

Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Living with Christ, Serving the World

FEBRUARY 2020

Be Completely Humble & Gentle;

Be Patient,

Bearing with One Another

in

LOVE

Ephesians 4:2

Pastor's Article

Preach the Gospel



Have you ever hear the phrase, “Preach the Gospel. If necessary use words”? This is most commonly attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. However, with apologies to Pope Francis, it seems that he never said it and he certainly didn’t mean it the way that we interpreted it today.

Saint Francis was a Franciscan, which is a preaching order of mendicant monks. This means that he would travel around the countryside and cityscape preaching to all and accepting any handout that was given. He was noted as an enthusiastic preacher and sometimes would preach 5 times a day. Francis’ deep desire was for people to hear of the love of God and call them into repentance and right relationship with their Creator.

Words were essential to St. Francis’ ministry. Yet, we have attributed a phrase and a senti-

ment that is seemingly contrary to his life’s work. This phrase says to me that we should avoid speaking to others about the Gospel and wait until it is pried from us by the curiosity of another. Firstly, it could be offensive to someone who does not share my faith. Secondly, the Gospel is more purely explained with action and more clearly understood visually rather than audibly.

I will not, ever, advocate anyone to share their faith in a way that is intentionally offensive. That is not productive and degrades our witness to the goodness and grace of God. There are times in which we should share a silent witness through good actions and loving deeds.

However,

1 Peter 3:15 “But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess.”

And

Romans 10:14 “How are they to call on one they have not believed in? And how are they to believe in one they have not heard of? And how are they to hear without someone preaching to them?”

The Gospel needs to be translated into words for people to hear it. As Christians we are called to be able to verbally articulate what we believe and testify to why we believe it. It is significant that Jesus is called the Word of God. Jesus spoke and reasoned and intellectually engaged with the people he was trying to communicate the Gospel to. However Jesus wasn’t all talk.

While St. Francis didn't say the words that are often attributed to him he did say something similar. His actual words were: "It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching." This gets at an important matter. We can preach so clearly and so well that we drive everyone to tears and out to the Mission field. But if our lives do not emulate our words then our words mean nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1 *"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but I do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."*

It is our words that make the Gospel clear and meaningful to those who might hear it. It is our actions that show those listening what those words really mean. Talk is cheap, but that doesn't mean that we should stop talking, it means that we need to bolster our words with right action, sacrificial living and love. May our walking be preaching and may our sermons be proved by our walk.

For more information about St. Francis

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/preach-the-gospel-at-all-times-st-francis_b_1627781

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2009/mayweb-only/120-42.0.html>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/preach-the-gospel-and-since-its-necessary-use-words/>

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/st-francis-never-said-preach-the-gospel-and-when-necessary-use-words-catholic-scholars-say.html>

Peace,

Pastor Robbie

Souper Bowl of Caring



SM 30th Anniversary: Help us build a can wall in Fellowship Hall!!!

Bringing in nonperishable canned and boxed goods. On February 2 we will dedicate the food which will go to the Fenton United Methodist Food Panty.

Also on February 1, 2020 youth group will be collecting money from the community from noon – 2pm @ VG's on Silver Parkway. All monetary donations will go to the North End Soup Kitchen.

tacklehunger.org

This national event began in 1990 with a simple prayer said by Reverend Brad Smith at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." Youth groups in 22 churches raised \$5,700 in the first year.

Ways to Engage Your Neighborhood

Shared by Pastor Lindsey Carnes

(ideas from <https://www.howtoloveyourneighbor.com/100-ways-to-engage-your-neighborhood/>)

If we are to share the gospel of love with the world we need to find healthy and non obnoxious ways to meet and engage with people. Here are some ideas to connect with your neighbors in ways that might lead to spiritually significant conversations. Prayerfully watch and listen to the Holy Spirit to discern where God is working.

1. Stay outside in the front yard longer while watering the yard
2. Walk your dog regularly around the same time in your neighborhood
3. Organize an effort for neighbors to look out for the elderly in your neighborhood (such as cold weather warnings)
4. Pass out baked goods (fresh bread, cookies, brownies, etc.)
5. Invite neighbors over for dinner
6. Ask your HOA or apartment complex if they need help with anything
7. Attend the parties you get invited to by neighbors
8. Do a food drive or coat drive in winter and get neighbors involved
9. Have a game night (yard games outside, or board games inside)
10. Art swap night – bring out what you're tired of and trade with neighbors
11. Grow a garden and give out extra produce to neighbors
12. Have an Easter egg hunt on your block and invite neighbors use their front yards
13. Start a weekly open meal night in your home
14. Do a summer BBQ every Friday night and invite others to contribute
15. Create a block/street email and phone contact list for safety
16. Host a sports game watching party
17. Host a coffee and dessert night
18. Organize and host a ladies artistic creation night
19. Organize a tasting tour on your street (everyone sets up food and table on front porch)
20. Host a movie night and discussion afterwards
21. Start a walking/running group in the neighborhood
22. Start hosting a play date weekly for other stay at home parents
23. Organize a carpool for your neighborhood to help save gas
24. Volunteer to coach a local little league sports team
25. Have a front yard ice cream party in the summer



Mission and Stewardship

Mission Update...



