

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN SEPTEMBER:

- September 1 - "A Welcoming Table"
- September 8 - "Loosen Your Grip"
- September 15 - "Where is It?"
- September 22, - "Choice: God or Wealth"
- September 29 - "Redefining Wealth"

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Re-reading Frankl

As a college instructor and pastor, I am constantly involved in reading and studying. Every few years, I teach an online graduate course titled "Faith and Reason in the Community of Faith." So every few summers, I find myself re-reading Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*. It is a powerful book that students either love or strongly dislike. One of the things students frequently say about Frankl is that he is an eternal optimist; however, I would not go so far as to call him an eternal optimist but rather a person who strongly believes that there can be hope in the midst of suffering.

Frankl's experience in a concentration camp leads him to reflect on the meaning of suffering and how one can cope with intense periods of pain or suffering. Frankl's reflections in the concentration camp lead him to write that one survives because of something outside one's self. According to Frankl, love is the prime motivator. As I discuss with my students, Frankl's reflections indicate that the true motivator for an individual is something beyond the individual self. Frankl believes in the power of love and that true meaning in life is found beyond the self, in loving others, and focusing on the transcendent. For Christians, this is the power and grace of God. It is a life lived joyfully and boldly rooted in the Gospel and supported through communal prayer, study, and ministry.

While Frankl supports religion, his ideology allows for hope for all of humanity. All human beings at some point in their lives will experience pain or suffering; all human lives will end in death. For Frankl, "without suffering death, human life cannot be complete." As students in my ethics class at Terra learn, Aristotle believes that most of life is lived in the middle, somewhere between vice and virtue. Each person is on a journey to find that midpoint for himself or herself. Others have helped me to learn that I must live fully and live boldly in the middle of all of life, the good and the bad.

I find joy in study and find peace in my study of scripture. While the study part is easy, taking what I have learned and applying it to my own spiritual life or the real world can be a challenge. I study scripture regularly in my preparation for teaching and preaching. While on retreat in July, I was reminded again that I need to be more deliberate about how I approach my study of scripture and integrate it more with my personal prayer life. I am striving to study more with my heart and less with my

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Special points of interest:

- ◇ Worship 10 am
- ◇ Christ University 9 am
- ◇ Session Summary
- ◇ Announcements

2019 PER CAPITA

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head. One of the lectionary gospel texts this summer was the story of Mary and Martha. It is very easy for me to be a Martha and focus on the exegetical task of preparing a sermon. One of my hopes during this coming year is to take more time to deliberately be Mary as I read scripture. If I spend time in the Word, I am creating fertile soil and preparing an environment for the Holy Spirit to work.

For Frankl, we have the freedom to choose our attitude or response to any situation we may find ourselves in. In his discussion of suffering, one can choose to hide from it or transcend it by focusing less on one's self and turning to serve and sacrifice for others. Frankl believes that human beings have a responsibility to choose wisely in any situation. We can choose to be a Martha or a Mary. We can choose to be stubborn and selfish or loving and forgiving.

Frankl writes in *Man's Search for Meaning*: "For the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth - that Love is the ultimate and highest goal to which man can aspire. Then I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: The salvation of man is through love and in love."

Pastor Julie

PAPERLESS NEWSLETTER OPTION

We are considering changing the format of our monthly newsletter and we want your input! We currently mail over 200 paper copies of our newsletter, and many of you enjoy receiving and reading them. Some of you, however, might prefer to receive an electronic version of the newsletter through email, or perhaps you've moved and no longer wish to receive the newsletter at all. Now is your chance to let us know what you prefer! Please fill out the form on the right and mail it back to the First Presbyterian Church at 120 S. Park Ave, Fremont, OH 43420. Or you can let us know your preference at office@fremontfpc.org, or call the church office at 419-334-7171.

****Please note:** *This is an initial attempt to find interest, and any changes made to your mailing may take several months to take effect. If the office does not receive enough feedback, no changes will be made at this time. Thank you for your patience and understanding!*

NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE:

Name: _____

Physical address (if requesting paper):

Email address (if requesting electronic):

Please choose an option below (if you would like to receive paper **and** electronic newsletters, please check both):

I would like a **paper** copy of the newsletter by mail.

