

FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LIVING WITH CHRIST, SERVING THE WORLD

HAPPY SPRING

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON AND A
TIME TO EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN



PASTORS ARTICLE DISCIPLINE IS NOT A BAD WORD

When we talk about discipline most of us think of parenting and the principal's office. Discipline is what happens when we need to be corrected and our behavior adjusted. However discipline is also used in a positive sense when we talk about sports, music and artistic skills like carpentry or art. Discipline is what we call the practice, the lessons and the rehearsals. It is the inner drive to critically examine your craft, and the exterior effort of being taught and led that we call discipline. Just as we need discipline to excel in art and sports, we need discipline in our spiritual lives as well. These next few weeks we will be highlighting various spiritual disciplines during our worship services as an effort to grow deeper in our faith as a church.

All of the things that we call spiritual disciplines are normal activities in the Christian Life and many times in life in general. They become spiritual disciplines because of the effort of concentration on specific actions in a disciplined way for spiritual benefit. While spontaneity in our faith is valuable and flexibility to what the Spirit draws us to is crucial, we are called to grow in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18) and that takes a concerted effort.

Our first topic of the month will be **PRAAYER**. Both spontaneous and prepared, private and public, prayer is a huge topic. Being disciplined in prayer is a great gift and a skill to be developed. There are many ways to grow in prayer. Learning to pray publicly, gathering with others to pray, and keeping a prayer journal are all ways that can enhance our prayer life. There are a multitude of different ways to pray and many ways to grow in our conversations with God.

LOVE can be a discipline as well, although we most commonly think of it as an emotion. It might sound like disciplined love is an oxymoron. Ultimately, love is a virtue (not just an emotion) and being disciplined in acts of love does not callus us. Intentionally acting in love causes our hearts to grow and increases our ability to feel and to respond emotionally to others around us. A key part to being disciplined in love is that we can do most things in a loving manner and therefore love can become an innate quality of our lives rather than just a discipline. Disciplined love stretches us and may find us loving people we couldn't imagine and in ways that we wouldn't dare.

Living in **GRATITUDE** is like planting seeds and watering them well. Rarely are seeds like those barren. What a richness we can experience if we are but thankful for the gifts of God and those around us. Even in difficult circumstances there is always something to be thankful for, and the discipline of looking for it shapes our hearts and opens our eyes to the activity of God in our world. It is those difficult circumstances that call for discipline surrounding gratitude. It is too easy to extenuate the negative and descend into despair.

Acts of **MERCY** and **KINDNESS** are fruit of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. These can be done by individuals or groups of people. When groups of people get together to accomplish something in Christ's name we call it mission. Joining a group to work at a food bank, trash pick up at a local park with friends, and raising funds for hunger issues all are part of God's mission in the world. However God's Mission is not confined to our own neighborhood: it is a global initiative. Supporting and praying for churches and ministries worldwide is a discipline that expands our notion of God's work in the world. It can also challenge us about who God is as we see people that we perceive as aliens become friends and even brothers and sisters in Christ.

Being intentional about spiritual practices will produce personal growth. Concerted efforts to improve spiritual practice will also sew bonds of faith between believers. All in all, spiritual disciplines allow us to know more about who God is and what God would have us do. We look forward to seeing what God will do with us as we learn together this month.

Pastor Robbie

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

GRATITUDE

PRAYER

MERCY

LOVE



KINDNESS

MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP

MISSION SPOTLIGHT



ADOPT A PET MISSION OPPORTUNITY MAY 18TH, 2019 9AM-1PM

Volunteer to serve the local Adopt-a-Pet agency in a variety of ways with other church members. Your choice of activities include socializing the animals, cleaning and sorting pet supplies and various building maintenance tasks. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Ken Wensel for more information.

ABOUT ADOPT-A-PET

Adopt-A-Pet is a non-profit animal rescue for dogs/pups and cats/kittens. Their mission is to provide a means to place unwanted, adoptable animals into appropriate, loving homes. They hold themselves to a high standard – one which looks out for the physical AND mental well being of their animals. All of their animals are current on shots and testing, spayed/neutered, and wormed prior to placing them in loving homes. All potential adopters are screened to ensure an appropriate match is made.

In 2018, Adopt-A-Pet found loving homes for almost 1200 cats and dogs. Many needed major vet care.

SAVE THE DATE



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST
8:30AM-1:30PM

HELP SAVE
A
LIFE!

GIVE THE GIFT OF BLOOD
ON JUNE 1st our church will be
hosting a **BLOOD DRIVE** from
8:30am to 1:30pm with Red Cross.

If you wish to donate blood call Red cross, 1-800-733-2767 or sign-up online, www.redcross.org. to schedule an appointment time. Fellowship Hall. For more information please contact Jo Beardslee or Sherry Hunt.

Volunteers interested in baking cookies or assisting with donors on that day a sign-up sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall.

2019 CHRISTMAS IN ACTION

Tri-County Christmas In Action performed significant home repairs to two houses (one in Byron and one in Gaines) on Saturday, April 27 2019. Patricia is the homeowner and resident. Her daughter Tisha was the person requesting our assistance.

Six volunteers from our church worked at the house in Byron. Our team helped to repair/rebuild a wheelchair ramp and clean up the yard. The roof was also re-shingled by a couple men who were very familiar with roofing. The homeowner could no longer safely use the wheelchair ramp before it was repaired. Her large yard needed a lot of clean up. She is most appreciative of our service.

Our mission budget enables us to contribute to the Christmas In Action budget each year. Our time, talents and treasure are making a positive difference in God's world.



