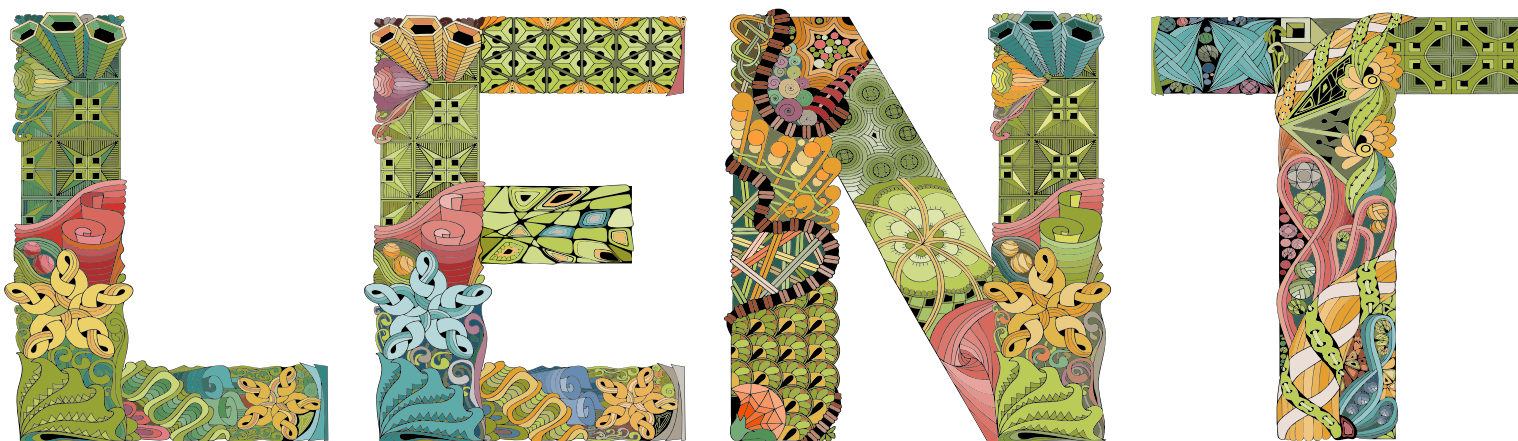


Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Living with Christ, Serving the World

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

40 Days The Season of



GOD can bring

Beauty from ~~A~~shes

PASTOR'S LETTER

Sometimes I walk to achieve a clear purpose, like buying food, running errands, or exercising. But sometimes, I merely walk for the sake of walking. We all know that going out for a stroll can bring vitality, perspective, and creativity when we feel stuck. When I don't have a specific objective in mind, I feel more connected to the act of walking, more aware of the surroundings, and more spontaneous. I'm open to taking detours, to stopping for extended pauses, and actually noticing how unique every moment is.

Socrates spent his time wandering Athens' agora questioning his fellow citizens. His feet mirrored his mind: always in motion from one point to the next, meandering about and exploring Athens. This approach was so influential that Socrates' "philosophical grandson" (Aristotle) based his philosophical school around interweaving walking and thinking. Jesus taught in the synagogue, but most of the teachings of Jesus were taught to his disciples and the crowds outside, walking and living life together.

We have entered the church liturgical season of Lent that begins with Ash Wednesday, March 6. This year we will begin the 40 days of Lent, walking with Jesus as he and his disciples make their way up to Jerusalem for the yearly Passover celebration. We have a destination of Easter in mind, but along the way, I invite you to the possibility of what journeying with Jesus and walking where Jesus walked will add to your life these next few weeks.

I have compiled a devotion for each day, with an accompanying scripture passage and questions for reflection. Our Sunday sermon series will follow the "Road to the Empty Tomb." And at our Wednesday night Lenten dinner and study we will learn about the places where Jesus walked and see photos and videos of those places. I pray that as you walk in the footsteps of Jesus these 40 days, that you will grow closer to the Lord in your walk with Christ each day.

Blessings, Pastor Lindsey



"THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY OF PRESENCE"

As many of you know, I have undergone surgery to remove a section of my colon that had abscessed. My recovery required a week long hospital stay. I am deeply grateful to FFPC for allowing me the time in order to heal and for the dear encouragement that everyone has offered through cards, calls and other acts of love. It is at these moments that the church is what it should be: a reflector of the Love of Christ. As I write this, I am still in the midst of a rather long recovery. However, I have passed a few important milestones and am optimistic that healing will come quickly.

