

Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Living with Christ, serving the world

Newsletter July 2019

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

2 Corinthians 3:17

Pastor's Article

The following comes from a series of articles written by Abraham Kuyper and this particular article is called 'The Person Sanctified'.

Transformation in the Holy Spirit

Sanctification

This is a big theological word and very important to Reformed believers (as most Presbyterians are). At its simplest, sanctification is the process in which the Holy Spirit makes us good. It is differentiated from the justifying work of Jesus on the cross in that the cross justifies us and the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of righteousness in our lives affecting our behavior, attitude, desires, etc. In Abraham Kuyper's words: "Justification deals with the guilt of sin, sanctification deals with the stain of sin".

Renewing of the Mind

You have heard this verse before: "(Romans 12:2) Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God – what is good and well-pleasing and perfect." The Holy Spirit renews our minds and this leads to the transformation of our lives. It is the act of the Holy Spirit to expand our perspective and give us an eternal vision for what God is doing in our lives and the world.

Renewed Consciousness Receives New Knowledge and New Functions

Many of us have been selfish and self oriented. Personally, that is a constant struggle. Many of us have found that our faith leads us to be softer of heart to those around us. We read the words of Jesus and find a call to serve rather than to be served. We find that to open our heart up to others in love and service is a remarkable way to live.

"...That stiffness and hardness which prevents the will's free action in this respect must be removed. The Scripture calls this the taking away of the stony heart and the giving of a heart of flesh which is no longer hard and insensible. Where sin had bound the will by inclining it to evil, thereby depriving it of power of bending in the opposite direction, that is, toward God, the gracious gift of sanctification now comes to relieve that bending over to hell, and to give it power to incline to God."

Freed from sin by the cross the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. This is the process of sanctification in our lives and it is a transformation of our self-will from being bound by selfish sin to being free to react to God's love for us and the world.

Passions and Body are Laid Under the Control of a Godly Will

As we find the Holy Spirit freeing our will from sin and being aligned to the will of God we find that it is not just our thinking, but our actions, our passions and our desires become directed by God's will. As we mature in our faith we find that the Holy Spirit plays more and more of a central role in our actions and our decision making.

"Hence we should not imagine that we are a fully-rigged, well-provisioned craft which, at its own risk and without a pilot, swiftly carries us to the haven of rest; for without wind and tide we cannot move our craft at all. The heart of the saint is a Bethel; when he rises from blessed dreams he is ever surprised to find that God is in this place and he knew it not. When we are called to speak, act, or fight,

we do so as though we were doing it all ourselves, not perceiving that it is Another who works in us to both will and to do. But as soon as we have finished the task successfully and agreeably to the will of God, as men of faith we prostrate ourselves before Him and cry, "Lord, the work was Thine."

It is in our sinful nature to 'do it by ourselves'. It is goal of the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification in our lives to conform our wills to God's and thus work through us God's purposes. As our faith matures we find that everything, even our entertainment choices become more Godly. Not that we are working harder to be perfect, but that we are working less to be selfish and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us.

Why is this important?

Sanctification is the work of transformation in us by the Holy Spirit. Our faith should change us. We and other people around us should notice this change. One example of this change is serving God to do something when we might ourselves feel inferior or unworthy to the task. And how we are to consider others, especially those who we might think as inferior to ourselves. We will be looking at this topic in the next few months as we study Women in Scripture in our Unlikely Heroes sermon series. In Biblical times women were far from equals to men, yet God called them to accomplish great things and there is much to learn about the Gospel from the lives of these Women who were changed and spurred on by the Holy Spirit.



Member Submission

Look Where You Want To Go

By Jennifer MacLean 2019-05-21

There have been many new, overwhelming things to get used to living as an expat in China, one of which is learning to ride a bike in the city. I have never ridden a bike much after childhood, and when I did as a child it was in my tiny town where there were no streetlights, no big buildings, few cars, and few pedestrians. I was always too nervous to ride a bike much in cities, but moving to China has cured me of that, out of necessity, since we can't drive in China. My husband has a driver for work, but I couldn't use the driver very often so I relied on my own two wheels most of the time.

