

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

120 S. PARK AVENUE FREMONT, OH 43420 419-334-7171 WW.FREMONTFPC.ORG

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN MAY:

May 5 - "From Obstacles to a Clear Path"

May 12 - "Jesus: Lamb and Shepherd"

May 19 - "It's a New Day"

May 26 - "God at Home with Us"

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

A Reminder from the Psalms: Come as You are!

One of my favorite books of the Bible is the book of Psalms. When I was working as an on-call hospital chaplain in the Chicago area, patients would often request that I read from the book of Psalms. Why this interest in the Psalms? One of the reasons is the wide range of emotions that are expressed in this book. Despair, Anger, Hope, Joy, Frustration...it's all there. The whole range of human emotions and feelings can be found in the Psalms. It is one of the most quoted books.

The New Testament writers and Jesus himself quotes the Psalms. Handel included references to the Psalms in the Messiah. But even popular music has made use of the Psalms. Boney M.'s "Rivers of Babylon" from 1978 is almost the exact text of Psalm 137, yet most people are not aware of that. The music has a Caribbean beat, and the music video also reflects Jamaican island life. I remember attending a concert with a friend at a Unitarian Universalist Church and was shocked to find this same song in one of their newer hymnal supplements. Even more recently, notice the popularity of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." Obviously the title 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."

One of the emotions "pitched exactly" in Psalm 22 is despair. The Psalm begins "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" You may be thinking, "Wait a minute, those are New Testament words!" In two of the Gospels, Matthew and Mark, these are recorded as being some of Christ's final words from the cross. Read Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34; yes, those words are originally from Psalm 22. Jesus evidently knew Psalm 22 from memory. Why did he quote it at this point in his life?

Sometimes something can become so familiar that we forget its true meaning or significance. Rather than breeding contempt, familiarity can also lead to complacency and forgetfulness. 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 desert or from Jesus as he hung on the cross during the ninth hour, these are strong words. Words of anger?

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Special points of interest:

- ◇ **Worship 10 am**
- ◇ **Christ University 9 am**
- ◇ **Session Summary**
- ◇ **Announcements**
- ◇ **Easter Flower Order**
- ◇ **Rummage Sale Alert**

2019 PER CAPITA

\$33.20

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.

Hebrews 4:16 states that we ‘approach the throne of grace with boldness’ or ‘confidence’ as some translations state. We can come to God as we really are and ‘find grace and mercy at our time of need.’ Besides, we can’t really hide anything from the all-wise, ever-present God. The psalmist in Psalm 139 tells us that even the darkness is not dark to God. So perhaps it is best to bring even our darkest thoughts before the One from whom no creature is hidden, but all are naked and lay bare... (Hebrews 4:13)

Our recent journey to Easter first led 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. It reminds us to come as we are!

Pastor Julie

RUMMAGE SALE ALERT



TUESDAY, April 30th, 9 a.m. to 5p.m.
(Set Up, Deliveries and Sorting)

WEDNESDAY, May 1st – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Deliveries and Sorting)

THURSDAY, May 2nd -- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Deliveries and Sorting)

FRIDAY, May 3rd
RUMMAGE SALE - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
TAKE DOWN/CLEAN UP - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
(Clean-up is really important and only an hour!)



Please help by:

1. *Donating your rummage (includes clothing, shoes, coats, household items of all kinds, furniture, tools, collectibles and much more),*

If at all possible, when you bring in your donations, plan to stay at least long enough to place your items in the right “department.” You never know, you may get “hooked” and join in the fun for a while!

2. *Giving us your time as a sorter, salesperson, and/or cook, and*
3. *Donating your homemade soup, cookies, muffins, pies or any other food item that would make our famous all-day soup luncheon a real hit once again!*

Pick up is available for large items. If you need this service, PLEASE call by Wednesday, May 1st. Also, let us know if you have a truck and strong muscles and can help pick up or deliver large items.

There is a sign-up sheet posted to assist in our preparations, but “drop-ins” are always welcome. You are needed and appreciated anytime during these busy four days. Help make this a wonderful outreach mission. You will receive a blessing! Thank you!

Call Carol at 567-201-8779 with questions.

