

*Fenton First Presbyterian Church*  
*Living with Christ, Serving the World*

December 2018

HOPE

PEACE

JOY

LOVE



# COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

By Pastor Robbie Carnes

**Are you going home for the holidays?** With Thanksgiving past and Christmas coming our thoughts dwell on memory making and spending time with family. For some this is joyful, for many it is hectic. For others it is heart wrenching. For all of us, for better or for worse, it is home.

## Home is where we belong

Home is where we are known and have an identity. Have you considered that our church is a home in which each of us is given an identity? We all have the same heavenly parent and are created in God's image, so all of us are brothers and sisters. As Christians, even if we don't know each other's given name, we know who we are as children of God and we know how to treat God's own.

**We also belong at home.** Christ died for the church and his life sustains the church. There is no time in our lives that we don't fit. We need young people to love, educate and to challenge us. We need middle-aged people to serve, build and plant us. We need older people to give wisdom, restraint and patience. We need married people, single, widowed and divorced. We need people who have it all together and people who are strung out. We need people who look like us and people who do not. All of us belong here because with all of us we can better understand who God is calling us to be and even who God is.

**We also have a place at home.** In a household everyone has their chores and tasks that they are best suited to accomplish—from feeding the family pets to cleaning the gutters. In our church-home, the Holy Spirit equips us for various tasks according to who we are and the seasons of our lives. We give and take, lead and follow, as the Spirit calls. Whether we are leading or listening, we all have a valuable place and we all have an ear for what the Spirit might call us to next. This allows us to encourage each other in faith and treat each other with mutual forbearance. In a home where we all have a place there is no need to jockey for position. We can rest in the fact that we are who God has made us and we are all doing what Jesus is asking in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Jesus makes the earth home

The marvel of Christmas is that Jesus makes the earth his home. Being born in a manger, the King of Heaven comes as a child to claim us as children and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whether we are born in a manger or in a palace, we are claimed by our Heavenly Father and it is that fact that defines us and gives us our ultimate identity.

Jesus, belonging to Heaven and claiming earth as his own, establishes in us a heavenly belonging that transforms our earthly one. There is nowhere we can go that we do not belong because we are sent. This is true of us as individuals and especially true of the church. As envoys of the Heavenly King, we have purpose no matter where we find ourselves. From the manger to the fields by night our belonging is in heaven and our mission is on earth.

Jesus made his home in a manger and through his life, death and resurrection we know that in the same way the Holy Spirit makes a home in us. If the Spirit dwells in our hearts then we can know that our true dwelling doesn't depend on our circumstance. Finding a true place to be comes from the interior work that the Holy Spirit does in us. Becoming centered through the Holy Spirit allows us to live with a balanced sense of place no matter what changes we might go through.



Having an identity, a sense of belonging and a place to be, all boils down to knowing that we are loved. When we come to terms with the fact that in Jesus' birth and in his death God loves us, we find that the deep yearnings of identity, belonging and place are all met. No longer do we need to strive for place or position. No longer do we need to carve out a name for ourselves. No longer do we need to push others away so that we might have space. We can simply enjoy the gift of love.

Jesus came to earth, as a baby in a manger with family around him, to claim the church as home, were our yearnings are met. We yearn for love and we find it in Christ. May your Christmas Season be filled with love, and may you and your family and our church find ways to love each other and the world through that love.

For more thoughts on this subject check out "Searching for Home: Spirituality for Restless Souls" by M. Craig Barnes in the Church Library.

Peace, Pastor Robbie Carnes

## DECEMBER WORSHIP

### **December 2nd, 1st Sunday of Advent, Hope, Communion Sunday**

**Pastor Lindsey**

"Come Down Home" Isaiah 64:1-9. "Down Home" is a phrase referring to what cuts through pretension and welcomes us as we are. Advent is the season in which we long for Christ's return because it is in Christ's presence that we are welcomed and are taught to welcome.

### **December 9th, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Peace**

**Pastor Robbie**

"Home is Where we meet" Psalm 85:1-2; 8-13. Home is where we gather together in fellowship. Home is also anywhere we meet God, face-to-face and hand-in-hand. Home is the assurance that Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, thus proving God's love for us. Home is knowing that we are saved by the grace of God. Home is anywhere that we meet God's people and welcome them in with the love of Christ.

