



BRITON RIVIÈRE, UNA AND LION, NINETEENTH CENTURY

# Fenton First Presbyterian Church

March 2018

*Living with Christ, serving the world*

## Mark Your Calendars

March 5th  
Outreach Communion  
1:00pm-2:00pm

March 7th  
Lenten Simple Meals  
5:30pm-7:30pm

March 14th  
Lenten Simple Meals  
5:30pm-7:30pm

March 18th  
St. Patrick's Potato Bake  
Following the 11am Service

March 21th  
Lenten Simple Meals  
5:30pm-7:30pm

March 25th Palm Sunday  
9am & 11am Service

March 27th Sedar Dinner  
6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

March 29th Maundy Thursday  
7:00pm Service

March 30th Good Friday  
12:00pm Service at Fenton  
United Methodist Church

## Pastor's Article... The Lion and the Lamb

My mother taught me a saying about the weather in the month of March, "In like a Lion, out like a Lamb." Assuming there is a pattern to rain and snow storms, if the beginning of March is stormy then the end of March should be calm and pleasant. After centuries of observing the weather, this depicts the desperate need for assurance that Spring is coming and Winter is almost over.

I learned this saying with a causative bend to it. "If" the weather at the beginning of March was wild and lionish, "then" the weather at the end of the month would be lovely and lamb-like. However, if March began pleasant and lovely, be warned by the end of the month the lion's wrath would flood your basement. I am sure that the weather patterns of La Niña and El Niño would correlate on some level, but I believe the main point was to not count your spring chickens before they hatch.

I would be remiss in my calling if I did not highlight the obvious connections between this saying, its connection with March, and the fact that Easter falls around this time. The first connection that I notice is with Jesus' saying, "The first shall be last and the last shall be first." In Matthew 19 and continuing to chapter 20, there are four stories that emphasize this. In the first, Jesus invites lamb-ish children, who were of little significance to a famous traveling Rabbi, to come to him and be lionized (blessed). The second is the story of the Rich Young Ruler. A lion of a man, who has followed every commandment since he was a boy, asked what he must do to gain eternal life and is made sheepish by Jesus' insistence that the thing he needs to do is sell all he owns and follow him.

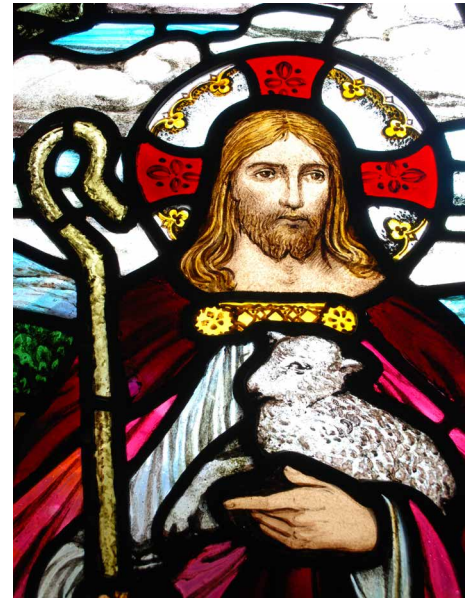
The third story is that of the vineyard workers. An owner of a vineyard hires workers at different times during the day. At the end of the day the owner pays each worker the same amount even though some workers had worked the entire day, and others only an hour or so. While some would say this was unfair, Jesus states that the Owner is free to give

(Cont. on next pg.)

what he wants to who he wants, and he describes the last being first and the first being last.

Lastly, Jesus speaks about his death and resurrection. This brings new meaning to the first shall be last. Certainly Jesus is the first born of all creation, and yet he is willingly putting himself last as the sacrifice and “scapegoat” of all creation.

It is instructive to note that at the beginning of the next chapter in Matthew Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem as the Lion of Judah. People shout ‘Hosanna!’ and wave palm branches. By the end of the week, however, Jesus is led like a lamb to the slaughter to suffer betrayal, injustice, cruelty and execution. Also, before Jesus enters Jerusalem, the mother of James and John confronts Jesus and asks him to ensure her that James and John would sit at the right and left hands of Jesus when he comes into his kingdom. Jesus infers that the mother of the disciples doesn’t know what she is asking, and when the request is made known to the rest of the disciples it is clear that none of them understand who Jesus is and what he is about to endure and accomplish.

