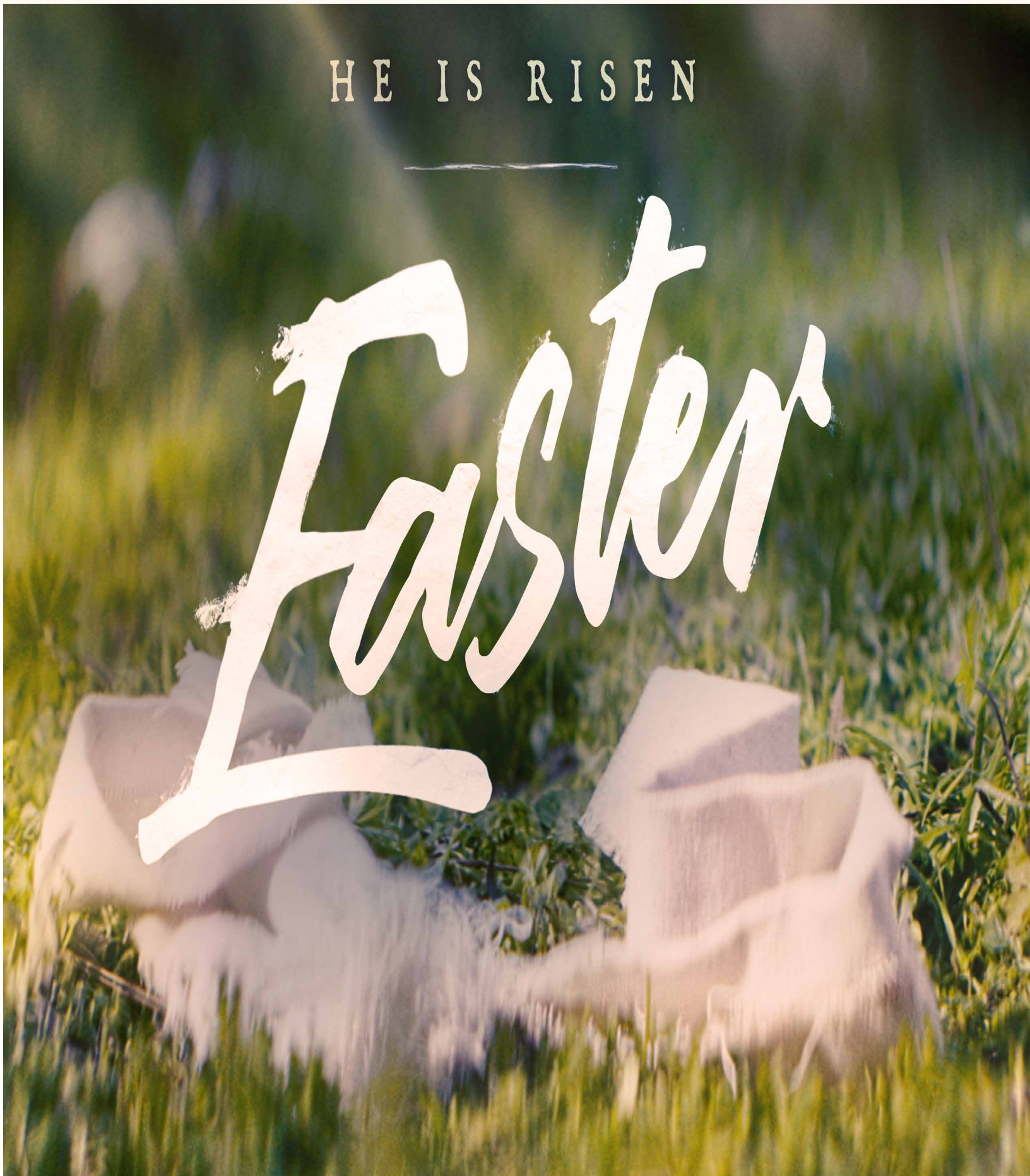


Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Living with Christ, Serving the World

HE IS RISEN

Easter



From You Pastors

Calming the Storm

by Pastor Robbie Carnes

It is difficult to find words to describe the days that we are living in. Historic is certainly appropriate, Terrifying and apocalyptic could be used as well, however that seems to be over the top. Perplexing and anxious might be the proper middle ground.

This is certainly how the disciples felt in Mathew 8:23-27. This is the story of Jesus and the disciples crossing the Sea of Galilee as a terrific storm comes up and threatens to upend the boat. The disciples find Jesus asleep in the stern. "Lord Save us!" they say, "we are about to die."



This is what it might feel like to you. The Storm is blowing with all it's might and for all we know, Jesus is sleeping in the boat and we are about to die.

There is no amount of hand sanitizer, soap and warm water or toilet paper that can combat our fear in times like this. We cannot fight this with violence or physical conditioning. Even if we dutifully quarantine ourselves we cannot guarantee that we will be spared from illness or heartache.

There is only one guarantee and that is Jesus. Jesus is Lord over the wind and the waves. Jesus will calm these storms. We may not be able to trust in the boat, the sails or the rigging, but Jesus is trustworthy, now and forever.

