

Fenton First Presbyterian Church Newsletter October, 2019 Living with Christ, Serving the World

Recovering Priorities Pastor Robbie Carnes

If you have ever been to a 12 step meeting you will know that story telling is important. It is not the art of yarn spinning but the act of coming clean and being honest with ourselves that is behind this. In sharing our stories, not only are we being made known by others, we are discovering who we are as the stories we tell about ourselves can reveal as much to us as to those we are speaking to.

It wasn't the first time that he had been to the large AA speaker's meetings, but it was the first time he had gotten up to speak. There were over a hundred people in the room as he stood up and said, "Hello, my name is Bob, and I am an alcoholic."

"Hi Bob," came the audience's response.

"I abuse alcohol and it has cost me a lot over the years. I was drinking so much that finally I lost my job."

There was a murmur from the audience. Many people had similar experiences.

"My drinking got so bad that I really started to mistreat my kids. They won't even talk to me now."

More murmuring. There were many people whose addictions had ruined their relationships with their kids.

"After I lost my job it became a real burden on my wife. Once she discovered my drinking she got fed up and left."

Heads nodded, soft sounds of agreement traveled around the room. Almost everyone had close relationships shattered by addiction.

"Alcohol had me bound up so bad that I was paralyzed and so I sat at home, alone until I lost the house." Everyone had heard this story before, but they all encouraged Bob to continue sharing.

"I was living alone in my car. I didn't think anyone loved me. Alcohol was my life."

More heads nodded. Like a Baptist preacher, brief comments encouraged Bob to keep going. He was talking their language.

"Alcohol had taken everything. I had lost my family, my house—my car. Then I lost the boat."

There wasn't a pause. Not even a hint of hesitation. The drunks at this meeting had heard it all. Everyone yelled out in unison,

"Not the Boat!"

There is a special kind of trench humor in AA meetings. This is not to belittle anyone's experience or mock the addict's feelings. From my limited experience it acts as a leavening agent to the untruths and other malarkey that addiction tends to produce. In the case of this story, Bob's addiction had so damaged his sense of proportion and distorted his perspective in such a way that he ended his story with the loss of his boat rather than his wife or his kids.

If Bob had a chance to reflect on his words, I am positive that he would have reordered his list. However this story is a good example of the way that addiction (or anything that keeps us from having authentic and healthy relationships with others and God) distorts our priorities. Even to the extent that we become unable to establish healthy priorities in our lives. Addiction is a thief because it is a habit that we develop, in an attempt to meet deep needs in unhealthy ways, that will never satisfy us and will always ask for more. Insidiously, the bad behavior and habits slowly become our main priority, even as we swear up and down that we are simply trying to stay sober, maintain good priorities and look out for others. In reality, our attempts at meeting spiritual need with physical things (i.e. chemicals, manipulating behavior, etc...) find us mourning the loss of our boat as we are losing out on much more valuable relationships.

What are your priorities? Can you list them? Many of us have the same list. God, family, friends, work-something along those lines. Does the way that you live your life say something different? Could it be that your perspective might be distorted? Have you taken an inventory about your priorities and thought about how the things you say are important and the things that your actions say are important? How might you gain better insight into all of this?

It is important to take a searching and fearless inventory of your life. And it is important to know that this is a tough task. It is also one that shouldn't be done alone. While I am sure that Bob, from our story, wasn't pleased to be shocked out of his poorly placed priorities, it was a healthy thing to be confronted with his own words. Good friends who are walking the same path can be such a valuable aid in taking inventory. Churches that are willing to speak into our lives about these matters are invaluable. The Holy Spirit will convict us if we listen.

Scripture is another tool in this kind of self-discovery. As we regularly study God's word we come face to face with what Jesus is calling us to do and may find that our self-priorities are at odds with Jesus'. If you take Jesus' sermon on the mount seriously you will find that much of the self-less and self-denying commands that Jesus gives us leave no room for addiction and manipulative behavior. If we truly want to follow Jesus and if we have truly taken a fearless inventory we will find that the stories that we tell ourselves may not be as clear cut as we might like to admit. We might find ourselves mourning over the loss of a boat as the riches of authentic and healthy relationship with our family, friends and God pass us by. But God, in his mercy, pours grace out for us, over and over again.

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how unfathomable his ways!

11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever! Amen.

A Letter from the Pastor

Dear FFPC,

Thank you to all of you who attended the Congregational Meeting this past Sunday, September 29th. The Administration Committee, Pastor Lindsey and I appreciate the attention that you paid to our presentation and am sincerely grateful for your blessing to proceed in what God is calling Lindsey and I to do for this season here in Fenton and Flint.

I have also come to the place in which I am very grateful for the conversations and discussions at the congregational meeting and those discussion, e-mails, sidebar conversations, and letters in regards to changing our terms of call at FFPC. The communications were not painless, but they were productive. I feel that the emails, side conversations with members, and discussions in and out of Session meetings have brought me clarity about how to best lead our congregation into the next year. I am grateful for the opportunity to grow and look forward to the future.

What happened this past Sunday was very significant in the life of our church.

Friends, last Sunday, we gathered as a church body and spoke to each other. This is important in the evolution of our church. Frank conversations work to build trust. For me, as mentioned above, it provided clarity. And while not everyone was able to have their issues aired, I am comforted by the grace of God that each of us left the meeting having a small taste of what living in a community of faith should be.

Ours is a denomination built on strength of community. As such, we should be able to express our opinions and/or frustrations in a way that we feel heard. We should be able to speak our piece in front of each other and not be shut out or ignored. We should receive well thought out answers to our questions. We should be honored by each other's repentance and step forward together with a sense for mutual forbearance.

I recognize that we have a great deal of work to do. I also recognize that we have taken a step toward recovering a fuller sense of community. I sincerely hope that we all can come together and recognize that as well.

The Session meets on October 15th and part of the agenda is to make final plans for our round table discussions on October 27th. It is my hope that as our congregation interacts with the Session's work, we especially ask ourselves what vital worship means to us at FFPC and that we would be drawn together by the Holy Spirit and grow in our sense of unity and mission.

