

# Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Living with Christ, Serving the World

NEWSLETTER April 2019



## A Living Hope

Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

By his great mercy he has given us  
a new birth into a living hope through  
the resurrection of Jesus Christ  
from the dead, 1 Peter 1:3



## Pastor's Article

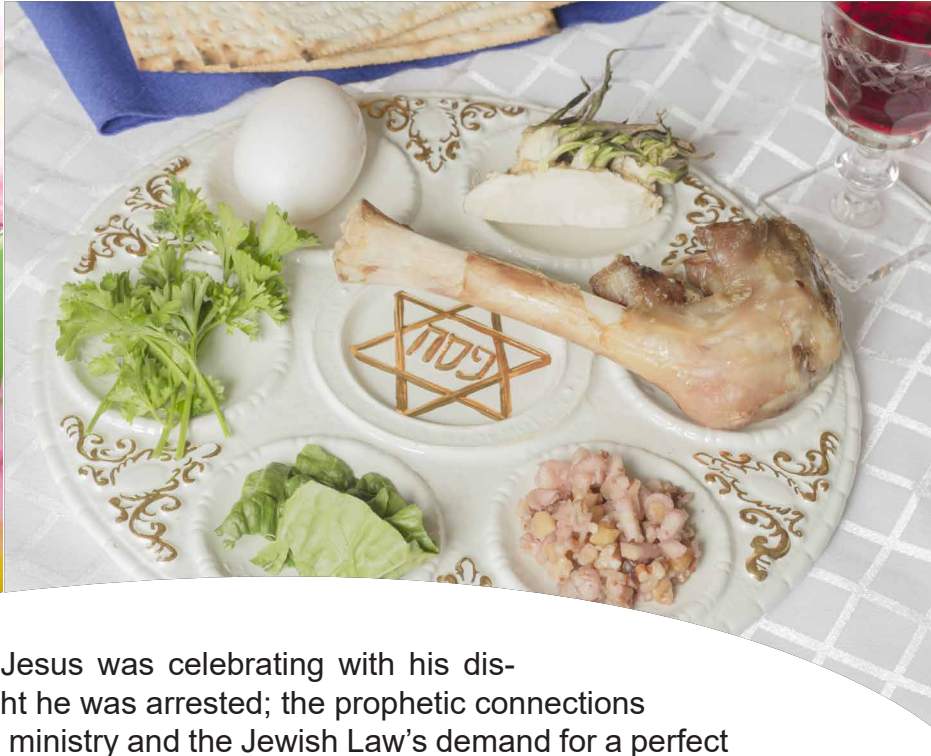
### Resurrection

It is no coincidence that we celebrate Easter in the spring time. While it is Northern-Hemisphere-centric, seeing the world come to life after the dark of winter hints at the glorious possibilities of spiritual resurrection that Jesus offers us. Many of us look forward to spring every year, and we can rejoice with the same expectation of what God's resurrection power will do in our lives and our communities.

There is some speculation about the origin of the word Easter. Many scholars connect it with an Anglo-Saxon and German goddess named Eostre (there are many other derivations). The month of April was associated with this goddess who was venerated as the divinity of the dawn and therefore connected with spring and new life. There has been much talk about the power of the Christian faith to redeem such words and celebrations, making what was once pagan and idolatrous into the most important Christian holiday of the year.

There also has been some great concern about the use of Easter in our culture at large. Things like baby chicks and bunnies, egg hunts and chocolate candies, are feared to take away from the spiritual and eternal aspects of the holiday. Hallmark and Russell Stover, among others, have gone to great effort to highlight the consumer elements of the holiday rather than the religious.

This has been such a concern that some Christians have felt the need to reject the use of the word Easter and return to an ancient use of the term 'Paschal'. St. Bede, of Ireland, uses the term "Paschal month", referring to April, before the term Easter came into existence. This word is derived from the Hebrew and Greek words for Passover. Christians and churches who use this word will refer to the Paschal Lamb and Paschal season. This helps to redirect the holiday to spiritual concerns and connects our celebration of Resurrection Sunday to the Jewish celebration of Passover. This very is appropriate because that is what



Jesus was celebrating with his disciples the night he was arrested; the prophetic connections between Jesus' life and ministry and the Jewish Law's demand for a perfect sacrifice are profound.

There is, however, some evidence that the word Easter actually came from a German word for resurrection. Without stretching too far into unfamiliar linguistic territory, it seems that an ancient form of the word resurrection could be the source of the word Easter without any pagan and Christian confluence. It sounds like using the term Easter is probably okay. [for more check out this website <https://answersingenesis.org/holidays/easter/is-the-name-easter-of-pagan-origin/>].

Whether you call it Paschal or the Easter Season I do pray that you experience the joy of new life this coming season. It is the Gospel itself: that our Paschal Lamb, Jesus, would give up his own life for the sins of the world, so that we might be Children of God. This new life is what all of the green grass, new growth, renewed energy, bunny rabbits and chocolates are all pointing to. We are no longer defined by cold hearts, fruitless lives, and blizzarding, biting words. Because of Jesus' resurrection we are defined by a new life, a redeemed purpose, a growing energy and a profound love.

May your Easter/Paschal Season be blessed by our loving Father in Heaven, renewed by the indwelling of the Spirit, and enjoyed in the presence of Christ.

Pastor Robbie



# Mission & Stewardship



## Canfield, Ohio Intergenerational Mission Trip

July 7th-12th Total Cost: \$300 – Reduced cost to cover meals only for adults wishing to stay at a hotel

We have done this before but not this way. People of all ages 6th grade and up are welcome to come and serve where we will partner with several organizations doing urban and rural mission work in this ethnically diverse area. There will be opportunity for middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults to serve as they are able and then come together in the evenings and enjoy worship, fellowship and testimony of what God has done among us. Register in Fellowship Hall and submit a \$100 deposit to the office ASAP. Please see Tina Ritchie for more information.

*Micah 6:8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.*

Hope you can join us!

## Rolly Update

I was able to visit him at his home in Fraser yesterday and I am happy to report that he is doing well! We visited for a bit and I delivered some financial gifts from a couple of generous individuals. Many of you have asked me how he is doing and I will try to give a short update below.

Rolly likes his job, because he likes that he has a job. He cleans motel rooms, works at the front desk, and does some maintenance work inside and out. It was not a pleasant job during the polar vortex. He works 10AM-6PM Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday and some Sundays. He makes minimum wage, \$9.25/hour. He has come to the realization that this is not a sustainable wage for a person trying to support a family of four.

English is getting easier and easier for him. He takes online courses in English every day. I can attest to his improving skills; yesterday was the first time that we did not need to utilize Google translate! He is also taking drivers training online. He will qualify to take the state drivers exam in the next couple of months. After he has a driver's license he would like to look for a better paying job.