EVER WONDERED WHAT IT D BE LIKE TO SPONSOR A CHILD

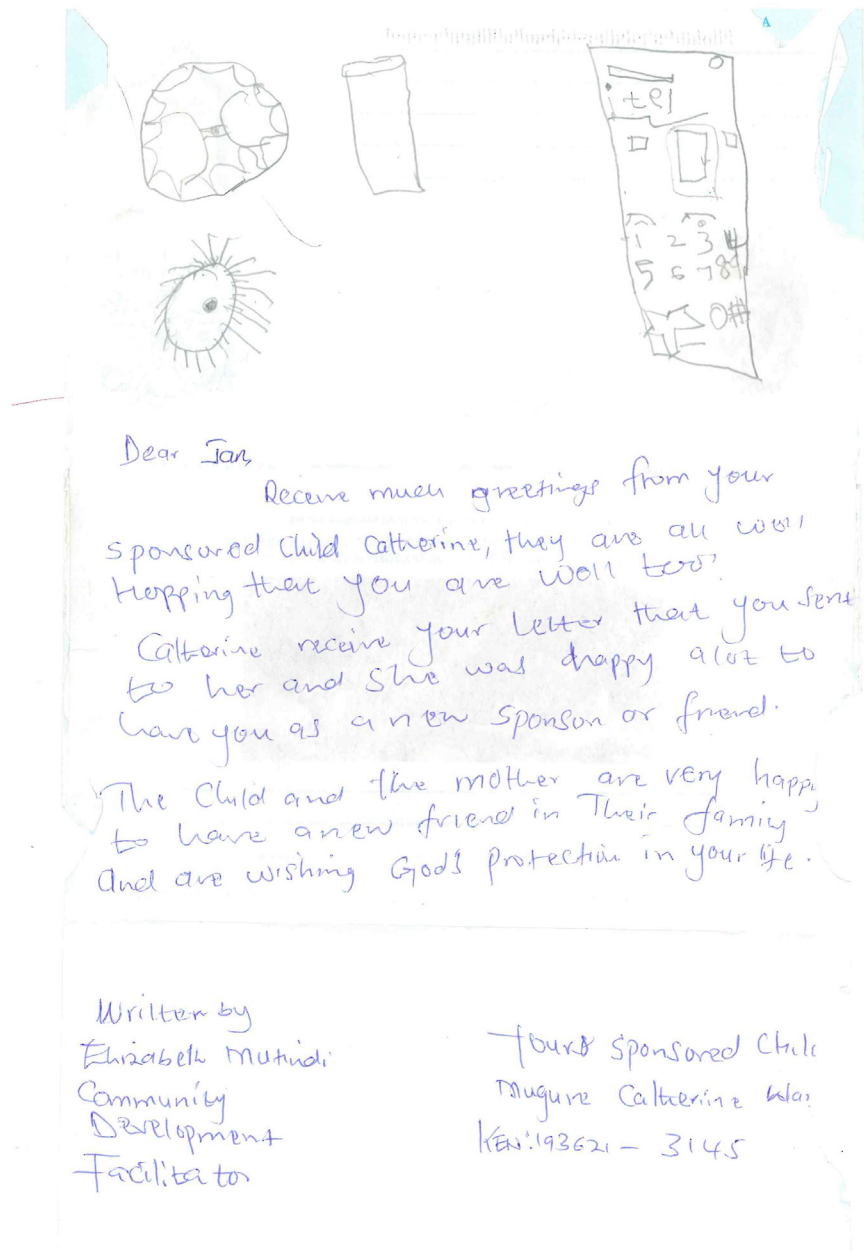
Here is an example from Jan Foster, who signed up to do just that during World Vision's Matthew 25 Challenge last Fall.

I would like to introduce Catherine. She is almost 6 and lives with her mother, a farmer, in Kenya. She likes playing with her "babies" (dolls) and helping with chores. I know because I am her sponsor through World Vision. I had been looking for a concrete way to demonstrate my conviction that the love of God, Grace of Christ and Power of the Spirit are never limited by borders, nationality, gender, or skin color. That is when our youth offered the chance to sponsor a child.

Included in my welcome packet from World Vision was a video of Catherine's village and the school built and maintained by World Vision. The young man narrating the tour of the tiny school was so excited about their newest school upgrade, two cinderblock bathrooms. It was a big improvement over the single lean-to they had before and he was thrilled.

World Vision is our "go-between". They maintain Catherine's privacy and mine, translate and deliver snail mail (I have two letters with pictures drawn by Catherine) and email, and offer suggestions on how to communicate with someone whose life is soooo different from mine. They keep me updated on Catherine's life and offer the chance to send her small gifts for special days (a little colorful booklet in her language is on its way for Easter- mail takes several weeks to go between us.) It is a blessing to help show the love of God in such a tangible way. Thank you, Youth Group.

Jan Foster



FAITH IN FEMININITY UPDATE

Faith in Femininity would like to thank the congregation and the church for everything they have done for this mission. Everything we have accomplished would not be possible without the help of our wonderful faith community. We are so excited to announce that we have applied for our official 501(c)(3) non-profit status! Although we will technically be our own entity, we still plan to operate out of the church and call it our home! We will continue to ask the church for support and keep the congregation informed about all of our events.



THERE ARE STILL SO MANY WAYS THAT YOU CAN BE INVOLVED WITH FAITH IN FEMININITY, SUCH AS

- Making a donation through our website (faithinfemininity.org)
- Hosting a fundraiser or product drive
- Volunteering at our packaging parties

Right now, we are preparing for our Mother's Day Totes and Tampons Event! We plan to package enough products to serve 500 women, and the products will be packaged in reusable tote bags as an added gift to recipients. Our hope is that the women we serve will be able to use the tote bag even after the products are gone. We are raising funds for this event via a GoFundMe, and it will cost us about \$2,000 in total. If you'd like to make a contribution, please visit the link to our GoFundMe: <https://www.gofundme.com/mothers-day-totes-amp-tampons-drive>

Our Mother's Day packaging party will be held on Friday, May 10 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. We would like to invite the congregation to join us-- it would be nice to have many volunteers as we will be packaging 500 bags, so come if you can! Our hope is for it to be a community event. If you'd like more information about the party please email us at "faithinfem@gmail.com".

