

MAY 2021

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

120 S. PARK AVE, FREMONT, OH 43420 419-334-7171 WWW.FREMONTFPC.ORG

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

### Summer and Time for Camp!

Summer is approaching, and with summer comes time for camping and outdoor activities. As a youth, I looked forward to Girl Scout camp and church camp. Girl Scout camp was my first experience with summer camp. Each day, the bus would pick us up and take us to Camp Minooka. If you have driven east through central Pennsylvania on Interstate 80 near the Loganton exit, you have driven through the site of former Camp Minooka. Camp Minooka, beginning with day camp through overnight camp, became one of the highlights of my summer activities as a young child.

On the way to and from the camp, we would sing at the top of our lungs, “Hey, look us over, lend us an ear, we’re Minooka campers, mighty glad we’re here!”

On my first summer going to day camp, I could only tentatively raise my voice in song as I was not so sure. While I am not an extremely outdoorsy person, I do enjoy nature and being outside in nice weather. However, I found I loved learning new skills such as weaving and learning to mark a trail and meeting new people. I could hardly wait until I was old enough for overnight camping. But when I did reach that age, I chose to be in a bunk house rather than a tent. I like some comforts of home.

Having had enjoyable experiences at Girl Scout camping, I quickly said yes when invited to go to church camp. My church camp experiences changed my life. I continued to meet new friends, but also my faith was challenged and nurtured in a way that could not happen in routine, morning Sunday school classes. At church camp I had the opportunity to meet new campers and leaders, who did not have a preconceived idea of who I was or what I was or was not good at. Like Girl Scout camp, I learned new skills but I also learned more about my faith through Bible study and also through interactions with leaders and other campers who were willing to share their faith. They modeled or truly lived out their faith as they interacted with others.

At the end of my first week of junior camp, and again a few years later at a special urban plunge camp in Washington, D.C. for older youth, a word that surfaced as campers described camp was acceptance: acceptance of ourselves by others, acceptance of ourselves by ourselves, and acceptance of others as they are. Camp echoed and truly demonstrated Jesus’ commands to “Love one another as I have loved you” and “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Camp affirmed that it was possible to live out the Gospel message of love and acceptance.

While pastoring in Pennsylvania, I served every summer as a counselor and/or Christian educator for two different camps, one for children with disabilities and one for young adults with disabilities. This same love and acceptance were present in the campers and counselors at these camps that I had experi-

**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:

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### 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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enced at youth church camp as a teen. In supporting summer camp for youth, Colin Powell states, “It teaches them how to get along with other people—both other young people as well as adults. To give our children a safe place to learn and grow . . . camp does that.” Church camp did that for me.

Our Presbytery helps support Kirkmont Center, a Presbyterian Camp which is not too far from Bellefontaine, Ohio. Many youths from churches in Maumee Valley Presbytery have attended Camp Rejoice or one of the other summer camps offered at Kirkmont. I had the privilege of attending part of Camp Rejoice as I was helping to host several youths from Mexican Presbyterian Churches that our Presbytery was supporting. It was exciting to be at camp for the closing worship and to hear what a transformative experience camp had been for the international youth as well as the Ohio youth. I could tell that strong friendships were formed as campers said tearful goodbyes. Another pastor and I were to take the international youth to General Assembly for a few days. However, the youth were still talking about camp the whole time we were at G.A. Other than the opportunity to attend a Cincinnati Reds baseball game, camp was the highlight of their trip to Ohio.

If you know youth who might be interested in camp, spread the word about Camp Kirkmont. (kirkmontcenter.org) Or, if you are an adult who has never had the experience to attend church camp, consider volunteering at Kirkland as they prepare for summer camp or attend the adult Quilters Camp.

The lesson from camp that we all can learn is that of love and acceptance. Why should camp be one of the few places that youth find love and acceptance? How can the Christian community and we in our own daily lives exemplify that love as well?

Pastor Julie

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, May 2

Scripture: John 19:17-42

Sermon Title: “The Pivotal Event”

Theme: Seeing the cross from the view of Easter

Communion (virtual)

Sunday, May 9

Scripture: John 20:30-21:25

Sermon Title: “John’s Purpose”

Theme: Crucial question for John: “Will you believe?”

Sunday, May 16

Scripture: Acts 1:1-26

Sermon Title: “What Happens Next?”

