

JANUARY 2020

# BEHOLD!

## A NEW YEAR

*Therefore,  
if anyone is in Christ,  
the new creation has come:  
The old has gone,  
the new is here!*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*



# Pastor's Letter

**This is the Season of Epiphany.** The new year full of hope emerges and with any luck we get a chance to look at ourselves in a new way. With this new perspective we are given an opportunity to transform into someone who more closely resembles Christ.

I was picking up my 1 year old daughter from day care. The toddler teacher drew me aside and told me that my daughter had developed a funny habit of shaking her figure at the other children when she was complaining about their behavior.

“Your daughter is scolding the other children and shaking her finger at them. Do you know where she got that?” I told her I didn’t have any idea. I went on to explain the methods that my wife and I corrected our daughter with and how we employed superhuman parenting skills to produce an excellently actualized child who would never shake her finger at anyone. She must have learned this from someone else.

I then acted out a normal reprimand scenario in which I caught my daughter misbehaving. As I was explaining all of this I found myself shaking my finger. The teacher raised her eyebrow and I quickly lowered my hand. It was a humiliating experience to realize that I was the source of my daughter’s scolding behavior.

This is what is called an epiphany. When you see something clearly and gain insight. Epiphany is when you see something, someone, or yourself as they really are. In my case, as a finger wagging nag.

When we take a moral inventory or are confronted with a realistic perspective of ourself we have an opportunity to be transformed. It is what we do with that opportunity that makes the difference.

*Picture a scene from the Old West, sometime in the 1870s. Weary cowboys in dusty Levi’s gather around a blazing campfire after a day on the open range. The lonely howl of a coyote counterpoints the notes of a guitar as the moon floats serenely overhead.*

*Suddenly a bellow of pain shatters the night, as a cowpoke leaps away from the fire, dancing in agony. Hot-Rivet Syndrome has claimed another victim. In those days, Levi’s were made, as they had been from the first days of Levi Strauss, with copper rivets at stress points to provide extra strength. On these original Levi’s—model 501—the crotch rivet was the critical one: when cowboys crouched too long beside the campfire, the rivet grew uncomfortably hot. For years the brave men of the West suffered this curious occupational hazard.*

*Then, in 1933, Walter Haas, Sr., president of Levi Strauss, went camping in his Levi 501’s. He was crouched by a crackling campfire in the High Sierras, drinking in the pure mountain air, when he fell prey to Hot-Rivet Syndrome. He consulted with professional wranglers in his party. Had they suffered the same mishap? An impassioned YES was the reply. Haas vowed that the offending rivet must go, and at their next meeting the board of directors voted it into extinction.*

*Everybody’s Business, ed. By M. Moskowitz, M. Katz, R. Levering*

Mr. Haas had an epiphany and that revelation led to the transformation of the Levi company.

In this new year, have you had any epiphany about yourself or your situation? Have you taken stock and reflected on the good things and the bad that make up who you are? Are there things that you would like to enjoy more? Are there things that you would like to change? The revelation is the first step.

In Scripture there are many cases of revelation and in each case there is a choice for those involved. Moses is confronted with the burning bush and given a mission to rescue the Hebrews. Isaiah is granted a vision of the heavenly court and is commissioned as a prophet. Mary is blessed and given the task of being the mother of the savior. Responding to the revelation is the second step.

In this season of epiphany much has been revealed. Above all, we see the Christmas Child being revealed as a prophet, priest and king. The songs of the angels, the attending of the shepherds and the visit of the wisemen all point to the unique status of Jesus. How will you respond? How will it change your life? Your goals? Your future?



Just as discovering you have gained ten pounds over the holidays demands a response, so does hearing, once again, that the one who was born in a manger is our all sufficient Lord and King. In this New Year, what does this mean to you and how will you respond?

Peace,  
Pastor Robbie Carnes

*As a church we have sent Pastor Lindsey to serve as an Interim Pastor at Trinity United Presbyterian Church for a season. In this column you will find sermons, articles and stories about her Interim work.*

The following are excerpts from a sermon that Pastor Lindsey Carnes gave at Trinity United Presbyterian Church.



**Why Do We Need to Study Our Past?"** The Christian faith, as we know it today, was handed down from generation to generation. It was lived out by people of diverse cultures who studied scripture and sought to apply the lessons and what they knew about God to their particular circumstances. There have been small steps forward and often large steps backwards.

**To Understand the Past:** The Bible exhorts us as believers to search out and remember the past. When we study history, it allows us to understand and sympathize with those who came before us. We can also begin to see that we are not so different than those who came before us.

If we can learn from mistakes and lessons, we can avoid making similar sins and mistakes.

**To Understand Today:** Like it or not, we are the products of our own time. The hot topics and trends of our day inevitably form our thinking. Our faith is an ancient faith, based on timeless truths, and we are called to live it out in the present. The poet George Santayana is often quoted, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it ("Life of Reason," 1905).

**To Understand Tomorrow:** As we look at our past and present, we gain hope and perspective, and often we get glimpses and discern where God is leading us in the future.

**To Understand God:** The study of history is not solely an intellectual study, it is also the exploration of God's active involvement with God's own people. Knowing the acts and ways of God working throughout history provides us with a better understanding of the Lord and how God might be working now.

# Session Update



## Fenton First Presbyterian Church Letter to Congregation Regarding Proposed Bylaws December 2, 2019

Dear Members of Fenton First Presbyterian Church,

The set of documents that are used to govern a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) include the scripture, *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) revised 2017*, the *Book of Order, Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised*, and the *Congregational Bylaws*. The last revision of the Congregational Bylaws was in 2008. While the bylaws have served the congregation well in the past, bylaws documents are meant to be living documents that are periodically reviewed and revised. Over the summer of 2019, a committee reviewed our bylaws, studied other church's bylaws, and carefully deliberated the revision of our bylaws. After several consultations with session, a new set of bylaws have been prepared. The session, after providing additional revisions, has voted unanimously to recommend to the congregation to adopt the new bylaws. New bylaws can only be adopted by the congregation at a congregational meeting and the bylaws can only be enacted by the congregation.

It is not often in our church that our bylaws are revised and the purpose of this letter is to inform you of the proposed changes for your consideration ahead of the congregational meeting. This is a decision we ask the congregation to make after careful thought and discussion. One point to keep in mind, as you review the bylaws, is that bylaws documents are not meant to contain a great deal of detail on policies. Church policies are created and reviewed by session and are part of our *Manual of Operations of the First Presbyterian Church*. Bylaws documents that are enduring, typically are general and have flexibility so as to be functional over a period of time.

Summary of changes:

**Mission and Vision**: The newly adopted Mission and Vision Statements are included.

**Reordering**: Several bylaws were reordered and revised for stylistic and organization purposes.

**References to Book of Order**: Several references are included to the Book of Order, but are left sufficiently flexible so as to not require a revision of the bylaws when the General Assembly next revises the Book of Order.

**Review Timeline**: The proposed bylaws will require a bylaws review after publication of each new Book of Order to ensure conformity.

**Indemnification**: Many non-profits indemnify, or secure against liability, its directors and officers in the bylaws. An indemnification clause was inserted.

**Corporate Officers**: The corporate officers of the church (president, secretary, and treasurer) are described in further detail and sets the time that the corporate officers are elected. The previous bylaws did not contain a detailed description or set a time for election.

**Elders**: The 2008 bylaws fixed the number of elders to 15. The proposed bylaws allows the session to set the number of elders by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote with the minimum number of elders being six. The reasoning for this is to allow the size of the session to change with the size and needs of the congregation. In addition, Bylaw 12 of the 2008 bylaws regarding eligibility to be an elder has been removed and replaced with a clause referring to the Book of Order.

**Session Business**: A quorum for session was not present in the 2008 bylaws, a quorum is provided in the proposed bylaws of half of the elders. The proposed bylaws also provide for the ability for session to

conduct business by video or teleconference and allows voting by email. The 2008 bylaws did not contain such provisions.

**Deacons:** The 2008 bylaws fixed the number of deacons to 15. The proposed bylaws allows the session to set the number of deacons by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote with the number of deacons being equally divided into three classes. This allows the size of the Board of Deacons to change with the size and needs of the congregation. The proposed bylaws stipulate the leadership of the Board of Deacons, which is a Moderator and Vice-Moderator. The 2008 bylaws did not contain this provision.

**Administration Committee:** The only committee described in the 2008 bylaws was the nominating committee. Due to the corporate aspects of the work performed by the administration committee, the administration committee is described in the proposed bylaws. Session retains the ability to create and abolish standing and *ad-hoc* committees. Examples of standing committees, include, but are not limited to Worship, Christian Education, Mission and Stewardship, etc.