RAINBOW STATION NEWS



*Welcome to Spring-
finally. We will be
looking forward to
being outside
more, now that the
weather is getting
nicer. Winter left
our play yard in a
mess, but it is*

*cleaned up now and ready to go. We
will be planting our garden and our
sunflower house in the next few weeks.*

*If you ordered flowers from our Heart-
beat sale, we will have those ready for
you late Tuesday afternoon on May 7.*

*Staff went to the Ohio Early Childhood
Conference in Sandusky, April 27. A lot
of useful information was gained and
we look forward to making our center a
better place with what we have
learned.*

*On Friday, April 26, the children had
their annual Trike-a-Thon for St. Jude's
Children's Hospital. This is a benefit to
help children with childhood illnesses
and to talk to our children about bicycle
safety. It was a great time for all.*

*Please pray for Ms. Roberta as she con-
tinues to heal for the next several*

weeks.

*Have a great month, and we will speak
again next
month.*

*Rainbow
Station
Staff*



WANT TO HELP?

The children would
love your odds and
ends to use in arts
and crafts. Buttons,
ribbon, fabric scraps,

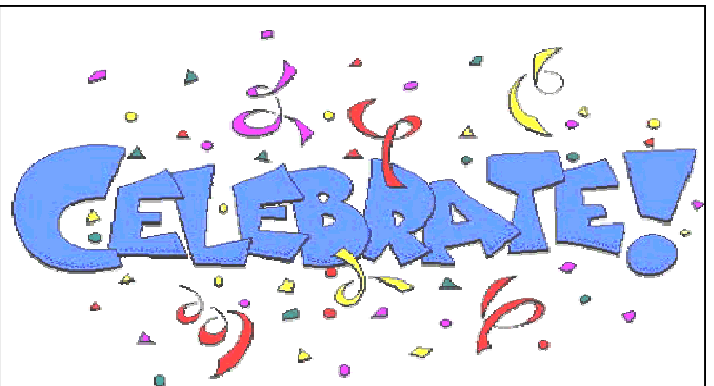


bottle caps, cotton

balls, seeds, paper plates, etc....so many

things can be used for creative works of art!

Thank you for all you do!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

15

Arianna Edgeston

			1 6:00p - Choir 6:00p - WOLT 6:30p - Admin & Finance 7:15p - Session 9:00a - 5:00p - RUMMAGE SALE SETUP	2 6:00p - Girl Scouts 9:00a - 5:00p - RUMMAGE SALE SETUP	3 9:00a-4:00p - Rummage Sale	4
5 9:00a - Christ University 10:00a Worship - Teacher Appreciation Sunday - Taco Luncheon, hosted by Deacons 5:00p - VIDA Church	6 10:00a - PW Mtg 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	7	8 11:30a - Satellites 6:00p - Choir	9	10	11
12 9:00a - Christ University 10:00a Worship - Bell Choir Perform- ance 5:00p - VIDA Church HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY	13 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	14 5:30-8:00p - Rachel Circle Event	15 6:00p - Choir 6:30p - Deacons	16 6:00p - Girl Scouts	17	18
19 9:00a - Christ University 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	20 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	21	22 6:00p - Choir	23 5:30p - Habitat	24	25
26 9:00a - Christ University 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	27 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	28	29 6:00p - Choir	30 6:00P - Preschool Gradua- tion 6:00p - Girl Scouts	31	

MAY

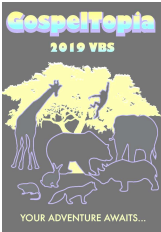
Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 6 | Chip Cominsky | 23 | Dannita Cowdrey |
| 9 | Leland Bartson | 23 | Ben Hickey |
| 11 | Karla Stout | 23 | Brittany Stout |
| 12 | Mark Cominsky | 24 | Sally Clark |
| 15 | Donna Cominsky | 24 | Bonnie Ross |
| 19 | Faye Dittimore | 30 | Peggy Earhart |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 5 | Codey & Jenna Herman |
| 6 | Robert & Lisa Zimmerman |
| 8 | Harry & Betty Sargeant |
| 14 | Rod & Mary Ann Perry |
| 16 | Jay & Beth Provonsha |
| 28 | Paul & Alice Livingston |

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



The Christian Growth and Nurture Leadership Team is preparing for Vacation Bible School during the week of Monday, June 17 – Friday, June 21 from 8:30 -11:30 a.m. In an effort to creatively use our talents and serve our Rainbow Station children, our VBS program this summer will focus on “GospelTopia” which is all

about the Good news of what Jesus has done for us because of his great love. The lessons the children will learn are about how much God loves them by exploring the jungle of GospelTopia. This summer we will need 4 leaders, male and/or female, to lead the lesson(s) for each day. In addition to teaching lessons, with the help/assistance of the Rainbow Station staff, other activities include games, crafts, songs, snack and prayer. We are asking that you prayerfully consider being a part of this special time. If this is something you would like to help with,

please contact Nicole Whetstone in the Nursery or call her at 419-307-0718 to leave a message.

