

MARCH 2020

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

### Moving Beyond

Writer and author Rowan Williams stresses the relationship between Jesus and his followers. This relationship of discipleship has the power to change a person. Jesus has issued the invitation to “Come and See”. Also for Williams, being a disciple is not for the faint hearted. Being a disciple involves change and taking some risks. We are called beyond the safety of our comfort zones.

Rowan Williams describes the gospel of Mark: “Mark sets out two challenges for the reader. The first is simply to let yourself be addressed by the central figure. Mark is writing out of a relationship, a compelling relationship which it is his purpose to make real to you, so that whether or not you want to be in the same kind of relationship, you have to pay attention to the fact of the relationship as presented. Second, you have to grasp and share in the changed state of affairs to which the story testifies which is now being officially announced, a press release from the palace, which has changed the regime.”

In speaking of the Gospel of Mark and discipleship, Williams reminds his readers of a moment in C.S. Lewis’s Chronicles of Narnia when the children first learn of the lion, Aslan. One of the children, Susan, asks, “Is he-quite safe?” Mr. Beaver replies, “Safe? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.” Williams also suggests that the traditional symbol in Christian art for Mark and the Gospel of Mark is the lion. Williams thinks this symbol is appropriate as for Mark being a follower of Christ requires bravery and courage.

The Greek word used for time in the gospel of Mark in relationship to discipleship is kairos, not chronos. The Greek word chronos also means time; it is the root of our word chronology and refers to hours, days, weeks—the passing of human time as our watches and clocks suggest. Kairos, the Greek word for time used in this passage, suggests timeliness, something is happening when it should. Chronos or human time passes, but into this human time Kairos happens. Jesus interrupts human time with his life and message.

As we continue our Lenten journey, may we hear Jesus’ message “Come and See” and “The Kingdom of God has come near” or “The Kingdom of God is at hand.” Jesus came to speak about and usher in God’s Kingdom which is God’s way or God’s reign. Jesus calls us to come with Him and be Kingdom builders, part of his community of disciples. This community that Jesus calls is to reach out to the least and lost and to the powerful and those without power. Jesus has come for all people and calls his disciples to follow and serve all people.

May we all journey with Jesus this Lent and heed his call to move beyond the routine and be light to the world and Kingdom builders.

Pastor Julie

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

#### 2020 PER CAPITA

\$35.70

## MARCH LUNCHEON

Please join us on Sunday, March 1 immediately following worship for a luncheon hosted by the Chancel and Bell Choirs. Come for worship at 10:00 am and then stay after for a great time of food and fellowship. See you there!

*Next month's luncheon will be sponsored by The Witness and Outreach Leadership Team on Palm Sunday, April 5. The entire meal will be provided and donations will go to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. Invite an un-churched neighbor, friend or relative to join us for worship and a meal that Sunday.*

### Game Day

#### 'March Madness - Get your game on!'

To kick off MARCH MADNESS, the Christian Growth and Nurture Team would like to invite you to Game Day at the church on Sunday, March 1, 2020 in the social room. We will meet after our monthly Luncheon at 12:00 p.m. Games will be played such as Password, Yahtzee, UNO, card games, dominoes, Trivial Pursuit, just to name a few, where prizes will be given out! Come, have some fun and mingle with other Christians and friends. Can't wait to see you there!

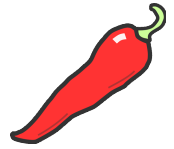


### Book Buggy

The Christian Growth and Nurture Team have put new books on The Book Buggy cart located in the social room. Some of the books we placed on the cart are *3:16 the Numbers of Hope and Fearless* by Max Lucado, *Another Homecoming* by Janette Oke and T. Davis Bunn, and *Chicken Soup for the Soul (A 2<sup>nd</sup> Helping of)*. Please take a moment to view what we have selected and feel free to sign out any book. If those books don't interest you, we invite you to the upstairs library where there are many more books to choose from. It will also give you an opportunity to see what the team has done to update the room. We would like to keep the books circulating and in use. Happy Reading!

## CHILI COOKOFF

The Fellowship and Service committee invites you to a fun-filled evening of food and fellowship on Saturday, March 14th at 5 pm. All you "chili masters" out there prepare to battle off your recipe to earn the title of Chili Master!! We look forward to seeing you there!



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Our church's Session has approved the receiving of the annual Presbyterian USA special offering "One Great Hour of Sharing" on Palm Sunday, April 5. This is a wonderful opportunity for you church members to give generously in this Lenten season to our national church's Disaster Assistance, Hunger program, and self-development of oppressed communities. Look for bulletin inserts providing more information on this offering and envelopes for your use during March.

