



Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Newsletter September, 2019

Living with Christ, Serving the World

Upcoming Events

September 7: Faith in Femininity Packaging Party

September 8: Two Worship Services
Resume - 9am & 11am

September 8: Teacher Commissioning and distribution of 3rd grade Bibles

September 9: Outreach Communion

September 15th: Theological Education Offering

September 19: Empty Bowls

September 21: Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Spiritual Recovery and Why it is Important

John 8:36 "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

They asked me if I would do the funeral because their group met at our church. While I had pastored the church for about 4 years, I really didn't know the AA folks that gathered weekly in our fellowship room. However, there were members of that AA group who had met for years and it made sense to them to have the funeral at our church. It made sense to me too.

They found him in the closet with a belt around his neck. He had been couch surfing for the past year until his sponsor, who was also a real estate agent, found him a place to stay for cheap. They said that the 'monkey on his back' finally got him. It was a remarkable experience for me to learn about the man who passed and to hear from his friends. They weren't wildly shocked, knowing the struggles that their friend had been through. They weren't judgmental in the least, knowing that it very easily could be them. They were grateful for the good times that they had shared, honest about the difficult times, and grieved their friend like a fellow traveler who had finally made it home. From years of verbally articulating their stories, they collectively told a refreshing, compelling and hopeful eulogy of their friend.

It struck me how formative the 12 step program was in their lives. It wasn't a defeatism, but a self-patience that permeated my conversations with this man's friends. This really helped me understand what 'in recovery' means in the 12 step context. Generally, we use the term 'recovery' when we are 'working the program' and actively trying to recover from the ravages of addiction. We also use the term to understand that we are 'recovering' and not recovered. The transcendent needs that we have tried to address through the objects of our addiction remain, and the struggle to meet those needs in healthy ways remain. Understanding this journey dynamic is crucial to the 12 steps. After we go through all of the steps we start again with the first one and continue the journey.

These same dynamics are evident in our spiritual lives as well. There is no place in which we 'arrive' spiritually. As John Calvin says, "the human minds is...a perpetual forge of idols' (Institutes). The definition of addiction and idol are very similar. Addiction is the intense focus on chemicals or behaviors that take over our lives and inhibit our ability to have healthy relationships with others. Where we should be finding healthy ways to meet our needs, we find addictive and manipulative ones in order to serve our addictions. An idol is defined as an object of worship that impedes us from worshiping the True God. While we should be worshiping the Living God in spirit and in truth, we easily find replacements for an authentic relationship with our Creator. This is why we have a prayer of confession every week during worship, because we constantly need to be confessing that God is God and we are not. We are the ones who are unmanageable and out of control, and God is the one who is in control of all things and whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light.

We also know that the spiritual struggles we engage in are of utmost concern. John Owen says that you need to "be killing sin or it will be killing you" (Mortification of Sin). Immoral behavior, ungenerous spirits, and unethical thinking hurt ourselves and others. The lack of purpose, vision, and perspective weigh on our hearts, and if we are not actively trying to 'recover' our relationship with God we find that many things creep into God's place in our hearts. Our dedication to these idols reveals needs that are not being met by those idols and so we act out. Desperate to meet our needs without God's love, we abuse ourselves and others and wonder how we got to this painful place. **We are all in need of spiritual recovery.**

Because of these parallels, I am convinced that the 12 step program has vital things to say about our spiritual journey. This is why for the fall we will be exploring the 12 steps and their spiritual dynamics in worship. We may not all be addicts, but we all need to admit our powerlessness and need for God's almighty power in our lives. We all need to reflect on defects in our character and strive to live humble lives peaceably with each other: Making amends where we need to and forgiving others as Christ has forgiven us. We also need to consistently take personal inventory of ourselves, being open to how God might change us and how the Holy Spirit might be working to transform us into the image of Christ. We also need to be reminded that this world makes us crazy with our empty striving for personal gain and impotent worry over world affairs. It is our loving higher power that we need to believe in more than ever that can restore us and all of creation to sanity.

I invite you to come and enjoy this sermon series this fall. I hope that it is compelling and helpful for all of us as we seek to grow in our faith and our grasp of truth and grace.

Pastor Robbie Carnes

1. I can't
2. God can
3. I'll let Him
4. Look within
5. Admit wrongs
6. Get ready to change
7. Seek God's help
8. Become willing
9. Make amends
10. Daily inventory
11. Pray and meditate
12. Give it away

Admin & Session Updates

A Message to the Congregation:

Last month our Presbytery asked Pastor Lindsey to serve as an Interim Pastor for Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Flint Township as they begin the process of doing a mission study, forming a Pastor Nominating Committee and searching for their new pastor. This would be a 12-18 month commitment. So what does this mean for FFPC? A number of things. First, let's first accept that our congregation should be honored that the Presbytery respects our Pastoral leadership enough to ask for this consideration.

It's important to understand that Presbyterian Churches are part of a connectional church that is organized into Presbyteries. Each church has pastors and elders that assist not only in our local church but also with the work of the Presbytery. Currently, our Presbytery has 17 churches that are in pastoral leadership transitions. With so many churches in transition, and so few retired pastors in the area, the churches in our Presbytery of Lake Huron have stepped up to pitch in moderating Sessions that do not currently have pastors, preaching, and officiating Communion. This year our Pastors, Lindsey and Robbie, have assisted at the Holly, Flint Trinity United, St Andrews Davison, and Flushing Presbyterian Churches.

