

# transformed

GOD'S POWER CHANGES EVERYTHING

ROMANS 12:1-2

## Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Newsletter August, 2019

Living with Christ, Serving the World

### Upcoming Events

- August 5th: Outreach Communion
- August 7th - Taste of Fenton
- August 7th - Youth Lunch
- August 10 - Youth Summer Re-Cap
- August 16-19 - Youth Camping Trip
- August 17: Back to School Bash
- August 27th: First Day of School
- September 2nd - Labor Day
- September 8th - 9am & 11am  
Worship Service Begins

### Transformation

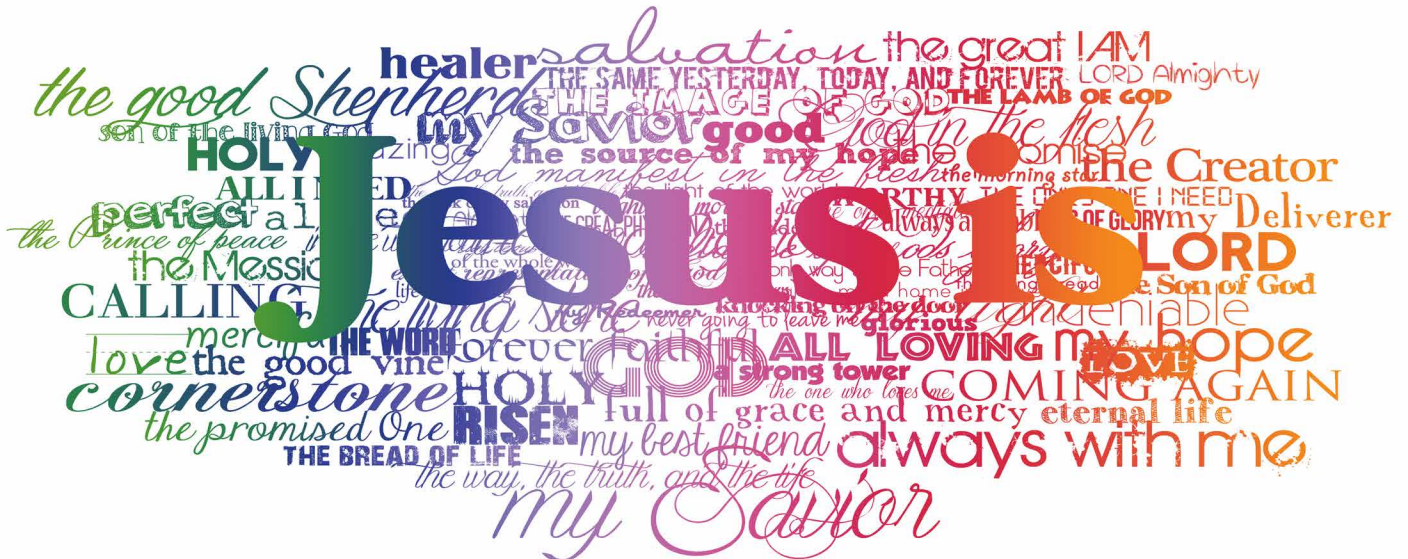
Pastor Robbie Carnes

#### The Conversion of Saul - Acts 9:1

*Meanwhile Saul, still breathing out threats to murder the Lord's disciples, went to the high priest 9:2 and requested letters from him to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, either men or women, he could bring them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 9:3 As he was going along, approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 9:4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" 9:5 So he said, "Who are you, Lord?" He replied, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting! 9:6 But stand up and enter the city and you will be told what you must do."*

*9:8 So Saul got up from the ground, but although his eyes were open, he could see nothing. Leading him by the hand, his companions brought him into Damascus.*

The story of Saul's conversation and transformation from being an enemy of Jesus to an apostle is a powerful testimony. As believers, the Holy Spirit is forming us into the holy people of God. We should be able to discern the difference that Jesus has made in our lives, because God is not content to leave us as we are. God lovingly moves in and through us to make us into who we should be in his mercy and grace.



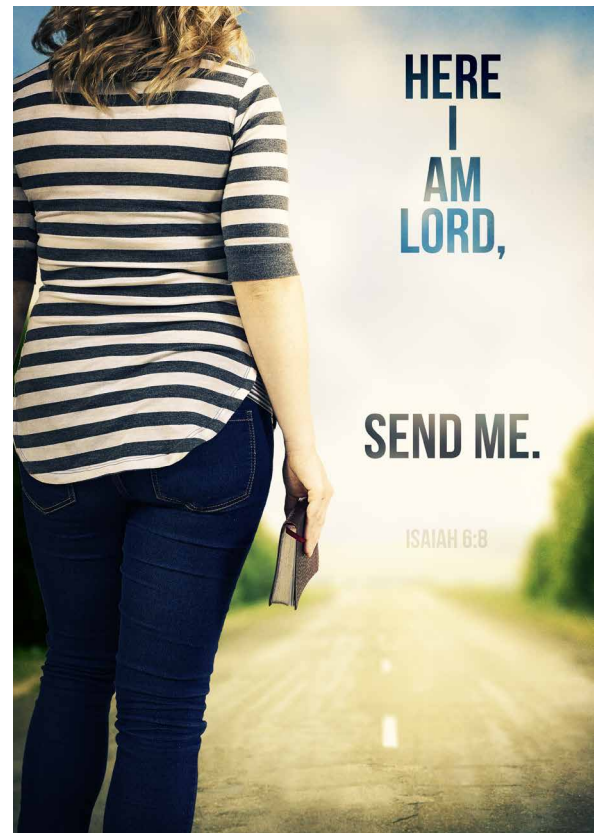
Some of us have had Damascus Road conversions; a moment in our lives in which God has stepped in and the trajectory of our lives changed. Many times we have subtler experiences that take time to reflect upon until we recognize the fullness of God's work in us. Both these types of experiences are evidence of the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification in us.