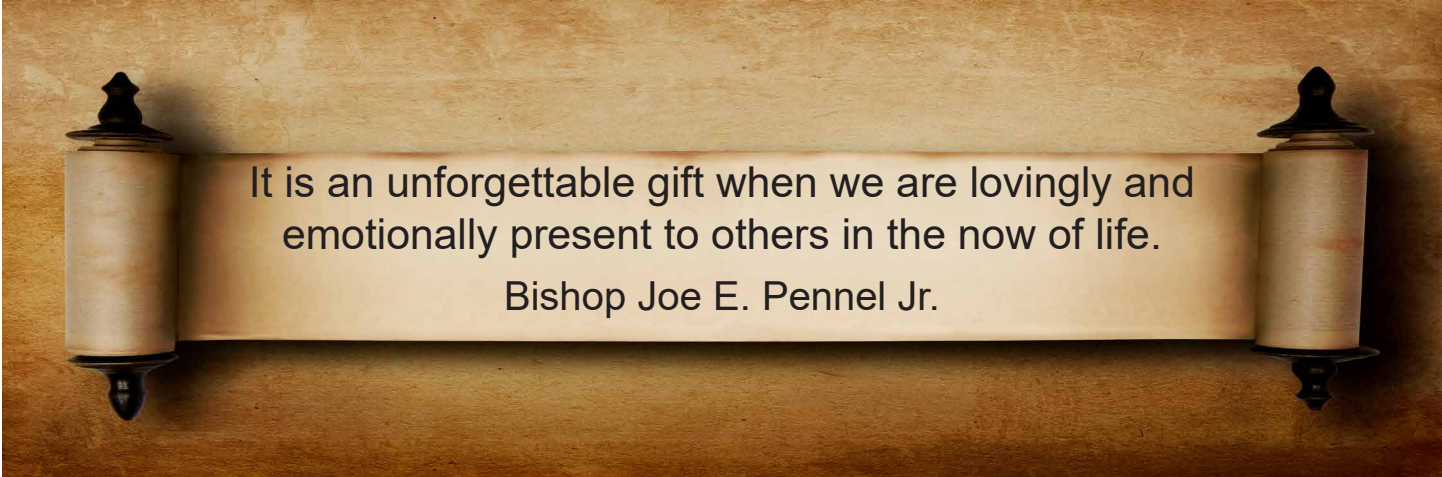
I have never understood the "ministry of presence" more than when I was lying in my hospital bed, my body wracked with pain, my mind foggy with drugs when individual church members came to visit. I am sure I was a little shocking to look at and I was without my normal level of energy. Frankly, I can't even tell you what was said, and I am sure it was a very quick visit. But what I do remember is that you came. Someone came to remind me that there was more to the world than fog and pain. Someone who stopped the whirlwind of blood draws and bandages with non-medical conversation. Someone who became the hand of God with their presence alone. Those visits were physical, mental and spiritual lifelines.

The Deacons, Pastor Lindsey and I, and many of you, practice a ministry of presence routinely with home and hospital visits, texts and phone calls. The term ministry of presence refers to a type of pastoral visitation that is focused on simply showing up and not necessarily accomplishing anything tangible. It does not need to be a long stay and flowers are not required. The conversation does not need to be extraordinarily witty, nor does it need to be a Hallmark card. The goal is to reflect God's love through our presence.

Friends, as we go about our lives and are called to reflect Christ's love, please don't forget the power of your presence in the lives of those around you. A short phone call of encouragement, a funny card, a text committing to prayer. All of these things can be of profound impact. It is amazing what God will do with us, even through things that require little of us.

Thank you FFPC for being the church that you are and may we as a community of faith ever strive to reflect Christ's love for the whole world in everything we do.

Blessings, Pastor Robbie

A decorative scroll with a wooden background. The scroll is unrolled and held by two black metal brackets. The text is centered on the scroll.

It is an unforgettable gift when we are lovingly and emotionally present to others in the now of life.

Bishop Joe E. Pennel Jr.

MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP

2019 Shelter of Flint

The Shelter of Flint serves more than 1000 homeless adults and children every day! The average stay for their client is 37 days and they consistently report 90% in positive housing destinations. While they have many success stories, let us share just one:

After having difficulty finding suitable housing in Lansing and having a few homeless episodes, Angie returned to Flint to be near family. She came to the Shelter of Flint with her 2-year-old son, Christopher, who has special needs. While at the shelter, her son made friends and gained the courage to begin walking. She was able to get help finding a house and received a care package of household items when leaving the shelter. Angie and her family have been in their house for over a year. Her son is in school and is walking all over the place. Angie is taking classes at MI Works and works from home as a part-time beautician.



“The shelter helps you move forward. They motivate you to get out of the situation you are in and not be in that situation again. Shelter of Flint rocks!” Angie

On February 23, 13 volunteers from our church went to serve at the Shelter of Flint. We organized their attic storage, sorted their recent donations, cleaned the playroom and the one-stop building, washed the resident’s halls (in preparation for painting) and washed/waxed their dining room floor. Our church family helped them make a difference in our world using our time, talents and treasure (we use some of mission budget to support their essential services).

The Shelter of Flint has several essential programs:

- They provide emergency shelter for the homeless.
- They provide transitional and permanent housing.
- They provide comprehensive housing placement services in Genesee County.
- They provide the Homeless Outreach program as a point of entry into services for Genesee County including street outreach, wrap around services that partner with other community agencies, and information and referrals for needed services.

For more information please visit <https://www.shelterofflint.org/>





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 by March 10. 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!



Faith in Femininity

Faith in Femininity had a wonderful February and is looking forward to some big things in the future! On Friday the 8th, the girls were nominated by their high school counselors for the Youth Genesee Serves annual breakfast and awards ceremony. It was a wonderful experience and the girls got the chance to meet some other organizations doing great work in the community. They also hosted a packaging party on the 15th where

they were able to package 203 bags for 203 cycles! The Faith in Femininity team is currently working steadily toward becoming a nonprofit organization, with their first board meeting being the next step. Stay tuned in their fight to end period poverty!



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



St. Patrick's Potato Bake

March 17th is the St. Patrick's Potato Bake. Come join us for some fellowship and great baked potatoes with all the toppings, following the 11:00 service. Did you know potatoes have more potassium than bananas? What will you put on your potato?



Save the Date for the FFPC Women's Rise & Shine Community Service opportunity happening on May 4th, 2019 from 8:30am-3:00pm. Stay tuned, more information to come.

DEACON'S

2019 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. The Deacons will provide a list of suggested grocery items but you may add anything you wish. Grocery bags with the number of adults, teens, and children in each of the families and a sign-up sheet for VG's gift certificates will be available in Fellowship Hall on March 24th, 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.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

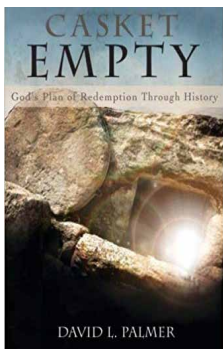


BIBLE STUDY

Have you wondered why we offer Sunday morning Bible study in the northwest side Fellowship Hall?