We are so excited for the future of this mission and so grateful to our church for nurturing us as we grow.

[HTTPS://FAITHINFEMININITY.ORG](https://faithinfemininity.org)

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM FAITHINFEMININITY](https://www.facebook.com/faithinfemininity)

[HTTPS://TWITTER.COM FAITHINFEM](https://twitter.com/faithinfem)

[HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM FAITHINFEMININITY](https://www.instagram.com/faithinfemininity)

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

It is the tradition of the First Presbyterian Church of Fenton to honor those who have been members for forty continuous years or more. This recognition will take place during both the 9am & 11am Services on Sunday, May 5th.

Being part of any organization for forty continuous years is a major accomplishment. Few people stay in one place that long anymore, and this is a wonderful milestone. Your loyalty to your church family is admired and appreciated.

THANK YOU!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOUNDED FEBRUARY 28, 1840

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH
FOR 40 CONTINUOUS YEARS OR MORE

73 years	Royce Hyde	52 years	Joanne Porter
69 years	Bob Strom	49 years	Barbara Hungerford
65 years	Phyllis Cmejrek, Joyce Guilbault	48 years	Bob Browder, George Hameline
64 years	Aulene Becker	46 years	Peg Allen, Sharlyn Sutton and Steve Sutton, Peggy Fowler, Melissa Erwin
62 years	Judy Brown, Pat Gould	45 years	Greg Dean, Vera Thornton
61 years	Pamela Andersen	44 years	Mitzi Uebel, Lynne Watters, Denise Morris, Edith Miner
59 years	Walter Hungerford	43 years	Richard Bard, Debera Bard
58 years	Julie Hussar	42 years	Alice Maletic
55 years	Deloris Hyde, Betty Jean Skinner, Harold Skinner	41 Years	John Wrage, Sara Wrage, Shari Foguth
54 years	Ronald Anderson		
53 years	Gloria Butts		



DEACON S CORNER

It is a very heart-warming experience to be a part of something that helped so many grateful and in-need families. Both Maureen and I felt the emotional response from the families as they entered the youth room and looked around with amazement at all they were receiving. When we helped take the filled grocery bags and Easter baskets to their car, we received words of gratitude, many hugs and even tears of joy and appreciation.

One woman who picked up groceries and Easter baskets for her children said, "Wow, this is incredible, I never expected this much help." When I spoke with each family to remind them of the distribution date, one woman said to me, "This is such a blessing to our family." All the others said "thank you" several times during our conversations.

One family who received assistance this year adopts children from the Ukraine when they "age out of the orphanage" and they become homeless the day they turn 16. Their family has adopted close to 40 children over the years. When they successfully launch them into adulthood, they are able to adopt another teenager and begin the process again. But many of the local families we helped are experiencing temporary need to due a medical situation or loss of a job.

The generous response from our congregation, over and above the money received for the VG's gift certificates, allowed our Easter Project committee to purchase a large container of laundry detergent and a pack of toilet tissue for each family. As soap and paper products are not allowed to be purchased using public assistance, these items were particularly helpful to some of the families we served.

