

November 2021

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Recalculating Our Route

As individuals, organizations, businesses, and churches struggle to muddle through the COVID19 pandemic, they may become aware that we are living in a time of more questions than answers. The church especially has an important role to play at this time; churches can be a beacon of hope and stand in the midst of questions knowing that Christ is with us. Churches can also take a courageous step and begin to ask questions and seek new answers to the questions of the role of the church in post-pandemic life and how churches can better meet the needs of the communities and people they serve.

Many organizations and institutions, including churches, have decreased in size and membership over the past twenty-five years. We have been aware that times have changed, but now know the effects of the pandemic which have impacted the rate of that change and our awareness of changes around us. Perhaps it has forced us to look at life and society and admit that the past is the past, and it is not coming back. This change is not just limited to Fremont or even Ohio. Worldwide change is occurring.

However, the love of God does not change. The Holy Spirit has not stopped working. The Holy Spirit is present in the midst of this change and calls us to be at the forefront, being open to the Spirit's calling rather than trying to block the Spirit's work—which we sometimes do in our own lives and in the life of the church in general. Surveying articles from different denominations regarding why persons 40 and younger are leaving the church, are not active in the church, or are not finding what they are looking for in the church, I found there are some similarities across denominations. One of the reasons usually cited for persons leaving the church or not being active is that it does not meet the needs of life in the 21st century



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Opportunities for Worship:

- Sunday School - 8:45 am, via Zoom
- Worship - 10 am, in the Sanctuary

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

2021 PER CAPITA

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and is seen as “old-fashioned.” Young adults desire to ask their personal spiritual and life questions in an inclusive and welcoming community and want to learn and live out faith in a way that allows them to serve others. Many also want to have an active role in creating, shaping, and leading this community.

In two different recent discussion groups/workshops on the role of the church in the post-pandemic period, the scripture of Moses leading the people through the desert for 40 years was central to the discussion. Many current organizations, churches, and institutions are wandering in the desert concerned about their futures. One cartoon that appears on social media from time to time is of Moses being followed by grumbling Israelites, and in successive frames the cartoon says “Recalculating Route” just as one’s GPS does when one strays off of the path. We are in the midst of recalculating our route. We are called at the present time to live in the midst of the questions and not be afraid to ask questions and to seek the Spirit’s guidance. We need to see the larger picture in order to strive to live and share the Gospel message.

Ben Niti writes that the church needs to “allow the Holy Spirit to break barriers and break walls...[but people are] still very comfortable where they are...let’s go to the place that the Holy Spirit wants us to be...Yes, it may be uncomfortable at first—but stay there for the blessing that God brings through that.”

Pastor Julie

Source: Niti, Ben as qtd. in Whisler, Shane. “Face-to-Face with the Holy Spirit.” PCUSA. June 22, 2018.

Christ University

We will begin a new study entitled *The Call* by Adam Hamilton on November 7. It is focused on the life and message of the apostle Paul and will be a three week video journey to the lands where Paul traveled, preached, suffered, and triumphed. The class will be online via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 8:45. Join us!

Then, on November 28, we will begin a new study in preparation for Christmas called *The Case for Christmas*. This study is by Lee Strobel who investigates the story of Jesus’ birth and provides compelling evidence as to why we can know the Bible’s accounts are true and how prophecies about the Messiah in the Old Testament were fulfilled in Christ. This will continue on Sunday mornings online, concluding on December 19, just in time for Christmas.

If you have questions about the class or need help getting into Zoom, contact Donna Cominsky.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

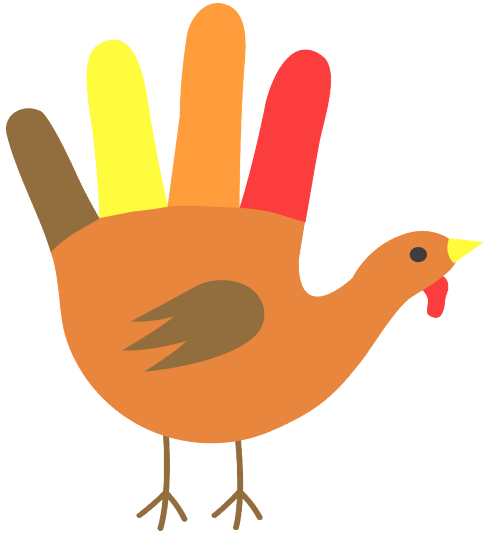
Please bring your pledge cards to church on Sunday, November 7 for our Stewardship Commitment Service. If you are unable to attend, you may mail your pledge card to the office at 120 S. Park Ave, Fremont, OH.