- Class is visible and easily accessible for folks to participate as they come into the area
- The lower ceiling contributes to easier listening and effective teaching atmosphere
- The south window side is larger and more inviting for fellowship
- Tables remain accessible for setup by coffee hour teams
- When held in the Conference Room, class was not visible, the room was cold, and the space difficult to teach in

Because of these changes, more folks are participating in Christian learning! We invite you to grab a snack and join the class, or enjoy fellowship on the other side of Fellowship Hall. We thank you for keeping conversations in the fellowship area. If you have any questions or concerns, please Tina Ritchie, Deb Bard, or PJ Collier.



Sunday Morning Study: Join us for the New Testament portion of the CASKET EMPTY Bible study. Through March 17 from 10-10:45am in Fellowship Hall. Adults and youth are welcome to attend discussion led by Pastor Robbie and Rev. James Foster.

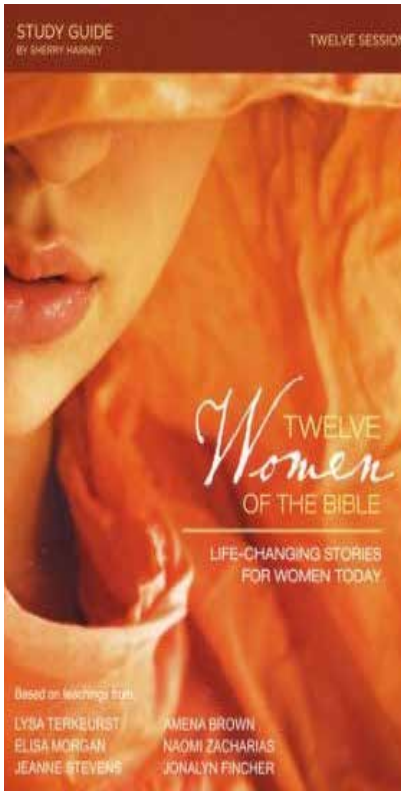
March upcoming topics are:

Mar. 3: Chapter 7 Teaching Part 2; Paul's letters while he was imprisoned

Mar. 10: Chapter 8 Teaching Part 3; Non-Pauline letter

Mar. 17: Chapter 9 Yet-To-Come Part 1; Letters to the seven churches

Mar. 24: Chapter 10 Yet-To-Come Part 2; Spiritual Battle between God and the Serpent



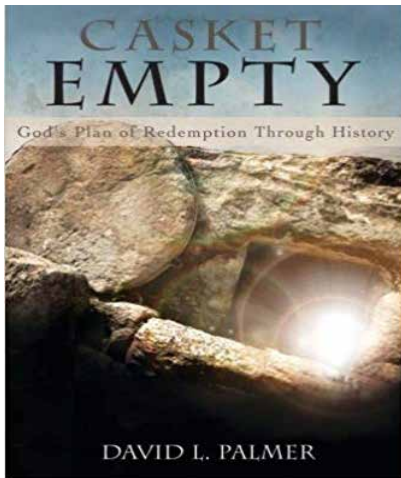
Monday Evening Bible Study

Twelve Women of the Bible--Life Changing Stories for Women of Today Meets through April 29* from 6:30-8:30pm in the Conference Room. Led by Pastor Lindsey, childcare is provided upon request.

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:

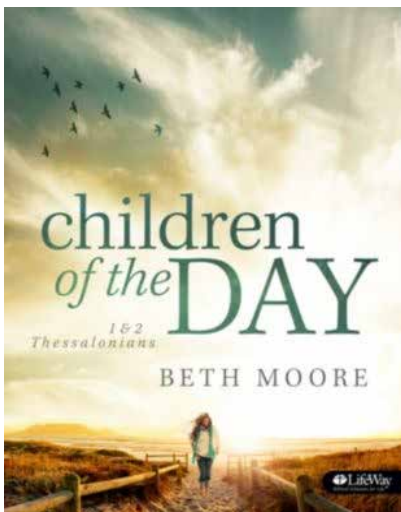
- Hannah:** Surrendering in Waiting (Amena Brown)
- Abigail:** Dealing with Confrontation in Relationships
- Gomer:** Learning to Accept Unconditional Love (Jeanne Stevens)
- Mary, Mother of Jesus:** Moving from Comfort to Courage (Jeanne Stevens)
- Mary Magdalene:** Transforming from Outcast to Follower (Jonalyn Fincher)
- Mary of Bethany:** Putting Our Faith into Action (Elisa Morgan)
- Martha:** Finding Our Identity in Jesus (Amena Brown)
- The Woman at the Well:** Turning Our Messes into Messages (Lysa TerKuerst)
- The Syrophenician Woman:** Approaching God with Persistency and Boldness (Naomi Zacharias)



Tuesday Morning Bible Study:

Through March 26 from 11am – 12:15 pm

This morning discussion on the New Testament portion of CASKET EMPTY 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:

"Children of the Day" runs through March 13* from 10am – noon in Fellowship Hall.

The New Testament believers carried the Spirit of God as they walked along the shores of Thessalonica, just as you carry that light today.

"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

Save the Date!

Christian Education Leadership Training & Breakfast
 Saturday, March 16
 9:30-11:30AM
 Fellowship Hall

Agenda

1. Mandatory update for EVERYONE on our Safe Sanctuary Protection Policy
2. Review emergency procedures
3. Gospel Project teaching objectives
4. Feedback on Gospel Project curriculum

Psalm 127:3 ESV

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.