His family is doing well. He misses them fiercely! He has filed all of the paperwork to reunite them, but reunification process will probably take 2 years. Because Malawi is a developing nation with a per capita income average of \$338 US in 2017, his wife has no real hope of work while she is there. Rolly is sending her money every month. He is grateful that we were able to fund school for his boys. He sent me these photos of the boys in their school uniforms.

More good news to share is that he is attending church at First Presbyterian of Warren. He cannot go every week because of work, but he has a ride to get him there when he is able. They have welcomed him to their services with open arms and he is glad to be back in a community of faith.

I'll close this update now before it gets too long. I want to express my gratitude to all of you. Thank you so very much for helping me to aid this family! It has been wonderful getting to know Rolly over these past 5 months. I have big hopes for his future!

Peace, Sarah Martin Fanone

## Food Bank of Eastern Michigan - March 16, 2019



Over 19% of the people in eastern Michigan are food insecure! The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan provides food to over 400 partner agencies in 22 counties. A hungry person or family could be your child's friend from school, your co-worker or even your neighbor.

Here is just one neighbor's story from the Food Bank clients: Daniel supports his wife and two children by working long hours, six days a week, as a painter. In the past, Daniel's family had to make some tough choices between paying for their bills and buying food. The family found assistance through their local food pantry, which distributes healthy food at his daughter's school. "By helping [us] provide for our children now, they are helping us give our children a chance at a better future."

On Saturday, March 16th, eight scouts and five adults performed a mission outreach at the Food Bank on Lapeer Road in Flint. They worked together to repackage frozen squash. In 3 hours they processed 1,400 lb of food for area families. The group carpooled together from church.

Through your pledges to our church's program, the mission committee makes donations to the Food Bank: \$1= 6 meals; \$20 can feed a family of four for 10 days. 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. The Mission Committee wants to thank our members for their numerous methods of supporting the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan!



# Christmas In Action

*"Together We Can Make A Difference!"*



**CHRISTMAS IN ACTION**

**Tri-County**

Fenton • Linden

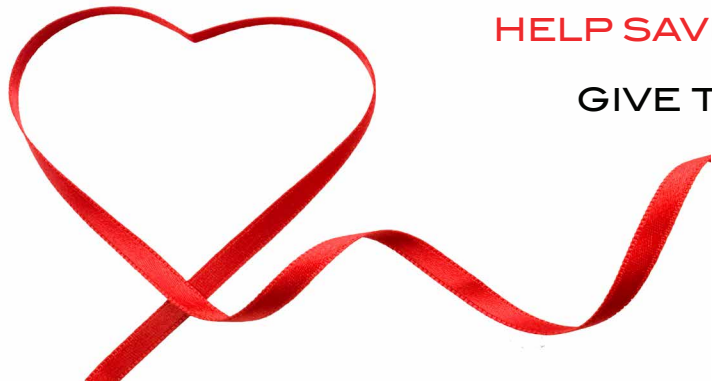
Tyrone Township • Argentine Township

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization Serving the Tri-County area

Christmas In Action (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 11 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 27; 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).

# SAVE THE DATE! Red Cross Blood Drive



**HELP SAVE A LIFE**

**GIVE THE GIFT OF BLOOD**



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST - 9AM-1PM**

## EASTER FIND

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

- ACTS 17:27 NIV

## EASTER BASKET

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

- 2 TIMOTHY 1:12 NIV



# ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

### OGHS Palm Sunday, April 14th, 2019

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during Palm Sunday, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

### One Great Hour of Sharing, makes a difference in the world.

#### PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

- Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and provides support for refugees
- Receives 32% of funds raised

#### PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

- Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
- Receives 36% of funds raised

#### SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)

- Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice, and educates presbyterians about the impact of these issues.
- Receives 32% of funds raised

PAUL JEFFREY/ACT


**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
 HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

*join us!*

**You**  
 shall be called  
 repairers  
 of the breach  
 — ISAIAH 58

SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH  
 OUR NEIGHBORS-IN-NEED  
 AROUND THE WORLD BY  
 PROVIDING RELIEF FROM  
 NATURAL DISASTERS, FOOD  
 FOR THE HUNGRY, AND  
 SUPPORT FOR THE POOR  
 AND OPPRESSED.

# Christian Education

The Christian Education committee promotes education of children to adults to help better understand God's amazing love for all of us in spite of our failings. Through discussion and study, we pray that we will all learn to live in relationship and accept God's grace.

## Weekly Bible Study Opportunities at FFPC

- \*Sunday Morning Bible Study has ended and is planned to resume in May.
- \* Study books are available for purchase though the church office or during class time.
- \*Childcare is offered for all adult education classes as needed. Please see Tina Ritchie or call the church office to make a request.
- \*All are welcome to join!

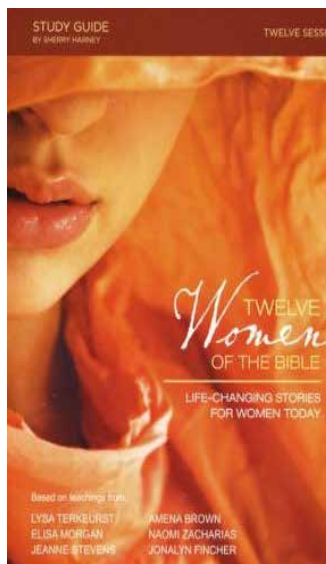


### Prayer Ministry

This group meets the 2nd

and 4th Mondays of each month from 10-11a.m. in the Sanctuary. This

group encourages prayerfulness throughout our congregation, seeking to build our life together on a foundation of prayer. We seek to be open to God's presence and God's sense of direction and empowerment. See David Eshleman for more information.



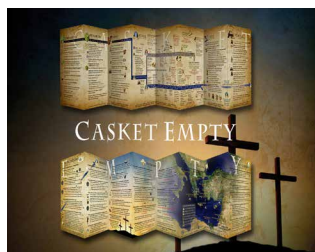
### Monday Evening Women's Covenant

Twelve Women of the Bible--Life Changing Stories for Women of Today. Meets through April 22 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Conference Room.

Led by Pastor Lindsey, You'll discover lessons from each of these women that will help you persevere through the circumstances you are facing today.

