

December 2022

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## Pastoral Reflection: Bearing Fruit

In the Advent Reflection booklet for December 4th, I shared:

*Hating grocery shopping, I rely on online ordering. I place my order and go to pick it up: easy! However, one of the drawbacks is the inability to select my own fresh produce. I have ordered fruit, put it in the fridge, and then later grabbed a piece, exclaiming "Yuck!" as I bite down on fruit that was either too ripe or just a bad piece of fruit. The reading from Isaiah proclaims, "a shoot will come from the stump of Jesse." This One, who is to come, will usher in a kingdom that has justice as its hallmark. All will be valued and safe; the young child has no reason to fear the cobra or the viper. Normal enemies will be friends. This "Root of Jesse", this Messiah, will stand "as a banner for the peoples." This One will judge with righteousness and compassion the vulnerable and needy and bear good fruit. As I develop my grocery shopping skills, I have learned that it is better for me to go into the store and select the good fruit. As we seek to be bearers of God's kingdom, Isaiah challenges us to consider what kind of fruit we are bearing.*

And to that I would add:

One thing that dealing with COVID19 has taught us is there are times when we need to sacrifice our own wants and desires for the safety and well-being of others. We need to consider Isaiah's words and consider what kind of fruit we are bearing. Christmas is a time of giving and awareness of others; usually at Christmas, people are more generous and hospitable than they are at other times of the year.

Several years ago at Christmas time, a friend shared this prayer by Walter Brueggemann from his book *Awakened to Heaven: Rooted in Earth*. This prayer is an Advent prayer appropriate for these days, as it deals with changing times and awaiting Christ's presence in our lives. Part of the prayer appears below:

*In our secret yearnings  
we wait for your coming,  
and in our grinding despair  
we doubt that you will.  
And in this privileged place  
we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we  
and by those who despair more deeply than do we.  
Look upon your church...  
in this season of hope  
which runs so quickly to fatigue  
and in this season of yearning  
which becomes so easily quarrelsome.  
Give us the grace and the impatience  
to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,  
to the edges of our fingertips...  
and come in your weakness  
in any case  
and make all things new.*

Amen.

Have a peace-filled Advent and a blessed Christmas!

Pastor Julie



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### Opportunities for Worship:

- Sunday School - 8:30 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: fremontfpc@gmail.com

### 2022 PER CAPITA

\$37.23

### 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

**4 - Potato Flakes**

**11 - Oatmeal**

**18 - Peaches**

**25 - Merry Christmas! Thank you for your generous donations all year!**

Thanks for your help neighbor!

Rod and Linda Combs

### SUNDAY SCHOOL ON ZOOM

Join us Sunday mornings for an advent study by Adam Hamilton called *Incarnation: Rediscovering the significance of Christmas*. We will meet at 8:30 am Sunday mornings on Zoom to watch a short video and discuss how it relates to our lives. The focus will be to learn the meaning behind the names of Christ and the difference he makes in our lives this Christmas. Contact the office or Donna Cominsky to get the Zoom link for your phone or computer.

#### 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:

fremontfpc@gmail.com

Thank you! Amy Monk,  
FPC Administrative Assistant

### SATELLITES

We are going to 818 Club on December 14th at 11:30 am. You can call or text Diane Bascone @ 419.680.0190. Bring a friend!



### You're Invited!



On Sunday, December 11th, 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 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 11th, 2022 after church.

We hope you can join us!

### 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 4. Thank you for helping with this mission.

The Deacons

### CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP

**December 24 at 7:00 pm** - Christmas Eve service at First Presbyterian Church.

**December 25 at 10:30 am** - Christmas service at East Side Presbyterian Church. No service at FPC. Please join us at East Side.



# RAINBOW STATION

# Preschool News

Merry Christmas! We hope everyone remembers the real reason for the season. Did you ever stop to think what life would be like without Jesus? I, for one, am very thankful for the plan God had through the life and death of Jesus.

We will be doing our annual "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party again this year, collecting baby gifts to go to Heartbeat Hope Medical. If you wish to join us in collecting new items for them, there will be a basinet near the Rainbow Station door. Some ideas for gifts are office supplies, baby bath, baby shampoo and lotion, diapers (preemies to size 5), onesies, swaddle blankets, terry hooded towels, baby wipes, and whatever else you think a baby could use.

Thank you to everyone who supports us in your prayers, finances, donated materials, and work. Thank you, also, to those of you who have us listed as a recipient of your Kroger Community Rewards. You are greatly appreciated.

We are still in need of a Director/Teacher and would appreciate your prayers that God would send just the right person to

fill this position.

Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Rainbow  
Station  
Staff



Happy Birthday!

3 - Elliana Scott

23 - Hannah Sebetto

# POINSETTIAS 2022

Red poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas this year. The cost is \$15 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 120 S. Park Ave, Fremont, OH 43420.



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

**Last day to order is December 11th.**

Person ordering & to be billed:

---

Address:

---

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

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

Given by:

---

In loving memory of (Deceased)

---

In honor of (Living)

---

To the Glory of God by

---

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

## Terra Community College



As an outreach project, The Christian Growth and Nurture team will continue to collect non-perishable items for the Terra Community College students who live at The Landings until January 2023. There will be a box/tub located in the social room labeled "Terra Community College- The Landings" on the counter against the wall.

**Some suggestions are the following:**

- Soup
- Mac & Cheese
- Noodles
- Ravioli
- Canned vegetables
- Knorr's rice packet
- Juice
- Canned fruit
- Tuna
- Canned chicken
- Oatmeal
- Applesauce
- Peanut butter
- Crackers (plain, goldfish, cheese, peanut butter)
- Granola/Breakfast Bars
- Cookies
- Cereal
- Jelly/Jam
- Cake/Muffin Mix
- Frosting
- Pretzels/Chips
- Condiments
- Pudding
- Flour
- Sugar
- Oil
- Kleenex
- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap
- Paper Towels
- Toothpaste
- Dish Soap







**THE BOARD OF DEACONS**

- Pam Clark*
- Joan Gamble*
- Gerrie Hensley (Secretary)*
- Susan Myers*
- Carolyn Taylor (Moderator)*
- 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)*
- Dannita Cowdrey*
- Bob Gamble*
- Ken Myers*
- Bill Taylor (Clerk)*
- Nicole Whetstone*



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