Sincerely the Christian Growth and Nurture Leadership Team,

RACHEL CIRCLE

We will have a year-end wrap up on Tuesday, May 14, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. We hope you can join us!

2019 Mission Opportunity:

The children will be selling baked goods and treats every month to raise money for our mission opportunity, which will be going toward Operation Christmas Child and Samaritan’s Purse International Relief. Last year the children raised \$262.25 so we hope to increase that amount in 2019.

Selling Dates:

May 12 & 19 – Popcorn/Oyster Crackers

Thank You and Happy Eating,
The Christian Growth and Nurture Team

MAY LUNCHEON



Our next monthly luncheon will be on Sunday, May 5 immediately following the worship service. The Deacons will be providing a taco bar! Join us for worship at 10:00 am and then stay to visit with your Deacon and enjoy some tacos. We hope to see you there!

SATELLITES

Our May luncheon will be held on Wed., May 8th. We will meet at 11:30 at Berardi's, 1019 W. Perkins Ave. Sandusky, Oh. Please call Audine (419-334-3494) by Sunday, May 5th with your reservation. If you need a ride, tell Audine too. Anyone is welcome to attend. Bring a friend ! See you there.



As we are getting ready for Vacation Bible School, there are some items that we need to complete each lesson. If you would like to contribute and/or donate any of the following items, please contact Nicole Whetstone at 419-307-0718. You may also contact any Christian Growth and Nurture Team member. Thank You!

Day 1 – Elephant

- Pool Noodles (15)
- 4 - 15 oz. cans of tomato puree, unopened
- Nylon Stretch Cord
- White paper plates
- Glue
- Sponge
- Noisemakers (the kind you blow into & they extend)
- Eyeball candy (3 packs)

Day 2 – Kangaroo

- Duct tape
- Wood dowels
- Sleeping bags (several)
- Masking Tape
- Sturdy colorful paper plates
- Popsicle sticks
- Construction Paper

Day 3 – Lion

- Water balloons
- Toilet paper (5 packs of 4)
- 5 lb. Barbell
- 50 lb. Barbell
- Orange construction paper
- Yellow construction paper
- Black construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Sugar cookies (15-20)
- Mandarin oranges (5 large cans)
- Strawberries (1 pack)
- Blueberries (1 pack)

Day 4 - Sheep

- White balloons
- Flyswatters or rolled up newspaper
- Masking tape
- White votive candle
- White paper plates
- Cotton balls
- Pencils
- Yarn or nylon cord
- 15 vanilla cupcakes WITHOUT frosting

Day 5 – Giraffe

- Cardboard or card stock
- Cross
- Dominos
- Masking tape
- Pens
- Yellow construction paper
- Light brown construction paper or brown paper bags
- Bananas (1 big bunch)
- Chocolate covered raisins
- Almond slivers

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 have 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.

Thanks for your help neighbor!

Rod and Linda Combs

Dish Soap (optional)

Liquid Laundry Detergent (optional)

May

5 - Spaghetti

12 - Spaghetti Sauce

19 - Peas

26 - Pears

May Assisting In Worship

DATE	USHERS	COMMUNION PREP, SERVING & CLEAN-UP	LOCK DOORS
May 5	Team 4 Susan Myers - Captain Larry & Barb Stout		Bob Gamble
May 12	Team 5 Pam Clark- Captain Russ & Ellen Abbott	No Communion	Bob Gamble
May 19	Team 1 Dannita Cowdrey - Captain Bob Cowdrey Rod Combs		Bob Gamble
May 26	Team 2 Bill Taylor -Captain Carolyn Taylor Jan Zimmerman	No Communion	Bob Gamble

SUMMARY OF SESSION MEETING

April 3, 2019, 7:30 PM

Motions:

To approve the minutes from the March 6, 2019 Session Meeting.