Theme: Introduction to the book of Acts/What happens after Easter

Communion (virtual)

Sunday, May 23 Pentecost

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon Title: “Mission Possible: Sent to Minister”

Theme: Pentecost/The Holy Spirit

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 30

Scripture: Acts, chapters 13 and 14

Sermon Title: “Mission Possible: Paul and Barnabas”

Theme: God calls us to specific missions to tell the Good News

## Neighbors' News



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!

## UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have moved, changed phone numbers, or have a new email address, please email those changes to the office at:

office@fremontfpc.org

Thank you! Amy Monk,  
 FPC Administrative Assistant

# RAINBOW STATION NEWS



Welcome May!  
This is a busy month for us, as we finish up our regular school year and prepare for our summer program. We will not

be doing our normal graduation potluck again this year due to Covid, but will plan something to acknowledge those who have attended this year.

The kiddos are having a lot of fun with the new play house in the play yard. They have been making all kind of plans for the house for the summer. When I asked what the plans were, they said it was "only for kids". That can be a little scary.

We are excited about getting our new bird and butterfly garden going, as well as our container gardens on the preschool side of the play yard. So many fun and exciting things to do outside.

Thank you for all your prayers and support of any kind. They are appreciated more than you know.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all the

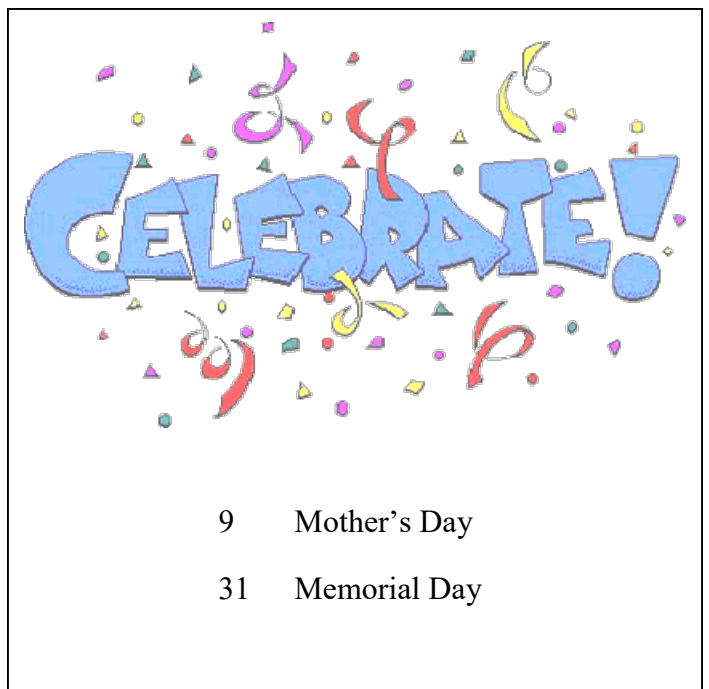
mothers out there. Enjoy your special day with family and loved ones.

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!



9 Mother's Day

31 Memorial Day

## SUMMARY OF SESSION MEETING

March 10, 2021

Elders present at the March 10, 2021 meeting of the First Presbyterian Church were Jody Amor, Linda Hamilton, John Roush, Larry Stout, Bill Taylor, and Rev. Dr. Julie Kling, moderator. Bob Humberger and Ken Myers were absent.

Pastor Kling opened with prayer.

With the State's ruling Sandusky County's COVID-19 status as "red", weekly Sunday School, and Sunday services, and other Holy Week services will be on Zoom or announced if other. Adult Sunday School will begin study of Old Testament book of Ruth. Fremont Clergy Fellowship is preparing a composite video Good Friday Service. Holy Week services: March 28 – Palm Sunday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday, April 2 – Good Friday, April 4 - Easter

Sunday Zoom Worship Attendances were: February 7 28, 14 32, 21 27, and 28 24. Ash Wednesday ZOOM service: February 17 13. Bill is currently working on the 2019 and 2020 Session Annual Records Review.