I would like an **electronic** copy of the newsletter by email.

I **no longer** wish to receive the newsletter.

Please mail to:

First Presbyterian Church
 120 S. Park Ave.
 Fremont, OH 43420

RAINBOW STATION NEWS



Welcome to September! We have had a wonderful summer playing in wet sand and making mud pies in the dirt pile. We

also enjoyed playing with the bubbles and watching to see where the wind would take them. We are making the transition into fall and have been finding cicada shells, caterpillars and odd-looking bugs. Our cherry tomatoes have been ripening and we have been enjoying them. Our green beans should be ready soon so we can try them. Food tastes better when you grow your own. We have had the privilege of working with the Capabilities Summer Program this year. The children have enjoy Mr. Kenny, Miss Angel and their supervisor Miss Alisha. They have been attending 4 days per week for the past 4 weeks. We miss them and

back to school



wish them well in their schooling this fall.

We would like your prayers for a new teacher in the preschool room. If you know of anyone, please have them call 419-334-7173 for more information.

Have a great month and we will talk again next month.

Rainbow Station Staff

KROGER FUNDRAISER

Thank you to the 126 households who shopped at Kroger between May 1, 2019 and July 31, 2019. You helped Rainbow Station earn \$702.00!! 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!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|--|---|--|----|
| 1 9:00a - Christ University 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church | 2 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA | 3 | 4 6:00p - Choir 6:00p - WOLT 6:30p - Admin & Finance 7:15p - Session | 5 6:00p - Girl Scouts 6:30p - Vida Bible Study | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:00a - Christ University Kickoff and Breakfast 10:00a Worship (first Sunday back upstairs) 5:00p - VIDA Church | 9 10:00a - PW Mtg 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA | 10 | 11 11:30a - Satellites 6:00p - Choir | 12 6:30p - Vida Bible Study | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:00a - Christ University 10:00a Worship / Back to Church Sunday 5:00p - VIDA Church | 16 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA | 17 7:00p - Rachel Circle | 18 6:00p - Choir 6:30p - Deacons | 19 6:00p - Girl Scouts 6:30p - Vida Bible Study | 20 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE | 21 |
| 22 9:00a - Christ University 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church | 23 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA | 24 | 25 6:00p - Choir | 26 5:30p - Habitat 6:30p - Vida Bible Study (in library) | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:00a - Christ University 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church | 30 8:00p Alanon Anniver- ary (in Scout Room) 8:00p AA | | | | | |

Birthdays

- 10 Beth Provonsha
- 11 Cayla Crispen
- 17 Russell Abbott
- 22 Dorothy Baumann
- 29 Jon Detwiler

Anniversaries

- 13 Bill & Carolyn Taylor
- 15 Philip & Courtney Miarer

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

“Words cannot express the appreciation I have for all the prayers and cards we received during Paul's illness and after his passing. You have been there with us during all the trials and tribulations and the happy times over the years. We may have physically left First Presbyterian Church, but our hearts are still there. We could not have traveled this journey without you. My family and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Paul is surely having the time of his (new) life in peace and without pain.

Love and Blessings to all of you,

Joan Schmidt”

September 15 is “Back to Church Sunday”

The members of the Witness and Outreach Leadership team are looking forward to your participation in “Back to Church Sunday,” the largest annual community-based church outreach effort in the nation. “Back to Church Sunday” was created to help churches reach out and invite everyone in their neighborhoods and overall community to try church again—or perhaps to attend church for the very first time. This powerful movement encourages church attendance by inspiring and empowering church members to invite their neighbors, friends, and loved ones to a special Sunday service designed just for welcoming those who may not regularly attend or who have never attended church. This is the 11th year of “Back to Church Sunday” as a movement, and we are praying for over 13,000 churches to join together to reach more people than ever before. Nearly 6 million invitations have gone out in the past decade through BTCS! This year's theme is “Together,” to send the message that we may all be different, but we are one in Christ and stronger together.

This is the time for us to let our communities know that we, the Church, are here for them and want to welcome them to connect and make new friends.

There are invitations in the Sunday bulletins, at the back of the church and in the Fellowship Hall.