Remaining topics are as follows:

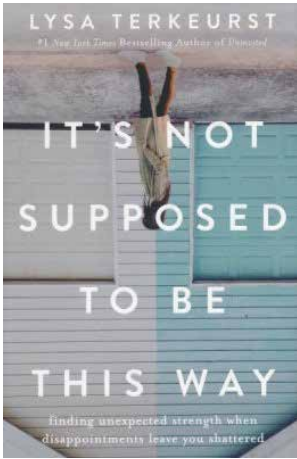
- 4/1 Mary of Bethany: Putting Our Faith into Action (Elisa Morgan)
- 4/8 Martha: Finding Our Identity in Jesus (Amena Brown)
- 4/15 The Woman at the Well: Turning Our Messes into Messages (Lysa TerKuerst)
- 4/22 The Syrophoenician Woman: Approaching God with Persistency and Boldness (Naomi Zacharias)



### Tuesday Bible Study

11am – 12:15 pm in the Conference Room. This morning discussion on the New Testament portion of CASKET EMPY discussion takes a deeper exploration of the CASKET EMPTY Bible study book. Led by Pastor Lindsey, this class meets in the Conference Room.





### Wednesday Women's Covenant

April 24 – May 29 from 10am – noon in Fellowship Hall

“It's Not Supposed to be This Way – finding unexpected strength when disappointments leave you shattered” by Lysa Terkeurst

What happens when life looks very different from the reality we long for? In this study Lysa offers a Biblical perspective and hard-won advice to encourage readers facing their own challenges. Find unexpected strength while wrestling between faith and feelings, and learn how to stand through uncertainty and trust in God's goodness. The first two chapters will need to be read before class begins.

Cost is \$23 for the Book and study guide - Register in Fellowship Hall by March 31.

## Library Committee

**Book review for April from the Library committee. By Margie Congdon**

When I learned that FFPC had a library, I envisioned shelves filled with old tomes written in Latin or Olde English. How happily surprised I was to find out that our library has current titles on a multitude of subject matter relevant to our present-day lives. One such book is, *Life Makeovers*, by Cheryl Richardson, which is comprised of 52 essays (one for each week of the year) that explore practical and inspiring ways to both reflect and take action to improve one's life. Please visit our library, located in the conference room, or our book cart, located in the New Narthex, and check out some of our great books!



### Lenten Simple Meals

Wednesdays through April 10th in Fellowship Hall

This 5-week adult education program takes place on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Beginning at 5:45p.m. we share a simple meal of soup and salad. Worship and discussion is from 6:30-7:30. Suitable for families, youth and adults

### Upcomming Lessons

Wed 4/3--Garden of Gethsemane  
Wed 4/10--Herod's and Pilate's palaces



Men's Group joins Pastor Robbie at 8 a.m. the 1st Saturday of the month at a local restaurant for fellowship and prayer. All men are welcome; please provide Pastor Robbie with your email so that you can receive handy reminders.

# Financial Corner



## Kids and Money: Four Steps to Responsibility

Dr. Charles Fay of the Love and Logic Institute

**Note from Tina Ritchie:** Here is part two in this series in learning tips on how you can give your kids the gift of financial responsibility. Watch for part three next month. You can also find more solutions to raising financially responsible kids by checking out the audio CD “Parents are Not ATMs” or the book From Innocence to Entitlement from our church library.

### Talk About Hard Work and Saving Within Earshot of Your Kids

Modeling is the most powerful teaching tool! That’s why it’s smart to let our kids see how hard we must work to earn and save money.

Kids shouldn’t be overwhelmed with our adult problems. Nevertheless, it does them no favors to keep our financial struggles a secret. Have you ever noticed how kids seem to best remember what they think they are not supposed to hear?

One of the most powerful ways of teaching anything is to talk about it with another adult within earshot of our kids.

When their kids are nearby, wise parents talk on the phone with a friend and say things like, “I’m proud of myself. I wanted to buy that new phone, but I didn’t. It was hard to resist, but I need to save money for groceries.”

Wise parents take their kids to the bank with them so that their children can hear them say to the teller, “I need to put money into my saving account, so I don’t spend it on something I don’t need.”

Smart parents take their kids to the store and think out loud, “I wonder if I really need this? Uh... I’d better put it back. That’s too expensive.”

This technique is only powerful if we resist the urge to tell our kids what they should be learning by watching and listening to us.

### Love and Logic’s Four Steps to Responsibility

#### Step One: Give the child a task he or she can handle.

When it comes to teaching kids responsible money management, the first step involves giving them some type of allowance or “practice money” each week. With younger children, an “allowance” of cookies works better than money.

#### Step Two: Hope and pray the child blows it.

Most folks agree that it’s better for a child to learn money management by eating their cookies too fast at age three than spending their paycheck too fast at age thirty-three! As we always say, the road to wisdom is paved with mistakes. Mistakes made earlier in life have the smallest price tags.

Don't fall into the trap of reminding or lecturing your child at this point. Parents who do, rob their children of essential learning opportunities.

### **Step Three: Let empathy and logical consequences do the teaching.**

When Toby ate all of his crackers before "pay day," did his parents get angry? No! Did they lecture and say, "A graham cracker saved is a graham cracker earned." No! Did they give in when he threw a fit? No!

With great sadness in their voices, they pointed to the large calendar on the refrigerator and said, "Oh Toby... this is so sad. We give more graham crackers on Wednesday. That's two more days."

Because Toby was a normal child, he threw a major fit.

### **Step Four: Give the same task again.**

The fourth step to responsibility involves avoiding the temptation to lecture, remind, or tell the child what he/she "should have" learned from the consequence.

Toby's parents just kept providing crackers on Wednesdays and Saturdays, the scheduled allowance days. Each week they noticed something interesting. Each week, his little stack of graham lasted a bit longer.



## **The Most Valuable Gift**

A major long-term goal of Love and Logic is to raise kids who grow up and miss us... rather than our money. Isn't it sad that some adult children only call home when they've run out of money?

There are few gifts we can give our children that are more valuable than knowing how to handle money wisely. Adults who lack these skills live lives full of disappointment and stress. Money can't buy happiness... but wasting it can sure create a life of sadness!

**There's good news!** By following the tips listed above, there's no need for our kids to live their lives fearing the bill collector.

A good friend of mine was raised with Love and Logic. Reflecting back on her childhood, she often comments:

*When we were kids, our parents always gave us what we needed... and expected us to earn what we wanted. It seemed like we were always asking the neighbors for odd jobs. I'll never forget the summer I spent washing cars, mowing lawns, and pulling weeds. By that August, I'd earned enough for the stereo I wanted. I'll never forget the feeling of pride I felt going to the store and paying for it with my own money!*

## **It's never too early or too late to give your kids the gift of pride!**

Learn more about how you can give your kids the gift of financial responsibility in the final part of this series!

# Family Ministry

Are you a Parent, Grandparent, or Godparent seeking ways to make faith a daily part of your family's life? Here are a few resources you can turn to for most ages and stages of life; some also include ideas for couples and young adults! Please see Tina Ritchie for more information.



