

September 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Pastoral Reflection:

Joy and Setting Your Mind on Things Above

The word *Alleluia* comes from the Old Testament, more precisely from Israel. It is a cry of joy in Hebrew from the word *Halel* which means joy, or to cry out in praise. The word *Halel* is found in Psalms 113-118 which are recited by observant Jews on Jewish holidays as an act of praise and thanksgiving. *Halel* is combined with God's name, Ya[hweh], to create the word *Alleluia*. And so *Alleluia* could mean "Shout with praise and joy to God".

In several of the sermons this summer, I have mentioned being joyful and having a positive attitude, seeing the glass half full rather than half empty. As Christians, we are called to shout and praise God with joy for what God has done and is doing in our lives. Remember Easter and the resurrection? The tomb was empty. But there was and is reason to rejoice. In that emptiness there is potential: new life!

Colossians 3:1-4 says, *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

Paul begins the passage with the words "since you have been raised with Christ" and then goes on to tell us the consequences that should result in our lives if we truly believe. Verse 1 tells us to focus on things "above", and then in verse 2 he continues, saying "set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." He clearly reminds us that if we believe in Christ's resurrection and his gift of eternal life, our desires and what we value should change accordingly. The focus should be not on material, worldly things but on spiritual things. Things of the secular world, temporal things, will become less important. Our treasure is the one given to us through Christ.

This should cause us to examine our lives and how we think about God, ourselves, others, and the world. In light of verse 4, an examination of our relationship with Christ should strengthen our commitment to Christ as we are reminded that "when Christ...appears..." then we shall "appear with him in glory." This is a reason to rejoice, and it should give us the strength and courage to believe that we can live with joy even when we face difficulties.

Verses 3 and 4 support the belief that the lives of Christians are transformed through Jesus' Resurrection. Joseph Byrd writes: "There are two dimensions of this transformation. The first is the present life before eternity. Christians have "died"—that is, through the Holy Spirit victory over sin becomes possible. Believers' lives are presently "hidden" in Christ, ultimately forgiven and ultimately changed to bear his nature and image. Such lives are those guided by his Spirit to proclaim Christ as Lord of creation... The second dimension of our transformed lives lies in the future. When Christ appears, we are guaranteed that we will appear with him in glory." Our hearts and minds then should be set on things "above".

Or, as the worship song "Set Your Mind on Things Above" by Dallas Holms says:

*Set your mind on things above
Set your mind on things above
Yeah, you will soon discover
More than you've been dreamin' of
Think about the Father's love
Think about the Father's love
And you will feel it
When you set your mind on things above*

Rejoice in the Lord,
Pastor Julie

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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

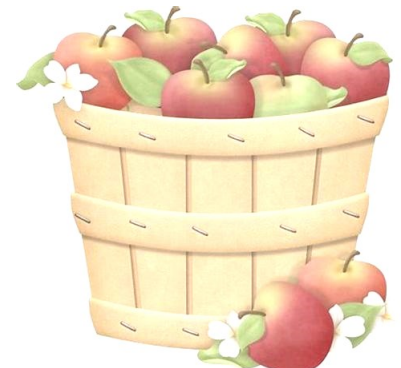
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Worship, Music, and the Arts

Led by Pastor Julie Kling

Begins September 24, 2023

This section examines all the forms and styles of music and the arts from both the past and the present. In this study, we will begin with Biblical and historical roots of Christian Worship.



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

September

3 - Applesauce

10 - Oatmeal

17 - Potato Flakes

24 - Green Beans

Thanks for your help neighbor!
Rod and Linda Combs

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE FINAL BOOK DISCUSSION

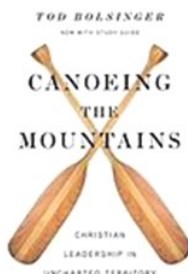
Book: *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger

Date: Sunday, September 24:
Chapters 14 and 15 "The Expedition Ends"

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

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

Tod 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). See page 4 for details.



RAINBOW STATION CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

Please come celebrate Roberta, Kathy and Shari, as well as the 27 years of Rainbow Station on Sunday afternoon, September 17 from 2 - 4 pm in the church social room. This is a great time to let these ladies know how much you have appreciated their work in this mission.

RAINBOW STATION SALE

Due to the closure of Rainbow Station Pre-school and Day Care, there will be a sale of Rainbow Station items on the following days:

Friday, Sept 29, 9 am - 7 pm

Saturday, Sept 30, 9 am - 5 pm

****Rainbow Station parents who just finished the summer** may come to a pre-sale on Thursday, Sept 28 from 5-7 pm.

SATELLITES

We are going to 818 Club on September 13th at 11:30 am.