As we ride this storm out together, whether we are stuck at home or carefully traveling to work, remember that your faith is a muscle that needs to be exercised and cared for. It is times like these that we need to lean more into our faith and the spiritual practices than ever before. It is times like this that we need to build our daily routine on prayer and not on Netflix. It is times like this that we need to fill our mind with scripture and encouraging theology. It is times like this that we need to consider our real values, such as relationships with loved ones, to shape our lives rather than self focused desires to look successful, beautiful or accomplished.

The boat cannot save us, the ropes will give way, the sails have been shredded long ago. It is our faith in the risen Lord that will give us hope for the future.

How do you start your day? Is it with scripture or CNN? Do you wake up with your smart phone or in grateful and prayerful Union with our Lord? Have you considered singing a hymn before you turn on the radio today? CNN and the smart phone aren't bad things, but making a priority of grounding ourselves in our faith will make us stronger than we can imagine.

Friends, you are citizens of a Kingdom not of this world. The Kingdom is here and is coming. And the King still reigns.

Pastor Robbie

Coming Together During a Crisis by Pastor Lindsey Carnes

Many Trinity members are finding ways to help our neighbors and community during this health crisis. Some are checking in on neighbors by phone once a week. Others are sending cards. Another is calling through the church directory to get to know people she doesn't know as well. One family is helping pick up groceries and prescriptions for people.

I've found a way to use social media and being online on Facebook to help make nearly 1,000 masks for medical personnel in our area hospitals so far, by encouraging people to dust off their sewing machines. Several sewers from Trinity and FPC Fenton and even Girl Scouts have joined this area wide effort.

These designs have been approved for use by Genesys, McLaren, Hurley and other groups. Those who can sew, those who can't sew can cut, pick up donations of fabric, pick up masks from doorsteps to deliver to the hospitals. Others keep everyone organized and answer questions.

TESTIMONY from this week: *I brought masks to my unit for the nurses and staff, and it directly led to me being able to share the Gospel and hope of Jesus with so many coworkers! The fear, change, unity, and community support is tearing down the walls of people's heart, and so many people are willing to receive prayer, hear about Jesus, and focus on what really matters in this life. Having masks to pass out has opened up many doors for me and connected me with my coworkers in a brand new way.*

Just yesterday, in one day alone, we shared 3 Gospel conversations, prayed over each other as a unit, prayed over our patients at the bedside and as hospital codes were being announced overhead, laughed, cried, sang songs, and worked with strong teamwork. Masks are boosting morale, COVID-19 is bringing fear, Jesus is using it as a time to bring hope.

Thank you for partnering us in all you do! Also, thanks for making masks. If anyone has another pile ready to distribute, I can bring them with me to McLaren Flint!

Just imagine together the ways we can each help share the love of Christ. I'd love to hear your stories and share them to inspire others to do the same where the Lord has placed them. Call or email me to let me know your story or just to chat and pray 810-445-6780 pastorLcarnes@gmail.com

Blessings, Pastor Lindsey



Building Congregational Vitality by Pastor Robbie Carnes

At the time that I write this, our world is filled with so many unknowns and potential chaos that it is hard to image what our world, community and our church will look like in a month. What was something that we could conveniently ignore because it was on the other side of the planet has become a clear and present reality. Not only our conveniences are at risk but our freedoms. A mere 3 weeks of disruption has catapulted into 8 weeks. Vaccines are a year away and so little is know of this disease that it is hard to know how best to keep ourselves and our families safe and how to be responsible toward other people.

I am reading an article written by Colin Clark, who is a pastor in China, dated January 31, 2020., entitled '5 Prayer Requests from Behind the Coronavirus Curtain'. This was the time in which the virus was solely in China and Pastor Clark was describing how the rest of the Christian world could pray for the Chinese people suffering from illness and quarantine. His prayer requests, coming from a place of suffering to those in comfort are even more poignant in our situation today as our country and communities have been exposed to this Coronavirus.

Pastor Clark calls us to pray that we'd walk with faith and wisdom. Individually we are privy to a vast variety of information about the virus, the politics of containment and what our society might be devolving into. Fact-check what you know about Coronavirus'. Make sure you are getting solid and collaborated information from the CDC and other reputable sources. Trust and verify everything you hear when it comes to your health.

Also, be wary of concerns about political conspiracies, machinations, and governmental upheavals due to theses days. While pandemics have traditionally caused great changes in governments, societies and economies, as Christians, we need to remember that we are citizens of a Heavenly Kingdom and therefore we are emissaries of love, grace and mercy. Strive to not let political ideologies affect the way that you treat people or value human life. Remember that Jesus has all things in his capable hands and find your rest.

Secondly, Clark calls us to pray for healing and safety. Many of you know of or are yourself people at risk. Pray for the safety of those who are at risk. Pray that they might be spared the infection and that we as a society might calmly be patient with the steps that need to be taken for safety. It might be that at the time you read this you know people who have contracted this virus. Commit them to God and pray for healing. Jesus is our Great Physician. We are grateful for the knowledge and skill of doctors and other healthcare workers, but we trust ultimately in our Lord for our health and healing.