Deacon Easter Project Coordinators Marsha Schwarz and Shirley Israel

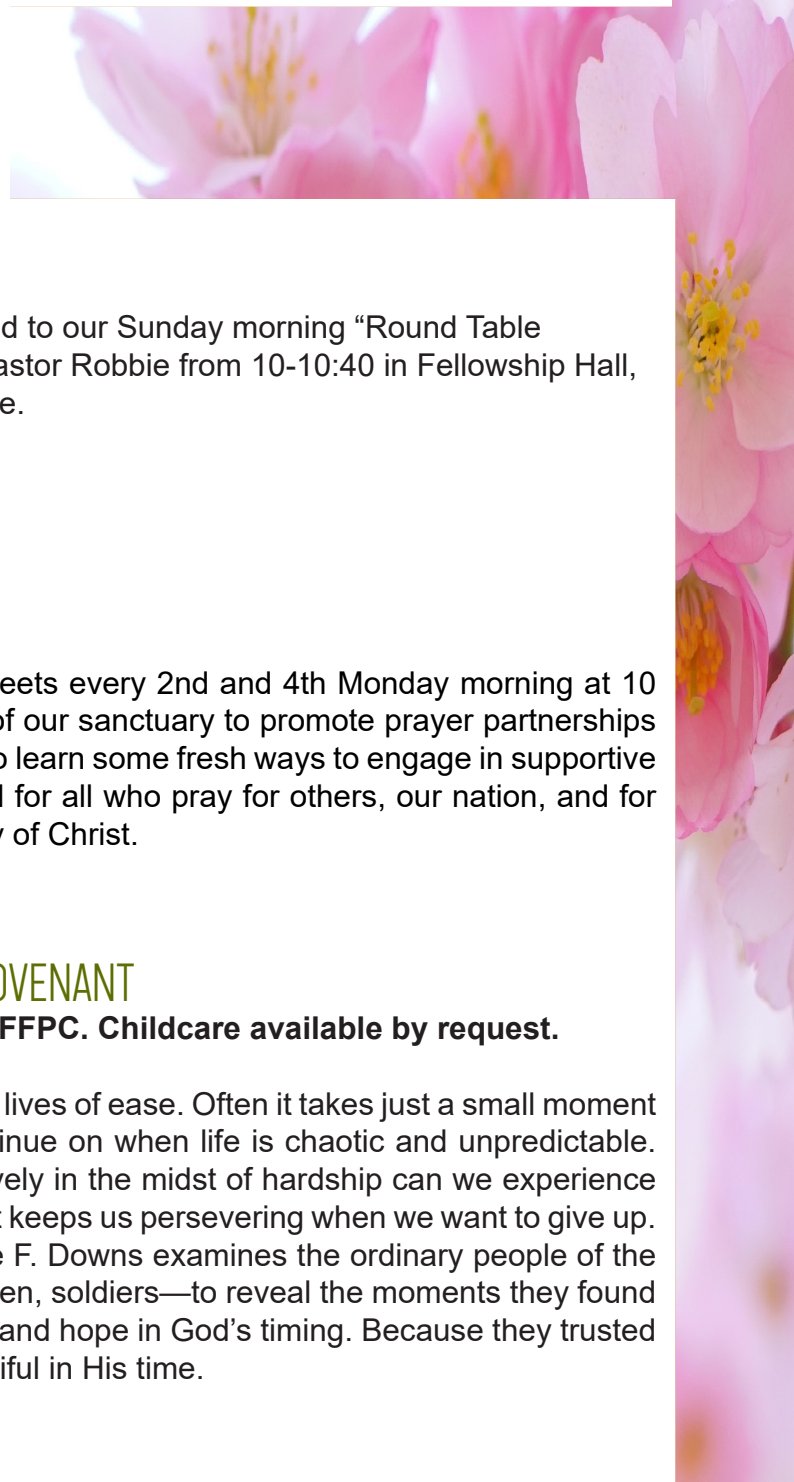


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

- * Study books are available for purchase through 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!



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Curious about other religions? Adults and youth invited to our Sunday morning "Round Table Discussions" from the Thoughtful Christian. Led by Pastor Robbie from 10-10:40 in Fellowship Hall, grab your coffee and bagel and join us as you are able.

May 5: Islam – Sunnis & Shiites

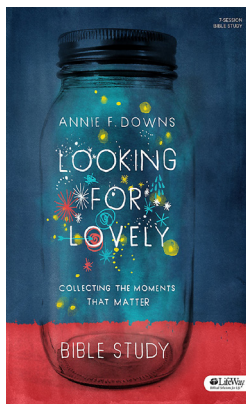
May 12: Judaism Part 2

May 19: Scientology



PRAYER MINISTRY

Our FFPC prayer team meets every 2nd and 4th Monday morning at 10 a.m. in the prayer annex of our sanctuary to promote prayer partnerships throughout our congregation. Drop in on us anytime to learn some fresh ways to engage in supportive intercessory prayer. Our prayer team is very grateful for all who pray for others, our nation, and for God's blessings for our life together in this community of Christ.



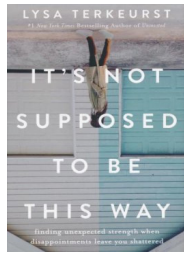
MONDAY EVENING WOMEN'S COVENANT

April 29-June 6, 6:30-8:00pm at FFPC. Childcare available by request. Hope you can join us.

As Christians, we are not promised lives of ease. Often it takes just a small moment of beauty to regain hope and continue on when life is chaotic and unpredictable. Only when we learn to spot the lovely in the midst of hardship can we experience the transcendent peace of God that keeps us persevering when we want to give up. In this 7-session Bible study, Annie F. Downs examines the ordinary people of the Bible—fishermen, gardeners, women, soldiers—to reveal the moments they found beauty in everyday circumstances and hope in God's timing. Because they trusted in this: He makes everything beautiful in His time.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

“Credo” A Study of the Apostles Creed continues through June from 11am-12:15pm in the Conference Room. Led by Pastor Lindsey, this class will meet each week to study a line from the Creed along with a New Testament scripture passage.



WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S COVENANT

“It’s Not Supposed to be This Way” continues through May 29 from 10am – noon in Fellowship Hall. finding unexpected strength when disappointments leave you shattered” by Lysa Terkeurst

Library Committee

Book review for May from the Library committee. By Nikki Black

Calling all men! There is a book in the church library just for you. God’s Little Devotional Book for Men is filled with short stories that inspire and direct lives. Devotional titles such as “Adversity Causes Some Men to Break; Others to Break Records,” “It’s Not Hard to Make Decisions When You Know What Your Values Are,” and “I’ve Never Been Hurt by Anything I Didn’t Say” point the way to a God-centered and love-centered way of living. Check it out! You can find it on the cart in the New Narthex.

Don’t forget that if you want to provide a book review on a book you liked from our library, just give it to our librarian Pam Coffin so she can share it in a newsletter.



MEN'S GROUP

Join 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.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER THIS QUESTION

During a recent Youth Group discussion we asked, “What makes reading the Bible meaningful to you?” Below are responses:

- The Psalms and other happy verses inspire me. It’s cool to know our belief system has lasted this long.
- It reminds me that God/Jesus cares for me and loves me.
- You can read God’s Word.
- Seeing stuff and being like, “That’s me, right now.” I also like seeing stuff I hadn’t seen before.
- I can apply stories from a long, long time ago to now.
- It helps me see what Jesus did, so I can follow him with more understanding.

FINANCIAL CORNER



KIDS AND MONEY FACE TO FACE WITH REALITY

Dr. Charles Fay of the Love and Logic Institute

Note from Tina Ritchie: *Here is part three in this series in learning tips on 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" or the book From Innocence to Entitlement from our church library.*

Inflation

Kids suffer from inflation. The cost of learning how to live in our world goes up daily. The price a child pays today to learn about friendships, school, learning, decision making, and responsibility is the cheapest it will ever be. Learning an important lesson today may be a bargain.

The older a child gets, the bigger the decisions become. Elementary school children make many decisions with affordable price tags. This means they can pick themselves up and try again if things don't work out. High school students are making life-and-death decisions—about fast cars, riding in the back of pickup trucks, drugs, alcohol, and other issues—on a daily basis.