Journey to Jerusalem--Walk with Jesus Wednesday Lenten Dinners and Worship Services

Meal: 5:45pm-6:30pm
Study: 6:30pm-7:30pm

What happened during the last weeks of Jesus life? Join us as we "walk" around Jerusalem and experience the places Jesus walked in scripture, photos and videos.

Wed 3/6: Ash Wed Worship Service, 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Wed 3/13:Passover lambs at the temple

Wed 3/20:Jesus stays at Bethany

Wed 3/27:Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Wed 4/3:Garden of Gethsemane

Wed 4/10:Herod's and Pilate's palaces

Sun 4/14:Palm Sunday--from Mount of Olives to Jerusalem

Thurs 4/18:Maundy Thursday Worship Service--Jesus Dinner Upper Room

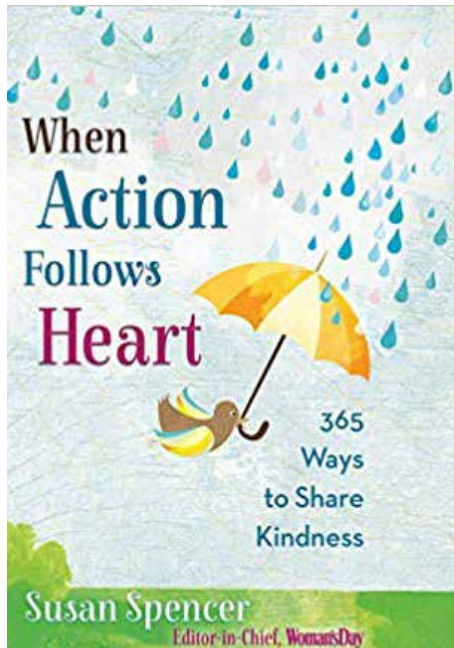
Fri 4/19:Good Friday--Golgotha--Community-Wide Worship Service, 12pm at the First United Methodist Church Fenton

Sun 4/21--Easter Sunday--Calvary (9am and 11am)



LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Book review for March from the Library committee.



We'd like to invite you to read and enjoy one of the newest books in our library! Chosen to celebrate Evelyn Bertzchy's life, the title reflects how she lived her life and that many people were lucky enough to know her. The title of the book is "When Action Follows Heart: 365 Ways to Show Kindness." The idea for the book came from the editorial board of Woman's Day, when they realized how many people submitted "Acts of Kindness". So they decided to put together some of the ideas and actions. The suggestions vary from sharing a smile, to keeping a bag in your car for groceries for the food bank, or when visiting a friend who has a pet, bring a treat for the pet!

Just as an aside- if you want to provide a book review on a book from our library that you liked, we would love to have you do that!

To make books easier to find, we have been busy re-cataloging non-fiction books. They are being shelved by author in the following categories: general non-fiction, Boundaries series, devotionals, grief, Love & Logic series, parenting, and relationships. Since March is reading month, we encourage you to come and find something that speaks into and enriches your life!

The Library Committee

March is Reading Month

All across the country, schools and libraries and even FFPC are joining in to celebrate March is Reading Month!

In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday (March 2nd) March is designated as National Reading Month. The primary audience for Dr. Seuss' books is young children, but his writings have insight for adults, too. As he said, "The more that you read, the more things you will know."

Leave a book, take a book - Have a book(s) you or your family members no longer have need/space for? Consider adding it to the book table in Fellowship Hall, During the month of March, consider sharing your passion for reading with other members of the congregation.

Reading Bingo - Fun for all ages. Pick up your card in Fellowship Hall.

"Readbox" - Visit the "Readbox" upstairs in the New Narthex for books available for check out in our church library.



FINANCIAL CORNER

Kids and Money: Practical Tips for Financial Responsibility - Dr. Charles Fay of the Love and Logic Institute



What's the secret to raising kids who are careful with their cash? What can parents do to create children who grow up to be wise money managers? In my travels around the country, I meet two types of parents. When describing their college-age offspring, one type furls their eyebrows, wrings their hands and ponders, "Why does money slip through his fingers like water down the drain? We constantly have to transfer money into his checking account. What's wrong with this kid?"

We meet another type of parent who beams with pride as they describe their college age kid, "We're so proud! It's amazing how he manages to stretch his cash!"

What have we learned from this second type of parent? Listed below are some powerful, yet practical, tips for giving your children the gift of financial responsibility:

When Should I Start Teaching My Kids Money Management?

What do cookies and cash have in common? First, both are pretty nice to have. Secondly, most of us can attest to the fact that both vanish quickly when self-control is lacking!

Children younger than four or five typically have difficulty truly understanding the abstract nature of money. Obviously, few young children have difficulty understanding the very concrete fact that cookies, candies, and other treats taste good.

Parents of young children can give their youngsters a head start on financial wisdom by providing an "allowance" of treats on a regular basis. One couple started by giving Toby, their three-year-old, a small stack of graham crackers on a twice weekly basis. The graham crackers came only on Saturday and Wednesday mornings... and there was always the same small number. When they were all gone, they were all gone. No amount of whining, begging, crying, or screaming could make Mom or Dad provide more.

Recreate the Great Depression in Your Home

By five or six years of age, children are ready to start receiving a small allowance of "practice money" each week. People often ask, "How much should they get?" There are no hard and fast guidelines... with one exception: It's better to err by giving them too little than by giving them too much!

Children learn to manage money best when they have to scrimp and make do like our parents and grandparents did during the Great Depression of the 1930's. Children learn to waste money when their allowances are too large.