I absolutely love living in a bike friendly city, but it does have its drawbacks outside of the weather. The most stressful parts for me were getting through our apartment complex gate and passing other cyclists/scooter drivers going the other way on the narrow bike lane. I would look at the gate/cyclist, hold my breath, slow down, swerve, wobble, sweat, barely miss it... and off again. After quite a while of this comedy of stress I thought there must be a better way. I thought of my daughter Audrey's horse riding lessons with her instructor, Karen, yelling at her to "look ahead!! Look where you're going!! DO NOT look at that jump!! Look where you want to go!!" If Audrey looked at the jump, her posture and center of gravity would shift, confuse the horse, and the horse would refuse the jump, and Audrey would fall off. And then she would have to bake brownies for Karen, no nuts, because it is never the horse's fault but the stupid human's. Hmm, I thought, maybe I could use this in my bike riding. I started to NOT look at the scary obstacle, but look where I wanted to go instead, without slowing down (hey, if you go faster on a bike you don't wobble!!). It worked! I overcame my fear of these obstacles, and reflected on how I've used a similar idea in other areas of my life.

This bike/obstacle scenario is obviously a trust issue, and reminded me of my overall difficulty with trust, and its close cousin, faith. I thought of my favorite scene from *The Shack*, where the father is in a boat with Jesus. When he takes his eyes off Jesus, he looks down to the water and the boat, and the water becomes dark, foreboding, and begins to fill the boat. The lighting and entire ambiance of the scene changes to one of fear and Jesus' voice becomes further and further away as the father becomes carried away by his fear. Jesus keeps repeating "Look at ME! Look at ME! Look at ME!" And finally, in spite of his fear, he does. And the lighting shifts, he hears Jesus' voice more clearly, and you can see the fear ebb away as does the dark water. Look where you want to go. Look at Him.

I have long struggled with anxiety, and a lot of that struggle came from pervasive fear and thoughts of the "what if..." variety. What if I hit that gate? What if I hit that cyclist? What if my daughter gets hurt? What if I get lost in Shanghai and my phone dies and I don't have a translate app and no one speaks English and and and. What if my girls don't like school here? What if they don't make friends? What if the police seize my dog? What if we can't find food we like here? What if I get stopped and I don't have my passport? What if... What if... What if... If I look at Him, I will look where I want to go. If I look at Him the What ifs become quieter. They never fully go away, but it becomes easier to not respond to them when you are looking elsewhere. If I look at Him I will not hit the gate because that is not where I am looking. Love dispels all fear. When I wake in the night from a nightmare or panic attack, or just a spinning mind, I know that all I need to do is look to love. I picture and feel God's loving arms around me. I listen to my husband breathing and feel his warmth and the loving safety he gives me. I think of my children sleeping in the next rooms, sending them love in the night, feeling the love they have for me. I give myself love, forgiving myself for mistakes I made that day. I listen to my dog's breathing and imagine the feel of her soft ears. I do not look at that gate, that fear. I look where I want to go; towards love, and I breathe, pray, and I sleep. And then I wake up and go for a bike ride.

A Warm Welcome



FFPC has been blessed to have Hikari Nakamura as our accompanist from January 2018-February 2019. This spring she graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Chamber Music. Her sweet spirit and emotive gift for playing classical music was an asset to our worship services.

During our search for a new accompanist, FFPC member Gretchen Coles filled in for the 9am service and community friend Andrea Flodin played for the 11am service and the choir. They both brought variety to our worship through Lent and Easter, allowing the church to do a thorough search for our next musician.



Benjamin Gittens began as our new accompanist on Memorial Day weekend. He accompanied the choir for their last 2 Sundays and he will accompany the special musicians through the summer at the combined 10am service. During the fall he will accompany the 9am and 11am services.

Benjamin is a graduate level Piano Performance and Chamber Music student at the University of Michigan. He graduated in 2018 with a Bachelors in Piano Performance from the College Conservatory of Music. He has experience as a piano teacher and church pianist with several types of churches, including Reformed, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Seventh-Day Adventist.

On a personal note, Benjamin is getting married this summer to a fellow U of M student who is a violinist. He is originally from Cincinnati and began his church music experience by playing in the Seventh-Day Adventist church he grew up in. Many of you got to meet his father Paul, who is originally from Barbados and came to visit with Benjamin on his first Sunday. We hope you'll give Benjamin a warm welcome!

Strategic Planning



Where are we heading?

Does ministry feel like riding an exercise bike? Are you working really hard, breaking a good sweat, but never seeming to make much progress? First, know you are not alone. So many times, as leaders in the church, we feel sort of stuck — stuck in the routine, Sunday to Sunday, budget to budget, just existing from one liturgical season to the next.