I had my own Damascus Road story in college. It was not a conversion to faith as much as a conversion to God's will for me. I was in college, studying music. While I had a passion to increase my skills it felt that everything I attempted slipped into failure. I had not made the cuts for any of the group ensembles in the Conservatory. I had not been able to find my place in the musical community of my school and, frankly, I was miserable in my studies.

The pecking order that assigned practice rooms was a long list that I was at the bottom of. That meant that my practice time was at 10 or sometimes 11 o'clock at night. One night, as I walked home in the dark after practicing, I found a rabbit in my path. This wasn't unusual, but something stopped me. The rabbit and I stared at each other for a moment or two and then the rabbit suddenly jumped about 5 feet in the air. Turning in mid-air, the creature ran off in a different direction, disappearing in the darkness. As the rabbit intended, I was stunned and didn't chase it. As God intended I was struck with a new possibility for my life.

The rabbit had turned and changed direction. This was a powerful and freeing message to me. I was miserable as a music student, but I didn't need to be. I could change direction. It was at this moment that I began a prayerful search for what God was calling me to do. As silly as it sounds, I remember that small rabbit as being the catalyst for the life of ministry that I am leading now.

Do you have a story of transformation like Saul's experience on the road to Damascus or of my story of the rabbit in the middle of the night? Jesus uses many things to call us into fellowship and call us closer to God's will. It is important for us to reflect on it and to share our stories of how God is working in us.



What's your story?

Who are you sharing it with?

# BEING A SUPER HERO FOR GOD

You may have noticed an interesting area in the Fellowship Hall dedicated to super heroes. You can find a cape to wear and have your photo snapped as in the picture frame. This is all about summer fun and reminding each other that we can be super heroes for God.

Wait a minute! I thought Jesus was God's superhero; We can't take Jesus' place. You are exactly right. However we are called to imitate Christ (1 Thessalonians 1:6). Therefore if we should be superheroes for God as we imitate the real superhero: Jesus.

Through the rest of the summer we will be looking at how to be Heroes for God as we learn about the fruits of the Spirit. We know that the Holy Spirit is working within us as we exhibit these positive traits. As we love others, as we become peacemakers, as we grow more gentle in face of adversity we become heroes for God.



## Deacons

### Back-to-S chool B ackpack P roject

**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 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

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

Pam Coffin , Board of Deacons



# Mission & Stewardship

## Bastille Day Race Report

On Saturday, July 13, 2019, our church supported the Bastille Day Race in downtown Fenton. Each year, this race generates over \$20,000 for the Genesee County Habitat for Humanity chapter and brought thousands of visitors into Fenton. The 15k race began at 7:45 am while the 5k run/walk began at 8:00 am. Both races were wrapping up by 10:00 am. Food and entertainment were available behind city hall where the race results were also posted.

Our church supplied five volunteers who assisted with traffic control at 5 neighborhood corners plus 2 participants in the race. Thank you to the volunteers for assisting in this worthwhile cause. Everyone had a great time! Our church also provides financial support for the local Habitat chapter through our mission budget; this is only possible with the support of our member's contributions to the operating budget.



## Welcome Team Success



Good Morning All,

Congratulations to us! Last week we completed our first welcome boxes and they were delivered to Wilson and Nadine at their new home in Hamtramck. They moved in on Friday to a rental home that is directly across the street from another Congolese family that Samaritas is helping to re-settle. Everyone was delighted that the two families will be living so close to each other. As Wilson and Nadine settle in, other volunteers who live closer to the city are helping to get them acquainted with their new home and with American appliances. From the reports I have read, everything

is going really well and all of our donations have been put to use. I had some help making the delivery to the Samaritas office in Troy:



Our welcome boxes contained 6 sets of bath towels, wash clothes, and hand towels, sheets for all of their beds, blankets, a coffee maker, toaster oven, mixing bowls, kitchen utensils, dishes, a nice set of silverware, and an American flag! Additionally, we were able to give clothing for the older children, a play table (see left), and a backpack filled with school supplies and bubbles. I cannot thank all of you who contributed enough for helping to make this happen. This family lived in a cramped hotel for nearly 3 weeks as their caseworker looked to find affordable housing for them. They are so

glad to have a space to call home in their new country!

I will continue to gather donations of new and gently used household/kitchen/bath items at my home and in the Fellowship Hall at church. New families arrive each month; it won't be long before more welcome boxes are needed. Please contact me if you need a list of what we are looking to collect.

I have one more update to give before I send this out. Salah has now been at our home for two weeks. After the first week, Mark decided to invite him to stay with us more permanently, and he graciously accepted. He has so much potential, and the years in the homeless shelter have not taken away his optimism. Now we are beginning to line up resources and assess his needs.

The immediate needs were visits to the doctor and dentist, and new clothes to replace those that were in his lost luggage. Thanks to all who offered to drive him to the dentist. Also, thanks to two amazing members of the FFPC congregation and a visit to Carriagetown Ministries, he now has a functional wardrobe for summer and fall. (The airline contends that they are still looking for his missing bag, but at this point I am doubtful that anything will be recovered.) He was truly touched by the generosity of strangers.



Longer term goals are to enroll in school, obtain a drivers license, and get a job. We toured an alternative high school in Flint last week that seems to be a good fit. He plans to enroll in August. The school will be part online and part in-class instruction. Once we have a schedule, we will look for help with transportation.

If anyone has a lead on a part time job in Fenton, please send it my way :). We will be looking for jobs next week. He is already studying for his driving permit online.

