

April 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Pastoral Reflection: Dynamic Disciples

This past week I overheard a conversation about which actor that has played Batman did the best job. The consensus was that Adam West did the best job. The conversation then went on to include Robin, and so the importance of both members of the “dynamic duo” was then discussed. What does the word dynamic mean?

The word dynamic as an adjective means “characterized by constant change, activity, or progress” and “positive in attitude and full of energy and new ideas.” Dynamic as a noun means “a force that stimulates change or progress within a system or process.” And, as a musical term, the noun dynamics refers to the level of sound, the loudness or softness, for a musical composition.

The word dynamic needs to apply to discipleship. We need to be dynamic disciples. The church as the body of Christ is currently faced with change. Disciples throughout the ages have had to address change and were to be people constantly on the move following Jesus and obeying his command to make disciples of all nations. Note that these dynamic disciples on the move need to have positive attitudes, have energy to share their faith, and be open to new ideas as the Holy Spirit moves in their midst. And to apply the musical definition of dynamics, these disciples are sometimes called to proclaim the word boldly and other times with softness listen to the stories of others as they come to their assistance.

In his book, *A Spirituality of Waiting*, Henri Nouwen examines all four Gospels and stresses that in each one Jesus is the one in control who is preaching to the crowds and capable of miracles. But then in the middle of the story, the world of the disciples changes as Jesus points toward Jerusalem and announces that he will be handed over to the authorities and will suffer and die. Jesus’ ministry takes a different focus as he focuses on his final gift of redemption, compassion, and love.

The disciples followed Jesus in his early earthly ministry and listened to him preach and do miraculous things. But the truly miraculous days were ahead when Jesus allowed himself to be handed over, betrayed, beaten, and unjustly accused. Jesus refused to forgo the cross. Jesus did not kill his enemies but instead forgave them. Jesus allowed God to control his life.

When Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter quickly answers, “You are the Messiah.” Peter also scolds and tries to correct Jesus when Jesus says he must suffer. A Messiah who suffers doesn’t fit Peter’s notion of a Messiah. We might, like Peter, have a hard time with the direction that Jesus’ life must take. After all, we

GO INTO ALL
→ THE ←
WORLD
AND Preach THE
GOOD NEWS MARK 16:15
TO ALL CREATION

April Opportunities for Worship & Fellowship:

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

All Worship Services in April will be held at East Side Presbyterian Church at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 7: Coffee Time will follow worship at East Side.

Services in May will be held at First Presbyterian Church at 10:30 a.m.

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2024 PER CAPITA

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like to be in control; we don't want to be passive and allow things to happen to us. Yet here Jesus glorifies this way. Peter questions how Jesus can even consider such a path of submission. Jesus says "Get behind me" — which is exactly where we need to be as dynamic disciples.

Following Jesus is a choice. It is a voluntary "yes" to Jesus and following him into the world to help build the Kingdom of God. Discipleship is about discipline, hard work, change, obedience, and commitment. It isn't easy, but it is possible. It draws us closer to Christ and makes us more Christlike.

Dynamic means characterized by constant change, activity, or progress. Jesus stimulates change or progress within a system or process. That adjective fits us if we say "yes" to responding to Christ. We are called to be dynamic disciples.

Pastor Julie

SATELLITES

We are going to 818 Club on April 10th at 11:30 am. Please see Larry Stout or call him at 419-332-7919 to RSVP or for directions. Bring a friend!



Special prayer request:

Please keep Audine Leeper and Jim Hiser in your prayers.

SAVE THE DATE! (IN MAY)

Join the Deacons in celebrating God's generous bounty with a taco meal after church on **Sunday, May 5th**. Bring only your appetite, as all food and beverage will be provided. Hope to see you there!



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 and use:

Meeting ID: 852 6110 1721

Passcode: 793705

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.

Thank you! Amy Monk,

FPC Administrative Assistant

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

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

April

7 - Cereal

14 - Applesauce

21 - Potato Flakes

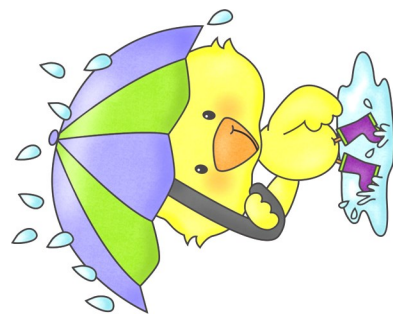
28 - Peas

Thanks for your help neighbor!
Rod and Linda Combs

April

	1 7:00p - AA / Al-anon	2 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	3	4	5	6
7 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:30a - Worship @ East Side, followed by coffee time 5:00p - Vida Church	8 7:00p - AA / Al-anon	9 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	10 11:30a - Satellites 7:00p - Session	11	12	13
14 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:30a - Worship @ East Side 5:00p - Vida Church	15 7:00p - AA / Al-anon	16 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	17 6:30p - Deacons	18	19	20
21 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:30a - Worship @ East Side 5:00p - Vida Church	22 7:00p - AA / Al-anon	23 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	24	25	26	27
28 9:00a - Easter Breakfast 10:30a - Worship @ East Side 5:00p - Vida Church	29 7:00p - AA / Al-anon	30 5:00p - Vida Bible Study				

Newsletter Articles Due



Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 3 | Hannah Biller | 21 | Samuel Detwiler |
| 5 | Anne Humberger | 22 | Jayne Wingo |
| 10 | John Fawley | 23 | Sherri Kennedy |
| 12 | William Hensley | 24 | Ralph Oxley |
| 15 | Carley Crispin | | |

Birthdays

4 William & Gerrie Hensley



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.