Through this partnership FFPC will be supporting the ministry of Trinity as they go through the transition process. In addition, we expect to learn from Trinity (especially their work with those in poverty, their experience with diversity, and racial reconciliation) and partner with each other's ministries through the coming year.

The big question that people are asking is what does this mean to our current leadership? It's important to note that this is temporary and that Trinity United is just up the road from us. Pastor Lindsey will still be a part of this church, working part-time, and will preach from time-to-time as well as lead Bible studies and the Confirmation class. During this period Pastor Robbie will take over as our primary Pastor at FFPC. We'll be discussing this and answering questions at our Congregational Meeting, Sunday, September 29th after the 11am service.

We Hear You

Dear FFPC,

On behalf of the Session I would like to thank all who participated in the survey that was sent out earlier this summer. We are grateful for all of the input and comment. We hear you. This information will be reflected on and used to proceed in our strategic planning process. We look forward to presenting you with goals, ideas and vision soon.

Pastors Robbie & Lindsey Carnes

2020 Giving Envelopes

In order to ensure delivery before the end of 2019, We are asking that all individuals and families wishing to receive giving envelopes for the coming 2020 year, to please turn their request into the office no later than Wednesday, September 25th.

Order forms will be available in Fellowship Hall beginning this Sunday, September 8th, or you may submit your request online at using the link provided here, <https://forms.gle/t38Ni3TokchCQYQk7>.

Please contact the church office with any questions you may have.

Thank you,
Kelly Sunman-Davis
Administrative Assistant

Financials

Treasurer Report 2019 Financials

Profit/ Loss	June	July	Profit/Loss YTD Actual
Income:	\$28,398.69	\$29,885.79	\$223,642.14
Expense: *	<u>\$23,697.52</u>	<u>\$22,835.19</u>	<u>\$176,996.27</u>
Net Income:	\$4,701.17	\$7,050.60	\$46,645.87*

*this does not include additional obligations such as restricted funds or mortgage payments. These obligations result in a cash increase (decrease) for the year (\$2,408.46).

*A restricted fund is funds we can't spend because they are being set aside for future use of expensive repairs or replacement of HVAC or organ, Deacons money, Faith and Femininity, etc.

Building Fund Report – July 31, 2019

Building Account Balance:	\$ 18,165
Mortgage Remaining:	\$227,642

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.

Mission & Stewardship

Habitat for Humanity



A group of 8 volunteers from our church assisted building a Habitat home in Gaines on Saturday, July 27, 2019. Our group installed siding on the exterior of the home and blocks in the floor joists. We had a very rewarding time.

The homeowner, Stephanie, was a missionary and has scarce financial resources. Stephanie runs a non-profit that supports churches in their mission work by helping them with marketing. Her childhood home burned down when she was a kid so she knows what it is like to lose everything and not have a place to stay. Her passion and apprecia-

tion for homeownership are guided by those memories as well as her devotion to Christ. She is very excited about her new home!



September 16th is Theological Education Sunday in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Please join us in praying for the Church's future ministers, and look for opportunities to mentor those among us who have gifts for ministry. Our Church supports future ministers who are Presbyterian students at PC(USA) seminaries through The Theological Education Fund (TEF).

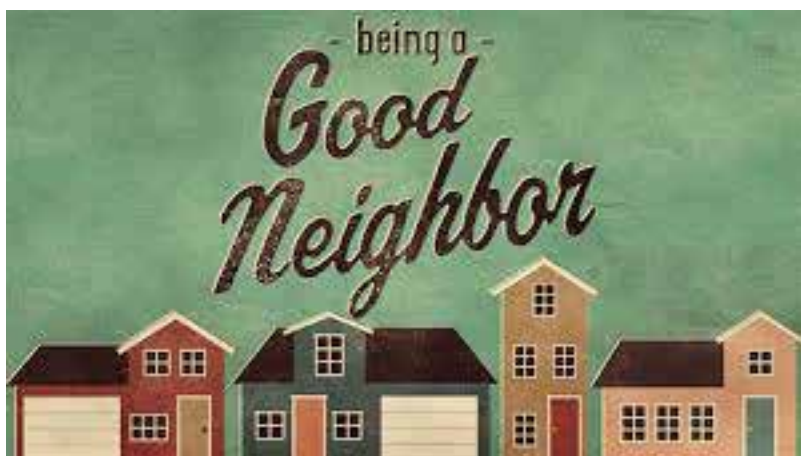
Recently housed at the Presbyterian Foundation, the TEF channels gifts of Presbyterians and their congregations to Presbyterian seminaries and, thereby, invests in the future of Christ's church.

To donate and find out more about the Theological Education Fund, visit the Presbyterian Foundation web site, which you can find at www.presbyterianfoundation.org/te.



Empty Bowls at the Food Bank

On Thursday, September 19, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan is having a fun fundraiser called Empty Bowls. For \$25/person, you gain admission to their new Hunger Center building and enjoy all the soups and breads you want to eat from area restaurants, as well as select a ceramic bowl for your home created by local artisans. There will be two serving times: 11:00 am-2:00 pm and 4:00 pm-7:00 pm. To make it even more fun, a group of us will meet at the church and car pool there together. We will meet at 11:00 am and leave the church by 11:15 am. If you can join us, please sign up in fellowship hall so we do not leave anyone behind. If you have any questions, please ask either Bill or Nikki Black. If you are driving yourself, use "1939 Howard Ave. Flint MI" for GPS directions. If you would like more information about the Food Bank and/or the Empty Bowls program, check out their website: www.FBEM.org.