We all appreciate your ongoing prayers and support.

Peace,  
Sarah Martin-Fanone

### ***Samaritas Refugee Resettlement Programs in Michigan***

*Refugees are people of all ages who are forced from their own countries by war or political unrest and who cannot return for fear of persecution because of their race, ethnicity, religion or political affiliations. Many spend years in refugee camps before they are given permission to enter the United States. They arrive with little more than the clothes they are wearing. Refugees come here seeking protection and a chance to build a new life. They are eager to learn, to work and to become productive contributors to society. As they become settled, they build businesses, create jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, fuel the economy and strengthen the tax base, enriching their communities. As one of the largest refugee resettlement agencies in the state, Samaritas has resettled thousands of people from dozens of countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Central and South America. Samaritas has been the Michigan affiliate of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service since the 1950s.*

# Membership & Communication



The following is from the constitution of the Presbyterian Church(USA). It is a helpful insight into what we are to be doing as members of Christ's Church. This is a powerful reminder of what God is calling us to do and be as Christians. How do you live this out? As you read it, do you hear the Holy Spirit convict you to grow in some areas?

## **(G-1.0304) The Ministry of Members**

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes: proclaiming the good news in word and deed, taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation, lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support, studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life, supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents, demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church, responding to God's activity in the world through service to others, living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life, working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment, caring for God's creation, participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

If you are interested in becoming a member of FFPC, or if you would like to consider how you might make your membership more meaningful, please contact the Pastors through the Church Office.

## Taste of Fenton Children's Station



Every year we provide volunteers for the children's station at the community "taste" event. We need ticket takers and game/bounce house supervisors. The event takes place behind the Fenton Community and Cultural Center.

All ages are welcomed to volunteer, sign up in Fellowship Hall

Date: Wednesday, August 7th, 2019

Location: Rackham Park (behind the Community Cultural Center)



# Congregational Life

## Let's Kitchen Talk

Did you know: The notorious danger linked to 58% of all foodborne illness is the Norovirus? How do we prevent that from happening? We wash our hands, yes that's the best and easiest way to prevent people from getting sick. Using the handwashing sink, in the kitchen, we wash our hands, nails & arms for 20 seconds. Do you like to sing? Then sing happy birthday to yourself while washing your hands that works too. Dry them with the paper towel. This is one of the most important routine you can do to keep the Norovirus away. You shouldn't wear your diamond rings, bracelets or watch. You can wear a wedding band. Always wash your hands whenever you need to change your gloves. Never wash gloves.

We always wear gloves when prepping food that is going to be served that's already cooked or doesn't need to be cooked. For example: cheese & crackers, fruit, vegetables, cookies, etc. Remember to wear your hair net or a hat and a clean apron. Also since it's summer a special reminder NO OPEN TOE SHOES. Sorry but it's for your safety, we don't want a knife dropped and your toes cut. That's another subject. More Kitchen Talk coming next month...

## Women's Weekend Retreat

**Skyline Camp & Retreat Center  
October 11th-13th, 2019**

**5650 Sandhill Road, Almont, MI 48003  
810-798-8240**

**Gift yourself a weekend of nurturing and invigoration.**

**Take time for silence, sunlight, moonlight, deep breaths, and wonder.**

**Surround yourself with tall trees, open skies, winding trails, inspiring women, and spiritual connection with God. Return home centered and energized to thrive in your everyday world.**

**Two nights – Three Meals - \$100**

**Activity choices include: Yoga – Bible Study Discussion and Reflection Farm Visits  
Storytelling – Campfires - Hiking - Essential Oils Workshop - Labyrinth Walk - Massage  
Sessions. (Massage sessions are limited and require an extra fee).**

**All activities are Optional.**

**Registration & Deposit Deadline is Monday, September 16th.**

**Register in Fellowship Hall!**

**Eat & Entertainment**  
**Raise a fork for a Good Cause**



**Fenton First Presbyterian Invites You!**

# **SPAGHETTI DINNER** **FUNDRAISER**

**SAT**  
**21**  
**September**

Enjoy spaghetti, salad,  
garlic bread, dessert and  
beverages to help raise  
money for our church.

**ADULTS \$12 KIDS (10&UNDER) \$8**  
**AT Fenton First Presbyterian Church**  
**TIME: 5 - 7:00**  
503 South Leroy Street.  
Fenton, Michigan 48430





# Christian Education

## Christian Education Week

**Growing  
Together  
in Faith**

Sunday, September 8, begins Christian Education Week in the national church, celebrating a new school year of spiritual learning.

As part of this celebration, the Christian Education Committee will be giving 3rd graders the Jesus Bible during 11am worship. This Bible features introductions explaining where Jesus appears in each book of the Bible, 365 devotions revolving around the "sightings" of Jesus in the Old Testament and his life and teachings in the New Testament, application notes to help kids apply Jesus' teachings to real life today, and much, much more. We hope you and your child are able to join us this very special day.

In addition, all who teach, shepherd, and volunteer for our children, youth and adult education programs will be commissioned on that day during worship. You have heard God's call to teach or lead ministry of the church, and actively support educational ministries and faith formation with a positive and passionate spirit of energy, imagination, and love. We want to recognize your commitment and pray over the start of your ministry involvement for this school year.