**Nomination Committee:** The size of the nominating committee would be flexible with a minimum number of three voting members: a member of the congregation, an elder, and a deacon. In addition, nominating committee members would only be allowed to serve for three consecutive years before taking a break. An inclusiveness clause has been added to conform with the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* In addition, a provision has been added that the nominating committee must announce the names of the nominees with the call for the congregational meeting, with approval of the session. The 2008 bylaws fixed the size of nominating committee to six voting members that may serve indefinitely with approval of the congregation. The nominating committee will continue to nominate its own members with approval of the congregation. The congregation will still be able to nominate elders, deacons, and nominating committee member candidates from the floor. In addition, the proposed bylaws removed the provision that elections be held in early November. The annual election would be set by Session, thereby granting additional flexibility to the nominating committee to do its work.

**Congregational Meetings:** Bylaw 5 of the 2008 bylaws describes who moderates the congregational meetings. Most of this was copied into the proposed bylaws with the following change: 2008 Bylaw 5 stated "If the church is vacant" regarding if the Presbytery shall be invited to provide a Moderator. This has been corrected in the proposed bylaws to read: "If the pastorate is vacant."

**Terms of Call:** A provision has been added that annually, at a congregational meeting, the congregational shall approve the Terms of Call. The 2008 bylaws do not contain such a provision.

**Finances:** The proposed bylaws allows session to set the fiscal year. The 2008 bylaws set the fiscal year to the calendar year. The fiscal year been set to the calendar year poses difficulties in preparing a budget since pledges are not gathered by the time to create a budget.

**Building:** Bylaw 23 in the 2008 bylaws regarding real estate provisions has been removed since it is redundant with other governing documents. Bylaw 24 in the 2008 bylaws has been removed, granting building and equipment use is an inferred right of the Session.

**Amendments:** The proposed bylaws amendments clause has been changes so that the entirety of a bylaw amendment does not have be read aloud to the congregation. While, in practice, small amendments would still be read aloud, reading an entire replacement bylaws document would lengthen a congregational meeting considerably.

## JANUARY 26TH, 2020 IS THE ANNUAL MEETING OF FENTON, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

In order to include as many church members as possible we will be having one worship service at 10am. After that service we will conduct our Annual Meeting which will review the 2020 Budget, accept the Annual Report, and approve the Pastor's compensation. After our meeting has been accomplished we will enjoy refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

# Mission & Stewardship

## MISSION UPDATE



### January 18, 2020 Mission Opportunity – Snuggle Sacks

Just 4 years ago an 8, 11, and 13-year-old began assembling Snuggle Sacks filled with necessities for the homeless. Addison, Jaxson, and Sherida Goss are now partnering with over 20 shelters and soup kitchens in southern Michigan and are distributing an average of 1000 sacks per month! These sacks are packed at a warehouse in Fenton at 1495 Dauner Rd, Suite C. On January 18 we will be assembling Snuggle Sacks from 2 to 3pm. Please join us if you can! This is a great opportunity for all ages!

If you can't attend but are interested in donating items for a Snuggle Sack, there is a suggested list of always-needed items on the Mission bulletin board. Some of these items are travel-size toothpaste, floss, soap, deodorant, shampoo / conditioner, body lotion, combs, brushes, raisins, packs of crackers, gum, granola bars, etc. This collection will continue until January 11 and the bin will be underneath the Mission Bulletin Board.

### Alternative Holiday Giving

Do you have someone on your holiday list who just doesn't need or want anything more? As an alternative, you might give a gift in his/her name to a charity. There are so many needs in our world and so many ways to help so that it isn't hard to find something that suits the person you want to honor. If you're interested, there are catalogs available in Fellowship Hall such as Presbyterian Giving, Heifer, UNICEF, or World Vision, or consider any other charity of your choice. Donna Anderson and Nikki Black are available for any questions.

### Special Offerings Year at a Glance

The four churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings collectively participate in ministries of compassion, justice, Christian formation, education, peacemaking, and global witness.

Initial Offering (Per-Capita)	Beginning in January
One Great Hour of Sharing	April 12, 2020
Pentecost	May 31, 2020
Theological Offering	September 13, 2020
Peace & Global Witness Offering	October 4, 2020
Christmas Joy Offering	December 20, 2020

# Per-Capita Offering

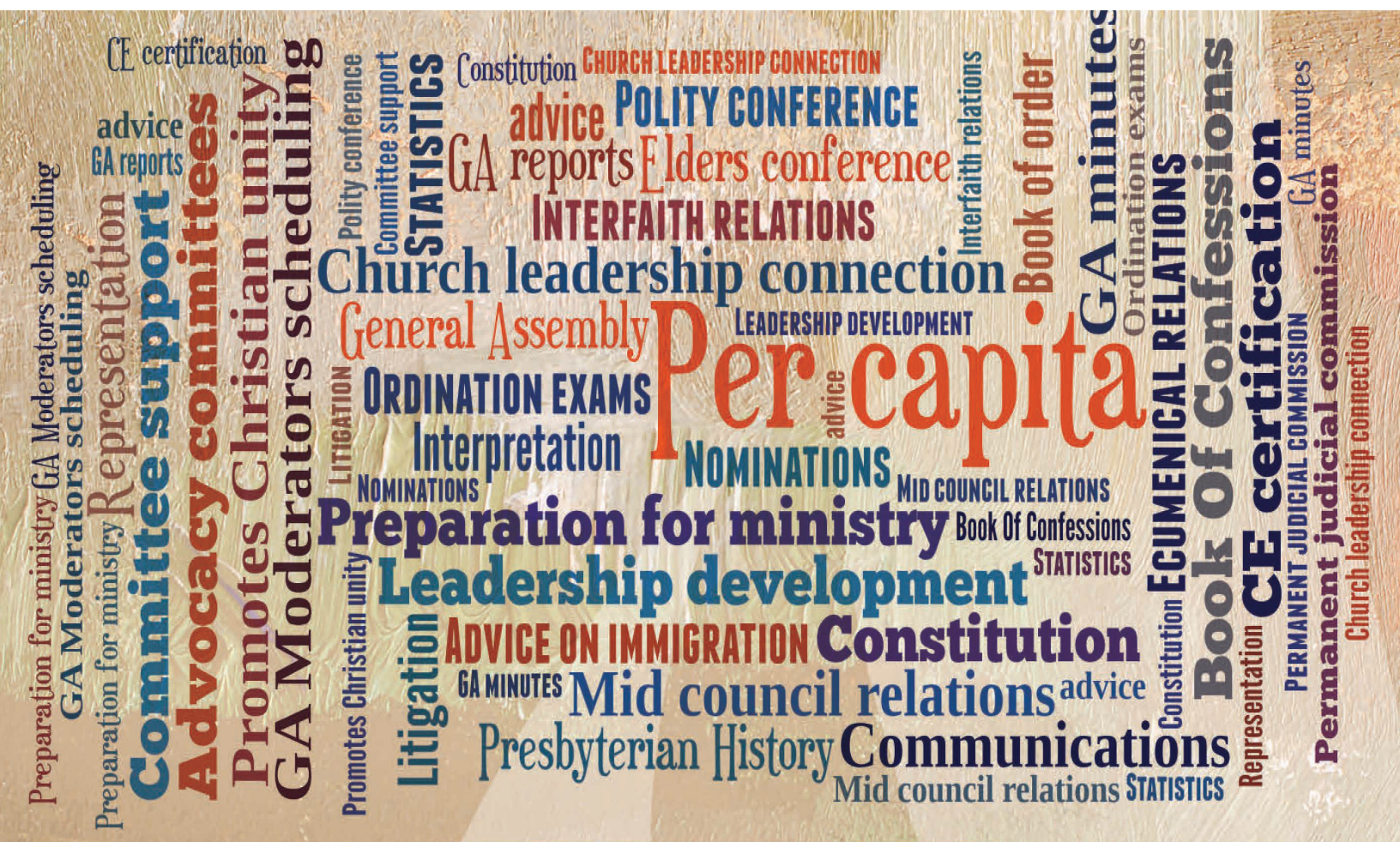
At the beginning of the budget year each member of FFPC is given the opportunity to contribute to what we call the 'initial giving' or 'per capita' payment. Per Capita is a gift dedicated to the ministries and programs of the larger Presbyterian Church. These include the Presbytery, which is made up of geographically connected congregations. Presbyteries help churches find pastors, resolve conflict and promote local mission efforts. It also includes Synods, which are groups of Presbyteries, that help govern the church, provide for camp and conference centers and equip pastors and other leaders. Lastly it includes the Denominational Offices, which allow the Presbyterian Church USA to have a national presence, provide for international missionaries and support various justice issues.