Thirdly, Clark calls us to pray for gospel opportunities. He asked that Chinese Christians, pastors and missionaries, business people, and educators would have open doors for gospel conversations in light of the crisis. What a faithful prayer! We need to pray the same thing today. In what ways can we share the hope that we have in Christ? In what ways can we demonstrate the love of God? Pray for the opportunity and when you see it, take it to the Glory of God.



MATTHEW 25

Fourthly, pray for wisdom in decision-making. Each of us need compassionate wisdom in the coming days. There may be people who have not had a paycheck for weeks. There may be families separated by quarantine. The decisions to stay home or go out—to hold a worship service or to not—weigh heavy on all of us. May God grant us wisdom in the midst of everything.

Lastly, Pastor Clark calls us to pray for church unity. We as a church need to stand together and support each other and continue to find ways to support our communities. This include(s) connecting in whatever way is feasible, whether through Facebook or telephone. It also means that we continue to give so that our church's institution remains healthy. It also means that the decisions made in the heat of crisis are met with forbearance rather than critical hindsight. We are the church together, let us bear each other's burdens as we seek to love God and serve the world.

Friends, don't give up hope. Christ offers it to us freely and constantly. Don't loose an opportunity to share that hope. May God bless you and keep you. May the Holy Spirit sustain you and strengthen you. And may Jesus remain with you now and always.

Pastor Robbie

View article here <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/prayer-requests-coronavirus/>



Let's
Pray
Together

“How to Pray When We Don’t Know What to Pray” Pastor Lindsey Carnes

Lately, when I when sit down to pray, I am almost overwhelmed by everything that comes to mind. Other times, I feel that I can’t put my prayers into words that fully express what I’m feelings. During times like these, I’ll open my Bible, and first open to the Psalms, which are in the middle of my Bible.

In my head, I’ve always known that they express the whole range of human emotion from elation, joy, security, confidence, lament, grief, and even anger. I keep coming back to book I read a number of years ago, *Praying the Psalms*, by Old Testament scholar Walter Bruggeman. He suggests that the Psalms reflect two very basic movements in everyone’s life. The “pit” and the “welcome place” out of the pit.

The “pit” happens when our world collapses around us and we feel that there is no way out of the deep hole into which we have sunk. The second is the move out of the pit into a “welcome place.” We suddenly understand what has happened and who has brought us up out of the pit.

In order to move out of the pit, we find ourselves moving through a cycle of orientation, disorientation and new/re-orientation.

A place of orientation, in which everything makes sense in our lives

A place of disorientation, in which we feel we have sunk into the pit

A place of new orientation, in which we realize that God has lifted us out of the pit and we are

in a new place full of gratitude and awareness about our lives and our God.

He has an intriguing way of categorizing the Psalms and bringing them into our own personal lives. He thinks that the many of the Psalms match those places and the surprisingly painful and joyful moves we make. There are Psalms of orientation (Ps. 8), disorientation (Ps. 13), and new orientation (Ps.29). And some Psalms go through this entire cycle.

We can read Psalms that match which place of orientation we’re in and they give voice to what we’re feeling and experiencing. And then we can read on to Psalms that remind us of where we have been and how God has brought us through that. And other Psalms give us a hopeful glance to where we might be headed. The Psalms become another prayer resource for us that express a faith robust enough in the face of any situation.

The movement from orientation to disorientation to new orientation is not only evident in the Psalms, but it is fundamental to the Christian life. “Our own use of the Psalms will then have more depth and significance in our prayer and devotional life. They have power for us because we know life to be like that,” writes Bruggeman. The Psalms give us the words to pray when we don’t know what to pray and give voice to concerns that are too deep sometimes for words.

*Weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.*

Psalms 30:5

Member Submission

Planting Seeds on a Bike Path by Jan Foster

While reading the Winter issue of "RCA Today" (the magazine of the Reformed Church in America) I was pleasantly surprised to find the Sprakers, New York Reformed Church cited as one of six congregations doing innovative outreach in their neighborhoods. The Erie Canalway Bike Trail (running from Albany to Buffalo) passes near the church; and recently the congregation placed a cooler of water bottles by a bench on the path along with signs at both ends of town advertising water, bathrooms, shelter; and offering food and hot beverages inside the church, all for free.



This was pleasant to read because my husband was their pastor from 1984 to 2001. Their outreach might be a surprise because the congregation has fewer than forty members, it might come as more of a surprise to learn that less than thirty years ago they were planning to disbanding the church.

The Sprakers congregation has been in upstate New York on the south side of the Mohawk River, about an hour west of Albany, since the 18th Century. The building is a small white structure which only added a small fellowship room, kitchen, and single bathroom in the mid 20th Century – and it still has no Sunday School rooms. The surrounding hamlet consists of fewer than two dozen houses. The congregation as always small; but by the early 1990s they were facing rapidly declining finances – having less than \$15,000 in total assets. It was estimated that the money would run out within two years. So at a meeting of the Consistory (similar to Session) they were making plans close the church.

Suddenly, amidst the gloom, an elder interjected, "I don't think we have the right to close this church! Not until we've finished doing everything we're supposed to do as the Church! We've spent so much time trying to survive we haven't thought about what we're here to do!"