To approve the minutes from the March 17, 2019 Congregational Meeting.

To transfer the principle in the Josephine E. McCulloch Endowment, at the date of the next CD maturity to the Fremont Foundation, Inc to be invested according to the guidelines of the Fremont Presbyterian Foundation, Inc. with distributions of associated earnings deposited back to the FPC General Account as Miscellaneous Income.

To accept the Audit Report as presented.

To baptize Abraham Ross on Easter Sunday.

To accept all reports with thanks.

To adjourn.

Pastor Julie's activity in March on behalf of our church includes:

During March, I preached Sunday sermons and prepared worship service bulletins for March Sundays and officiated at Communion Services. I also provided pastoral counseling and support for concerned persons by phone and in person. Issues for people in the area, especially Senior citizens and young adults, continue to be the lack of low cost housing and the high cost of utilities in the winter. I also planned and led the Ash Wednesday service for March 6. I also did some reading and study of early church history and preaching for a professional development class, prepared and led the Lenten retreat, and wrote an article for the April newsletter. I moderated the March session meeting and also made pastoral visits to nursing homes and homebound individuals. I also contacted the Girl Scout Leader about Girl Scout Sunday on March 6th and assisted with their involvement in the service that day. I also met with a family for baptismal preparation for a baptism on Easter Sunday and attended a brunch and a mental health workshop that focused on the needs of the young adults of the community. Young adults were present to share their experiences and concerns. I am also working on planning April Lenten services, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, and Easter services. This past Sunday, March 31, I also officiated at the ordination and installation of our new deacon and the installation of two ruling elders. If you have any topics of interest for the Coffee with Calvin times on Sundays, please feel free to contact me.

Copies of the budget were distributed to members of Session.

The per capita for 2019 is \$33.20.

An audit of the church books was completed by a committee in March. Linda Combs, Bill Taylor and Bob Humberger were on the committee.

Abraham Ross will be baptized on Easter Sunday, April 21. The team is preparing for a reception.

The Easter Egg hunt will be held on Palm Sunday. Landscaping will be completed in May.

Special Lenten Opportunities for worship include:

Lenten Prayer Services are Wednesday, April 10 and April 17 at 7 PM.

Maundy Thursday Service will be Thursday, April 18 at 7 PM.

A Good Friday Ecumenical Service will be Friday afternoon (at Grace Lutheran Church).

The Terra Choral Society will present **The Seven Last Words of Christ** at St. Joseph's Church also on Good Friday.

Sunday April 14 at 3 pm. Terra will hold a memorial for Jane Beckley.

Easter Sunday is April 21 along with the baptism of Abraham Ross.

Eastside Presbyterian Church will have a service at 8:30 on Easter, all are invited.

The first Sunday in April will be Friendship Sunday and a luncheon will follow. Everyone is encouraged to invite someone.

May 5 is Cinco de Mayo and the Deacons will prepare Tacos for the luncheon. Terra Students and the Vida Church will be invited.

There will be finals week care packages prepared for the Terra Students.

June 8 The Presbytery will be bringing Rev. Dr. Joan Gray to speak at the Norwalk church from 10:00 – 2:30 on Spiritual Leadership. The cost of attending is \$10 per person. Contact Pastor Julie if you are interested in attending.

There was a discussion of a restructure of the Session meetings to allow at least 30 minutes at the meetings to plan for growth in various areas of the church and allow us to engage in mission in our community.



THE BOARD OF DEACONS

- Rod Combs*
- Dannita Cowdrey*
- Bob Gamble (Moderator)*
- Anne Humberger*
- Steve Kennedy*
- Susan Myers*
- Amy Oprie*
- Josh Ross*
- Diane Roush*

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 | Nikki Whetstone |
| 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 | Susan McKnight |
| | Jo Elder |
| | Lois Livingston |

THE SESSION

- Jody Amor*
- Linda Combs (Clerk)*
- Linda Hamilton*
- Bob Humberger*
- John Roush*
- Don Steen*
- Larry Stout*
- Bill Taylor*
- Nicole Whetstone*
- Rev. Dr. Julie Kling (Moderator)*

CONTACT INFORMATION

To contact the pastor, call the church office at 419-334-7171.
In case of a pastoral emergency, call 419-341-2548.



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