

JANUARY 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Epiphany, Time for Determination and Persistence

Two years ago, I shared that the season of Epiphany reminded us to be determined and persistent. At the time, I shared my experiences of frustration trying to find a specific chain restaurant in the Pittsburgh area. It took me five tries to find one franchise that was still open. Looking back, my search for a specific restaurant seems unimportant and very trivial in light of the concerns and issues we have all faced during 2020.

We come to the world with our own expectations and demand that they be met. We desire control. This past year has been a year of learning that we cannot always control what goes on around us. There are also times when we need to sacrifice our own wants and desires for the safety and well-being of others. Christmas is a time of giving and awareness of others; usually at Christmas people are more generous and hospitable than they are at other times of the year. However, I am amazed at the number of times I have heard people say they are ignoring the call for reduced gatherings and will “party hardy” on New Year’s Eve. They are determined to do what they want regardless of potential consequences for themselves or others.

Determination and persistence can be a good thing, but what is the goal? What drives that determination? Selfish concerns or a genuine concern for others? The Scripture for Epiphany is Matthew 2:1-12 which tells of the Three Magi and their determination to find the Christ child. The Magi were asking around trying to find out where the holy child was to be born. When Herod heard this, he was not a happy camper. He asked the Magi to come to see him and tell him what this following the star business is about. Herod’s determination to find out what was going on was based on self-preservation and self-concern. If this child was the Promised One of which the prophets had spoken, Herod wanted to have him killed because he was afraid of losing his power.

On the other hand, the Magi were determined to find the child because they wanted the words of the prophets to come to fruition. They knew this child came for all people, and the world needed this child. They were willing to risk Herod’s anger in order to find the Christ Child and worship him.

Friends who have recently made the decision to move from independent living to a supported living environment have done so, not because they want to, but out of concern for their family and friends and concern for each other. This is a time of transition for them. They shared this prayer by Walter Brueggemann from his book *Awed to Heaven: Rooted in Earth*. This prayer, while an Advent prayer, is appropriate for facing a new year as it deals with changing times and awaiting Christ’s presence in our lives. Part of the prayer appears below:

*In our secret yearnings
we wait for your coming,*

In-person worship has been temporarily canceled until Sandusky County is no longer “Red”. There will still be “Zoom” services every Sunday at 10 am and Sunday School at 9 am.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastoral Reflections	1-2
Anniversaries	4
Birthdays	4

Opportunities for Worship:

- Sunday School 9 am, via Zoom
- Worship 10 am, via Zoom

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:

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office@fremontfpc.org

2021 PER CAPITA

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*and in our grinding despair
 we doubt that you will.
 And in this privileged place
 we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we
 and by those who despair more deeply than do we.
 Look upon your church...
 in this season of hope
 which runs so quickly to fatigue
 and in this season of yearning
 which becomes so easily quarrelsome.
 Give us the grace and the impatience
 to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,
 to the edges of our fingertips...
 and come in your weakness
 in any case
 and make all things new.
 Amen.*

Have a happy new year and seek to be faithful and persistent in your call to be disciples in the midst of these changing times.

Pastor Julie

Christ University: New Series

The Adult Sunday School class invites you to join us on Sunday mornings via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. Jan. 10 and 17 as we finish our current study of the Holy Land by Adam Hamilton. Then we will study the book of Ruth and get to know this woman of faith with the series "Getting to Know Ruth"; and during Lent we will study the Gospel of John with the series "A Lenten Fast: From Insight to Action in the Gospel of John'."

Tentative Schedule:

Jan. 10: Adam Hamilton, Lesson 4

Jan. 17: Adam Hamilton, Lesson 5

New Study: "Getting to Know Ruth"

Jan. 24: "Ruth: Introduction and Chapter 1"

Jan. 31: "Ruth: Chapter 2"

Feb 7: "Ruth: Chapter 3"

Feb. 14: Ruth: Chapter 4"

New Study: Lenten Series: "A Lenten Fast: From Insight to Action in the Gospel of John"

Feb. 21: "Wanting More"

Feb. 28: "Is New Life Possible"

March 7: "Lives on the Move"

March 14: "From Blindness to Insight"

March 21: "The Community Breaks the Bond"

RAINBOW STATION NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR



safe and healthy Christmas.

Welcome 2021! Praying this is a much better year. Hope everyone had a safe and healthy Christmas.

We are finishing up our Step Up to Quality annual report to maintain our 3 star rating. Things have been totally different and not exactly friendly for preschoolers. A lot of what we do has not been allowed due to Covid-19 and my prayer is this year we can return to teaching the social skills of sharing, taking turns, and helping one another. These skills are very difficult when you have to social distance and not have all the materials out that we normally do. Please keep us in prayer as we enter this new year.

I would like to thank everyone who supports us in any way, whether it is financially, working around the play yard or building, or your prayers.