1. <https://www.lifeway.com/en/shop/the-gospel-project/kids/app>

Lifeway Kids App supports Sunday school learning at home. Simply download the free kiosk app and select The Gospel Project for Kids app to access fun activities that complement what kids learn each week. The LifeWay Kids App is free and it's available from the App Store® and Google Play®. In-app purchases are available for even more content.



2. <https://www.jellytelly.com/blog>

This site has ideas and activities in the following categories:

- Culture & Media
- Bible & Faith
- Family Devotions
- Activities & Crafts
- Kids & Parenting
- New on JellyTelly
- Holidays & Seasonal

On the Home Page at [jellytelly.com](http://jellytelly.com) you can also sign up and download the app to watch shows & movies “that lead your kids into a life of faith where they walk with God every day, at home or on the go!”



3. <http://vibrantfaithathome.org/>

This site seeks to equip and empower your family to:

- TALK with each other about their faith
- PRAY together in ways that are comfortable and comforting
- RITUALIZE their important moments
- REACH OUT in service and support of others.

Discover dozens of creative activities to help you incorporate faith practices into your family routine. On the Home Page move your mouse over "Activities" in the top menu items, navigate to your audience group and type of activity you'd like, then click.



4. <http://blog.beamingbooks.com/>

The blog page has information in the following categories:

The Values Project

Parenting

Faith Resources

News

Sign up for their monthly newsletter to receive The Values Project content and the latest news from Beaming Books. Scroll down and sign up on the right side of the page.

# Youth Group



## Youth Sunday Recap

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**Youth Sunday Worship on March 3 was inspiring!** The theme on this Transfiguration Sunday chosen by Waverly Ritchie and Lindsey Gibb was “Within the Fire.” All parts of worship were written by youth, and we thank Pastor Lindsey and Session for supporting us in acting as communion servers. We are fortunate to have such faithful and dedicated youth in our midst. Participants and writers, along with Lindsey and Waverly, were Annabeth Carnes, Casey Cohen, Madeline Gibb, Skye Hodgkin, Megan Hollopeter, Jacob Kinser, Liza Kirkey, Massimo Martin-Fanone, Matthew Maxwell, and Bella & Mason Skaff. We’d also like to thank our sound tech guys for that day, Doug Watters and Mark Gibb, for their patience in assisting us put together the many technical components of this service.

## Congratulations!

**Congratulations to Waverly Ritchie and Lindsey Gibb for being chosen as “Enablers” (small group leaders) for this summer’s Massanetta Middle School Conferences for June Sessions 1 & 2.** This is Waverly’s second year and Lindsey’s first! They were chosen out of several hundred applicants across the country. This dynamic leadership program provides a place where youth lead alongside adults who serve as mentors, facilitators, encourages, older siblings, and faith friends.

We can’t wait to see their leadership skills in action when a group of our middlers attend the first conference session in June!! We will find ourselves “At the Door” in Matthew 7:7-12 - will you knock? It will be inspiring to hear what Waverly & Lindsey’s voices contribute in asking and seeking out what it might mean to be in relationship with God.

## Upcoming Youth Group Events

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

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.

**March 31:** Youth Group

**April 7:** Youth Group

**April 14:** Youth Group – “Calm on Palm”

**April 21:** No Youth Group – Happy Easter!

**\*Sat. April 27:** Christmas in Action mission

**May 5:** Youth Group

**May 12:** No Youth Group – Happy Mother’s Day

**May 19:** Youth Group

## North Manitou Island Backpacking Retreat (High School)

Four spots left for students on a first come, first served basis. July 22nd-26th  
Total Cost: \$150

Over the course of five days we will challenge ourselves to become better leaders, better stewards of nature and our bodies and better seekers of authentic relationships with each other and especially with God. While challenging, this trip should be do able to a wide range of physical abilities. Sign up now on the youth bulletin board and submit a \$50 deposit to the office ASAP! See Pastor Robbie for more information.



# Children's Ministry

## Club 45

Upcoming events for 4th and 5th graders and friends are:

4/14 - Easter Cards

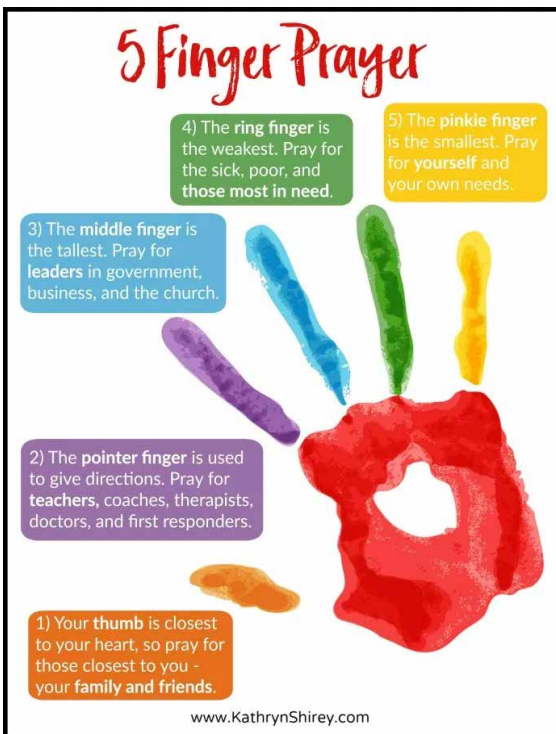
5/5 - Mother's Day Craft and Cards

6/2 - Father's Day Craft and Cards

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



## Five-Finger Prayers



Prayer is a conversation with God, not a formula. Yet sometimes we might need to use a “method” to freshen up our prayer time. We can pray the Psalms or other Scriptures (such as The Lord’s Prayer), or use the ACTS method (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication). I recently came across this “Five-Finger Prayer” to use as a guide when praying for others:

- When you fold your hands, the thumb is nearest you. So begin by praying for those closest to you—your loved ones (Phil. 1:3–5).
- The index finger is the pointer. Pray for those who teach—Bible teachers and preachers, and those who teach children (1 Thess. 5:25).
- The next finger is the tallest. It reminds you to pray for those in authority over you—national and local leaders, and your supervisor at work (1 Tim. 2:1–2).
- The fourth finger is usually the weakest. Pray for those who are in trouble or who are suffering (James 5:13–16).
- Then comes your little finger. It reminds you of your smallness in relation to God’s greatness. Ask Him to supply your needs (Phil. 4:6, 19).

Whatever method you use, just talk with your Father. He wants to hear what’s on your heart.

By Anne Cetas





**Gospel Project Sunday school for nursery children through 5th grade**

Nursery and preschool classes offered during both the 9am and 11am worship services.