### **December 16th, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Joy**

**Pastor Lindsey**

"Joy is Our True Home" 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24. No one ever said it will be easy. Sometimes life can be down right hard. Nevertheless, let us celebrate with rejoicing, prayer, and giving thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us. For no matter how hard the journey may be some days, we know that joy is our true home.

### **December 23rd, 4th Sunday of Advent, Love**

**Pastor Robbie**

"God Make the World His Home", Luke 1:46-55. Do not be afraid. Do the world's fears scream at us? Does everything seem to be spinning out of control? Are things upside down? Do not be afraid. God has made this world his home. All will be well.

### **December 24th, Christmas Eve**

**7pm Candle Light Service, 11pm Lessons & Carols Service**

**Pastor Lindsey**

"A Manger for the World", Luke 2:1-7, 8-20. Just as the baby Jesus found a manger to make his home in, may our hearts be mangers for Christ.

### **December 30th, 1st Sunday after Christmas, Special 10am Worship Service**

**Pastor Robbie**

"Going Home Again", Luke 2:22-40. As we move into the next season, we will join Anna in the work of evangelism: proclaiming to all the world that God sent Jesus into the world for the salvation of all. Let us give thanks to God for the showing forth of Christ in this world and for his showing forth in our own lives. And let us not leave our light to dwindle, but rather, let us, like Simeon and Anna, go forth to shine anew because the light of Christ has come into the world, and the darkness can never put it out.



# MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP

## MISSION UPDATE.....

### FFPC RESPONDS TO REFUGEE IN NEED.

The following is an email excerpt from Elder Sarah Martin-Fanone. Having been trained by Samaritas (A refugee resettlement program) she has had the opportunity to extend the love of Christ to a man from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rolly who has been resettled in Michigan.

“Rolly is a refugee, this is a legal status granted by the UN. What it means is that he has had to flee his home country, and he has no hope of a safe return. Refugees, by definition are working towards gaining citizenship in a new country. They do not get to choose the new country; it is assigned to them after and if they pass through more than a dozen official processes/checks/etc. This process of checks can take years. Once a refugee is granted asylum and assigned to a country, then they are assigned to an agency that is contracted by the government to resettle them in their new home. In this case, Rolly has spent the last eight years living outside of his home, the Democratic Republic of Congo. Samaritas is the agency that our government has assigned to his case. They are contracted to help him and will work with him to get his paperwork rolling. They are not given enough resources to help him indefinitely or even until he gains citizenship.”

At the time of this email Rolly had been in Michigan for almost 3 weeks.

“He is feeling more comfortable in his apartment and has met some of his neighbors. I was able to spend the morning with him today, and thanks to the generosity of our congregation, I delivered an assortment of office supplies, clothing, groceries, cleaning supplies, and a Visa gift card.”

“Finding employment is imperative for anyone who is newly settled. Rolly’s first job opportunity at a hotel did not materialize. However, he is actively looking for a job and is open to anything! (In the DRC he earned his master’s degree in economics and he worked in a bank.) There is a [Samaritas] volunteer who is going to take him to fill out applications at stores in his neighborhood tomorrow afternoon. He is ready to work!”

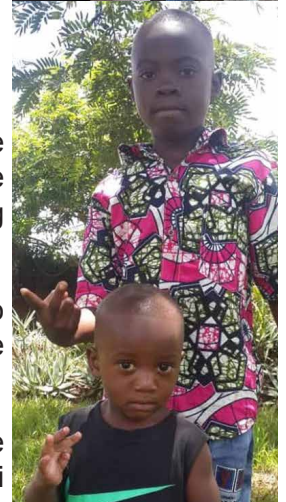
“His English is rapidly improving. We were able to communicate much faster today.”

“There is a PC (USA) church, Park United, just down the street from his apartment. I have been in contact with one of their leaders and they are ready to welcome him. Today we drove there to help familiarize him with the location. He is very excited to resume attending church.”

“We also spent some time today learning the DDOT bus system. The bus can take him to and from church, among other places, and will hopefully open some doors! He has a one month bus pass to start him off.”

“Finally, Rolly shared today that he is concerned about his sons, ages 10 and 3. Since he has left home, there has been no way to pay for their school fees. Primary school in Malawi is not free, and until he can send money the boys will have to stay home. If anyone knows of a group that might be able to sponsor these boys, please let me know. Their combined school fees equal about \$375 US for the year.”