You are appreciated and important to this program.



Until next month,
Rainbow Station Staff

RECYCLE!

Don't forget to bring in your used ink and toner cartridges to be recycled. These are returned to Staples, and Rainbow Station receives credit toward future purchases on needs such as paper and ink. Every little bit makes a difference! Thank you for your continued help!



Happy Birthday!

22 Kynzlee Alexander-Pitts

Neighbors' News - New Address

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



The Sandusky County Food Pantry

PO Box 445

Fremont, OH 43420

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

Thanks for your help, Neighbor!

JANUARY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

January 3

Sunday after Christmas Service prepared by Presbytery and Synod of the Covenant: (can be viewed at any time)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yWoYHTa9t0&feature=youtu.be>

January 10

Scripture: John 7

Sermon: "Waiting for the Right Time"

January 17

Scripture: John 8

Sermon: "The Guiding Light"

Communion ("virtual" until further notice)

January 24

Scripture: John 9

Sermon: "True Freedom"

January 31

Scripture: John 10

Sermon: "Jesus: Tending His Flock"

Birthdays

- 3 Mary Ann Perry
- 9 Courtney Miarer
- 11 Dick Adams
- 12 Bert Livingston
- 13 Elizabeth Biller
- 17 Kyle Amor
- 24 Jane Reinbolt
- 25 Amanda Herman
- 26 Aaron Miarer
- 28 Audine Leeper
- 30 Helen Cominsky

Anniversaries

- 22 Larry & Barb Stout
- 28 Donn & Joyce Jones

DEACON'S BASKETS

Thank you to all who made donations to the Deacons' Christmas Baskets. This year, the "baskets" were in the form of grocery gift cards. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide aid to many families.

Thank you, the Deacons

ANNUAL REPORT

It's almost time for another annual report! If you were a committee chair in 2020, please email your report to Amy at office@fremontfpc.org by January 31, 2021. Thank you in advance!



SUMMARY OF SESSION MEETING

The regular December Stated Session was held via Zoom on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. Session members present included: Jody Amor, Bob Humberger, Ken Myers, John Roush, Larry Stout, Bill Taylor, and Rev. Dr. Julie Kling, moderator. Linda Hamilton was absent.

Pastor Kling opened the meeting with prayer.

Pastor's Report:

During November, I preached Sunday sermons and prepared worship services for Zoom. I also assisted with the technological leadership for the Adult Sunday School via Zoom. I provided pastoral counseling for concerned persons by phone. I also did some reading and study of COVID19 and participated in several related zoom calls. I moderated the November session meeting and participated in some of the weekly Maumee Valley Presbytery Zoom calls for Pastors and church leaders. I met with some of the members of a committee working with leadership for return to in-person worship, as we moved to Zoom-only services as Sandusky County became red on the COVID19 scale. I am participating in a weekly Bible study and I attended some of the lectionary study for pastors and other church leaders. In addition, I worked with church members to provide bagged snacks for the Terra students who live at The Landings. Snacks were available for students before they left for Thanksgiving break and moved to online learning. Snacks were also offered during finals week for the few who remained on campus. I have also joined the book study that Matt Meinke is leading on racial justice and have started to prepare Advent and Christmas Services for Sundays as well as Advent Wednesday night Zoom prayer services. Sunday schedule currently begins with Adult Sunday School at 9 am and Zoom worship at 10 am, both via Zoom, and Wednesday night Advent services at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Julie

Guest Joan Gamble reported that Rainbow Station was doing fine with 9 children enrolled. She also reported Habitat of Humanity donated item(s) for the playground.

The clerk, Bill Taylor, reported that Mary Gocke had moved to her husband's church, Sacred Heart.

The treasurers' report for November (includes Rainbow Station) was: income - \$6,733, expenditures - \$12,399, surplus or (deficit) - (\$5,666), 2020 year to date income - \$104,932, expenditures - \$108,179, and surplus or (deficit) - (\$3,284).

The Leadership Team reports included: Administration and Finance - The inoperable emergency lighting fixtures in 1st. floor hallway have been replaced by Burkett Industries; Stewardship Task Force - Follow-up calls have been made and 2021 pledge total is comparable to the 2020 total (PTL!); Personnel Committee - Meeting is planned prior to end of year; and Presbytery Report - Pastor Kling and Bill Taylor attended the quarterly ZOOM Presbytery meeting on November 17. Rev. Dave Mathews, the one-time chaplain at Toledo University, was installed as the new Presbytery moderator. He has filled our pulpit in the past.

New Business included: The pastor will send every member a letter announcing the Christmas Eve Zoom worship service at 7:30 p.m. along with Zoom instructions and envelopes for contributing to Liberty Center homeless shelter and the annual special PCUSA Joy offering. Amy and Scott will have a 3% pay raise.

Pastor Kling closed the meeting with an Advent prayer from the week three service.



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	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)

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