Our Per Capita payment is a joyful participation in the mission and ministries of our Denomination. This year the Per Capita amount is \$29 per member.

As you consider giving to this you should know that the total Per Capita payment that FFPC expects to pay is about \$10,000 for this budget year. Unless we receive dedicated funds to cover this expense, we pay for it out of the annual budget. We also commit to pay for the total Per Capita amount due before we release Mission Committee funds that are earmarked for the various charities and mission efforts that we support. Normally that means we do not give to local mission efforts as a church until June or July.

The earlier in the year we can pay off our Church's Per Capita contribution, the sooner we can give mission funds to meet local needs. Will you join me in joyfully giving toward Per Capita this year?

Pastor Robbie Carnes



## SAMARITAS UPDATE

If you're anything like me, this is a busy time of year! I would like to offer everyone an update on some of the families/individuals whom we have met in the past year. I will try to keep this update concise. If you have any questions about a particular event or family, please let me know and I can expand.



Salah: He is doing so well! Last month he passed his road test, earned his driver's license, and bought his first car! Many, many thanks go to a friend of ours who patiently test drove vehicles with him. He is also very appreciative of a grant that he received from ACCESS (a nonprofit out of Dearborn) that provided additional funds for his car purchase. Salah is definitely enjoying the freedom that comes with having his own transportation.

November also marked a change in schools for Salah. At a school board a few months ago, I learned of an alternative high school program offered by Fenton schools. The program, Gear Up to Lead, seems to be a better fit for his unique situation. Everything is still done online, but he now has the opportunity to go in two times a week for in-person help.



Rolly: Some of you may remember our friend from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He was the very first refuge that our congregation was able to serve. I have been in communication with him this month and am a bit sad to report that his situation is not much improved from a year ago. Although his English has improved greatly, the job that he has does not pay him enough to allow him to support his family in Malawi, nor save for the future. Half of his take home pay goes to his rent, leaving very little for him to live on. It came to my attention that he was not able to send his two boys to school this year because of lack of funds. He was a bit reluctant to share this with me as it is painful for him as a father to think that he cannot provide for his children. It always comes as a shock to me that so many people throughout the world have to pay for primary education, a privilege that I take for granted here. I am happy to report that I contacted one of the donors from last year and she was happy to pay the school fees for both boys this year. The money was sent directly to Rolly; he received it on Thanksgiving day and has already wired it to Malawi! Ben and Presley are back in school!

I am determined to help Rolly find a new job in the new year! He is working so hard and making so little progress; I just know there is a better place for him, and I am working to find it. If anyone has leads on jobs that pay living wages I would love to hear about them. He is willing to relocate if that is necessary.

Wilson & Nadine, and Wilengamina: Many months ago we met Wilengamina when we delivered a couch and sundry to her flat in Hamtramck. In a stroke of luck, the house next door to her went up for rent at the same time that another family (Wilson and Nadine) from the DRC arrived and they moved in. Now they are a community of two and are enjoying the ability to support each other. All of the children from these two families have enrolled in school and are doing well. Things can be tougher for the adults, and finding work near Hamtramck is a challenge. It is hard to imagine, with all of the help wanted signs that we see in Fenton, but there are no local jobs in their community. Wilson is the only one of the three to find a job. Our church mission committee discussed the need for ongoing support of these two families in particular and generously donated a cash gift to them. In addition, a few other household items and a Christmas tree were delivered on the 15th. Salah was a neighbor to Wilson



and Nadine when they all had first arrived and were living at the hotel in Madison Heights. He is very excited to see his old friends again.



New families are of course always arriving. Last month we were able to deliver some essential household items to a newly arrived Afghani family in Utica. We brought them couches and bedding and they surprised us with a cup of delicious hot tea and various Afghani foods. Everything was delicious and the hospitality joyful!

Finally, I was told last week of new family from Ethiopia. They are currently residing at the hotel in Madison Heights and Samaritas has asked if I would be able to put together any kind of Christmas collection for them. They are comprised of a mom (29yrs), her two sons (6 and 8yrs), and their two cousins a man and a woman (both 19yrs). I am going to try to put together a few simple gifts for them (a watch, personal car items, toys for the children). If anyone would like to contribute please contact me directly.

Thank you all again for your continued support. I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season.

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

### Treasurer Report - 2019 Financials

Profit/ Loss	September	Profit/Loss YTD Actual	Budget
Income:	\$26,539.26	\$281,750.04	\$210,913.00
Expense: *	\$25,054.88	\$228,214.86	\$225,944.00
Net Income:	\$1,484.38*	\$53,535.18*	(\$15,031.00)

\*this does not include additional obligations such as restricted funds or mortgage payments. These obligations result in a cash decrease for the year (\$(\$1,186.71)

\*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, Youth Scholarships, etc.

### Building Fund Report – November 30, 2019

Building Account Balance: **\$16,135**  
 Mortgage Remaining: **\$216,970**

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.

# Congregational Life

Happy Birthday to You  
 January 12th, 2020  
 During the 11:00am Coffee Hour

**We are looking for table volunteers to take responsibility for bringing a cake and decorating a table, so we can celebrate our birthdays in fellowship. Sign-up in Fellowship Hall.**

John Hodgkin	Jan 1	Carmen Ormsby	Feb 14	Harry Clark	Apr 3	Mark Martin-Fanone	May 19
Jim Lindsay	Jan 1	Margie Congdon	Feb 15	Sam Fetzter	Apr 4	Madeline Gibb	May 20
Marlo Howieson	Jan 3	D'Onte Fetzter	Feb 15	Jean Hermann	Apr 4	Anna Janowak	May 20
Jeanne Cupp	Jan 4	Katy Black	Feb 16	John Stork	Apr 6	John Danules	May 21
Dick Berger	Jan 6	Mitzi Uebel	Feb 19	Betty Brandon	Apr 10	Robert McLive	May 21
Jim Carter	Jan 6	Rog Zollars	Feb 20	Bob Brownlee	Apr 12	Jerry Welch	May 22
Bill Brandon	Jan 8	Carly Foguth	Feb 23	Gretchen Coles	Apr 12	Jenny Gibb	May 23
Carolyn Post	Jan 8	Julie Maloney	Feb 25	William Eddington	Apr 14	Jeff Stone	May 24
Linda McCleary	Jan 10	Vanessa Skaff	Feb 26	Christian Coffin	Apr 16	Bev Tippet	May 24
Nancy Parkin	Jan 11	Sally Harwood	Feb 27	Meredith Weldon	Apr 18	Gerri Danules	May 29
Pam Coffin	Jan 13	Heidi Howieson	Feb 27	Mark Gibb	Apr 20	Shirley Israel	May 30
Nikki Black	Jan 15	John Sharpe	Feb 27	Millie Roe	Apr 20	Tabatha Dolan	May 31
Barb LaPointe	Jan 16	Charmaine Thorley	Mar 1	Betty Jean Skinner	Apr 20	Aubrey Howieson	May 31
Gregory Bradley	Jan 18	Maureen Utt	Mar 1	Thelma Buffmyer	Apr 21	Bob Strom	May 31
Sarah Collier	Jan 18	Logan Kirkey	Mar 3	Barb Taylor	Apr 21	Dale Goss	Jun 3
Vicky Graham	Jan 19	Bob Browder	Mar 5	Sarah Kasprzak	Apr 25	Karen Terrill	Jun 3
Greg Ruppert	Jan 19	Guy Cowing	Mar 5	Lee Graham	Apr 28	Donna Anderson	Jun 4
Heidi Ritchie	Jan 20	Maggie Hodgkin	Mar 8	Sherry Hunt	Apr 28	Suzanne Carter	Jun 5
David Fisher	Jan 24	Phyllis Cmejrek	Mar 11	Lynne Watters	Apr 28	Kara Kinser	Jun 5
Terrie Fisher	Jan 24	John Maloney	Mar 11	Roy Fetzter	Apr 29	Lori Murray	Jun 5
Krystal Johnson	Jan 27	Rebecca Ruppert	Mar 14	Connie Morrison	Apr 29	Joshua Collier	Jun 7
Paula Glomski	Jan 28	Jan Foster	Mar 16	Jayce Erwin	Apr 30	Jane Motta	Jun 7
Joyce Guilbault	Jan 29	Judy Hope	Mar 16	Ann Fetzter	Apr 30	Bill Black	Jun 8
Heidi Roberts	Jan 29	Patti Nelson	Mar 18	Rachel Black	May 1	Doug Hartwell	Jun 8
Toni Ward	Jan 29	Deborah Vanderlip	Mar 19	Michael Pelletier	May 8	Al A Thomas	Jun 9
Florence Tencza	Jan 31	Brian Coles	Mar 21	Marilee Smiley	May 9	John Wrage	Jun 14
Alex Rourke	Feb 1	Jack Allen	Mar 22	Cameron Anderson	May 10	Rachel Baker	Jun 15
George Hameline	Feb 3	Henry Glomski	Mar 22	Morris Fulcher	May 10	Julie Grams	Jun 16
Jay Kirkey	Feb 3	Pam Andersen	Mar 23	David Hall	May 11	Colin Hodgkin	Jun 19
Shari Foguth	Feb 4	Marta Watters	Mar 23	Paul Joitke	May 11	Matt Janowak	Jun 20
Elaine Pelletier	Feb 7	Max Watters	Mar 23	Pat Allen	May 12	Jim Morris	Jun 20
Peggy Fowler	Feb 8	Gertrude Zueck	Mar 23	Melissa Erwin	May 13	Georgiann Tunningley	Jun 20
Jan O'Connell	Feb 9	Olivia Kirkey	Mar 24	Martha Smith	May 14	Joe Kryza	Jun 24
P.J. Collier	Feb 10	Sharon Cowing	Mar 25	James Foster	May 15	Caitlin Roberts	Jun 24
Edward Hoeglund	Feb 11	Scott Grossmeyer	Mar 25	Sarah Martin-Fanone	May 16	Richard Bard	Jun 25
Marsha Schwarz	Feb 11	Glenn Maxwell	Mar 26	Bob Clark	May 17	Nora Kryza	Jun 28
Bev Welch	Feb 11	Rhonda Moore	Mar 26	Debera Bard	May 18	JoAnn Beardslee	Jun 29
Jennifer MacLean	Feb 13	Madeline Davis	Mar 29	Carey Ritchie	May 18	Andrea Smith	Jun 30
Joanne Porter	Feb 13	Ina Golden	Mar 30	Chris Coffin	May 19	Richard Tunningley	Jun 30