When Should I Give Them a Budget?

As children get older, they need to be given gradually greater responsibility for budgeting their cash and savings, and purchasing what they want and need.

Over the years, I've met many parents who've sat down with their older children and helped them create a budget, outlining the amount of money they will likely need to buy clothing, school supplies, meals, gasoline, music lessons, etc. After creating this simple written budget, they've given their children just enough money... on a weekly basis... to purchase these items.

One parent commented, “Years ago, I gave my fourteen-year-old cash to purchase her school clothes. As I predicted, she blew most of it on just one expensive outfit. Then she was outraged with me when I refused to give her more. I didn’t give in. She ended up having to wear a lot of old clothes that year. That was ten years ago. Now she comes home from college bragging and showing off all of the nice outfits she’s found in consignment and second-hand stores. Because of Love and Logic, she’s a much wiser shopper than her older sister!

What Should I Do When They Run Out?

I’ll never forget how my parents responded when I ran out of money. With genuine empathy, they would ask, “Oh no. What do you think you might do to earn more?” Finding this a bit irritating, I’d mumble, “Don’t know.”

The rest of the conversation would move along as follows:

Mom: Would you like some ideas?

Me: Sure... what?

Mom: Some kids decide to ask the neighbors for odd jobs. How would that work?

Me: Umm?

Dad: Other kids decide to give their parents a bid on doing some of their parent’s chores. I might consider paying you to scrub the mineral deposits off our shower. How would that work?

Me: Well...

Mom: Some kids decide just to wait until Sunday when their parents provide allowance...

Notes from Tina Ritchie:

The key here is to allow your child to experience the consequences of their choices while thinking about how to solve their problems. The parent doesn’t tell the child what to do, but simply provides some ideas as to what they could do. The rest is up to the child.

Next month I’ll share part two of this series to learn more about how you can give your kids the gift of financial responsibility. You can also find more solutions to raising financially responsible kids by checking out the audio CD “Parents are Not ATMs” from our church library. The following is an example of how one of our families teaches financial responsibilities to their children.

“Each girl earns money throughout the week for helping above and beyond the expected family chores. Sometimes they choose to earn all of the money available, sometimes only a partial amount. With the money they earn we (parents) provide it in three ways:

- 1) A portion goes to spending (if they want)
- 2) A portion goes to savings
- 3) A portion goes to a giving to a charity of their choice

We give them incentives (i.e. interest) if they choose to put their spending money into savings or giving instead of spending it. We encourage savings and giving. This is not a perfect plan but we love that their first choice when asked where they wanted to give money to was the church. One picked the youth group and the other picked the homeless ministry part of the church.”

Please see me (Tina) if you would like to talk with this family and learn more about how they do this! Watch for part 2 next month!

FAMILY CORNER

Three Powerful Verses to Pray Over Your Anxious Child by Christie Thomas on February 04, 2019 for JellyTelly.com

He screamed and clutched me as if monsters were trying to drag him away.

Maybe that's how he felt.

The first day of kindergarten can be rather rough on a child, but I wasn't expecting the teachers to have to PEEL my son off me.

I walked into the parent meeting, late, brushing tears off my cheeks.

This parenting gig is hard on the soul.

I find it extra hard to help my eldest with his emotional struggles. He's a sensitive and creative fellow with an anxious streak a mile long.

I had always hoped that his separation anxiety was more of a trick to induce mommy-guilt than real, true-blue anxiety, but it turns out I was wrong.

The anxiety was real, and it bled into his entire kindergarten year.



Dropping him off at school was a nightmare, and he cried every single morning. His teacher reported that he refused to participate in gym class and he didn't seem to be making many friends. I also had a 3-year-old and a newborn at the time, and it was hard on all of us.

What do you do in the midst of someone else's overwhelming worry? How can you keep worry from attacking your child's mind? I am not a worrier, so it's often hard for me to identify with him. I just want to say "Well that's silly. That probably won't happen!" I learned the hard way that brushing it off doesn't help.

In my work as a Children's Ministry Director, I taught a class on blessing your child for the past several years, and last April, the class rolled around again. This year, when I printed off the blessing posters, I brought some home with me and let my son choose one that spoke to him the most.

Here's what he picked: *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."*

- Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

Oh, my heart.

I started praying this verse over him nightly.

In June, it occurred to me that he wasn't freaking out about attending school anymore. No more tears, no more gym class freak-outs. And as I thought and prayed about it, I realized that he had started changing in April... when I started praying this blessing over him. I still pray this verse over him. Though he continues to struggle in some areas, I can see the difference praying this verse over him every night has done for him. Some nights we have to go through the verse together, line by line, in order to calm him.

First, we pray. I pray for him, then he prays.

Second, we tell God what he needs. He needs peace.

Third, we thank God for all He has done.

We thank God for family. We name all his friends. We remember the special toys, puzzles, and games in his life. We are thankful for his teacher, his brothers, and the food he eats. Sometimes he is still upset, so we do it all again.

First, we pray.

Second, we tell God what is needed.

Third, we thank God for all he has done.

After one such marathon prayer session a few years ago, I tucked him into bed and commissioned him to keep thinking of all the things God had done for him until he fell asleep. He yawned and said, "But there's so many!" As he burrowed himself into his blanket, I prayed God's peace for him.

It can be hard to help a child with anxiety. Sometimes a child needs clinical help, but we can't ever underestimate the power of Jesus to help our child's heart. **Praying the same Scripture verse every night invites Christ into our messy lives, where we can transform our hearts and minds.**

Here are two other verses that we have used to pray over our children:

"Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God." - Ephesians 3:17-19 (NLT)

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation." - 2 Thesalonians 3:16 (NLT)



YOUTH GROUP

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 or text 810-701-4136.