Some children are allowed to learn at an early age not to antagonize bigger children. The cost of this knowledge is a few minor bumps and bruises. Others, protected from this experience, have to learn the same lesson during their teenage years at the cost of serious physical injury, usually at the hands of a much stronger person. I'd rather my child learn at an early age when the price is much more affordable.

I met a parent who likes to loan money to her young children. She believes this is a great opportunity for them to learn about responsibility and the way our banking system works.

She expects the child to sign a promissory note, provide collateral just as an adult would do at the bank, and pay off the loan by a certain date. She is actually training and preparing her children for the real world.

Recently she repossessed a video game when her son did not pay off his loan on time. She said that it really hurt her to have to take this away.

However, her most convincing statement was, "My son is really lucky. Here he is, only 10 years old, and he knows so much about the responsibility of paying back loans, collateral, and even repossessions. All it cost him was a \$29 video game. It was a bargain."

She added, "My neighbor's boy learned the same lesson at the age of 26 when the bank repossessed his \$2,900 car. My son had a 16 year head start on the neighbor boy. Now he has an additional piece of wisdom to carry him through life."

Handing the Problem Back

My child is no longer a young child. What can I do to help them learn about responsibility? Let's hear about a father and his son Blake.

Dumping his bags on the floor, Blake announced, "Dad, like this trooper gave me a ticket and it's not fair. He comes up and gets like all belligerent, telling me he ought to arrest me because I was going 30 miles over the limit. I told him, 'Like lighten up, dude. There's no one else on the road and it's like what's the big deal? I know it's a work zone, but it's after hours, man.' And then he like cops a real attitude on me. So, Dad, will you just take care of the ticket and not make a big deal out of it? How am I supposed to have a good vacation if I have to go to court and mess with this?"

In the past, Dad reacted to these situations with anger, but had always bailed Blake out. No wonder Blake thought this latest brush with the law was just another minor irritation.

What a shock! Dad didn't get mad. He simply reacted with, "Oh, man. How are you going to solve this? I bet it's going to cost you a bundle."

"What do you mean cost me a bundle? You're the one who wanted me to be home so soon. I'd have to sell my car to raise that kind of dough. Then how am I supposed to get to school?"

"I really don't know, Blake. If you don't figure it out in a couple of days, let me know and maybe I can share what some other people have tried in situations like this. The only thing I know for sure is that I won't be paying for anyone else's tickets."

Blake used all of the arguing techniques that had worked for him in the past, but Dad held his ground responding with, "I know, and what did I say?"

Blake stomped off muttering, "Oh, whatever."

It's painful to watch our children learn through natural consequences. But that pain is the price we pay to teach our children. We either hurt as we watch our children learn through life's natural consequences, or we hurt as we watch them grow up unable to take good care of themselves.

Thanks for reading our blog series Kids and Money! We hope this gives you some ideas you can implement to give your child financial responsibility. Find more wise words in our book Love and Logic Money-isms.



FAMILY CORNER

DiscipleLand
Disciples for Life®

Good News for Kids!



God made you and loves you.

God is powerful. He created everything—including you.
(See Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:20.)

God is personal. He loves you and wants to be your Friend.
(See John 3:16; Romans 8:38-39.)



God knows everything about you.

Every person sins against God.
(See Daniel 9:4-5; Romans 3:23.)

Every person will pay for sin—including you.
(See Romans 5:12; 6:23a.)



Jesus died to forgive your sins.

Jesus left heaven and lived a sinless life on earth.
(See Matthew 1:21; John 10:10; 1 Peter 2:22.)

Jesus took the punishment you deserved.
(See 1 Peter 2:24; Romans 5:8.)



Jesus rose to give you new life!

You can trust Jesus and become God's child.
(See John 1:12, 14:6.)

You can trust Jesus and receive new life.
(See John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17.)



Are you ready to trust Jesus as your Savior?

If you believe that Jesus died for your sins, express your faith and begin your new friendship by praying—talking with God.

- Admit that you have sinned and need forgiveness.
- Thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross to forgive your sins.
- Tell God that you trust Jesus as your personal Savior and you choose to follow Him.
- Ask God to make you the kind of person He wants you to be.



Trust God to empower you.

Jesus lives forever inside you.
(See Galatians 2:20; John 10:28, 15:5.)

The Holy Spirit will always guide you.
(See John 16:13; Acts 1:8.)

Tips for Sharing Christ with Children

- Remember that Jesus welcomes children to come to Him (Matthew 19:14).
- Pray before sharing to prepare your own heart and sensitivity.
- Discern each child's spiritual condition: Ready to respond? Struggling to understand? Resistant?
- Open the Bible and use it to clearly share the Gospel. Focus on trusting Christ (rather than simply praying or inviting Him into their physical heart or saying the right words).
- Encourage a child to express his or her faith (trust) in Jesus through prayer.
- Use visuals, such as a bridge illustration, a wordless book, Gospel bracelet, or diagrams to help communicate difficult words and concepts to children.
- After a child responds to God's offer of forgiveness, encourage public profession of faith in Christ to friends, family, and others.
- Deal with children individually. This helps to clarify their motives and know they are trusting Christ rather than imitating their friends.
- Go through the Gospel presentation twice. Explain the Good News the first time. Then, review the Gospel and offer an opportunity to respond the second time.
- Don't manipulate a child to simply do what you want. Discern the heart attitude and present the Gospel to those you consider ready to trust Christ.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

JUNE 9TH DURING 10AM WORSHIP

Attention High School and College Graduates: Please contact the church office by May 30 to let us know the school you are graduating from, and your degree if appropriate. Your presence is also requested for Graduate Recognition Sunday on June 9 during 10am worship; wear your cap & gown and share your future plans. We would like to celebrate your achievements and pray with you as you begin a new journey in life. May God's presence be with you all!