Thank you, and may God bless your faithful giving!

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

This year during Advent, there will be brief devotions sent out by phone tree. If you are interested in receiving these calls, as well as winter weather announcements and other important information, please call or email the church office to be added to the call list.

RAINBOW STATION NEWS



Welcome to Fall. It is definitely here with the cool, wet mornings and the changes in

the trees around us. The children have been doing a lot of fall activities in the classroom and would love to spend more time outdoors, but with our ratios we are pretty confined.

We currently have 5 enrolled in the Toddler Room, with 2 of those moving up to the Pre-school Room on November 8. We have 11 enrolled in the Pre-school Room which will bump up to 13 on November 8. Until we can hire another staff person, we are pretty set with enrollment at this point.

We want to thank everyone for their prayers and financial, material, and labor support. You are a very important part of our program.

We pray everyone has a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Until next month,
Rainbow Station Staff





Happy Birthday!

11/4 - Isaac Sexton

11/4 - Reid Sexton

11/4 - Brayden Szymanowski

November

1 7:00p - AA 7:00p - Alanon	2 Election Day	3 6:00p - Choir	4	5	6
7 8:45a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Indoor Worship - Stewardship Sunday - Thanksgiving Dinner 5:00p - Vida Church Daylight Savings Time Ends	9	10 11:30a - Satellites 6:00p - Choir 6:30p - Admin & Finance 7:30p - Session	11 	12	13
14 8:45a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Indoor Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	16	17 6:00p - Choir 6:30p - Deacons	18	19	20 Newsletter Articles Due
21 8:45a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Indoor Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	23	24 6:00p - Choir	25 	26	27
28 8:45a - Zoom Sunday School 10:00a - Indoor Worship 5:00p - Vida Church	30				

Birthdays

6	Sue Timmons	22	JoAnne Elder	11	Ralph & Rina Oxley
10	Robert Cowdrey	26	Paul Livingston	17	Robert & Dannita Cowdrey
13	Martha Hall	26	Diane Roush	23	Chad & Jeannie Crispen
16	Jody Amor	27	Chad Crispen	25	Stephen & Sherri Kennedy
18	Lori Damschroder	30	Penny Deffenbaugh	26	Jeff & Martha Hall

Anniversaries



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 choose to 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.

(optional) - Dish Soap and/or Liquid Laundry Soap

November

7 - Cereal

14 - Green Beans

21 - Oatmeal

28 - Pears

Thanks for your help neighbor!
Rod and Linda Combs

SATELLITES

Our group will meet on Wed. Nov. 10, at 11:30 at the Front 9 restaurant outside of Bettsville, Ohio. It is located where the former Nature Trail golf course used to be. Take Rt. 12 to Bettsville. Go through Bettsville, turn left at 2nd rd, sign on corner. Restaurant is a mile on the right. Please join us. Anyone from church is welcome to attend. You do not need to be in our group. Just call Audine at (419-334-3494) by Monday Nov. 8th with your reservation. If you need a ride, Audine can take you. Hope to see you there.



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

DEACONS' CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Our traditional Christmas food baskets have morphed into gift cards for families or individuals who can really use an extra boost at Christmas time. We hope you all will participate with monetary donations placed in offering plates or mailed to the church office and marked for "Deacon's Project". The deadline will be December 15. Thank you for helping with this mission.

The Deacons

SUBS AND AIDES NEEDED

The North Central Ohio Educational Service Center provides services (physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychological, hearing, vision, curriculum, etc.) to our local school districts in this area. They are in need of substitute teachers and aides.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS & AIDES NEEDED

Seneca, Sandusky and Crawford Counties

To apply, visit www.ncoesc.org

or call

419-447-2927 for more information



FALL BACK NOVEMBER 7!

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 7. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 6.





THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Kaylee Amor
Pam Clark
Joan Gamble
Gerrie Hensley
Amanda Herman
Anne Humberger
Susan Myers
Lisa Zimmerman

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
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

Rev. Dr. Julie Kling (Moderator)
Bill Taylor (Clerk)
Dannita Cowdrey
Linda Hamilton
Bob Humberger
Ken Myers
Nicole Whetstone
Janice Zimmerman



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