The process of developing a strategic plan can help move a church forward by inspiring ideas and mapping out ways to achieve them. Planning a strategic way forward can focus church priorities, enabling it to be a good steward of gifts of time, talent, and money.

A strategic planning process helps clarify who we are and who God is calling us to be in our communities. This allows us to confidently focus our ministry and outreach in ways that make the most impact for the gospel in our community. Working together as a team to discern and invest in a long-term vision of the church fosters confidence and unity as the church moves forward.

What's important to you at church? What do you think the future direction of the church should be? This spring, the Elders and Deacons began working together to develop a strategic plan for the church. The next step in the process is to gather more information from the congregation.



The Church is Looking for Your Input!

Do you receive emails from church? If so, online surveys were sent via an online survey tool called "Survey Monkey." If not, please check your spam/junk mailbox for the survey from Polly Sheppard (pollysheppard1@aol.com), or email her to resend you the survey. Paper copies are also available, just contact Polly at the email above, or by phone at 810-938-3020 to request one.

We would love to get your response by July 7th, so that we can bring the results back to the congregation for review in the fall. We hope each individual member or regular attendee in the household will respond separately so that everyone's opinions and ideas can be heard. If you share an email, we'll happily send you a paper copy for additional persons in your household.

What's Next? What Happens with the Info?

Elder Polly Sheppard is helping facilitate this survey. She will assist the church in collecting the responses. The results will be shared in a variety of ways in the fall, hopefully in small group or town hall meetings. In the end, the church will have clarity on who it is and how God is calling it to engage the community and world and positioning it to make a greater impact for the gospel.

Deacons

Back-to-School Backpack Project



The Deacon's need your help collecting school supplies. We will be collecting 24 count Crayola Crayons and Ticonderoga #2 sharpened pencils. They are due back to our church by August 4th.

THIS YEAR WE HOPE TO FILL 500 BACKPACKS!

Sign up to help pack the backpacks on Friday, August 9th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall or help at the backpack giveaway event on Saturday, August 17th at the Ellen Street campus from 10 am to 2 pm.

As always, thank you for the support that you always provide.

Board of Deacons
Pam Coffin



Mission & Stewardship

Mission Spotlight



2019 BASTILLE DAY RACE

15K Run / 5K Run & Walk

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2019 • DOWNTOWN FENTON

TO BENEFIT



Genesee County

Habitat
for Humanity®

Habitat For Humanity's Bastille Day Race

Downtown Fenton - Saturday July 13. We monitor and cheer on racers at intersections around the church. Volunteers meet in our parking lot at 7:30am and get a free t-shirt; we are done by 9:00am. Contact Brian Coles with questions, colesb@gmail.com. The sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.



Red Cross Blood Drive on June 1, 2019

We had a very nice day to host the blood drive. We want to thank the 32 people who showed up to donate their blood, the 29 people who were able to donate, the Boy Scouts for assisting in setting up and packing up the equipment, the members who made cookies and the members who hosted the drive on Saturday, June 1. We are grateful that we can host such an important life-preserving event for our community! In addition, we use some of our local mission budget to support the Red Cross programs.



North End Soup Kitchen - June 15, 2019

For 73 years, Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties has provided intervention services for individuals and families in crisis. The North End Soup Kitchen provides food and household supplies. We were blessed to have 7 volunteers from our church make and serve 65 meals on Saturday evening, June 15. We have assisted in alleviating hunger through our time, talents and treasure (we use some of our mission budget money to support their food program).

Samaritas Update from Sarah Martin-Fanone

FFPC Members & Friends,

There have been a couple of recent developments in our work and I wanted to get out a quick note to share them with you all.



First, last month I set up a permanent collection spot for household items at our church. The collection focuses on what Samaritas calls "Welcome boxes". They include items for bed, bath, and kitchen (see page 8). New and gently used items are all acceptable. My idea was to assemble the welcome boxes and store them for arriving families. Our first donations have already been delivered to a family in Hamtramck.

Walengamina and her two children came to Michigan in April. She is a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo. She fled to Tanzania in 1996 and has waited all this time for the UN to relocate her to a safe new home. We were able to bring her sheets for their beds, pots and pans, a few kitchen utensils, some non-perishable food, and six months of feminine hygiene products from our very own Faith in Femininity ministry. We also delivered two donated couches to them at their new home.

