

Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Living with Christ, serving the world

Newsletter July 2018

" Now the LORD is the SPIRIT,
and
where the SPIRIT of the LORD is,
there is
FREEDOM

2 Corinthians 3:17

Pastor's Article

Asocial Media

I hope it's a beautiful day in your neighborhood. I also hope that your sense of neighborhood is growing because your neighbors need you. Have you considered that the people that you interact with on the internet are your neighbors? They need you too.

It is of little surprise that an article from the Economist reports that social media is found to give an 'extra scope for self-expression and community-building. But [these] platforms exacerbated anxiety and depression.' The same article cites sleep deprivation, exposure to bullying, and body image concerns as some of the result, and highlight a previously-unknown-to-me condition of FOMO ("fear of missing out").

It would be simple to assume that this is solely an issue for younger people who do not remember a time in which much of their interaction with the world was through people rather than pixels. However, all of us are effected by social media, no matter what age. All who use social media are capable of being effected negatively by it, no matter our age. 2.2 billion people used Facebook in the month of March, 2018 according to Facebook. Those weren't just young people. The topic of Social Media is no longer a 'youth' issue, but a concern for everyone.

This is a concern because we are realizing that the efforts to benefit financially from the way we communicate with other people by Big Tech Companies do not provide moral guidelines, and traditional moral guidelines can be woefully inadequate. We cannot believe everything that our 'friends' share with us. We cannot assume that the things we 'share', whether visual or verbal will not be taken out of context. We struggle to understand the meaning of an image and find ourselves aligning with 'movements' as a way of expression and communication. We find ourselves seeking to define ourselves by **how** we communicate rather than **what** we communicate.

Chamath Palihapitiya was the Vice President for user growth for Facebook who left the company in 2011. He has raised concerns about the effects of Social Media on society. Using computing terms, he describes Social Media Providers as 'programming' its users and 'exploiting a vulnerability in human psychology'. He even goes so far as describing himself as a 'conscientious objector' to social media.

<https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2018/05/18/how-heavy-use-of-social-media-is-linked-to-mental-illness>

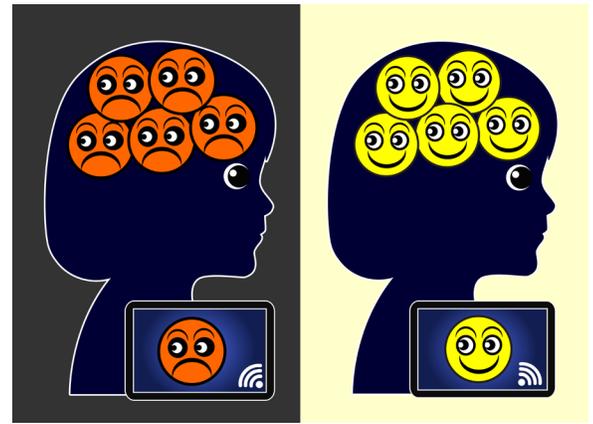
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2017/12/12/former-facebook-vp-says-social-media-is-destroying-society-with-dopamine-driven-feedback-loops/?utm_term=.0907e924a645

"It literally is a point now where I think we have created tools that are ripping apart the social fabric



of how society works. That is truly where we are,” he said. “The short-term, dopamine-driven feedback loops that we have created are destroying how society works: no civil discourse, no cooperation, misinformation, mistruth. And it’s not an American problem. This is not about Russian ads. This is a global problem.”

While Palihapitiya will admit that Facebook ‘overwhelmingly does good in the world’, he feels a large amount of guilt for what he perceives as damage to society that he participated in creating.



For many of you this isn’t new news. We have heard of the multiple misuses of Social Media from bullying to hacking and we have all experienced the benefit of connection with friends and a wider world. The potential harm that engaging in Social Media brings must be weighed with the potential benefits, lest we misuse a tool or overly isolate ourselves. The profound ability to connect with others has allowed for families and friends to maintain close connection over vast geographical distance. Yet, this same connectivity brings ample opportunity for one-sided arguments and leads to distortion of truth and perspective. Connection to people is a great value, connection to 2 billion people can lead to anxiety or worse, mental illness.

Personally, I have struggled with Social Media. I understand full well the idea of a feedback loop, especially when I think about how I consume YouTube videos. I avoided Facebook for several months now because I have not been able to separate the artificial and manipulated connections with the honest and human connections. I fear engaging with newer forms of Social Media such as Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter. I regret the time that I spend wastefully consuming ‘communication’. I feel like I am in Social Media Recovery, not trusting myself to maintain sobriety.