Thank you, FFPC, for giving generously of your material goods and your prayers. We especially want to thank Sarah for her efforts! What a wonderful expression of love and care. If you are interested in contributing please contact Sarah Martin Fanone [sarah.martinfanone@gmail.com].



## INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

*“Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands—all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.” (Luke 6:38)*

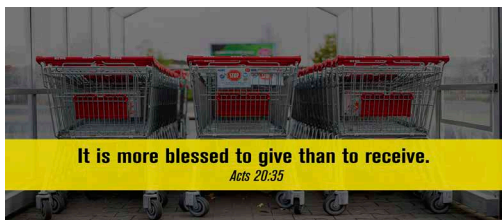
In 2018, FFPC gave \$1400 to One Great Hour of Sharing.

\$100 worth of donations was given to Samaritas New Americans program on behalf of FFPC.

The following items were donated for Rolly, who has recently been resettled from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

- Toilet paper, 16 rolls
- Visa gift card, \$50
- Dish towels, 9
- Stapler and Staples
- Hole punch
- Scissors
- Pads of Paper, 10
- Flashlight
- Tape
- Bathroom Cleaner
- Kitchen
- Cleaning Rags
- Assorted Canned Goods
- Small Trash Can
- Scarves, Gloves, Hats
- Assorted Office Supplies (erasers, pencils, pens, folders, pencils so, pencil sharpener, post-it notes)
- Undershirts
- Underwear

Thank you for your generosity!



**It is more blessed to give than to receive.**  
*Acts 20:35*

## FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN NOVEMBER 17, 2018

On November 17, 20 volunteers from our church spent the morning sorting food for distribution to the partner agencies. We sorted 5642 pounds of food that will create 188,550 meals for families. The Mission Committee wants to thank our members for their numerous methods of supporting the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan!

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan helps provide food to the hungry in 22 counties in the eastern half of Michigan. Over 19% of the people in eastern Michigan are food insecure. There are 400 partner agencies in 22 counties that work daily to make a difference. 98% of the money raised goes toward services.

Through your pledges to our church's program, the Mission Committee makes donations to the Food Bank. In addition, our members have supported their Empty Bowls fundraiser in September as well as volunteering our hands to assist them in sorting food for distribution.





## RING IN THE FEELING OF CHRISTMAS

### DECEMBER 8, 2018

Feel the Spirit of the Christmas Season by ringing bells for one hour for the Salvation Army. See the generosity of our Fenton neighbors.

We have two locations: VG's on Silver Lake Parkway and Walmart – East entry. This has been an annual mission for First Presbyterian Church of Fenton. Sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. There are instructions available.

Remember- When you hear a bell ring, that means an angel gets their wings.  
Be an angel for someone this Christmas.

## A PERFECT GIFT THIS ADVENT SEASON-DEC 23

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the perfect gift — the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light up. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth of love that our words cannot.

As important as gifts to loved ones are, we have an opportunity to give gifts that help many people we do not know through the Christmas Joy Offering. These gifts in particular draw us back to the manger and God's perfect gift to us — Jesus Christ. Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God.

During this Christmas and Advent Season, we celebrate leadership; past, present and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need which are provided through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We also support the offering to help our future leaders in the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Supporting these students helps the whole church develop leaders who reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity.

For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ — the truly perfect gift.



# STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

## TREASURER REPORT

As of October 2018

	Actual	Monthly Budget
Income	\$28,463.53	\$28,403.59
Expenses	\$24,841.38	\$28,403.59
Under	\$3,622.15	

Reported: November 19, 2018

Debera J.Bard

## BUILDING FUND REPORT

We would like to recognize and THANK our members for their faithful giving to the Building Fund over MANY YEARS! We hope to pay the mortgage down to less than \$250,000 by the end of this campaign 5/31/2019.

### Building Fund-Completing the Miracle (6/1/16-5/31/19) as of October 31, 2018

Pledged	\$351,941
Received to date:	\$310,151

Building Fund	
Building Account Balance:	\$20,548
Mortgage Remaining:	\$287,789

**Final giving Statements for the 2018 calendar year will be mailed out the week of January 7th.**

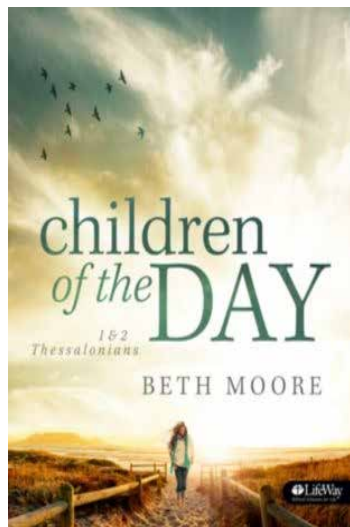
To ensure timely processing, please sure to submit all 2018 contributions to the church office no later then Monday, December 31st.