Pastor Kling's report for February; I preached Sunday sermons and prepared worship services for Zoom. I also assisted with the technology leadership for the Adult Sunday School via Zoom concluding a study of the Book of Ruth and beginning a study of the book of Esther. I also prepared and led the Ash Wednesday service and Wed. night Lenten services. I also continued to do some reading and study of COVID19, Matthew 25 materials, and participated in several related zoom calls that Matt had for pastors and church leaders. I moderated the February session meeting and continued to participate in a weekly Bible study as well as attend some of the lectionary study for pastors and other church leaders. I also worked on planning Sunday services, Sunday School, and Lenten Services for March, taking advantage of a retreat day at Our Lady of the Pines to do some reading and studying. I also attended a two-day Zoom conference for church leaders on building community in a Post COVID19 world in which major themes were what can we learn from the early church and Jesus' call to love one another. I also attended a meeting with some area pastors on campus ministry for area college and high school students and I am excited about some projects in the works; and I attended the Maumee Valley Presbytery meeting. Both of these meetings were also by Zoom. Though unable to attend the Maumee Valley Leadership Zoom meeting, I did follow-up and participate in a task group/sub-group meeting.

Treasurer's report for February: (Report includes Rainbow Station) income - \$6,257; expenditures - \$10,913; (deficit) – (\$2,713); Year to date income - \$16,769; Year to date expenditures - \$19,883; and Year to date (deficit) – (\$3,114)

Leadership team reports: Christian Growth and Nurture – Linda Hamilton is coordinating with Nicole Whetstone; and Music, Worship, and Sacraments – Palm Sunday plans depend on Pastor's Covid 19 vaccination reaction.

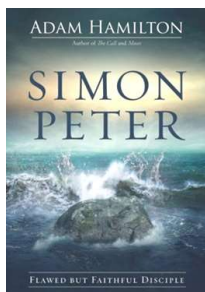
Presbytery Report: Pastor Kling and Bill Taylor will be attending the special Maumee Presbytery ZOOM meeting. Per Capita will remain the same. C.R.E.'s, and Extended Pulpit Supply Pastors serving in other ministries of the Presbytery were approved. Van Wert and LaSalle churches were given permission to sell unused church properties with proceeds to go to support budgets. The Gallion Congregation is in the process of looking to purchase a small facility for Sunday Worship Services. Installed Pastors were commissioned for: First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, OH; Christ Presbyterian Church, Toledo, OH; First Presbyterian Church, Perrysburg, OH. Interim Ministers were commissioned for: Cadmus Presbyterian Church, Adrian, OH and First Presbyterian Church, Adrian, OH. Kirkmont Youth Retreat has been able to refinance its facility and will be recruiting children for 2021. Bill Taylor attended the March 10th MVP "Space for Grace" meeting which was dedicated to sharing of information concerning MVP status during Covid-19. Basically, at this point nothing has really changed. Bill will attend the March 11th Special "ZOOM" meeting for the commissioning of Lance Wiesmann as Commissioned Ruling Elder and as such he will serve the First Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, OH. The Presbytery approved the commissioning of Rev. Dr. David Montgomery as Moderator and Matt Meinke as General Presbyter for MVP.

The date for the annual Congregation meeting was moved from April 11 to a date to be determined.

Pastor Kling closed the meeting with prayer

Next regular Stated Session meeting will be 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, 2021, on Zoom.

### Christ University



**Join us May 2** at 9 am via Zoom as we finish studying the book of Esther, Chapters 9 and 10.

**On May 9th**, we will continue with a study that was started last November: *Simon Peter*, by Adam Hamilton, *Flawed but Faithful Disciple*. **Then, on May 23**, we'll begin a study by Ray Vander Laan on the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah.

Both studies have a DVD with visits to the Holy Land to bring the Bible passages to life. Join us via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am.

### MISSIONARY UPDATE

Please see the next page for a letter from Tom Johnson, a missionary with Reformed Church of America whom FPC helps to support with a monthly donation.

Thank you for your financial faithfulness, which allows us to continue to help support Tom and his family!

Hello Everyone,

March 2021

Let me be among the first to wish you “Happy Resurrection Day” or “Happy Easter”, if you prefer! Jesus is alive and death no longer has the final word for those who believe. May you enjoy this holy time, knowing that through Christ’s death and resurrection we can have new life and not fear the grave or whatever trials the Enemy sends our way.