Thank you for your willingness to engage in the hard work of community. Thank you for speaking your concerns and naming your questions. Thank you for being my church.

Pastor Robbie Carnes

Mission & Stewardship



World Communion Sunday - October 6th

"All who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves." (I Cor. 11:29)

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to "discern the body" when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. It is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING October 6th: BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.



Crop Walk, October 6th, 2019:

Come out to Bush Park Sunday afternoon for the CROP 50th Anniversary Hunger Walk, raising money to fight hunger locally and globally. This year's Walk has a 50s theme for the CROP Hunger Walk's 50th Anniversary.

Youth Challenges: If any youth team of 3 raises \$250, they can throw a pie at Youth Director Tina Ritchie. Additionally, If any youth team of 3 raises \$500, they can throw 50 water balloons at Pastor Robbie.

Free Uncle Ray's ice cream at the end of the Walk. Come out for some fun!

Save the Date!



Food Bank of Eastern Michigan November 16th

This is a wonderful opportunity to help an agency that does so much for the hungry. Please consider joining others from our congregation on Sunday, November 17th from 9am-12pm. It will be a very rewarding experience to help people in need and putting our faith to work.



American Red Cross

Blood Drive is scheduled for November 30th

from 8:30 to 1:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Did you know that one pint of blood saves three lives? If you wish to donate blood please contact Red cross@

1-800-733-2767 or online, <u>www.redcross.org</u> to schedule a time.

We also need volunteers to bake cookies or help in assisting with donors that day. In November a volunteer sign up sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall. Anyone with questions should please contact Sherry Hunt or Jo Beardslee.



Family Promise November 18th & 20th: We assist the Flushing Presbyterian Church in hosting homeless families by providing dinner, evening social time, overnight hosts and breakfast. If you would like to volunteer to help in one of these areas, please see Dave Eshleman

Financials

Treasurer Report - 2019 Financials

Profit/Loss YTD Actual

Income: \$28,648.64 \$255,210.78 Expense: *\$26,951.46 \$203,159.98 Net Income: \$1,697.18 \$52,050.80*

*this does not include additional obligations such as restricted funds or mortgage payments. These obligations result in a cash increase for the year \$31.13.

*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 – August 31, 2019

Building Account Balance: \$ 16,676 Mortgage Remaining: \$225,423

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.

2020 Stewardship Campaign

During the month of October you will find letters in your mailbox describing our upcoming Stewardship Campaign. You are encouraged to prayerfully think about how you are being called to participate financially in our upcoming 2020 budget. There will also be testimony and skits sharing about various aspects of stewardship during the worship service. These are designed to be inspiring and fun and we hope that you enjoy them.

Pastor Robbie

"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

Faith in Femininity Update

Faith in Femininity is so happy to say that our packaging party on September 7th was outstanding! We packaged 330 bags in total and had 30 volunteers. Thank you to everyone who came to help. We couldn't do what we do without the support of this church and the community! We can't wait for our next packaging party, so stay tuned.

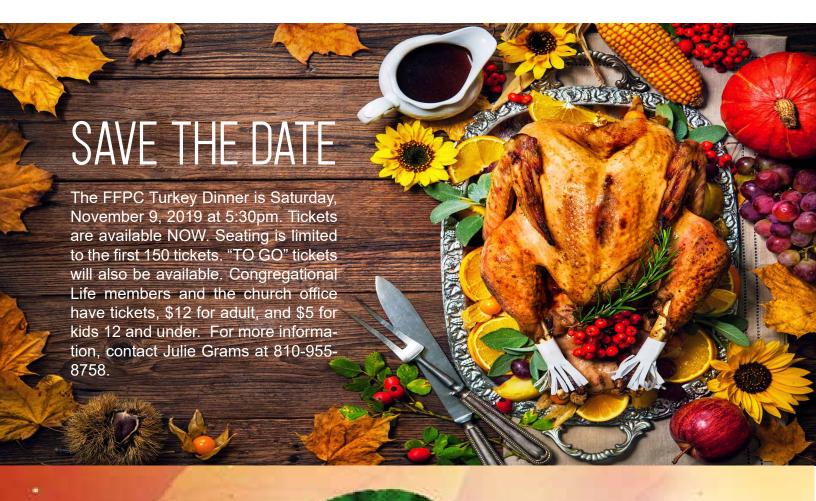
Faith in Femininity has a huge opportunity coming up in October. We've been invited to attend the Diocese of Lansing's annual women's conference, which around 1,400 women will be attending! We will be collecting donations there, as well as doing an interview onstage. We are so happy that we will have the chance to tell such a big group of women about what we do.

We will be hosting a monetary fundraiser called "Faith in Femininity Fall Festivities" on Saturday, October 19 from 1-4pm at the Silver Fox Circle subdivision in Linden (off of Owen Rd right by the intersection with Linden Rd). There will be fall-themed games, apple cider and donuts, and a pack-a-bag station as weather permits. Everyone is invited. Wear your favorite team colors and join us for tailgating games. Donate to the U of M or MSU bucket to see which team can raise the most money to help women in need! All proceeds will go to Faith in Femininity.

Join us for "Faith in Femininity Fall Festivities" on Saturday, October 19th from 1-4pm!



Congregational Life





Membership & Communication

The New Member and Outreach Committee is coordinating FFPC participation in the following fall activities. Get involved and have fun in the community!



Ghost Walk - October 18th & 19th

The Fenton Village Players and Historical Society will again stage the Fenton Ghost Walks (walking tours of downtown Fenton featuring actors in costume relating stories and local folklore...these are wonderful!). FFPC is the last stop on the tour; following the presentation in the Sanctuary, our church will provide snacks and beverages in Fellowship Hall to cap off the evening.