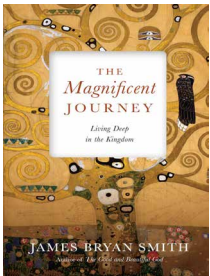
With Gratitude,  
The Christian Education Committee  
Deb Bard, PJ Collier, Jenny Gibb, Tina Ritchie, and Pastors Lindsey and Robbie



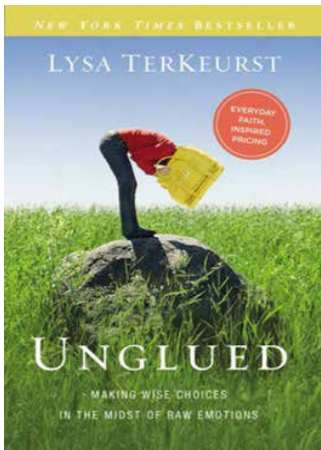
Confirmation Classes will be offered this year, starting in September, for any youth in 6th grade and above wishing to learn what it means to make a commitment to a Christian community, living as a disciple of Christ. In this course we will learn about the Story of the Church and our place in it, we will reflect on what our faith calls us to do in a world of hurt and injustice, and we will develop our own Christian worldview and statement of faith. This statement of faith will be shared with the congregation on Confirmation Sunday. Journaling, working with a mentor, serving within the church, and mission projects are part of this course.

Please watch your email and bulletin for more information coming soon. Please contact Tina Ritchie or Pastor Lindsey if you'd like to be part of this course.

# Bible Study



**Tuesday Bible Study:** A discussion on The Magnificent Journey: Living Deep in the Kingdom by James Bryan Smith will begin in September. There is a road to life in the unshakeable kingdom of God, but it's not an easy journey. In this book James Bryan Smith shows us the better road, the road less travelled, but the road full of riches. Along the way he introduces us to new spiritual practices that will provide the sustenance we need for the deepest, most joy-filled journey of our lives - the journey into the heart of God. Classes will meet in the Conference Room from 11:00-12:15.

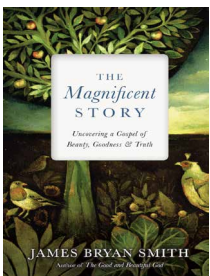


**Wednesday Women's Covenant: UNGLUED by Lysa TerKeurst**  
September 18 – October 23  
10am – Noon in Fellowship Hall  
Cost: \$19 for Participant book and study guide

In this Bible study participants learn how to process emotions and resolve conflicts in ways that lead to a much more peaceful life. Lysa admits that she, like most women, has experiences where others bump into her “happy” causing her to come emotionally unglued. What do we often do with our raw emotions? We stuff, we explode, or react somewhere in between. Is it really possible to make emotions work for us instead of against us? Lysa's answer is yes, and in her usual inspiring and practical way, she shows you how.

Filled with gut-honest personal examples and Biblical teaching, Unglued will equip you to know with confidence how to:

- Resolve conflict in your important relationships
- Find peace in your most difficult relationships as you learn to be honest but kind when offended
- Identify what type of reactor you are and how to significantly improve your communication
- Respond with no regrets by managing your tendencies to stuff, explode or react somewhere in between
- And how to gain a deep sense of calm by responding to situations out of your control without acting out of control

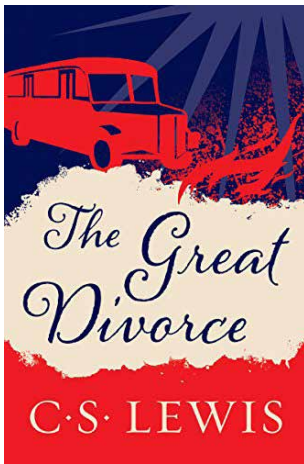


**Saturday Men's Group:** What is the story you have been told about the gospel? About God? About the Christian life? About Jesus? About the cross? About yourself? About heaven? Your answers to these questions will form a story that will determine how your life will go. The answers reveal your ability to trust, to love, to hope—and even your capacity for joy. Any story worth giving the power to shape our lives must pass a simple test: Is it beautiful, good, and true? If it is, then it is a magnificent story—and that is where transformation takes place. Let's uncover together, the true story of beauty, goodness, and truth that will satisfy the ultimate longings of your heart.

Sept 7th, Meet at Shirley's Cafe in Linden  
Sept 14th, 21st, 28th, FFPC Conference Room

October 5th, Meet at Shirley's Cafe in Linden  
Oct 12th, 19th, 26th FFPC Conference Room





## Come take a ride on the bus that travels from Hell to Heaven.

Small Group Study on The Great Divorce by C. S. Lewis

Led by Larry Zimble, Elder, First Presbyterian Church of Fenton

Group will meet on Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM in the conference room of 4square Tax at 205 Lincoln St, Fenton, just south of the Marathon station on Silver Lake Rd.

Meetings will last one hour and will run for between 8 and 12 weeks beginning Sunday September 8th.

I intend that the Small Group will continue to meet after the conclusion of this study and pursue other topics of theology, bible study and life choices.

**Who:** All Ages

**Prerequisite:** Have read the book completely. Twice is better. It is a very quick read.

**Goal:** To better understand the things that motivate our actions, and to effectively come to terms with the issue of whether we're living by God's ideas or our own; and what we can do about it.

**Cost:** Free.

Contact Larry for more information at 810-845-8665

## Boundaries Corner



The following is another excerpt from one of 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 out a Boundaries book from our library, or see Tina Ritchie with any questions.

Henry states: Most of the time when we're talking about people pleasing, the problem caters on the unhappiness of the other person. Since we care about them, we don't want them to be sad, hurt, disappointed or unhappy. And that kind of care is a good thing. However, no one has ever yet made an unhappy person happy. You can't take the emotions of another person and change them. You can help, love, accept, empathize, advise, challenge, confront and support. But at the end of the day, their feelings belong to them. So you must say no to enabling and rescuing behaviors. Life gets better and people become more successful when they are able to shoulder their own responsibilities.

