

APRIL 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

We are the Church!

While officially Lent ends April 5 as Holy Week begins, as we walk through this new and strange territory of coping with CoVid19, I feel like Lent has been extended for an indefinite period. I have spent many hours in Zoom calls and Facebook groups with other Presbyterian pastors, elders, and colleagues from other denominations as we all struggle to determine how congregations can still hold services and communicate with one another using technology. This is a new road; something they did not prepare us for in seminary.

I used to grumble and complain anytime my college teaching responsibilities required me to participate in a Zoom call or webinar. Now, I look forward to Zoom meetings as it is a way to connect with others during this time of social distancing and sheltering in place. In the weekly Maumee Valley Presbytery Zoom calls for pastors and clerks, we share ideas and problems trying to figure out how to be the church. With many out of work, the lack of medical supplies, loved ones ill, first responders and medical workers risking their lives, and businesses facing an unknown future, this is a time, more than ever, when the church needs to be the church. While church buildings may be closed, there is still church! The church is the people of God! We are the church!

Remember the Vacation Bible School Song: “We are the Church”? “I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!” Those words, the words of the chorus are probably familiar. But do you know the verses?

The first verse affirms “The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people.” The second verse states that the church is a diverse community of believers “with many kinds of people” while the third verse ends with the statement that the church is “always learning”. (Which we are definitely doing now!) The

Governor DeWine has extended the ‘stay at home’ order for Ohio through May 1. Please stay healthy and do your part to keep others safe and healthy!

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Special points of interest:

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

CONTACT INFO:

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

NEWSLETTER PREFERENCE:

To change how you receive your newsletter or to unsubscribe from our mailing list, please email the church office at: office@fremontfpc.org. Thank you!!

2020 PER CAPITA

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fourth verse stresses the importance of the people of the church gathering with singing, praying, laughing, and crying, but ends with the strong reminder: “At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.”

Despite the uncertainty of the times, God’s Spirit is still among us, the church. While we explore new ways of worship and being together, we are also called to reach out in ministry in new ways. Make use of technology to stay in touch, but revive the art of letter writing and reach out to friends and neighbors, pick up the phone and check in on someone, deliberately spend time in prayer for our world, sew much needed facemasks, buy groceries for a neighbor, and continue to support the ministry of the church and other organizations working to assist those in need (gifts can be mailed to the church or other organizations). We can still be the church to and with one another!

While Easter and Holy Week services might be a little different from what we are accustomed to, Easter still comes. But Easter is a moveable feast; it is not tied to a specific date on the calendar each year. While we will celebrate it April 12, we can also have a joyous Easter celebration when we are able to safely and responsibly return to our sanctuary; but in the meantime, we the people are still the church! Have a peace-filled and blessed Easter!

Pastor Julie

CHURCH CLOSURE AND EVENT CANCELLATIONS

Due to the spread of the Covid-19 virus and the governor’s stay-at-home order, all First Presbyterian Church services and functions through May 1 have been cancelled. This includes Sunday worship, Bible studies, meetings, luncheons, etc.

The church office is also closed, but emails and phone messages are being retrieved on a regular basis. After the situation has been reassessed by state and federal officials, the church will reschedule dates if able and applicable. Events scheduled beyond May 1 are tentative at this time and will be decided upon in the near future. Please stay tuned for more information.



HOW TO STAY CONNECTED DURING THIS TIME OF ISOLATION

During this time of uncertainty and social distancing, Pastor Julie is still working to encourage and give hope to the members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church. Through phone tree messages, emails, Facebook posts, and Zoom services, we will do our best to keep you informed and connected. Please like our Facebook page at First Presbyterian Church, Fremont Ohio to see updates and scripture encouragement. Download the Zoom meeting app to your computer or phone to be able to view future worship services. To be added to our phone tree list to receive important announcements, pastoral prayers, and scripture readings, please email the church secretary at office@fremontfpc.org. Emails and phone messages are still being checked during this time of shut down.