Ghost Walk volunteer opportunities (signup in Fellowship Hall):

- -Hosts for the reception: answer general questions and provide building directions
- -Kitchen crew: set out refreshments; serve beverages; general cleanup
- -Snacks: provide cookies for reception

Dates:

October 18th (Friday): 6:30pm every 15 mins until 9:15pm October 19th (Saturday): 6:30pm every 15 mins until 9:15pm

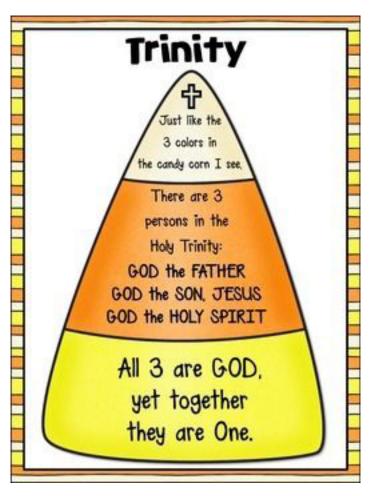
Tickets

\$12 if purchased 2 hours or more in advance \$15 at the door



Fenton First Presbyterian Church is participating in "An Event So Good It's

SCOI'y" happening at participating downtown Fenton/Linden businesses on Friday, Oct. 31, from 1 to 6 p.m. We will host a station in the front of the church and will hand out candy and perhaps have a craft or games. Let your inner child out and volunteer for a shift. Signup in Fellowship Hall. Thanks!



We are Updating our Directory





Has your info changed?
Did you miss our last photography sessions?
Do you want updated professional family photographs?

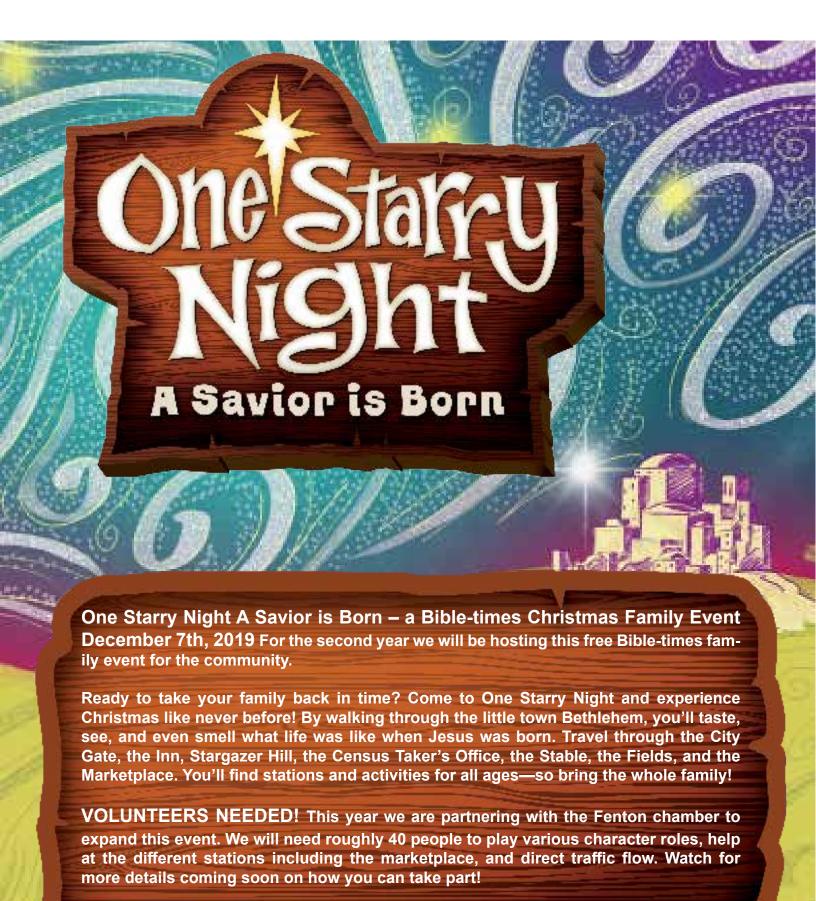
Photo Day is Tuesday, November 5th!

Newly photographed families will recieve a complimentary 8x10 photograph. After the new session, ALL families in the book will be provided new, updated Community Books.

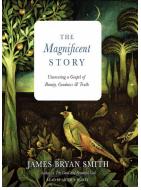
20% Discount given to Seniors, Military Service and First Responders

Please visit https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/yj007nhs/ or call the Church Office at 810-629-7801 if you are interested in scheduling an appointment.

Christian Education





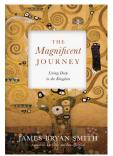


Men's Study Group

Saturday's 8am September 7 – November 2

1st Sat of each month at Shirley's in Linden; all other meetings are at church

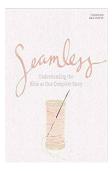
What story are you writing with your life? Does it celebrate beauty, goodness, and truth? The stories we tell ourselves shape our lives, and the narratives we believe about the gospel, the cross, and God ultimately determine how our lives will unfold by defining our capacity for trusting, loving, hoping,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



Tuesday Morning

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



Unglued continues through October 23rd. Register Now for our Fall women's study of "Seamless" by Angie Smith.

meeting October 30 - December 11.

Discover the seamless thread connecting the people, places, and promises of the Bible in a whole new way. Each week features key information that ties all of scripture together into the seamless truth of the gospel message and is accompanied by maps, general Bible facts, and word studies. In this study you will:

- Understand the Bible as a whole as you change the way you look at Scripture
- Connect with the people, places and promises of God's Word in a fresh way
- Gain clarity and confidence in your understanding of Scripture
- Discover a biblical context that reshapes and brings to life stories from the Old and New Testaments Participant book \$14 Register by October 12 to reserve your copy!



Parenting the Love & Logic Way

Meets through October 23 from 6-7:45pm in the Youth Room

For more information, contact Tina Ritchie at 810-629-7801

Continued Lessons from Youth Summer Re-cap Worship By Lindsey Gibb



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. Last month we shared Waverly Ritchie's message; below is Lindsey Gibb's perspective:

Serving this summer as an advocate at Massanetta Springs was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. Since the first time I stepped foot in Netta as a middler, I knew that God was calling me to the advocate program. I dreamed about being an advocate for 5 years, and I am so happy to say that everything about it lived up to my expectations. It was inspiring, fun, emotional, and challenging in all the most rewarding ways.