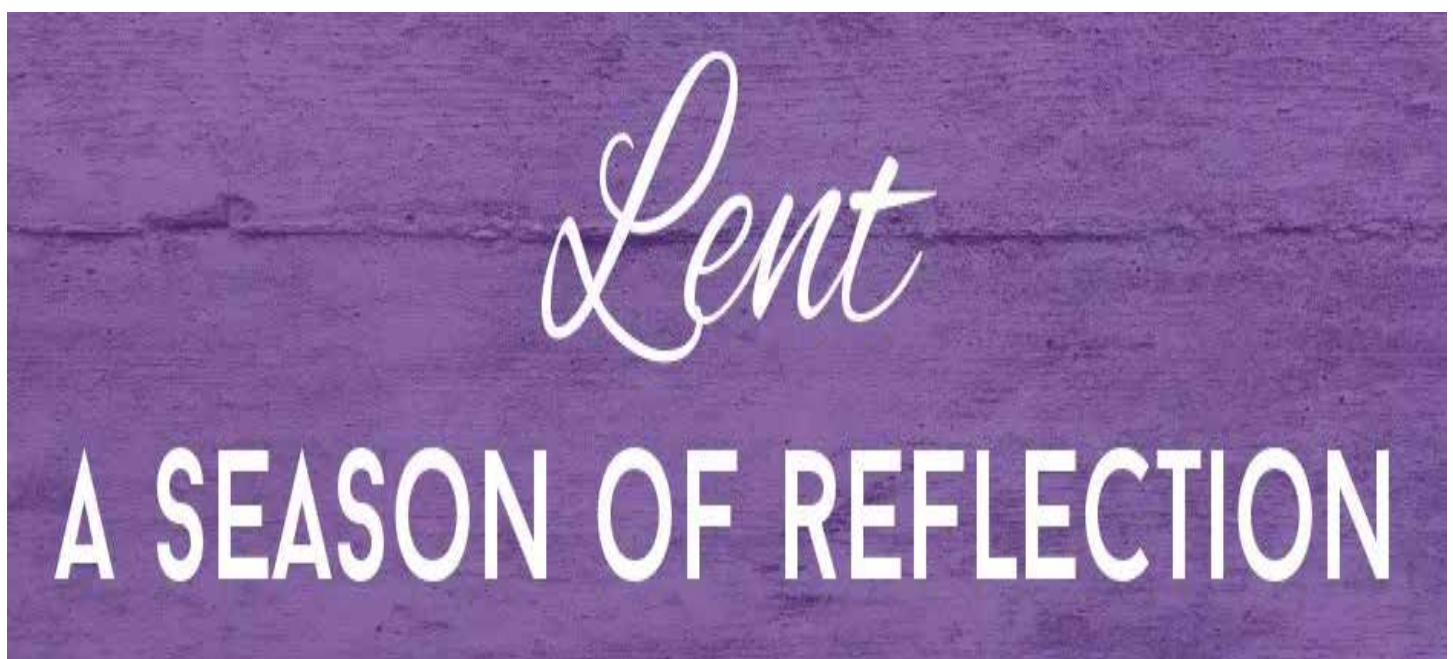


Many of us do not have a choice about whether we are lions or lambs. And many times when we act like lions we are reduced to lambs by circumstance or folly. Sometimes we really are lambs and called to be lions, straining against our weaknesses to play the part. We constantly fail to understand what it means to use authority well, and fail to be vulnerable as lambs when we should.

Jesus is our true Lion, our true King. He came into Jerusalem with Hosannas and palm branches. At the end of the week he left the city beaten bloody and carrying a cross. He is our true Lamb that was slain.

While folksy weather predictions suggest we expect one extreme and then hope for the other, what we find is Jesus is both at the same time. God’s vulnerable lamb-ness is shown most clearly in Jesus’ sacrifice. And God’s lion-like power is shown most clearly in Jesus’ resurrection. To understand how to hold real authority and true vulnerability together at the same time, we must look to Christ.

Pastor Robbie





# Eco-Palms

## Did You Know?

- Approximately 308 million palm fronds were consumed in the United States in 1998.
- At least 1/2 of the farmers in Central Guatemala earn additional income from harvesting palm fronds, and more than 1.4 of household heads support themselves exclusively by collecting fronds.
- Palms are sustainably harvested and managed, protecting the palms and the forests they need for shade.
- Each palm plant produced 2 to 5 harvestable leaves over a 2 to 4 month period.
- Palm fronds only remain supple for 2 weeks before drying out.



Few Christians even consider how palms land in the pews on Palm Sunday. Minnesota is an unlikely hub for a product rooted in tropical sunshine. The project came about through a university forestry professor, a retired florist, and the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation putting their heads together about sourcing and marketing fair-trade palms to churches.

The Eco-Palms partnership ([www.ecopalms.org](http://www.ecopalms.org)) currently works with four communities in Guatemala and Southern Mexico, where workers tend palm fronds using "sustainable" practices that protect the "biosphere reserves" and forests, create local jobs, preserve vital communities, and provide sustainable livelihoods in harvesting communities.

Currently, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), the Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, and Disciples of Christ denominations encourage their churches to buy their palms through Eco-Palms. Communities receive 5-6 times the normal payment per frond. In Guatemala, the money has paid for student scholarships, teachers, and a community kitchen. In Mexico, projects have included a retirement fund for palm cutters and cold storage units. The goal is to put the project on solid footing for the future so that the communities can independently "pick this up and run with it" and repeat this 100 times in other locations.

# Mission & Stewardship



Many know Habitat For Humanity as a Christian organization that builds and provides affordable local housing. Aside from traditional fundraising did you know they also have the 'ReStore' which sells new and used building materials and tools? Located at 101 Burton Street in Flint (across from the Flint Farmer's Market), all proceeds benefit Genessee County Habitat programs.

During the month of March we will be helping to collect donated items for the ReStore. Tools, appliances, cabinets, furniture, tile, and anything that is reusable for building a home can be donated. Small items can be brought to church and left in the designated bin. For larger items please call Brian Coles at 248-379-0582 to arrange pick-up.

Additionally, Habitat is funded by proceeds from the "UrbanWood" store at the same site, which partners with local sawmills to reclaim dead trees in and around Flint. The trees (oak, maple, cherry, walnut, etc.) are milled and kiln dried, and available for purchase in sizes usable from small lathe projects to large table tops. More information can be found at [www.genesseehabitat.org](http://www.genesseehabitat.org).