Shelter of Flint Mission Opportunity:

On Saturday, February 22, 2020 we will car pool from our church at 8:30 am for a workday at the Shelter of Flint from 9 am – 4 pm. Please consider joining us to do a variety of maintenance tasks, which may involve cleaning, painting, sorting, organizing, etc. Lunch will be provided. If you are interested, a sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Contact Maureen Utt (810-701-2336 or mauutt@charter.net) with any questions. Hope you can join us!



Snuggle Sacks Sorting & Assembling

Twenty-one volunteers from our church braved a very wintery day to sort products and assemble 75 Snuggle Sacks in Fenton on Saturday, January 18. Each sack holds various hygiene supplies, one meal, socks, gloves, and a blanket. Our grateful thanks to all those in the congregation and to the Deacons who donated a large number of supplies for the sacks!

Snuggle Sacks is a new mission outreach opportunity for our church to serve the homeless in Michigan and was founded 4 years ago by Fenton preteen Addisyn Goss and her siblings after discovering their grandfather had been homeless. Addisyn gave us a better understanding of the needs of the homeless and how essential this type of support is to survival. Her family is now distributing about 1000 sacks to the homeless each month on the street and outside homeless shelters. The program continues to expand in Michigan and now Indiana.

Stewardship Update...

Treasurer Report

2019 Financials

Profit/ Loss	December	Profit/Loss YTD Actual	Budget
Income:	\$27,304.97	\$358,055.37	\$282,981.00
Expense: *	\$28,514.42	\$305,540.10	\$306,015.00
Net Income:	\$1,209.45*	\$52,515.27*	(\$23,034.00)

*this does not include additional obligations such as restricted funds or mortgage payments.

*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.

Statement of Cash Flows December

Cash at Beginning of period:	\$68,126.81
Cash at End of Period:	\$66,843.38
Net Cash Change:	(\$1,283.43)

Cash Flow YTD (Jan.1-Dec.31,2019)

\$81,032.11
\$66,843.38
(\$14,188.73)

Congregational Life

CHILI COOK - OFF



– Sunday, February 16, 2020 –

Join us in fellowship hall after the 11:00 service

For A Chili Cook-Off

Donate \$1 per Vote for Your Favorite Sample

Best Chili gets Bragging Rights

To Enter Your Favorite Chili Recipe

Simply Register in Fellowship Hall

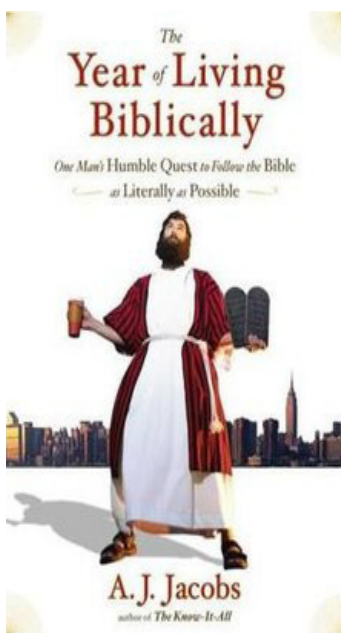
Toppings & Condiments Provided

Contact Julie Grams at 810.955.8758 - jmgrams12@gmail.com

Christian Education

Bible Study

Whatever your knowledge, all are welcome! Try a class – invite a friend!



Sunday Evening Study:

Our small group has, with great success, finished the Great Divorce. We spent a little time on “The Grand Inquisitor” last night (possibly a mistake – too heavy) and we are recessing until January 5.

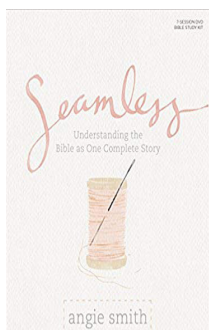
Beginning January 5th from 5PM to 6:30PM we’ll begin discussing the book: “The Year of Living Biblically: One Man’s Humble Quest to follow the Bible as Literally as Possible”

By A J Jacobs

It is a fun and funny book with a real message.

We will continue to meet @ 4square, 205 Lincoln St, Fenton.

There have been a total of 8 participants and more are welcome. Rather than a “bible study”, we are an ongoing group of men and women seeking better understanding and relationship with our God. High School age and above are welcome, only obligation is to participate.



Monday Evening Women’s Study: “Seamless” by Angie Smith

Meets January 6 – February 17 from 6:30 – 8pm in the Video Room

See Tina Ritchie for more information

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

Tuesday Bible Study:

Led by Pastor Lindsey, this class meets in the Conference Room.

