

JUNE 2020

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

### “You Are Not Alone on an Island”

One of my favorite TV shows as a child was Gilligan’s Island. Are you humming the opening theme now? (Side comment: you can sing Amazing Grace to the tune of Gilligan’s Island theme song. I learned this at summer youth camp!) If you are not familiar with Gilligan’s Island, it is the story of Gilligan, his boss the skipper, and the passengers on a sight-seeing boat being shipwrecked on a tropical island. The sitcom focuses on their struggles to try to get off the island. While they are on that island for the duration of the sitcom, they are more successful at possibly getting off the island when they work together.

John Donne, an English poet of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century, also wrote about islands and penned:

*“No man is an Iland, intire of itselfe; every man  
is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine;  
....any mans death diminishes me,  
because I am involved in Mankinde;”  
(Olde English Version)*

These verses are part of a larger work titled *Meditation 17* that was written when Donne was seriously ill in 1623 as part of a collection titled *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions*. Donne points out that we are all connected and that anyone’s death or suffering should affect all of us. Through God and through being a human being, we suffer when others suffer. Not only is all humankind connected, none of us can be or are self-sufficient. We rely on each other. Donne was also an Anglican priest and may have used *Meditation 17* as part of a sermon. In addition to the image of the island, Donne also uses the image of a bell to communicate the reality of death for all humanity. When one person dies, all humanity should mourn.

The opening line of *Meditation 17* was also incorporated into a folk song written by Peter Schieckele and sung by Joan Baez as well as others:

*“No man is an island, No man stands alone, Each man's joy is joy to me, Each man's grief is my own. We need one another, So I will defend, Each man as my brother, Each man as my friend.”*

This idea of connectedness was also stressed by the 20<sup>th</sup> century German theologian Karl Rahner who believed that God always desired to reach out beyond God’s self.

**Please continue to watch for updates from the First Presbyterian Church of-  
fice to find out when we will reopen.  
Thank you!**

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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
- ◇ 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](mailto:office@fremontfpc.org). Thank you!!

#### 2020 PER CAPITA

\$35.70

God created all the world, and Rahner stressed that God desires to be in relationship with “the Other,” this entire created world. Out of this love and desire, God eventually sent Jesus.

Rebecca Gresham-Kesner writes in her article “Connecting During the Coronavirus” that as Presbyterians we identify ourselves as the “connectional church” and “have a profound theological understanding that we are better together. In fact, we are called to be together.” Gresham-Kesner provides examples of her own experience of working ecumenically before and during the pandemic that enriched everyone. But she observes that we often overlook the opportunities of working with others because we are “programmed to do our own thing.” So individual churches can become islands to themselves and only concerned about their own needs. Gresham-Kesner proposes several questions for churches to consider. The last of the questions states: “Could we perhaps set our differences down to serve the greater need?”

During this time of COVID19, this is a question we all need to ask ourselves. How can we work together to serve the greater need? While this is a period of profound stress and anxiety for everyone, we still need to pause and consider: How do my own words and actions during this time affect others? I am not alone on my island. I do need to consider the health and well-being of others. Perhaps Donne had read Romans 14:7: “For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone.”

Peace and prayers,

Pastor Julie

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES!!

### Samuel Wayne Merritt



Samuel attended Woodmore High School and Penta Career Center's IT Academy. He is a high honor roll student at both schools and will be graduating with several IT certifications that will launch him into his chosen career path immediately after graduation.

While attending Woodmore, Samuel was a member of the choir and band, competed in solo and ensemble vocal competitions, and was on the Wildcat Varsity Wrestling Team. He is a young artistic entrepreneur who runs his own successful Etsy online shop where he sells his commissioned, one of a kind, handmade fabrications for cosplay and personal collectors. After graduation Samuel will be moving to Texas to start his career. Samuel has attended First Presbyterian Church since the young age of 7 when his mother became the chancel choir director. He is the son of Lori Damschroder (Steve) and Steven Merritt (Tina).

### Nathan William Cowdrey



Nathaniel Cowdrey is a graduate of Fremont Ross and Vanguard Tech Center where he studied welding. He will join the work force after graduation. Nathan has made the Little Giants Honor Roll and Honor Roll while attending Fremont Ross. He was baptized in the First Presbyterian Church in 2002. Nathan is the son of Robert and Dannita Cowdrey.



## JUNE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

You are invited to join us Sunday mornings, June 7 and June 14, for Sunday School and worship! There are three links for each date below: the first is for Sunday School at 9:00 am, then worship at 10:00 am, followed by coffee and social time at 11:00 am. Join us for all three if you can!