One of the best parts about Netta is always the people you meet there. I made 21 new best friends in my fellow advocates in just 2 weeks. Some of us started off as strangers, but in the end it feels like we've all known each other forever. I guided a total of 26 middle schoolers, helping them to better understand the theme of the conference and having fun with them along the way. The discussions with my middlers were one of my favorite experiences there because sometimes they ended up teaching me, even though it was supposed to be the other way around. They helped teach me how to let go and have fun while also being responsible and focused on the Faith aspect of the conference.

Massanetta is a very unique conference in that the advocates are central to its planning. On the Theme team, we are right there working alongside the Keynoter and the Music Director, planning skits and dances that will keep the middlers engaged. Being involved in the behind-the-scenes work of the conference, and being onstage teaching the middlers about God was more inspiring than I could have imagined.

The theme at Massanetta this year really struck me and stayed in the back of my mind even after the conference was over: At The Door, Matthew 7:7-12. It's all about, of course, asking and seeking and knocking. It's about talking to God, having a relationship with God and trusting God. But there's this one part of the passage that, at first glance, doesn't really seem to belong there. It's verse 12: "In everything, treat others the way you would like to be treated, for this is the law and the prophets". Before that, the entire passage is about communication with God and the gifts that it will bring, but at the end the Golden Rule is stuck in there randomly!

Of course, we are all familiar with the Golden Rule. It's ingrained in our minds since day 1, and something we are called to live by as Christians. But how does it fit into the passage? I asked myself that question during the first couple days at Netta, and our keynoter eventually explained that it is considered the thesis statement of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which lasts all the way from Matthew chapter 5 to here in chapter 7. Jesus sees the multitudes, goes up a high mountain followed by his disciples, and teaches them. It is his longest teaching in the New Testament, and is summed up by that one sentence: In everything, treat others as you would like to be treated.

But if you ask me, there is another, deeper way that this verse fits in with the rest of the passage. The passage teaches us how to seek a relationship with God. We must pray. We must ask God for the things we desire. We must search for God. We must knock on God's door if we are going to expect an answer. We know that since we give good things to those we love, God will give us so much more. How we seek this relationship with God can teach us a lot about how to seek relationships with others.

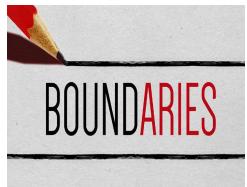
This verse stresses that to know God, we must be dedicated. Having a close relationship with God can take a lot of hard work, and the same goes for our relationships with other people. We must have a dedication to kindness, to openness, and to honesty. We must have a dedication to treating others positively, even when they are not doing the same thing.

The Golden Rule is something we've all heard a million times: treat others the way you want to be treated. Even though we know it so well and are called to live by it, it can be so easy to forget. When something goes wrong, the Golden Rule is often the last thing on our minds. Yet it's important to remember that as Christians, we promise to do our best to live by it in every aspect of our lives. So that is what I am challenging you, and myself, to do.

Making an effort to live by the Golden Rule in all aspects of our lives will strengthen our relationships with others more than anything else, therefore also strengthening our relationship with God. When we live as God has called us to live, we lead happier, holier, more faithful lives.

We are human, and sometimes, we will inevitably slip up. But if we learn from our mistakes and try to do better the next time we face difficulties, we are living as true Christians. So, in everything you do, make an effort to live by the Golden Rule. Put others before yourself when it's appropriate, and always treat people with kindness. When you live by the Golden Rule, you strengthen your relationships with others, therefore strengthening your relationship with the Lord.





Boundaries Corner

How to Release Emotional Pain from Dr. Henry Cloud, co-author of the Boundaries books.

Henry states: "We have natural responses to being hurt that are part of our imperfections. We do not always respond well to stresses in our lives. These responses come easily to us, but they are not helpful to our personal growth. Next time someone hurts you, try using these tools:

Acknowledge the Wound. Don't Deny it. When we are hurt emotionally, we tend to deny it. For example, an unloving wife may wound a husband's heart, but he may not want to appear weak or vulnerable. Or he may think he is being overly sensitive. Or he may think that admitting his hurt is being disloyal or mean to his wife. So he shrugs off the wound. However, he is living a lie. Not saying something doesn't make the hurt go away, and the wounded heart stays injured.

Stay Connected. Don't Isolate. We tend to withdraw from relationship when we hurt. Some people are afraid of their dependencies on others. Others feel guilty about burdening friends with their problems. Still, others try to be self-sufficient. None of these responses helps a person heal and grow.

Love and Forgive. Don't Retaliate. People also "naturally" lash back when they are hurt, and they desire revenge on the one who hurt them. Like little kids, they will harbor murderous intentions and attempt to retaliate. For example, a woman who has been betrayed by a man she is dating may then do the same to him. Perhaps they had agreed to an exclusive relationship, deepening their commitment and trust. Then she found out he was seeing someone else. The problem with rationalizing retaliation is that while he certainly needs to know how he hurts others, it's more likely to help him justify his own behavior.

Practice Self Control. Don't be Controlled. Our initial response to being hurt is that we lose self-control. Our getting hurt in a relationship is proof of how little control we have over others in the first place. Many times we transfer power onto the person who has hurt us, which makes things worse. For example, a man may realize his parents have been emotionally unresponsive to him all his life. He may see how this unresponsiveness has made his relational life difficult, as he has not been connected enough to his inner self to connect to others. As he understands this, he may then also become obsessed with trying to get his parents to see what they did to him or get them to apologize, or get them to re-parent him and provide for him what they did not when he was a child.

Good relationships do involve confronting, forgiving, and reconciling. However, some people make the injured self the focus of their lives, letting the other person control them. In this way, they put their hearts under the power of the very ones who injured them. That's not a productive way to live."

If you'd like to learn more about practicing healthy boundaries and self control, subscribe to Boundaries.me, check out a Boundaries book from our library, or see Tina Ritchie with any questions.

Financial Peace Corner



5 Small Budget Cuts That Equal Big Savings

Don't think little budget cuts matter? Just ask UPS. The company figured out that making lefthand turns cost them time and money, so they asked drivers to make right turns whenever

possible. That took a whopping <u>20.4 million</u> miles off of their routes in 2010 with that little adjustment. Small change, big difference.