Next, Samaritas is working to streamline their volunteers and has asked us to indicate how we can help. They offered a list of their needs and one was to gather household items for distribution to arriving refugees. That seemed a perfect fit for our efforts, and I signed up. I am now a part of a "Welcome Team" and we have been given our first assignment.

A family of six is arriving in two weeks. Similar to the other families that we have helped, they are from the Congo. The family is made up of a married couple (Wilson and Nadine) and their 4 sons who range in age from 13 to 2 years old. The oldest child is their adopted son. Wilson and Nadine took him in after he tragically lost his entire family to a natural disaster.

I am actively working to fill the welcome boxes for this family, and we are off to a great start! This week I received three complete sets of dishes from two generous donors! So many goods were donated this week that I decided to get organized and with Lucy's help we made a new Samaritas storage space at our house.



That is all for now. I will try to keep the group up to date as we collect the necessary goods to help Nadine and Wilson start their new life. After their arrival I will have better estimates of clothing and shoe sizes to share. If you have items to give, you can drop them off at church, or contact me if the items are bulky or you need pick up.

Thank you all for your support.

Sarah



Bed and Bath Welcome Box

Alarm Clock	Blanket	Laundry basket
Sheet sets (twin and queen)	Pillow	Clothes hamper
	Pillow cases	Table lamp

Shower curtain	Bath towels	Toilet brush
Shower curtain hooks	Hand towels	Soap dish
Toothbrushes	Wash cloths	Bath mat
Misc. tools: tweezers, first aid kit, shower cap, etc.		



Kitchen Welcome Box

Stew Pot or Dutch Oven	Mop	Plastic storage containers	Potholders
	Tea kettle		Flashlight
Frying Pan	Coffee maker	Dishes (plates, bowls) sets of at least 4.	Misc. utensils/tools: measuring cups/spoons, scissors, apron, wooden spoons, tongs, broom, etc.
Can opener	Toaster		
Paring knife	Table cloth	Utensils (fork, knife, spoon) sets of at least 4.	
Spatula	Dish rags	Glasses	
Whisk	Dish towels	Pitcher	



"Sticky" Mission Stories

An inspiring story from the Presbytery Bi-Weekly Brief



The June 4 Presbytery meeting in Saginaw focused on becoming a Matthew 25 church - "as you did it to the least of these my brothers and sisters," Jesus says, "you have done it to me." We were urged to engage our neighbors in the community, and invite them to share in our mission. I and others gladly participated in the post-assembly mission project at Rosier Park, where we met and shared pizza with local residents.

The next day was our time to tend to Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church's community garden. While we were harvesting veggies, three young adults obviously out on a fitness walk passed by the garden. As I watched the three walk by I asked,

"Hi! You are obviously out for a fitness jaunt - would you like some fresh spinach or lettuce? We just picked some!"

They stopped and after a brief "hi" started to walk away. One replied, "I really like spinach."

"Here you go!" I said, handing him a big bag full.

"I've notice the garden," he said. "What are you doing here?"

I explained that the garden was begun last year and its purpose is to provide healthy food, and to teach others how to garden and to preserve the food they grow. We have beds available to those who want to have their own bed as well as community beds, which grow food for the food truck that visits weekly. We grow food for anyone who wants fresh healthy veggies. We charge nothing. It is our gift to our neighbors.

"Cool!"

"If you come by any Wednesday afternoon or Saturday morning there is always someone here. You are welcome to help out and we would be happy to teach you how to garden if you are interested."

"Oh! I would like to learn how to garden!"

I did not invite them to Sunday service. I did not invite them to join the church. But inspired by the Presbytery meeting, three people were reached with the generosity and compassion of Christ and invited to join in our mission. This is one small example of a church connecting with its neighbors in ways that build relationships and further God's mission in the world.

Ruling Elder Susan Gaul, Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church, Midland

Christian Education

Boundaries Corner



Over the next few months I will be sharing wisdom from Dr. Henry Cloud's emails; he is co-author of the Boundaries books and creator of Boundaries.me, a digital subscription service. Feel free to check the books out from our library, or see Tina Ritchie with any questions.

Henry states: Relationships are at the foundation of God's nature. Since we are created in God's likeness, relationship is our most fundamental need, the very foundation of who we are. Without relationship, without attachment to God and others, we can't be our true selves. We can't be truly human.