Sharon Stone	Jul 3	Edwin H. Schwarz	Sep 4	Maggie Sheppard	Nov 24
Denise Warba	Jul 4	Pat A Tucker	Sep 6	Lee Black	Nov 25
Lisa Mehlberg	Jul 7	Clayton Miller	Sep 7	Thomas Allen	Nov 26
Rick Stanfill	Jul 9	Marc A Hoerauf	Sep 8	Aulene Becker	Nov 27
Edith Miner	Jul 10	Sharlyn Sutton	Sep 8	Jerry Hope	Nov 28
Tina Ritchie	Jul 11	Cheryl Kopplin	Sep 9	Lorraine Eshleman	Nov 30
Rebecca Ann Drake	Jul 14	Ron Andersen	Sep 12	Carey Muntin	Dec 2
Emily Anne Kinser	Jul 16	Karyn Kutchey	Sep 12	Greg Dean	Dec 6
Lindsey Gibb	Jul 17	Ruth Hanna	Sep 13	Doug Jacobs	Dec 8
Janet Stork	Jul 17	Laura Kinser	Sep 17	Karen Wensel	Dec 8
Brian Rourke	Jul 18	Sue Lantz	Sep 17	Larry Zimble	Dec 10
Nessie Brownlee	Jul 21	Roberta O'Hara	Sep 19	Jim Murray	Dec 13
Bruce Coffin	Jul 21	Halle Fisher	Sep 20	Sarah Smith	Dec 14
Debbie LaVanway	Jul 21	Madison Janowak	Sep 22	Nancy Berger	Dec 19
Jesse James	Jul 22	Larry Arrol	Sep 23	Barbara Hungerford	Dec 19
Rita Vadasz-Miller	Jul 22	Alice Maletic	Sep 24	Mike Hussar	Dec 19
Ellen Horton	Jul 23	Gloria Butts	Sep 29	Jon E. O'Connell	Dec 19
Cameron Miller	Jul 23	Jeff Collier	Sep 29	Mary Zimble	Dec 19
Robert Chappelle	Jul 24	James Kryza	Sep 30	Melissa Browne	Dec 21
Cindy Crawford	Jul 25	Doug Watters	Sep 30	Amber Danules	Dec 21
Max Kryza	Jul 25	Jamie Janowak	Oct 1	Dennis Beardslee	Dec 25
Sharon Crary	Jul 26	Cherri Maxwell	Oct 1	Brandon McLive	Dec 27
Jacob Kinser	Jul 26	Denise Morris	Oct 5	Scott Rourke	Dec 27
Keith Morris	Jul 26	Julie Hussar	Oct 6	Elizabeth Thomas	Dec 27
Brian Smith	Jul 27	Waverly Ritchie	Oct 7	Meghan Smith	Dec 29
Maggie Watters	Jul 28	Peggy Fulcher	Oct 9	Tracy Williams	Dec 29
Adie Eddington	Jul 29	Steve Sutton	Oct 11	John Foguth	Dec 31
Sherry Rourke	Jul 29	Gene Morrison	Oct 16	Don Kutchey	Dec 31
Toadie Middleton	Jul 30	Linda Wilson	Oct 16		
Ken Wensel	Aug 1	Brent LaVanway	Oct 19		
Judy Brown	Aug 2	Ernie R. Miller	Oct 20		
Craig Williams	Aug 3	Fran Moore	Oct 21		
Jan Jacobs	Aug 5	Cynthia Rzepka	Oct 22		
Adam J. Weldon	Aug 5	Frances Allen	Oct 25		
Jim W Savage	Aug 7	Sandy Nelson	Oct 26		
Michael Skaff	Aug 7	Nancy Nelson	Oct 29		
Vera Thornton	Aug 9	Kate Kirkey	Nov 1		
Peggy Blough	Aug 10	Chris Anderson	Nov 3		
Johnny Foguth	Aug 11	Kelsy Hoerauf	Nov 6		
Holly Hodgkin	Aug 11	Cathy Hollopeter	Nov 6		
Lin L Savage	Aug 12	Christopher Browne	Nov 7		
Linda V. Miller	Aug 13	Nancy Casteel	Nov 7		
Shirley A. Cook	Aug 14	Chris Gilbert	Nov 8		
Billie E. Morris	Aug 14	Cheryl Sharpe	Nov 8		
Mark Grams	Aug 19	Joy Thompson	Nov 9		
Clark Casteel	Aug 22	Erin Bradley	Nov 10		
Jennifer Wenzel	Aug 22	Joan McLive	Nov 10		
Gary LaPointe	Aug 23	Jonathan Wenzel	Nov 10		
Eric Murray	Aug 23	Dave L Johnson	Nov 12		
Walt Hungerford	Aug 24	Chas Kopplin	Nov 12		
Bonnie Griffith	Aug 25	Bruce Fowler	Nov 13		
Mary Frazier	Aug 27	Larry McMellen	Nov 14		
Sherry Zollars	Aug 27	Annabeth Carnes	Nov 15		
Steve Muntin	Aug 29	Michael Cupp	Nov 15		
Polly Sheppard	Aug 29	Noah Crawford	Nov 17		
Laurie Thomas	Aug 30	Amy F. Fetzer	Nov 17		
Royce Hyde	Aug 31	Spencer Sutherby	Nov 19		
Shannon Clemens	Sep 4	Harold Skinner	Nov 21		
Doug Congdon	Sep 4	Shirley Walker	Nov 23		
Shane Maloney	Sep 4	Sara Wrage	Nov 23		

**Don't see your birthday listed here? Please contact the office so that we may update your information.**

# Membership & Communication

## Here's an Easy Way to Invite People to Church by Alex Tran

Let's face it. When we invite people to church, the idea of it can be nerve-wracking.

There's a lot of inner dialogue that happens. How do I bring it up in conversation? What if I come across as judgmental? What if I get rejected? What if I make them uncomfortable?

The tendency is to ask a lot of "what if" questions that focus on the negative side. But what if you reminded yourself of the potential, instead?

*What if God has been preparing their heart and has been waiting for me to invite them?*

*What if they say yes?*

*What if they're hurting and find healing at church?*

*What if they give their life to Christ, and future generations are changed because of it?*

Keep those in mind, and use the tips below to overcome any fears you might have! If you're living in a culture where Christianity—let alone church—seems like an impossible topic, you might enjoy this post about talking about Jesus with friends of any faith.