Good Neighbor

When Jesus was asked which commandment is the greatest, He provided us all with the essential answer to our daily lives:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 22: 37-39

Life provides us with an infinite variety of ways to be a good neighbor to all those around us. Just a few "easy" ways that we are (or can be) a good neighbor through our church are:

- Donate clothes to the Carriage Town Ministries via our collection box in fellowship hall.
- Donate food to the United Methodist Food Pantry in Fenton via our collection box in fellowship hall.
- Donate welcome home supplies to Samaritas refugees being settled in the Southeast Michigan area via our collection box in fellowship hall.
- Donate your time to sort food at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. This food provides a very low-cost food supply to those who are "food insecure".
- Donate your time and supplies to the various deacon projects, e.g., the Back-to-School backpacks.
- Donate your time to provide transportation to various members via the Helping Hands program or via assisting Salah get to school or his job. (Salah is a refugee from Yemen who is living with the Martin-Fanone family.)

Faith in Femininity Update

Faith in Femininity is so happy and grateful to announce that we have been given the Good Deed Award by the American Legion Women's Auxiliary. Many thanks go to Jackie Arrol for recommending that we donate to their organization--what a wonderful cause!

We are also happy to say that we are now an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We'd like to thank the church and the congregation for all of their help and support--we could not have done it without FFPC! For anyone who is currently making charitable contributions or would like to make a donation, our donation tab is now separate from the church's. Donations can now be made via our website at "faithinfemininity.org".

Even though our finances are now separate from the church, we are still so lucky to be running our organization out of the church. If you'd like to make a product donation, please drop products off at the church office!

We are so grateful for everything that our faithful church and congregation have done for our mission, and we're also so excited about the future as our organization continues to grow! Stay tuned!

Join us for our back-to-school packaging party on Saturday, September 7th at 2pm! We will meet at Fenton First Presbyterian Church. Bring a friend!



Congregational Life



Spaghetti DINNER Fundraiser

Saturday, Sept. 21 5-7pm

TICKETS ARE \$12 FOR ADULTS, \$8 FOR KIDS 10 & UNDER

Tickets can be purchased at the church office or in Fellowship Hall after Worship Service.

***Cooks are needed** for Friday, September 20th at 12:30pm and Saturday, September 21st at 3:00pm Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

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!**

Kitchen Talk with Deb

Let's Kitchen Talk

I have my hat and apron on, I'm washing my hands singing happy birthday to me. I want to keep all our members safe from the Norovirus and other illness, now what should I do next? Can you guess what it should be?

1. Chew gum
2. Eat or drink in the kitchen
3. Sanitize the work area
4. Play with my hair
5. Go to the restroom with my apron on



If you said #2 (eat or drink in the kitchen) sorry that's not right. It's #3 sanitize the work area. We now need to clean and sanitize the work surfaces. We can use the sanitizer in the spray bottles or fill a bucket of water with the right % of sanitizer. Use a test kit to check the sanitizer's strength. It doesn't make any difference if you use the bottle spray or a bucket as long as you sanitize. Let the work areas air dry. Wash your hands, again. You are now ready to prep food. Now for fun can you put the steps for cleaning and sanitizing in the right order?

1. Sanitize the surface
2. Clean the surface
3. Allow the surface to air-dry
4. Rinse the surface

Are we having fun yet? You may feel this information is just too much. Why do we need to do this stuff? You might think we didn't use to. We should have been doing this all along. We are licensed by the State of Michigan. Our kitchen is inspected yearly. If we routinely work in the kitchen and don't follow the state laws we will probably fail at our inspection. If we fail we don't have our annual Turkey Dinner. This is why we need to routinely follow the ServSafe rules. The answer to test #2: 2 (clean the surface) 4 (rinse the surface) 1 (sanitize the surface) 3 (allow the surface to air-dry). More Kitchen Talk next month....

Deacons



The Deacons of Fenton First Presbyterian Church cordially invite our members, that are 70 years of age or older, to our Senior Celebration Luncheon. The celebration will be held Saturday, October 5 at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the church office at 810-629-7801 by Monday, September 30th, 2019. Rides are provided for those in need.

Christian Education

Christian Education Week

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

**Growing
Together
in Faith**

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 on 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, Tony Grams, Tina Ritchie, Jennifer MacLean 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.

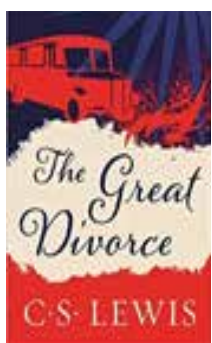


Fall Bible Study



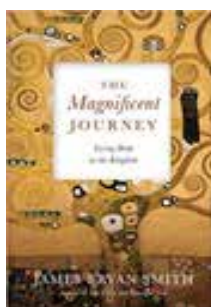
Men's Study Group
 Saturday's 8am
 September 7 – November 2
 1st Sat of each month at Shirley's in Linden; all other meetings are at church

What story are you writing with your life? Does it celebrate beauty, goodness, and truth? The stories we tell ourselves shape our lives, and the narratives we believe about the gospel, the cross, and God ultimately determine how our lives will unfold by defining our capacity for trusting, loving, hoping, and feeling joy. Led by Pastor Robbie



Sunday Evenings Beginning Sept 8
 5 - 6pm
 Meets for 8-12 weeks at 4square Tax
 205 Lincoln St., Fenton

The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis small group discussion will help participants to better understand the things that motivate our actions, and effectively come to terms with the issue of whether we're living God's ideas or our own; and what we can do about it. Led by Larry Zimble



Tuesday Morning Beginning Sept 18
 11:00am - 12:15pm
 Conference Room

The Magnificent Journey: Living Deep in the Kingdom by James Bryan Smith There is a road to life in the unshakeable kingdom of God, but it's not an easy journey. This book shows us the better road, the road less travelled, but the road full of riches. Led by Pastor Lindsey



Wednesday Women's Group
 10am – Noon (Fellowship Hall)
 Sept 18 – Oct 23

UNGLUED by Lysa TerKeurst
 What do we do with our raw emotions? We stuff, explode, or react somewhere in between. Learn how to process emotions and resolve conflicts in ways that lead to a much more peaceful life. Led by Tina Ritchie.