If we are to grow and thrive, we need to be "rooted and grounded in love." We are literally to draw from the love of God and others to fuel our transformation and fruit bearing. We cannot imagine putting a plant in a cardboard box in the garage and expect it to blossom. The plant would not make it for very long. To grow, it must have sunlight, water and nutrients.

We sometimes think, however, that we can supply all our needs without other people [and act apart from God]. We think that, in a state of emotional and spiritual isolation, we can still grow [while doing things our own way]. This grave violation of the basic nature of the universe can cause serious problems.

Our emotional and psychological well-being depends on the status of our heart, and the status of our heart depends on the depth of our bonds with others and God.

Relationships are the cornerstone of our happiness and thriving. We are connected to others through love and responsibility. But there are also people we are connected to because we think we owe them something, or because we give them control over our feelings and freedom.

As you know, Boundaries are a necessary part of healthy relationships. Good ones and bad [unhealthy] ones.

A lot of people have no idea that they are in pain, because they've been that way for so long. And they have no idea that there is another way to live their lives. Many other people know that they are hurting, but they don't know what to do. They feel trapped by love or obligation or by fear of abandonment.

The Boundaries material will help you to clarify your thinking about some of the most important aspects of your life. You'll learn where you need and how to set boundaries in order to protect your good relationships, as well as how to remove yourself from painful ones. They can help you identify who your supporters are — the people that will fuel your happiness and success... and also to identify your problematic relationships, and to show you how to overcome those issues.

Watch for more information in the next newsletter! –Tina

Intergenerational Events



LAVENDER LABYRINTH AND HERB GARDEN DAY TRIP

Wednesday, July 17

Leave church at 9am

Youth, adults, & families are invited to travel to Cherry Point Farm in Shelby MI to tour the labyrinth and farm market.

Afterward, those wishing to swim can meet up at the Silver Lake Sand Dunes State Park. Bring a sack lunch, money for snacks on the road and the farm market! Sign-up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall and the youth bulletin board.



Wednesday Workday sponsored by Youth Group on July 10. Adults, youth, and families are invited to participate from 9am – 5pm. At the end of the day we plan to share a meal together. Participants are asked to sign-up in Fellowship Hall.



Teachers needed throughout the summer for K -5th grade Gospel Project Sunday school. See Deb Bard to sign up today. Relationships we make with our children model who Jesus is and last a lifetime!

Library Committee

Hearts of Fire by Voice of Martyrs
 Foreword by Gracie Burnham
 by Linda McCleary

This is a book about 8 women in the underground church. The stories are different for each woman but the cause is the same: to spread Christianity in countries that forbade it. They put their lives in great harm and suffered many kinds of pain both mental and physical.

It is a very informative and inspiring book. After reading this book I ask myself how much am I doing to spread God's Word.

Family Ministry



Social Studies, a Yardstick, and a Little Kindness

by Carla Barnhill Feb 1, 2018 for the Values Project from Sparkhouse/Beaming Books

It was late in the school year when I got a phone call from my son's 6th grade Social Studies teacher. It seems that for most of the year, my son, Isaac, would start each class period by walking behind her desk, taking her yardstick off the shelf, and bringing it back to his seat where he'd keep it for the class period. Yeah, I

don't get it either. But it had become a thing and all the kids in the class knew this was a little shtick between my son and his teacher.

But that day, she had jokingly told my son he needed to give the yardstick back--she actually needed it for something—and the rest of the class booed. My son knew they were joking. The teacher knew they were joking. But another boy in the class, a boy with some special needs, didn't understand the joke. He was upset that the other students were being mean to the teacher and started to cry. This being a class of 6th graders, things got a little loud with some kids laughing and the teacher trying to calm everyone down. In the midst of this, my son, my sweet, tender-hearted son, got out of his seat and walked to over to this boy, knelt down, looked him in the eye and explained that the kids were joking, that the teacher wasn't mad, and that everything was okay. Then he quietly returned to his seat, picked up the yardstick that had started it all, and handed it to the boy.

I don't know if I've ever been so proud of him.

The teacher explained to me that every kid in the class knew that yardstick was Isaac's signature. In the way that only 11-year-olds understand, every kid has a signature: he's the guy with that bike, she's that girl who can burp the alphabet, he's the kid who holds the yardstick during Social Studies. They knew no one touched the yardstick but Isaac. So when he handed it over to this boy who was about to become a target of ridicule, he signaled to the rest of the class that it wasn't going to go that way. Instead, they were going to choose kindness. And they did. They stopped laughing, settled down, and class carried on as usual.