The Gospels: How Not to Be a Pharisee

February 4 - March 10

This six-session course looks at Jesus interaction with a group of first-century Jewish religious leaders called Pharisees. As revealed in the four Gospels, these Pharisees received the brunt of Jesus criticism. The ability to see sin in others and ignore it in your own heart is one of the distinguishing characteristics of a Pharisee. Unfortunately, this tendency is as common today as it was in Jesus time. This course will help you learn to pursue God with an open heart.

Session One--Getting to Know the Pharisees

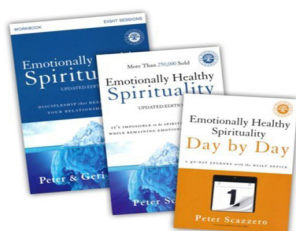
Session Two--It's Easier to Know the Bible Than to Live the Bible

Session Three--Public Performance is Easier than Private Devotion

Session Four--Pride Gives Way to Resentment

Session Five--Tradition Becomes More Attractive than Truth

Session Six--Separation Can Lead to Isolation



Wednesday Women's Covenant: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Course by Peter Scazero

January 8 – February 26 from 10am – Noon in
Fellowship Hall, Cost:\$27 for course pack. For
more information, see Tina Ritchie

The EHS Course is a serious course offered in a safe, comfortable environment that respects each person's journey.

It asks people to:

1. Leave a superficial, shallow spirituality.
2. Open up their interior world so Christ can transform it.
3. Develop their own personal relationship with Jesus and not live off other people's spirituality.
4. Read the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality book and meet with Jesus twice a day for 8 weeks through EHS Day by Day.

DID YOU KNOW

80 women have participated since 2015 (includes pastoral staff)

19 are friends of members

25 is average class enrollment

We have regular participants who travel from Clarkston, Commerce Township, and Hartland



Lenten Simple Meal

March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1

Mark your calendars for this adult study – we are returning to a more discussion based format.

Meals begin at 5:45 Class is from 6:30-7:15pm



Grit Builders and Grit Stealers

by Dr. Charles Fay

Perseverance is the key to building grit. There is no doubt that kids who develop it will lead happier and more productive lives than those who don't. Listed below are few "grit builders" with corresponding "grit stealers."

Grit Builders		Grit Stealers
Allow your kids to make affordable mistakes and live with the consequences.	➔	Micromanage or rescue your kids.
Celebrate effort, hard work, and perseverance.	➔	Constantly tell them that they are bright, gifted, or exceptionally talented.
Let them see you make mistakes.	➔	Model perfectionism.
Show your kids that you maintain a positive attitude when you make mistakes.	➔	Talk badly about yourself when you make mistakes.
Guide your kids toward getting along well with their teachers and coaches.	➔	Talk to their teachers and coaches, ensuring that things go smoothly for your kids.
Expect your kids to do their fair share of chores.	➔	Treat your kids like a guest at a resort for the rich and famous.
Let them hear you discussing how trials build mature character.	➔	Let them hear you complaining about the trials you face.
Let them wait for what they want.	➔	Immediately gratify their desires.
Allow them to experience a natural and full range of emotions. Show that you care by expressing empathy.	➔	Try to keep them happy at all times. Give them the impression that life should never be upsetting or stressful.

Teaching perseverance isn't complicated. It requires a willingness to allow kids to experience healthy challenges as they grow. It also requires that we let them see that they have what it takes to cope with life's challenges.

If you'd like to learn more about Love and Logic tips and techniques, check out a book or other media from our library, sign up to take the next course in the spring, or see Tina Ritchie with any questions.



Financial Peace Corner

What to Expect on Your Debt-Free Journey

So you made the decision—you decided to kick debt out of your life forever! That calls for some serious celebrating.

But before you start dancing circles around Sallie Mae, make sure you've completed [Baby Step 1](#) by getting \$1,000 in the bank. If you haven't yet, back up. You'll need this money if any unwelcome emergencies try to crash the party. So buckle down, get focused, and pile up that \$1,000 [as fast as you can](#).

When you're ready to start your debt-free journey with [Baby Step 2](#)—paying off all debt except the house—make sure you find inspiration along the way to help see you through. Millions of people have been where you are today. And you'll be where they are sooner than you know it!

Until then, check out our list of 18 things you can expect while on your debt-free journey. And remember, you're in [good company!](#)

1. You'll have some doubts.

When you face a mountain of debt, doubts are totally normal. Don't beat yourself up for having them. Instead, redirect that energy into confidence. You're doing the right thing for you and your family tree, even if no one else understands it. You've got this!

2. You'll get gazelle intense.

Imagine you're a gazelle grazing in the wild. Out of the corner of your eye, you see a starving cheetah, your biggest enemy. Should you sit there and wait to be hunted down or run like your tail is on fire? Run, Forrest, run! You want to get out of debt like a gazelle gets out of harm's way—fast! We call this being [gazelle intense](#). So, find your animal instinct. You're going to need it on your debt-free journey.