APRIL

			1 	2 Autism Awareness 	3	4
5 	6	7 World Health Day 	8	9  MAUNDY THURSDAY	10 Good Friday 	11 National Pet Day 
12 Easter 	13	14	15	16 National High Five Day 	17 National Haiku Poetry Day 俳句	18
19 Bicycle Day 	20	21 Holocaust Remembrance Day Remember 	22  Earth Day	23	24 Arbor Day 	25
26 National Pretzel Day 	27	28	29	30 International Jazz Day 		

5	Anne Humberger	21	Samuel Detwiler	Rainbow Station Birthdays	4	William & Gerrie Hensley
10	John Fawley	22	Jayne Wingo	3	Serephia Marino	
12	William Hensley	23	Sherri Kennedy	8	Tessa Leathead	
12	John Paulson	24	Ralph Oxley	18	Lucy Burris	
15	Carley Crispen			26	Brooklyn Geiner	

Birthdays

Anniversaries

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

The church office is closed but Amy is still working from home with the office computer! If you would like to continue to pay your 2020 contributions or pledges during this time of social distancing, please continue to make your checks out to First Presbyterian Church and mail them to:

Amy Monk

330 W. 5th St

Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

Your contribution will be processed as usual and applied to your 2020 pledge.

Thank you for your faithful giving!

APRIL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for these "virtual" services!

Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Prayer and Bible Study via Zoom*

Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Maundy Thursday Service (with Communion: please have a piece of bread and small amount of juice or wine or join us in spiritual communion) via Zoom*

Friday, April 10

Individual Prayer Walk or Prayer Time
(see separate handout on page 5)

Sunday, April 12, 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Easter Service (with Communion: please have a piece of bread and small amount of juice or wine or join us in spiritual communion) via Zoom*

**Links for Zoom services will be sent out via email.*

A Prayer for the Global Church

Dear God,

You say that if Your people humble themselves, turn away from wickedness, and call on Your name, that You will answer them and heal their land.

So we're asking for forgiveness. Forgive us for the times we've chosen not to love the people You put in front of us.

Allow this season to strengthen Your Church and to remind us of how much You love this hurting world.

Please heal our land and use us to meet the needs of hurting people. Grow our faith as You grow Your global Church.

Come Lord Jesus, and do what only You can do.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

YouVersion

TENNESSEE TORNADO RESPONSE

Our Witness and Outreach Leadership Team has sent a \$100 donation to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help fund the response to the horrific damage done to property in the Nashville, Tennessee area. You are welcome to supplement our church's aid with your contribution to the special offering "One Great Hour of Sharing" which will be received at a later date and will go in part to PCUSA Disaster Assistance. You may also send your contribution to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (for DR000015), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700 or call (800)872-3283. Our best response is prayer. Pray that through the response of the faith community, survivors and those offering assistance will be reminded of the hope that is found in Christ. Questions? Call John Roush at 419-334-9504.

HE IS RISEN
the Lord is risen indeed

Good Friday Community Prayer Walk

(Pray by Car, Walking alone, or at Home)

Observe Safe Sheltering in Place and Pray from Home!

April 10, 2020

Good Friday is traditionally a time of prayer and reflection. However, especially during this time of COVID19, community members of all faiths and beliefs are invited to spend some time in prayer and reflection for our community and world. Since this is a time of “sheltering in place” and it is not safe or ethical to gather in groups, we can still come together in prayer. You are invited to spend some time on Good Friday either by walking individually or driving by in your car at a site near you representative of the various places and businesses in this prayer guide. Do not enter the building, just pause or park safely and spend a few moments in prayer. Or, join in this prayer walk from home or wherever you are. Feel free to add other facilities, places, and persons to the prayer list. The important thing is to uplift those in our community and world in prayer for healing, safety, and hope.