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

March 10: Youth Group

March 17: Youth Group

March 24: Youth Group

March 31: Youth Group

North Manitou Island Backpacking Retreat (High School Students)

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. There are only 8 spots for students on a first come, first served basis. See Pastor Robbie to sign up now, and submit a \$50 deposit to the office by March 10!



CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Club 45

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

3/10 – St. Patty's cards

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 meets in the Art Room from 12:30 -1:30 after worship.

Please see Cathy Hollopeter for more information.



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 second quarter "Out of Egypt" topics are listed below.

Big Picture Question: What is Worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

Unit Key Verse: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. ~ Matthew 22:37-39

Unit 6 – Worship in the Wilderness (Exodus/Leviticus) Runs through March 17

The Golden Calf

The Tabernacle was Built

Rules for Sacrifice

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

Unit 7 – Wandering in the Wilderness (Numbers/Deuteronomy) Runs March 17 – April 14

Joshua & Caleb

The Bronze Snake

Balaam & Balak

Moses' Farewell

WORSHIP

Front Pew

by Pastor Robbie Carnes

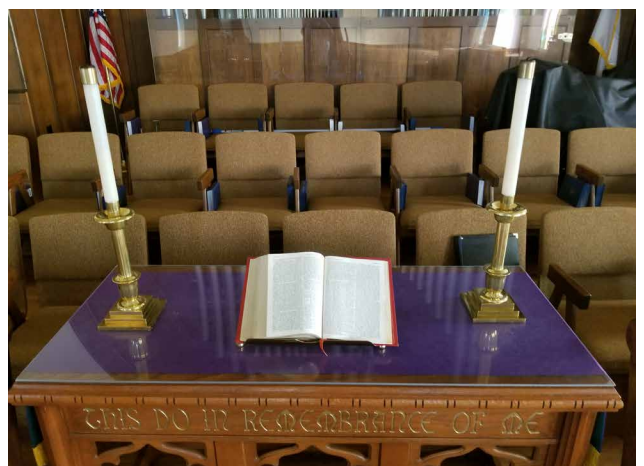
Why do we decorate the sanctuary in certain colors during certain parts of the year?

Have you noticed that the colors of the chancel are changed regularly? If you look closely you will find that on Communion Sundays the paraments, the pastor's stoles and the table cloth are white. Most of the time they are green for season which we call ordinary time. During Lent and Advent, they will change to purple. These are called liturgical colors.

The purpose of liturgical colors is to tell God's story in the context of worship and church life. The use of colors to highlight specific seasons of the year help us to celebrate and remember most specifically the life of Christ and more generally the mission of the church. Using the Church Calendar we live out the life of Jesus and the story of the church. It all begins on the first Sunday of December with a season we call Advent.

The colors signify various seasons and special days. This is by no means the same with all Christian churches. (Please note that for Presbyterians none of this is hard and fast). The purpose of liturgical colors is to highlight the Gospel story and therefore there is flexibility. Others substitute the black and grey of Mandy Thursday for scarlet, bringing to mind Jesus' blood that was shed on the cross. While not on this list, the color of Advent candles is another interesting detail. The church that I grew up in used purple or deep scarlet candles for the Advent wreath. FFPC uses blue ones, I due to the association of Mary the mother of Jesus with the color blue.

White: Purity and Resurrection: Christmastide, Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration of the Lord. Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday and Eastertide, Trinity Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, Weddings, Baptism and Funeral Services



Red: Holy Spirit, Initiation: Pentecost, Ordination, Installation and Dedication Services

Green: Non-holidays: Ordinary Time

Purple: Royalty, Expectant Waiting: Advent, Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent

Grey/Black: Mourning, Death: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

The use of blue candles for Advent is a helpful segue into the development of Liturgical Colors in the church. Over all, the use of certain colors in worship are not scripturally mandated, nor does our tradition dictate the use of them. However, the stories that they help us to recall are valuable. Certainly the use of purple during Advent and Lent give a profound story of what kind of royalty that is Christ's. Not only is Jesus the child of Promise, he is also the Paschal Lamb and sacrifice for the world. The use of color helps us to more fully describe the character of our Savior and the themes of his Gospel.

Color was not mandated in the early church worship services. Chances are, if any thought was given to color at all, it looked a little like Jewish worship garments and decoration. However, in the ancient world, color was expensive and Christians probably didn't have much to spend on ambiance. It wasn't until 1570 that the Roman Catholic Church produced a 'normative sequence of colors to accompany the church calendar' and it was about that time that John Calvin and the Reformers were pulling away from Rome. Calvin's church in Geneva downplayed the pomp of the Roman church and chose the simple black robes of academics for their clergy. (This should sound familiar, as the pastors of FFPC wear what is called Geneva Robes).

As with much worship expression for Presbyterians and other Reformed traditions, color and art are late additions. The Church Calendar and liturgical colors that we use today regained popularity within the last 70 years, during the ecumenical liturgical renewal movement.

However this is of little consequence. The use of liturgical color in our worship space is intended to remind us all what we are celebrating as we gather together. Color reminds us what season we are in and that God's story is woven throughout each and every season of our lives. Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals are all seasons of life that are played out within the life of God. Advent, Christmas, Easter are all events that depict God's story being retold to us and to the world, actively playing out the Gospel of grace, every year, in season and out. To the extent that color, decoration and even art, express the Gospel in a compelling way they are a vital part of a church's faithful worship.

Pastor Robbie Carnes

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

March 3rd, Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, Youth Sunday and Communion - Our Youth will be leading the worship service on this day. With the fire we don't always recognize God. Sometimes we think we do, but God isn't always who and what we think he is.