Another elder added, "You know, that's right! If we're going to close our doors in a couple of years anyway we can go down fighting! There are folks around us we haven't reached!" This led to some ideas around the table: more visits to elderly residents; making up "Welcome Baskets" for new residents. The ideas multiplied and what had begun with talk of doom became an energetic exchange of ideas for ministry.

The Sprakers congregation followed through on many of the ideas. A couple of years later a teenager (there were just a couple) started a fund raiser to go on a mission trip to Latin American. She returned and enthusiastically shared her experiences with the congregation and other area churches. Several years later a dozen plus members participated in a similar mission trip (there were fewer than thirty members at the time).

The Sprakers Reformed Church is still one of the smallest in its denomination. It still has limited financial resources; but its members have a strong desire for ministry and mission. This is best described by an elder, Dianne: "We opened the door to look outside the four walls of our church and opened the doors of our hearts to welcome strangers as they pass through. Our intention was never to increase church attendance or income. It was merely a way to welcome others, to show hospitality, and perhaps plant a seed."

Not bad for a church that was supposed to shut down some thirty years ago. Surprising accomplishments? Perhaps, but not if you know this congregation.

Mission & Stewardship

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT April 12, 2020

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE —

- : Through your congregation
- : Donate by credit card online at presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs
- : Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10

-or-

You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

Text SHARING to 56512 to learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, or visit pcusa.org/oghs.

You shall be called repairers of the breach — Isaiah 58

In Isaiah 58, God issues a call and a challenge—to love one another more deeply by sharing what we have with those in need. Together, we become the household of God where those seeking shelter, food and renewed hope are welcome.

Received during the season of Lent, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to build God's household and welcome our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM: Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE: Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills



Financial Review February, 2020

Profit/ Loss	February	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income:	\$31,645.34*	\$87,734.89	\$64,340.63	\$283,010.00
Expense: *	\$25,444.99	\$49,516.62	\$53,969.79	\$326,515.00
Net Income:	\$6,200.35*	\$37,918.27	(\$10,370.84)	(\$43,505.00)

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

*A restricted fund are 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 January

Cash at Beginning of period:	\$97,157.42
Cash at End of Period:	\$80,609.22
Net Cash for Period (decrease)	\$16,548.20

Respectfully Submitted, March 10, 2020

Debera J Bard, Treasurer

Building Fund Report – February 29, 2020

Building Account Balance: \$ 17,781

Mortgage Remaining: \$190,187

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.

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.



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!!



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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION!

Congregational Life

We Stay Connected. We Stay Church. We Take Care of Each Other. ("Each Other" is All of Us.)

Staying connected while being physically apart: wellbeing in the time of social distancing

Just because we can't be physically close to our family and friends, doesn't mean we can't stay connected.

During the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, you are being asked to, where possible, avoid contact with people who don't live in your household. This will prevent the spread of germs, help stop people from getting sick and it will save lives. We expect this to be hard - it's hard for all of us. But it's the right thing to do at this time.

However, feeling socially isolated can impact your mental wellbeing. It can make people feel sad, anxious, lonely and depressed. We want to make sure that during this time, you have ways to stay connected to your family, friends and community, even if you can't see them in person.

Below are some suggestions for different ways we can stick together and support each other during this time, even when we are far apart.

Using technology to connect: We're lucky to live in a digitally connected world. Here are some ways you can connect with others wherever they are, using your phone or computer.

Video calling: Most smartphones and computers can make and receive video calls, so that you can see and hear the person you're talking to. If you haven't tried video calling before, BBC have made this guide about the different ways to make video calls on different phones, while this article by Tech Crunch takes you through different video calling options for different groups of people.

Online groups: Starting an online group where people can chat or leave messages can help you stay connected at any time. You might set up a group for your family, your colleagues, your street or suburb, or your friends. Your group might discuss anything and everything, or you might have a focus, like an online book club or gardening discussion group.

Digital games: Do you enjoy getting together with others to play games? While sitting around a table with friends to play board games is a no-no right now, you can have a similar experience playing games through apps, consoles or streaming services. Here's a list of games for small and large groups to get you started.

Online classes" While they are closed, lots of places that offer exercise and cultural classes are operating online. You could take an exercise class, stretch out with some yoga, feel the beat in a dance class or learn how to paint through an online art studio. Classes like these are a great way of feeling connected to other people without talking about viruses the whole time.



Virtual choirs and bands: Through video chat, lots of people have taken the pandemic as an opportunity to move their choirs and music groups online. Find one that's set up or start your own and make some music.

Social media: While too much social media isn't always great for your mental wellbeing, a little bit can go a long way. Checking in with others, sharing a nice photo or finding a funny video are all possible through social media platforms. Just remember that you get to decide who and what goes on your feed

No-tech ideas for connecting from a distance: Not everyone wants to or can use technologies like smartphones and computers to connect with others. But there are still ways you can connect without using any digital technology at all.

Write letters and postcards: When was the last time you picked up a pen and paper and wrote a message to someone? Write to someone close to you, write to someone you haven't talked to in a while, or pop a postcard in the neighbour's letterbox. Receiving mail is a rare treat these days, and you never know, they just might write back.



Share books or movies: Drop books or DVDs you're finished with into the letterboxes of neighbours and friends. Bonus points if you accompany them with a note saying why you enjoyed them. Encourage them to let you know what they think and pass the favour along to someone they know.