3. You'll listen to (or watch) The Dave Ramsey Show—a lot.

When you listen to your broke friends talk about how broke they are, you become like them—broke. But when you listen to inspirational folks talk about how they destroyed debt, you become like them—inspired! So fill your mind with daily encouragement by following us on Facebook or Twitter, listening to the podcast, experiencing the Ramsey Network on your smart speaker, or watching The Dave Ramsey Show video channel.

4. You'll start selling stuff—and lots of it.

If you haven't used it in the past year, you probably don't need it. That's why Craigslist will suddenly be full of all your old camping gear, Christmas decorations, and cell phones. When you're laser focused on debt-free living, you'll start parting with all that stuff you don't need. You might even sell the car if you have to! You're just that hardcore.

5. You'll become a bargain shopper.

Oh, you don't coupon? Well that's about to change. It's time to get real familiar with some awesome [coupon apps](#) out there. Hey, if you can get something on sale or for a discount, why would you mess around with paying full price . . . ever? That's more money in your pocket and less debt in your life.

6. You'll make a monthly budget.

This may be your first time budgeting, or you might just be buckling down. Either way, you're going to have a handle on your income—and it's going to feel so good! Our free budgeting app, [EveryDollar](#), makes it super easy to stay on top of things while on your debt-free journey. When you're giving every dollar a job to do, you'll know exactly where each dollar is going.

7. You'll start carrying cash.

Using cash to pay for things will totally alter the way you spend money. When the cash is gone, it's gone. Pretty simple, isn't it? No overdraft fees. No sky-high interest to pay. Cash is king, baby!

8. You'll get your family on board.

Believe it or not, this is the perfect time to start talking to your [kids about money](#). Getting out of debt takes a team. When your kids buy into your debt-free journey, they'll stop complaining—and start saving. It's amazing. Invite them to your budget meetings and show them how important they are to making your family goals become a reality!

9. You'll work hard.

Sometimes it takes a second job or some freelance work to earn what you need to knock out your debt. Get creative and start finding fresh ways to bring in some [extra cash](#). Whether you're delivering pizzas, driving for Uber, or house-sitting over the holidays—it all adds up. Your hard work will pay off!

10. You'll start thinking visually.

A [goal tracker](#) and a rewards system are small ways to turn something as boring as electronic payments into easy-to-see wins. Even a celebratory pizza party with the kids can be enough to keep you all going on your debt-free journey.

11. You'll learn how to say no.

No—it's a complete sentence. And it's okay to use it regularly when you're getting out of debt. There are things you need. And then there are things you want. You're going to become one of the rare people who knows the difference. While you're paying off debt, your budget is all about needs. You'll get to what you want after you've said farewell to debt once and for all.

12. You'll eat leftovers and brew coffee at home.

Hello, microwave! Goodbye, \$12 lunches out every day. Leftovers are going to be your new best friend. Make meals that will give you leftovers to pack for lunch the next day. Slow cooker and casserole recipes are great for stretching your food budget. And when it comes to coffee, you can save a nice chunk of change if you brew your daily dark roast at home instead of buying it on the way to work. Those [small grocery savings](#) add up over time! See ya later, barista.

13. You'll learn who your true friends are.

True friends don't care what brand of jeans you wear or what model car you drive. They don't care if you can't go out for dinner. True friends will support your efforts to improve your life by becoming debt-free. And they won't expect you to keep up with their lifestyles—even if they aren't quite ready to get out of debt themselves.

14. You'll learn to practice contentment.

When you start living on less than you make and paying off debt, you'll be amazed at how [content and grateful](#) you can become. Filling our lives with useless stuff has a way of leaving us feeling empty instead of fulfilled. Isn't it ironic? Instead of constantly consuming more, you'll be pleasantly content with less.

15. You'll pray.

Work like it all depends on you, but pray like it all depends on God. Give it your absolute all every day, but realize God owns it all. He's in control. So trust Him as you go along your debt-free journey.

16. You'll get creative.

You know what they say—necessity is the mother of invention! With all your extra cash going toward debt, you've discovered how to stretch a meal with rice, wrap a gift in tie-dyed newspaper, and bungee cord your car mirror back on. No shame. Wear it all with pride.

17. You'll pause your 401(k) contributions.

Womp, womp. Yeah, it's a bummer, but don't fret—you'll get back to [contributing to your retirement](#) soon. But first, you're going to put everything you've got toward getting out of debt. (Yes, even if it means missing out on your company match temporarily.) Just think of it this way: Pressing the pause button on investing is a great motivator to get out of debt ASAP! Once you have zero debt and begin investing again, you'll be starting a new journey toward becoming an [everyday millionaire](#)!