### How do you bring it up in conversation?

#### Approach #1 – When you're not sure whether they attend a church.

Lead with this simple question.

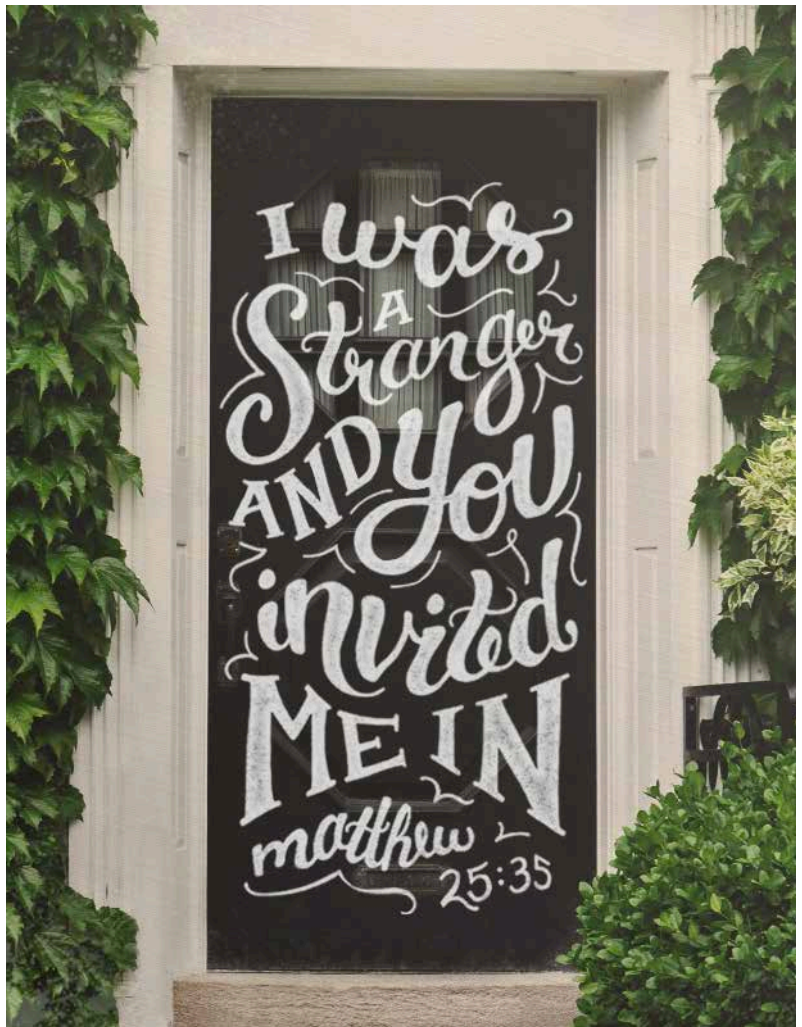
I was wondering, do you go to church anywhere?

If they answer yes, then the follow-up conversation is easy.

That's great! So happy to hear you have a church home. What church do you attend?

This approach works because it celebrates the church they're connected to and shows them you're not trying to recruit them to your church.

If they answer no, you can follow up with an invite.



Well, if you're ever looking for a great place to go, I go to (insert your church here) and would love to see you there!

This language is simple, casual, and friendly in tone. It doesn't assume they're looking for a church and leaves the decision up to them.

If they don't ask a follow-up question or engage further, then you'll want to leave the conversation at that. If they ask a question or share a bit of their faith journey, then it's a good sign they're open to hearing more.

Take the opportunity to share more about your church: why you love it, how God's used it in your life, give them an invite card, etc.

## **Approach #2 – When you know someone doesn't attend a church.**

Try leading with this question:

I'm curious—did you ever go to church when you were growing up?

The key with this question is how you follow up.

This question is an easy way to start a conversation, but the real value is learning more about a person's background with church, faith, and Christianity.

There could be many reasons why someone doesn't currently attend a church. They could've had a bad experience growing up. Been hurt by people. Maybe they've always wanted to but never made it a priority.

Whatever the reason, you're trying to understand why. So don't be afraid to ask follow-up questions.

*Have you ever thought about attending a church (again)?*

*If you don't mind me asking, how come you don't see yourself going to church?*

*If it's not too personal a question, what was the bad experience you had?*

The answers to these questions will help you tailor a more personal invite at the right time. Use what you learn, and ask God for wisdom on how best to invite them to church. That could be during this conversation or another time.

Is there something about your church they'd like? Is there a specific message series you can share that speaks to a situation they're going through? Do you apologize on behalf of other Christians or churches that have hurt them?

Remember, you don't have to invite people to church the very first time you talk to them. That can be something you work toward.

## **How do I avoid making a person feel judged or uncomfortable?**

It's all in the approach.

Notice the "posture" the conversation starters above take. They're casual and friendly. They don't assume anything and don't force any type of answer. Pay attention to the conversation and engage as much or as little as you feel the other person is comfortable with.

That's the key to inviting someone (or having a conversation about faith) without the person feeling judged or uncomfortable.

And don't forget to always invite with kindness.

How you end the conversation will be how they remember your invite. So be kind, gracious, and understanding no matter the response.

### **What if I get rejected?**

You will, but don't let it discourage you. It's not the end of the world, and it's not personal.

Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success.

Dale Carnegie says *A "no thanks" won't negatively impact your life. But a "yes" could change someone's life forever. Press through any fears of rejection and keep inviting! You'll never get a "yes" if you never ask.*

Another common fear is getting a negative reaction.

In my experience, almost everyone will accept your invite graciously whether they're interested or not.

As you invite people to church, you'll find most of your fears are not reality. Rejection isn't as bad as you think. People generally avoid confrontation. They're not going to be hateful toward you or feel judged by you.

Now let's play the what if game again.

*What if they say yes?*

*What if they experience authentic community and love for the first time?*

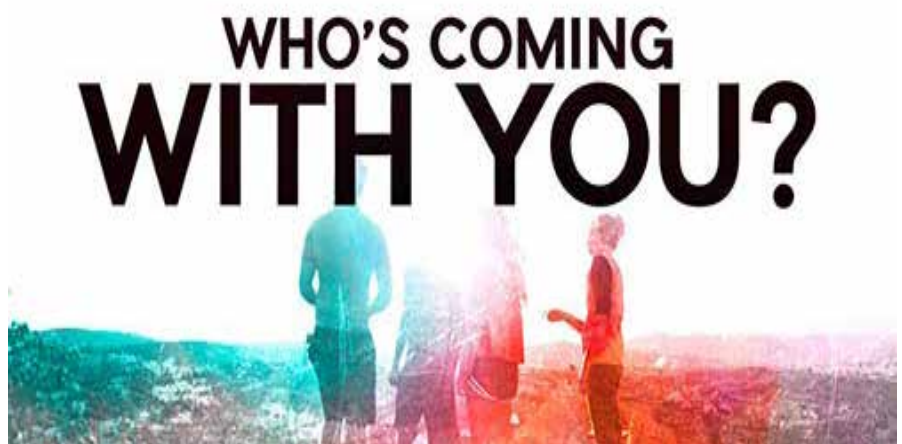
*What if the church renews their faith and hope in Christ?*

*What if they find their identity in Christ and walk in greater confidence?*

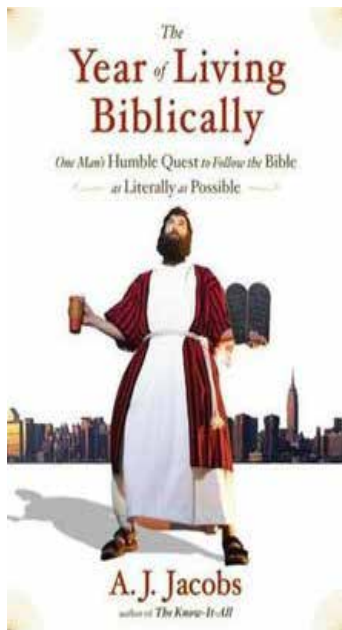
God wants to use you. And often, it's through a simple invite. If we do our part, God will do His part. We just have to plant the seed.

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. 1 Corinthians 3:5-6 NIV

**Who will you invite this week?**



# Christian Education



## 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.

## Tuesday Bible Study:

### Tuesday Bible Study: 1 Thessalonians: Sharing the Faith

January 7, 14, 21, 28 from 11am – 12:15pm

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

Are you longing to learn how to share your faith? Or do you want to but don't know where to begin? Or does the whole idea terrify you? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this series is for you.

