's Make Buckeyes!

We'll be making buckeyes this year, and we could use your help! The fun will be on Thursday, December 7 at 6:30 pm, and Friday, December 8 at 2:00 pm. Both days will be in the church kitchen. Come share some laughs and make some memories as we work together on this project. Join us on either or both days.



### DEACONS' CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Our traditional Christmas food baskets have morphed into gift cards for families or individuals who can really use an extra boost at Christmas time. We hope you all will participate with monetary donations placed in offering plates or mailed to the church office and marked for "Deacon's Project". **The deadline will be Sunday, December 3.** If you know of a family or individual who might appreciate receiving one of the gift cards, please share that information with Carolyn Taylor. Thank you for helping with this mission.

The Deacons

### YOU'RE INVITED!

On Sunday, December 10th, the Christian Growth and Nurture team and East Side Presbyterian Church will be Christmas Caroling for those who are unable to get out of the house. We would love for you, as a congregation, to join us on this day to bring joy and make someone's Christmas special this year. Please meet at First Presbyterian Church by 12:30 pm on Sunday, December 10, 2023 after church in the Social Room. We hope you can join us!



### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Advent – An Advent Journey will be studied during the Advent season, November 26 – December 24. Join us Sundays at 8:30 am, via Zoom. Go to [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) and use:

*Meeting ID: 833 8679 0219*

*Passcode: 709251*

### 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)).

## 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**  
**December**

**3 - Potato Flakes**

**10 - Peaches**

**17 - Corn**

**24 - Thank YOU for your generosity during 2023!**  
**We appreciate you!**

**31 - Cereal**

Thanks for your help neighbor!  
Rod and Linda Combs

## SATELLITES

We are going to The Garrison on December 13th at 11:30 am.

You can call or text Diane Bascone @ 419.680.0190 to

RSVP or for directions. Bring a friend!

***Special prayer request: Please keep Audine Leeper and Jim Hiser in your prayers.***



## POINSETTIAS 2023

Red poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas 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 place in the offering plate or mail to the church office at PO Box 682, Fremont, OH 43420.

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

**Last day to order is December 10th.**

Person ordering & to be billed:

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Address:

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by:

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In loving memory of (Deceased)

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In honor of (Living)

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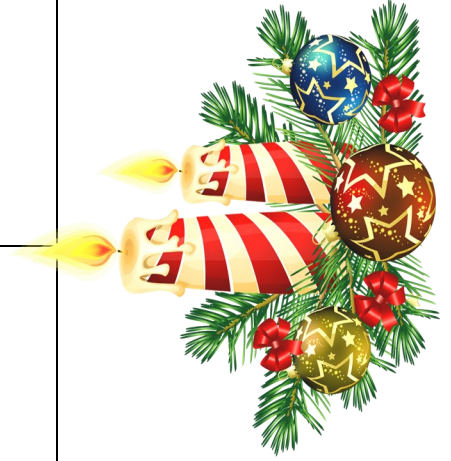
To the Glory of God by

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

# December

						1	2
3 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	4 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	5 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	6	7 5:00p - Choir 6:30p - Buckeye Making	8 2:00p - Buckeye Making	9	
10 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship 12:30p - Caroling 5:00p - Vida Church	11 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	12 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	13 11:30a - Satellites 7:00p - Session	14 5:00p - Choir	15	16	
17 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	18 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	19 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	20 6:30p - Deacons Newsletter Articles Due	21	22	23	
24 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:30a - Worship at Eastside 5:00p - Vida Church 7:00p - Christmas Eve Service at FPC	25 	26 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	27	28	29	30	
31 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:30a - Worship at Eastside 5:00p - Vida Church <b>New Year's Eve</b>							



## Birthdays

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



### ***THE SESSION***

*Rev. Dr. Julie Kling (Moderator)*

*Dannita Cowdrey*

*Bob Gamble*

*Bob Humberger*

*Nicole Whetstone*

*Bill Taylor (Clerk)*

### **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
Co-Treasurers	Larry & Carol Van Dyne
Volunteer Parish Nurse	Linda Hamilton
Custodian	Scott Slatter

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** **COORDINATING TEAM**

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

### ***THE BOARD OF DEACONS***

*Melissa Detwiler*

*Joan Gamble*

*Anne Humberger*

*Susan Myers*

*Carolyn Taylor*



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### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

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