Any contribution received after December 31st, will count toward your 2019 giving statement.

Please call the office and speak to Kelly Sunman-Davis with any questions you may have regarding your financial giving.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## WINTER BIBLE STUDY AND WORKSHOPS



**WEDNESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S COVENANT** Children of the Day by Beth Moore runs January 9 – March 6 from 10am – noon in Fellowship Hall.

Walk the shores of Thessalonica with this verse-by-verse Bible study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians. This study sheds light on the relationships shared by those who comprise the church. Participants will gain assurance their circumstances and conditions are not coincidental. God's timing is impeccable! Whether you're facing family crises, medical diagnoses, relationship troubles, doubts, or fears, come to receive encouragement for living the Christian life now and hope for when Christ returns. Participant books are \$20 – register in Fellowship Hall by December 19.

*"You are children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness." 1 Thessalonians 5:5*



**PRAYER MINISTRY GROUP** meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 10am each month in the Sanctuary. Anyone interested is invited to join the group. For more information, please see David Eshleman.

**LOVE & LOGIC PARENTING COURSE:** Would you like to have a great time raising your kids, and have a few good laughs along the way? Join us for the next course!

Wednesdays, January 9 – February 13  
6:00pm- 7:45pm in the Youth Room  
\$35/family for materials (Free for returning families)  
RSVP in Fellowship Hall, Childcare provided



Coached by trained facilitator, Tina Ritchie, in an engaging video & discussion based format, participants will learn the 2 rules of Love and Logic:

1. Adults set firm limits in loving ways without anger, lectures, threats, or repeated warnings.
2. When children (or others) misbehave and cause problems, adults hand these problems back in loving ways.

It takes a great amount of love to set limits and allow others to experience the consequences of their poor decisions. When we do this, others learn the following logic: "Every choice I make has consequences. Life is better when I make good ones!"



# HOLIDAY HELP FROM OUR LIBRARY

## THINKING ABOUT ENABLING AS PART OF OUR "IMPERFECT DNA" LESSONS FROM BOUNDARIES AND LOVE AND LOGIC:

Dr. Hedy Cloud, co-author of the Boundaries books states, "Codependency is one of the deepest, almost pathologically archetypal behavior patterns in the human race. It is as though we are "enabling" as a species. It seems it goes that deep into our imperfect DNA, and rampant in business.

Actually, "imperfect DNA" is a good way of looking at this one, as it is a form of caring gone awry. People enable others because they care. But this kind of caring is not caring at all and is destructive to the person being helped. It is a toxic dependency. It keeps adult kids dependent on parents long after they should have been independent adults. It keeps addicted spouses and friends addicted long after they should have been allowed to hit bottom and wake up.

So make this distinction in your mind firmly: There is a difference between helping someone who is disabled, incapable or otherwise infirm, versus helping someone who is resisting growing up and taking care of what every adult has to be responsible for: herself or himself. When you find yourself in any way paying for someone else's responsibilities, not only are you stuck with a delayed ending, but you are probably harming that person."

Start to live your life without codependent habits, and give your kids, spouses, friends, and co-workers the gift of owning and solving their own problems.

**Does practicing boundaries sound like Love and Logic? Yes!**

**Want to learn more on how to do this?**

Check out a "Boundaries" book or one of the 28 books on various "Love and Logic" topics and techniques. Additionally, there are 5 DVD's and 24 CD's on Love and Logic topics that range from "Keeping Cool When Parenting Heats Up" to "Hope for Underachieving Kids" to how to help those with behavioral or physical disabilities. A complete list of topics can be found in our library, however all media resources must be checked out through the office. All books can be checked out through the library or resource cart. You might also consider taking a Love and Logic course to help you process and practice more successful relationship techniques.