Souper Bowl of Caring food drive collected 110 food donations; they were delivered to the FUMC Food Pantry.

## Save the Date....

*"Together We Can Make A Difference!"*



**CHRISTMAS IN ACTION**  
**Tri-County**  
 Fenton • Linden  
 Tyrone Township • Argentine Township  
 A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization Serving the Tri-County area

**Christmas In Action:** Christmas In Action (CIA) uses volunteer labor along with donated money and materials to perform free home repairs for low income or handicapped senior citizens, repairs that they cannot do or afford to have done. It is a great way for our church to reach out to the community and to serve God's family! Our congregation has been working with CIA for the past 10 years by doing a wide variety of maintenance tasks, e.g., re-doing a bathroom, replacing lower kitchen cabinets and flooring, repairing a living room floor, paneling room walls, repairing a deck, painting, cleaning, landscaping, etc. Each year CIA finds qualified homes to repair in Fenton, Fenton Township, Linden and Argentine. Our congregation usually picks one of them to work on together so that we can also enjoy each other's company. If you would like to join our group this year, please sign up

in Fellowship Hall. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Come for whatever time you can on **Saturday, April 28**; coffee and donuts are available at 8:00am. To all who sign up, we will be sending specific details about our chosen house location and tasks. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Black: 810-750-4189 or [wfblack2@yahoo.com](mailto:wfblack2@yahoo.com).



# FFPC MINISTRY

# SMALL GROUPS BIG IMPACT

## Women's Ministry



McFARLAN  
VILLAGES

McFARLAN HOME  
COURT STREET  
VILLAGE

### McFarlan House Women's Ministry

Members of our Women's Covenant Groups continue to meet with McFarlan House residents at least twice a month, mainly Wednesdays from 1:30 - 3pm, for fellowship and to call BINGO! We are getting to know the ladies and are working on a schedule for prayer and other fellowship activities. Women interested in joining our efforts are asked to see Vanessa Skaff or Michelle Eisert from Wednesday's Women's Covenant Group.

### 20 WAYS TO SHARE JESUS WITH WOMEN IN YOUR COMMUNITY

by Pamela Gilsenan from Group Women's Ministry Newsletter

*Want to make an impact with women in your community? Looking for practical ways to share the love of Jesus? Try one or more of these ideas—and see what happens!*

1. Invite a single woman from your neighborhood over for dessert.
2. Buy a senior woman a city bus pass.
3. Pass your magazines around to others instead of throwing them in the trash.
4. Buy a simple journal for a teen mom you know.
5. Randomly take fresh cut or potted flowers to an older woman on your block.
6. Buy a city or state park day pass for the female hikers in your church.
7. Commit to taking a woman from a nursing home to church with you once a month.
8. Take bottled water to the park to share with moms and kids.
9. When you get a fast-food lunch, buy a burger for the corner sign waver.
10. Bring a female co-worker coffee and a bagel for breakfast one morning.
11. Pick up an extra pair of mittens or an ice scraper when you see them on sale: Gift them to a college woman in need.
12. Anywhere there is a line, put five dollars toward the bill of the woman behind you—at the movies, coffee shop, gas station, or grocery store.
13. "Ring and Run" on a dark night after you leave a laundry basket full of groceries for a single mom and her kids.
14. Pay a woman's library fine or her utility bill.
15. Round up a few spare grocery carts and take them in.
16. Take time to visit a woman you know is lonely or afraid.
17. Hang up pictures (or laundry) for a new mom.
18. Feed an expired parking meter.
19. Tuck coupons for a car wash on the windshields of the oldest cars you see.
20. Share fast-food coupons with women you see at a free medical or legal clinic.

# Youth Ministry



## Faith in Femininity

On Saturday, February 10th, several packages of feminine hygiene products were delivered to Carriage Town Ministries, and we have contacted Center of Hope to supply the Fenton area. Faith In Femininity provides a one month supply of feminine hygiene products to women who do not have access to these necessary items. If you would like to support this mission, monetary donations can be made through our church website [www.ffpc.org/faith-in-femininity](http://www.ffpc.org/faith-in-femininity), or send a check to First Presbyterian Church in Fenton marked "Faith in Femininity." Please note that if you donate through the website, you will need to create a profile; all of your contact information is kept confidential. Anyone interested in donating products should see Lindsey Gibb or Waverly Ritchie. Your support is greatly appreciated!



**As part of the FFPC family you can now help support our Youth Ministry when you shop at Kroger through the Kroger Community Rewards Program.**

Kroger donates \$1.25 million each quarter to registered nonprofit organizations, including FFPC. Once you register, each time you shop at Kroger and use your Kroger plus card, up to 5 % of all qualifying purchases will be paid by Kroger to FFPC under your name. This is an easy and free way for our members and friends to help support and grow the FFPC Youth Ministry.

### Fenton First Presbyterian Church Kroger Community Rewards Registration Instructions

1. Have your Kroger Plus Card handy and type [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) into your browser. Note: If you do not have a Kroger Plus Card, registration is free and available at the Customer Service desk inside any Kroger Store. Note: If you normally use your phone number at the register because you have misplaced your plus card, you can call 877-576-7587 to get your Kroger Plus Card number.
2. From the home page under Welcome, select "Sign In/Register"  
If you already have an online account created with Kroger, sign in using your email address and password. You can skip ahead to step 5.
3. Most people will need to click on "Sign up today" under the new customer section on the right side of the screen and create an account using the instructions from step 4.
4. To create an online account follow these steps:
  - a. Set your preferred store by entering your zip code and then clicking the "Search" button. The Kroger store nearest you will show up in a box just below the search button. You do not have to shop at that store, it is for information only. Note: You can still use your Kroger Plus Card to earn rewards at any Kroger location.