The Bible, I am afraid, does not say much about Facebook, but how as Christians can we maintain a healthy balance? How do we cultivate a healthy digital neighborhood?

Firstly, there is the issue of the misuse of Social Media. Bullying, misinformation, and online etiquette aren’t just for high school students and Russian spies. How much are you contributing to the negative aspects of Social Media? Do you post links that you have not fact checked? Have you shared a negative opinion about someone or a company without personally communicating with the person or company you have a beef with? And then, have you considered not to share that negative experience in spite of the wrong you felt? Have you used foul language in Social Media? DO YOU TYPE IN ALL CAPS? These are just some of the activities that contribute to the negative aspects of Social Media. Christians are normal people, but we are also called to make the world a better place. How can we make Social Media better? How can we be good neighbors?

Secondly, there is the issue of overuse of Social Media. How many friends do you have on Facebook? How many followers on Instagram or Twitter? Does it matter to you? Are you sure it doesn’t? Have you ever posted something on Social Media with the sole purpose of gathering ‘likes’ or those little hearts? I have. On one hand, this can be really shallow. On the other it is deceptively addictive. We have been exposed to a new type of pixelated stimuli and we behave in addictive ways to it. I have counseled married couples who feel that they have lost their spouse to Facebook or other corners of the internet. This is because Social Media is designed to attract us and it has been designed so well we struggle with coping with it.

Grant Update

Thank you to all who participated in the church wide surveys we did together this past month in June. It is good to share our thoughts, and fascinating to think about who we are as a church and who God is calling us to be.

A small group of people gathered the following Sunday afternoon to prayerfully consider what all of the information you gave to us could mean and what God might be calling us to do. These people were chosen to represent a wide age range within our church, as well as diversity of areas of ministry within FFPC. Because we are only just beginning this process we do not have a clear idea of what the next steps are, but the following represents some of the responses from this information. Please also note that these thoughts are only a beginning and certainly not the definitive facts on who we are or who we should be. These thoughts are organized by specific questions given by the grant process.



What are we planting in the Garden? What are our hopes and dreams for our Youth Ministry?

We hope to foster a **faith and spirituality** that is focused on Jesus, highlights forgiveness and provides direction and growth for our younger members. We have a vision to nurture a love that is unconditional and that is accepting and kind. Through all this we would create a **space** to be creative, to gain self-esteem, and to get guidance. This space would be for stability, for listening to each other, and a sense of belonging.

We seek to develop mission and service that involves others, that gives us a safe place to experiment and risk, and that empowers and equips each of us for leadership. This would be accomplished by providing trained and willing leaders, volunteers and role models. We also want to develop a **perspective** that comes from **self-reflection**. Reflecting individually, and also, as a group on the programs and ministries that we build as to their effectiveness and purpose.

- Ministry should **celebrate** each one's gifts, talents, lives, and opinions through worship, living together, on missions, and at home and special events.
- Ministry should be connecting older and younger people together.
- On a more practical note the focus group should meet 3-4 times a month. Leaders should meet 4-6 times a year to discuss new ideas and evaluate program direction.

In our Community Structure what are our Steel Beams? What are our strengths and supporting structures? What would lead us to success in reshaping our Ministry? Our community (both inside the church and outside) is largely blue collar being employed by companies like GM and some being currently or retired farmers. We are politically mixed and mostly white. We see ourselves as middle aged, family oriented and with limited cultural diversity. Our church has a wide reach that covers three counties and we excel at **hospitality**.

- Our Leadership, both formal and informal, is focused on mentorship and developing other leaders. Our Session, Pastors and other leaders are involved in envisioning our future.
- We strive to have a space to be heard, known and accepted.
- We have parents who are seeking to understand youth and love them.
- We have a strong faith given to us by God which is our strong foundation, and we have a faith community that is committed to living out their faith.

Do we have termites? What are our weaknesses?

- We tend to be insular and we need outside organizations to help us grow and expand our perspectives.
- We lack a sense of sustainability and depend too much on too few trained leaders and trusted mentors.
- We lack enough volunteers and we do not have good engagement with young adults (those out of high school).
- We lack info about young people: their desires, values, challenges, etc...
- We lack up to date technology (i.e. website, etc...)
- We lack excitement that leads to commitment and priority change.
- We tend to have adult-ish rigidity and don't want to change our old ways. This should be bulldozed. Good things should be kept, but new things should be considered.
- We fail to make one to one invitations and instead depend on general announcements.

