

NOVEMBER 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

“Loving God and Loving Neighbor”

A familiar Gospel text that we especially need to take time to re-read and keep central in our lives at this time as votes are cast and counted and we continue to deal with the challenge of COVID19 and keeping all healthy is Matthew 22:34-39:

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Do we allow these words to guide our actions? Notice the command to love appears in both commandments. While these are hard commandments to follow, do we pray that Jesus has enabled us to understand the importance of these commands since they are the greatest commands? Our tendency is usually to love ourselves and those who are most important to us. Our usual response is to make decisions based on our own needs.

But what about loving God with our whole being, heart, mind, and soul and loving our neighbors? How do we love our neighbors as ourselves? This love that Jesus talks about does not have restrictions or boundaries. This is a challenge - it is our normal response to put limits on our love. This love that Jesus talks about is lavish. It is a love that does not place restrictions, criteria, or conditions. It does not consider what someone can do for us if we love them. It does not permit us to say: "I will love him or her only if I am loved in return." It does not consider place of origin, political party, or color of one's skin, so we cannot say: "I will not help them since they are Mexican illegals."

Consider how radical this love is and what it looks like. Two mothers and their children were being driven by a shelter volunteer to their new apartments after spending time in a shelter. As the driver stopped at the first apartment, the mother asked the driver if he had change for a twenty dollar bill. The driver gave her two ten dollar bills. She gave one ten dollar bill to the other mother, and the mother looked shocked, and said, "Why are you giving me this? This is the only money you have." The woman said, "But you have nothing, so I am sharing with you."

There is now in-person worship in the church building on Sundays at 11:15 am. Zoom opportunities are still available as well.

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Opportunities for Worship:

- Sunday School 9 am, via Zoom
- Worship 10 am, via Zoom
- In-person Worship, 11:15 am

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

2020 PER CAPITA

\$35.70

The director of Annunciation House, a center for refugees in Texas, tells this story: A woman who was very ill came to the center, and when she had recovered, she agreed to a one-day job as a housekeeper. When the woman returned to Annunciation House after a day of difficult work, she shared that she had only been paid \$15 for her full day's work. She handed the center director \$10 to put in her own family's account, and then she handed him the remaining \$5 and said to give it to someone who needed it.

Who is willing to do this? Who gives half of what they have to a stranger? Or gives one-third of a day's wages to a stranger when it is uncertain when any future income will be received? *Who* is willing to do this? Those who take these commandments seriously. Those who strive to follow Christ.

In this time of COVID19, we tend to be so self-focused on why we can't do what we want when we want and live life the way we always have. But we must love our neighbor. Loving God is connected with loving our neighbor as these commands point out. Dorothy Day said about these commands, "**I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least.**"

During these challenging times, may we remember to love God and love others.

Pastor Julie

NOVEMBER THEMES AND SCRIPTURES

- November 1: Scripture: John 3: 16-36
Theme: God's love
Sermon: "Familiar Message"
- November 8: Scripture: John 4
Theme: Faith, change of heart, belief
Sermon: "People Meeting Jesus"
- November 15: Scripture: John 5
Theme: Sabbath, healing
Sermon: "Healing Anytime?"
- November 22: Scripture: John 6
Theme: Jesus, the bread of life
Sermon: "More than Bread"



Happy Veterans Day!

We are eternally grateful to all of those men and women who have fought and served for our country.
Wishing you and your family a happy, safe and peaceful Veterans Day.

Thank You!

DEACONS' CHRISTMAS BASKETS

It is our traditional mission to help local families have a merrier Christmas. To carry out that project this year, we will be collecting monetary donations instead of actual canned food, etc. We will provide grocery gift cards to local people who could use some extra help. If you would like to help the deacons with this mission, please send your monetary donation to the church office by December 15. Please write "Deacons' Baskets" in the memo line of your check or on the envelope. If you know of anyone who needs some extra help at this especially chaotic time, please give their name to a deacon or to the church office. Thank you!

The Deacons

RAINBOW STATION NEWS



Happy Thanksgiving! We have much to be thankful for. To

date, no one from our center has been sick with the COVID19 virus. We have had some close calls with family members, but nothing that has effected us. When an issue comes up, I contact our local health department and follow their guidelines. We appreciate your prayers for further protection from the virus, especially as the cold and flu season approaches.

Continue to pray that God will send us families that we can be of help to. Our counts have been low, and I am hearing that parents are afraid to send their children. We are trusting God to take care of us physically, mentally, spiritually and financially. I know, when the time is right, He will send us more children. I am just thankful no one here has had the virus.