## FPC TO PROVIDE FOOD AT SHARE & CARE ON APRIL 4.

Our church is scheduled to provide soup and sandwiches for the customers at Share and Care on Saturday, April 4. There will be a sign-up list on the Witness and Outreach bulletin board with the soup and sandwich needs. Have the food in the kitchen by Friday evening, April 3. WOLT will deliver the food to Share and Care Sat morning. Questions: call John Roush.

## YOUR DONATED BIBLE AND BOOKS DELIVERED

Six boxes of used bibles and other religious books collected over January and February by Witness and Outreach Leadership Team were delivered to Christian Resources International (CRI Ministries) in Fowler, Michigan last month. When our church gave financially and donated used Bibles, commentaries, and Christian books, we become book missionaries and aligned ourselves with the CRI mission, letting the world hear the Gospel.

# **RAINBOW STATION NEWS**



Welcome to March. We can't wait to be outside more and enjoy God's creation. We took the kiddos out during the last snow so they could build snowmen and

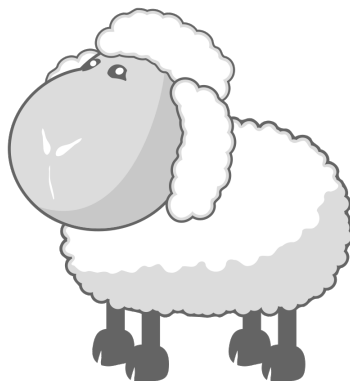
make snow angels, but they had other plans. They headed to the "dirt pile" to dig for worms. To my surprise, they actually found a few. Oh, the joys of being a kid.

We will be participating in the Heartbeat Hope Medical Flower Sale, which begins sometime this month. I will have inserts for the Sunday bulletins when I receive all the information.

Again, I would like to thank all of those who support Rainbow Station with their prayers, finances, donations of any kind, and their hard physical work that helps our program run smoothly. Our job would be a very difficult one without your support.

Have a blessed month and enjoy the creation God has given us.

Rainbow Station  
Staff



## **KROGER FUNDRAISER**

Thank you to the 129 households who shopped at Kroger between November 1, 2019 and January 31, 2020. You helped Rainbow Station earn \$615.69!! 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!



## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

5	Carolina Barman
5	Cade Ochs
9	Grant Leathead



# MARCH

1 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship - Luncheon hosted by Chancel and Bell Choirs 12:00p - Game Day 5:00p - VIDA Church	2 10:00a - PW Mtg 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	3	4 6:00p - Choir 6:00p - WOLT 6:30p - Admin & Finance 7:15p - Session	5 6:00p - Girl Scouts 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	6	7
8 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	9 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	10	11 11:30a - Satellites 6:00p - Choir	12 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	13	14 5:00p - Chili Cookoff
15 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	16 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	17 7:00p - Rachel Circle	18 6:00p - Choir 6:30p - Deacons	19 6:00p - Girl Scouts 6:30p - Vida Bible Study	20 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	21
22 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	23 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	24	25 6:00p - Choir	26 5:30p - Habitat 6:30p - Vida Bible Study (in library)	27	28
29 9:00a - Christ University 9:00a - Coffee w/ Calvin 10:00a Worship 5:00p - VIDA Church	30 8:00p Alanon 8:00p AA	31				

## Anniversaries

1 Betty Sargeant	6 Carol Van Dyne	20 Carolyn Clark
3 Hannah Biller	9 Jay Provonsha	20 Stephanie Stull
3 Betsy Kohman	10 Bill McConnell	21 Cole Kinsey
4 Alex Clark	16 Janice Zimmerman	23 Gloria Walters
5 Michael Clark	19 Susan Myers	25 Nathaniel Cowdrey
6 Joshua Ross		
		3 Rod & Linda Combs
		18 Chip & Donna Cominsky

## Birthdays

## SPRING CLEANING REMINDER

As you do your spring cleaning during the next couple of months, remember the annual spring rummage sale is coming soon on Friday, May 1.

There's no better place for those usable items you are removing from your closets or garages!



## 2020 Mission Opportunity

The children will be selling baked goods and treats every month to raise money for our mission opportunity. We are working towards our goal of \$500.00 for the 2020 year.

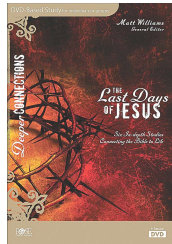
### Selling Dates:

- March 15 – Shamrock Bark
- March 29 – Oyster Crackers
- April 19 – Muffins
- April 26 – Trail Mix
- May 17 – Popcorn
- May 31 – Brownies

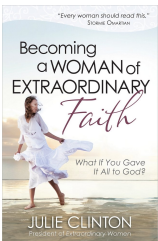
Thank You and Happy Eating,  
The Christian Growth and Nurture Team

## Christ University

Join us for *The Last Days of Jesus* by Matt Williams, March 1 through April 5 at 9 a.m. in the church library. In preparation for Easter, this Bible-based class will study the path of Jesus as he prepares his disciples and travels with him through events leading up to Easter. Discover how his power over the grave transforms everyone who believes in him.