What size is our property lot? How Big or What are our opportunities?

- We have an opportunity to connect all ages.
- There is energy and excitement about making good things happen.
- We have a little bit of money to work with due to memorial gifts and a generous congregation.
- We have people who are skilled in consulting and time management training, as well as recruiting skills.
- 10% of our budget goes to Youth Ministry
- We have strong leadership of a few families (we would love more!)
- We have an opportunity to invite more leaders into meaningful engagement.
- The issue of being busy and having skewed priorities is abundant. The church has an opportunity biblically and theologically to speak to that.

Danger Zone: What are our Threats?

- Tendency to not look and be reflective about past and present failures.
- School bullying, community abuse of illicit drugs.
- Resistance to inter-generational involvement
- Declining membership
- Travel Sports keeps family calendars full
- Several high schools over large area and it is difficult to manage different school calendars and events.
- Faith formation in children is not a family priority in favor of sports and vacation.
- Negative perception of church by non-members
- Two working parent households which leads to a lessened ability to volunteer and encourage kids to be involved.
- Young adults and some youth are working +40 hours a week, and many have multiple jobs. This leads to less time to attend to spiritual formation.
- Young adults experience a lack of stability financially, in health care, and in housing compared to older adults, leading them to feel estranged from the general life of the church and feel threatened or uninterested when asked to be a bigger part of the life of the church. This can be frustrating for older adults who are not only experiencing different life stages, but remember life stage transitions being much different when they grew up.

Dumpster/Recycling Pile: What do we need to stop and/or start immediately?

- As we work we need to focus more on involving more people to gain from their perspective and experience less burnout. This could be called growing a culture of participation.
- We need to encourage adult participation

- We need to be aware of opposition to changes and work for understanding and mutual support of concerns.
- We need to stop calling it Youth Ministry and label it Church Ministry. Recognizing the holistic nature of ministry to youth is vital. Without the entire church addressing the needs of the rest of the church we will not be as successful as we could be at ministry to young people.
- We need to focus on personal invitation when addressing church communication.

Therefore we should:

- Stop segregating by age in the life of the church. While having age specific events is okay, we should image each and every event is for everyone.
- Stop labeling groups in the church and attend to individuals.
- Move from a few voices to more people
- Stop talking to youth only about youth things and include a wider variety of concerns when speaking to youth (i.e. speaking about adult issues with youth as well as youth topics)
- Stop thinking that adults know what youth need. Adults need to listen to youth.

Parking Lot: We need more time to talk about this.

- Experienced People: the opinions of everyone are needed for a ministry that represents the whole congregation. This could look like a mission/outreach discussion.
- Formal Evaluation: quarterly meetings to ask quantitative questions which would also include the youth in evaluating the program and direction.
- What does it mean to stop using the term Youth Ministry and concentrate on Church Ministry?

Why are we the Church to do This?

- We are a mixture of ages, activities, interests with an overlaying message of faith.
- We are a community of prayer: to discern God's will for our church. Prayerfully we look at trends within our community and neighborhood. Examine the past and seek good advice from outside sources.

We think that these questions are important:

- Are we doing God's work? Fitting into God's will?
- Do we know why we are doing certain things?
- Are we actually helping?
- Are the people we are ministering to growing?
- Are the programs we have producing interest?

We want to be a community of Empathy:

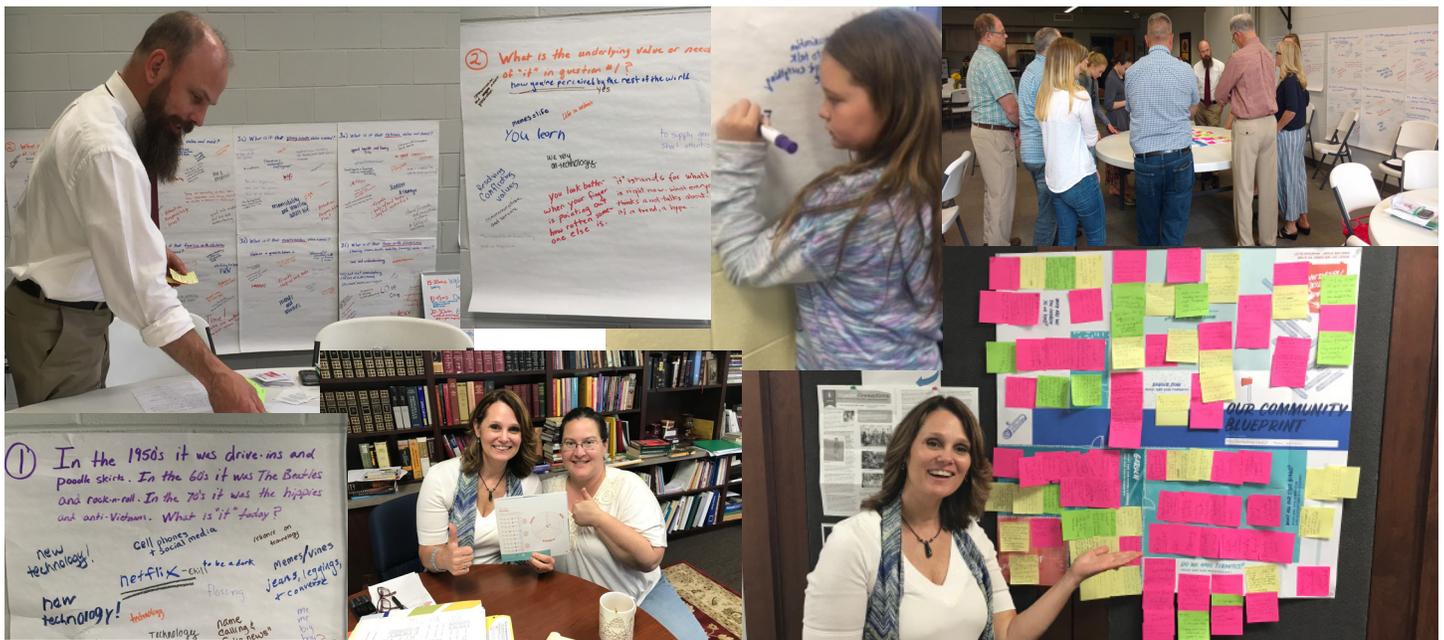
- Openness to new ideas and points of view
- Openness to shifting programs
- Openness to research and community demographics
- We want to really exhibit the Kingdom of God
- We are a church that is learning how to reflect on our ministry.
- People have found their niche here, actively participating and finding ways to offer their gifts to God and each other.
- We are growing in faith and so we share, teach, equip and encourage.

What do you think young people need today?

- Guidance, freedom of self expression, love, respect
- Jobs, stability, courage, hope, an example
- To feel they're loved and respected
- Elementary: Jesus Parables and wisdom; middle school: unconditional love; high school/develop personal faith/action/ministry; college/post/support group for life's choices
- Unconditional love: that God loves them and is always there for them
- An encouraging opinion from a non-family member
- Patience
- Structure and guidance with loving limits
- The ability to share with others to create understanding; confidence to start conversations; good teachers of life, world and subjects
- Acceptance without judgement; direction; accountability; able to mature and be strong adults

What do you think Youth Ministry should be like today?

- A place for young people to learn about themselves, their faith, and the love God and the community have for them, as well as a place for them to share their gifts and experience others
- Faith into works: help Church programs, church work programs, church faith building camps
- It needs to be relatable to what kids are experiencing in their daily lives
- Should be a safe space; honest communication to be able to discuss their doubts; leadership opportunities to help shape their faith
- Activity based with reflection
- A place to explore; spiritual connections; learning about Jesus; mission and service
- Joyful, being open yet quiet/reflective to listen and share
- Build up family and church; help provide a clear vision for life
- Provide opportunities for expression; to lead; to expand what they are learning; to have a voice in the church; youth should be able to plan their own activities
- It should incorporate everyday living and connect that to God. It should make youth feel proud to be connected to God, and they should be able to share without feeling judged



Mission & Stewardship



Red Cross Blood Drive on June 2, 2018

We want to thank the 30 people who showed up to donate their blood, the 27 people who were able to donate, the Boy Scouts for assisting in setting up and packing up the equipment, the members who made cookies and the members who hosted the drive on Saturday, June 3. We are grateful that we can host such an important life-preserving event for our community! In addition, we use some of our local mission budget to support the Red Cross programs.



2018 BASTILLE DAY RACE
15K Run / 5K Run & Walk
SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2018 • DOWNTOWN FENTON



The Bastille Day 5K and 15K races through downtown Fenton is Saturday July 14, put on by Habitat For Humanity. Each year our volunteers monitor and cheer on racers at several intersections near the church (and get a free t-shirt for doing so). We meet in our parking lot at 7:30am and are done by 9am to go enjoy the event festivities, which includes bands, vendors, and the Fenton Art Walk. Contact Brian Coles by email at colesb@gmail.com or by phone at 248-349-0582 with questions. The sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

FFPC MINISTRY SMALL GROUPS BIG IMPACT

Women's Ministry



Caption can read: Vanessa Skaff and Michele Eisert enjoying BINGO with a few of the ladies at McFarlan House. If you'd like to help with fellowship over the summer, please contact Vanessa at 810-252-5074.