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

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.

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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
Childcare Available

This changes
EVERYTHING!

Your money. Your story. Your life.

FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 18 - NOVEMBER 13

6PM-8PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

Lessons from Youth Summer Re-cap Worship

By Waverly Ritchie



The message from this summer's youth re-cap worship service centered on the theme "At the Door" from the 2019 Massanetta Middle School Conference. Below is the message from Waverly Ritchie; next month we will share Lindsey Gibb's perspective.

"Stepping into my second year as an advocate this summer, I felt a different excitement than last year. Last year, I experienced for the first time what it is like to belong to a faith community outside of my church. I applied to become an advocate because my advocates had inspired me when I was in middle school, and because of that, I felt called to help lead middle schoolers in their own spiritual journey. And while I was excited to lead them, it was also a huge growing experience for me personally because I was dealing with a friend issue back home.

This year I went into the advocate program knowing what to expect. And with the weight of last year's issues off my shoulders, I was able to be more intentional with my middle school groups as well as the other leadership members. I was able to be reflective about why I came to Massanetta and what God was calling me to do. Adding on to that, I had gotten a stronger grasp over the past year on what my faith means to me, and therefore this year at Massanetta I was better able to express my faith in ways that were helpful for my encounter groups. I found that this year I had an easier time facilitating conversation with the middlers. I enjoyed observing how they processed questions and how they challenged themselves to grow in their faith. I had one boy in my second group. He was in seventh grade, and was very soft spoken. I would ask him a question and he would sit there for a couple seconds and fiddle with grass. I too am quite soft spoken and sometimes have difficulty articulating my thoughts. But by the middle of the conference this boy had no shame in taking his time. He always ended up having a thoughtful and meaningful response. Giving him time to process allowed me to learn from him and see his growth. He showed me how to be comfortable in my own skin. This is one of many examples of how middlers grow from attending this conference.

Adults are changed too. One of the other advocates had an adult in his group who was uncomfortable with a video used during keynote. The video was about a man who gave out water to immigrants crossing the Mexican-American border. The video was shown to demonstrate what it looks like to love, serve and be a good neighbor, as Jesus taught us in the parable of the Good Samaritan. However this adult had difficulty opening the door to see how God might look at the situation in the video. The adult's view of God and faith was challenged and the adult was angry. This person's opportunity was to choose to stay rooted in a view of God and faith they probably held for a long time versus seeing another's perspective. I am not sure what the final outcome was for them, but I can say that this person's obvious frustrations were handled in a way that taught those around them and those who knew of the situation to reflect more deeply on complicated social disagreements. Our keynoter Linda asked, are we called to love God first and that teaches us how to love others, or in loving others first, does that lead us to loving God? It is not one or the other; it is both. By loving God we then know how to love others and by loving others we show love to God.

This year's theme was At the Door from Matthew 7:7-12. This passage teaches us how to seek persistent relationship with God. Translated in Greek, the passage calls us to keep asking, keep searching, and keep knocking. Verse eight tells us, "For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks the door will be opened." I had a difficult time reading this passage the first time

because not everyone finds exactly what they want. However, I learned that although you may not receive what you want, if you keep asking, keep searching and keep knocking, God will reveal God's self and deliver what you need. It may not always be apparent to us, but God may be knocking on our door with an answer right in front of us! Like the adult that was challenged by their belief in the video, are we able to open a door and see a perspective that would stretch our faith and help us see new possibilities of where God is leading us?

This message is relevant to all congregations including us. We are at the door. So I am wondering in what ways can we grow spiritually as individuals and as a congregation to strengthen our relationship with God and each other? How can we value other people's perspective which could allow us to unlock a door that celebrates change, diversity, and an abundance of gifts? How might we be open to having conversations and mentoring each other regardless of age, ethnicity, identity, and differences of opinion? Massanetta is a magical place that creates an environment to do all of these things. There are doors all around us inviting us to step through. Let's work together and experience all the possibilities that God has to offer us."



Boundaries Corner

Seven Ways to Improve Communication with Your Spouse from Dr. Henry Cloud, co-author of the Boundaries books.

Henry states: *"When we're having communication problems with someone we care about, it can be frustrating, it can hurt, and it can have us feeling defensive. I'm going to tell you give all of that up and trying these tips instead."*

Focus. Look your partner in the eyes and give all of your attention.

Observe your tendency to get out of the connection.

Monitor your thought. As your partner speaks, are you listening or thinking of your response? Are you evaluating what they are saying? Stop that and just allow what your partner is feeling to sink in.

Respond nonverbally. Are you nodding or saying "hmm," or something to let them know you are tracking? Let them know you are with them and truly listening.

Watch your defensiveness. If you are feeling defensive, by all means, do not say anything. Count to twenty. If you need a timeout, take one and go away until you cool off. Do not defend yourself or counterattack.

Empathize. Communicate back what you have heard: "So, Amy, you really feel by yourself, even when I am here. Wow." Use the formula: content + feelings = being understood.