Participate in a bear hunt or create your own scavenger style fun: One of the cutest stories to come out of the pandemic? Suburb-wide bear hunts where neighbours have displayed their teddies on fences, rooves and in windows so children (and the young at heart) can play 'spot the bear' from a distance. It doesn't have to be a bear hunt, either. You could make any common object the prize of your scavenger hunt.

Have a street singalong: It's as simple as it sounds – get everyone out on their driveways or balconies, pick a song or make one up, and make some noise. Not sure where to start? Let the Italians inspire you.

Good, old-fashioned conversation: Whether it's with someone in your household over the kitchen table, or a friend on the phone, nothing beats a good chat. We've listed all types of fancy ways to connect above, but sometimes a simple conversation feels the best.

Keep in mind those without large networks: Not everyone has a large group of friends or family to check in on them. If you know of or notice someone who seems like they might be a bit lonely, make an effort to check in. Pop a note in their letterbox, send them a message, or just give a friendly wave and 'How are you?' as you walk by (without getting too close).

We often think of older people becoming isolated in their homes at times like these, but it's not just the elderly who might become lonely. Young people who live alone, single parents whose kids are now suddenly at home all the time, shift workers and people who travel to work away from their families – there are a lot of people in our communities who could do with a friend right now, and connecting can make you both feel good.

Care for the carers: During our response to novel coronavirus (COVID-19), there will be some people

in our communities who are doing a lot of caring and connecting with others. These will be frontline medical staff, emergency services workers, and people staffing hotlines and public services. There will also be the people in family groups who take care of the older generations or the children, or the neighbours who are making sure everyone on the street is doing okay.

You might be used to these people in your life being the ones who care for you, but now you need to take a moment to check in with them, and make sure they're looking after themselves, too. Even those among us who seem the strongest need to know they're seen and valued.

Feeling over-connected? Take a break: If everyone in your social circle is suddenly making plans to get in touch, or you're living in a busy household and just can't get away from others, you might actually feel a little over-connected and want some time to yourself. Taking a break from everyone else and just focusing on you is also an important part of selfcare. Read a book, watch a movie, meditate, go for a walk or have a bath. Whatever helps you relax and find peace in your mind is a good move right now.

Remember these lessons when the pandemic is over: Feeling connected to other people is good for us all the time, not just during a time of crisis. When the pandemic is over, remember what you've learned about the value of your relationships with others. Keep checking in, keep communicating, keep making the time to prioritise the relationships that make you feel great. It'll be good for all of us.

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/news-events/news/staying-connected-while-social-distancing-isolation-loneliness-technology-physical-connection-community-family-friends>

SATURDAY, APRIL 11



Join your church or camp for a VIRTUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Re-read the Easter story in your Bible. Before noon on April 11, post a picture that includes an Easter egg and tells us what Easter means to you.

Use the hashtag **#onebasket2020** and tag your church or camp! Families, see how many eggs and stories you can find!

As always, please monitor your child's use of media.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY CHURCHES OF THE PC(USA)



Christian Education



Sunday Evening Study: The Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to follow the Bible as Literally as Possible" By A J Jacobs. Group Discussion meets from 5PM to 6:30PM

This study will continue via Zoom, from 5:00pm-6:30pm, through April 19th

The next sessions topic is TBD by group attendees. We are considering the following:

Wisdom Literature (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job)
The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Other suggestions are welcome.

Anyone wanting to join, please contact the church office at office@ffpc.org or Larry Zimbler at larry@4squaretax.com

Tuesday Adult Bible Study with Pastor Lindsey Continues online weekly
11:00am-12:00pm

The Twelve Disciples: This study of the twelve disciples can transform your life as you see how the Master can take the most fear-filled and faithless among us and empower us to be confident witnesses of his grace and forgiveness. We'll study Jesus' disciples and three of the lesser known disciples.

Each week we'll explore Scripture or one event that is central to understanding that particular disciple, their unique gifts and abilities, as well as the struggles that they may have had to deal with.

Log-in details are below.

(1) Download Zoom (www.zoom.com) onto your computer or tablet and enter these codes to join the Meeting

ID: 983 542 300 Password: 194611

(2) Download zoom onto your phone or tablet or computer, then click this link and it will launch in Zoom. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/983542300?pwd=L3VjTUxIMG9PUmY0S3NLNUZaa2FEUT09>

(3) join by conference call by dialing 312-626-6799
When prompted enter the meeting ID code 983 542 300

Beginners guide to Zoom <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=fMUxzrgZvZQ>

Wednesday Evening Bible study: Praying at the Crossroads: Learning from the Prayers of Old Testament. Six week study beginning April 15th, from 6:30-7:30pm

Download zoom onto your phone or tablet or computer, then click this link and it will launch in Zoom.
<https://zoom.us/j/906855234>

join by conference call by dialing 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 906 855 234

Prayer is essential to our spiritual growth, yet few of us pray as often or as fervently as we would like. We turn to God only in moments of desperation and crisis. God wants us to turn to Him at every moment of our lives.