- b. Just below the preferred store box, please enter your e-mail address and password that you will use to access your account. Re-enter your password in the Confirm Password field.
- c. Agree to the terms and conditions by checking the empty check box and clicking the "Next" button.
- d. Kroger is now sending an e-mail to the e-mail address you provided so that you can confirm your e-mail address and complete your account set-up. This may take several minutes.
- e. After you receive the e-mail from Kroger, open it and click on the link.
- f. You have completed your online account setup and may now sign in to your account using your e-mail and password.



5. After signing into your account, select the "My Account" option in the top right hand corner.
6. Under the Kroger Plus Card Information section in the middle of your screen, click "Edit Kroger Plus Card Information"
7. Type in your 12 digit Kroger Plus Card number and click on the "Save Changes"
8. Under the Community Rewards Information section at the bottom of your screen, click "Edit Community Rewards Program Information"
9. Find our organization by entering our Kroger NPO number (19722) or type " FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - FENTON" and click the "Search" button.
10. Select our organization by clicking the empty circle next to "FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - FENTON" and then click the "save changes" button.

When your selection has been completed successfully, you will see our organization name, number and the enrollment date under the Community Rewards Information section of your "My Account" page.

Congratulations, you are now registered! Don't forget to use your Kroger Plus Card every time you make a purchase at Kroger. Thank You for your support of the FFPC Youth Ministry Program.

If you need assistance with the sign up process, please call the Church Office 810-629-7801 and speak with Kelly.

## Prayer Ministry



### Prayer Ministry Group

How often are you able to make time to talk with God? Whether you have conversations throughout the day, once a day, or occasionally, you are welcome to join us and deepen your prayer life. Praying with others can bring clarity to your life; intentional group prayer can also be helpful to our life together as a faith community. Our Prayer Ministry Group meets the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month from 10-11am in the prayer corner of the Sanctuary. For more information, see David Eshleman. Please join us as you are able for readings, meditation and prayer!

# Deacon's Ministry



## Deacon's Easter Project

As in past years, the Deacons are preparing to help 25 families in need to have a nice Easter dinner. We are asking our members to provide non-perishable items or donate money for a VG's gift certificate toward a family's Easter dinner. There will be a suggested list of items but you may add anything you wish. Grocery bags with the number of adults, teenagers, and children aged 12 and under (in each family) and a sign-up sheet for VG's gift certificates will be available in Fellowship Hall after both services on March 11th and March 18th. We ask to have the filled grocery bags returned to church on March 25th. The Deacons thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Congregational Life

Congregational life committee has 2 events coming up in March, and as true Presbyterians they involve food, fellowship, and most important, the love we share for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



### St. Patrick's Potato Bake - Sunday March 18th

Come join us in Fellowship Hall following the 11 o'clock service for some great baked potatoes with all the toppings while we share in fellowship and our love for our Savior. There are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall to bring your favorite topping to share and look for some fun and interesting facts about the great potato. Did you know potatoes have more potassium than bananas?



### Seder Dinner - Tuesday March 27th, 6:30 pm

Come and enjoy wonderful food and fellowship as we share a meal that has been celebrated for over 3,000 years. We will learn how the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples is similar to the Seder meal, and enrich our understanding about our celebration of communion and fellowship with other believers.

Cost: \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$7 for children 12 and under.

This includes a dinner of traditional Jewish dishes, sampling of symbolic Passover foods, as well as a wonderful program explaining the Seder Meal. Traditionally 4 glasses of wine/juice are consumed during the meal. Tickets will be available through March 18th after worship or you can contact; the church office 810-629-7801 or Roy Fetzer 248-807-0016/rsfetzer59@gmail.com.

**HELP NEEDED!** The Laundry donates coffee, bagels, and yummy treats for people who come to the 9 o'clock service, come early for fellowship, stay or come early for the educational opportunities, or just come early. There are a few months where we need someone to pick up The Laundry's donations and set them up for all to enjoy.

Sign-up sheets are on the Congregation Life table in Fellowship Hall. Please consider helping where you can.



# Christian Education

## Bible Study

**Monday Evening Women's Covenant:** "Daniel Part II" will meet April 2-May 7 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Conference Room. Led by Pastor Lindsey, childcare is provided upon request.

**Tuesday Bible Study:** Led by Pastor Lindsey, discussion on "The Letter to the Galatians" will meet April 3- May 22 from 11am-12:15pm in the Conference Room. New attendees welcome

**Wednesday Morning Women's Covenant Group:** Living In Gods Courage April 11th- May 3rd, 10:00am -12:00pm RSVP in Fellowship Hall by March 18th.

**Men's Covenant Group:** Meets the 1st Saturday of every month at a local restaurant for fellowship and the 3rd Sunday of every month at a home to share, study and pray together. All men are welcome. Please provide Pastor Robbie with your email so that you can receive handy reminders.