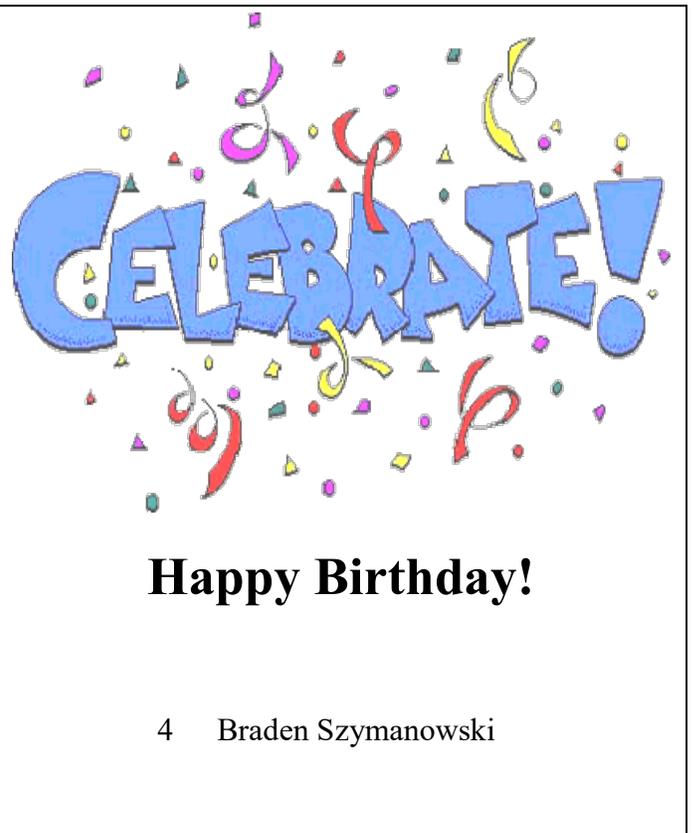
We will not be doing our usual canned goods drive during the month of November, but will encourage our parents to support the local food bank with their financial donations.

Thank you for all your support of any kind, whether through your finances or your prayers.

You are greatly appreciated.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. " Re-joice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

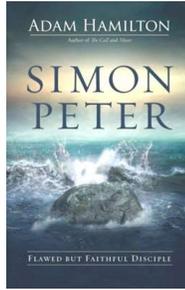
Rainbow Station Staff



4 Braden Szymanowski

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us as we begin a new DVD series entitled Simon Peter by Adam Hamilton. The author will take us on location in Israel and Italy, showing key sites in the life of Simon Peter and his life, faith and character. We will start each lesson on Sundays at 9:00 am via Zoom, beginning Sunday, November 8. We will watch the video together online and then discuss some of the key points. Use the Zoom link sent each week to join the study. If you have any questions, contact Donna Cominsky.



Birthdays

- 6 Sue Timmons
- 10 Robert Cowdrey
- 16 Jody Amor
- 18 Lori Damschroder
- 22 JoAnne Elder
- 26 Paul Livingston
- 26 Diane Roush
- 27 Chad Crispin
- 30 Penny Deffenbaugh

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
129 Bidwell Ave.
Fremont, OH 43420

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

Thanks for your help, Neighbor!

Anniversaries

- 11 Ralph & Rina Oxley
- 17 Robert & Dannita Cowdrey
- 23 Chad & Jeannie Crispin
- 25 Steve & Sherri Kennedy

VETERAN'S DAY DRIVE-THRU

Join Valley View Health Campus for a Donuts & Coffee drive-thru to honor our Veterans.



Wednesday, Nov 11
 9 to 10 am
 1247 N. River Rd
 Fremont, OH 43420
 RSVP 419-332-0357



Free to all those who have served and are serving now. Call for more information.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Regular office hours have not resumed at this time; however, the secretary stops in to the office for a short time each week. If you would like to continue to send in your contributions, you may mail them to the church office at:

120 S. Park Ave
Fremont, OH 43420

Thank you all for your faithful giving!



SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER SESSION MEETING

The regular September Stated Session was held via ZOOM on Wednesday, September 2, 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.

Pastor Kling reported these activities: During July and August, I preached Sunday sermons and prepared worship services for Zoom. I also led the Faith and Fear Adult Sunday School via Zoom. I also prepared funeral sermon and worship for one service and participated in three funeral services. I provided pastoral counseling and support for concerned persons by phone and by Zoom. I also did some reading and study of COVID19 and participated in several zoom calls and an online course on COVID19 led by Maumee Valley Presbytery and General Assembly (PCUSA). I moderated the July session meeting and participated in some of the weekly Maumee Valley Presbytery Zoom calls for Pastors and church leaders. I attended the second Matthew 25 Zoom event and a workshop on Racism and Social Justice Resources via Zoom. I participated in a three-day Zoom event for church leaders on dealing with changing times and participated in most of the study sessions our Executive Presbyter Matt Meinke and Pastor Lani Sipes led on the book "White Fragility." I surveyed 12 area churches regarding their plans for returning to church worship as well as consulted with several Presbytery pastors. I attended the Presbytery Leadership Circle meeting via Zoom, several of the events during Maumee Valley Presbytery's participation in the National PCUSA Week of Action, and a five-week ecumenical Bible Study. I joined other local volunteers to help with the weekly summer meal delivery at Fremont Ross Middle School. I attended an excellent set of Zoom calls on "Aging and Spirituality in Times of Crisis" and ended the month of August by meeting with the "Return to Worship" Committee to prepare for our return to the sanctuary and also provided porch/front door communion calls to shut-ins.