Kindergarten - 5th grade class offered during 11am worship only

Please see Tina Ritchie with any questions, or if you would like to be added to the weekly email lessons and family talking points.

**Our third quarter "Into the Promised Land" topics are listed below.**

**Unit 7 – Wandering in the Wilderness (Numbers/Deuteronomy) Runs through April 14**

- The Bronze Snake
- Balaam & Balak
- Moses' Farewell

**Big Picture Question:** What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and God's commands.

**Unit Key Verse:** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. ~ Proverbs 3:5-6*

**Easter April 21 – Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection (Matthew 26-28)**

**Unit 8 – Conquering the Land (Joshua) Runs April 28 – May 12**

- Crossing the Jordan
- The Battle of Jericho
- Taking the Land – 9am preschool only

**Big Picture Question:** How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving and obeying God.

**Unit Key Verse:** *The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. ~ Deuteronomy 31:8*

Easter Word Scramble



taEesr egg

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aybb hckic

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tbeaks

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rsyags fedil

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rsEeat nuyrb

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ablm

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# Worship



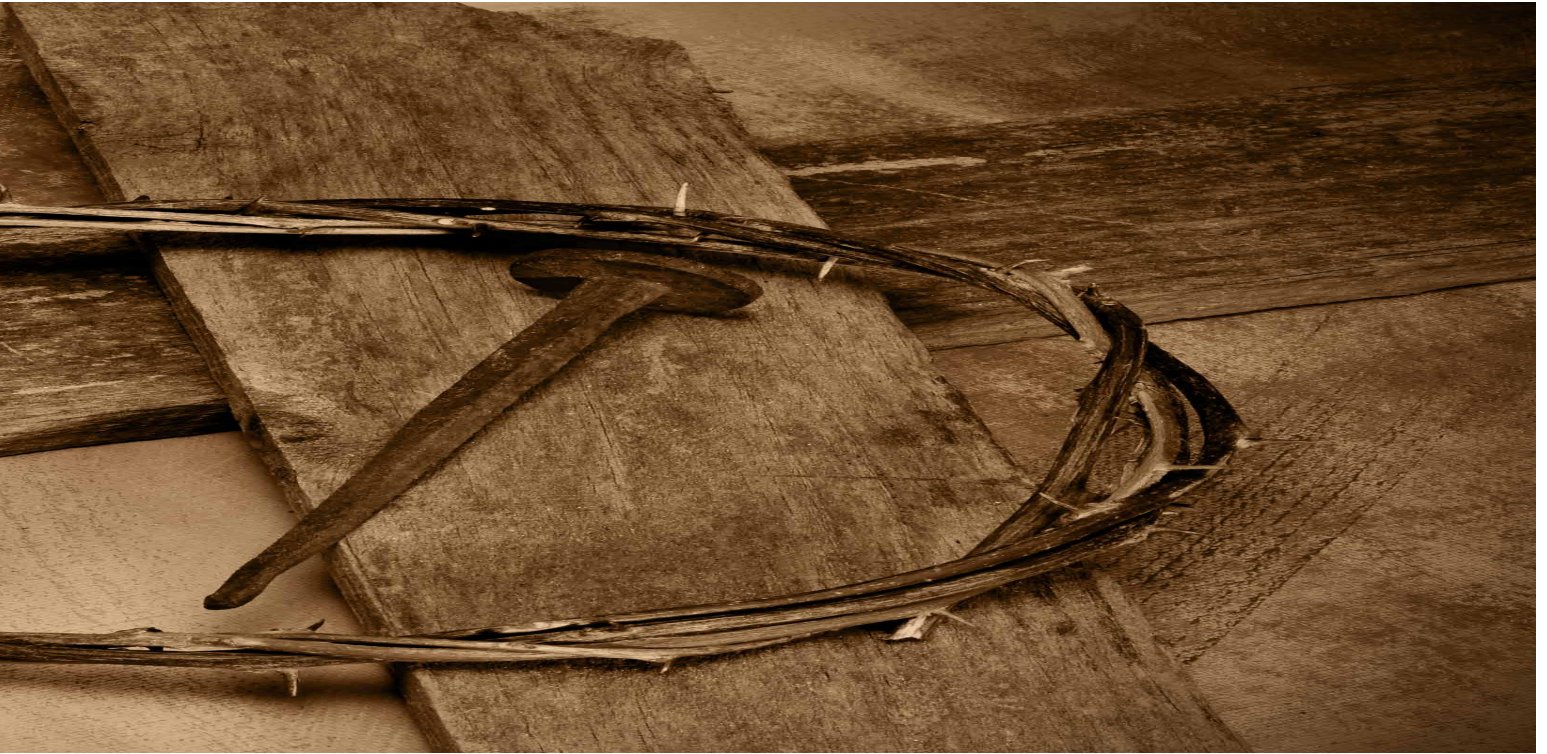
## HOLY WEEK

**Holy Week is the most important week in the Church year!** It is a time when we celebrate in a special way the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We remember his actions, reflect on his messages, and recommit to living as his disciples in the world today.

**Palm Sunday, April 14:** Sunday before Easter, when the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is celebrated. It originated in the late 3rd or 4th Century in the Jerusalem Church, as they read scriptures or sang hymns as they stopped at numerous holy sites. In the 6th and 7th Century, a ritual blessing of the palms was added, and in the 8th Century a morning procession was celebrated in the Western Church. Many Palm Sunday traditions remain the same as those celebrated in the 10th Century, where many people take palms home and place them in their houses or make palm crosses.

**Maundy Thursday, April 18:** Commemorates the foot washing and Last Supper of Jesus with the Apostles. Jesus gathered to eat the Passover feast in the evening, so this service is typically held in the evening with Communion. The English word "maundy" come from the Latin "mandatum" or mandate/commandment from Jesus' words "A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another as I have loved you."

**Tenebrae Service:** Some Protestant denominations have picked up the Catholic tradition of holding a Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday in the evening after dark. There is a gradual extinguishing of lights and candles as the service and readings progress. The readings often come from the Gospels and trace Jesus' final week between Palm Sunday and Jesus' crucifixion. Our church does a reader's theater version of a Tenebrae service, where Jesus' followers share their thoughts on Jesus' final week with them.



**Good Friday, April 19:** It may seem odd that people celebrate the day Jesus was crucified as "good." What Jesus went through being whipped, beaten, mocked and killed in a violent way were not good. What Christ accomplished for us is victory over death, by demonstrating God's love for us by dying in our place. Good Friday commemorates Jesus' crucifixion and three days in the grave before his resurrection. The sanctuary is stripped of all ornamentation and colored banners and often replaced with black.