My son wasn't a cool kid. He was kind of nerdy—I mean, his signature was holding a yardstick, okay? His only street cred in the hallways of his middle school was his innate kindness. It turns out, that was enough.

I'm not sure kindness is something we can teach. At least not as its own entity. Instead it's the expression of a handful of other values that we instill in our children—empathy, compassion, and the knowledge that every human being is created in the image of God and worthy of love and care. It shows up in the nice things we do for others, yes, but also in how we talk about them when they aren't around or the patience we show them or the deference we give to their needs. It's a posture we take toward others that's born out of a belief that we are part of the same family of God.

When we recognize our shared humanity in other people, how else can we respond to them but with kindness? What else would we do but extend ourselves to them in whatever ways they need us to?

Youth Ministry

Massanetta Middle School Conference

This year's theme found us "At the Door" in Matthew 7:7-12 – asking, will you knock? Our personal faith journeys are full of many types of doors: surprise doors, open doors, closed doors, big doors, small doors, even revolving doors. Together, we navigated these doors to discover some of God's good gifts while living in loving community at "Netta." This experience invited us to ask and seek out what it might mean to be in relationship with God while we establish relationships with others.

Participants were Sammy Carnes, Mason Davis, Megan Hollopetter, Massimo Martin-Fanone, Avannah Thompson, Julie Campbell, Larry Zimble, and Tina Ritchie.

We were also inspired by watching 2 of our very own, Waverly Ritchie and Lindsey Gibb, serve as encounter group leaders! They are faith-filled talented young women for sure!



High School Advocates (Encounter Group Leaders)



Mason's Encounter Group



Our Church Group



Workshop Director's Tina got to be one this year!!



Thank you to the Gibb family for hosting our annual end of school party. Even with cooler weather and a bit of rain, we still went boating and swimming!

5 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 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 **Offer to sponsor a youth for camp or conferences**

Youth activities

2019 Youth Summer Schedule

For all incoming 6th graders - graduating seniors and college friends RSVP on the youth bulletin board for most off-site events.

Wed. 7/3: Campfire night & discussion 6 – 9pm at the MacLean's house

Wed. 7/10: Wednesday Workday 9am – 5pm

Wed. 7/17: Lavender Labyrinth in Shelby MI day trip 9am – 9pm

July 22-26 (M-F): North Manitou Backpacking Trip (high schoolers)

Sat. 7/27: Habitat for Humanity 8:30am – 4:30pm

Wed. 8/7: Summer Lunch noon-2pm Place: TBD

Sun. 8/11: Summer Recap – 10am Worship

F-M August 16-19: Camping at Hoeft St. Park Cost: \$50 RSVP by 8/11

All events require an updated PCC/MA form, which are located on the youth bulletin board next to the Jr. High youth room. Watch your weekly email and monthly newsletter for updated information.

To get on the youth email list, contact Tina Ritchie at tina@ffpc.org or text 810-701-4136.

Call if you need a ride to any event. Friends are welcome too...

Children's Ministry



Club 45 for 4th and 5th graders and friends ended the year by making Father's Day aprons. Thank you to Cathy Hollopeter and Cherri Maxwell for leading this great group of kids! Club 45 will resume in the fall.



Gospel Project Sunday school for nursery children through 5th grade

Nursery and preschool, and kindergarten - 5th grade classes offered during 10am worship through the summer.

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

“The Kingdom Provided” topics are:

Unit 10 - Samuel & King Saul (Samuel)

7/7 Israel's First King

Big Picture Question: Is there anything greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone?

Unit Key Verse: *No one is like you, Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power.* ~ Jeremiah 10:6

Unit 11 - Great King David (Samuel)

7/14 David was Anointed

7/21 David Showed Mercy

7/28 God's Covenant with David

8/4 David's Kindness

Big Picture Question: How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

Unit Key Verse: *For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The Lord always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does.* ~ Psalm 145:13 NLT

Worship

July Schedule of Worship

July 7th, 4th Sunday after Pentecost and Communion Sunday, Pastor Lindsey Carnes Preaching
 “The Holy Spirit Changes...Prayer”: Ephesians 6:18-20

Paul calls us to pray in the Spirit and we should always strive for Spirit-filled prayer. Certainly this would produce a more faithful life and a fuller prayer experience. But how do we do this? What does it mean to pray in the Spirit and how do we know when we are doing it? What can the Holy Spirit do with us as we prayer?