Making minor changes in your spending habits can help you save money faster than you think. Check out these examples of the <u>dollars you could save</u> by small budget cuts and tweaks in your spending habits.

- **1. Dining out options**: Restaurants fall under categories: fast (think McDonald's), fast-casual (think Chipotle), casual sit-down (think Chili's) and fine dining (think dress code!). The higher up the food chain, the more you'll pay. A dinner for four at Chipotle will cost you about \$45. Take your family to Chili's and you'll spend more than \$50, not including tip. If you grabbed two pizzas from Little Caesar's instead, you're only out \$10 plus tax. That extra money could really get your debt snowball rolling. **Related:** Get Out of Debt With the Debt Snowball Plan
- **2. Movie night-mares:** Nothing says night out like watching that latest blockbuster with a friend. It can also be a wallet buster. The cost of two tickets (\$8.50 to \$9 each), a bucket of popcorn (\$8) and drinks (another \$6 each) can make you feel like you're in a horror flick. If you're set on seeing the movie on the big screen—some are just better that way—then opt for the matinee and eat beforehand. Or, better yet, sacrifice the big screen and save even more by staying home with Netflix. Spend a few dollars at the grocery store for snacks, and you're set for a great movie for less than half the cost! **Related:** What's Your Box Office Budget?
- **3. Coffee craziness:** Let's be honest. A coffee drinker's day doesn't begin until that first sip of a ginormous Frappuccino with a shot of something. That morning ritual can easily run \$5 a pop. Skipping the coffee shop and brewing your own cup of joe even twice a week can save you 40 bucks a month. That can put a smile on your face—no caffeine necessary.
- 4. Road trip traps: Everybody loves a road trip . . . especially cashiers at gas stations. Loading up on munchies at every bathroom break can add up to big bucks, and that doesn't include the cost of lunch. If you purchase sodas, salty snacks and some sweets, you can easily top \$10 per pit stop. Save money by stocking up at the grocery store before you hit the road and make memories by enjoying a picnic lunch. You'll save even more coin!
- **5. Skipping a month:** Try to go an extra month on purchases that usually hit your checkbook like clockwork. Do your own nails (\$20). Let your hair grow eight weeks instead of four (\$20). Wear that outfit another time or two before dry cleaning it (\$10). That's an extra \$50 you saved without any effort. If you keep going with your bi-monthly plan, you could save \$300 a year. Skipping a month could have you skipping all the way to the bank! **Related:** How to Save \$1,000 in One Month

Small Budget Cuts Lead to Big Savings: Making and keeping a budget can help you find other small changes that could put big bucks in your pocket instead of the cash register. And every little bit you save puts you that much closer to winning with money. That's a big difference you'll enjoy for a long time. Need a way to see what exactly you're spending money on? <u>Try our free budget app, EveryDollar.</u>

Youth Group



Confirmation Class Information

Fenton, Linden, and Trinity United Presbyterian Churches are partnering in offering confirmation program this school year. Classes are led by Pastors Lindsey & Robbie Carnes, Tina Ritchie, and Pastor Dawn Russell on Sunday afternoons from 3:00-4:30p.m.

Class schedule through December is as follows:

Oct. 13, 27 Nov. 10, 24 Dec. 8

Meeting locations were not available at the time of printing. Contact Tina Ritchie or watch your emails for updated information!



Youth Group Schedule

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

The full schedule is posted on our website under the youth tab, as well as the Parental Consent Form. All events are also posted on the calendar. To get on the youth email list, contact tina@ffpc.org or text 810-701-4136. Please see Tina if you have any questions or need a ride!

10/5: Montreat in Michigan at Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church

10am – 4pm for those who registered

10/6: CROP Walk 1:30-3:30pm Bush Park

10/13: Group, Soup & Talk Location: MacLean Home 5-7pm **10/20**: College Care Packages and Spiritual Practices 5-7pm **10/27**: Fun Event – watch your email for more details! Time: TBD

11/3: Group, Soup & Talk Location: Carnes Home 5-7pm

11/9: Serving for the Turkey Dinner*Sat 11/16-17: Service Blitz Lock-in11/24: Triple C Night & Spiritual Practices

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski







With this being the 50th year of the CROP Hunger Walk, a donor will give a matching gift of \$125 for every group of 3 or more youth who raise at least \$250!

How can \$375 (250 + 125) make a big difference in the lives of families struggling to put food on the table?

- •You can provide 50 Families with seeds and tools to grow their own food
- •Provide one month of food to 50 Refugee Families
- Share 50 gallons of clean water to a thirsty community

To make this more fun our Youth Director, Tina Ritchie, will take a pie in the face for every \$250 raised by a group of youth AND for every additional \$250 Pastor Robbie will allow the group to throw 50 water balloons at him!

Are you up for the challenge???

Children's Ministry



- 1. PLAY IN LEAVES
- MAKE A RECIPE WITH APPLES
- 3. TAKE A NATURE WALK
- 4. DECORATE FOR THE SEASON
- 5. GO ON A HAY RIDE
- HAVE A COZY MOVIE NIGHT
- 7. VISIT A PUMPKIN PATCH
- MAKE A RECIPE WITH PUMPKINS
- 9. GO TO THE FAIR
- 10. VISIT A APPLE ORCHARD
- 11. BUILD A BIRDHOUSE
- 12. PLAY GLOW STICK HIDE & SEEK
- 13. PICK OUT COSTUMES
- 14. MAKE CHILI OR SOUP
- 15. MAKE TRAIL MIX
- 16. GO TO A FARMER'S MARKET
- 17. MAKE A HALLOWEEN CRAFT
- 18. GO ON A FEW DATES
- 19. MAKE S'MORES
- 20. GET LOST IN A CORN MAZE