March 6th, Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 in Fellowship Hall

March 10, 1st Sunday of Lent and Daylight Savings - Pastor Carnes preaching, "The Road to the Empty Tomb: The High Priestly Prayer"; John 17:1-26. The night of Jesus' betrayal and arrest, Jesus prays for his disciples. In this intimate and heartfelt prayer, Jesus reframes what is happening from a religious rabble rouser's arrest into the culmination of salvation history. In light of all of the tension laid on Jesus' heart it is incredible to know that he prayed for his disciples and that today he prays for us, his church.

March 17th, 2nd Sunday of Lent - Pastor Carnes, "The Road to the Empty Tomb: Jesus' Agony in the Garden"; Luke 22:39-46. Jesus was fully human, fully God and no dummy. He was fully aware that the course of events would lead to his death. He was no stoic and loved being alive. The scene in the garden is a brutal depiction of what facing one's death can be. O what wondrous love that Jesus would be willing to die for us.

March 24th, 3rd Sunday of Lent - Pastor Carnes, "The Road to the Empty Tomb: Judas' Betrayal"; Luke 22:47-53. Although part of the plan, Judas' betrayal cut deeply. It is humbling to read Jesus' reaction to Judas as he approached him in the garden. Jesus identifies the betrayal, but does not allow for a violent response. Like a lamb to the slaughter, silently Jesus allowed himself to be arrested.

March 31st, 4th Sunday of Lent - Pastor Carnes, "The Road to the Empty Tomb: Peter's Betrayal"; Luke 22:54-62. Betrayal did not end with Judas. Peter, swearing loyalty to the very end, could not remain faithful. Brash talk melted at the accusing questions of a servant girl, "You're one of the Galileans!" Peter's unfaithful actions are a stark contrast to the faithfulness of Christ.

Sunday, March 3rd, 2019

Layreader: Youth

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

Sound Tech: Doug Watters

Coffee Hour: Blue Team

Counters: Martha Smith & Sara Wrage

Nursery: 9am Heidi Howieson & PJ Collier

11am Heidi Howieson & Beth Moore

Gospel Project: 9am Pre-k Gretchen Coles

11am Pre-k

11am K-2nd Janet Stork & Tabatha Dolan

11am 3rd-5th Jan Foster & Cherri Dolan-Maxwell

Sunday, March 10th, 2019

Layreader: Ellen Horton

Ushers: 9am Michael & Debbie Vanderlip/ 11am Team #1

Acolytes: Matthew Maxwell & Emily Hollopeter

Sound Tech: Mark Gibb

Coffee Hour: Violet Team

Counters: Lin Savage & Sarah Martin-Fanone

Nursery: 9am Heidi Howieson & Ia Golden

11am Heidi Howieson & Kate & Liza Kirkey

Gospel Project: 9am Pre-Kate & Liza Kirkey

11am Pre-k

11am K-2nd Cheryl Kopplin & Lorraine Eshleman

11am 3rd-5th Hannah Hall & Glen Maxwell

Sunday, February 17th, 2019

Layreader: Skye Hodgkin

Ushers: 9am Sherry Hunt & Ellen Horton/ Team Team #2

Acolytes: Adlin & Bowen Moore

Sound Tech: TBD

Coffee Hour: Red Team

Counters: Jon O'Connell and Ken Wensel

Nursery: 9am Heidi Howieson & Anabeth Carnes

11am Heidi Howieson & Madeline Davis

Gospel Project: 9am Pre-k Sarah Kasperzak

11am Pre-k

11am K-2nd Mary Zimble & Lorraine Eshleman

11am 3rd-5th Lynn Watters & Rick Bard

Sunday, February 24th, 2019

Layreader: Skye Hodgkin

Ushers: 9am Jim Lindsay & Mark Jacobson/11am Team #3

Acolytes: Chloe Muntin & Annabeth Carnes

Sound Tech: Jay Kirkey

Coffee Hour: Orange Team

Counters: Shirley Israel & Maureen Utt

Sunday, March 31st, 2019

Layreader: Jen Wenzel

Ushers: 9am Greg Dean & Ken Wensel/11am Team #4

Acolytes: Bella & Mason Skaff

Sound Tech: Doug Watters

Coffee Hour: Yellow Team

Counters: Martha Smith & Dennis Beardslee

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2019 Income/Expense Report

Reported: February 8, 2019

Income:	\$38,394.99
Expenses:	\$24,177.41
<u>Other Cash Flow:</u>	<u>\$1,135.16</u>
Net Cash Increase	\$15,352.74*

* Mostly Building Fund and Designated Funds, such as Deacon's

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Book Binders will meet March 12th at the home of Nancy Parkin, but will still be hosted by Sue Lantz. 308 S. Lemon, Fenton at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing Solace of Water by Elizabeth Byler Younts and House of Broken Angels by Luis Alberto Urrea. The book for April is The Travelling Cat Chronicles by Hiro Arikawa. If you have any questions call Sue at 810-691-3428.

Downtown Readers Book Club: Meetings take place the last Tuesday of the month, at 11:00am in the Youth Room. The book for March is The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion, by Fannie Flagg. The book for April is Husband Hunters, Anne De Courcy. Men and women are encouraged to join!

March begins our Shepherd Contacts! "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) Our 2019 Shepherd Program begins this month. Our Shepherds will be contacting everyone in the congregation in the spring and fall as a caring and connectional outreach. Please welcome your contact and enjoy your connection with your Shepherd! If you have any questions, please contact Nikki Black at 810-750-4189.

Who said Communion just happens on Sunday mornings? The next date is Monday, March 5th 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.