**Easter Sunday, April 21:** Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and God's victory over death! Easter Sunday is something we should celebrate every day of our lives, not just once a year, but we take this special day to recognize God's great gift of eternal life for us. Traditions vary in each denomination and culture, but they call attention to new life in Christ and the death of our old selves and rebirth into new life.



# Holy Week



# Eco-Palms

Our congregation will be proudly waving Eco-Palms, this Palm Sunday, in partnership with Lutheran World Relief. We are helping palm harvesters in Latin America, their families and communities find pathways out of poverty.

## HERE'S WHAT MAKES ECO-PALMS DIFFERENT:

### ECOLOGICALLY FRIENDLY

Fair prices for quality palms encourage sustainable harvesting, meaning better income long into the future.

### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Eco-Palms are sorted and packed within the harvesting community, extending income opportunities to even more people.

### SUSTAINABLE INCOME

Eco-Palms harvesters often earn five to six times more per frond than traditional palms, and a portion of the purchase price goes directly back to the community.



## FROM TANZANIA TO THE U.S.

African Palms is an outreach ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church in Olney, Maryland. African Palms provides palm crosses to churches, schools, hospitals, prisons, book stores, and church goods distributors for use on Palm Sunday and other special occasions. The crosses are hand-woven by villagers near Masasi, Tanzania and are made from the dried leaves of the dwarf palm.

African Palms was founded in 1965 by Father Alan Talbot. Having served as a missionary in Tanzania, Father Talbot observed the poverty of the people and sought ways to help them increase their income. He encouraged the villagers to weave palm crosses which would be sold to churches for use on Palm Sunday. In 1976 the women of St. John's Episcopal Church accepted the mission of distributing the palm crosses to churches throughout the United States; African Palms USA was born and is now a major outreach ministry of the church.

### GRANTS AT WORK

African Palms awards grants up to \$5,000 to organizations for use in projects that benefit the entire community. Projects are based on need and are funded from the net sales of palm crosses and totes, along with 100% of donations received.

Projects receiving grant funding in recent years include disaster and refugee relief, medical and public health programs, agriculture ventures, clean drinking water systems, and education.



# Front Pew

by Pastor Robbie Carnes



**Why do Presbyterian Christians call the Communion Table a 'table' and not an 'altar'?** Did you know that there is not an 'altar' in our sanctuary? Many large books are written on this subject; I do want to highlight the limitations of discussing such a heavy topic in such a small article.

In the simplest of terms, the Catholic Church is celebrating the Mass and the Reformed tradition celebrates Communion or the Eucharist (Greek for Thanksgiving). The Mass is a liturgy that reenacts Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us, and therefore there is an altar where the sacrifice occurs. It is this reenactment that requires the term altar to be used. The priest speaks the words and the bread and wine become the actual body and blood of Christ.

The Reformed perspective considers the celebration, not as a reenactment, but rather a memorial or a symbolic remembrance of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. At FFPC we remember what Christ has done for us and celebrate the resurrection life that we live in together as a church in the Spirit. For most Protestant churches and FFPC, the bread and wine/juice are symbols that help us to remember and celebrate. We also remember and rejoice in the eternal hope we have in Christ because of the cross. Suffice to say, FFPC celebrates the present, spiritual reality of Christ's sacrifice and therefore we need a table for our celebration, rather than an altar.

While it might seem like stacking angels on the head of a pin, these differences can be very important to a lot of people and need to be taken seriously. Theological positions tend to trickle down into everyday life, even into the words we use for the furniture in our sanctuaries!

Have you ever heard of an 'altar call'? While this term might be unfamiliar to those in Presbyterian circles, we generally find it in some Baptist, Nazarene, Assemblies of God churches, and the like. The term has an association with revivals and evangelical efforts. The use of the word 'altar' in this case may not have to do with Communion (as a celebration of God's goodness to us), as much as it has to do with a response to God's goodness toward us. We hear the Gospel and we respond by offering our lives to God. Many churches who have 'altar calls' do not have physical altars, but instead use the term figuratively to encourage individuals to commit their lives to Christ.

The reason that you might be hard pressed to experience an altar call at FFPC is that the Reformed Tradition is concerned with maintaining that Jesus' sacrifice is the only one that can and does have any effect on our justification before God. Therefore we do not reenact Christ's sacrifice during our worship; instead we celebrate the one great, final sacrifice that results in sweet Communion with Christ and with each other. We also are careful not to relate any sacrifice of our own lives to that of Christ's, knowing that nothing we can ever do could have the same effect, or possibly be compared to the Cross.

The significance of a Communion Table rather than an Altar in our sanctuary is what a table symbolically suggests to us as we worship together. Scripture tells us that God is near to us (Psalm 145:18), and that God's desire is for us to be God's people and for God to be our God (Leviticus 26:12). The next time you walk into our sanctuary look at the Communion Table; it's not just as a reminder of what Jesus has done for us, but it's an invitation to know God more fully and to enjoy him more deeply.

What are your questions about FFPC worship? This ongoing series will try to answer questions about how we worship at FFPC. If you have a question you would like answered, please email Pastor Robbie ([robbie@ffpc.org](mailto:robbie@ffpc.org)) or the Church Office ([office@ffpc.org](mailto:office@ffpc.org)).

# SAVE THE DATE! 2019 Youth Musical!

## Back to the Bible

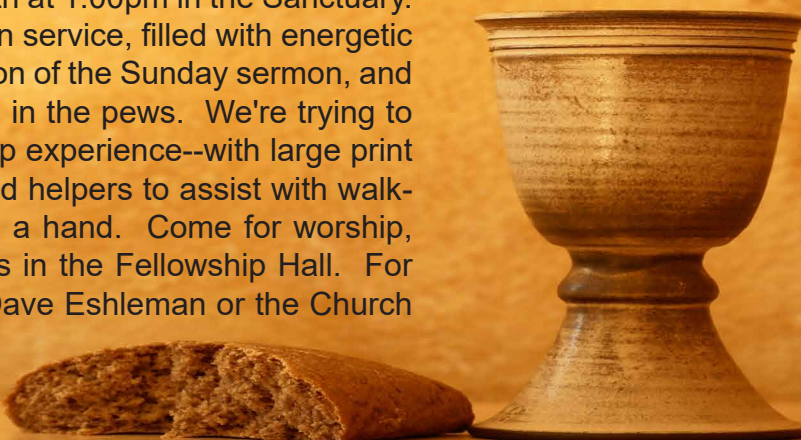
The Bible is full of exciting stories that fill youth with awe and wonder. On May 12th, open your bible and join the youth of our church on a journey of discipleship

Written by Skye Hodgkin, one of our own teenage youth in the church. Please come support the youth of our church as they have all had a part in planning and developing this play.