- PLAY BACKYARD FOOTBALL
- 22. GO ON A SCENIC DRIVE
- 23. MAKE SCENTED PLAYDOUGH
- 24. GO ON A PICNIC
- 25. PURGE YOUR SUMMER CLOTHES
- 26. BAKE A PIE
- 27. PAINT OR CARVE A
 PUMPKIN
- 28. COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS
- WEAR A SCARF
- 30. READ OUTDOORS
- 31. EAT CANDY CORN
- 32. MAKE LEAF PRINTS
- 33. TRICK OR TREAT
- 34. BAKE COOKIES
- 35. DRINK APPLE CIDER
- 36. ROAST PUMPKIN SEEDS
- 37. BOB FOR APPLES
- 38. HAVE A PHOTOSHOOT IN LEAVES
- 39. MAKE A FALL WREATH
- 40. BUILD A FORT ON A RAINY DAY

5 EASY Ways You Can Help Make A Difference

- DID YOU KNOW...The children can leave their offering in the offering plate after the "time with children," before they leave for Sunday School. Please see one of the Pastors or Tina Ritchie with questions.
- Direct Your Dollars!
 Drop off your ENTIRE
 VG's receipts to the
 receptacle in Fellowship Hall. This VG's
 rewards program benefits the youth scholarship account!
- Bottle Drive: You may drop off your returnable bottles to the receptacle in the youth room on an ongoing basis.
 - Always appreciated:
 Chips, cookies, popcorn, juice & pop for the youth rooms
 - Sign up for Kroger Community Rewards

sugarstilettosstyle com



Club 45 for 4th and 5th graders and friends meets from 12:30-1:30 in the Art Room. Part of this group's ministry is fostering relationships with other members of the congregation, and also doing various mission projects. Please see Cathy Hollopeter if you are interested in helping or need more

Upcoming meeting dates are:

October 20 November 24 December 15

Gospel Project Sunday School



Nursery through kindergarten classes offered during 9am worship.

Nursery through 5th grade classes offered during 11am worship.

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!

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

"A Nation Divided" topics are:

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

Unit 14 – The Northern Kingdom of Israel (Jonah, Hosea, 2 Kings 17)

10/20 Jonah, Prophet to Nineveh 10/27 Hosea, Prophet to Israel 11/3 Israel Taken Captive

Big Picture Question: Why should we obey God? We should obey God because God made us, God loves us, and God's plans are good.

Unit Key Verse: "The Lord isn't slow to keep his promise, as some think of slowness, but he is patient toward you, not wanting anyone to perish but all to change their hearts and lives." ~ 2 Peter 3:9 CEB

Worship Committee

October Worhip Series - Spiritual Recovery

"Because of sin, we've all hurt ourselves, we've all hurt other people, and others have hurt us. This means each of us needs recovery in order to live our lives the way God intended" – from Celebrate Recovery

What does it Mean to have Sanity? SANITY: Strength-Acceptance-New Life-Integrity-Trust Your Higher Power

Strength - Relying on our own power, our own strength is what got us here in the first place. We believed we didn't need God's help, strength, or power. Choosing to allow my life to finally run on God's power-not my own limited power, weakness, helplessness, or sense of inferiority-has turned out to be my greatest strength. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear." (Psalm 46:1)

Acceptance - As our faith grows and we get to know our Higher Power better, it becomes easier for us to accept others as they really are, not as we would have them be! With acceptance, however, comes responsibility. We stop placing all the blame on others for our past actions and hurts. "Accept one another, then, for the glory of God, as Christ has accepted you." (Romans 15:7 Good News)

New Life - When someone becomes a Christian they become a brand new person inside. They are not the same anymore. A new life has begun! "We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us." (2 Corinthians 1:8–9 TLB)

Integrity - We gain integrity as we begin to follow through on our promises. Others start trusting what we say. Truth fears nothing—nothing but concealment! The truth often hurts. But it's the lie that leaves the scars. A man or woman of integrity and courage is not afraid to tell the truth. The apostle John placed great value on integrity: "Nothing gives me greater joy than to hear that my children are following the way of truth." (3 John 4)

Trust - It is dangerous to be overly concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the Lord, your identity comes from God. When we place our lives into the care of the Lord, we can step forward in faith knowing that God is with us every step of the way. We begin to repair relationships with others and God. "If you cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding...then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God." (Proverbs 2:3-5)

Your Higher Power, Jesus Christ, loves you just the way you are, but he also loves you too much to leave you there! When we accept Jesus Christ as our Higher Power and Savior, we are not only guaranteed eternal life, but we also have God's protection in time of trials. "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) "No matter what comes your way, together you and God can handle it! And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

October Schedule of Worship

October 6th, 17th Sunday after Pentecost, World Communion Sunday "Spiritual Recovery, Admitting Our Wrongs", Hosea 11:8-11; John 8:3-11

We all have difficulty admitting when we are wrong, let alone when our addictions, bad behavior or unhealthy habits have hurt others. It's God's amazing love that gives us courage to confess and it is God's word that helps to realize in what ways we have wronged others and God. This confession leads us into freedom, because we have named our enemy and have begun to fight for sanity. Yet the shame of our addictions and behavior keeps us from admitting to others where we are wrong. The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus takes our shame and, trusting in him, we can learn to admit our wrongs.

Communion: 9:00am Pam Coffin & Greg Dean/11:00am Lynn Watters, Jon Wenzel, Ken Wensel,

Craig Williams, Larry Zimbler, Chris Anderson, Debera Bard, Janet Stork

Lay Reader: Nancy Casteel

Ushers: 9am - Dennis & Jo Beardslee/11am Team #1

Banker: Chris Anderson Sound Tech: Jay Kirkey Coffee Hour: Violet Team

Nursery & Preschool: 9:00am Heidi Howieson & Annabeth Carnes/11:00am Heidi Howieson &

Madeline Davis

Gospel Project: K-2nd: Jan Foster & Deb Bard/3rd-5th: Mary Zimbler & Rick Bard

MONDAY, October 7th, 2019, 1st Monday Communion

Join us at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary for a shorter Communion and Sunday service. This "barrier free" worship experience features large print bulletins, amplified speaking, and energetic hymn singing. Bread and juice/wine will be served in the pews. Helpers will be present to assist with walkers, wheelchairs, or to just lend a hand. Come for worship, stay for fellowship. For questions or rides, please call Dave Eshleman or the Church Office.