It's Equal Exchange time! Equal Exchange offers organic coffees, teas, hot chocolate, baking cocoa, chocolate chips, chocolate bars, olive oil, and so much more. Stock up now, there won't be another order until fall. I'll take orders starting Sunday, March 17th, 24th & 31st. Please see Debbie Bard in Fellowship Hall.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Charmaine Thorley	Mar 1
Logan Kirkey	Mar 3
Bob Browder	Mar 5
Guy Cowing	Mar 5
Jim Thompson	Mar 6
Maggie Hodgkin	Mar 8
Crystal Siniarski	Mar 9
William Smith	Mar 10
Phyllis Cmejrek	Mar 11
John Maloney	Mar 11
Al Morrison	Mar 13
Jan Foster	Mar 16
Judy Hope	Mar 16
Patti Nelson	Mar 18
Deborah Vanderlip	Mar 19
Brian Coles	Mar 21
Jack Allen	Mar 22
Pam Andersen	Mar 23
Marta Watters	Mar 23
Max Watters	Mar 23
Olivia Kirkey	Mar 24
Sharon Cowing	Mar 25
Scott Grossmeyer	Mar 25
Glenn Maxwell	Mar 26
Rhonda Moore	Mar 26
Jackie Arrol	Mar 27
Madeline Davis	Mar 29
Ina Golden	Mar 30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Doug & Jan Jacob	March 3
Richard & Debera Bard	March 23
Andrew & Crystal Siniarski	March 23
Steve & Sharlyn Sutton	March 28
James & Jan Foster	March 29

MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED Men's Breakfast
3 Youth Sunday Communion Sunday 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am-10:45am Adult Bible Study, FH 11:00am Worship Service 12:30pm-1:30pm Blood Pressure Check, FH	4 1:00pm – 2:00pm Knitting Group YR 6:30pm-8:30pm Women's Covenant Group, CR 7:00pm – 9:00pm Boy Scouts, FH	5 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	6 8:00am–12:00pm Men's Work Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Women's Covenant Group, FH 6:00pm-6:45pm Youth Choir, DR 7:00pm - 7:45pm Ash Wednesday Service, FH 6:30pm – 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 8:15pm – 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	7 6:00pm-7:30pm Girl Scout Brownie Troop, FH	8 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-2:00pm Social Justice Group, Meeting, YR 6:15pm-8:30pm Eagle Scout Board of Review, CR	9 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00am-12:00pm Strategic Planning, CR 9:30am-10:30am Yoga, YR
10 6 Weeks until Easter Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am 10:45am Adult Bible Study, FH 11:00am Worship Service 1230pm - 1:30pm Club 45 2:00pm-5:00pm Blue & Gold Banquet, FH 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, YR	11 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, CR 7:00pm-8:00pm Boy Scouts, FH	12 11:00am – 12:15pm Bible Study CR 1:30pm-3:00pm Library Committee Meeting, CR 7:00pm-9:00pm Book Binders 7:00pm-8:00pm Cub Scous Den 3, AR	13 8:00 AM–12:00 PM Men's Work Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Women's Covenant Group, FH 4:00pm-4:30pm All Staff Meeting, CR 4:30pm - 6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting, CR 5:30pm-7:30pm, FH Lenten Simple Meals 6:00pm-7:30pm Combined Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30pm – 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 7:45pm – 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	14 10:00am - 11:00am Card Class , FH 10:00am-12:00pm Hopice Care Team, CR 6:00pm-8:00pm Christian Education Committee Meeting, CR	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00am-12:00pm Food Bank of Eastern Michigan 9:30am-12:00pm CE Volunteer Breakfast, FH 12:00pm-1:30pm CLC Potato Bake Prep
17 St. Patrick's Day 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am-10:45am Adult Bible Study, FH 11:00am Worship Service 12:00pm-1:00pm St. Patrick's Potato Back 2:00pm-7:00pm Miller Baby Shower, FH 2:00pm-5:00pm The Dibbleville Dolls – St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Fenton Hotel 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, YR	18 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group YR 6:30pm-8:30pm Women's Covenant Group 6:30pm - 8:30pm Admin Committee Meeting, CR 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Boy Scouts FH	19 11:00am – 12:15pm Bible Study CR 6:30pm-8:30pm Session Meeting 7:00pm-9:00pm Pack Meeting, FH 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 3, Art Room	20 8:00 AM–12:00 PM Men's Work Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Women's Covenant Group, FH 5:30pm-7:30pm, FH Lenten Simple Meals 6:00pm-7:30pm Youth Combined Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30pm – 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 7:45pm – 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	21 6:00pm-7:30pm Girl Scout Brownie Troop, FH 6:30pm-7:30pm Girl Scout District Planning Meeting	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 OFFICE CLOSED Youth Sunday Rehearsal, Sanctuary
24 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am-10:45am Adult Bible Study, FH 11:00am Worship Service 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, YR	25 10:00am - 11:00am Prayer Ministry Team, Sanctuary 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group YR 6:30pm-8:30pm Women's Covenant Group, CR 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Den 1, FH	26 11:00am – 12:15pm Bible Study CR 6:30pm-8:30pm Session Meeting, CR 6:00pm-8:00pm Deacons Meeting, YR	27 8:00 AM–12:00 PM Men's Work Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Women's Covenant Group, FH 4:00pm-4:30pm All Staff Meeting, CR 5:30pm-7:30pm, FH Lenten Simple Meals 6:00pm-7:30pm Combined Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30pm – 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 7:45pm – 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	28	29	30 12:00pm-5:30pm Warba Baby Shower
31 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am-10:45am Adult Bible Study, FH 11:00am Worship Service 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, YR						

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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