**1 Thess 1--To partner with God in evangelism, we must know what a disciple looks like.**

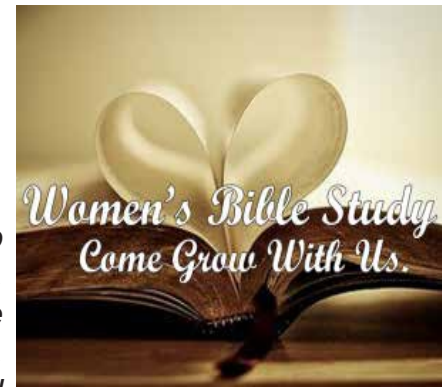
**1 Thess 2:1-12--The apostle Paul can teach us a lot about evangelism.**

**1 Thess 2:13-3:5--What to expect when you share the Gospel.**

**1 Thess 3:6-13--When you partner with God, expect encouragement.**

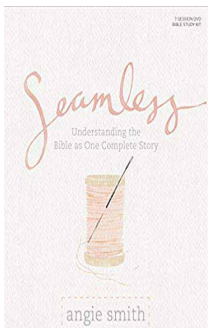
Ever wondered why Bible study might be for you? Here a few reasons from women in our Monday and Wednesday groups. New ladies are always joining us, with our group representing 6 different denominations and many coming from communities as far as Clarkston and Commerce Township!

*"I initially took Bible Studies on Sunday mornings with Pastor Larry to be supportive of my husband. As years went on I wanted to learn more. Monday night classes interested me because I am still working. "The Women of the Bible" and "Love and Logic" were two studies I enjoyed. My favorite study so far has been "Seamless" by Angie Smith. It helped me understand the whole Bible and the connections as one seamless thread. The whole bible was broken down and it was not so overwhelming. She made it easy to understand and she not being a Christian from birth, gave an enthusiastic and refreshing spin on the bible. In addition to the learning, I met new people and got to know them better by studying with them for weeks. The atmosphere in the room is very accepting and we share and learn together with no judging. I feel refreshed after each class." Blessings, Mary Zimblar*



*"Women's Bible studies are a comfortable place to learn and grow, offering a variety of studies that I enjoyed. My favorites are Stepping Up by Beth Moore and Seamless by Angie Smith." – Pam Coffin*

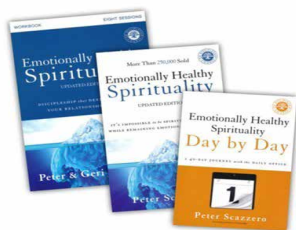
*"Women's groups are Bible based studies in a comfortable, non-judging setting, with amazing women of all ages and backgrounds. These women have become my dear friends and mentors. There are a variety of Bible studies that we all study and learn together. We ask questions, share our own stories, and all in the attempts to grow closer to God." -Anonymous*



**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



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

**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.





## Financial Peace Corner

### Make Promises, Not Resolutions, in 2020

*Chris Hogan*

We have high hopes for ourselves on December 31, don't we? Maybe it's the champagne or the confetti, but something about that night makes us feel like we can do anything. Some people

make the same resolutions year after year—hoping that this is the year when they'll finally run that 5K, or make more money, or read more books.

Oh, please. We all know what happens next. We sign up for a gym membership and maybe go a handful of times. But by early February, we can't even find our tennis shoes.

#### WHY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS DON'T WORK

59% of Americans who made New Year's resolutions in 2019 said that they wanted to exercise more, and 51% said they wanted to save more money.<sup>1</sup> It's easy to make a resolution, but it's a lot harder to keep it. But why? Because resolutions are vague. They're fuzzy. They feel fun or empowering in the moment, but we drop our resolutions about as fast as the ball drops on New Year's Eve—because there's nothing on the line.

Instead of resolutions, let's make promises. Promises are powerful because they carry weight. When you make a promise, you give your word to someone. You've just raised the stakes. You're motivated by an internal desire, not an empty holiday tradition.

#### HOW TO MAKE NEW YEAR'S PROMISES

So, what in the world is a New Year's promise? And how do you make them? Keep in mind that this will take some time. I encourage you to set aside an hour or two and follow these four steps.

##### 1. Reflect On The Past Year

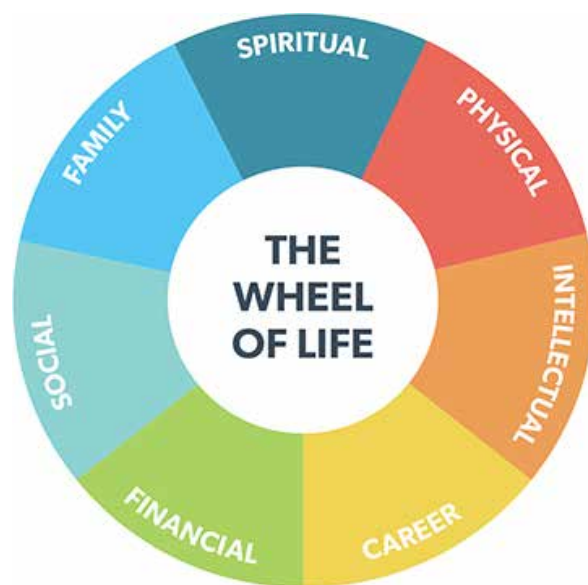
Look back all the way to January and make a list of the major life events in your job, your family, your personal health, and your relationships. What were the highs from this year? What about the lows? Just making that list will help you relive some of the most significant moments of your year and get you thinking about what you've done well and what needs to change. Making big changes starts by being in the right mental space. Our thoughts drive our behaviors, and our behaviors determine our progress.

##### 2. Consider The Changes You Want To Make

Here at Ramsey Solutions, we talk a lot about the seven spokes on The Wheel of Life, developed by Zig Ziglar—one of the greatest motivational speakers who ever lived. I love looking at my life through these seven filters as I make promises and set goals.

Think about your life from these seven perspectives. Then, picture the future you want to have and write down one or two changes you need to make to get there.

**Spiritual:** How's your spiritual health? Would you like to pray more, or find ways to serve in your community?



**Physical:** 2020 could be the year when you finally shed those extra pounds. Or maybe you want to train for a race or have your best year yet on the golf course.

**Intellectual:** Think about strengthening your mind as well as your body.

**Career:** Do you want to move into a leadership role at work, or develop a new professional skill?

**Financial:** Maybe you want to get out of debt, pay off your house early, or increase your retirement savings.

**Social:** Do you have strong, healthy friendships, or do you need to make a few phone calls and reconnect with some people?

**Family:** How much time do you spend with the people who matter most?

### 3. Make Your Promises Achievable And Measurable

Go back to your list and rewrite the seven changes you want to make as promise statements. When you make a promise, it raises the stakes. You give your word and put your reputation on the line. You also involve other people, which allows them to hold you accountable.

Make sure that your promises have a specific goal that is achievable and measurable. Here's what I mean: You need to cast a big-picture vision for your promises, but you also need a plan for how you're going to get there. Include a time frame in your goals. Otherwise, how will you measure progress?

**I'll show you a few examples of what this looks like. Let's look at a financial goal:**

**I'd like to pay off my house early.**

Okay, we've got a goal here, but now we need a plan. Let's rewrite this as a promise and make it achievable and measurable. Check it out:

I promise to increase our monthly mortgage payment by \$200.

See the difference? Breaking up your big goal into bite-sized pieces will keep you focused and hold you accountable. Here's a family example:

**I want to spend more time with my family.**

This is a great desire, but what are you going to do to make it happen? How about this:

I promise to leave work by 6 p.m. so I can be home in time for dinner.

I promise to take each of my kids out once a month for a fun activity.

Woah. Those statements are powerful. It's easy to forget about a resolution you make for yourself. It's a lot harder to break a promise you make to your kids.