## *"Praying The Psalms"*

Engaging Scripture & Life of the Spirit

## Lenten Simple Meals

### *"Praying the Psalms"*

Kids and adults are invited to join us for food, worship, discussion and activity. Childcare is available for nursery aged children.

- February 28 Darkness is My Closest Friend--Despair and Grief
- March 7 A Culture of Thanks
- March 14 Vengeance Prayers
- March 21 The Original Praise Song



# Youth Group

## Group, Soup & Talk

12 youth & 9 adults participated in our Group, Soup & Talk night on January 28. THANK YOU to the Skaff family for hosting! Everyone had a great time learning and listening with one another. Along with exploring Scripture, we looked at the components of strong healthy families and discussed how this leads to choosing healthy relationships. Here is an excerpt:

### Characteristics of Strong Healthy Families from “Experiencing More with Less”

1. Members frequently and spontaneously show respect, affection, and appreciation for each other.
  - Members feel they matter, are loved, are recognized, are cared about. Avoid taken-for-grantedness.
2. Awareness, acceptance, valuing, and celebration of individual uniqueness and differences and an absence of rigidity, dominance, and strict hierarchy in family relationships.
  - Creativity and originality rather than mere conformity are emphasized. Democratic in decision making; while parents take strong leadership position, views of all members are invited, encouraged, considered.
3. Flexible in making adjustments and open to change
  - Stability and continuity in daily lives, but adaptable enough to modify habits and routines when needed.
4. Communicate easily and well, facing conflicts openly and trying to solve them.
  - Not conflict-free, but face and deal with conflicts. Listen well, share own needs and wants clearly, open about feelings. Waste little energy on blaming and fault-finding.
5. High degree of unity centered around commonly recognized and shared values and goals.
  - Have a core or center of shared values and goals. All members pretty well know what family stands for. Parents continually let children know what they believe in.
6. Members have a strong commitment to one another and do a lot of things together.
  - Busy families, but members are committed to one another’s welfare. Make time to do enjoyable things together. Mutual planning.
7. Have “connections” with other families and the community.
  - Not isolated. Involved in community. Have ties with other families with whom they socialize, who can aid them in times of need.





### **March 4 Group, Soup & Talk**

Topic: "What Digital Story are You Writing?"

Place: Mark and Jenny Gibb's house from 5-7pm

Youth and parents are invited to join us for soup, salad and discussion. Social media has encouraged people to live more of their lives online, and it is important for all of us to explore how our online identities relate to our Christian faith. RSVP by March 1 on the youth bulletin board or to [tina@ffpc.org](mailto:tina@ffpc.org).

### **April 22 Group, Soup & Talk**

Topic: Love & Logic Communication Skills

Place: Fellowship Hall & Youth Room from 5-7pm

Parents have the opportunity to learn from a Love & Logic trainer on communication skills and strategies with teens to aid in development of capable kids. Youth will have fun meeting in the Youth Room exploring different communication styles and the types of messages that we send. More information on this event will be available late March.

### **Upcoming youth group activities:**

March 11: Youth Group 5pm-7pm at church

March 18: Youth Group 5pm-7pm at church

March 25: Youth Group 5pm-7pm "Calm on Palm" at church

April 1: No Youth Group - Happy Easter!

Please RSVP on the youth bulletin board for most events.

To get on the youth email list, contact Tina Ritchie at [tina@ffpc.org](mailto:tina@ffpc.org) or text 810-701-4136.

Friends are always welcome, and must have a current parental consent form on file for offsite events.

### **Youth Bible Study:**

Two options offered 9:30-10:30am Sundays through March 18

1. Generation Change for youth 8-12 grade is led by Larry Zimbler and meets in the Sr. High Youth Room.
2. 6-8 grade youth are invited to learn about the Bible by playing "Presbyopoly." Join Tina Ritchie and friends in the Jr. High Youth Room.

# Children's Corner

For Children Preschool – 5th Grade



## Parents and Grandparents:

Are you looking for resources to support Christian faith formation discussion and activities at home?

Consider signing up for the FREE monthly values based newsletter from Spark House. The Values Project is a year-long initiative designed to equip families to raise children who thrive emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Get inspiration, practical ideas, family activities, and parenting tips from their network of seasoned parents and faith leaders, because it takes a village to raise a good human. Each month explores

a different value—like honesty, loyalty, creativity, kindness, and more. Use this link to register: <http://blog.sparkhouse.org/category/the-values-project/>. For more information on other resources, see Tina Ritchie.

## Club 45:

This fellowship and mission group for 4th & 5th graders and friends typically meets from 12:30-1:30pm once a month in the Art Room. For more information, please see Cherri or Glenn Maxwell.

- March 11th - Frosting Cookies and St. Patrick's Cards for Pen Pal / Shut-Ins
- April 22nd - Spring Flower Pots and Spring Cards for Pen Pal / Shut-Ins
- May 13th - Mother's Day Project
- June 3rd - Father's Day Project and Year-End Party

## 9am Preschool News:

During the month of March, 9am worship preschoolers will be learning about The Book of Psalms. In February, the children learned about David, who was chosen by God at an early age and secretly anointed king by Samuel. This month we learn that King David was also a psalmist (song writer). Many of the Psalms were written by him. The book of Psalms is a collection of prayers, poems, and hymns inspired by God's spirit, and used to praise God. There are songs/psalms of: Thanksgiving, Praise, Repentance, Confession, Travel, Prayer for enemies, & Messianic prophecy. Our focus is mainly on the first two; building the habit of gratitude and praise cultivates peace in our lives! The children will learn words of thanks and praise.

**Memory Verse: Psalm 111:1** *"Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart"*



# JAM - “Jesus And Me”

During 11:00am worship

The GENTLENESS rotation runs March 4-25 and begins with a Blueberry JAM session doing group activities centered around being gentle. Throughout the rotation the children will learn that because we believe in Jesus and what he teaches us, we have the ability to be gentle. When we think about being gentle, it is important to think about the way we talk and act toward one another. Sometimes, we can be having a good day and then when someone speaks to us harshly, it can be very upsetting. We upset or hurt others when we use harsh words or actions. As we come to know Jesus more and more, we change and Gentleness becomes part of who we are. It is not always easy but Jesus’ love and teachings give us the power to be gentle, even during the times when we are feeling let down by others.



**J** **e** **s** **u** **s** **a** **n** **d** **M** **e**

**Gentleness Memory Verse:** Proverbs 15:1 *“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”*

The **FAITHFULNESS** rotation is April 8-29 (no class on Easter Sunday, April 1). The children will learn what being faithful to God is. The Bible tells us that God is faithful to us always; that means God is loyal in His promises and presence. God believes in us and will always be there. Once we understand this, we must learn how to be faithful to God. By knowing God’s word, obeying His rules, praying, worshiping Him and living our lives as God asks us to, we are being faithful to God. This is not always easy, but in knowing what is right and working hard to do the right thing, we are being faithful to God.

**Faithfulness Memory Verse:** Hebrews 10:23 *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”*



# Worship

**Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, 3rd Sunday in Lent

**Lessons:** Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

**9:00am & 11am Worship & Communion**

**Sermon:** "Baptism: A Sign and Seal"

**Layreader:** Sue Lantz

**Ushers:** 9am Dennis & Jo Beardslee

11am John & Linda Banks, Team #2

**Acolytes:** No Acolytes - Communion

**Communion:** 9am Pam Coffin & PJ Collier

11am Craig Williams, John Hodgkin, Roger

Terrill, Peggy Fowler, Cheryl Kopplin, Rick

Bard, Deb Bard

**Sound Tech:** Mark Gibb

**Coffee Hour:** Green Team

**Counters:** Martha Smith & Julie Jacobson

**Banker:**

**9am Nursery/Preeschool:** Sarah Kasprzak

**JAM:** Sherry Rourke, Cherri Maxwell, Vickey & Gage Graham, Peyton Graham

**Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, 4th Sunday in Lent

**Lessons:** Num. 21:4-9; Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22; Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

**Sermon:** "God's Covenant Calls Us to Christ-likeness--Identity

**9:00am & 11:00am Worship**

**Layreader:** Sue Lantz

**Ushers:** 9am Michael & Debbie Vanderlip

11am Roy Fetzer, Team #3

**Acolytes:** Bella & Vanessa Skaff

**Sound Tech:** Mark Grams

**Coffee Hour:** Blue Team

**Counters:** Lin Savage & Sara Wrage

**Banker:** Amy Probyn

**9am Nursery/Preeschool:** Sarah Kasprzak

**JAM:** Sherry Rourke, Cherri Maxwell, Vickey & Gage Graham, Peyton Graham

**Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, 5th Sunday in Lent

**Lessons:** Jer. 31:31-34; Ps. 51:1-12 or Ps. 119:9-16; Heb. 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

**Sermon:** "God's Covenant Calls Us to Christ-likeness-Living

**9:00am & 11:00am Worship**

**Layreader:** Sue Lantz

**Ushers:** 9am Jack Allen & Greg Dean

11am Roger & Karen Terrill, Team #4

**Acolytes:** Sammy Carnes & Bowen Moore

**Sound Tech:** Ina Golden

**Coffee Hour:** Violet Team

**Counters:** Jon O'Connell & Dennis Beardslee

**9am Nursery/Preeschool:** Sarah Kasprzak

**JAM:** Sherry Rourke, Cherri Maxwell, Vickey & Gage Graham, Peyton Graham

**Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, 6th Sunday in Lent

**Lessons:** Palms: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16; Ps. 118:1-2,19-29; Passion: Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31:9-16; Phil.2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

**9:00am & 11:00am Worship**

**Sermon:** 9am "The Red Sea: Remembering

Your Baptism" Pastor Lindsey Carnes

11am service: "Gospel Mass,"

performed by Chancel Choir and

Guest Musicians.

**Ushers:** 9am Jim Lindsay & Mark Jacobson

11am Jeff & PJ Collier, Team #5

**Acolytes:** Madeline & Lindsey Gibb

**Sound Tech:** Jay Kirkey

**Coffee Hour:** Red Team

**Counters:** Shirley Israel & Sara Wrage

**9am Nursery/Preeschool:** Sarah Kasprzak

**JAM:** Sherry Rourke, Cherri Maxwell, Vickey & Gage Graham, Peyton Graham

**Maundy Thursday, March 29** 7:00pm Tenebrae Service

**Good Friday, March 30** Pastor Robbie, preaching (at Noon) Fenton United Methodist Church



**Who said Communion just happens on Sunday mornings?** The next date is Monday, April 2nd at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary. Join us for a shorter Communion service, filled

with energetic hymn singing, a shortened version of the Sunday sermon, and the bread and juice/wine served in the pews. We're trying to make this a "barrier free" worship experience--with large print bulletins, amplified speaking, and helpers to assist with walkers, wheelchairs, or to just lend a hand. Come for worship, stay for fellowship around tables in the Fellowship Hall. For questions or rides, please call Dave Eshleman or the Church Office.