McFarlan Villages Mission Ministry: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

McFarlan Villages is looking for volunteers to help run our Senior Resource Fair on September 7th. This event will be open to the public to get information about senior resources in the community. Volunteers will be aiding in set up/tear down of the event and other various activities. Lunch will be provided. Contact Tabatha Dolan at 810-569-0852 if you are interested in signing up.

When: September 7th 7:30am-5:00pm

Where: 800 E. Court Street, Flint MI 48503

Ever wonder what it's like to be a part of a women's Bible study group? Below are a few comments from some of our participants.

"I was raised in a Christian family and read my Bible as a child. Our Bible class is very informative, open to various opinions and is very enjoyable. There is no judgment, only helpful attitudes. I do not have any birth sisters but I feel like I have sisters in Christ in our class. We have formed close relationships and support systems for each other. I find the instruction and all my Christian sisters to be a very big blessing. I hope we continue to have our classes and build our relationships." ~Linda McCleary

"I have been coming to this Bible Study for two years ever since my good friend, Linda, invited me to attend. I was really hesitant at first, but coming to this Bible Study has made a very significant change in my life. I feel so at ease in the class and everyone has made me feel so welcome, not to mention how much I've learned. I also like the fact that we have all ages of ladies from all walks of life so we get different viewpoints. And lastly, I feel we are so fortunate that God has given Tina, our outstanding leader, a gift. She does a wonderful job and we all appreciate what she does for the class." ~Sharon Kalis

"When I think about our women's covenant group and our studies, the following are things that come to mind that are an inspiration: Friendships new and old, confidences shared, comfort given, faith increased, grace renewed, and prayers received." ~Pam Coffin

Youth Ministry



On Wednesday, June 13th, Faith in Femininity hosted a packaging party here at the church. Fifteen adults and kids came to help, and we were able to package 204 bags of feminine products in just 45 minutes! Since we finished so early, we ran over to Fenton Center of Hope and donated most of the bags we had just finished. It was a very successful night, and we hope to be hosting more events like that, as well as a product drive, in the near future!



THE GOSPEL PROJECT FOR KIDS

New Sunday School Curriculum Beginning in September by Tina Ritchie

This Jesus-centered curriculum is a three-year, chronological study of the Bible designed to do the following:

1. Promote Gospel transformation, not behavioral modification: Every session points us to the gospel of Jesus Christ as the source of heart-transformation and the foundation for spiritual growth.
2. See how the whole Bible fits together: From Genesis to Revelation, we will understand how the entire story of the Bible reveals God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.
3. Unite every age in Christ-centered study: If desired, this provides curriculum for all ages birth through adult.
4. Compel Christ followers to live on mission: Every session is developed to help us know God more and to learn of God's missionary heart – encouraging us to join in the story by sharing Jesus with the world.
5. Understand the key themes of Christianity: Each session helps us acknowledge essential theological doctrines of the Christian faith as they are found throughout the Bible.

When we truly experience the gospel, our hearts are transformed. When we get it, everything changes.

Preschoolers & Kids will have age appropriate lessons and quarterly "Big Picture Cards for Families" that assist discussion and learning at home. Classes will be held on Sunday mornings.

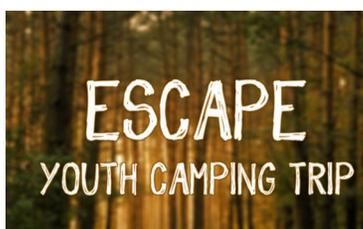
Middle and High School Students will discover not only what they believe, but also why they believe it with lessons that center their lives on the gospel. This includes a "Family Connection" take home discussion sheet for each lesson. Classes will be held during youth group meetings on Sunday evenings.