### Who said Communion just happens on Sunday mornings?

The next date is Monday, April 8th 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.



# Worship Schedule for April

**April 7th, 5th Sunday in Lent & Communion**  
**The Road to the Empty Tomb: The Trial of Jesus**  
**Luke 22:66-71; Luke 23:1-25**  
**Pastor Lindsey Carnes**

The Lord of Lords and the King of Kings is on trial in the middle of the night. The Word that was at the beginning of all things is being questioned about violating the Law. Accused by the Jewish leaders, questioned and mocked by Herod and condemned by Pilate, Jesus' fate was not just a physical death but total humiliation.

**Layreader:** Roy Fetzer

**Communion Servers:** Jon Wenzel, Ken Wensel, Craig Williams, Larry Zimpler, Chris Anderson, Deb Bard, Janet Stork, Julie Grams

**Ushers:** 9am Dennis & Jo Beardslee/ 11am Team #5

**Sound Tech:** Mark Gibb

**Coffee Hour:** Green Team

**Counters:** Lin Savage & Sara Wrage

**Nursery:** 9am Heidi Howieson & PJ Collier  
 11am Heidi Howieson & Madeline Davis

**Gospel Project:**

9am Pre-k Crystal Siniarski  
 11am Pre-k Kelly Sunman-Davis  
 11am K-2nd Roy Fetzer & Jeanne Cupp  
 11am 3rd-5th Julie & Tony Grams

**April 8th, Outreach Communion**

**April 14th, 6th Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday**  
**The Road to the Empty Tomb: Jesus' Sayings from the Cross**  
**Luke 23:34, 43, 46; Mark 15:34; John 19:26-27, 28, 30**  
**Pastor Robbie Carnes**

Tis mystery all, the mortal dies. What Jesus said while on the cross reflects his heart and recalls his ministry. By meditating on Jesus' last words we discover the core of what he lived and died for.

**Layreader:** Roy Fetzer

**Ushers:** 9am Michael & Debbie Vanderlip/ 11am Team #6

**Acolytes:** Deb Bard & Bev Welch

**Sound Tech:**

**Coffee Hour:** Blue Team

**Counters:** Jon O'Connell & Sarah Martin-Fanone

**Nursery:** 9am Heidi Howieson & Annabeth Carnes  
 11am Heidi Howieson & Madeline Davis

**Gospel Project:**

9am Pre-K Crystal Siniarski  
 11am Pre-K Kelly Sunman-Davis  
 11am K-2nd Julie Campbell & Chris Anderson  
 11am 3rd-5th Cheryl Kopplin & Karen Terrill

**April 18th, Maundy Thursday**  
**7:00pm Tenebrae Service**

**April 19th, Good Friday Community Worship Service**  
**12:00pm at the Fenton United Methodist Church**

**April 21st, 7th Sunday in Lent, Easter Sunday**  
**The Road to the Empty Tomb: Resurrection Sunday**  
**Luke 24:1-12**  
**Pastor Robbie Carnes**

The strife is over! The tomb is empty. Just as Peter wondered what had just happened, we wonder ourselves. The Church is the community in which we wonder at the power of the Resurrection and the meaning that it has for us and the world.

**Layreader:** Jon Wenzel

**Ushers:** 9am Ellen Horton & Sherry Hunt/ Team Team #1

**Acolytes:** Annabeth & Sam Carnes

**Sound Tech:** Jay Kirkey

**Coffee Hour:** Violet Team

**Counters:** Shirley Israel and Ken Wensel

**Nursery:** 9am Heidi Howieson & Ina Golden  
 11am Heidi Howieson & Annabeth Carnes

**Gospel Project:**

9am Pre-K Crystal Siniarski  
 11am Pre-k PJ Collier  
 11am K-5th Tina Ritchie & Rick Bard

**April 28th, 2nd Sunday of Easter**  
**Practices for the Journey: Meditating**  
**Luke 24:1-12**

**Pastor Lindsey Carnes**

While we might think of meditating as trying to empty your mind, it really is a practice to focusing one's mind. Therefore Christian Meditation is the practice of focusing on God's word, on the works of God and on who we are as creations in light of an almighty Creator.

**Layreader:** Jon Wenzel

**Ushers:** 9am Jim Lindsay & Mark Jacobson  
 11am Team #2

**Acolytes:** Adlin & Bowen Moore

**Sound Tech:** Doug Watters

**Coffee Hour:** Red Team

**Counters:** Martha Smith & Maureen Utt

**Nursery:** 9am Heidi Howieson & Nancy Parkin  
 11am Heidi Howieson & Madeline Gibb

**Gospel Project:**

9am Pre-K Crystal Siniarski  
 11am Pre-k Tina Ritchie  
 11am K-2nd Tony Grams & Jeanne Cupp  
 11am 3rd-5th Jan Foster & Karen Terrill



# Financial Update

## Treasurer Report 2019 Financials

Profit/Loss	February	YTD Total
Income:	\$23,843.94	\$62,238.93
Expense:	\$29,711.02	\$53,888.43
Net Income:	<b>-\$5,867.08</b>	\$8,350.50

## Statement of Cash Flows

Cash at Beginning of Period:	\$81,032.11
Cash at End of Period:	\$83,847.88
Net Cash Increase:	\$2,815.77

## 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 February 28, 2019

Pledged	\$351,941
Received to date:	\$331,446

## Building Fund

Building Account Balance:	\$20,245
Mortgage Remaining:	\$269,447

# Announcements



**2019 FFPC Golf Announcement:** There are buds on the trees, flowers are blooming, the grass is greening up nicely...all that means it's time for GOLF!

Patti Nelson and would like to invite any interested adult church member to join our First Presbyterian Church Golf League. The league is co-ed and all levels of golfers are welcome.

We play on Thursday evenings April 25th – August 8th out at Springfield Oaks in Davisburg. The cost is only \$14.00 per night for 15 weeks of play.

Carts are optional and an additional \$9.00 per night. This has been a fun way to play a little golf and socialize with other church members. We are probably in need of at least 3 new golfers this year. (We are also always interested in subs!) See or call Patti Nelson (248-634-8745) for a flyer giving you all the information you need.



*Easter Lily*

**REMINDER!** Lily orders are due to the office no later than April 14th

**Deacon's Easter Project:** As in past years, the Deacons are preparing to help 25 families in need to have a nice Easter. We are asking our members to provide non-perishable grocery items or to donate money for a VG's gift certificate for these families. Our sign-up table will be in fellowship hall on March 31st and April 7th following each service. We ask you to return the filled grocery bags to church by April 14th. The Deacons thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Attention Men of FFPC! April 16th is our next Quarterly Men's Luncheon.** Join us at 11:30am at the Villagers Restaurant in Holly for food and Fellowship. Cost is \$15 per ticket. Please see Jon O'Connell, Ed Schwarz or Bill Black to purchase tickets or for more information.