YOUTH GROUP

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 or text 810-701-4136.

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

May 5: Youth Group

May 12: No Youth Group – Happy Mother's Day

May 19: Youth Group

May 26: No Youth Group – Memorial Weekend

***Sat. June 1:** End of School Year Party noon-5pm

June 9: Graduate Recognition during 10am worship

SUMMER YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

The summer youth schedule will be available soon. Watch your emails, church bulletins and youth bulletin board for more information. Events include a day kayaking trip on the Shiawassee River, local mission, and camping at Heoft St. Park in August. We hope you are able to join us!

SUMMER TRIPS

There are openings for the mission and backpacking trips. Please contact Tina Ritchie or Pastor Robbie for more information. We welcome your prayers for participants to grow closer to God by knowing Jesus.

MASSANETTA MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

(registration closed)

Theme: "At the Door" based on Matthew 7:7-12

Thursday, June 19 – Sunday, June 23

FEET TO FAITH MISSION TRIP (6th grade – Adult)

(Several spots open)

Canfield, Ohio

Sunday, July 7 – Friday, July 12

Cost: \$300

NORTH MANITOU ISLAND BACKPACKING RETREAT (High School)

(3 spots open)

Monday, July 22 – Friday, July 26

Cost: \$150

4 EASY Ways You Can Help Make A Difference

1 Bottle Drive: You may drop off your returnable bottles to the receptacle in the youth room on an ongoing basis.

2 Direct Your Dollars! Drop off your ENTIRE VG's receipts to the receptacle in Fellowship Hall. This new VG's rewards program benefits the youth scholarship account!

3 Register your Kroger Rewards Card

4 Always appreciated: Chips, cookies, popcorn, juice & pop for the youth rooms

5 Give to the Pentecost offering in May

6 Offer to sponsor a youth for camp or conferences

Thank you to an anonymous donor for the coin jar filled with \$197.15 worth of coins!

Our youth are fortunate to have a congregation who loves and supports them!!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CLUB 45

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

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.



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.

Below are our third quarter "Into the Promised Land" topics:

Unit 8 – Conquering the Land (Joshua)

4/28 Crossing the Jordan

5/5 The Battle of Jericho

5/12 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

Unit 9 – The Cycle of Judges (Judges/Ruth)

5/19 Israelite's Unfaithfulness

5/26 Deborah & Barak – 10am worship begins

6/2 Gideon

6/9 Samson

6/16 Ruth & Boaz

Big Picture Question: What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

Unit Key Verse: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness".* ~ 1 John 1:9

WORSHIP

FRONT PEW by Pastor Robbie Carnes

This ongoing article 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) or the Church Office (office@ffpc.org)

What is a Narthex and why do we have one?

Narthex comes from a Latinized Greek word meaning “porch,” referring to the entrance of the sanctuary. Thinking about the FFPC church building, we have an old Narthex and a new Narthex. If you enter the stairs and porch from South Leroy Street, you enter through the old Narthex. The new Narthex is the space between the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. The New Narthex addition to our building has coat racks, bulletins and bathrooms. Both Narthexes can be used to ‘listen in’ on the worship service. The Ushers use the old Narthex a great deal for their tasks as well as Communion servers. Both rooms provide us with spaces to prepare to enter the sanctuary.

The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church describes the Narthex historically as what we might think of here at FFPC. Byzantine Churches had a Narthex that was separated from the nave (the sanctuary) by columns, rails or a low wall. The Narthex would sometimes have a baptismal font, so that infants and adults could be baptized before they entered the nave. This still can be seen in some Catholic churches. It was also used for believers to ‘remember their baptism’ as a way to prepare for worship.

Many times there would be two parts of the Narthex. The esonarthex, which would be the enclosed part of the Narthex as a whole, was used for formal preparation for worship. The exonarthex is the outside portion of the Narthex in which more secular things might take place such as community news or friendly conversation. While I don’t suggest we change the current names, this reflects the different uses between our ‘new’ narthex and Fellowship Hall here at FFPC.



Ancient churches considered the Narthex as a special place for specific people. These people include catechumens, penitents, and energumens. Catechumens were those who needed to prepare in faith and knowledge and observe worship from the Narthex until their faith was confirmed. Penitents, those who did not feel prepared to enter into worship because of sin, regret or censure, could remain in the Narthex until they were ready to enter fully into worship. In fact, in the Eastern Churches today, special services of penitence and funerals are held in the Narthex. Energumens refer to demon possessed people or hysterical people who received special care but were not admitted into worship. Presumably because they would disrupt the order of worship.

At FFPC we don't exclude anyone from worship as ancient believers did. However, it still is important to prepare our hearts for worship. You might want to consider these kinds questions as you enter the sanctuary:

“Am I prepared for worship?”

“Am I faithfully offering sacrifices of praise and gratitude to God?” (Rather than the countless others things that I could be doing on any given Sunday.)

“Is there some spiritual concern that I need to deal with before I worship?”

“Is there something in my life that is distracting me from participating fully in the worship service?”

“Do I need to confess to another my guilt and seek forgiveness?”

“Do I need prayer for deep regret or shame?”

“Is my heart ready to gratefully receive God's Grace and Mercy?”

“How can I focus on God, rather than myself or others, as the congregation worships together?”

The next time you pass through the Narthex you might pause to consider how you are prepared for the worship service. It is not your physical condition or how you are dressed that matters, it is the condition of your heart that matters most.

1 Samuel 16:7b “God does not view things the way men do. People look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

What are your questions about FFPC worship?

Pastor Robbie

Member Question: Why does Pastor Lindsey or Pastor Robbie preach at other churches on some Sundays? If they are called to be pastor's here at Fenton, what is their responsibility to these other churches, if any?