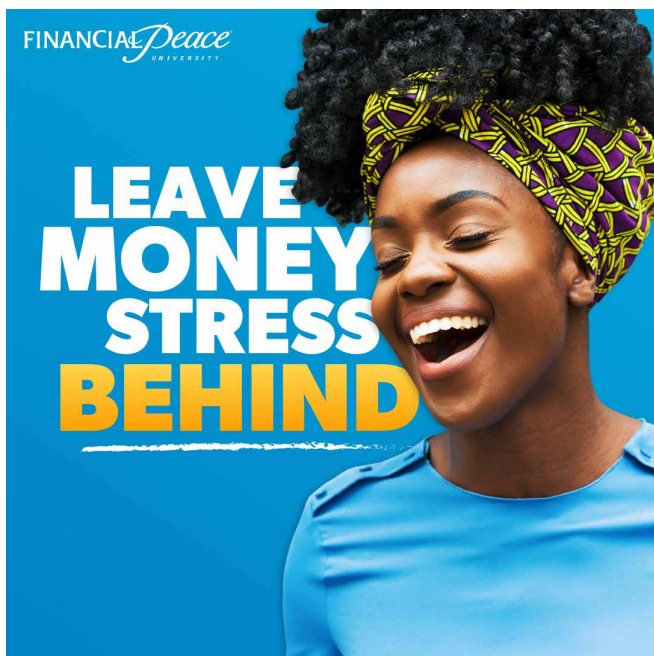
### 4. Share Your List With Someone You Trust

If you're married, loop your spouse into the conversation and ask them to encourage you and hold you accountable to your New Year's promises. If you're single, find a good friend or mentor who will be your cheerleader throughout the process.

**2020 could be your best year yet. It's up to you to decide!** Stay focused on the promises you make. Put the list up in your bedroom or hang it on your bathroom mirror. Trust me: You will get off track. That's why you need to realign with your promises every day.

## REACH YOUR MONEY GOALS

Do you have money goals for the New Year? Learn how to pay off debt, budget, build wealth, and live generously through Financial Peace University. It's the proven plan that's helped over 6 million people take control of their finances! Are you ready to join them?



## 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](http://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.**

### Learn how to:

- Lesson 1: Build a Starter Emergency Fund and Learn How to Budget
- Lesson 2: Pay Off All Debt
- Lesson 3: Save a Fully Funded Emergency Fund
- Lesson 4: Invest for the Future and Build Wealth
- Lesson 5: Buyer Beware
- Lesson 6: The Role of Insurance
- Lesson 7: Retirement Planning
- Lesson 8: Real Estate and Mortgages
- Lesson 9: Living and Giving Like No One Else

FINANCIAL *Peace*  
UNIVERSITY

**DEBT IS A  
THIEF!**  
**TAKE BACK**  
*Your life!*



## How Should I Respond to my Preteen's or Teen's Normal Behavior?

Knowing what's within the wide range of "normal" behavior for preteens and teens helps us spend more time enjoying them and less time worrying. It also gives us a sense of when we might need to get some professional help for the kid or the family. Very importantly, it helps us respond in ways that avoid damaging our relationship and produce rebellion. Listed below are just a few contrasts between helpful and unhelpful responses:



### Helpful Responses

- Listen to their opinions—display respect and love even if you disagree.
- Trust that they will eventually become very much like you if you maintain a good relationship.
- Encourage them to take on more responsibilities, such as managing their own money, getting ready for school on their own, working things out with teachers/coaches, etc.
- Talk about your political and religious views when they can overhear you talking with others. Keep the tone positive and constructive, interwoven with love for others. Love them the same regardless of what they decide about these topics.
- Do your best to live according to your values. Admit when you fall short of doing so. Be real.
- Provide lots of supervision done with an attitude of love and concern. Try not to leave them alone at home. Require that they come with the family on almost all outings.
- Get to know their friends and build relationships with them.
- Have regular meals together.
- Expect them to serve the family by completing their fair share of contributions.
- Allow them to drive when they are old enough, they have paid at least half of the cost, and they are good at following the rules of the home.
- Provide factual information about sex, including the risks. Do so with empathy and an attitude of high expectations for them. Point out that the people who wait until marriage usually have a lot fewer things to worry about as preteens, teens, and young adults.
- Have them set a reasonable curfew. "Reasonable" is the key. This can be different every night that they go out, but generally it shouldn't be any later than 10 p.m. If they refuse to be reasonable, set the time for them and make it early.
- Set significant limits over technology use. Do so by saying, "I allow the use of digital devices when it doesn't hurt our relationship. This includes causing me to worry about you."

## Unhelpful Responses

- Argue with them and try to set them straight.
- Worry constantly about their new attitudes.
- Rescue and get overly involved in things that they can do for themselves.
- Lecture them in an effort to make them believe what you believe. Let them overhear you being uncaring and critical of others.
- Hold higher standards for them than for yourself.
- Make the mistake of thinking that they no longer need as much supervision as they used to.
- Ignore their friends or treat them like “bad influences.”
- Let them “do their own thing” and never expect them to spend time with the family.
- Allow them to avoid their chores.
- Allow them to drive with no restrictions.
- Give them no information about sex, or just resign yourself to the notion that “every teen is doing it.”
- Allow coed sleepovers and let them go to houses where these are probably happening.
- Let them come home at night at whatever time they like. (Through this, you will demonstrate that you don’t really care what is going on in their lives.)
- Let them spend most of their time on their devices without supervision. Allow them to bond more with their screens than with you.
- Spend more time watching your screen than watching and enjoying being with them.

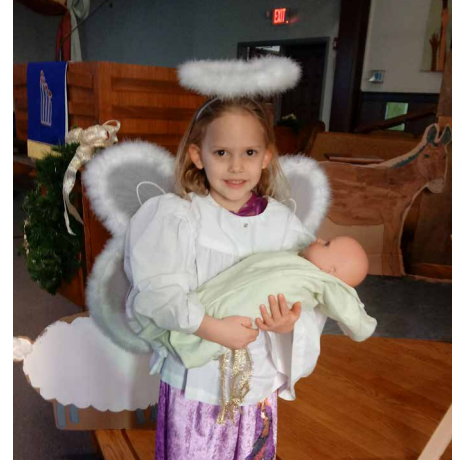


Always remember the big picture during this period of their development—the most important factor affecting the adjustment of our teens and preteens is the quality of our relationship with them. Remember that they still want us in their lives, but that they are also determined, like preteens and teens worldwide, to act like they don’t.

Thanks for reading! Our goal is to help as many families as possible. If this is a benefit, forward it to a friend. – Dr. Charles Fay

**If you'd like to learn more about Love and Logic tips and techniques, check out a book or other media from our library. To sign up to take the next course in the spring, please contact Tina Ritchie at [tina@ffpc.org](mailto:tina@ffpc.org) with any questions.**

**One Starry Night** This year we partnered with the Fenton chamber to offer this family friendly event to the community in conjunction with Jinglefest. While the event was not highly attended, everyone who participated had a great time. We are still in the process of building community awareness of this event, and next year the Chamber hopes to better promote us in their flyers. The Christian Education Committee thanks Gretchen Coles for taking on the role of coordinator, Terrie Fisher for her decorating genius, and all of the many volunteers who shared joy while working to make this a success! We look forward to next year!!!



**Souper Bowl of Caring**

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.



**On February 2, 2020 youth group will be collecting money from the community from 10am – noon outside our church at the intersection of Leroy and Shiawassee. All monetary donations will go to the North End Soup Kitchen.**



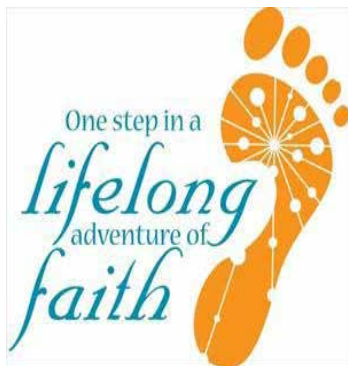
**You can help us build a can wall by bringing in canned goods beginning January 12. On February 2 we will dedicate the food which will go to the Fenton United Methodist Food Panty.**



**Sunday, February 2, 2020, 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%)

# Youth Ministry



## 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

**Jan. 26** - Fenton First Presbyterian Church

**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.



## Youth Group Schedule

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](mailto:tina@ffpc.org) or text 810-701-4136.

**Jan 4-5:** Lock-in for Youth Sunday Planning 6pm Saturday through 10am Sunday. Bring a snack to share.

**Jan 12:** Mission Event time and place TBD - Watch for more information coming soon!

**Jan 19:** Movies with Club 45, time TBD after church. Will it be Frozen????

**Jan 26:** Group, Soup & Talk Location: Martin-Fanone Home 5-7pm Topic: ???

**Feb 2:** Souper Bowl of Caring 10am – noon & fun event noon – 3pm Will it be sledding, ice skating, roller skating, or games at the MacLean's?

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

## 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!

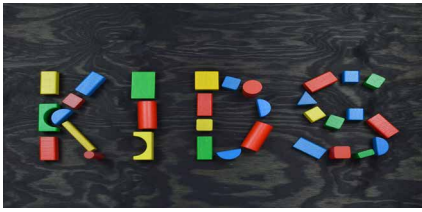
**3** Register your Kroger Rewards Card

**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

# Children's Ministry



## Club 45

Club 45 for 4th and 5th graders and friends are now meeting once a month joining in on youth group mission or fun activities. Club 45 and youth group members will continue the ministry of fostering relationships with other members of the congregation through their penpal program.