**Book Binders** will be meeting April 9th at the home of Nikki Black, 1422 Blue Water Dr. at 7:00 pm. The book for discussion is The Travelling Cat Chronicles by Hiro Arikawa. The book for May is The Lost Girls of Paris by Pam Jenoff. Please call Nikki at 810-750-4189 **if you have any questions.**

**Downtown Readers Book Club:** Meetings take place the last Tuesday of the month, at 11:00am in the Youth Room. The book for April is Husband Hunters, by Anne De Courcy. Men and women are encouraged to join!

## Happy Birthday

Pat Warren	Apr 1	Thelma Buffmyer	Apr 21
Harry Clark	Apr 3	Barb Taylor	Apr 21
Sam Fetzer	Apr 4	Ruth Grossmeyer	Apr 23
Jean Hermann	Apr 4	Sarah Kasprzak	Apr 25
John Stork	Apr 6	Gabrielle Smith	Apr 26
Deloris Hyde	Apr 8	Lee Graham	Apr 28
Betty Brandon	Apr 10	Sherry Hunt	Apr 28
Bob Brownlee	Apr 12	Lynne Watters	Apr 28
Gretchen Coles	Apr 12	Roy Fetzer	Apr 29
William Eddington	Apr 14	Connie Morrison	Apr 29
Christian Coffin	Apr 16	Jayce Erwin	Apr 30
Meredith Weldon	Apr 18	Ann Fetzer	Apr 30
Mark Gibb	Apr 20		
Millie Roe	Apr 20		
Betty Jean Skinner	Apr 20		

## Happy Anniversary

James & Ina Golden	April 20
Michael & Jeanne Cupp	April 22
Greg & Janet Dean	April 25
Scott & Cathy Hollopeter	April 29



# April Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 1:00pm – 2:00pm Knitting Group YR 6:30pm-8:30pm Women's Covenant Group, CR 7:00pm – 9:00pm Boy Scouts, FH 7:00pm-8:00pm Cub Scouts Den 4, YR	<b>2</b> 11:00am – 12:15pm Bible Study, CR 6:30pm – 8:30pm New Member & Communication Meeting, YR 6:30pm – 8:30pm Congregational Life Committee Meeting, CR 7:00pm-8:00pm Cub Scout Den 3, AR	<b>3</b> 8:00am–12:00pm Men's Work Day 5:45pm-7:30pm, FH Lenten Simple Meals 6:00pm-7:30pm Youth Dance Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30pm – 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 8:15pm – 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	<b>4</b> 6:00pm-7:30pm Girl Scout Brownie Troop, FH 6:30pm-8:30pm Mission & Stewardship Committee Meeting	<b>5</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>6</b> OFFICE CLOSED 8:00am-10:00am Men's Breakfast
<b>7</b> Youth Sunday <b>Communion Sunday</b> 9:00am Worship Service 11:00am Worship Service 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, YR	<b>8</b> 10:00am - 11:00am Prayer Ministry Team, Sanctuary 1:00am-2:00pm Outreach Communion, Sanctuary 1:00pm – 2:00pm Knitting Group YR 5:30pm-6:30pm Cub Scout Den 1, FH 6:30pm-8:30pm Women's Covenant Group, CR 7:00pm – 9:00pm Boy Scouts, FH 7:00pm-8:00pm Cub Scouts Den 4, YR	<b>9</b> 11:00am – 12:15pm Bible Study, CR 6:45pm-8:30pm Admin Committee Meeting, CR 7:00pm-9:00pm Book Binders 7:00pm-8:00pm Cub Scout Den 3, AR	<b>10</b> <b>Siblings Day</b> 8:00am–12:00pm Men's Work Day 4:00pm-4:30pm All Staff Meeting, CR 4:45pm - 6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting, CR 5:45pm-7:30pm, FH Lenten Simple Meals 6:00pm-6:45pm Youth Choir, DR 6:30pm – 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 8:15pm – 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	<b>11</b> 10:00am - 12:00am Card Class , FH 10:00am-12:00pm Hopice Care Team, CR 6:00pm-8:00pm Christian Education Committee Meeting, CR	<b>12</b> OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-2:00pm Social Justice Group, Meeting, YR	<b>13</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>14</b> Palm Sunday 9:00am Worship Service 11:00am Worship Service 1230pm - 1:30pm Club 45 1:30pm-6:00pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, Calm on PalmYR	<b>15</b> 1:00pm - 2:00pm Knitting Group YR 6:30pm-8:30pm Women's Covenant Group, CR 7:00pm-8:00pm Boy Scouts, FH	<b>16</b> 11:00am – 12:15pm Bible Study CR 11:30am-1:30pm Men's Luncheon, The Villager, Holly 6:30pm-8:30pm Session Meeting 7:00pm-9:00pm Pack Meeting, FH 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 3, Art Room	<b>17</b> 8:00 AM–12:00 PM Men's Work Day 6:00pm-7:30pm Combined Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30pm – 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 7:45pm – 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	<b>18</b> 7:00pm-8:00pm <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>Worship Service</b> 6:00pm-7:30pm Girl Scout Brownie Troop, FH	<b>19</b> OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-1:00pm Good Friday Service at the Methodist Church	<b>20</b> OFFICE CLOSED Holy Saturday 9:30am-10:30am Yoga, YR
<b>21</b> Easter Saturday 9:00am Worship Service 11:00am Worship Service	<b>22</b> Earth Day Easter Monday 10:00am - 11:00am Prayer Ministry Team, Sanctuary 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group YR 5:30pm-6:30pm Cub Scout Den 1, FH 6:30pm-8:30pm Women's Covenant Group 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Boy Scouts FH	<b>23</b> 11:00am – 12:15pm Bible Study CR 6:45pm-8:00pm Deacon's Meeting, CR 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 3, Art Room	<b>24</b> Administrative Professionals Day 8:00 AM–12:00 PM Men's Work Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Deacon's Meeting, CR Women's Covenant Group, FH 4:00pm-4:30pm All Staff Meeting, CR 6:00pm-7:30pm <b>Youth Combined Rehearsal, Sanctuary</b> 6:30pm – 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 7:45pm – 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	<b>25</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>26</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>27</b> OFFICE CLOSED 8:00am-5:00pm Christmas in Action
<b>28</b> 9:00am Worship Service 11:00am Worship Service 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, YR	<b>29</b> 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group YR 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Boy Scouts FH	<b>30</b> 11:00am – 12:15pm Bible Study CR 11:00am-12:00pm Downtown Reades Book Club, YR 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 3, Art Room				

# 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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