### June 7

#### Sunday School "Faith and Fear", 9 am

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78597555194?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78597555194?pwd=K2lHelRBWnRCaHFuNTkrQ2pGaVZzUT09)  
pwd=K2lHelRBWnRCaHFuNTkrQ2pGaVZzUT09

Meeting ID: 785 9755 5194

Password: 2uPzaj

#### Worship, 10 am

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72886071957?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72886071957?pwd=SC9VVkVmd1crSmpvc3hZVVINN2JBUT09)  
pwd=SC9VVkVmd1crSmpvc3hZVVINN2JBUT09

Meeting ID: 728 8607 1957

Password: 8LTbrm

#### Coffee/Social Time, 11 am

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73606527377?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73606527377?pwd=RGJTUzN1NEV4K0ZVOXpoZTV1TkxIQT09)  
pwd=RGJTUzN1NEV4K0ZVOXpoZTV1TkxIQT09

Meeting ID: 736 0652 7377

Password: 6MfKbT

### June 14

#### Sunday School "Faith and Fear", 9 am

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72799424389?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72799424389?pwd=ZWNQbzBZL2tRVTdISGQzeml4UHZFUT09)  
pwd=ZWNQbzBZL2tRVTdISGQzeml4UHZFUT09

Meeting ID: 727 9942 4389

Password: 4YmVGB

#### Worship, 10 am

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71606765629?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71606765629?pwd=WFV0WS9maTlkbIpOQVgyYlRnSUxodz09)  
pwd=WFV0WS9maTlkbIpOQVgyYlRnSUxodz09

Meeting ID: 716 0676 5629

Password: 4imAuN

#### Coffee/Social Time, 11 am

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71871810009?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71871810009?pwd=OWtpREEzVUo1bTFpNIQ4VldqWmlHUT09)  
pwd=OWtpREEzVUo1bTFpNIQ4VldqWmlHUT09

Meeting ID: 718 7181 0009

Password: 9Jmikh

## June Birthdays

- 3 Donn Jones
- 8 Linda Hamilton
- 11 Benjamin Miarer
- 14 Kristen Van Dyne
- 19 Joan Gamble
- 21 Alice Livingston
- 22 Joyce Jones
- 24 Linda Bartson
- 25 Mike Oprie
- 26 Amy Oprie
- 27 Bill Taylor
- 29 Thomas Turley

## Rainbow Station

- 20 Hailey Sebetto

## June Anniversaries

- 19 Larry & Carol Van Dyne
- 21 John & Kathy Fawley
- 21 Hal & Nancy Mills
- 24 Kyle & Jody Amor
- 30 Bert & Lois Livingston

## SATELLITES

We will be  
having  
lunch on  
Wed., June  
10th at 11:30  
am at the

Garrison in Fremont. Please  
call Audine (419-334-3494)  
with your reservations by  
Sunday, June 7th. If you need  
a ride, call Audine too. Hope  
to see you there.



## 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!

### KROGER FUNDRAISER

Thank you to the 120 households who shopped at Kroger between February 1, 2020 and April 30, 2020. You helped Rainbow Station earn \$528.25!! 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!



### 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.

## SUMMARY OF SESSION MEETING

The regular May Stated Session was held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, May 7, 2020. Session members present included: Jody Amor, Bob Humberger, John Roush, Larry Stout, Bill Taylor, Nicole Whetstone, and Rev. Dr. Julie Kling, moderator. Don Steen and Linda Hamilton were excused.

Pastor Kling opened the meeting with prayer.

The Clerk Bill Taylor announced the April Sunday Zoom Worship Attendance: April 5 – 50, 12 – 65, 19 – 35, and 26 - 35.

The Treasurer's report was provided later: April 2020 income - \$10,818; April 2020 expenditures - \$14,088; April 2020 (deficit) - (\$3,877); 2020 Year to date income - \$34,869; 2020 Year to date expenditures - \$44,443 and 2020 Year to date (deficit) - (\$9,754) (Report includes Rainbow Station).

The session decided to continue closure of the church building to all operations through May 31, 2020 unless otherwise notified; to continue wages and benefits for First Presbyterian Church employees through the May 28 pay date; and endorsed the Rainbow Station board's decision to pay the director full pay and the staff full pay for hours worked and the balance of their regular hours at half pay through May 31 (Rainbow Station personnel wages will be paid from the Scholarship fund).

The session appointed Jody Amor and Bob Humberger as a committee of two to develop a comprehensive plan to return First Presbyterian Church congregation and the building to Ohio state Health Department Covid 19 compliant operation.

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**

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