18. You'll find a community.

You might feel like you're alone on this debt-free journey or that you're the only weirdo out there who's fed up with debt, but you most definitely are not. Get connected with others who are fighting and clawing their way out of debt just like you! Believe us, they're out there! A Financial Peace University class or Facebook group like [The Ramsey Baby Steps Community](#) are great places to find people who are going through this debt-free journey too.

Making the decision to eliminate debt from your life is one of the smartest things you can do for yourself, your family, and your future. When it gets difficult and you start to doubt yourself, stay the course and find encouragement by reading and listening to others who have been where you are and have made debt-free living a reality. Your debt-free scream is closer than you think!

You've got what it takes to kick debt out of your life—once and for all! Sign up for [Financial Peace University today](#) to stay on track and pay off your debt faster than ever.

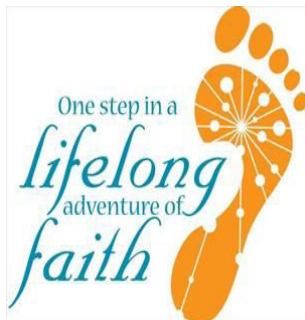


Financial Peace University -Wednesday evenings, January 15 – March 11 from 6-8pm in the Conference Room. Cost: \$99.95 when you register through our church website at www.ffpc.org

Some scholarship money is available – contact the office to inquire.

For more information on the course, contact Jennifer MacLean at 810-240-2301.

Youth Group



Upcoming Confirmation Class Information:

Classes meet on Sunday afternoons from 3:00-4:30p.m. and are led by Pastors Lindsey & Robbie Carnes, and Pastor Dawn Russell.

The confirmation retreat has been modified due to conflicting schedules with families.

We will meet on Sunday, January 12 from 12:30-4:30pm in the Youth Room here at Fenton First Presbyterian Church. There will be a review of lessons thus far, and we will begin working on Statements of Faith. Lunch will be provided. Mentors are asked to attend from 2:45-4:30. Please see Pastor Robbie or Tina Ritchie with any questions

Feb. 9 - Linden First Presbyterian Church

Feb. 23 - Trinity United Presbyterian Church

*Please note that if you miss a class you will need to schedule a make-up class before the next scheduled meeting date. Contact Pastor Lindsey with any questions.

Upcoming Events for Youth Group



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

RSVP for events on the youth bulletin board, and let Tina know if you need a ride!

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

Feb 1: Souper Bowl of Caring community collection noon – 2pm @ VG's

Feb. 9: Youth Sunday 9 & 11am worship (*Sat. 2/8 – practice 10am – noon in the Sanctuary)

Feb 16: Spiritual Practices – How to be more addicted to your phone

Feb 23: Game Night???

March 1: Group, Soup, & Talk 5-7pm Location TBD

Deacon's Scholarship available to anyone pursuing continuous education. Applications are available in the church office, as well as on the Deacon and CE Bulletin Boards. Deadline for submission is March 2nd, 2020.

6 EASY Ways You Can Help Make A Difference

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

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

3 Register your Kroger Rewards Card

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

5 Give to the Pentecost offering in May

6 Offer to sponsor a youth for camp or conferences

50 Winter Activity Ideas for the Family

by Tauna Meyer

It's not too late to make a winter bucket list! There are SO many things about winter you can enjoy as a family, whether it's getting out in the winter weather or enjoying activities indoors!

Here is a big list of great ideas to try. Choose activities you can all enjoy and some new ones you've never done before!

Winter Activity Ideas for the Family

1. Make bird feeders
2. Build gingerbread house
3. Make paper snowflakes
4. Go on a winter scavenger hunt
5. Play hide and seek
6. Make fancy hot chocolate or snowman drink
7. Listen to an audiobook
8. Visit the local aquarium
9. Try an ice/snow experiment
10. Study winter birds
11. Plant indoor bulbs
12. Make a family time capsule
13. Make pommanders
14. Plan a spring garden
15. Make ice paints
16. Go snowshoeing
17. Paint a winter scene
18. Serve someone in need
19. Donate toys and clothes
20. Read by the fire
21. Watch/play a hockey game
22. Do a snowman art project
23. Indoor sock/snowball fight
24. Have a family movie night
25. Plan a spring bucket list
26. Bake cookies
27. Put on a play
28. Play masking tape hopscotch
29. Make maple candies
30. Visit a museum
31. Learn about hibernation
32. Winter nature walk
33. Collect pinecones
34. Play with snow play-doh
35. Have a pillow fight
36. Go ice skating
37. Learn to knit or crochet
38. Have an indoor picnic
39. Make cinnamon rolls
40. Snowboarding or skiing
41. Plan a family Valentine's Day
42. Game night with friends
43. Watch family home videos
44. Make a cloud in a jar
45. Random acts of kindness
46. Put together a big puzzle
47. Make snow ice cream
48. Bake homemade bread
49. Make marshmallow snowmen
50. Read snow-themed books

Print out the Winter Bucket List and make the most of these last weeks before spring!