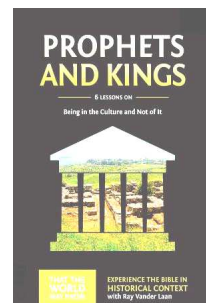
Please use one to invite a friend or neighbor on “Back to Church” Sunday, September 15th.



FALL STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Christ University

Join us on Sunday mornings beginning September 1 as we begin a new study entitled **Prophets and Kings**. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. to watch a DVR in the library by Ray Vander Laan, followed by a short discussion. We have used this series in the past and found it to be very powerful and informative. Each episode is filmed at a Biblically significant site in the Middle East. If you'd like to step up your Biblical knowledge and get a spiritual boost, please join us for one or all of the 6 lessons this fall through October 13. (We won't meet on September 8 during Rally Day) If you have any questions, please see Donna Cominsky.



Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00 pm in the church library. Our study this year is "Becoming a Woman of Extraordinary Faith" and features some of our favorite authors from the past. We will watch a 20 minute video and then discuss a characteristic of our faith. This month the topic is "Extraordinary Hope" by Linda Barrick. Let Donna know if you would like a book (no preparation required). Join us!

SATELLITES

On Wed., Sept. 11th, we'll be meeting at 11:30 at Bob Evans in Fremont. Please have your reservations to Audine (419-334-3494) by Monday, Sept. 8th. If you need a ride, tell Audine. Hope to see everyone there ! The lunch always includes good food and conversation. Anyone is welcome to attend.



Thank You!

The Christian Growth and Nurture Leadership Team would like to give a BIG thank you to all of those congregation members who were leaders or donated supplies/monies for VBS. It was a great success and the children had a wonderful time learning about God's word. We could not have had Vacation Bible School and be an outreach to these children and their families if it wasn't for dedicated individuals in our church family. Thank you again for your time and talents, it is much appreciated!

The Christian Growth and Nurture Team

HELP NEEDED

In preparing for Kick-Off Sunday (September 8th) the Christian Growth and Nurture Team is looking for a few items to make the event a success. If you have any of the following items and would let us borrow these items, please contact one of the CGN team members: Nicole Whetstone, Amanda Herman, Stephanie Stull and Mary Goeke.

Desired Items:

Football Uniform – Helmet, Jersey, Football

Small Cooler

Small Bench

Basketball Uniform – Jersey, Basketball

Kids Basketball Hoop

Any kind of Sport Uniform



FOR: Kick-Off Sunday Breakfast

DATE: Sunday, September 8th, 2019

TIME: 9:00 - 10:00 am

PLACE: First Presbyterian Church
Social Room

Join us

ALL ARE WELCOMED!

First Presbyterian Church (Part of Rainbow Station) would like to invite you to our Kick-Off Sunday, on September 8th at 9:00 a.m. This is an opportunity for families to see what the church has to offer for Sunday School and worship (10:00 a.m.).



The theme this year is a SPORTS THEME. The children will be learn how we are winners being on God's team, how God gives us strength and to be courageous in tough situations and through God they can conquer anything. During September 8th, Kick-Off Sunday, we will have breakfast, play games and introduce the new Sunday School classes for fall.

The adults will study:

Sept. 1 – Oct. 13: 'Prophets and Kings' by Ray Vander Laan, which explores the history of Israel's prophets and kings. Each lesson was filmed on location in the Middle East.

Oct. 20 – Nov. 10: 'Don't Give Up' by Kyle Idleman. Journey through Hebrews 11 and 12 and draw inspiration from Biblical heroes and testimonies of perseverance.

Nov. 17 – Dec. 22: 'God Came Near' by Max Lucado. This is an advent study which travels back in time to relive the coming of Christ to earth.

All of these have a DVR lesson to watch together followed by a short discussion. There are no lessons to study and no preparation.

Hope to see you on September 8th and the following weeks!

Join us for breakfast!

When: Sunday, September 8, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Where: First Presbyterian Church in the Social Room

What: To see what's coming this year during Christ University (Sunday School)!

Why: To play games and to have a good time with new friends and other Christians!

Don't forget to wear your FAVORITE TEAM or TEAM COLOR!!



Miss Nikki from Rainbow Station will be the leader for the youth!