## Rachel Circle



Rachel Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. in the church library. We will be discussing chapter 6 in *Becoming a Woman of Extraordinary Faith*. This chapter is entitled "Extraordinary Love: Pursued and Cherished by a Relentless God" Join us if you can!

## EASTER FLOWERS

Easter is April 12, so that means it's time to order your Easter flowers. White lilies, dark purple hyacinths and yellow tulips will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. The cost is \$12.50 each. If you wish to purchase flowers, complete the form below and mail it into the office, place it in the offering plate or call Susan Myers at 419-334-4718 to place your order by April 5, 2020. Thank you!

## 2020 EASTER FLOWERS



Do not pay now. Prairie Flowers will bill you.

Person ordering & to be billed:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: (deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: (living) \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate how many you would like of the 3 flowers below.

Lily \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth \_\_\_\_\_ Tulip \_\_\_\_\_

**Last day to order is April 5, 2020**

***All flowers should be picked up after the Easter Service on April 12th.***



## 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 have 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.

Thanks for your help neighbor!

Rod and Linda Combs

### March

1 - Cereal

8 - Peas and Carrots

15 - Soup

22 - Corn

29 - Tuna

*Optional monthly items:*

*Dish Soap*

*Liquid Laundry Detergent*

## Assisting In Worship

DATE	USHERS
<b>March 1</b>	Team 2 Bill Taylor - Captain Carolyn Taylor Janice Zimmerman
<b>March 8</b>	Team 3 Mike Opre - Captain Bob & Lisa Zimmerman
<b>March 15</b>	Team 4 Susan Myers - Captain Larry & Barb Stout
<b>March 22</b>	Team 5 Pam Clark- Captain Russ & Ellen Abbott
<b>March 29</b>	Team 1 Dannita Cowdrey - Captain Bob Cowdrey Rod Combs

## SUMMARY OF SESSION MEETING

The regular February Stated Session was held in the church library on Wednesday, February 5, 2020. Session members present included: Jody Amor, John Roush, Larry Stout, Bill Taylor (by telephone conference), Nicole Whetstone, and Rev. Dr. Julie Kling, moderator. Linda Hamilton, Don Steen and Bob Humberger were excused.

Pastor Kling opened in prayer.

The clerk, Bill Taylor, reported the following Sunday Worship Attendance last month: January 5th – 40, 12th – 55, 19th – 33, and 26<sup>th</sup> – 31.

Pastor Kling reported these activities in January. "During January, I preached Sunday sermons and prepared worship service bulletins for January Sundays and officiated at Communion Services. I also provided pastoral support for concerned persons by phone and in person and planned scripture, hymns, theme, etc. for the Sundays of February. I spent some of my vacation time volunteering at Give Kids the World in Florida. Give Kids the World is affiliated with various Make-a-Wish foundations and hosts children with terminal or chronic illnesses in helping with wish fulfillments in the Orlando area. There were several church groups volunteering while I was there, including a church senior citizen fellowship group from Ohio. Returning to Ohio, I started to plan Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services. I moderated the January session meeting and also attended area social ministry events including the Martin Luther King Breakfast and church Sunday potluck. I also attended the Rachel's Circle Bible Study and church game afternoon. I started a membership class as part of Coffee with Calvin. And also attended a funeral and officiated at two funeral services. I also met with the area representative for Intervarsity Christian Fellowship to help begin outreach to college students in the area and also attended two LIFT events related to ministry to college students and young adults. I have also had informal conversations with area pastors and other pastors and elders of the Presbytery about ways in which we can reach out in various ways of ministry to those in need in the community and also address community concerns such as mental health issues and drug addiction."

There was no Treasurer's report for January.

The Leadership team reports included: Christian Growth and Nurture – Shut-ins will be visited on Palm Sunday, April 5th and VBS is planned for July 20 – 24; Fellowship and Service – The annual chili cook-off will be on Saturday, March 14th and the grad party is being planned for May;

Rainbow station – Currently 18 preschoolers and 11 toddlers are enrolled; Presbytery Report – Next Presbytery meeting is March 21; and Personnel Committee – Pastor's 2019 review is being arranged.

Under old business, the Session moved to include the report of Rainbow Station finances under Christian Growth and Nurture Leadership Team financials; approved and moved the church's annual Statistical Report be sent to Maumee Presbytery, approved the requests of Jennifer Abbot and Ben and Janet Hickey to be removed from the church rolls.

Under new business, the Session approved the celebration of holy communion on Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and Maundy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, approved the receiving of the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering on Palm Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, approved the removal of the alley by Birchard Library from the Fremont city pat map, authorizing Larry Stout to sign the paperwork for the church, and approved Children's Keepers to have a minute mission at the beginning of the worship service on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Nicole Whetstone 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 Floater	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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