When you start saying no to your own codependency, however, you will also find yourself saying no to people you have been rescuing. So be ready for some twinges of guilt. You may feel like the bad guy or fear that the other person will think badly of you. These feelings are normal; consider them part of the price of reaching your dreams. Just remember to stay loving and caring while respecting the line of responsibility. The guilty feelings should resolve in time, and you will become a freer person.



# Parenting the Love & Logic Way

Six sessions designed to help parents equip both kids and parents with character, compassion, problem solving skills and more!

## Class Dates

**Wednesday Evenings**

**September 18 – October 23**

**6:00-7:45pm**

## Location

**First Presbyterian Church of Fenton**

503 S. Leroy St. Fenton, MI 48430

## Cost

**\$35/Family for materials-free for returning families.**

Seats are limited and registration is required.

FREE childcare will be provided

## Register

**By calling or emailing information to:**

810-629-7801 or [tina@ffpc.org](mailto:tina@ffpc.org)

## About Love & Logic

**Not just for use with kids, you'll learn 2 rules that are effective in all relationships!**

1. How to set firm limits in loving ways without anger, lectures, threats or repeated warnings.
2. When others cause problems or misbehave, you hand these problems back in loving ways.

**Led by Trained Facilitator Tina Ritchie, topics covered are:**

- Session 1: Putting an End to Arguing, Back Talk, and Begging
- Session 2: Teaching Responsibility Without Losing Their Love
- Session 3: Setting limits Without Waging War
- Session 4: Avoiding Power-Struggles
- Session 5: Guiding Kids to Own and Solve Their Problems
- Session 6: Teaching Kids to Complete Chores... Without Reminders and Without Pay



The Love and Logic® approach is easy to use, raises responsible kids and changes lives.



DAVE RAMSEY'S

# FINANCIAL *Peace*<sup>®</sup>

CLASSES STARTING SOON

UNIVERSITY

9 Classes that will **CHANGE YOUR LIFE**  
*Start Winning*

**WITH MONEY**

Learn the step-by-step plan to take control of your money & your future.

**SIGN UP TODAY**

**COST: \$130**

Free Intro Class Sept 11th

Led by Jennifer MacLean

**REGISTER ONLINE** at [ffpc.org](http://ffpc.org)

*This changes*

**EVERYTHING!**

Your money. Your story. Your life.

**FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**SEPTEMBER 18 - NOVEMBER 13**

**6PM-8PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM**

# Financial Peace University

## Why is Learning About Money Important?

80% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, and are a couple paychecks away from not making mortgage and other bill payments. The stress of your financial situation affects all aspects of your life:

- it is the number two reason for divorce in America
- financial stress affects ALL of your relationships
- it affects your mental, physical and spiritual health

## Why Dave Ramsey and FPU?

-It is the only Christian, bible-based financial planning/get out of debt program.

-So what? Why is it important that it is Christian?

Because of grace. And forgiveness. And fellowship. These are among the greatest things about being Christian. Use them! Stop living in denial that it will suddenly get better next month! Face that pile of bills and debt, write it ALL down, make a budget! Learn! Face it with grace and forgiveness, and support from others! If you don't have much debt, you can learn how and where to save to ensure you have enough for retirement.

How would it feel to feel hopeful instead of hopeless? To face your financial situation head on, without denial, procrastination or fear, but instead with intention, grace, planning, and dreams for the future for you and your family? It IS possible! On ANY income.

**Learn to live like no one else so that later you can live and give like no one else.**

**In FPU you will learn to:** make a budget, pay off all your debt, stop borrowing money, save for the future, learn about what insurance you need.

**Is it easy?** NO!!! You have to live like no one else! You have to be weird! Maybe drive an older car until your debt is paid off. Not eat out. Not buy clothes you don't need. Cut out some streaming services. Pay cash instead of using a credit card "because it gives you free points"! Have a staycation instead of going into debt further on vacation. There are hundreds of ways to save money!!!! You have to be INTENTIONAL. Slow down, plan, figure out what is really important.

Sounds easy. Except for that human nature thing. If it was just about math, we'd all be millionaires. The math is simple. The emotional aspect is not.

**So... What makes it easier to stick to new habits and patterns of thinking and behaving?**

- having a plan
- being with like-minded, inspiring people
- prayer
- dreams and hope
- and hearing it again helps, too. I listen to Dave Ramsey podcasts almost everyday to keep on track

I know there are many of you that are under financial stress, or even just have questions. Maybe you haven't taken FPU because you think you don't have time, or you think we will be all up in your business in class, or because you just haven't been able to look your situation head on. I am here to help you. If you have any questions about the class please feel free to talk to me at church, email, text or phone. I would LOVE to see you in class. EVERYONE can benefit so much from Financial Peace University, and you can share as little or as much of your situation as you are comfortable with, and its all confidential. I will have a free intro class on September 11 to answer any questions you may have. You can look at the materials, or I can even get you started on a budget. FPU also has a fantastic free budgeting app and website called Every Dollar, and I can help you set that up if you need help.

Blessings, Jennifer MacLean



# Financial Peace Corner



## How to Save Money on Back-to-School Shopping

There's no avoiding it: The start of the new school year is just around the corner. That means your mailbox/inbox is about to get bombarded with school supply shopping lists, new school ice cream socials and information about the upcoming school year's activities. Say it isn't so!

The good news is that if you start shopping now, you'll have your back-to-school shopping out of the way and even save money on your kid's school supplies! Here's our best tips and tricks for how you can save money on school supplies this summer!

## Back-to-School Spending

Let's face it. After a summer of buying swimsuits, summer clothes and all the food for your backyard barbecue, thinking about spending even more money is enough to make you cringe. But whether we like it or not, back to school comes around this time every single year.