October 13th, 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Elder Tina Ritchie preaching, "Spiritual Recovery, Remove These Defects of Character", Isaiah 55:1-9; Jonah 4:5-8; John 5:2-7

When we find ourselves powerless and desire sanity; when we consciously commit our lives to Christ and openly admit our faults, the next step is to be willing to have our defects of character removed. This is hard work, but the reward is great. Being willing to have our defects removed will begin a process of transformation toward Christlikeness.

Ushers: 9am - Dennis & Jo Beardslee/11am - Team #1

Lay Reader: Jenny Gibb Banker: Larry Zimbler Sound Tech: Doug Watters Coffee Hour: Red Team

Counters: Shirley Israel & Ken Wensel

Nursery & Preschool: 9:00am Heidi Howieson & L or M Gibb/11:00am Heidi Howieson &

L or M Gibb

Gospel Project: K-2nd: Cheryl Kopplin & Sherry Rourke/3rd-5th: Jan Jacobs & Roy Fetzer

October 20th, 19th Sunday after Pentecost

"Spiritual Recovery, Humbly Ask", Jeremiah 18:1-6; Luke 18:10-14

When we humbly ask God to change us we need to be willing to let God do what God thinks is best for us. Asking God to change us and then telling God how we should be changed is not a humble request. It is helpful to remember that we are humbly asking God to remove our shortcomings and not enhance our good qualities. However, God lovingly desires to give us life and we can trust that God will treat us kindly if we humbly ask.

Lay Reader: Jenny Gibb

Ushers: 9am - Sherry Hunt & Ellen Horton/11am - Team #3

Banker: Ken Wensel Sound Tech: Mark Gibb Coffee Hour: Orange Team

Counters: Lin Savage & Maureen Utt

Nursery & Preschool: 9:00am Heidi Howieson & Ina Golden/11:00am Heidi Howieson & Audrey

MacClean

Gospel Project: K-2nd: Kelly Sunman-Davis & Jan Foster/3rd-5th: Mary Zimbler & Jeanne Cupp

October 27th, 20th Sunday after Pentecost

"Spiritual Recovery, Making Amends", Exodus 22:10-15; Leviticus 16:20-22; Matthew 18:23-35 We all know the need to make amends. If we borrow something and break it, we need to replace it. Not only are we repairing the loss, we are repairing the relationship. The destruction that bad behavior and addictions produce need to be amended for. However this is a difficult task. Making amends means we are trying to undo the work of addiction and bad habits in our lives. But this does not guarantee that those we make amends to will accept us. However we know that Christ has made amends for us on the cross, and we are accepted by God because of that. This gives us courage to extend grace to each other and make amends for the ways we have injured others.

Layreader: Janet Stork

Ushers: 9am - Dennis Beardslee & Jim Lindsay/11am - Team #4

Banker: Debera Bard

Sound Tech:

Coffee Hour: Yellow Team

Counters: Lin Savage & Dennis Beardslee

Nursery & Preschool: 9:00am Heidi Howieson & PJ

Collier/11:00am Heidi Howieson & Lindsey

MacClean

Gospel Project: K-2nd: Cheryl Kopplin & Roy Fetzer

3rd-5th: Jeanne Cupp & Tony Grams

Communion Flowers are available for

October 27th. Please email Heidi Roberts at roberts68@charter.net or call (810)750-2854



COLOSSIANS 4:6

Annoucements



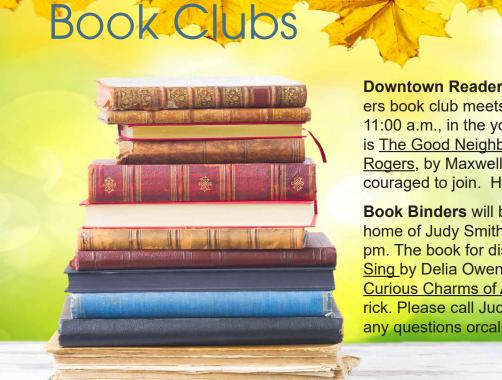
It's Equal Exchange time!! The Holidays are just a few months away. It's time to think about what you'll need to buy so you can bake you're treats. Just a reminder, Equal Exchange offers organic coffees, teas, hot chocolate, baking cocoa, chocolate chips, chocolate bars, olive oil, and so much more. Stock up now, there won't be another order until next year. I'll take orders starting Sunday, October 6th, 13th, and 20th. Please see Debbie Bard in Fellowship Hall.



The Session of FFPC invites the congregation to listen to a Presentation of our Strategic Planning Process and five year goal and Survey Results October 27th. Two gatherings will be held directly after each worship on that day. Survey results will be shared, the strategic process will be described. Those in attendance will also be presented with questions mined from the survey for Session future strategic planning.



College Care Package items needed: Youth group will be preparing care packages in October for our college students. Items needed are microwave popcorn, cereal bars, pens, mechanical pencils, erasers, highlighters, post-its, hot cocoa, tea, oatmeal, raman, and the like. Donation bins are located in the main entryway. Nothing says I love you like a package from home!



Downtown Readers Book Club Downtown Readers book club meets the last Tuesday of the month, 11:00 a.m., in the youth room. 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!

Book Binders will be meeting October 8th at the home of Judy Smith, 1142 S. Lake Valley Dr. at 7:00 pm. The book for discussion is Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. The book for November is The Curious Charms of Arther Pepper by Phaedra Patrick. Please call Judy at 810-629-0062 if you have any questions orcall the church.