The Bible is filled with the prayers of God's people. Many of the prayers come at critical junctures of faith—at crossroads of decision. Scripture shows us multiple examples of people turning to God when there is nowhere else to turn for peace, comfort, guidance, and strength. Looking to these prayers of biblical leaders, we can learn to pray with new commitment and passion.

We will learn that the ancient prayers of Old Testament saints (Moses, Joshua, Deborah, Hannah, Solomon, Joel, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Habakkuk, Jonah, Daniel, Nehemiah) have much to teach us in our present circumstances, whether at a crossroads or on our daily path. Grow in your ability to pray. Together we will learn to call on God not only at crossroads but also in our daily lives.

Monday and Wednesday Women's Studies: Tina is looking into some online studies, watch your inbox for more information. Current studies will be rescheduled.

Looking for More? Free Online Bible Studies Available by LifeWay Women:

In times of uncertainty, LifeWay is grateful to serve a God who is sovereign and wants to draw near to us! One of the ways we love to gather around the Word in community is through our online Bible studies. So, from now through June 18, you can access all video teachings from 11 of our past online Bible studies (and one new one!):

Finding God Faithful by Kelly Minter

The Faithful by Priscilla Shirer, Kelly Minter, Beth Moore, Jennifer Rothschild, and Lisa Harper

Job by Lisa Harper

Just Open the Door by Jen Schmidt

Raised Together by Gloria Furman

Finding I AM by Lysa TerKerust

No Other Gods by Kelly Minter

Gideon by Priscilla Shirer

20/20 by Christine Caine

Defined by Stephen & Alex Kendrick

God of Creation by Jen Wilkin

Missing Pieces by Jennifer Rothschild

Simply visit onlinestudy.smallgroup.com, sign up, and start viewing the video sessions whenever is convenient for you or your virtual small group!

Pro tip! For the best experience, we recommend grabbing a copy of the Bible study book for whichever study you choose. This allows you to dive deeper in personal study between video sessions. And, through April 15, we're offering the eBook versions of the above studies for \$5! You can grab your copy of those eBooks [here](#).

Family Connections

Love & Logic Corner The Best Consequence by Dr. Charles Fay

Have you ever been at a complete loss for an effective consequence? One of the most common requests we get is:

“Can you give us a list of consequences?”

The reason you won't find this in any of our materials is that effective discipline involves far more than simply picking the right consequence. It involves building and maintaining loving relationships so that: (a) kids are less likely to rebel, and (b) they experience genuine remorse when they blow it. It also involves setting effective limits, sharing control within these limits, and teaching skills so children are prepared for life's tough challenges.

With this said, there are a variety of consequences that often outperform all others. These are often called “restitution.” We at Love and Logic refer to restitution as the “Energy Drain” approach. Performing restitution means to restore. It means to make things right by performing any action that repairs the inconvenience or damage inflicted on others.

It's the preferred type of consequence because it:

- Leaves kids seeing they can solve the problems they create
- Requires real thought, action, and learning
- Builds healthy self-esteem and efficacy
- Meets the need to reconnect when relationships have been damaged

While it's not always possible to repair a concrete object, it's almost always possible to replace energy drained from another person. Having kids replace voltage they sap is the approach of choice, particularly with youth who feel poorly about themselves and need to see they are capable of doing good.

The next time your child drains somebody's energy you may want to experiment with saying, “This is so sad. What an energy drain. How are you going to replace that energy?” Then provide some options, such as:

- “Some kids decide to do extra chores.”
- “Others decide to wash the person's car inside and out.”
- “Some decide to stay home instead of being driven to practice.”

Be positive and thankful about their energy replacement efforts. Don't try to make them feel bad, and don't be surprised if they appear to enjoy replacing your energy.

Kids don't have to feel horrible to learn from restitution. In fact, many will feel good about it. When this happens, it often translates into fewer battles for everyone involved.

To learn more about this approach, and what to do if your child refuses to replace your energy, listen to our audio, Love and Logic Magic When Kids Drain Your Energy.

FOMO vs. JOMO

A recent discussion during Youth Group was on FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) vs. JOMO (Joy of Missing Out). FOMO can be exhausting and overwhelming when we try to fit everyone and everything in, including the things we don't really want to do yet feel we have to to stay connected. JOMO, on the other hand, encourages us to be present and embrace the pleasure of choosing what we want to do, or not do, in a way that fulfills us. When we embrace JOMO our relationships improve.

Below is an article by Dr. Henry Cloud from the Boundaries.me site:

“How many of you are familiar with the term FOMO — Fear of Missing Out? It happens when we believe we're being excluded from an experience or information is being withheld from us, and it creates anxiety or envy in our lives.

When a notification on your phone goes off, do you feel compelled to answer it right away? What feelings do you experience if you feel like you don't respond immediately?

FOMO has a deeper aspect, which is what psychologists call a dependency issue. It happens when individuals don't feel solid or complete on their own and require constant contact with others. The constant contact serves to stabilize their sense of stability and peace inside.

Dependency is a good thing; we're all dependent on each other for the love and support we need, but healthy dependency doesn't mean we must be online with each other most of the time. We are to connect, go out into the world, connect again and refuel, and go out again into the world. Healthy lives are those in which we can “fuel up” via our relationships, digital and nondigital, then go to accomplish what we need to accomplish.”