**CareNotes**

Have you seen the new CareNotes booklets for teens, kids, and their families located outside the office? CareNotes provide a wealth of emotional, recovery, health, and grief support and information, addressing real-life emotional, psychological and spiritual needs. You can find information on topics like anxiety, anger, addiction, bullying, self-esteem, divorce, death, illness, and relationship issues. They are concise and easy-to-read, providing guidance, help, and healing for those who are hurting; a thorough resource guide is supplied. Let the office know if there is a topic you are interested in and do not see it in the rack. The Christian Education Committee can look for this topic in the next order.



## FINANCIAL PEACE CORNER

### A QUICK GUIDE TO YOUR

### EMERGENCY FUND BY RACHEL CRUZE

Wouldn't it feel great to have a buffer between you and the curveballs life throws at you—a cushion that helps you sleep soundly because it turns a major life crisis into just a slight inconvenience? Even if your AC goes on the fritz in mid-July, you're cool as can be. Why? Because you had your safety net in place!

And that little safety net is an essential part of the 7 Baby Steps. Say hello to the fully funded emergency fund, also known as Baby Step 3.

#### **What is an emergency fund?**

An emergency fund is simply money you've set aside for life's unexpected events. We're talking about true emergencies here, like a car wreck, a hospital visit or a leaky roof. Suddenly seeing that flat-screen television go on clearance or walking past a BOGO shoe sale doesn't qualify as an emergency. Sorry, you guys!

If you have debt, I recommend saving a starter emergency fund of \$1,000 first. Then, once you're out of debt, it's time to beef up those savings and build a fully funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses.

The reason to have an emergency fund is simple: You don't know what's going to happen. And no one wants to live at the mercy of life's twists and turns. Your emergency fund will come in handy if you suddenly lose your job or your HVAC breaks in the dead of winter. Don't let yourself be caught off guard! You need that safety net between you and life. Believe me . . .

When my husband, Winston, and I were newlyweds—we're talking 30 days into marriage—I backed into a car in the post office parking lot. Was it just a little fender bender? Oh, no . . . the other car's door was bent in the opposite direction and I felt terrible. The good news was, no one was hurt and we had insurance. The bad news was, our deductible was \$1,000—and that was a lot of money for us. Thankfully, we had our starter emergency fund there to pull from, but if we hadn't, a bad situation could have become much, much worse.

#### **How big should my emergency fund be?**

The more stable your income and household are, the less you need in your emergency fund.

If you're part of a two-income household or you've had a steady job for several years, then a three-month emergency fund is probably just fine. But if you're a one-income family, you're self-employed, or you earn straight commission, then a six-month emergency fund is probably a better idea for you since a job loss could make you unable to pay the bills.

You should also aim for a six-month fund if someone in your house has a chronic medical condition that requires frequent visits to the doctor or hospital. Even if there's room in your monthly budget to pay for the expenses, it's good to be prepared in case a big emergency hits.

Where should I keep my emergency savings?

Your emergency fund should be liquid, meaning you need to keep it in a place where you can get to it easily and quickly. The best option is a simple checking account or money market account that comes with a debit card or check-writing privileges. That way, you can pay that doctor or mechanic quickly and with no headaches.

But make sure you're not keeping your emergency fund in a place that's too easy to access. You don't want to be tempted to dip into it! Winston and I keep ours at a completely different bank than our other accounts to make sure it's as far away as possible!

#### **When should I use my emergency fund?**

When a sudden expense pops up, it can feel like an emergency—but that might not be true. Here are three questions to ask yourself to determine if you need to tap into your emergency savings:

1. Is it unexpected?
2. Is it necessary?
3. Is it urgent?

The more you answer yes, the more likely that situation you're in is an emergency and justifies using money from your emergency fund.

## **How to Build an Emergency Fund**

### **1. Make a budget and live by it.**

List all your monthly income and any expenses. When you're making your budget, you'll be able to see how much money you have available to put toward your savings goal. This will help you as you get ready to jump into the next step.

### **2. Set a monthly savings goal.**

This is how much you want to set aside each month to continue building up your emergency fund. I know, taking money from your paycheck and putting it away to save for the future can be really hard. But you'll be surprised at how quickly your savings can grow if you're consistent about adding to it! Don't know how much is the right amount? Go back to step one and work that budget.

### **3. Adjust how much you save.**

As time goes by, you might be able to save even more! If you or your spouse get a promotion at work, that means you can add more cash to your savings! Be sure to look over your budget for new ways to tighten the purse strings and up the amount you're saving.