[Download the Printable!](#)

Children's Ministry

Club 45



Club 45 for 4th and 5th graders and friends join youth group once a month for mission or fun activities. Club 45 and youth group members will continue the ministry of fostering relationships with other members of the congregation through the pen pal program.

Upcoming meeting are:

February 2: Souper Bowl of Caring community collection noon – 2pm @ VG's

February 23: Game Night??? 5-7pm

March 8: Fun event TBD

Please see Cathy Hollopeter or Tina Ritchie if you would like more information.



Gospel Project Sunday School

Nursery through kindergarten classes offered during 9am worship.

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

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 People Restored” topics are:

Unit 17 –Return to the Land (Obadiah, Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah, Esther)

2/2 The Captives Came Home

2/9 The Temple Was Rebuilt

2/16 Zechariah the Prophet

Big Picture Question: How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

Unit Key Verse: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” ~ Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Unit 18 – The People Restored (Esther, Nehemiah, Malachi)

2/23 Esther Saved Her People

3/1 The Walls Rebuilt

3/8 God's People Repented

3/15 Malachi the Prophet

Big Picture Question: Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth.

Unit Key Verse: *After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, the one who called you into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself restore, empower, strengthen, and establish you.* ~ 1 Peter 5:10 CEB

Worship

2020 Children's Music Update-February

Exciting things are happening within the FFPC Children's Music Dept. Children of all ages are welcome to join in the weekly musical fun praising the glory of God. Two options are available:

Lamplights Choir, for children ages 6 to 11, meets every Wed. evening from 6:15 to 6:45 PM in the Youth Choir Room downstairs.

Illuminate Choir, for kids ages 12 to 18 (including college age if interested), meets every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 PM also in the Youth Choir Room.

Under the direction of Children's Music Director, Cindy Crawford, both choirs sing once per month at FFPC's regular Sunday services, at 9:00 and also 11:00 AM. The kids will sing next on Sunday, February 9th.

Watch for more news on the upcoming annual musical in April! Rehearsal has already begun for the musical and anyone who would like to sing, dance, act or help out in any way is welcome to contact Cindy (church office: 810-629-7801). All are welcome! The chosen musicals always include a strong message (presented in a fun and updated way) of the importance of the presence of God in the daily lives of children and adults alike!



Worship Series for February 2020

The Gospel in the Prophets

On the first Easter Sunday two disciples met a stranger (who was, unbeknownst to them, the resurrected Jesus) on the road to Emmaus who engaged them in a serious Easter evening bible study. Luke says, "Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures." O How I wish I could have been there to hear what Jesus said. All of the prophets and the law speak of Jesus the Messiah. Each text contains a preview of vital gospel truths and point to Christ. Join us for this series as we get a glimpse of the Messiah through the lens of these texts and deepen our appreciate for the love and the grace of God.

Please also make a Special note of attending Youth Sunday on February 9th. Not only should we delight in supporting our youth as they lead us in worship, we also need to hear what they have to say to us.

Ash Wednesday, 26th @7pm, begins the season of Lent as we prepare our hearts and our lives for Easter.

February 2nd, 4th Sunday after Epiphany, Communion Sunday, Scout Sunday, Pancake Breakfast

Robbie Carnes preaching, "The Gospel in the Prophets: The Love of God for all People and Creatures"; Jonah 4:1-11. Jonah was sent to Nineveh to preach their destruction. However, the people of the city repented and God forgave them. This made Jonah steam with anger. How could God relent in the face of all that wickedness? God did because of God's great love for the people of Nineveh and even for the great number of animals. What wondrous love is this that God would be lovingly mindful of those who would have called themselves his enemies and in righteous anger God would even consider the lives of animals?

February 9th, 5th Sunday after Epiphany, Youth Sunday

Liza Kirkey preaching, "What is Your Ecosystem?" We are a biological community of interacting organisms and everything we do effects our physical environment. We see this in the environment disasters and challenges of our day and in our families, our interpersonal relationships and in our church. God calls into something better than we experience now. A healthy and vital relationship with God and healthy and genuine relationships with each other.

February 16th, 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Robbie Carnes preaching, "The Gospel in the Prophets: The Heart of the Divine Parent" Hosea 11:1-11. Hosea is a prophet well worth reading and a worthy poet in his own right. In the eleventh chapter we see God's heart for his people in spite of their rejection of God and sin. Yet through the rejection and outright betrayal God calls his people back home. This is a beautiful image of grace.

February 23rd, Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

Robbie Carnes preaching, "The Gospel in the Prophets: From the House of Bread the One Who Feeds the Flock". Micah 5:1-4. When the 3 wisemen came to King Herod asking for the one who was born to be king of the Jews, King Herod cited these verses to direct them to Bethlehem. As we study this passage we find not only that there will be a king, but what kind of king we should expect and we find wonderful connections with other surprising places in scripture.

