

June 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Pastoral Reflection: A Reminder that “Church” is a Verb

Recently I have found myself engaged in discussions about how to define church. Many persons think of church as a physical building or edifice in which people gather on Sundays and other sacred times. Others argue that church is the people of God. Yet others define church as a collection of traditions and expressions of faith. But what if church is a verb?

If we begin to think of church as a verb, we start to see the church as something we do, actively engaging in mission, ministry, and prayer rather than limiting our definition to a particular place or a particular group. We are “doing” church when we join together sharing love for one another and for God. That’s what happened on the day of Pentecost in the book of Acts when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, empowering them to go out and share the good news of Jesus with others. They gathered together in one place, but they became the church. The Spirit of God must have been evident in their lives as others were drawn to join them.

What then does it mean to be the church today? It means being an active community of believers who come together to worship God, support one another, and reach out in mission. It also means being persons who are open to the wisdom of the Spirit to make a difference in the world. The day of Pentecost marks the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, who were then called to spread the Good News throughout the world.

As a child, I was taught that Pentecost is the birthday of the church, but isn’t it really the birth of an active mission for the church? The mission of the church is to preach the gospel by word and action to all nations. While a daunting and overwhelming task, it is possible through the Spirit acting within us to overcome obstacles, break down barriers, and communicate the Gospel in a way that is relevant and meaningful to all we encounter.

According to Catherine of Sienna, “Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.” Isn’t that the mission of the church? Each of us has been created by God and given a specific purpose and a mission. When we say “yes” to that mission we become agents of change and transformation in the world. Therefore, seeing church as an active rather than a passive verb means acting as light in a dark world and loving and caring for those in need. As we embrace this mission, we become part of an active church of people bringing healing and hope to a broken world.

Pastor Julie

You are invited to a Book Discussion Opportunity

Book: *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger

Date: Sunday, June 25: Chapters 8 and 9 “Don’t Just Stand There...Do Something”

Time: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

The church and church leaders face changing times and a changing cultural context. In his book, *Canoeing the Mountains*, Bolsinger focuses on the adaptations that Lewis and Clark had to make on their journey. They had planned to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean but instead ended up in the Rocky Mountains. Bolsinger’s book presents suggestions to help guide the church through “uncharted territory.” Bolsinger will be coming to our area on Saturday, October 7th, 2023 at the Sandusky Presbyterian Church, hosted by the eastern churches of our Presbytery (which include First Fremont).

You do not need to have read his book to attend. Future monthly sessions will focus on specific chapters from the book.

Go to zoom.us/join and use: Meeting ID: 849 1517 1334 and Passcode: 844479

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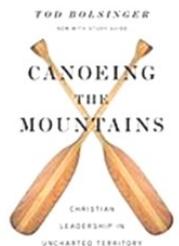
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Opportunities for Worship:

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

2023 PER CAPITA

\$38.60



RAINBOW STATION

Preschool News



Welcome to summer. This summer will be much different for us, as we are winding

down our program. Please pray for our families, that they may be able to find good, quality care for their children.

I do, as Director, want to thank each and every one of you for all of your thoughts, prayers, donations and contributions of any kind to our program. You are appreciated much more than you know. Please continue to pray for us, as we continue our work through the summer.

Until next time,
Rainbow
Station
Staff



RECYCLE!

You may continue to bring in your used ink and toner cartridges and old cell phones to be recycled. These are returned to Staples, and First Presbyterian Church can receive credit toward future purchases on office needs such as paper and ink. Thank you for your donations over the years!



Happy Birthday!

6/4 - Miss Shari

You're invited to
Join Us

On Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 11:00 am following the church service, you are invited to come and learn about important end-of-life planning and things

that you can do now to ensure your family doesn't have to make those difficult decisions on one of the hardest days of their lives. Information will be shared by Kari Arnold with Herman Funeral Homes on several important subjects with a question-and-answer session to follow. You will learn about advanced funeral planning and why it is so necessary for creating a healing and meaningful celebration of life. With the knowledge gained, you can make a decision you will feel good about today, and your family will be comforted in the future.

Please RSVP with Amy in the church office (fremontfpc@gmail.com or 419-334-7171) as refreshments will be provided. Walk-ins and bringing a friend or other family members are also welcomed! See you on Sunday, June 4th!

SUNDAY SCHOOL ON ZOOM

Join us as we finish a new series on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am on Zoom. On May 21 we started a series of 5 lessons on *Finding Freedom in the Midst of Life's Trials* by Ray Vander Laan. We will watch a video online and then discuss the lesson together. It will focus on God's people and their struggles in Egypt in the Bible and discover how God answers the cry of his persecuted people and proclaims himself Lord to them and their oppressors. Join us for the remaining lessons! Go to zoom.us/join and use Meeting ID: 879 5456 8076 and Passcode: 043851

SATELLITES

We are going to Jolly Roger's in Port Clinton on June 14th at 11:30 am. You can call or text Diane Bascone @ 419.680.0190. Bring a friend!



Scan the QR Code



IT'S TIME TO ANSWER THE CALL

There has never been a greater need for committed resource (foster and kinship) and adoptive families in our community. Right now, there are teens and young children in the foster care system who need families to care for them. It's a big decision to become a resource or adoptive caregiver, but it's one that will undoubtedly strengthen a child's life and enrich your own in countless ways.

Contact Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) to Learn More!

- 📍 CCRC 5350 Oberlin Ave Lorain, OH 44053
- 📞 Call Jessica Sherrard, 440-242-0413
- ✉ Email JSherrard@ccrcinc.com
- 🌐 Visit FosterAndAdopt.ohio.gov

Join a virtual information session held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 pm

To register, contact:
Elizabeth Aponte at 440.242.0413 Ext. 227 or
eaponte@ccrcinc.com

an initiative of



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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

- June
- 4 - Corn
- 11 - Saltine Crackers
- 18 - Peanut Butter
- 25 - Jelly

Thanks for your help neighbor!
Rod and Linda Combs

June

4 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship 11:00a - Funeral Home Planning Meeting 5:00p - Vida Church	5 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	6 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	7	8 6:00p - Choir	9	10	11 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	12 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	13 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	14 11:30a - Satellites 7:00p - Session	15 6:00p - Choir	16	17	18 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship 5:00p - Vida Church Father's Day	19 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	20 5:00p - Vida Bible Study Newsletter Articles Due	21 6:30p - Deacons	22 6:00p - Choir	23	24	25 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship 5:00p - Vida Church 6:00p - Book Discussion, via Zoom	26 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	27 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	28	29 6:00p - Choir	30	3
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Anniversaries

19 Larry & Carol Van Dyne
21 John & Kathy Fawley
21 Hal & Nancy Mills
24 Kyle & Jody Amor

Birthdays

1 Joan Schmidt
3 Donn Jones
8 Linda Hamilton
11 Benjamin Miarer
14 Kristen Van Dyne
19 Joan Gamble

22 Joyce Jones
24 Linda Bartson
25 Mike Oprie
26 Amy Oprie
27 Bill Taylor



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*

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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