You can call or text Diane Bascone @ 419.680.0190 to RSVP or for directions.

Bring a friend!



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We are beginning a new adventure and moving to Findlay to be closer to our three children and four grandsons. It will be difficult to leave our home of 46 years and our lifetime hometown of Fremont, but it's time to move on. Our church family will be especially hard to leave, but you will all be in our hearts. You are all very special to us. As of August 16, here is our new address:

Chip and Donna Cominsky
2556 Burberry Court
Findlay, OH 45840



YOU ARE INVITED!

During the September 10th **Kick-Off** Sunday, we will have breakfast and introduce the new Sunday School classes for fall. The theme this year for the children is called the 'Armor of GOD' with the aim of how to help children understand, recognize, and learn pieces of armor and what they are for. The lessons will have an impact on their lives practically, so they will learn that they can lift their shields, use their sword, and remember their helmet and breastplate when life gets tough and the enemy attacks. The goal is to equip the children to put on their shoes and start embracing and sharing the gospel of peace.



The following are the Sunday School lessons the adults will study this year:

Fire on the Mountain by Ray Vander Laan/Led by Donna and Chip Cominsky

In this "Faith Lessons" series we will discover how God taught the Israelites what it means to be part of a community that loved him and the lessons we can begin to live out in our lives today. This series will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus.

Worship, Music, and the Arts Led by Pastor Julie Kling - Begins Sept. 24

This section examines all the forms and styles of music and the arts from both the past and the present. In this study, we will begin with Biblical and historical roots of Christian Worship.



Advent – An Advent Journey will be studied during the Advent season, November 26 – December 24, led by Pastor Julie Kling.

●Join Christ University (Adult Sunday School class) each Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. through Zoom that is a form of communication through email, iPad, computer, phone, or the link in the bulletin/newsletter from the comfort of your home. There are no lessons to study and no preparation. We finish in time to make it to church for the 10:00 a.m. service!

Hope to see you on September 10th and the following weeks to come!

Join us for breakfast!

When: Sunday, September 10, 2023 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 have a good time with new friends and other Christians!

Maumee Valley Presbytery, Eastern Cluster of Churches
invites you to

Canoeing the Mountains:
Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory
Keynote Speaker: Tod Bolsinger

Date: Saturday, October 7th, 2023 8:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Cost: \$30 (Special Rate, Register by September 22)

\$35 (Regular Rate, September 23-30)

Cost includes buffet lunch and morning refreshments.

Registration Link: <http://firstpresbyterian.net/canoe>

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 265 Jackson Street, Sandusky, OH 44870

Tod Bolsinger draws a stark comparison between the leadership style many churches use and the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804. The explorers were seeking a water route to the Pacific Ocean. Canoeing up the Missouri River, Lewis and Clark found the Lemhi Pass and assumed the waterway they were seeking was just around the bend. Instead, they were confronted with the mighty Rocky Mountains, an obstacle they were warned about but chose to ignore. "The story of the Corps of Discovery is the driving metaphor for our present moment in history," Tod writes, "In every field, in every business, every organization, leaders are rapidly coming to the awareness that the world in front of us is radically different from everything behind us."

Tentative Schedule:

8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m. Registration and Coffee

9:15 a.m. Morning prayer

9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Keynote 1

Presentation, Table Discussion, and Q & A

10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m.-12:15 a.m. Keynote 2

Presentation, Table Discussion, and Q & A

12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Keynote 3

2:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Closing Worship

September

						1	2
3 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	4 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon		5 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	6	7 6:00p - Choir	8	9
10 9:00a - Kickoff Sunday with Breakfast in Social Room 10:00a - Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	11 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon		12 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	13 11:30a - Satellites	14 6:00p - Choir	15	16
17 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	18 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon		19 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	20 6:30p - Deacons 7:00p - Session Newsletter Articles Due	21 6:00p - Choir	22	23
24 8:30a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Worship 5:00p - Vida Church 6:00p - Book Discussion, via Zoom	25 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon		26 5:00p - Vida Bible Study	27	28 5:00-7:00p - Rainbow Station Sale (2023 summer parents only) 6:00p - Choir	29 9:00a-7:00p - Rainbow Station Sale	30 9:00a-5:00p - Rainbow Station Sale

Birthdays

2 Lauren Merritt
10 Beth Provonsha
11 Cayla Crispen
17 Russell Abbott

22 Nate Otermat
24 Rick Keck
29 Jon Detwiler



Anniversaries

13 Bill & Carolyn Taylor
15 Courtney & Philip Miarer



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
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
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.