"So, the way the kids act when I'm not here is just too much sometimes."

"Yeah, I see. When I have to work a lot, you begin to feel that you don't matter to me as much as my job."

"So when I want sex and we haven't really talked, you feel kind of used."

"That's awful, I don't want you to be in a place like that."

Don't try to fix it. Avoid advice, explaining, or trying immediately to make the feelings go away. There will be a time for that. Connect first just through hearing.

Don't make it about you. Don't answer with something about yourself. Listening is about the other person.

Reconnecting with each other involves your hearts being known, and there is no way to be known if you are not listening to each other. If you'd like to learn more about investing into your marriage, subscribe to Boundaries.me, check out a Boundaries book from our library, or see Tina Ritchie with any questions.

Financial Peace Corner by Jennifer MacClean



Spending less money and saving more money are cornerstones of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, and to help you along on that journey you will find red Christmas savings envelopes on the table in Fellowship Hall. Simply write "Christmas Savings" on the envelope as well as a list of everyone you buy for. After you decide on your total Christmas budget, divvy up the budget amongst your list and write the amount beside each person's name. Now start adding money to the envelope each week and use paper clips to clip the bills by person.

Here are some other money saving ideas from the FPU coordinator newsletter:

So, you might think saving money is a chore you have to do, but who says you can't make saving money fun while you're at it?

Here are 8 ways to turn the task of saving money into a game—one that you can win!

1. Have a "no spend" month.

First of all, we don't mean that you stop paying your rent or electricity bill. Then you'd be out of a home, in the dark, and have much bigger fish to fry than playing our little saving game. Don't do that. Remember to take care of the Four Walls (food, clothing, shelter and utilities, and transportation).

Instead, fill in the blank here: This month, we aren't going to spend any money on _____. That could be entertainment, restaurants, or anything you want. Then, take the budgeted money you saved and drop it in your savings!

2. Put a sticky note in your wallet.

In big, bold letters write "Do I really need this?" on a sticky note, scrap of paper, or index card, and keep it in your wallet. You can even try wrapping it around your debit card. Just make sure you stick it somewhere visible. The idea here is to get you to see it before you make a purchase. We all need that still, small voice in our head (or wallet) to keep us in line.

Ready to start saving? [Download our free budgeting tool today!](#)

3. Save all your loose change or dollar bills in a big jar.

Is it flashy? Nope. Is it an ode to the water jug of coins your dad saved in the den back in the 1980s? Maybe. But it doesn't really matter as long as you're saving money.

Every time you have to break a dollar or find loose change in your pockets, dump those extra coins into your jar. You can even start a competition between your family or friends to see who can save up \$20 first!

4. Increase your savings by \$1 each week.

This is a really good one to start at the beginning of the year. You can start out slow with \$1 on the first week of the year, \$2 on the second week of the year, and so on. If you keep that up all year long, by December 31, you'll have saved \$1,378! Happy New Year to you, indeed!

5. Get competitive.

Who can resist a good challenge? Face-off against your spouse, sibling or friend and see who can save up \$200 first. Or, set a date as a finish line and see how much money you've each saved by that point. May the best saver win!

6. Get the kids in on saving money too!

Are your kids begging you for a new toy every time you go to the store? Of course they are. Instead of being quick to buy it for them, encourage them to save up for that big-ticket item they want.

This means finding small ways for them to do things around the house and giving them a commission for completing the work. Say you'll pay them 50 cents for every room they vacuum. Then sit back, relax and watch them save up while you enjoy the fruit of their labor (hello, mess-free carpets).



You can make it a full-on sibling competition too! Let the kids save up for a while and offer a small prize at the end of the game for whoever saved the most! Be sure the kids can actually see their savings as it adds up. Our [Smart Saver Bank](#) or a clear jar is much better than a cute piggy bank that doesn't show how much money they've saved.

7. How far can you stretch a dollar?

Can you and your spouse go out to eat for under \$5? Can you each spend only \$10 on your upcoming anniversary? How long can you make that full gas tank last? Make it a challenge to see how far you can stretch your dollar. You might be surprised at how creative you can get!

8. Do a pantry challenge.

Ready, set, don't buy any more groceries! See how long you can make the food in your pantry last and think outside the box with the meals you make!

Ready, Set, Start Saving Money!

A word to the wise: don't get too carried away with the fun and games of saving money that you forget to be intentional with the money you save. And don't let the money hang out in your bank account and tempt you to spend it! Put the hard-earned money you saved in a separate savings account, sinking fund, or toward your next goal in the [Baby Steps!](#) Now get to work saving!

Let the games begin and stay on top of your savings goals by using our free budgeting tool, [Every-Dollar](#). Learn how you can quickly track your progress, create sinking funds, and watch your savings add up. Start saving today!

Youth Group



Confirmation Classes

We are excited to offer Confirmation classes this school year to prepare young people to know what it means to make a commitment to a Christian community, living as a disciple of Christ. All youth in sixth grade and above who have not already been confirmed are invited to take part. In this course we will learn about the Story of the Church and our place in it, explore various ways to nurture and practice our spiritual growth, learn about the sacraments, reflect on what our faith calls us to do in a world of hurt & injustice, and develop our own Christian worldview and personal statements of faith.

Fenton and Linden Presbyterian Churches are partnering to engage more students while offering a diverse teaching atmosphere. Classes will be led by Pastors Lindsey & Robbie Carnes, Tina Ritchie, and Pastor Dawn Russell on Sunday afternoons from 3:00-4:30p.m. The program begins with a parent, confirmand, and mentor meeting on Sunday, September 29, 2019 at Fenton 1st in the Youth Room. Parents: we ask that you come prepared to share why you feel this course and church is important for your youth, and what your hopes are for them.