Answer: Both Pastors have, from time to time, preached at other churches in the area. Many times our presence gives the called pastor an opportunity to go on vacation or Educational event. Sometimes we are part of a larger group of pastors in the Presbytery filling a vacant pulpit because a church is in a leadership transition.

Far and away these have all been Presbyterian Churches. We call ourselves a Connectional Church and this stems from deep theological commitments and a close reading of scripture. Suffice it to say, Presbyterians believe that we are responsible for each other and we are bound to each other by the Holy Spirit. Therefore if a Presbyterian church has need of a pastor to fill an empty pulpit or moderate a Session meeting, they will look for area Presbyterian Pastors to fill that role. This is part of what it means to belong to a Presbytery and a great encouragement to a church that might be struggling.

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 5, 3rd Sunday of Easter, Communion Sunday Celebration of 40+ Year Members

Pastor Lindsey Carnes

Practices for the Journey: Praying [Luke 11:1-13]; Prayer is speaking to God. We need to listen and to speak to God in order to know God. While we were created to be in relationship with God, we need to practice our conversational skills with God. This is part of the journey.

Layreader: Jenn Wenzel

Ushers: 9am Dennis & Jo Beardslee/ 11am Team #3

Sound Tech: Mark Gibb

Coffee Hour: Orange Team

Counters: Lin Savage & Dennis Beardslee

Nursery: 9am Lindsey Gibb
11am Madeline Gibb

Gospel Project:

9am Pre-k Gretchen Coles

11am Pre-k Tina Ritchie

11am K-2nd Jenny Gibb & Jeanne Cupp

11am 3rd-5th Julie & Tony Grams

May 6th, Outreach Communion

May 12, 4th Sunday of Easter, Mothers Day Youth Musical

Pastor Robbie Carnes

Practices for the Journey: Loving [1 John 3:11-5:4]; God is love so we must love one another. In fact it is by loving that we reflect the character of God. And it is by experiencing this love that we come to know more about who God is.

Layreader: Larry Zimble

Ushers: 9am Michael & Debbie Vanderlip/ 11am Team #4

Acolytes: Matthew Maxwell & Emily Hollopeter

Sound Tech: Doug Watters

Coffee Hour: Yellow Team (Men's Coffee Hour)

Counters: Jon O'Connell & Sara Wrage

Nursery: 9am PJ Collier
11am Annabeth Carnes

Gospel Project:

9am Pre-K PJ Collier

May 19, 5th Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Pastor Lindsey Carnes

Practices for the Journey: Thanking [Luke 17:11-19]; To be thankful is a heart condition. We all have received false gratitude from someone and a few of us have given it. To be truly thankful our hearts have been spiritually ready to appreciate what God has done. Some come upon this naturally and others need much practice. However in all cases gratitude is a condition that needs to be nurtured.

Layreader: Jerry Hope

Ushers: 9am Dennis Beardslee & Sherry Hunt
11am Team #5

Acolytes: Chloe Muntin & Annabeth Carnes

Sound Tech: Jay Kirkey

Coffee Hour: Green Team

Counters: Shirley Israel and Sarah Martin-Fanone

Nursery: 9am Lindsey Gibb
11am Madeline Gibb

Gospel Project:

9am Pre-K Jenny Gibb

11am Pre-K Tina Ritchie

11am K-2nd Jenny Gibb & Jeanne Cupp

11am 3rd-5th Janet Stork & Roy Fetzer

May 26, 6th Sunday of Easter

One Service Schedule

Memorial Day Weekend

Preacher: Pastor Robbie Carnes

Practices for the Journey: Mission [Matthew 28:16-20 and Luke 10:1-24]; We can talk a great deal about God, theology and love. But if we do not act it out then we are worse than noise gongs. But how marvelous when we gain a vision of not just random acts of love but God's Mission in the world of mercy, justice and redemption. Being sent on God's Mission is part of the journey.

Layreader: Jerry Hope

Ushers: 10am Team #6

Acolytes: Madeline & Lindsey Gibb

Sound Tech: Doug Watters

Coffee Hour: Blue Team

Counters: Martha Smith & Ken Wensel

Nursery: 10am Gretchen Coles & Nancy Parkin

Gospel Project:

10am Preschool - Gretchen Coles

10am K-5 Tina Ritchie & Julie Campbell



SAVE THE DATE! 2019 Youth Musical!

May 12, 2019 at the 11am Worship Service

Back to the Bible

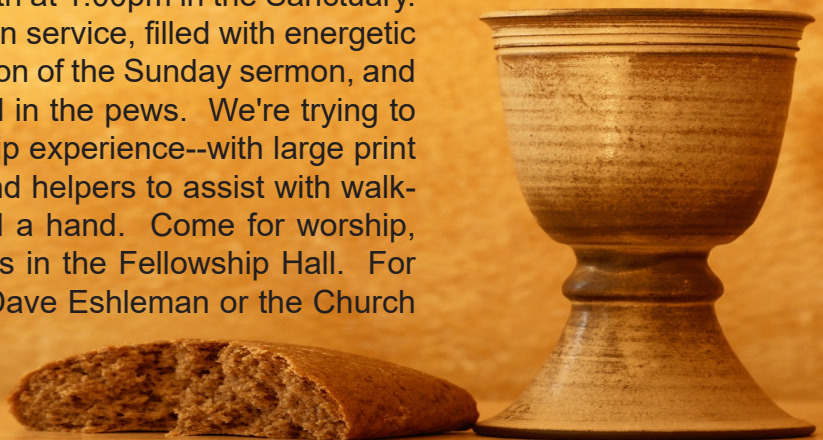
Written by Madeline Gibb

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.



Who said Communion just happens on Sunday mornings?