February 26th, Ash Wednesday Service 7pm

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, in which we reflect on how our lives might be further transformed to be more like Christ's. Come join us as we ponder together the wonder of the cross.

Worship Schedule for February 2020

Sunday, February 2nd, 2020

9:00am & 11am Worship & Communion

Layreader: Troup 219

Ushers: 9am Dennis & Jo Beardslee/11am Team #6

Banker: 11am Janet Stork

Sound Tech: Mark Gibb

Coffee Hour: Orange Team

Counters: Martha Smith & Ken Wensel

Gospel Project: 9am K & Pre-k Heidi Howieson & Sarah Kasprzak
11am K & Pre-k Heidi Howieson & Madeline Davis
11am 1st-5th Jan Foster & Sherry Rourke

Sunday, February 9th, 2020

9:00am & 11:00am Worship

Layreader: Youth

Ushers: 9am Michael & Debbie Vanderlip/11am Team #1

Banker: 9am Janet Stork/11am Larry Zimblar

Acolytes: Fran Moore & Bev Welch

Sound Tech: Doug Watters

Coffee Hour: Yellow Team

Counters: Maureen Utt & Ken Wensel

Gospel Project: 9am K & Pre-k Heidi Howieson & Sarah Kasprzak
11am K & Pre-k Heidi Howieson & Audrey MacLean
11am 1st-5th Jan Foster & Janet Stork

Sunday, February 16th, 2020

9:00am & 11:00am Worship

Layreader: Jenn/Jon Wenzel

Ushers: 9am Sherry Hunt & Ellen Horton/11am Team #2

Banker: 11am Debera Bard

Acolytes: Annabeth Carnes & Avannah Thompson

Sound Tech: Jay Kirkey

Coffee Hour: Green Team

Counters: Jon O'Connell and Sara Wrage

Gospel Project: 9am K & Pre-k Heidi Howieson & Annabeth Carnes
11am K & Pre-k Heidi Howieson & Madeline Davis
11am 1st-5th Mary Zimblar & Roy Fetzer

Sunday, February 23rd, 2020

9:00am & 11:00am Worship & Congregation Meeting

Layreader: Roy Fetzer

Ushers: 9am Harry Clark & Jim Lindsay/11am Team #3

Banker: 11am Jon Wenzel

Acolytes: Bella Skaff & Mason Skaff

Sound Tech: Mark Gibb

Coffee Hour: Blue Team

Counters: Shirley Israel & Jennifer MacLean

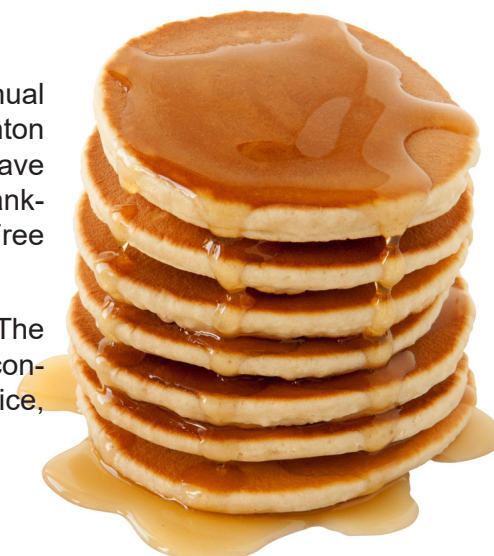
Gospel Project: 9am K & Pre-k Heidi Howieson & Ina Golden
11am K & Pre-k Heidi Howieson & Lindsey MacLean
11am 1st-5th Janet Stork & Nancy Parkin

You are invited! The FFPC Congregation is invited to attend a discussion of submitted amendments to the By-laws on February 16th after each service in the Fellowship Hall. This will allow a hearing of the intention of the revisions as well as any potential combining of amendments of similar topics. No changes will occur to submitted amendments without the authors' consent. All are invited to consider the thoughts and issues at hand. Please remember that the deadline for any submitted amendments to the Clerk of Session, Janet Stork, is February 13th. Any amendments after this date will need to be introduced from the floor at the Congregational Meeting on February 23rd.

Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 2nd, 20120 Boy Scout Troop 219's Annual Scout Sunday: "Thank You Pancake Breakfast for Fenton First Presbyterian Church". Stop in Fellowship Hall and have breakfast on Boy Scout Troop 219! This is our way of Thanking the Church and Congregation for their support. Cost: Free (donations accepted but not necessary).

