

March 2023

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## Pastoral Reflections

### Lent: A Time to Develop a Stronger Relationship with God

I started my day this morning listening to a duet featuring Andrea Bocelli, the Italian tenor, singing Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." The title of the piece suggests the Psalms but the opening lyrics also speak of King David as a psalmist.

In his preface to his commentary on the book of Psalms, John Calvin describes the collection of psalms as "the anatomy of all the parts of the soul, for not an emotion will anyone find in himself whose image is not reflected in this mirror. All the griefs, sorrows, fears, misgivings, hopes, cares, anxieties—in short, all the disquieting emotions with which we are wont to be agitated—the Holy Spirit hath here pitched exactly."

A Psalm often associated with Lent is Psalm 22. If we truly look at those words from Psalm 22, we will note the accusing tone: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" In other words, God, why have you left me alone? Why have you forgotten me? Whether those words were said by the ancient Israelites wandering in the dessert or by Jesus as he hung on the cross during the ninth hour, these are strong words. Words of anger? Words of frustration? Words of feeling abandoned? In any case, they are words full of strong human emotions.

But this usage of strong emotional words can remind us of an important lesson behind all the psalms. The psalms with their raw display of human emotions are a reminder that it is permissible to be our true selves and share our true feelings before God. The psalms as prayers of real human beings remind us to be frank and truthful in our own prayer life.

Our journey to Easter first leads us through the frankness and darkness of Lent. Our own lives have moments of Lent and Easter as we feel the full range of human emotions. Do not hesitate to explore the book of Psalms as it is truly a book for true humans struggling to develop a stronger relationship with God.

Pastor Julie

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#### Opportunities for Worship:

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

#### 2023 PER CAPITA

\$38.60

## SUNDAY SCHOOL ON ZOOM

Join us Sunday mornings at 8:30 am for Sunday School via Zoom. We will be continuing the New Testament Fast Track with Acts and the Letters of Paul. Go to [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) and use Meeting ID: 894 1653 3841 and Passcode: 366167

### 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

**5 - Saltines**

**12 - Peanut Butter**

**19 - Jelly**

**26 - Cereal**

Thanks for your help neighbor!

Rod and Linda Combs

### UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are moving, have changed phone numbers, or have a new email address, please email those changes to the office at: [fremontfpc@gmail.com](mailto:fremontfpc@gmail.com).

Thank you! Amy Monk,  
FPC Administrative Assistant

## EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is April 9, so that means it's time to order your Easter flowers. White lilies, dark purple hyacinths and yellow tulips will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. The cost is \$15.00 each. If you wish to purchase flowers, complete the form below and mail it into the office, place it in the offering plate or call Susan Myers at 419-334-4718 to place your order by April 2, 2023. Thank you!

### 2023 EASTER FLOWERS



Do not pay now. Prairie Flowers will bill you.

Person ordering & to be billed:

Phone:

Address:

Given by:

In Memory of: (deceased)

In honor of: (living)

To the Glory of God

Indicate how many you would like of the 3 flowers below.

Lily\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth\_\_\_\_\_ Tulip\_\_\_\_\_

**Last day to order is April 2, 2023**

***All flowers should be picked up after the Easter Service on April 9th.***

# RAINBOW STATION

# Preschool News



Welcome Spring! The kids have enjoyed going outside to play and recently have been looking for worms and bugs with the warmer days

we have had. We have been taking walks on wetter days and have enjoyed the fresh air.

We are busy trying to learn how to get along with others, sharing and taking turns, as well as writing our names and learning things that will help us be better prepared for kindergarten.

If you haven't visited the new addition to Birchard Library, take the time to do so. The kids thoroughly enjoyed their visit there and were very well behaved. We were proud of them.

Thank you so much for all your prayers and support, we greatly appreciate it.

Rainbow Station Staff

## KROGER FUNDRAISER

Thank you to the 110 households who shopped at Kroger between November 1, 2022 and January 31, 2023. You helped Rainbow Station earn \$466.93!! 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!



Happy Birthday!

5 - Carolina Barman

## SATELLITES

We are going to the Garrison on March 8th at 11:30 am. You can call or text Diane Bascone @ 419.680.0190.

Bring a friend!

Last month, we had 16 people at Apple-  
bee's - it was our best turnout yet!!



*Helen  
Cominsky  
celebrated her  
100th birthday  
on  
January 30!*



**Please join the Christian Growth and Nurture team for a time of fellowship on Sunday, March 5th after church to help start the March Madness season. A lunch will be provided which will include pizza, breadsticks, salad, dessert, and drinks. After lunch, we will also have a time to**

**play card and board games for a time of fun. Bring a friend or several to unite others with our church family.**



**See you on March 5th!**

# March

				1		2 6:00p - Choir	3	4
5 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship	6 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	7	8 11:30a - Satellites 7:00p - Session	9 6:00p - Choir	10	11		
12 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship Daylight Savings Begins	13 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	14	15 6:30p - Deacons	16 6:00p - Choir	17	18		
19 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship	20 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	21	22	23 6:00p - Choir	24	25		
26 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship	27 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon Newsletter Articles Due	28	29	30 6:00p - Choir	31			

## Birthdays

1	Betty Sargeant	9	Jay Provonsha	20	Stephanie Stull	3	Rod & Linda Combs
4	Alex Clark	10	Bill McConnell	21	Cole Kinsey	18	Chip & Donna Cominsky
5	Michael Clark	16	Jan Zimmerman	25	Nathaniel Cowdrey		
6	Josh Ross	19	Susan Myers				
6	Carol Van Dyne	20	Carolyn Clark	25	Samuel Merritt		

## Anniversaries



### **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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