I was able to visit Haiti from March 9-16 with Aïchatou and the kids staying in Pella. Everything associated with the trip went very well: all travel connections were made, all scheduled trainings took place, everything at home was fine and I had negative results for the two Covid tests that I had to take to enter Haiti and then to re-enter the U.S. Since I had to take my second Covid test within 72 hours of flying to the U.S., it needed to be taken in Haiti. This required driving two hours to the university hospital in Mirebalais that had a qualified laboratory to administer the test, waiting two hours for the results and then driving back two hours to the Many Hands for Haiti campus in Sylvain, Haiti. If it had not been for these new covid requirements, I would have had an extra day with the Haitian chaplains.

My time with the MH4H Spiritual Shepherds focused on such topics as “God is a Missionary God”, “God at War (against rebelling spiritual beings)”, “The Supernatural Realm” teaching from Hebrew scholar Michael Heiser, “Movements of People to Christ”, “The Flaw of the Excluded Middle” (dealing with syncretistic challenges associated with new believers transitioning from a traditional to a modern worldview) and “Three Encounters to Christian Witness (Power, Allegiance and Truth)”. Many of these topics come from the Perspectives Course of the World Christian Movement textbook. We also discussed the Haitian chaplains’ progress in making Creole audio recordings on the theme “New Life in Christ” for new Christian believers, now that MH4H has high quality recording equipment at their campus. We’re making plans to have these audio recordings placed on 3-D printed .mp3 players (called SeedPlayers) that will be given to new converts to help them understand the next steps after accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Since most Haitians in the area are non-literate, these digital teachings will provide them the necessary guidance that no book can offer them.



Our home has been very busy this month, which included everyone BUT me being home for spring break in mid-March. Marie and Laurey were in the Pella Christian High School play, “Twelve Angry Jurors (formerly 12 Angry Men)” and also competed in Individual Speech activities, with Laurey having her Prose and her Storytelling entries selected for All-State—a rare double-honor for a sophomore. Ellie was in the Middle School’s Knowledge Bowl competition and her 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls finished second to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys’ team. Laurey is now playing junior varsity tennis, while Ellie is going out for track for the first time. Marie plans on returning to piano lessons and working more hours at Hy-Vee. All three older girls will help with our church’s Sunrise Service on Easter morning, along with other church youth. Thekla, too, has graduated from day-care to a Pre-K program that she attends three days/week. Aïchatou finished her first month working part-time in the Hy-Vee supermarket kitchen and will add another half-day to her schedule in April.

#### PRAYERS AND PRAISES

1. I’m very grateful for a successful trip to Haiti, where we accomplished a great deal and experienced nothing unexpected or out of the ordinary. Likewise, everything at home in Pella with Aïchatou and the girls went well during my absence. Thank you for your prayers.
2. We praise God for Aïchatou’s health and well-being, as she re-engages with us and with life. Receiving twice-monthly injections seems to be a much better treatment than her previous method of daily pills (and the medical literature indicates this is usually the case). Continue to pray that God will direct her toward the purposes for which He created her.
3. Pray that the MH4H chaplains will be able to find ways to practically incorporate the trainings and resources they have received into their daily ministries for the glory of God.



We’re thankful for Ellie turning 13 years old in March and pray that her teenage years will see her develop into a godly young woman.

In Christ,  
Tom and family



*The Johnson girls after the PCHS Spring play*

# MAY

									1
2 9:00a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Zoom Worship	3	4	5			6	7	8	
9 9:00a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Zoom Worship <b>Happy Mother's Day!</b>	10	11	12 7:30p - Session Meeting		13		14	15	
16 9:00a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Zoom Worship	17	18	19		20		21	22	
23 9:00a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Zoom Worship Congregational Meeting	24	25	26		27 <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>		28	29	
30 9:00a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Zoom Worship	31 								

## Birthdays

- |    |                |    |                 |    |                         |
|----|----------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------------------|
| 6  | Chip Cominsky  | 23 | Dannita Cowdrey | 5  | Codey & Jenna Herman    |
| 9  | Leland Bartson | 23 | Brittany Stout  | 6  | Robert & Lisa Zimmerman |
| 12 | Mark Cominsky  | 24 | Sally Clark     | 8  | Harry & Betty Sargeant  |
| 15 | Donna Cominsky | 24 | Bonnie Ross     | 16 | Jay & Beth Provonsha    |
| 20 | Jerry Clark    | 30 | Peggy Earhart   | 23 | Nicholas & Abriana Bumb |
|    |                |    |                 | 28 | Paul & Alice Livingston |

## Aniversaries



**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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