With more than 29 million households in America having school-aged children, from kindergarten through high school seniors, you can imagine that the back-to-school spending season is a big one. Not only that, over 50% of your kid's school year supplies are purchased before school even starts.

## What Families Are Buying for Back to School

Last year, the National Retail Federation estimated that most families planned to spend almost \$685 on:

- Clothing
- Electronics
- Writing utensils
- Backpacks
- Lunchboxes

Ouch. While we may not be able to escape the back-to-school spending game, we can decide how hard of a hit it takes on our budgets . . . and our wallets.

## The Best Time to Buy School Supplies

The best time to buy school supplies is . . . now. That's right, in order to beat the crowds (and those crazy prices), you've got to shop early and often! Pack your kids into the minivan, and start grabbing those deals before everyone else does—online and in stores!

# Back-to-School Shopping Tips



## 1. Do your homework.

In order to know if you're getting a deal on school supplies, you need to know how much those items usually sell for at regular retail price.

## 2. Make a plan.

Using that (shockingly long) shopping list the school sent out, decide which items are a must before school starts. Don't worry if you don't have everything on the list before the first day of school.

You can often find the best deals on supplies after the back-to-school rush is over.

## 3. Get on a budget.

Once you have a plan of what you're going to buy, it's time to budget! Yup, that's the most important part. Believe us—the last thing you want to do is blow your grocery money on your kid's pens and pencils for the year. And those have no nutritional value.

Set up your free EveryDollar budget, and start planning for your school supply purchases today.

And as we said earlier, you can spread out your purchases—there's going to be quite a few of them. It's best to prepare for those fall expenses . . . now.

## 4. Sign up for store emails.

Like it or not, one of the best things you can do is sign up for all the store deals, discounts, and newsletters you can!

Many stores send out a weekly list of what's on sale, and most even throw in a coupon too. And if you're really tired of sifting through your personal email for all of those deals, you might try creating a separate email address just for this purpose!

When you're shopping through your emails, it's important to note any loss leaders you see. If you're not sure what that is, just look for the biggest sale item in the ad, and you've likely found it. Stores use this strategy as a bait and hook to get you in the door. Whether it's free cookies in the bakery leading you to purchase a full box or it's the item priced so low that you buy five—keep these strategies in mind when you're shopping so you don't go overboard.

## 5. Visit money-saving apps and websites.

Listen, everyone loves to save money. So, it's no surprise that there are apps out there for . . . well, saving money! Don't forget to use store-specific apps to save too. Make sure to download these money-saving apps well before back-to-school shopping begins:

- **ShopSavvy:** Simply scan that barcode to find out if you're getting the best deal. The app will even show if your store will price match!
- **Flipp:** This app shows you all your favorite stores' weekly ads all in one place.
- **Hollar.com:** Scour their back-to-school list for amazing deals on everything, from pens to backpacks!
- **Groupon:** Search for school supply deals and coupons with this money-saving app.
- **Amazon:** Do we need to say more?



## 6. Shop clearance and dollar stores.

Believe us, during the back-to-school season, clearance aisles will be your new favorite hang-out. Check out Target's Dollar Spot (it's at the entrance of every store).

Just make sure to keep your eyes on the prize. With so many trinkets on sale, it's easy to drop \$20 on things you weren't even looking for!

Don't forget about your local dollar stores too. They'll have the best deals on calculators, tape dispensers, staplers, and even glue!

If you're a coupon collector, don't forget to bring any manufacturer coupons for pens and pencils to the dollar store—if you're lucky, you may end up walking away with free supplies!



## 7. Don't forget to use coupons!

We had to say it again. Coupons and promotional codes will become your new best friends (not to mention save you and your budget). Why pay full price when you can pay less and save more for the same product?

## 8. Shop the off-season.

You better believe it—some of the best deals for back-to-school shopping can be found when it's not back-to-school season at all! But most importantly, you'll want to keep an eye out for clothing deals. You might find it difficult to purchase a winter coat in the middle of summer, but it's the best time to do it.

With a little bit of preplanning, you can find the best clothing steals for cheap. Yup, winter coats, long-sleeved shirts and sweaters, and even jeans. Let's just hope junior doesn't go through another growth spurt before the next school year.

## 9. Don't forget about used or even refurbished items.

Let's talk electronics. They're just so dadgum expensive. And with technology becoming more and more important in the school curriculum, it's becoming a purchase that you just can't escape.

Make sure to check sites like eBay and Craigslist for lightly used (and deeply discounted) touch screen devices that won't send you to the cleaners.

And don't forget—you can also find great deals on refurbished electronics too! Check out Apple, Dell and other major companies for their deals.

## 10. Leave the kids at home.

You've probably heard people say leave your kids at home when you're grocery shopping, right? Well, the same rules apply for back-to-school shopping.

If you buy your kid's school supplies based on sales and clearance, you're not really going to pay any attention to brand names or the latest and greatest action hero-themed supplies. But when you bring your kids with you, you may end up spending way more. Plus, they'll be happy when you come home with bags of supplies just for them!

Ready to start saving for those back-to-school supplies? Tell every dollar where to go this month

with **EveryDollar**, and don't forget to budget for your back-to-school spending!



# Youth Group



Confirmation Classes will be offered this year for any youth in 6th grade and above wishing to learn what it means to make a commitment to a Christian community, living as a disciple of Christ. In this course we will learn about the Story of the Church and our place in it, we will reflect on what our faith calls us to do in a world of hurt and injustice, and we will develop our own Christian worldview and statement of faith. This statement of faith will be shared with the congregation on Confirmation Sunday. Journaling, working with a mentor, serving within the church, and mission projects are part of this course.

Please watch your email and bulletin for more information coming soon. Please contact Tina Ritchie or Pastor Lindsey if you'd like to be part of this course.