The Treasurer's report for September 2020 expenditures - \$12,505; July 2020 surplus or (deficit) - (\$4,040); 2019/2020 Year to date income - \$62,698; 2019/2020 Year to date expenditures - \$79,032; and 2019/2020 Year to date surplus or (deficit) - (\$16,325) (Report includes Rainbow Station).

The Leadership team reports included: **Administration and Finance** - Administration and Finance - Scott has finished painting the supply room off the main entrance foyer and will begin moving everything back into the room. The Spanish church has contacted Larry inquiring about availability of the social room. **Rainbow Station** - Currently 6 students. **Stewardship Task Force** - Every-member Stewardship letter is ready for mailing. **Nominating Committee** - Planning meeting in October. **Presbytery Report** - A special ZOOM Presbytery meeting was held in July and regular meeting will be in September. **Open FPC Committee** - The initial open service will be held on Sunday, October 4. The committee will send a letter inviting members back to church including instructions on how to comply with state's pandemic instructions and an insurance company recommended release form for each attending member to sign. Under old business: The Session will keep the 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."

Old business included: "COVID 19" payroll will continue for Rainbow Station through September. Current payroll policies for Amy, Lori, Nikki, and Scott will continue through September. The transfer of church membership for Faye Dittmore was approved.

New Business included: Drive Through Communion will be offered following regular Sunday Morning ZOOM service on September 6 and 20. The Girl Scout Council may pitch a tent on church parking lot on September 13, 14, and 15. Any outside organizations must submit a plan for opening meeting that includes the extent of building use, participant restrictions, and sanitary clean-up prior to Session's considering approval of their use of the building. The church will refund to AA the fees for months in which they paid a fee, but they could not meet because of the pandemic.

Pastor Kling closed the meeting with prayer.

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER SESSION MEETING

The regular October Stated Session was held in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, October 7, 2020. Session members present included: Linda Hamilton, Bob Humberger, John Roush, Larry Stout, Bill Taylor, and Rev. Dr. Julie Kling, moderator. Jody Amor attended by telephone

Pastor Kling opened the meeting with a short discussion of Psalm 24 and 130, and Romans 14 and prayer.

Pastor Kling reported these activities: During September, 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 also prepared funeral sermon and worship for one service. I provided pastoral counseling and support for concerned persons by phone. I also did some reading and study of COVID19 and participated in several related zoom calls. I moderated the September session meeting and participated in some of the weekly Maumee Valley Presbytery Zoom calls for Pastors and church leaders. I met with the committee working with leadership for return to in-person worship and planned the live service for October 4, our first worship service in the church since March of 2020. I also participated along with elders for two drive-in communion services after Sunday Zoom services. I am participating in a weekly Bible study as well as weekly lectionary study for pastors and other church leaders. I attended an online Zoom retreat dealing with spirituality and community during a COVID and post-COVID world. I attended a Zoom spirituality lecture led by Kathleen Norris and attended the required Boundaries training for Maumee Valley Presbytery pastors. I also attended the Presbytery Leadership Committee and will be working with programming for congregational leadership training. Sunday schedule currently begins with Adult Sunday School at 9, Zoom worship at 10, and worship in the church building at 11:15.

The Leadership team reports included: **Administration and Finance** - Seeking projects for church janitor; **Rainbow Station** - Joan Gamble reported Rainbow Station currently has 7 students; **Stewardship Task Force** – Emphasis month will be kicked off next Sunday; **Nominating Committee**- Planning meeting in October; **Presbytery Report** – A special ZOOM Presbytery meeting will be held in November and regular meeting was held in September; and **Open FPC Committee** – The initial open service was on Sunday, October 4 and it went well.

Old business included: FPC and Rainbow Station staff will return to normal payroll policy as of October 7.

New Business included: FPC will offer Drive Through Communion following regular Sunday Morning church service on second and third Sundays. Alanon (NW part of Fellowship Hall), Vida Church (south half of Fellowship Hall), and Girl Scouts (basement) will be permitted to meet in the church building. All three have submitted a plan for opening meeting extent of building use, participant restrictions, and sanitary clean-up.

Pastor Kling led a Matthew 25 discussion about a cartoon illustrating the stormy seas we and our church are experiencing because of the corona virus. She invited session members to identify where they were in the cartoon and how they felt.

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	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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