## **Quick Ways to Save \$1,000**

One of the easiest ways to beef up your emergency fund is to sell some stuff! Go take a look in your garage or dig through your closet—is there anything you could part with? Selling some items that are collecting dust can add up to major cash in your emergency savings. And every little bit helps! You'd be surprised at how quickly \$5 here or \$10 there can add up. Plus, you're doing some decluttering at the same time. Win-win!

And let's not forget about that wonderful four-letter word: work. Take on a part-time job. Start a side business. Look into dog walking in the mornings before your day job or babysitting those cute kids next door every other weekend. It's little things like this that can really help you stack extra cash fast!

Another great way to find extra cash? Take my 14-Day Money Finder Challenge! You might be pleasantly surprised at how much cash you can find when you take a closer look at your lifestyle. The average person ends up finding \$2,000 for the year—so go take the challenge and see how much extra cash you can find!

## **Start Your Emergency Fund Today!**

Take a second and dream with me—can you imagine what it would feel like to have no debt payments and have six months' worth of expenses saved in the bank sitting pretty in your emergency fund? Seriously, stop and think about what life would feel like. You'd be able to breathe easier with that safety net in place, wouldn't you? An emergency fund is sort of like insurance—it costs you some money upfront, but it covers you when things go bad.

Now that you have that picture in your mind, start putting your emergency fund in place! Get on a budget, pay off your debt, and begin saving. You'll be amazed at how quickly your emergency fund piles up when you aren't making debt payments! But the best part? You'll feel an amazing sense of security after completing Baby Step 3.

In fact, if the roof leaks or the washer breaks, don't be shocked if you end up thinking, Eh, what's the big emergency anyway? That's the peace of mind that comes with completing your emergency fund! It turns what would have been a major emergency into just a little inconvenience.

# YOUTH GROUP

## MASSANETTA MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Parents and current 5th – 8th graders,

It is Massanetta Middle School Conference registration time! Based on your initial input for session choice, I have submitted a request to hold spots for Session I, with us leaving Fenton early morning Wednesday, June 19 and returning late Sunday evening, June 23.

Total cost for this conference is \$400 (\$375 + \$25 per person for gas and 1 group meal) with a \$100 deposit check made out to FFPC due to the church office by December 20. Another \$100 is due February 1, 2019, and the balance of \$200 is due April 7. Scholarship assistance is available – please see me!!

Adult chaperones are also asked to cover this fee. I will be attending and do have 2 adults already interested in chaperoning, however, schedules can change. Please see me if you are also interested. I do ask that parents keep in mind the importance of giving your youth space to discover their strengths and who God is to them. Massanetta is a safe place to do this!

Please note: FFPC pays for the conference IN FULL upon final registration details which will be by early January 2019.

Upon receipt of your deposit in the office, I will email you the Group Hold Number to complete your individual online registration. This will include choosing your workshop preferences. If you do not have easy online access, I can complete registration for you.



**The theme is At the Door:** The Summer of 2019 we will find ourselves “At the Door” in Matthew 7:7-12 - will you knock? Join us as we ask and seek out what it might mean to be in relationship with God. Our personal faith journeys are full of many types of doors: surprise doors, open doors, closed doors, big doors, small doors, even revolving doors. We will navigate these doors together, discover some of God’s good gifts, and live in loving community at “Netta.”

Massanetta’s Middle School Conference transforms the faith journey of hundreds of middle schoolers from all around the country. Every aspect of this conference is crafted with middle schoolers in mind. Conference activities like keynote, recreation, encounter groups, and workshops are centered on the theme of the summer. We promise it will be one of the best things your youth does all year!”

If you have any questions, please reach out to me. I want to help you feel comfortable with the decision of allowing your child to participate in this wonderfully growing experience.

In Christ,  
Tina



Youth and young adults helping with the Turkey Dinner – absent from the pic is Tyler Bard.  
Great job serving & cleaning up !!!

## CARE PACKAGE THANK YOU'S

Dear FFPC Youth,

Thank you so much for the unexpected care package! Perfect timing because I was almost out of popcorn, haha! I appreciate it a ton! Hope you all are well! Love, Zoey Howieson

From D'onte Fetzer: I received my box!!! Thank you all so much. I'm super grateful! Send my love to the group. Miss you all.