Each confirmand have been given a mentor to help answer questions during this process, as well as reading and discussing one of the gospel books together. Parents may recommend a mentor for their youth, or we can appoint one for you.

The curriculum being used is Big God, Big Questions – student workbooks are \$15 each. Meeting locations will be shared between our churches; see Tina Ritchie for a full schedule. There will also be a meeting with Session scheduled late winter to be approved for confirmation, as well as a mission activity. These additional activities will be scheduled to meet the group's needs.

If you still want to register for the class, please email tina@ffpc.org or call the church office ASAP. Should you have any questions, feel free to speak with Pastors Lindsey or Robbie, or Tina.



Youth group had a great time camping at Hoefft St. Park. Our weekend centered around the Nooma video “Breathe,” thinking about our breath and its meaning. For thousands of years, people have understood that our physical breath is a picture of a deeper spiritual reality; that God breathes life into us so that we can then share our life with others. Spending time enjoying creation is a perfect place to connect with our breath through quiet time, swimming, hiking, and singing around the campfire – thank you Pastor Robbie for bringing your guitar! We even experienced worship with communion while overlooking Lake Huron. Everything has a rhythm, and we can find peace by breathing through it all. Thank you to Mark & Jenny Gibb, Tony Grams, Greg & Jen MacLean, and to Pastors Robbie & Lindsey for their help with this trip.



Youth Group Schedule

For 6th - 12th graders and friends from 5-7pm unless otherwise noted

This year in youth group we are focusing on building relationships with Jesus, each other, our parents, our church, and our community. Each month will consist of a Group, Soup & Talk night, a mission/service event, a fun night, and an evening of spiritual practices. Most events will take place from 5-7pm at church or a host home, with topics and ideas mostly being chosen by youth and coordinated by Jenny Gibb, Tony Grams, Jennifer MacLean, Sherry Rourke, and Tina Ritchie. Please see Tina if you have any questions!

September 8: Kick –off Mystery Event

9/15: Group, Soup & Talk location: Gibb Family Home

9/22: Spiritual Practices

*9/28: Alzheimer’s Walk

10/5: Montreat in Michigan-10:00am-4:00pm@Kirk in the Hills

10/6: CROP Walk 2-3pm

10/13: Group, Soup & Talk location: TBD

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

The full schedule is posted on our website under the youth tab, and all events are on the calendar.

All off-site and lock-in events require an updated parental consent forms can be found on our website under the youth tab or on the youth bulletin board next to the Jr. High youth room. To get on the youth email list, contact tina@ffpc.org or text 810-701-4136.

Children's Ministry



Club 45 for 4th and 5th graders and friends resumes this school year from 12:30-1:30 in the Art Room. Part of this group's ministry is fostering relationships with older members of the congregation. Those who do not yet have a pen pal will also choose someone to befriend!

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

Beginning September 8th, Nursery, preschool, and kindergarten classes will be offered during 9am Worship Service. Nursery, preschool, and kindergarten - 5th grade classes will be offered during 11am worship. Please see Tina Ritchie with any questions, or if you would like to be added to the weekly email lessons and family talking points.

Why this curriculum? Because every lesson points to Jesus, and children are learning stories from the entire Bible – even the tough ones – in age appropriate ways. This allows children to very simply experience the full breadth of the Gospel message. As they grow into youth group, these lessons will be familiar, allowing them to further unpack and understand the challenges that all of humanity faces even today. Biblical relevancy and faith formation starts early and is a great gift!

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

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

“A Nation Divided” topics are:

Unit 13 – Elijah & Elisha (1 & 2 Kings)

9/22 Elijah & the Widow

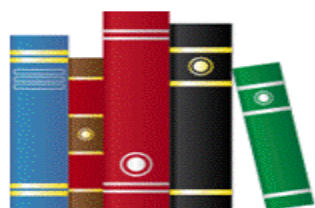
9/29 Elijah at Mount Carmel

10/6 Elijah & Elisha

10/13 Elisha & the Army

Big Picture Question: How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

Unit Key Verse: “I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.” ~ Isaiah 42:8 NIV



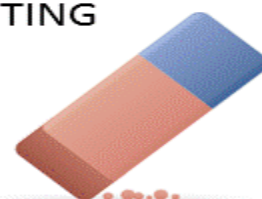
Back to School

Z	G	N	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	L	V	Q
P	D	O	S	A	Y	U	A	J	E	I	G	U
Y	E	T	E	L	X	A	O	Y	G	L	U	E
Q	J	E	C	L	U	B	O	O	K	S	E	F
W	U	B	E	E	J	N	S	T	G	H	R	R
R	U	O	R	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	A	K
I	R	O	X	J	I	X	T	H	Q	P	S	R
T	P	K	O	W	J	P	B	M	B	E	E	E
I	M	A	M	D	E	Z	H	U	D	O	R	L
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R	H	I	L	G	R	G	N	I	D	A	E	R
P	L	A	Y	G	R	O	U	N	D	R	E	I

BOOKS
DESK
ERASER
GLUE
LUNCHBOX
MATH

NOTEBOOK
PAPER
PENCIL
PLAYGROUND
READING
RECESS

RULER
STUDENT
TEACHER
WRITING



Worship Committee

September Schedule of Worship

September 1st, 12th Sunday after Pentecost, Communion Sunday

Pastor Robbie Carnes Preaching, "Unlikely Heroes: The Poor Widow", Mark 12:41-44; We are called to be generous givers. We are called to give to the church, to others in need and to promote justice in the world. What can we learn about Jesus' comments about a poor widow who gave so little to the building of the temple in Jerusalem? What does this tell about what God wants from us?