Serving times are 8:00am-10:30am & 12:00pm-12:45pm (The regular coffee hour will NOT be held.) Breakfast will consist of: Pancakes (all you can eat), Sausage, Orange Juice, Coffee-decaffeinated and regular, Tea, Milk (2%)



Announcements

Save the date

February 12th at 12:30pm
Brick Street Tavern, Grand Blanc

WOMEN'S
LUNCH

Please come and enjoy the food, fellowship and friendship! We will be ordering off a limited menu provided for the event and everyone will pay for their own meal.

Sign-up in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please see Jan O'Connell or Karen Terrill.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help and encouragement
after the death of a loved one

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Contact Us Today

Fenton First Presbyterian Church
Thursday's 12:30pm – 1:30pm
Session One: Feb. 20th-Mar. 26th
Session Two: Apr 16th- May 21st.
visit www.ffpc.org or see
Hannah Hall for more information

GRIEF  SHARE®

Communion Table Flowers are available for February 16th and 23. Gerych's will bill you and the flowers available for pick up after the second service. Please email: roberts68@charter.net or call Heidi Roberts at 750-2854

There will be a Deacon's training program on Sunday, February 9, after the second service. The program is for new and returning Deacons. Safe Sanctuary training will be included.

Boy Scout Troop 219 Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. Saturday, February 22nd from 5-7pm at FFPC. \$10 per adult (11-60) \$8 Seniors (60+) and Kids (6-10) Kids under 6 are free. Tickets available at the door.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

SATURDAY 8:00AM

Men of Fenton Presbyterian Church
We're having breakfast

Date: 1st Saturday of EACH month

Time: 8:00am

Where: Shirley's Cafe and Grill, 522 W
Broad St, Linden, MI 48451

You're invited. Bring a friend.

PLEASE Email Pastor Robbie if you plan to come..
See you there!

Deacon's Scholarship

For High School Seniors and others pursuing higher education may apply for the \$500.00 Annual Deacons' Scholarship. Applications are available in the church office, or on the Deacon Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall. Applications are due March 2nd .



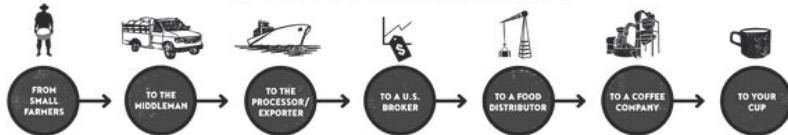
EQUAL EXCHANGE

FAIR TRADE COFFEE JOURNEY



VS.

THE CONVENTIONAL COFFEE JOURNEY



Making a difference with Equal Exchange
Why do we order from Equal Exchange, organic, Fairly Traded, small farmer grown coffees, teas and chocolates? We're helping to support small farmers through Equal Exchange when we buy. The support we give helps these families by providing housing, food and educating their families. We are going out and doing Mission Work without leaving our church. Orders will be taken March 22nd & 29th. The order will be in before Easter. Debbie Bard will take orders in Fellowship Hall or call (810)629-8729.



Book Binders

Book Binders will be meeting February 11, 2020, 7:00 PM at the home of Jennifer MacLean, 579 Peach Tree Trail. Book for the month of February is "The Innocent Man" by John Grisham. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer at 810-714-2948

FFPC Weather Policy

In the case of a weather warning or circumstances that have created dangerous traveling conditions, please consider the following:

1. Because we have many leaders and members who live very close to the church, there will always be a worship service on Sunday. Worship happens whenever people gather together in Christ's name. We can worship in a blizzard, snow storm or power outage. However, this means that individuals need to judge whether it is safe for them to travel in inclement weather.
2. The Church office will be open according to our normal schedule, unless no staff people are able to safely travel to the office. Therefore, if there is inclement weather, please call ahead.
3. There are weekday events that may need to be canceled due to weather. If that is the case, the leader of the specific event will arrange for calls to be made to those expected to be in attendance.
4. If the church campus ever needs to be shutdown, that information will be sent out via Facebook, the website and Channel 5 News.

Happy Birthday

Alex Rourke	Feb 1
George Hameline	Feb 3
Jay Kirkey	Feb 3
Shari Foguth	Feb 4
Elaine Pelletier	Feb 7
Peggy Fowler	Feb 8
Jan O'Connell	Feb 9
P.J. Collier	Feb 10
Edward Hoeglund	Feb 11
Marsha Schwarz	Feb 11
Bev Welch	Feb 11
Jennifer MacLean	Feb 13
Joanne Porter	Feb 13
Carmen Ormsby	Feb 14
Margie Congdon	Feb 15
D'onte Fetzer	Feb 15
Katy Black	Feb 16
Ty Smith	Feb 19

Mitzi Uebel	Feb 19
Roger Zollars	Feb 20
Carly Foguth	Feb 23
Julie Maloney	Feb 25
Vanessa Skaff	Feb 26
Sally Harwood	Feb 27
Heidi Z. Howieson	Feb 27
John Sharpe	Feb 27



WAYS TO GIVE

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



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



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



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



Non-Cash Giving: Assets or Planned Gifts



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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION!

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