

March 2024

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## Pastoral Reflection: Spending Time with Jesus

Do we recognize Jesus in our midst? In the gospel of John, John the Baptist sees Jesus walk by and exclaims that he is the Lamb of God. (John 1:36). Also in the Gospel of John, two disciples follow Jesus and when he notices them, Jesus asks them who or what they are looking for. They immediately call Jesus “Rabbi” and ask him where he is staying. Jesus’ response is “Come and See”. (John 1:36-39). They go with Jesus and stay with him for the day. The Greek verb that is used here is “menein” which means to stay, remain, or abide. Notice the first response of the two with Jesus is to simply be with him and try to gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is.

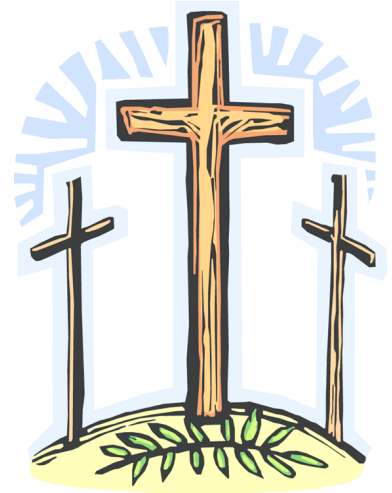
In John chapter 8, Jesus says to those who believe in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” Discipleship begins with seeing Jesus in our midst. But that means we must have open eyes and be willing to seek him in our midst. It also means we must spend time with him by studying the Word.

How have you been living in God’s Word during your Lenten journey? If you have not spent much time looking for God and abiding in his Word, consider beginning to do so now. Set aside some time each day to spend with God. Find a quiet place inside your home or outside now that the weather is getting warmer. Keep your Bible at hand and sit in a comfortable spot. First, become aware of your posture. Sit with your feet flat on the floor and become aware of your breathing. After all, it is God who created you and has given you life. Jesus also promised that God’s spirit will abide with us always (See John 14:17). Invite the Holy Spirit into your life. Try to open your mind and heart to God. If you are distracted by worries and concerns, try to let them go, to put them aside. They will still be there later after your prayer time. Or, if you are unable to put them aside, place them in God’s hands. Lift each one up and give to God each worry or concern.

Once you feel centered and able to focus on God. Say a prayer asking God to guide you into the Word. Open your Bible and select a text. Read the text slowly several times. For the first reading, note what key words or phrases seem to speak to you. Then, if the passage is a story, what characters do you identify with? Be patient and present to God’s word and see what insight or new learning God reveals to you. If there is no clear message or lesson, trust that God is present with you and will guide you. If you have studied the passage before, try to set aside any previous meaning that you have learned and see how God may be speaking to you through the passage in a new way. At the end of your quiet time with God, thank God for being present in your life. You might want to also spend some time journaling and jot down any new learnings or awareness, so that you can return to reflect upon it later.

As we enter into Holy Week at the end of this month and we hear the events of Jesus’ crucifixion, we are reminded that Jesus tells his disciples before his death that he goes before them to prepare a dwelling place for them. That where he is, they may also be. Jesus assures his disciples, including struggling Thomas, that he is the way, the truth, and the life.

Have a blessed Holy Week and a Joyous Easter,  
Pastor Julie



### March Opportunities for Worship & Fellowship:

Sunday School: 8:30 a.m.  
via Zoom (see page 2 for meeting ID and passcode)

**All Worship Services in March will be held at The First Presbyterian Church. The new service time is 10:30 a.m.**

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian.

Sunday, March 31: Easter breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian.

*Services in April will be held at East Side at 10:30 a.m.*

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### 2024 PER CAPITA

\$39.10

## Easter Egg Hunt



**Egg Hunt for Kids**  
On Easter Sunday, March 31st, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt for children ages Preschool – 6th grade. We will have a time of fun throughout the church (Social Room and Preschool/

Rainbow Station Room) located on the first floor after worship service.

Weather permitting, the children will also hunt for eggs outside in the play yard. Easter baskets will be provided.

Please contact Nikki Whetstone if you are planning to bring children to the hunt so she will make sure there are enough supplies at 419-307-0718, in person, or leave a message in the office.

Come support and encourage the children and fellowship with others while they are finding their eggs!



## 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**

### March

**3 - Mixed Veggies**

**10 - Peaches**

**17 - Noodles**

**24 - Creamy Soup**

**31 - Tuna**

Thanks for your help neighbor!  
Rod and Linda Combs

## SATELLITES

We are going to Applebee's on March 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.*



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us Sunday mornings at 8:30 am for Adult Sunday School. Please use the Meeting ID and Passcode below from January 21, 2024 until May 12, 2024.

Go to [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join) and use:

Meeting ID: 852 6110 1721 and Passcode: 793705

## Church Phone System

Due to an ongoing issue with the phone system there is now only one working phone in the building, located in the church office. Please use a cell phone if you need to make calls inside the church.

Thank you!



## SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

Services at 120 S. Park Ave are automatically cancelled whenever a Level 2 or 3 Snow Emergency is in effect for Sandusky County as of 8 am on Sunday morning.

If services are cancelled due to extreme cold, you will receive a recorded call from FPC. If you are not on the call list and would like to be added, please call or email Amy in the church office.

**When services are held at East Side, the host church will decide when to cancel due to weather.**

Information about snow emergencies 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)).







### ***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

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.