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)

September

1 - Peanut butter

8 - Jelly

15 - Saltines

22 - Peas

29 - Applesauce

September Assisting In Worship

| DATE | USHERS | COMMUNION PREP, SERVING & CLEAN-UP | LOCK DOORS |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------|
| September 1 | Team 1 Dannita Cowdrey - Captain Bob Cowdrey Rod Combs | | Bob Gamble |
| September 8 | Team 2 Bill Taylor - Captain Carolyn Taylor Janice Zimmerman | No Communion | Bob Gamble |
| September 15 | Team 3 Mike Opre - Captain Bob & Lisa Zimmerman | | Bob Gamble |
| September 22 | Team 4 Susan Myers - Captain Larry & Barb Stout | No Communion | Bob Gamble |
| September 29 | Team 5 Pam Clark- Captain Russ & Ellen Abbott | No Communion | Bob Gamble |

Matthew 25 in the PC(USA):

A bold vision and invitation to be actively engaged in the world.



About the Matthew 25 mark

The circular shape represents unity and equality. Like God, a circle has no beginning and no end, and it symbolizes our continuing effort to help one another. The shape also suggests a globe that points to our engagement with the world.

The three interlocking figures represent the equality of all people without gender or race bias. They have their arms around each other, symbolizing friendship, protection and service. The number three suggests the three focus areas of congregational vitality, structural racism and systematic poverty, as well as the Trinity.

The color palette is bright, lively, friendly and energetic — suggestive of our active commitment.

Finally, the legend “Matthew 25” below the symbol is the literal identification of the mark. We use a handwritten font to make the point that active engagement in the world requires human effort.

What is a Matthew 25 church?

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

How the vision unites all Presbyterians

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, you can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. We recognize Christ’s urgent call to be a church of action, where God’s love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And we rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.

SUMMARY OF SESSION

The regular August Stated Session was held in the church library on July 31, 2019. Session members present included: Moderator Rev. Dr. Julie Kling, Jody Amor, Linda Combs, Linda Hamilton, Bob Humberger, John Roush, Larry Stout, and Bill Taylor. Don Steen and Nicole Whetstone were absent.

Pastor Kling opened the meeting with prayer from *The Presbyterian Book of Prayer* by St. Francis of Assisi. She reviewed PCUSA’s introduction to “A Matthew 25 Church.” She read three Bible passages: Isaiah 43:19, 1 Corinthians 3:16 and Revelation 20:3,2. She reviewed the importance of our church’s vision and mission in the revitalization process. She then reviewed the values on which our efforts were to be based and concluded with what was and was not part of this initiative.

Upcoming events were noted: August 10 - Chicken BBQ Fundraiser, September 8 – First worship service upstairs, and September 15 – National Back to Church Day

While there was no action or new business, under old business Pastor Kling will seek East Side Presbyterian Church’s interest in engagement at the East Side session meeting next month

The clerk had no correspondence and reported the following Sunday Worship Attendance: July 7 – 47, July 14 – 32, July 21 – 37 and July 28 - 38.

Past Kling gave a verbal report of her activities in July. She did normal Sunday preaching, coordinated and attended a cook-out for Terra student in her class, provided pastoral care of several shut-ins, and did church planning. Pastor will be on leave from August 6 – 17.

The Treasurers report is summarized as Year to date income - \$73,333, Year to date expenditures - \$57,852, Year to date surplus - \$15,481. Full Treasurers Report of June is posted on bulletin board

Leadership Team reports were Administration and Finance – The team is investigating alternative ways to distribute the monthly church newsletter. And Witness and Outreach –. The Pilgrim’s Progress movie was shown to 19 people on July 25 and a cookout in July for Terra Dorm residents.

Pastor Kling closed the meeting with prayer.



THE BOARD OF DEACONS

- Dannita Cowdrey*
- Bob Gamble*
- Susan Myers*
- Diane Roush*
- Anne Humberger*
- Josh Ross (Moderator)*
- Kaylee Amor*
- Amanda Herman*

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 | Susan McKnight |
| | Jo Elder |
| | Lois Livingston |

THE SESSION

- Larry Stout*
- Don Steen*
- Nicole Whetstone*
- Jody Amor*
- Linda Hamilton*
- John Roush*
- Bob Humberger*
- Bill Taylor (Clerk)*
- 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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