Ann Fetzer and David Hall called and texted their appreciation too. This is a great reminder to us that our young adults appreciate love sent from their extended church family.



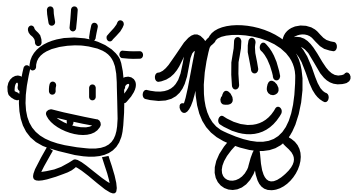
## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH GROUP

Meetings are from 5-7pm at church unless otherwise noted.

\*Sat. December 8: Salvation Army Bell Ringing time 12pm-1:00pm

- December 9: Youth Group
- December 16: Christmas Party and Laser Tag 12-5pm Cost: \$20
- January 5-6: Youth Sunday planning lock-in 6pm – 10am
- January 13: Youth Group
- January 20: Youth Group
- January 27: Youth Group

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**KIDS  
FOR CHRIST**

## CLUB 45

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS AND FRIENDS

12/16 – Christmas cards and activity

1/20 - Fellowship & Fun

2/10 – Valentine's cards

3/10 – St. Patty's cards

This group focuses on mission and fellowship and meets in the Art Room from 12:30 -1:30 after worship. Please see Cathy Hollopetter for more information



## GOSPEL PROJECT SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR NURSERY CHILDREN THROUGH 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Nursery and preschool classes offered during both the 9am and 11am worship services. Kindergarten - 5th grade class offered during 11am worship only

Weekly emails are sent to parents and teachers sharing the main Scripture lesson along with family talking points. The Christian Education Committee hopes that this information supports faith learning at home, and deepens your relationship with Jesus and one another. We are finding that class time engages the children, and children are regularly opening their Bibles! We are also pleased to hear that adults are learning too!

Teachers and shepherds are needed for the Winter 2019 quarter "Out of Egypt" from December 30 – March 17. Preschool and nursery volunteers are asked to see PJ Collier, and elementary volunteers are asked to see Deb Bard.

**The "Out of Egypt" topics are listed below. Please see Tina Ritchie with any questions or if you would like to be added to the weekly email lessons and family talking points.**

### Unit 4 – God's People in Egypt (Genesis, Exodus)

Joseph Sent to Egypt  
Joseph Explained Dreams  
Joseph Saved His Family  
Moses was Born and Called  
The Plagues and the Passover  
The Red Sea Crossing

### Unit 5 – Toward the Promised Land (Exodus)

Bread from Heaven  
Jethro Helped Moses  
The Ten Commandments

### Unit 6 – Worship in the Wilderness (Exodus, Leviticus)

The Golden Calf  
The Tabernacle was Built  
Rules for Sacrifice

# WORSHIP

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT???



To celebrate and connect the idea of coming home during the Christmas season, we will have a "Family Christmas Celebration" during worship on Joy Sunday, December 16 during 11am worship. In lieu of the children's pageant, we will gather together to ponder the meaning of Emmanuel and the gift brought by "God with us." For it is in Christ that we truly find our home.



JOIN US FOR  
OUR HEART CHRIST'S HOME  
*Christmas Eve*  
PASTORS: LINDSEY & ROBBIE CARNES  
CANDLELIGHT FAMILY SERVICE.....7:00 P.M.  
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS...11:00 P.M.

# ADVENT SEASON DATES

WORSHIP, LEARN, SERVE

**December 8th: Salvation Army Bell Ringing Event**

**December 9th 2nd Sunday in Advent**

**December 16th 3rd Sunday of Advent**

Family Christmas Celebration

Youth Choirs singing

Youth Group Christmas Party

**December 17th and 19th**

**Family Promise Ministry at Flushing  
Presbyterian Church**

**December 23rd 4th Sunday of Advent  
Chancel Choir Cantata 'Magnificat'**

**December 24th Christmas Eve**

7pm Family Service

11pm Candle Light Service

**December 30th**

10am Single Worship Service

10am Caroling Service





# WORSHIP CALENDAR

## December 9th, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Peace

**Preaching:** Pastor Robbie Carnes

**Sermon:** "Home is Where We Meet"

**Scripture:** Psalm 85:1-2; 8-13

**Layreader:** Doug Hartwell

**Ushers:** 9am Fran & Dean Moore  
11am Team 6

**Sound Tech:** Mark Gibb

**Coffee Hour:** Orange Team

**Banker:** TBD

**PreSchool:** 9am Sarah Kasprzak  
11am Pre-K Lindsey Gibb & Waverly Ritchie  
K-2 Craig Williams & Lorraine Eshleman  
3-5 Julie Grams & Skye Hodgkin