Layreader: Roy Fetzer

Ushers: Team #6

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

Sound Tech: Jay Kirkey

Coffee Hour: Blue Team

Counters: Jon O’Connell & Maureen Utt

Nursery & Preschool: Heidi Howieson & Waverly Ritchie

Gospel Project: K-2nd: Jan Foster
 3rd-5th: Peggy Fowler & Rick Bard

MONDAY, JULY 8th OUTREACH COMMUNION

Join us at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary. Featuring a shorter Communion service, filled with energetic hymn singing, a shortened version of the Sunday sermon, and the bread and juice/wine served in the pews. This a “barrier free” worship experience--with large print bulletins, amplified speaking, and helpers to assist with walkers, wheelchairs, or to just lend a hand. Come for worship, stay for fellowship around tables in the Fellowship Hall. For questions or rides, please call Dave Eshleman or the Church Office.

July 14th, 5th Sunday after Pentecost, Pastor Lindsey Carnes Preaching

Unlikely Heroes, Abigail a Woman of Strength and Courage” 1 Samuel 25:12-31

As David was consolidating power and becoming the King of the United Nation of Israel, Abigail was the wife of a man named Nabal. Nabal fell afoul of David through a prickly attitude and an ungenerous spirit. This is the story of how Abigail, displaying a great deal of courage, strength and wisdom, saves the day. Not only saving Nabal from a violent death, but also David from striking out in anger.

Layreader:

Ushers: Team #1

Acolytes: Annabeth Carnes

Sound Tech: Jay Kirkey

Coffee Hour: Violet Team

Counters: Shirley Israel & Dennis Beardslee

Nursery & Preschool: Kate & Liza Kirkey

Gospel Project: K-2nd: Roy Fetzer
 3rd-5th: Mary Zimble & Karen Terrill

July 21st, 6th Sunday after Pentecost, Pastor Lindsey Carnes Preaching

“Unlikely Heroes: The Faith of an Unknown Woman” Luke 8:43-48

She had been ill for a very long time. Her illness made her unclean and unapproachable. She had nothing to lose, so she maneuvered herself close to Jesus and reached out her hand to touch the hem of his garment. While the miracle is incredible, Jesus’ welcome to this desperate woman is more so.

Layreader:

Ushers: Team #2

Acolytes: Matthew Maxwell & Sammy Carnes

Sound Tech: Doug Watters

Coffee Hour: Red Team

Counters: Martha Smith & Sara Wrage

Nursery & Preschool: Heidi Howieson & Waverly Ritchie

Gospel Project: K-2nd:

3rd-5th: Julie Grams

July 28th, 7th Sunday after Pentecost, Pastor Robbie Carnes Preaching

“Unlikely Heroes: Jephthah's Daughter- A Woman Of Faith And Grace” Judges 11:29-40

One of the most difficult passages of the Bible, this story depicts a militarily successful, but ultimately foolish father whose daughter must pay the price for her father’s foolishness. But she does it with faith and grace that is a lesson for us today.

Layreader:

Ushers: Team #3

Acolytes: Emily Hollopeter & Chloe Muntin

Sound Tech: Mark Gibb

Coffee Hour: Orange Team

Counters: Lin Savage & Sarah Martin-Fanone

Nursery & Preschool: Heidi Howieson & Annabeth Carnes

Gospel Project: K-2nd:

3rd-5th: Janet Stork



Financial Update

Treasurer Report - 2019 Financials

Profit	May	YTD Total
Income:	\$ 37,820.94	\$165,351.06
Expense:	\$ 25,236.21	\$128,459.57
Net Income:	\$12,584.73	\$36,891.49

Statement of Cash Flows	YTD
Cash at Beginning of Period:	\$81,032.11
Cash at End of Period:	\$72,959.49
Net Cash Decreased:	\$(8,072.62)

Building Fund Report

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

Pledged	\$351,941
Received to date:	\$365,271
Building Fund	
Building Account Balance:	\$18,006
Mortgage Remaining:	\$235,420

Our monthly mortgage payment will be paid using (1) designated building fund contributions as they are received and, if needed to make the payment, (2) money from the operating budget. If more designated money is received than is needed to make the required mortgage payment, overpayments will be made to reduce interest costs and retire the mortgage as soon as we can.