The next date is Monday, May 6th 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Book Binders on May 14th we will be meeting at Mary Zimbler's house, 5291 Owen Rd. at 7:00. We will be discussing The Lost Girls of Paris by Pam Jenoff. The book for June is In the Light of the Garden by Heather Burch. If you have any questions call Mary at 810-735-7847 or call the church.

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

Spring is here and so is the dust If you are able to join in to help deep clean the sanctuary on May 9th oh my, please do!! We will also dust parts of the original Narthex and the new Narthex. We will gather at or around 9:00am. There will be sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall only for the purpose of knowing how many donuts to bring!

Treasurer Report - 2019 Financials

Profit/Loss	March	YTD Total
Income:	\$25,886.88	\$87,937.32
Expense:	\$25,947.51	\$79,867.30
Net Income:	-\$60.63	\$8,070.02

Statement of Cash Flows

Cash at Beginning of Period:	\$81,032.11
Cash at End of Period:	\$79,920.77
Net Cash Increase:	\$ 1,111.34

Building Fund Report

Building Fund-Completing the Miracle (6/1/16-5/31/19) - As of March 31, 2019

Pledged	\$351,941
Received to date:	\$336,450

Building Fund

Building Account Balance:	\$18,145
Mortgage Remaining:	\$265,363



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Rachel Black	May 1	Madeline Gibb	May 20
Andrew Siniarski	May 1	Anna Janowak	May 20
Michael Pelletier	May 8	John Danules	May 21
Marilee Smiley	May 9	Robert McLive	May 21
Cameron Anderson	May 10	Jerry Welch	May 22
Morris Fulcher	May 10	Jenny Gibb	May 23
Paul Joitke	May 11	Jeff Stone	May 24
Pat Allen	May 12	Bev Tippett	May 24
Martha Smith	May 14	Gerri Danules	May 29
James Foster	May 15	Shirley Israel	May 30
Sarah Martin-Fanone	May 16	Tabatha Dolan	May 31
Bob Clark	May 17	Aubrey Howieson	May 31
Debera Bard	May 18	Bob Strom	May 31
Chris Coffin	May 19		
Mark Martin-Fanone	May 19		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Gary & Barbara LaPointe	May 3
Frank & Charmaine Thorley	May 10
Jeff & Sharon Stone	May 19
Doug & Lynne Watters	May 21
Jim & Joy Thompson	May 24

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:00am-12:00pm Men's Work Day 6:00pm-7:30pm Combined Youth Choir, Sanctuary 6:30pm - 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 8:15pm - 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	2 7:30am-8:30am Prayer Breakfast Fellowship Hall 6:00pm-7:30pm Girl Scout Brownie Troop, FH 6:30pm-8:30pm Mission & Stewardship Committee Meeting	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 OFFICE CLOSED All Day Cub Scouts 8:00am-10:00am Men's Breakfast
5 40+ Year Member Recognition Comunion Sunday 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am-10:40am Roundtable Discussion, Fellowship Hall 11:00am Worship Service 12:15-1:30 Club 45 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, YR	6 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	7 11:00am - 12:15pm Bible Study, CR 6:30pm - 8:30pm New Member & Communication Meeting, YR Committee Meeting, CR 7:00pm-8:00pm Cub Scout Den 3, AR	8 8:00am-12:00pm Men's Work Day 4:00pm-4:30pm All Staff Meeting, CR 4:45pm - 6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting, CR 6:00pm-8:00pm Conference Room Reserved 6:00pm-7:30pm Combined Youth Choir, Sanctuary 6:30pm - 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 8:15pm - 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	9 10:00am - 12:00am Card Class , FH 10:00am-12:00pm Hopice Care Team, CR 6:00pm-8:00pm Christian Education Committee Meeting, CR	10 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-2:00pm Social Justice Group, Meeting, YR 7:00pm-9:00pm Faith in Femininity Packaging Party, Fel- lowship Hall	11 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00am-12:00pm Strategic Planning Meet- ing, Conference Room
12 Mother's Day 9:00am Worship Service 11:00am Worship Service 10:00am-10:40am Roundtable Discussion, Fellowship Hall	13 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	14 11:00am - 12:15pm Bible Study CR 1:30pm-2:30pm Library Committee Meeting, Conference Room 6:45pm-8:45pm Administration Meeting, Conference Room 7:00pm-9:00pm Pack Meeting, FH 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 3, Art Room	15 8:00 AM-12:00 PM Men's Work Day 6:30pm - 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 7:45pm - 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	16 6:00pm-7:30pm Girl Scout Brownie Troop, FH	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18 OFFICE CLOSED 8am-2pm Adopt-A-Pet Mission Event 9:30am-11:30am Sanctuary Unavailable
19 9:00am Worship Service 11:00am Worship Service 10:00am-10:40am Roundtable Discussion, Fellowship Hall 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, YR	20 Earth Day Easter Monday 10:00am - 11:00am Prayer Ministry Team, Sanctuary 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group YR 5pm-8am Family Promise 6:30pm-8:30pm Women's Covenant Group 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Boy Scouts FH	21 11:00am - 12:15pm Bible Study CR 6:30pm-8:30pm Session Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 3, Art Room	22 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 5pm-8am Family Promise 6:30pm - 7:30pm Bell Choir, CHR 7:45pm - 9:30pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED
26 9:00am Worship Service 11:00am Worship Service 10:00am-10:40am Roundtable Discussion, Fellowship Hall	27 Office Closed	28 11:00am - 12:15pm Bible Study CR 11:00am-12:00pm Downtown Reads Book Club, YR 6:45pm-8:00pm Deacon's Meeting, CR 7:00pm-8:00pm Den 3, Art Room	29	30	31	

WAYS TO GIVE

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



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



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



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



Non-Cash Giving: Assets or Planned Gifts



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

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