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

**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 due by 8/11

Sign-up on the youth bulletin board and join us for swimming, hiking, campfires, discussion and fellowship. Extra money needed for food on the road. Scholarship money is available for this trip – see Tina! A packing list will be emailed to those who register.

Mystery Event: September 8, Time TBD

Mark your calendars - Youth Group will kick-off the school year with a fun event.

The youth group schedule will be posted soon! Watch for a new format and events!

All events require an updated PCC/MA form, which are located on the youth bulletin board next to the Jr. High youth room. To get on the youth email list, contact Tina Ritchie at [tina@ffpc.org](mailto:tina@ffpc.org) or text 810-701-4136. Call if you need a ride to any event. Friends are welcome too!

# Youth Group



**Club 45** for 4th and 5th graders and friends resumes in the school year from 12:30-1:30 in the Art Room.

**Meeting dates are:**

September 29

October 20

November 24

December 15

Please see Cathy Hollopeter if you are interested in helping or need more information.



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

Nursery and preschool, and kindergarten - 5th grade classes offered during 10am worship through September 1st. 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 11 – Great King David (Samuel)

8/4 David’s Kindness

8/11 David Sinned & was Restored

8/18 David’s Psalm

**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

## Unit 12 – Wise King Solomon (Kings, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs)

8/25 Solomon Asked for Wisdom

9/1 Wisdom for God’s People

9/8 Solomon Built the Temple

9/15 The Kingdom Divided

**Big Picture Question:** What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present and future.

**Unit Key Verse:** *If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.* ~ James 1:5 NLT



# Worship Committee

## August Schedule of Worship

### **August 4th, 8th Sunday after Pentecost, Communion Sunday**

#### **Pastor Lindsey Carnes Preaching, "Unlikely Heroes: Phoebe, Servant of God", Romans 16:1-2;**

Phoebe was a spiritual sister, a servant and a great help to many. She was also credited as being the bearing of Paul's letter to the church in Rome. Little is known about this incredible individual, but we can learn much about how to serve from this woman of God.

**Layreader:** Cheryl Kopplin

**Ushers:** Team #4

**Communion Servers:** Craig Williams, Larry Zimble, Polly Sheppard, Jenn Wenzel, Jon Wenzel, Mike Hussar, Jim Savage, Ken Wensel

**Sound Tech:** Jay Kirkey

**Coffee Hour:** Yellow Team

**Counters:** Jon O'Connell & Ken Wensel

**Nursery & Preschool:** Heidi Howieson & Annabeth Carnes

**Gospel Project:** K-2nd: Ellen Horton  
3rd-5th: Jan Foster

### **MONDAY, August 5th 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.

### **August 11th, 9th Sunday after Pentecost, Youth Recap Sunday**

'At the Door'; This Sunday we will hear testimonies of experiences this summer in faith, mission and service.

**Layreader:** Youth

**Acolytes:** Peg Fowler & Robbie Carnes

**Ushers:** Team #5

**Sound Tech:** Jay Kirkey

**Coffee Hour:** Green Team

**Counters:** Shirley Israel & Maureen Utt

**Nursery & Preschool:** Heidi Howieson

**Gospel Project:** K-2nd: Cheryl Kopplin & Ellen Horton  
3rd-5th: Larry Zimble & Rick Bard

**August 18th, 10th Sunday after Pentecost****Elder, Larry Zimpler Preaching, “Unlikely Heroes: Hannah, Samuel’s Mom****Layreader:** Cheryl Kopplin**Acolyte:** Sammy Carnes & Mason Davis**Ushers:** Team #6**Sound Tech:** Doug Watters**Coffee Hour:** Blue Team**Counters:** Jon O’Connell & Dennis Beardslee**Nursery & Preschool:** Heidi Howieson & PJ Collier**Gospel Project:** K-2nd: Julie Grams & Deb Bard

3rd-5th:

**August 25th, 11th Sunday after Pentecost****Pastor Lindsey Preaching, “Unlikely Heroes: Jochebed, Moses’ Mother”, Exodus 2:1-10;**

Jochebed is best known as the mother who hid her child among the reeds so that he might be discovered by Pharaoh’s daughter. This child was Moses, who became one of the greatest national leaders and legislators the world has ever known. However she was also the mother of Aaron, who became Israel’s first high priest and the founder of the Aaronic priesthood. And the mother of Miriam, the gifted poetess and musician, who was intimately associated with her two brothers in the history of Israel. Any great family must have a great mother.

**Layreader:**Roy Fetzer**Acolytes:** Bev Welch & Deb Bard**Ushers:** Team #1**Sound Tech:** Mark Gibb**Coffee Hour:** Violet Team**Counters:** Lin Savage & Sara Wrage**Nursery & Preschool:** Lindsey & Madeline Gibb**Gospel Project:** K-2nd: Missy Wing & PJ Collier

3rd-5th: Janet Stork &amp; Karen Terrill

# Financial Update

## Building Fund Report – June 30, 2019

**Building Account Balance:** \$15,456**Mortgage Remaining:** \$229,853

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.

# 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.

**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 [in Fellowship Hall](#)

**Book Binders** will gather again on September 9th to discuss the book Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult. More information will be included in September's Newsletter.