If you'd like to learn more about setting healthy boundaries and how to have more joy and authentic connection in your life, subscribe to the boundaries.me website, or see Tina Ritchie for more information!



What is **FOMO**?
And How the
**FEAR OF
MISSING OUT**
Limits Your
Personal Success

Financial Peace Corner: Stuck at Home? Here's What You Can Do

Chris Hogan, Author, Speaker & Ramsey Personality



VIPs, things are tough right now. I firmly believe that we will get through this crisis by getting clear and staying focused on what matters most. One of things that we can do in life is give! So, I want to encourage you to find ways to give and support others.

Here's the reality: We can beat this pandemic if we commit to taking care of each other. Let's decide right now to be generous with what we have. Here are five ways we can work together:

1. Support your local church.

If you're a part of a faith community, your church is probably adapting—streaming online services, organizing virtual small groups, and caring for the vulnerable. Stay engaged, watch from home, and (if you can) give financial support.

2. Lead an FPU class online.

More than ever, people need HOPE and practical advice on how to manage their money. You can sign up to lead a virtual class of Financial Peace University and help people find life transformation.

3. Give BIG tips for food delivery.

Delivery and carryout services are the lifeline that's keeping your favorite restaurants (and their staff) afloat. You don't have to give a couple thousand dollars next time you order takeout, but what if you could hand a \$50 tip to the pizza guy?

4. Adopt a senior citizen.

Call up your grandparents or elderly friends and offer to pick up and do their laundry, drop off groceries, or give them a tutorial on how to use FaceTime so they can connect with their loved ones. You can also donate your money to an organization like Meals on Wheels.

5. Give blood.

The coronavirus is causing a severe shortage in blood donations. If you're healthy and able to give, visit the Red Cross website to find a drive near you that is still open.

Remember, we're a group of people who don't make excuses. We make progress.

If you've come up with some creative ways to be generous during this time, we want to hear about it! Share your story with us on the Everyday Millionaires Facebook Group.

P.S. Here's one more way you can give someone hope (for free!) without ever leaving your house: Write a note of encouragement. Send a handwritten letter to a family member you won't see for a while or leave a note on your door to cheer up the Amazon delivery worker.

Youth Group

Hey Youth Group: Join us for Youth Group Check-In Party's via ZOOM on Wednesdays and Sundays at noon. Check your youth group news email for the link, or text Tina at 810-701-4136 for more info.

On Sunday, March 29, during our first check-in party 5 youth wrote this Psalm :

Response to Social Distancing During COVID 19

O Lord, thank you for this time to unwind and spend with family;

Even in bad circumstances we receive good things.

But Lord, why is this happening? Where are you?

We ask for healing for all those in need;

We pray for comfort for all of us are affected.

O Lord, what can we do during this time of crisis and social distancing?

Increase our knowledge and sense to stay home.

Help us trust that Your will be done.

We hope for change.

Calling All Graduates!

It's that time of year to contact the church office with the high school or college you are graduating from, and degree if appropriate, by May 18 so we can post in the June newsletter.

The Christian Education Committee and Pastors would like to recognize your achievements during 10am worship on Sunday, June 7. We look forward to celebrating with you, hearing about your future plans, and praying over you. May you feel God's presence with you always!



Childrens Ministry

THE GOSPEL PROJECT FOR KIDS

Sunday School at Home!

Dear Parents and Teachers,

Supplement Sunday school from home by using the temporary Digital Pass experience through LifeWay Kids. Each week's free resources include a video session with a downloadable Activity Page and One Conversation Sheet. To access the Digital Pass, family is asked to follow the steps below:

Step 1: Go to my.lifeway.com/redeem

Step 2: Register if you are a new user or log in if you already have an account

Step 3: Enter this redemption code: VZMD4SSQ38

Step 4: Click "Access" (if prompted to sign in again, sign in) and then click "My Dashboard," and go to LifeWay Kids at Home

Step 5: Download your Activity Page and One Conversation Sheet to use as you watch the video session

We hope that these sessions and downloads are impactful for you and your family.

You can also check each session's Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content each week. <https://www.lifeway.com/en/shop/the-gospel-project/kids/app>

UNIT 19 KEY PASSAGE: John 1:1-2 NIV "The Word Became Flesh"

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

EASTER BASKET

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

- 2 TIMOTHY 1:12 NIV

Resources for Families with Children

•Each week the PC(USA) store is providing in their emails and on their Facebook page a free story with corresponding activities and a pack of five coloring pages from the children's curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude. Click the links above for this week's offering.

•Our friends at Flyaway Books have a full list of free and downloadable activities like an origami butterfly, a paper airplane, parable-themed coloring pages, and more. Also, if you have some of their children's books, there are discussion guides as well.

• Illustrated Ministry: Resources for the Home. We believe in providing resources for families so that caretakers will feel confident and comfortable talking about faith and spirituality with their kids. Our illustrated faith resources for families include coloring pages, simple and practical devotionals for families, and fun activities. We hope to help create a safe space to talk about faith and share questions that children (and parents) have. <https://www.illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve> free right now

Dear Parents: Please, please, please let me know if you need any assistance with these tools. The best way to reach me is 810-701-4136.