### Upcoming meeting are:

January 19: We're going to the movies after church! Time and cost TBD

February 2: Souper Bowl of Caring 10am - noon

February 23: Fun Event 5-7pm

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



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

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 People Restored” topics are:

#### Unit 16 – Hope in Exile (Daniel)

1/5 Nebuchanezzar's Dream

1/12 Daniel in the lion's Den

1/19 Daniel's Dream

**Big Picture Question:** Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know God hears us.

**Unit Key Verse:** *Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 NIV

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

1/26 Obadiah the Prophet (10am worship only)

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



# Worship Schedule

## **Don't be that Guy! A study in Proverbs**

**Exhibiting the Kingdom of God and sharing the Gospel of Love is difficult work when people don't want to be around us. We're often unaware of the rough edges (which are social and spiritual blind spots) that drive people away from us. The danger with blind spots is that you have no idea they exist, and can turn us into caricatures of Christians who are lacking Christian character. This month we will be studying the book of Proverbs to take a moral inventory and smooth out some of those rough edges. Proverbs is a book of wisdom, join us as we seek that wisdom together!**

**January 5th, 2nd Sunday of Christmas Installation & Ordination of Elders & Deacons  
Robbie Carnes Preaching, "Proverbs, Don't be that Guy: The Know It All";**

Proverbs 3:1-8. Nobody likes a know it all. That isn't because we don't like knowledge. It is because a 'know it all' doesn't allow room for anyone else to know or participate. How many times do we drive people away from us and the Gospel by sharing what we think, instead of seeking to listen to others?

**Communion:** 9:00am- Pam Coffin & Janet Stork  
11:00am-

**Ushers:** 9am-Dennis & Jo Beardslee/11am-Team #2

**Sound Tech:** Doug Watters

**Banker:** 11:00am Larry Zimble

**Coffee Hour:** Red Team

**Counters:** Shirley Israel & Dennis Beardslee

**Nursery & Preschool:** 9:00am Heidi Howieson & Julie Grams

**Gospel Project:** PreK-K: Heidi Howieson & Audrey MacLean  
1st-5th: Sherry Rourke & Janet Stork

**MONDAY, January 6th, Outreach 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.

**January 12th, Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Confirmation Weekend  
Robbie Carnes preaching, "Proverbs, Don't be that Guy: The Pot Stirrer";**

Proverbs 17:1,4,9,14-15,19; 18:2,8,13,17; Matthew 5:9. All throughout the 17th and 18th chapter of Proverbs there is a running theme of the foolishness and blindness of those who use their words wisely and those who foster discontent. We need to recognize the power of our words and learn how we might relieve discontent and negativity rather than maintain it. This is at the core of what Jesus speaks about when he says, blessed are the Peacemakers.

**Acolytes:** Marc & Kelsey Hoerauf

**Ushers:** 9am-Mike & Debbie Vanderlip/11am-Team #3

**Banker:** Deb Bard

**Sound Tech:** Mark Gibb  
**Banker:** 11:00am Julie Grams  
**Coffee Hour:** Orange Team  
**Counters:** Martha Smith & Sara Wrage  
**Nursery & Preschool:** 9:00am Heidi Howieson & Waverly Ritchie  
**Gospel Project:** PreK-K: Heidi Heidi Howieson & Waverly Ritchie  
 1st-5th: Sherry Rourke & Mary Zimble

### **January 19th, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

Lindsey Carnes preaching, "Proverbs, Don't be that Guy: The Debbie Downer";  
 Proverbs 4:23-27, Ps 37:4, Nehemiah 8:9-10. It is easy to develop a negative attitude, especially when we don't receive what we want or need. While depression is a chemical struggle for many, it also is a communicable and spiritual one. We are not called to be Christian Pollyannas, but we are called to live into the Joy of the Lord.

**Acolytes:** Matthew Maxwell & Emily Hollopeter  
**Ushers:** 9am-Sherry Hunt & Ellen Horton/11am-Team #4  
**Sound Tech:** Jay Kirkey  
**Banker:** 11:00am Jenn Wenzel  
**Coffee Hour:** Yellow Team  
**Counters:** Jon O'Connell & Jennifer MacLean  
**Nursery & Preschool:** 9:00am Heidi Howieson & Ina Golden  
**Gospel Project:** PreK-K: Heidi Heidi Howieson & Madeline Davis  
 1st-5th: Sherry Rourke & Janet Stork

### **January 26th, 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, 10:00am Combined Service & Congregational Meeting**

Robbie Carnes preaching, "Proverbs, Don't be that Guy: Chicken Little";  
 Proverbs 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. If we were to base our understanding of our world on what newspapers, TV and radio tell us we would despair easily. But that is not who we are as followers of Jesus. Even though the earth shakes and the mountains fall into the sea we will not fear, because God has it all in his hands. Avoiding despair can be a great effort and we need truth of God's Word and the love of God's community to establish hope in our hearts.

**Acolytes:** Mason Davis & Sammy Carnes  
**Ushers:** 10:00am-Team #5  
**Sound Tech:** Doug Watters  
**Banker:** 10:00am PJ Collier  
**Coffee Hour:** Green Team  
**Counters:** Shirley Israel & Ken Wensel  
**Nursery & Preschool:** 9:00am Heidi Howieson & PJ Collier  
**Gospel Project:** PreK-K: Heidi Heidi Howieson & Lindsey MacLean  
 1st-5th: Jeanne Cupp & Sherry Rourke

### **January 26th, 2020 is the Annual Meeting of Fenton First Presbyterian Church**

**In order to include as many church members as possible we will be having one worship service at 10am. After that service we will conduct our Annual Meeting which will review the 2020 Budget, accept the Annual Report and approve the Pastor's compensation. After our meeting has been accomplished we will enjoy refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.**

# Announcements



Book Binders will begin the New Year by reading The All Girl Filling Station by Fannie Flagg. We will gather January 14th at Margie Congdon's home, 11308 Fawn Valley Trail at 7:00 pm. The book for February is The Innocent Man by John Grisham. If you have any questions call Margie at 810-516-5603 or call the church.

**Downtown Readers book club** meets the last Tuesday of the month, 11:00 a.m., in the youth room. The January selection is An American Family: a Memoir of Hope and Sacrifice, by Khizr Khan. The February selection is To Heaven and Back, by Mary C. Neal. Men and women are encouraged to join. Happy Reading!

Dear Church Family,

We have had a very busy year with all the funeral luncheons and dinners we served up. We feel blessed having so many of you helping us providing the families with food, decorating, service and many other ways. It takes a lot of people to put on a luncheon. This is a blessing to be there to help the families honor their loved ones. Thank you for all the help you have provided this past year.

Blessings,

Funeral Coordinators,

Debera Bard, Julie Grams, Heidi Howieson, and Nancy Parkin



**Men of Fenton Presbyterian Church**  
**We're having breakfast.**

**Date:** 1st Saturday of EACH month

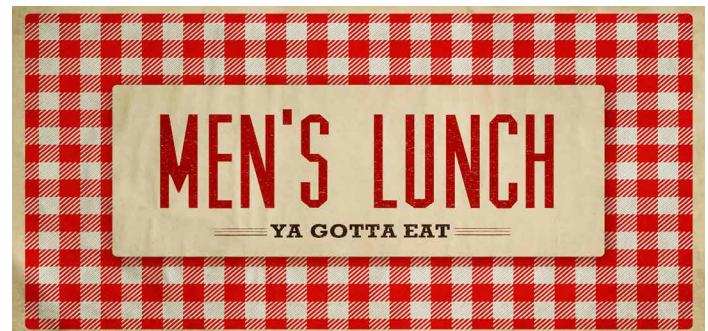
**Time** 8:00am

**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!



**Men's Lunch:** All men are invited to our men's lunch program four times each year. Our next men's lunch will be held at John's Pizzeria on North Leroy in Fenton: Thursday, January 9th, at 11:30 am. We will again order off their menu and everyone will pay for their own meal.

Please plan to come, enjoy the fellowship, and make new friends! If you have any questions, please ask Jon O'Connell, Ed Schwarz, Bill Black or Robbie Carnes. If you plan to attend, please let one of these men know so that we have an approximate number for the restaurant to plan around.

# WAYS TO GIVE

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



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



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



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



**Non-Cash Giving:** Assets or Planned Gifts



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

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