**Nursery:** Heidi Howieson & Ina Golden

## December 16, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Joy

**Preaching:** Pastor Lindsey Carnes

**Sermon:** "Joy is Our True Home"

**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Layreader:** Youth

**Ushers:** 9am Jack Allen & Greg Dean  
11am Team 1

**Sound Tech:** Mark Grams

**Coffee Hour:** Yellow Team

**Banker:** TBD

## December 23rd, 4th Sunday of Advent, Love

**Preaching:** Pastor Robbie Carnes

**Sermon:** "God Makes the World His Home"

**Scripture:** Luke 1:46-55

**Layreader:** TBD

**Ushers:** 9am Jim Lindsay & Mark Jacobson  
11am Team 1

**Sound Tech:** Ina Golden

**Coffee Hour:** Green Team

**Banker:** TBD

## December 24th Christmas Eve

7pm Family Service

11pm Candle Light Service

## December 30th, 4th Sunday of Advent, Love

**One Service 10:00am**

**Preaching:** Pastor Robbie Carnes

**Sermon:** "God Make the World His Home"

**Scripture:** Luke 1:46-55

**Layreader:** TBD

**Ushers:** 10am Sherry Hunt & Ken Wensel

**Sound Tech:** Jay Kirkey

**Coffee Hour:** Blue Team

**Banker:** TBD



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Faith in Femininity would like to thank you for the continuous support you have given us! During the FFPC drive in October, we collected almost \$300 as well as product donations. Additionally, the marketing class at Lake Fenton High School sold countless buttons and raised a whopping \$1,000 for Faith in Femininity! We had a productive packaging party with the help of 28 youth and adults on November 17 during the service blitz, and are so excited to donate the products around Fenton and Flint. We have many wonderful ideas brewing for our mission. so stay tuned!

## DOWNTOWN READERS BOOK CLUB:

Meetings take place the last Tuesday of the month, at 11:00am, in the Youth Room.

The Book for January is Sarah's Key, by Tatiana de Rosnay. The book for February is Husband Hunters, by Anne De Courcy. Men and women are encouraged to join!

## BOOK BINDERS

will gather on December 11th at Shirley Israel's home, 16313 Quail Ridge Ct., at 6:00 pm for our Christmas potluck and book discussion.

The December book is A Redbird Christmas by Fannie Flagg. The book for January is Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. Please call Shirley or the church if you have any questions.



MEN OF FENTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WE'RE HAVING BREAKFAST.

**DATE** 1st Saturday of EACH month

**TIME** 8:00am

**WHERE** Shirley's Cafe and Grill, 522 W Broad St, Linden, MI 48451

YOU'RE INVITED. BRING A FRIEND.

PLEASE Email Pastor Robbie if you plan to come..

See you there!



"Oh Giving Christmas Tree"  
"Oh Giving Christmas Tree"

Please help us fill the "Giving Tree" located in the New Narthex. This tree is sponsored by the Book Binders.

Suggested items are mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, underwear, socks, pajamas. All items in children's sizes up to size 16.

# LET'S CELEBRATE



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Carey Muntin	Dec 2
Kim Wilcox	Dec 4
Greg Dean	Dec 6
Doug Jacobs	Dec 8
Karen Wensel	Dec 8
Larry Zimble	Dec 10
Jim Murray	Dec 13
Sarah Smith	Dec 14
Nancy Berger	Dec 19
Barbara Hungerford	Dec 19
Mike Hussar	Dec 19
Jon O'Connell	Dec 19
Mary Zimble	Dec 19
Jill Hiscock	Dec 20
Melissa Browne	Dec 21
Amber Danules	Dec 21
Dennis Beardslee	Dec 25
Brandon McLive	Dec 27
Scott Rourke	Dec 27
Elizabeth Thomas	Dec 27
Meghan Smith	Dec 29
Tracy Williams	Dec 29
John Foguth	Dec 31
Don W. Kutchey	Dec 31

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Michael & Amy Probyn	Dec 16
Dick & Nancy Berger	Dec 7
Jerry & Bev Welch	Dec 7
Bob & Nessie Brownlee	Dec 23
Spencer & Sharon Sutherby	Dec 24
Paula & Henry Glomski	Dec 29

# 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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