In August adults will have the opportunity to sign-up to teach this curriculum. There will be a review and training of curriculum. If you are unsure OR confident of your Biblical knowledge, then this is the opportunity for you to SHARE, LEARN, AND GROW IN YOUR OWN FAITH! Children's classes will have three ages groups consisting of preschool, younger kids (k-2nd), and older kids (3-5th). Lessons are given quarterly, therefore we are looking for 3-4 adults per age group to facilitate each group. Shepherds are also needed, and youth may fill those roles. There will also be opportunities to facilitate lessons for youth group. **Please prayerfully consider how you might be a part of this new adventure in learning about and loving Jesus and one another.**

Youth Group Updates



We had a great time boating, tubing, swimming and eating yummy grilled hamburgers and other snacks at our end of school year/start of summer youth party! Missing from the picture is Megan Hollopeter and Cameron Miller. Thank you to Mark and Jenny Gibb for hosting us!



Youth Camping Trip

August 17th-20th
Hoeft State Park
Cost \$50
Due by 8/5/18

RSVP on the youth bulletin board

Emerging 6th-12th graders are invited to join us for swimming, hiking, campfires, discussion and fellowship. Scholarship money is available for this trip - see Tina Ritchie. We are sleeping in tents and cooking over a fire - Extra money needed for food on the road. A packing list will be emailed to those who register.

VG's and Kroger Rewards update:

We received \$1000 from VG's receipts which pays for our van rental for the Montreat High School Conference. Please continue to turn in your ENTIRE VG's receipt to the receptacle in the main entryway.

We also received \$16.65 from Kroger rewards through the 5 households who shopped at Kroger between 1-31-2018 and 4-30-2018. If you shop at Kroger, please consider linking your Kroger card to our organization by using this link <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>

Thank you to everyone who continues to bring in returnable bottles for the youth scholarship account. To date we have raised close to \$200. A special thank you to Terrie Fisher for cashing them in!

Youth Group Activities:

Incoming 6th graders are welcome to join summer youth group events! For current information, contact tina@ffpc.org to get on the youth news emails.

Wednesday, July 11th: Youth Group campfire night - 6-9pm at Waverly Ritchie's house

July 14th-21st: Montreat High School Conference

August 8th: Mission Wednesday 9am – 4pm This is a great way to earn service hours! See Jenny Gibb for more information.

August 17th-20th: Youth Group Camping Trip at Hoeft State Park - \$50 due by 8/5/18 RSVP on the youth bulletin board

Children's Sunday School



Children kindergarten – 5th grade are learning about The Lord's Prayer. July lesson highlights are below:

July 1: Eat Your Way through the Bible explores how “daily bread” translates into our general nutritional needs, and asks, “Do we really understand how God continues to provide for us?”

July 8: Buck Denver video part 1- God's Perfect Timing The children will learn about the 400 years between the Old and New Testaments, and how Jesus arrived at just the perfect time.

July 15: Faith Today The children will learn that we must forgive others as God forgives us by considering fences and bridges as symbols of separation and connection to one another.

July 22: Mary & Martha's Bed & Breakfast explores the power of forgiveness through the story of Corrie Ten Boom. She was a Christian woman imprisoned in a Nazi Concentration Camp for sheltering Jews during the Holocaust.

July 29: Moved by the Spirit experiments with body postures to discover how physical attitudes can affect emotional responses in our prayer life.

Preschoolers are learning about Jesus' Faithful Followers. They are learning that they, too, can pray, forgive and be forgiven, show love, obey God, and remember Jesus. In July they will learn about the faithful that were at Jesus' side when he died, at the tomb, on his trip to Emmaus and when he gave The Great Commission.

Nursery Help Needed! Adults and youth entering 6th grade and up are needed to assist Ms. Carol in the nursery on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 11am. Please see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall to choose your date(s). Thank you for spending time with our children!



Worship

The Old Testament stories that we have learned in Sunday School are filled with good lessons for young people about who God is and who we should be as God followers. But these stories weren't written for children! There is much to learn about who God is and who we are as God followers that is relevant and meaningful to us adults. This Summer we have chosen some of these old children stories to revisit and find what we might learn anew with adult eyes.

SUNDAY, JULY 1st, Communion Sunday,
Preaching: Rev. Cassie Todd
Sermon: Kid's Bible Stories for Adults: Jonah
Scripture: TBD
Layreader: TBD
Organist: Bobby Clark
Sound Tech: Ina Golden
Ushers: Team 1
Acolytes: No Acolytes
Coffee Hour: Yellow Team
Children's Sunday School: Janet Stork
Preschool: Tina Ritchie
Nursery: Heidi Howieson

MONDAY, JULY 2nd, 2018, OUTREACH COMMUNION
 Join us at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary. Featuring 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. 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.