Birthday's

Jamie Janowak	Oct 1	Linda Wilson	Oct 16
Cherri Maxwell	Oct 1	Brent LaVanway	Oct 19
Denise Morris	Oct 5	Ernie Miller	Oct 20
Julie Hussar	Oct 6	Fran Moore	Oct 21
Waverly Ritchie	Oct 7	Cynthia Rzepka	Oct 22
Peggy Fulcher	Oct 9	Frances Allen	Oct 25
Steve Sutton	Oct 11	Sandy Nelson	Oct 26
Gene Morrison	Oct 16	Nancy Nelson	Oct 29



Anniversaries

Jonathan & Jennifer Wenzel Mark & Julie Grams Jim & Lin Savage **Denise & Matt Warba** Lee & Vicky Graham Royce & Deloris Hyde **Greg & Rebecca Ruppert Craig & Tracy Williams Gregory & Erin Bradley** Bill & Polly Sheppard Larry & Mary Zimbler Pat Tucker & Harry Clark **David & Terrie Fisher** Michael & Vanessa Skaff Paul & Becky Joitke

October 3 October 5 October 6 October 6 October 7 October 8 October 11 October 11 October 15 October 15 October 17 October 18 October 21 October 21 October 28

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October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 11:00am-4:00pm 11:00am-12:15pm Tuesday Bible Study, Conference Room 6:30pm - 8:00pm Congregational Life Committee Meeting 6:45pm - 8:30pm Membership & Communication Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm Cub Scouts, Art Room	2 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Women's Covenant Group, FH 6:00pm-7:45pm Love & Logic Workshop, Youth Room 6:15 PM - 6:45 PM Lamplight Choir, DR 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Bell Choir, CHR 6:45 PM - 7:30 PM Illuminate Choir, DR 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	3 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 10:00am-12:00pm Card Class 6:30pm-8:00pm Mission & Stewardship Committee Meeting	4 Office Open 9:00am-12:00pm 12:00pm Hunger Conversation All Day Senior Celebration Set- Up, FH	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast at Shirley's 11:30am-1:30pm Senior Celebration 10:00am-4:00pm Montreat in Michigan
6 9am & 11am Worship & Communionfol- lowed by Fellowship Time 1:00pm-3:15pm CropWalk 5:00pm-6:00pm The Great Divorce Study Group	7 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 1:00-2:00pm Knitting Group Youth Room 1:00-2:00pm Outreach Communion, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall 6:30pm-7:30pm Cub Scout, Youth Room Committee Meeting 7:00pm – 9:00pm Boy Scouts, FH	8 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 11:00am-12:15pm Tuesday Bible Study, Conference Room 4:00pm-6:00pm Nominating Committee Meeting 6:45pm-9:00pm Administration 7:00pm-9:00pm Book Binders 7:00pm-8:00pm Cub Scouts Den 3, Art Room	9 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Women's Covenant Group, FH 4:45pm-6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting 6:00pm-7:45pm Love & Logic Workshop, Youth Room 6:15 PM - 6:45 PM Lamplight Choir, DR 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Bell Choir, CHR 6:45 PM - 7:30 PM Illuminate Choir, DR 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	10 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 10:00am-12:30pm The Care Team, Conference Rm. 6:00pm-8:00pm Christian Education Committee Meeting, CR	11 Office Open 9:00am-12:00pm Women's Retreat Men's Backpacking Trip 12:00pm-1:30pm Social Justice Advocates Group 6:00pm-7:00pm Cub Scout, FH	12 OFFICE CLOSED Men's Backpacking Trip Women's Retreat 9:30-11:00am Yoga
13 Women's Retreat Men's Backpacking Trip 9am & 11am Worship followed by Fellowship Time Eagle Scout Project, Sanctuary 3:00pm-4:30pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm-6:00pm The Great Divorce Study Group 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group Soup & Talk, MacLean Family Home	14 Eagle Scout Project, Sanctuary Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 1:00-2:00pm Knitting Group, Youth Room 6:30pm-7:30pm Cub Scout, Youth Room 7:00pm – 9:00pm Boy Scouts, FH	15 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 11:00am-12:15pm Tuesday Bible Study, Conference Room 6:30pm-8:30pm Session Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm Cub Scouts Den 3, Art Room	16 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Women's Coverant Group, FH 6:00pm-8:00pm Cub Scout First Aid Training 6:00pm-7:45pm Love & Logic Workshop, Youth Room 6:15 PM - 6:45 PM Lamplight Choir, DR 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Bell Choir, CHR 6:45 PM - 7:30 PM Illuminate Choir, DR 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	17 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm	18 Office Open 9:00am-12:00pm 6:00pm-10:00pm Ghost Walk	19 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00pm-10:00pm Ghost Walk
20 9am & 11am Worship followed by Fellowship Time 5:00pm-6:00pm The Great Divorce Study Group 5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Group, Youth Room	21 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group, Youth Room 6:30pm-7:30pm Cub Scout, Youth Room7:00pm – 9:00pm Boy Scouts, FH	22 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 11:00am-12:15pm Tuesday Bible Study, Conference Room 6:45pm-8:00pm Deacon's Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm Cub Scouts Den 3, Art Room	23 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Women's Covenant Group, FH 6:00pm-7:45pm Love & Logic Workshop, Youth Room 6:15 PM - 6:45 PM Lamplight Choir, DR 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Bell Choir, CHR 6:45 PM - 7:30 PM Illuminate Choir, DR 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	24 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm	25 Office Open 9:00am-12:00pm 6:00pm-7:00pm Cub Scout, FH	26 OFFICE CLOSED
27 9am & 11am Worship followed by Fellowship Time 3:00pm-4:30pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm-7:00pm The Great Divorce Study Group 5:00pm-8:00pm Pumpkin Carving	28 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 1:00pm-2:00pm Knitting Group, Youth Room 6:30pm-7:30pm Cub Scout, Youth Room 7:00pm – 9:00pm Boy Scouts, FH	29 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 11:00am-12:15pm Tuesday Bible Study, Conference Room 11:00am-12:00pm Downtown Readers Book Club	30 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 8:00am-12:00pm Facilities Work Day 10:00am - 12:00pm Women's Covenant Group, FH 6:00pm-7:45pm Love & Logic Workshop, Youth Room 6:15 PM - 6:45 PM Lamplight Choir, DR 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Bell Choir, CHR 6:45 PM - 7:30 PM Illuminate Choir, DR 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary	31 Office Open 9:00am-4:00pm 1:00pm-6:00pm An Event So Good It's Scary Happy Halloween!!	Office Closed	

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!!



<u>Online Giving:</u> An easy and convienent 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.



<u>Church Giving:</u> 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.



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



Non-Cash Giving: Assets or Planned Gifts



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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION!