

AUGUST 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

“Keeping Faith”

Thomas Aquinas says, “To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.”

What is faith? What is the role of faith in our lives? And how do we balance faith and reason? Science and religion? If we are faced with a question, do we turn to God or do we turn to the world? Can we do both?

Christians have turned to the church for answers for hundreds of years. A belief in God should give one answers for facing the difficulties that life brings. Faith can provide hope when we are struggling or dealing with difficult issues. Faith also helps us have hope and know as Julian of Norwich said: “All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.” Faith helps me trust that my life situation will improve. Being a part of the church and having faith helps me realize that I am not alone. As part of the church I am part of a larger community that consists of my ancestors in faith as well as those who are my contemporaries in faith.

Faith is also something we should want to share with others because it makes a difference in our own lives. Perhaps family members shared their faith with younger family members. Perhaps friends or co-workers shared their faith and made a difference in the lives of others. If my faith is important to me and has made a difference, I should want to share it with others.

Faith helps us get through these current challenging times and also gives hope for the future. Faith is more than hope as it leads to the great blessings to come through faith in Jesus. While I have to know my faith, faith is more than just knowing verses or doctrine in my mind. Faith is also a matter of the heart. Faith is rooted in the love that Jesus Christ has for all of us. Faith is also turning things over to the Holy Spirit to lead and guide. This trusting of the Holy Spirit is probably one of the most difficult things an individual may do, as it involves letting go of some of one’s own desires and wants and allowing space for the Spirit to work. It involves letting go of some of my own agenda and allowing God’s love to be at work in me and in the world.

The workings of the Holy Spirit sometimes defies human logic or reason. Other times, the Spirit uses human creativity and innovation in new and unexpected ways. R.L. Adams uses the metaphor of an airplane in flight. Birds have that ability to fly on their own due to wings and other mechanisms of their created bodies that allow them to soar

We hope to be back to worshipping in the church September 6 - further details will be forthcoming. Zoom opportunities will still be available as well.

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Special points of interest:

- ◇ Sunday School 9 am, via Zoom
- ◇ Worship 10 am, via Zoom
- ◇ Coffee Hour, 11 am, via Zoom
- ◇ 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

\$35.70

through the clouds. Human beings, human bodies do not have that ability. However, the creative minds of human beings had the ability to use scientific principles and other materials to eventually design airplanes and space craft that have enabled humans to travel to other countries and even journey into space. Something that thousands of years ago human minds never could have thought possible. When someone asked the question, “How can humankind fly like the birds?”, the answer did not come about easily. Orville and Wilbur and others struggled to create and innovate. They had to have determination and believe that one day humans could fly like a bird. Things did not always work as the inventors and engineers had hoped. But they had to believe and persevere.

Adams states, “Without faith, we couldn’t expect that things would turn out all right for us no matter what the situation might be.” While our physical bodies need air to breath and food and water for physical survival, our spiritual bodies need faith. According to Adams, “Faith isn’t just a notion that some people hold on to in tough times; faith is an important element to all human life on earth. Life is precious, but it can also be remarkably difficult at times. Faith is what helps to get us through, illuminating the pathway in times of darkness, helping to give us strength in times of weakness. Without faith, we are nothing.” (Adams, R. L. “5 Reasons Why Having Faith is So Important.” www.wanderlustworker.com)

As we have been considering Scripture from the book of James during Sunday worship, we have learned that for Christians, faith is what gives meaning to life and that the faith must be linked with action if it is to be life-changing. When we are faced with pain and difficulties, James reminds us that with God’s help positive blessings will eventually result. “Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.” (James 1: 2-3).

We are not alone; God is with us. Let us keep the faith.

Pastor Julie

Pray for Our Church’s Vitality

Vitality isn’t a number. It’s not about how many members we have, or how large our budget is, or even how many baptisms we celebrate each year. Rather, it’s a mindset and commitment to re-energize and live out our church’s faith in our community and the world. Vitality is a passion for following Jesus—growing in faith and discipleship, embracing people beyond our church walls, working for justice and reconciliation, and serving our neighbors in need. It’s a way of life that sees with Christ’s eyes and uses our collective gifts to really make a difference. Of course, every community is different and faces its own challenges. Growing in vitality always requires prayer and discernment to figure out how we are called. We believe that “Where Christ is, there is the true Church”. Matthew 25 shows us that Christ is with people who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, or in prison. If we wish to serve Christ, the Fremont First Presbyterian Church must be with these same people in our witness, work, and worship. In this mission we encounter Christ, the life of the world, and congregations find true vitality.

ABOUT THE RETURN

The Return is a movement, an appointed time, and a specific day set apart for one purpose – the return to God by coming before His presence in humility, in sincerity in prayer, and repentance.

The movement begins now and will continue through the entire year of 2020 leading up to 10 Days of Vigilant Prayer – Starting with the Biblical Feast of Trumpets and ending with the Day of Atonement (September 18-September 28). The central day of The Return will be Saturday, September 26, 2020 on the National Mall and throughout the nation and world.

Take part by Live Simulcast wherever you are – In your Home, Church, Town, or City!

RAINBOW STATION NEWS



Our summer is almost over. Where did it go? As we continue with the new way of doing things and changing some of our habits, I would like to inform you that we are accepting applications for Fall 2020 at this time. We will be open Monday through Friday from 6:00am-4:30pm until the pandemic is over. We will no longer have just preschool hours (8:30-11:30) but will be running a full day program. We will cover everything we did in the former preschool portion of the day. Staff will be wearing masks in the classroom, except for nap time when we can socially distance. Any time we are within six feet of a child, inside the classroom or outside in the play yard, we will have our masks on. We will socially distance the children, as much as is possible with children. Tables for activities, snack, and lunch will be set up for two children per table, one on each end. Cots at nap time will be set up six feet apart. Surfaces will be wiped off frequently, sinks and toilets sanitized every hour, floors mopped daily, and carpet vac-

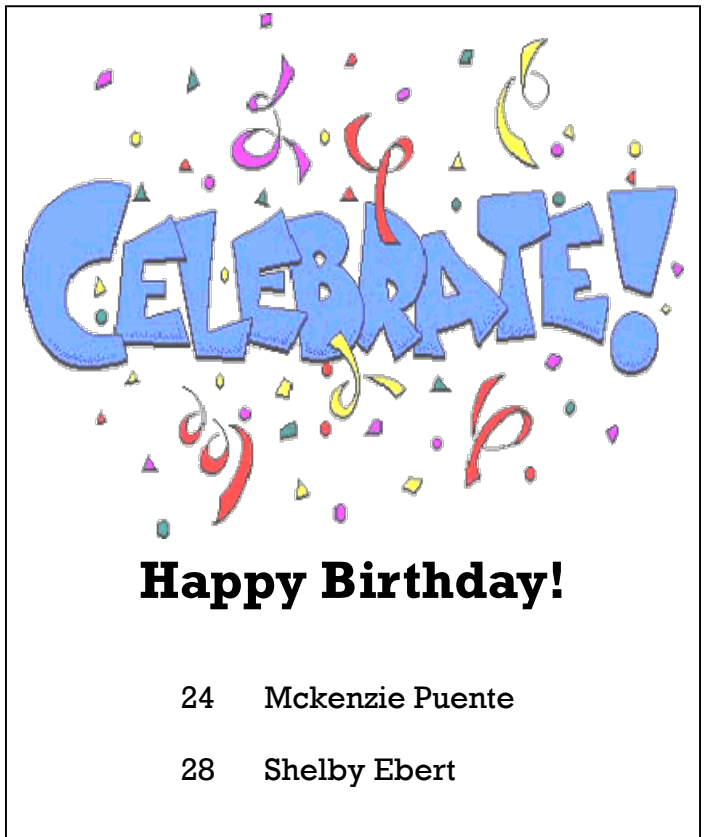
uumed daily. Door knobs, light switches, phones, refrigerator, etc. will be sanitized daily.

If you have any questions at all about our center, please feel free to call and ask us at 419-334-7173. We will be glad to answer your questions to the best of our ability.

In the meantime, we are praying for this virus to be over soon, as well as for the health and safety of our staff and for all who choose Rainbow Station for their childcare needs.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Rainbow Station Staff



2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to those who have continued to send in your contributions during this time of shut down! The mail is now being delivered to the church, so if you are able and would like to continue to pay your 2020 contributions or pledges, please continue to make your checks out to First Presbyterian Church and mail them to:

**120 S. Park Ave
Fremont, OH 43420**

However, the church office is still closed and most office work is still being done from home, so if you would rather, you may continue to mail your contribution to:

**Amy Monk
330 W. 5th St**

Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Neighbors' News



The Pandemic has changed our lives but not our commitment to help feed the hungry. If you are able to help while the church building is closed and until we are able to collect food items, please send a contribution to:

**The Sandusky County Food Pantry
129 Bidwell Ave.
Fremont, OH 43420**

Please put **First Presbyterian Church Neighbors** on the memo line of your check.

Thanks for your help, Neighbor!

PRINTER INK AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know has a Canon copier that uses ink cartridges CPR-31 (Toner yellow, magenta, black, or cyan) and/or a waste toner case for an IR-ADVc5054/c5051/c5045/c5035/c5030 series please see Nikki Whetstone. They have not been opened or used.

August Birthdays

- 2 Kaylee Amor
- 2 Bob Zimmerman
- 3 Bob Gamble
- 4 Abriana McConnell
- 6 Marilyn Willer
- 7 Adam Kohman
- 10 Claire Zimmerman
- 11 Steve Damschroder
- 17 Calvin Cowdrey
- 17 Charles Hull
- 18 Rina Oxley
- 19 Larry Stout
- 25 John McConnell
- 26 Susan McKnight
- 28 Kole Amor
- 29 Shelly Hull

August Anniversaries

- 2 Ken & Susan Myers
- 8 Paul & Penny Deffenbaugh
- 16 Bob & Joan Gamble
- 20 Charles & Katy Hull
- 22 Alex & Carolyn Clark
- 24 Leland & Linda Bartson

DON'T SEE YOUR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY?

Email the office at:

office@fremontfpc.org

and provide your birthday or anniversary dates so we can include you next time!

**A SPECIAL THANKYOU FROM 2020
GRADUATE, SAMUEL MERRITT**

Thanks to everyone
at First Presbyterian Church,
for the wonderful gift card!
I am so grateful for everyone
at this Church, and I am so
glad I was able to be a part
of it.

Samuel
Merritt

SATELLITES

We will not be eating out until it's safer to eat in a restaurant. Thank you for being patient. Love all of you, Audine.

For I know the plans
I have for you,"
declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope
and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

**Summary of FPC 2020 Annual
Congregational Meeting**

A Congregational meeting of the First Presbyterian Church, Fremont, Ohio was held at 11:00 a.m. on June 28, 2020 via "Zoom" for the purpose of receiving the 2019 Annual Reports, 2020 Budget, approving the actions of Session, and electing Elders, Deacons and Nominating Committee Members.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the moderator Rev. Dr. Julie Kling. She acknowledged church members and friends who had passed to Eternal Life followed by a moment of silence.

The 2019 Annual Reports were presented with the following corrections: to nominations for Deacon, Lisa Zimmerman replaces Mary Ann Perry; and for nominating Committee Member at Large, Jan Zimmerman replaces Paul Deffenbaugh. All committee reports were accepted with thanks to committee members, elders, and deacons for their ministries and service.

The 2020 Church budget which had previously been approved by Session in January was presented by Larry Van Dyne and received by the congregation. Larry and Carol Van Dyne accepted positions of co-treasurers for the coming year and were thanked for a job well done in the past year. The congregation confirmed the following changes within the Fremont Presbyterian Foundation: (a.) resignation of Larry Stout as Trustee and Chairman. (b.) election of Robert Gamble as trustee and (c.) appointment of Larry Van Dyne to succeed Larry Stout as Chairman.

Nominating Committee Moderator, Linda Hamilton, thanked retiring Elders Don Steen and Nikki Whetstone and retiring Deacons Bob Gamble, Susan Myers and Dannita Cowdrey for their service of six continuous years on the Session and Deaconate.

The congregation then elected Ken Myers to a full three-year term and Larry Stout to an additional one-year term as Elders; and Gerri Hensley, Lisa Zimmerman and Pam Clark to full three-year terms as Deacons. The congregation also elected next year's Nominating Committee comprised of Linda Hamilton as Elder Moderator, Elder Representative John Roush, Deacon Representative to be determined, and at-large members Carolyn Taylor, Donna Cominsky, Ralph Oxley and Jan Zimmerman.

Closing Prayer was given by the moderator Rev. Dr. Julie Kling.

SUMMARY OF SESSION MEETINGS

SUMMARY OF THE JUNE STATED SESSION MEETING

The regular June Stated Session was held via Zoom on Wednesday, June 3, 2020. Session members present on the Zoom conference included: Jody Amor, Linda Hamilton, Bob Humberger, John Roush, Larry Stout, Bill Taylor, Nicole Whetstone, and Rev. Dr. Julie Kling, moderator. Don Steen was excused.

Pastor Kling opened the meeting with prayer.

Due to the pandemic, all church events are cancelled thru July 1.

The Clerk Bill Taylor reported May Sunday Worship Attendance: May 3 – 40, 19 – 40, 17 – 36, 24 – 41, and 31 – 37 (all services via Zoom).

The Leadership team reports included: **Christian Growth and Nurture** — VBS has been cancelled and grad gifts are on order; **Fellowship and Service** — Gift cards were sent to graduates and informal church clean-up was held in May; **Rainbow Station Board** — See Session business recorded below; **Nominating Committee** — Still need one nominee for elder; and **Stewardship Task Force** — Alternate methods of giving are being considered.

Under old business, the Session passed the following motions: that the church building will remain closed to use by AA, Hispanic Church, and Girl Scouts through August 9 with exception of Habitat for Humanity and Rainbow Station; that the church building would be open for Rainbow Station on June 15 in accordance with State of Ohio Covid-19 Virus opening suggestions; to continue compensation for Rainbow Station Staff in accordance with special Covid 19 Virus compensation through June 15 and hence the compensation for the Staff would be as per usual; and to continue FPC Staff at the usual hourly rate thru June with Amy's compensation to be supplemented from the beginning of FPC building closure so she will receive the normal compensation she would receive were she working full time before FPC building closure regardless of hours worked.

Under new business, the Session passed the following motion: that every church member would be mailed by USPS an annual FPC report, a slate of church officers to be voted on, and a letter announcing the date for the annual meeting (following the ZOOM worship service on Sunday, June 28) and inviting congregational participation by ZOOM or telephone. The letter will include instructions on participating by ZOOM or telephone.

Pastor Kling closed the meeting with prayer.

SUMMARY OF THE JULY STATED SESSION MEETING

The regular July Stated Session was held via ZOOM on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. Session members present included: Jody Amor, Linda Hamilton, Bob Humberger, John Roush, Larry Stout, Bill Taylor, Nicole Whetstone, and Rev. Dr. Julie Kling, moderator. Don Steen was excused.

Pastor Kling opened the meeting with prayer.

The Clerk Bill Taylor reported June Sunday Worship Attendance was by Zoom: – June 7 - 42, June 14 - 36, June 17 - 36, June 21 - 44, and June 28 - 44.

Pastor Kling reported these activities in June: During June, I preached Sunday sermons and prepared worship services for Zoom. I also lead the Faith and Fear Adult Sunday School via Zoom. I also provided pastoral counseling and support for concerned persons by phone. Issues for people in the area, especially Senior citizens and young adults, continue to be the lack of low-cost housing and loss of jobs due to COVID19. I also did some reading and study of COVID19 and participated in several zoom calls and an online course on COVID19 led by Johns Hopkins University. I moderated the June session meeting and participated in weekly Maumee Valley Presbytery Zoom calls for Pastors and church leaders. I attended a Matthew 25 Zoom event and a workshop on Racism and Social Justice Resources via Zoom. An excellent webinar was for nonprofits in equality and equity. I also attended the Presbytery Leadership Committee meeting via Zoom and participated in two area events to support graduates. Also began to prepare for a preaching series on the book of James and moderated the congregational meeting via Zoom to end the month.

The Treasurer's report for June: June 2020 income - \$13,609; June 2020 expenditures - \$10,415; June 2020 surplus or (deficit) - \$3,194; 2019/2020 Year to date income - \$54,233; 2019/2020 Year to date expenditures - \$66,518; 2019/2020 Year to date surplus or (deficit) - (\$12,285). (Report includes Rainbow Station).

The Leadership team reports included: **Administration and Finance** - Moved Habitat for Humanity office opening up additional room for Nikki; completed relighting Rainbow Station; and purchased touchless hand sanitizer stations for rear church entrances. Face masks and hand sanitizer currently stored in pastor's office awaiting church reopening; **Christian Growth and Nurture** - Sunday School will continue on ZOOM in July; **Witness and Outreach** - "Back-to-Church Sunday" is planned for September 20; **Rainbow Station** - Currently 1 full-time and 1 part-time students. RS is using a state of Ohio grant (\$2,000) to fund supplies to counter COVID 19; **Stewardship Task Force** - Considering push-pay form of giving. Will launch 2020 Stewardship campaign in October. **Presbytery Report** - A special ZOOM Presbytery meeting is planned for the end of July and regular meeting will be in September.

Under old business: The Session will keep church building closed through the end of August.

Under new business: A committee comprised of Julie Kling, Jody Amor, Ken Myers, and Linda Hamilton (Moderator) was formed to prepare a plan for opening the church building to Sunday services and other meetings. Additionally, it was the consensus of the Session that there will be no Session meeting in August, but a special meeting may be called for the presentation of the "Opening Plan."

Pastor Kling closed the meeting with prayer.



THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Kaylee Amor
Pam Clark
Gerrie Hensley
Amanda Herman
Anne Humberger
Lisa Zimmerman
Josh Ross (Moderator)
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	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

Jody Amor
Linda Hamilton
Bob Humberger
Ken Myers
John Roush
Larry Stout
Bill Taylor (Clerk)
Rev. Dr. Julie Kling (Moderator)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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