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This year we decided to do a Lenten series focusing on the sacrament of baptism called "Come to the Water." We also decided to highlight the time of confession and God's forgiveness throughout this series.

### **3rd Sunday in Lent, March 4 "Baptism: A Sign and Seal"**

We will explore how the Old Testament covenant fits with the New Testament practice of baptism, which claims us as God's own.

### **4th Sunday in Lent, March 11 "God's Covenant Calls Us to Christ-likeness--Identity"**

How baptism leads us in our understanding of our new identity and service to God.

### **5th Sunday in Lent March 18th "God's Covenant Calls Us to Christ-likeness--Living"**

Our baptism calls us into community with God and with each other. How do we then live? By imitating Christ: Loving God and serving each other with that love.

## HOLY WEEK March 25th-31st



### **6th Sunday in Lent, March 25, Palm Sunday**

9am service: "The Red Sea: Remembering Your Baptism" Pastor Lindsey  
"Move towards the water" is repeated in this story in Scripture and is used to highlight baptism: judgment (Pharaoh and his army), deliverance (the Israelites by the hand of God), and rebirth (God redeems and gives identity to a people).

11am service: "Gospel Mass," performed by Chancel Choir and guest musicians.

### **Maundy Thursday, March 29 Tenebrae Service Pastor Lindsey**

An ancient Christian tradition of gradually diminishing the light through extinguishing candles to symbolize the events of Holy Week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem to Jesus' burial.

### **Good Friday, March 30 Pastor Robbie, preaching**

12:00pm Fenton United Methodist Church

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus. It most certainly was not a good day, in that he suffered and died. However, we call it "good" because we remember that his great sacrifice led to his resurrection and reign.

### **Easter Sunday, April 1 "Baptism--Dying and Rising with Christ" Pastor Robbie**

By faith we are united with Christ in his death and resurrection! What does rising with Christ look like in everyday life?

# Announcements

**March is "Shepherd Calling" month!** "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) Our new Shepherd Program debuts this month. Each of our 28 Shepherds will be making phone calls to everyone in the congregation twice a year as a caring and connectional outreach. Please welcome your call and enjoy your connection with your Shepherd! If you have any questions, please contact one of the coordinators Barb LaPointe or Nikki Black.

**Book Binders** will be meeting March 13th at the home Jackie Arrol, 1270 Lake Valley Dr. at 7:00 pm. The book for discussion is Christ the Lord out of Egypt by Anne Rice. The book for April is Our Souls at Night by Kent Haruf. Please call Jackie at 810-714-4067 if you have any questions.

**HELP NEEDED!** Families who have lost a loved one really appreciate the meals we provide after the memorial service but, unfortunately, this service will have to be discontinued until we get a couple more volunteers to coordinate the meals. We will still offer a cookie reception or the family may have a catered meal in Fellowship Hall with a licensed caterer. Debbie Bard and Linda Banks have a list of great volunteers and food donors but Debbie and Linda are not always available when a funeral happens. If you are interested in being a funeral luncheon coordinator or helping with a luncheon, please contact Debbie or Linda. Prayerfully consider this service and donation of your time. Thank You.

# Financial

## Treasurer Report January 2018

Submitted by: Debera J. Bard

	Actual	YTD	Budgeted YTD
Income	\$36,603.28	\$36,603.28	\$ 340,843.00
Expenses	-27,939.59	27,929.59	\$340,843.00
(over)	\$ 8,663.69	(over)	\$ 8,663.69

January budgeted income & expense was: \$28,403.59

# Let's Celebrate!

## BIRTHDAYS

Charmaine Thorley	Mar 1	Deborah Vanderlip	Mar 19
Logan Kirkey	Mar 3	Brian Coles	Mar 21
Bob Browder	Mar 5	Jack Allen	Mar 22
Guy Cowing	Mar 5	Henry Glomski	Mar 22
Jim Thompson	Mar 6	Pam Andersen	Mar 23
Becky Garske	Mar 8	Marta Watters	Mar 23
Maggie Hodgkin	Mar 8	Max Watters	Mar 23
Crystal Siniarski	Mar 9	Gertrude Zueck	Mar 23
Phyllis Cmejrek	Mar 11	Olivia Kirkey	Mar 24
John Maloney	Mar 11	Sharon Cowing	Mar 25
Lois Ake	Mar 13	Scott Grossmeyer	Mar 25
Al Morrison	Mar 13	Julie Lutz	Mar 26
Dan Whitman	Mar 13	Glenn Maxwell	Mar 26
Rebecca Ruppert	Mar 14	Rhonda Moore	Mar 26
Jan Foster	Mar 16	Jackie Arrol	Mar 27
Judy Hope	Mar 16	John Banks	Mar 28
Dean Moore	Mar 17	Ina Golden	Mar 30
Patti Nelson	Mar 18		

## ANNIVERSARIES

Doug & Jan Jacobs	March 3
Rod & Carla Wilson	March 22
Richard & Debera Bard	March 23
Andrew & Crystal Siniarski	March 23
Steve & Sharlyn Sutton	March 28
James & Jan Foster	March 29





# MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 6:30pm-8:00pm Mission & Stewardship Meeting, CR 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 2, FH 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 3, FH	<b>2</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>3</b> OFFICE CLOSED 8:00am - 10:00am Men's Covenant Group
<b>4</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> 9:00am Worship Service 9:30am-10:30am Youth Bible Study, YR 10:00am 10:45am Adult Bible Study, CR 11:00am Worship Service 12:30pm-1:30pm Blood Pressure Check, FH 1:00pm-3:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group Soup & Talk	<b>5</b> 1:00pm - 2:00pm Knitting Group YR 1:00pm-2:00pm Outreach Communion 4:30pm - 5:30pm Tiger Den 6, FH 7:00pm - 8:00pm Den 4, YR 7:00pm - 9:00pm Boy Scouts, FH	<b>6</b> 6:45pm - 8:00pm New Member & Outreach Committee Meeting, YR 6:30pm - 8:00pm Congregational Life Committee Meeting, CR	<b>7</b> 8:00am-12:00pm Men's Work Day 5:30pm-7:30pm Lenten Simple Meals, FH 6:00pm-7:30pm <b>Youth Choir, Sanctuary</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 7:45pm - 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	<b>8</b> 6:00pm-8:00pm Christian Education Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 2, FH 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 3, FH	<b>9</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>10</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>11</b> 9:00am Worship Service 9:30am-10:30am Youth Bible Study, YR 10:00am-10:45am Adult Bible Study, CR 11:00am Worship Service 12:30pm-2:00pm Youth Dance Rehearsal, Sanctuary 12:30pm-1:30pm Club 45, YR 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, YR	<b>12</b> 10:00am - 11:00am Prayer Ministry Team, Sanctuary 1:00pm - 2:00pm Knitting Group YR 7:00pm - 8:00pm Cub Scouts, YR	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Book Binders	<b>14</b> 8:00 AM-12:00 PM Men's Work Day 10:00am - 12:00am Card Class, FH 4:30pm - 6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting, CR 5:30pm-7:30pm Lenten Simple Meals, FH 6:00pm-7:30pm <b>Youth Choir, Sanctuary</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 7:45pm - 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	<b>15</b> 6:00pm-8:00pm <b>Grief Support Group</b> 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 2, FHI 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 3, FH	<b>16</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>17</b> OFFICE CLOSED Potato Bake Set-Up, FH 10:00am-12:00pm Dance rehearsal, Sanctuary
<b>18</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day Potato Bake, FH</b> <b>Easter Lily Order Due</b> 9:00am Worship Service 9:30am-10:30am Youth Bible Study, YR 10:00am 10:45am Adult Bible Study, CR 11:00am Worship Service St. Patrick's Day Potato Bake, FH 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm-8:00pm Men's Covenant Offsite	<b>19</b> 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group YR 4:30pm - 5:30pm Den 6 FH 6:30pm-8:30pm Administration Committee Meeting, CR 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Den 4 YR 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Boy Scouts FH	<b>20</b> 6:30pm-8:30pm Session Meeting, CR 7:00pm-9:00pm Pack Meeting, FH	<b>21</b> 8:00am-12:00pm Men's Work Day 4:00pm-4:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm-7:30pm Lenten Simple Meals, FH 6:00pm-7:30pm Youth Choir, Sanctuary 6:30pm - 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 7:45pm - 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	<b>22</b> 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 2, FHI 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 3, FH	<b>23</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>24</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9am-12pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
<b>25</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am 10:45am Adult Bible Study, CR 11:00am Worship Service 2:00pm-6:30pm Blue & Gold Banquet, Sanctuary & FH 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, YR	<b>26</b> 10:00am - 11:00am Prayer Ministry Team, Sanctuary 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group YR 5:00pm-8:00am (Mon-Tues) Family Promise 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Den 4 YR 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Boy Scouts FH	<b>27</b> 6:30pm <b>Sedar Dinner Fellowship Hall</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00am-12:00pm Men's Work Day 5:00pm-8:00am (Wed-Thur) Family Promise 6:00pm-7:30pm <b>Youth Choir, Sanctuary</b> 6:30pm - 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 7:45pm - 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	<b>29</b> 7:00pm-8:00pm <b>Maundy Thursday Worship Service</b>	<b>30</b> 12:00pm-1:00pm <b>Good Friday Service Fenton United Methodist Church</b>	<b>31</b>

## Easter Lily

Order forms for Easter Lilies will be available beginning  
March 4th

Forms and payment must be returned to the church office  
no later than March 18th.

You may pick up your lily after the second worship service  
on Easter Sunday, April 1st.

# WAYS TO GIVE

There are many different ways that you can give back to the Fenton First Presbyterian Church. **Together we can make a difference!!**



**Online Giving:** An easy and convenient way to give. Just visit the Presbyterian Mission Exchange link in the Giving section of FFPC.org website. A fast and SECURE way to give back.



**Church Giving:** You can give during one of our services by placing your check or cash in the Sunday offering plates. When giving cash, please complete a giving envelope so we can properly record your gift.



**Automatic Bank Pay:** You can set up payments through your financial institution by utilizing the bill pay feature. Simply use First Presbyterian Church as the payee and your name for your account information. Saves on postage!!



**Non-Cash Giving:** Assets or Planned Gifts



**Mail offering to Church:**  
Fenton First Presbyterian Church  
503 S. Leroy  
Fenton, MI 48430

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