SUNDAY, JULY 8th, 2018
Preaching: Elder Jonathan Wenzel
Sermon: Kid's Bible Stories for Adults: David and Goliath
Scripture: TBD
Layreader: Cheryl Kopplin
Sound Tech: Jay Kirkey
Ushers: Team 2
Acolytes: Mason Davis
Coffee Hour: Green Team
Children's Sunday School: Roy Fetzer/Polly Sheppard
Preschool: Tina Ritchie
Nursery: Heidi Howieson

July Church Mouse - Billie Morris

SUNDAY, JULY 15th,
Preaching: Pastor Lindsey Carnes
Sermon: Kid's Bible Stories for Adults: Noah
Scripture: TBD
Layreader: Peggy Fowler
Sound Tech: Doug Watters
Ushers: Team 3
Acolytes: Adlin & Bowen Moore
Coffee Hour: Blue Team
Children's Sunday School: Roy Fetzer/Polly Sheppard
Preschool: TBD
Nursery: Helen Dilworth

SUNDAY, JULY 22nd
Preaching: Pastor Robbie Carnes
Sermon: Kid's Bible Stories for Adults: The Tower of Babel
Scripture: TBD
Layreader: Peggy Fowler
Sound Tech: Mark Gibbs
Ushers: Team 4
Acolytes: Chloe Muntin
Coffee Hour: Violet Team
Children's Sunday School: Cheryl Kopplin/
 Helen Dilworth
Preschool: TBD
Nursery: Heidi Howieson

SUNDAY, JULY 29th
Preaching: Pastor Lindsey Carnes
Sermon: Kid's Bible Stories for Adults: Gideon
Scripture: TBD
Layreader: Youth
Sound Tech: Mark Grams
Ushers: Team 5
Acolytes: Mason & Bella Skaff
Coffee Hour: Red Team
Children's Sunday School: Ken Wenzel
Preschool: TBD
Nursery: Heidi Howieson

Nurse's News



The Parish Nurse, Jackie Arrol, will be available for consultation every Wednesday from 12:00pm-2:00pm.

*If you or someone you know are in need of diabetic testing supplies, please see the Parish Nurse, Jackie Arrol. She has some to distribute thanks to a generous donor.

*If you or someone you know are in need of a walker, there is one available thanks to another generous donor. Please see the Parish Nurse, Jackie Arrol.

VOLUNTEER your time, your talent, and your heart....



Volunteers are an important part of the hospice philosophy. You are there to hold a hand and listen, read or write a letter, run errands or even help out in our office.

Volunteers are there to step in when a family member needs a break, and are there for the family and friends after their loved one has passed away. No matter what your skills, talents or motivation, we have the opportunity for you to help. What Does It Take To Be A Kindred Hospice Volunteer?

- The desire to give your time, talents and your heart in support of hospice patients and their families.
- Be at least 16 years old
- Complete comprehensive hospice volunteer training
- Annual TB testing
- Submit to and pass a criminal background screening
- Submit to and pass a drug screening

For more information please call 810-733-7250 or visit their website at www.kindredathome.com

Announcements

Book Binders will be meeting July 10th at the home of Maureen Utt, 16170 Aspen Hollow Dr., at 6:00 pm. The book for discussion is *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto* by Mitch Albom. July is our summer party, everyone brings a salad or a dessert. We will not meet in August. The book for September is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Please call Maureen at 810-701-2336 if you have any questions.

NEEDED: We are currently recruiting an Usher Captain and individuals who would like to serve as an usher on one of our six teams. If you are interested please contact Jay Kirkey (810)813-1988.

Does handling money God's way really work? Come find out by taking the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class this Fall starting September 6 – October 31 from 6-8pm in the Conference Room; childcare is available. Facilitated by Larry Zimble, **this class is for newlyweds, singles, young adults, those in debt, those not in debt yet wishing to have their money work better for them, and anyone who uses money.** The one-time cost per family is \$130 – the smartest investment you'll ever make! Try the first class for free. Register in Fellowship Hall or contact Larry at larry@4squaretax.com.

Adult & youth volunteers still needed for children's summer Sunday school programs!

3 teaching and 4 shepherding spots are open for the elementary JAM program, as well as for the pre-school classes. Youth entering 6th grade may sign up to be a shepherd. Please see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or, for more information, contact Tina Ritchie.