**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](mailto:office@ffpc.org)

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

## Birthday's

Ken Wensel	Aug 1
Judy Brown	Aug 2
Craig Williams	Aug 3
Jan Jacobs	Aug 5
Adam Weldon	Aug 5
Jim Savage	Aug 7
Michael Skaff	Aug 7
Vera Thornton	Aug 9
Peggy Blough	Aug 10
Johnny Foguth	Aug 11
Holly Hodgkin	Aug 11
Lin Savage	Aug 12
Linda Miller	Aug 13
Shirley Cook	Aug 14
Billie Morris	Aug 14
Sammy Carnes	Aug 18
Mark Grams	Aug 19
Clark Casteel	Aug 22

Jennifer Wenzel	Aug 22
Gary LaPointe	Aug 23
Walt Hungerford	Aug 24
Bonnie Griffith	Aug 25
Mary Frazier	Aug 27
Sherry A Zollars	Aug 27
Steve Muntin	Aug 29
Polly Sheppard	Aug 29
Laurie Thomas	Aug 30
Royce Hyde	Aug 31

Roy & Amy Fetzer	August 10
Greg & Jennifer MacLean	August 10
Chris & Tonya Coffin	August 11
Tom & Cindy Crawford	August 12
Walt & Barbara Hungerford	August 12
Edwin & Marsha Schwarz	August 13
Ken & Karen Wensel	August 15
Mark & Jenny Gibb	August 18
John & Cheryl Sharpe	August 18
John & Alice Maletic	August 22
Jim & Lori Murray	August 22
Richard & Georgiann Tunningley	August 24
Guy & Sharon Cowing	August 27
John & Sara Wrage	August 29

## Anniversaries

Jim & Gloria Lindsay	August 1
Rick & Jane Motta	August 2
Jerry & Jill Flewelling	August 3
Michael & Elaine Pelletier	August 4
Jon & Shannon Clemens	August 5
Jerry & Lee Black	August 6
Morris & Peggy Fulcher	August 7

## Special Music

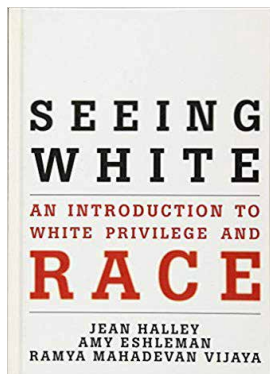
August 4	Patti Nelson
August 11	Youth
August 18	Mason & Holly
August 25	FMUC Wind Ensemble



# August Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>5:00-6:00pm</b> Tutoring, Youth Room <b>6:00pm-9:00pm</b> FYU, Fellowship Hall	2	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast at Shirley's
4 <b>10:00am</b> Worship Service & Communion	5 <b>1:00-2:00pm</b> Knitting Group Youth Room  <b>1:00-2:00pm</b> Outreach Communion, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall  <b>7:00pm – 9:00pm</b> Boy Scouts, FH	6 <b>6:45pm - 8:30pm</b> Membership & Com- munication Meeting  <b>6:30pm - 8:00pm</b> Congregational Life Committee Meeting	7 <b>8:00am-12:00pm</b> Facilities Work Day  <b>12:00pm-2:00pm</b> Youth Lunch, Culvers	8 <b>10:00am-12:30pm</b> The Care Team, Conference Rm.  <b>5:00-6:00pm</b> Tutoring, Youth Room  <b>6:30pm-8:00pm</b> Mission and Stew- ardship Committee Meeting  <b>6:00pm-8:00pm</b> Christian Education Committee Meeting, CR	9 OFFICE CLOSED  <b>12:00pm- 1:30pm</b> Social Justice Advocates Group  <b>6:30pm- 8:00pm</b> Backpack Filling evening	10 OFFICE CLOSED  <b>9:30-10:30am</b> Yoga
11 <b>10:00am</b> Youth Summer Re- cap Worship Service  <b>2:00pm-5:00pm</b> Eagle Scout Court of Honor	12 <b>1:00-2:00pm</b> Knitting Group, Youth Room  <b>7:00pm – 9:00pm</b> Boy Scouts, FH	13 6:45pm-8:30pm Administration Commit- tee Meeting	14 <b>8:00am-12:00pm</b> Facilities Work Day  4:45pm-6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting	15 <b>5:00-6:00pm</b> Tutoring, Youth Room	16 OFFICE CLOSED  Youth Camping Trip	17 OFFICE CLOSED  Youth Camping Trip  FARR Back to School Project
18 <b>10:00am</b> Worship Service  Youth Camping Trip	19 Youth Camping Trip  <b>1:00pm-2:00pm</b> Knitting Group, Youth Room  <b>7:00pm – 9:00pm</b> Boy Scouts, FH	20 6:30pm-8:30pm Session Meeting	21 <b>8:00am-12:00pm</b> Facilities Work Day	22	23 OFFICE CLOSED  Beth Moore Conference	24 OFFICE CLOSED  Beth Moore Con- ference
25 <b>10:00am</b> Worship Service	26 <b>1:00pm-2:00pm</b> Knitting Group, Youth Room  <b>7:00pm – 9:00pm</b> Boy Scouts, FH	27 <b>11:00am-12:00pm</b> Downtown Readers Book Club  6:45pm-8:00pm Deacon's Meeting	28	29	30	31

## CONGREGATIONAL READ OPPORTUNITY



This August 19th at 7pm, Amy Eshleman (Associate Professor of psychology at Wagner College and Pastor David Eshelman's daughter), will be leading us in a discussion of racism based on her book, "Seeing White". Amy shared this book with us some years ago when it was first published and will help guide a conversation as we explore our feelings and ideas about racism and what we can do to eliminate it.

Books are available for \$15 in the fellowship hall. Please see David Eshleman for more information. The book is also available in print form and as an e-book on Amazon.

The Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) states, "Racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity. It is the rejection of the other, which is entirely contrary to the Word of God incarnate in Jesus Christ...Because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, PCUSA must stand against, speak against and work against racism."

Antiracist effort is not optional for Christians. It is an essential aspect of Christian discipleship, without which we fail to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We hope you'll join us! If you have any questions, please call the church office.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION!

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