Begin with prayer or silent reflection;

Read scripture or other appropriate reading: Psalm 23 or Psalm 91

Uplift in thoughts and prayers the following persons and concerns:

Community Schools and Universities:

Pray for Administrators, Teachers, Support Staff, and Students

Government and Community Safety:

Elected and appointed officials; Government office workers; Police officers; Fire-fighters; Ambulance drivers; Paramedics and EMTs; Postal workers; Prison and security workers

Health care:

Physicians; Dentists; Nurses and nursing assistants; Therapists and technicians; Administrators; Support staff; Home Health Care providers

Social Work, Childcare, and Community Organizations:

Child care directors, teachers, and staff; Social workers; Counselors and therapists; Directors of non-profit organizations; Staff and volunteers of non-profits

Businesses and Industries:

Store managers and all workers; Food service workers; Business owners; Industrial managers and workers; Transportation workers; Office workers; Factory workers

Religious and Faith-based Institutions:

Religious leaders - local, national, and global; Religious community members; Chaplains and pastoral care workers; Religious institution support staff; Religious sponsored institutions and organizations

All Families and Individuals of our Community and World:

Those gathered at home; those who may be separated due to work or illness; those leaving home to provide for our needs during this time; Individuals living alone who need our prayers and support; Caregivers; Those in need of healing - mental, physical, and/or spiritual; All those who suffer; Those who have lost loved ones.

Prayers for healing, justice, and peace for our community and world

Add your own intentions

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

KIRKMONT CENTER CLOSURE

A letter received from the Kirkmont Center:
Is Kirkmont Center still open?

This letter is painful to write. For the foreseeable future Kirkmont cannot support itself. For ten years we have communicated about safety and health challenges with buildings and infrastructure. Thanks to you, we have addressed them. We continue to be forthright in communicating.

Our facilities are closed. Retreat groups and schools have cancelled through May. We have no user revenue. With no user revenue, neither staff nor nondiscretionary bills can be paid. We are in communication with other camps who have laid off staff and cut management hours. We are exploring every option for 2020 summer camps and beyond.

Kirkmont is a nonprofit with a mission of serving the church and, more broadly, all people in all seasons. Like many, we want to get back to fulfilling our mission.

Has Kirkmont Center been an important influence in your life or in the lives of people you know? If so, help now by giving \$10 a month or more online through the Presbyterian Foundation. Our goal is to have more than 500 individuals, families, or organizations with recurring, modest contributions.

Why \$10? Even though businesses, churches, students and families are struggling, \$10 a month recurring contribution may hardly be noticeable among online purchases. Join the Kirkmont board and a few others (ranging from students to retired people on fixed income) who have been giving \$10 or more monthly for Kirkmont's greatest need and for DeLair Family Camperships.

If you value Kirkmont's past, then it is time to cast a vote for Kirkmont's future.

Go to kirkmontcenter.org and click on a Donate Now button. Complete the form choosing the amount and frequency you will give.

Thank you.

*Buzz Reed, Board Chair
buzzfdr@gmail.com*

*Jim Sexstone, Executive Director
jsexstone.kirkmont@gmail.com*



SATELLITES

Satellites will not be meeting in April. We hope to meet again soon!

RUMMAGE SALE

The annual rummage sale scheduled for May 1 has been postponed. You may continue to set aside your items to donate as you clean and organize your homes, and we will keep you informed of the new date for the sale after we are free to return to normal social activities. Thank you!

SPECIAL OFFERING

The "One Great Hour of Sharing" special offering scheduled for Sunday, April 5, will be received later on a Sunday to be announced.

APRIL LUNCHEON

The luncheon scheduled for Sunday, April 5th hosted by the Witness and Outreach Leadership Team will be postponed. We will inform you if and when a new date has been determined.

FPC TO PROVIDE FOOD AT SHARE & CARE ON APRIL 4 - CANCELED

April Bible Reading Plan

Verses about Jesus' death and resurrection, which is the true meaning of Easter, as well as verses about why Jesus chose to bear the cross in our place.

- Day 1:** Luke 3:22
- Day 2:** Luke 4:18
- Day 3:** Titus 3:5-6
- Day 4:** John 6:47
- Day 5:** John 11:25
- Day 6:** Luke 9:23
- Day 7:** John 14:6
- Day 8:** Matthew 16:21
- Day 9:** Mark 11:8-9
- Day 10:** Luke 24:46
- Day 11:** John 14:1-3
- Day 12:** Luke 22:42
- Day 13:** Mark 14:22-24
- Day 14:** Luke 23:44-46
- Day 15:** Mark 15:46
- Day 16:** Luke 24:1-7
- Day 17:** Romans 4:25
- Day 18:** Job 19:25
- Day 19:** Isaiah 53:5
- Day 20:** 2 Corinthians 5:15
- Day 21:** 1 Peter 2:24
- Day 22:** Colossians 3:1
- Day 23:** 1 Corinthians 6:14
- Day 24:** Philippians 3:10
- Day 25:** Romans 6:9
- Day 26:** 1 Corinthians 15:22
- Day 27:** Hebrews 9:28
- Day 28:** Galatians 2:20
- Day 29:** 1 Corinthians 15:56-57
- Day 30:** 1 John 2:25