Giving Cards: Gifts and tithes are given toward the ministries of FFPC in many ways. Many of us give weekly, some give monthly. Others give online or even on a yearly basis. All of our ways of giving are acts of Worship. Today, in the pews, you will find a Giving Card that may be used to recognize the financial giving that is done outside the worship service, be it online or otherwise. If you wish, simply take the card, prayerfully dedicate your gift to God, and place the Giving Card in the offering place. Is this helpful to you? Do you have some suggestions? Let us know. office@ffpc.org

Downtown Readers is forming a daytime book club. We can meet at the church either on Tuesday or Thursday at 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. *Killers of the Flower Moon*, David Grann will be our first selection. It is an impactful story about the Osage Murders in Oklahoma during the 1920's and the beginning of the FBI. If interested, please contact Nancy Nelson, 810/354-8554 or nancy.l.maes@gmail.com. Happy reading!

Building Fund Report

We would like to recognize and THANK our members for their faithful giving to the Building Fund over MANY YEARS! We have proceeded through 67% of the current 3-year campaign and have received 81% of the pledged amount. At this rate, we can reasonably expect to reduce the mortgage to approximately \$250,000 by the end of this campaign. Said another way, we will have paid 85% of the building renovation cost by the end of May 2019.

Building Fund-Completing the Miracle (6/1/16-5/31/19) As of May 31, 2018

Pledged	\$351,941
Received to date:	\$284,099

Building Fund

Building Account Balance:	\$25,706
Mortgage Remaining:	\$312,208

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

JULY

July 1 Morris Fulcher
 July 8 Donna Anderson
 July 15 Dibblevill Dolls
 July 22 Gretchen Coles
 July 29 TBD

AUGUST

August 5 Robbie Carnes and friends
 August 12 Julie Hussar
 August 19 Gretchen Coles
 August 26 Cindy Crawford & Alex Joike
 September 2 TBA



Birthday's

Sharon Stone	Jul 3	Debbie LaVanway	Jul 21
Denise Warba	Jul 4	Jesse James	Jul 22
Roger Caswell	Jul 6	Rita Vadasz	Jul 22
Lisa Mehlberg	Jul 7	Ellen Horton	Jul 23
Rick Stanfill	Jul 9	Cameron Miller	Jul 23
Edith Miner	Jul 10	Robert Chappelle	Jul 24
Tina Ritchie	Jul 11	Cindy Crawford	Jul 25
Kelly Arthurs	Jul 13	Max Kryza	Jul 25
Rebecca Drake	Jul 14	Sharon Crary	Jul 26
Emily Kinser	Jul 16	Jacob Kinser	Jul 26
Peg Allen	Jul 17	Pat Gould	Jul 28
Lindsey Gibb	Jul 17	Adie Eddington	Jul 29
Janet Stork	Jul 17	Barbara Rankin	Jul 29
Brian Rourke	Jul 18	Sherry Rourke	Jul 29
Nessie Brownlee	Jul 21	Toadie Middleton	Jul 30
Bruce Coffin	Jul 21		

Anniversaries

Sandy Nelson & Helen Dillworth	July 4
David & Linda McCleary	July 17
Mark & Sarah Martin-Fanone	July 19
Jeff & P.J. Collier	July 24
Jon & Jan O'Connell	July 25
Bill & Nikki Black	July 26
Marlo & Heidi Howieson	July 26
Ty & Andrea Smith	July 26



JULY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00am Worship Service & Communion	2 1:00pm-2:00pm Outreach Communion, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 OFFICE CLOSED
8 10:00am Worship Service	9 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group Youth Room	10 7:00pm-8:00pm Book Binders	11 8:00am-12:00pm Men's Work Day 12:00pm-2:00pm Parish Nurse in Office 6:00pm-9:00pm Youth Group Campfire Night	12 10:00am- 12:30pm The Care Team, Conference Room 6:00pm-8:00pm Christian Ed. Committee Meeting	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14 OFFICE CLOSED Hawley Graduation Party, Fellow- ship Hall Montreat High School Con- ference Bastille Day Races
15 10:00am Worship Service Montreat Conference	16 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group, Youth Room Montreat Conference	17 Montreat Conference	18 Montreat Conference 8:00 AM-12:00 PM Men's Work Day 12:00pm-2:00pm Parish Nurse in Office	19 Montreat Conference	20 OFFICE CLOSED Montreat Conference	21 OFFICE CLOSED Montreat High School Con- ference
22 10:00am Worship Service	23 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group, Youth Room	24	25 8:00am-12:00pm Men's Work Day 12:00pm-2:00pm Parish Nurse in Office	26	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED
29 10:00am Worship Service	30 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group, Youth Room	31				

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION!

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