Layreader: Larry Zimble

Ushers: Team #2

Banker: PJ Collier

Sound Tech: Jay Kirkey

Coffee Hour: Red Team

Counters: Jon O'Connell & Ken Wensel

Nursery & Preschool: Heidi Howieson & PJ Collier

Gospel Project: K-2nd: TBD/3rd-5th: Julie & Tony Grams

September 8th, 13th Sunday after Pentecost, Two Service Schedule begins

Pastor Robbie Carnes Preaching, "Spiritual Recovery: Powerless and Unmanageable" Romans 7:14-25; James 1:23-24; 2 Kings 5:1-15; We all know about chemical addictions and how they can destroy lives. What if we told you that there was such a thing as behavioral addictions? Paul the Apostle talks about out of control habits and behaviors that he wishes he could stop. Alcoholic Anonymous's 12 step program has much to say about how we might experience change in our lives. The first step, as the book of James suggests, is to look in the mirror and realize who we really are. Join us as we explore the story of Naaman who experienced healing when he admitted who he was: powerless and unmanageable.

Layreader:

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

Banker: Larry Zimble

Sound Tech: Jay Kirkey

Coffee Hour: Orange Team

Counters: Shirley Israel & Ken Wensel

Nursery & Preschool: 9:00am Heidi Howieson & PJ Collier/11:00am Heidi Howieson & Audrey MacClean

Gospel Project: K-2nd: Cheryl Kopplin/3rd-5th: Julie Campbell

September 15th, 14th Sunday after Pentecost, Theological Education Offering

Pastor Lindsey Carnes Preaching, "Spiritual Recovery: Restore us to Sanity" James 2:19-20; Romans 4:4-8; Luke 15:11-20; The second step toward Spiritual Recovery is 'Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.' The book of James tells us that while we can acknowledge God, we have to accept the work and be worked on by God. This great work is forgiveness, provided for us on the cross. Just as in Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son, God desires to forgive us. Just as there is not enough will power in the world to keep an addict away from their drug, there isn't any way that we can work enough or be good enough to earn God's favor. Let us allow God's grace and love to transform us and restore us to Sanity.

Layreader: Janet Stork

Ushers: 9am - Sherry Hunt & Ellen Horton/11am - Team #4

Banker: Ken Wensel

Sound Tech: Doug Watters

Coffee Hour: Yellow Team

Counters: Lin Savage & Maureen Utt

Nursery & Preschool: 9:00am Heidi Howieson & PJ Collier/11:00am Heidi Howieson & Lindsey MacClean

Gospel Project: K-2nd: Deb Bard/3rd-5th: Mary Zimbler & Tony Grams

September 22nd, 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Robbie Carnes Preaching, "Spiritual Recovery: Turning over to the Care of God" Psalms 118:8-9; Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 6:17-18; Isaiah 54:4-8; To be a successful adult is to have authority over ourselves and to be responsible for ourselves. We take care of the grocery bill, our rent or mortgage and all sort of other daily decisions. However, it is imperative in our spiritual recovery that we place our trust in God and allow God to make decisions for us rather than ourselves. Many of us have a hard time trusting God because we have been lied too in the past. We trust in God because God is not human, but keeps his promises. God's promise is that he will redeem us: our past, our present and our future and God does not lie. When we turn ourselves over to the care of God we find redemption for ourselves, our relationships and the world.

Layreader: Janet Stork

Ushers: 9am - Dennis Beardslee & Jim Lindsay/11am - Team #5

Banker: Larry Zimbler

Ushers: Team #6

Sound Tech: Mark Gibb

Coffee Hour: Green Team

Counters: Lin Savage & Dennis Beardslee

Nursery & Preschool: Heidi Howieson

Gospel Project: K-2nd: Julie Grams & Deb Bard
3rd-5th:

September 29th, 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Robbie Carnes Preaching, "Spiritual Recovery: Moral inventories" Nehemiah 9:34-38; 2 Corinthians 7:8-11; Revelations 20:11-15; Spiritual Recovery necessitates coming face to face with who we really are and being honest with ourselves and others. We take inventory of how we has sinned and been sinned against. Just like the Jews, we are coming out of exile and need to be clear about how we got there. Not as an excuse, but as a way to clear out our emotions about our past and present so that we can move into the future. This reality check can be very painful but it is necessary. The Apostle Paul apologizes in 2 Corinthians that he gave the church a reality check that might have hurt their feelings, but he isn't that sorry, because his hard words needed to be said. This kind of painful soul searching is necessarily because spiritual freedom requires honesty. Are we truly honest before God? Are we honest with each other? Our we honest with ourselves?

Layreader:Annabeth Carnes

Banker: Larry Zimbler

Ushers: 9am - Dennis Beardslee & Ken Wensel
11am - Team #6

Sound Tech: Mark Gibb

Coffee Hour: Blue Team

Counters: Jon O'Connell & Sara Wrage

Nursery & Preschool:

Gospel Project: K-2nd:
3rd-5th:

Announcements

Book Binders will gather September 10th at the home of Shirley Israel, 16313 Quail Ridge Ct. The book for discussion is Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult. The book for October is Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. If you have any questions please call Shirley at 750-0227 or call the church.