This reading plan can be found at:

<http://www.blessingoverflowing.com/april-bible-reading-plan-scripture-easter/>

SUMMARY OF SESSION MEETING

The regular March Stated Session was held in the church library on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. Session members present included: Jody Amor, Linda Hamilton, John Roush, Larry Stout, Bill Taylor, Nicole Whetstone, and Rev. Dr. Julie Kling, moderator. Don Steen and Bob Humberger were excused.

Pastor Kling led a discussion of "Revitalization." She proposed several definitions and three quotes, one by Calvin. She invited the elders' reflections on these definitions. She then gave the example of the story of Mary and Martha. Pastor Kling challenged the elders to be like Mary and listen to the Lord and then go out into the world and serve. Pastor Kling closed the discussion with prayer.

The Clerk Bill Taylor distributed drafts of the church annual report for review and announced the February Sunday Worship Attendance: February 2nd – 36; 9th – 34; 16th – 43; and 23rd – 40.

Pastor Kling reported these activities in February: "During February, I preached Sunday sermons and prepared worship service bulletins for February Sundays and officiated at Communion Services. I also provided pastoral support for concerned persons by phone and in person. In mid-February, I attended a biblical preaching workshop on Lenten scriptures. I continued to prepare services for February, Ash Wednesday, and Lent and also to prepare for the Holy Week mini-retreat and Holy Week Services. I officiated at the Ash Wednesday Service which was a joint service with the First and Eastside Presbyterian Churches. I also moderated the February session meeting and made a pastoral visit to a nursing home, follow-up phone calls, and touched base with some of the Committee leadership chairs. I also have been discussing with committee members and other members about the Mobile Health Fair regarding sponsoring with area agencies a health fair for our area/county. I am in the process of contacting other agencies. I also followed up by phone with a party who had expressed interest in the Organist Position. Two members of the Personnel Committee have been involved in contacting the person as well. I attended Presbytery in Defiance and a webinar on "Transforming Life Skills to Ministry Skills." In addition, I attended the first Sunday luncheon and stayed to play games and chat. I have also been conducting a new membership class during the Coffee with Calvin times on Sundays, please feel free to contact me."

The Treasurer's report for February: February 2020 income - \$10,818; February 2020 expenditures - \$11,776; February 2020 surplus or (deficit) - (\$959); 2019/2020 Year to date income - \$20,589; 2019/2020 Year to date expenditures - \$20,768 and 2019/2020 Year to date surplus or (deficit) - \$179 (Report includes Rainbow Station).

The Leadership team reports included: **Christian Growth and Nurture** – Book Buggy is active again, Teachers' Appreciation Sunday will be on May 3rd, VBS will be July 20 – 24 with theme "Olympics/Running for the Prize;" **Fellowship and Service** – Grad Party for Nathan Cowdrey will be Friday, May 15 and church clean-up day will be Saturday, May 16; **Witness and Outreach** – Will host fellowship lunch on Sunday, April 5 and invites will be distributed for Holy Week events **Rainbow station** – Currently 17 preschoolers and 3 toddlers are enrolled; **Nominating Committee** – In need of 2 elder nominees; and **Presbytery Report** – Bill Taylor will represent FPC at the next presbytery meeting in Norwalk on May 19th.

Under old business the Session dismissed by consensus a tabled MOTION to modify the serving of communion.

Under new business the Session approved by consensus for Nicole Whetstone and Bill Taylor to meet with new church member during Sunday School Hour on Sunday, March 29th.

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 |
| Rainbow Station Aide | Kali Norris |
| 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,



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