FFPC has restructured its accounting processes to more accurately reflect generally accepted accounting procedures, and along with that change, the building expansion costs and mortgage have been integrated into our regular accounting recordkeeping. When looking at the financial records it may appear that net income is pretty high. What this report does not reflect is the commitments that already exist against that income.

Donations to the building fund, and sinking funds for things like organ repairs and major repairs on the building (like HVAC, etc.) capture money, but [correctly] do not reflect as expenses; they show elsewhere in the financial statements. There are 3 important financial statements that must be read and interpreted together in their entirety for this to happen. These reports are an extremely abbreviated summary of the full financial reports, and which do not reflect changes to assets and liabilities of FFPC.

Therefore, it is more telling to review the cash flow change than the net income report in considering the financial condition of FFPC – this report reflects that over the current year, through 5/31 we have spent over \$8,000 more money than we took in. The difference between this and net income are restricted donations, and costs, such as mortgage principal payments and sinking funds that use cash but don't reflect as expenses. Bear in mind that these costs DO show in parts of the financial statements that are not reflected in these summaries.

Announcements

Save the Date! FFPC Men's Luncheon will be at Johnny's Pizza, Tuesday, August 13th. We gather at 11:30am for food and fellowship in faith! See you there.

Volunteers Needed at the Fenton ArtWalk! Looking to volunteer at a GREAT event? Look no further – volunteer with the Fenton ArtWalk. There are many great spots that need helping hands. We have volunteer spots available on Friday, July 12th and Saturday, July 13th. <http://slpr.net/news/volunteer-at-the-fenton-artwalk/>

Please sign up to help with the Backpack Give Away Sat Aug 17 (shifts available to handout backpacks or handout wristbands at the Welcome Table) AND Stuff the Backpacks Fri Aug 9 (6:30-8:00 FFPC Fellowship Hall) Sign up [here](#)

Equal Exchange: July is here and the summer heat is in full force! Deb Bard has had many people asking her to do an Equal Exchange order. She will take orders July 7th and 14th. Remember because it's hot out Equal Exchange will charge extra for shipping chocolates in dry ice.

Book Binders will meet at the home of Maureen Utt, 16170 Aspen Hollow Dr. July 9th at 6:00 pm. This is our annual summer party, bring a dish to share. Our book for discussion is The Confession by John Grisham. We will gather again on September 9th to discuss the book Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult. If you have any questions please call Maureen at 810-701-2336 or call the church.

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

Downtown Readers Book Club meets the last Tuesday of the month, 11:00 a.m., in the youth room. The July selection is The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Alan Bradley. The August selection is The Orphan Tale by Pam Jenoff. Men and women are encouraged to join. Happy Reading!

Summer Special Music

July

July 7 Morris Fulcher
 July 14 Dibbleville Dolls
 July 21 Gretchen Coles
 July 28 Steve Sutton & George Hameline

August

August 4 Patti Nelson
 August 11 Youth
 August 18 Mason & Holly
 August 25 FMUC Wind Ensemble



Birthday's

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

Anniversaries

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



JULY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:00am Worship Service	1 1:00-2:00pm Knitting Group Youth Room	2	3 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day 6:00-9:00pm Youth Campfire & Discussion Night	4 OFFICE CLOSED Independence Day	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 OFFICE CLOSED
7 10:00am Worship Service & Communion	8 10:00-11:00am Prayer Ministry Group 1:00-2:00pm Knitting Group Youth Room 1:00-2:00pm Outreach Communion, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall	9 6:00pm Book Binders	10 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day 9:00am-5:00pm Youth Wednesday Work Day	11 10:00am- 12:30pm The Care Team, Conference Rm 5:00-6:00pm Tutoring, Youth Room	12 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm- 1:30pm Social Justice Advocates Group	13 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30-10:30am Yoga 7:30-9:00am Bastille Day Races
14 10:00am Worship Service	15 1:00-2:00pm Knitting Group, Youth Room	16	17 8:00am-9:00pm Lavender Labyrinth & Beach Day Trip 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day	18 5:00-6:00pm Tutoring, Youth Room	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 OFFICE CLOSED
21 10:00am Worship Service	22 10:00-11:00am Prayer Ministry Group 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group, Youth Room	23	24 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day	25	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED
28 10:00am Worship Service	29 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group, Youth Room	30 11:00am-12:00pm Downtown Readers Book Club	31 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day			

WAYS TO GIVE

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



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



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



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



Non-Cash Giving: Assets or Planned Gifts



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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION!

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