Downtown Readers Book Club Downtown Readers book club meets the last Tuesday of the month, 11:00 a.m., in the youth room. The September selection is Embraced by the Light by Betty Eadie. The October selection is The Good Neighbor: the Life and Work of Fred Rogers, by Maxwell King. Men and women are encouraged to join. Happy Reading!

There will be a meeting for all counters September 15th after the 9 am service, in the conference room. Any questions call Debbie Bard.

Birthday's

Shannon Clemens	Sep 4	Laura Kinser	Sep 17
Doug Congdon	Sep 4	Sue Lantz	Sep 17
Shane Maloney	Sep 4	Roberta O'Hara	Sep 19
Edwin Schwarz	Sep 4	Halle Fisher	Sep 20
Pat Tucker	Sep 6	Madison Janowak	Sep 22
Clayton Miller	Sep 7	Larry Arrol	Sep 23
Marc Hoerauf	Sep 8	Alice Maletic	Sep 24
Sharlyn Sutton	Sep 8	Tim Hiscock	Sep 26
Cheryl Kopplin	Sep 9	Gloria Butts	Sep 29
Ron Andersen	Sep 12	Jeff Collier	Sep 29
Karyn Kutchey	Sep 12	James Kryza	Sep 30
Ruth Hanna	Sep 13	Doug Watters	Sep 30

Anniversaries

John & Janet Stork	September 1
Al & Laurie Thomas	September 9
Robert & Barbara Chappelle	September 12
John & Gerri Danules	September 17
John & Shari Foguth	September 20
James & Nancy Nelson	September 20
Glenn & Cherri Maxwell	September 23
Dennis & JoAnn Beardslee	September 24
Dave & Krystal Johnson	September 24
Steve & Carey Muntin	September 25
Brian & Sherry Rourke	September 25
John & Holly Hodgkin	September 26
John & Julie Maloney	September 26
Don & Karyn Kutchey	September 28
Brian & Gretchen Coles	September 29



September Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 10:00am Worship Service & Communion</p>	<p>2 Labor Day Office Closed</p>	<p>3 6:30pm - 8:00pm Congregational Life Committee Meeting 6:45pm - 8:30pm Membership & Communication Meeting</p>	<p>4 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p>	<p>5 10:00am-12:00pm Card Class 6:30pm-8:00pm Mission & Stewardship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 8:00am Men's Breakfast at Shirley's 2:00pm-4:00pm Faith in Femininity Packaging Party, Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>8 9am & 11am Worship followed by Fellowship Time 5:00pm-6:00pm The Great Divorce Study Group 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, Youth Room</p>	<p>9 1:00-2:00pm Knitting Group Youth Room 1:00-2:00pm Outreach Communion, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall 6:30pm-7:30pm Den 1, Youth Room 6:45pm-9:00pm Administration Committee Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Boy Scouts, FH</p>	<p>10 7:00pm-9:00pm Eagle Scout Board of Review, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm-9:00pm Book Binders</p>	<p>11 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day 4:00pm-4:45pm Staff Meeting, Conference Room 4:45pm-6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting, Conference Room 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Bell Choir, CHR 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p>	<p>12 10:00am-12:30pm The Care Team, Conference Rm. 6:00pm-8:00pm Christian Education Committee Meeting, CR</p>	<p>13 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm-1:30pm Social Justice Advocates Group</p>	<p>14 OFFICE CLOSED 1:00pm-6:00pm Stork Family Reunion 9:30-10:30am Yoga</p>
<p>15 9am & 11am Worship followed by Fellowship Time 5:00pm-6:00pm The Great Divorce Study Group 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group Soup & Talk, Gibb Family Home</p>	<p>16 1:00-2:00pm Knitting Group, Youth Room 7:00pm - 9:00pm Boy Scouts, FH</p>	<p>17 6:45pm-8:30pm Administration Committee Meeting 11:00am-12:15pm Tuesday Bible Study, Conference Room 6:30pm-8:30pm Session Meeting</p>	<p>18 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Women's Covenant Group, FH 4:45pm-6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Financial Peace University, CR 6:00pm-7:45pm Love & Logic Workshop, Youth Room 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Bell Choir, CHR 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 OFFICE CLOSED CLC Spaghetti Dinner Prep</p>	<p>21 OFFICE CLOSED CLC Spaghetti Dinner Prep 5:00pm-7:00pm CLC Spaghetti Dinner</p>
<p>22 9am & 11am Worship followed by Fellowship Time 5:00pm-6:00pm The Great Divorce Study Group 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, Youth Room</p>	<p>23 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group, Youth Room 6:30pm-7:30pm Den 1, Youth Room 7:00pm - 9:00pm Boy Scouts, FH</p>	<p>24 11:00am-12:15pm Tuesday Bible Study, Conference Room 11:00am-12:00pm Downtown Readers Book Club 6:45pm-8:00pm Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>25 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Women's Covenant Group, FH 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Financial Peace University, CR 6:00pm-7:45pm Love & Logic Workshop, Youth Room 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Lamplight Choir, DR 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Bell Choir, CHR 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM Illuminate Choir, DR 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary</p>	<p>26 7:00pm-9:00pm Annual Homeowners Meeting, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>27 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>28 OFFICE CLOSED</p>
<p>29 9am & 11am Worship followed by Fellowship Time 5:00pm-7:00pm The Great Divorce Study Group 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, Youth Room</p>	<p>30 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group, Youth Room 7:00pm - 9:00pm Boy Scouts, FH</p>					

WAYS TO GIVE

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



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



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



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



Non-Cash Giving: Assets or Planned Gifts



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

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