Additionally, I would love to hear how you are using these resources and how they are shaping faith at home.

Remember that God is very present.

Isaiah 41:13 *I am the Lord your God. I am holding your right hand. And I tell you, "Don't be afraid. I will help you."*

Psalms 31:14-15 *I am trusting you, O Lord... My times are in your hands.*



Worship Schedule for April

At the writing of this article we are assuming that we can continue to broadcast worship services from the FFPC Sanctuary via Facebook Live, Google Hangout, Zoom and whatever else we can manage. However, the future is completely in God's hands and not our own, so this schedule could change somewhat.

April 5th, Palm Sunday, Communion Sunday

"Living the Resurrection: Struck Down but Not Destroyed"

2 Corinthians 4:1-12, Being a Christian Missionary in the Roman World was not an easy task. Contrary to the Roman Worldview and breaking away from the Jewish understanding of God's will, the Christian message brought Paul into conflict with many. Paul's image of a clay pot that contains priceless treasure is helpful as we navigate feelings of inadequacy, powerlessness and ineffectiveness in these times of pandemic.

April 9th, Maundy Thursday

Living the Resurrection, "I have Earnestly Desired to Eat with you."

Luke 22:1-46, By this time, many of us may feel a deep need to connect in meaningful ways during times of pandemic. Jesus took time out on the last day of his life to connect over a meal with his disciples. While we are limited in our ability to connect with others over a meal, we can remember our Lord's invitation to the table and how much he desire to meet us here.

April 12th, Easter Sunday

Living the Resurrection, Christ is the Tree of Life

Mark 15:42-16:1-11, After a terrible forest fire, even the most burned out stump can sprout anew. What sadness must have hung from the hearts of the disciples as the Lord was buried. What joy there is to know and acknowledge the Resurrection of Jesus. Because He lives, we have life!

April 19th, 2nd Sunday of Easter

Life in the Holy Spirit, Who is the Spirit?

John 14:16-26, Beginning a new sermon series we study who the Holy Spirit is. The third person of the Trinity, the Spirit is someone who empowers us to do God's will, fulfill our destiny as disciple of Jesus and is God with us in the here and now.

April 26th, 3rd Sunday of Easter

Life in the Holy Spirit, The Spirit of Truth

John 15:17-27, "What is Truth?", said Pilate as he questioned Jesus. In the age of fake news and biased media, discerning Truth is crucial. How shall we live then? We listen to the Spirit of Truth, in concert with scripture and within the body of believers.



During this time of quarantine and uncertainty, FFPC has been trying very hard to connect over the internet with our members and with the world.

The primary avenue for us current is Facebook. Our page is active and has positive and encouraging posts daily. We are also working to utilize Facebook Live for worship services, bible studies and brief chats from the staff. We encourage you to take advantage of the material that is posted there.

In addition and for those who do not have a Facebook account we are using the software app, Zoom, to stream worship services and bible studies. This brings several benefits to us. Firstly, people can connect through a web browser or tablet app and participate Church activities. Zoom does not require a membership and has the ability for interaction and therefore it is helpful for bible studies and committee meetings. Lastly, people without an internet connection can call in using a regular telephone and participate audibly.

We are striving to use all of these methods to connect with our members. If you have ideas about how we can do better, a service that we should consider using or helpful critique, please call the church office (810-629-7801) and leave a voicemail, or email pastor Robbie (robbie@ffpc.org).

Connect through Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fentonfpc/>

Connect through Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/fentonfirstpresbyterianchurch/>

Connect through YouTube: Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Connect through our Website: www.ffpc.org

Worship with us online with Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8309142301> Meeting ID: 830 914 2301

Connect with Zoom with your telephone:

+19292056099,,8309142301# US (New York)

+13126266799,,8309142301# US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 830 914 2301 and press # when prompted.

Palm Sunday worship service begins this Sunday, April 5th, @ 10am.

FFPC 2020 Palm Sunday Challenge

This Sunday, April 5th, is Palm Sunday. While we are not able to gather together as a congregation to sing Hosanna we can do our best to celebrate the Reigning King.

A delivery of Palms should be delivered to the Church Office at the end of this week. The Congregation is invited to pick up palms from the Parking Lot Entrance for household worship and to participate in the upcoming online Palm Sunday worship service.

For those unable to pickup palms from the church office, please email Pastor Robbie, robbie@ffpc.org, call the Church Office and leave a voicemail (810-629-7801), or call Pastor Robbie, 609-933-5372; we will do our best to coordinate deliveries.



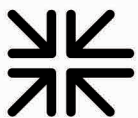
Happy Birthday

Pat Warren	Apr 1	Barb Taylor	Apr 21
Harry Clark	Apr 3	Sarah Kasprzak	Apr 25
Sam Fetzer	Apr 4	Gabrielle Smith	Apr 26
Jean Hermann	Apr 4	Lee Graham	Apr 28
John Stork	Apr 6	Sherry Hunt	Apr 28
Betty Brandon	Apr 10	Lynne Watters	Apr 28
Bob Brownlee	Apr 12	Roy Fetzer	Apr 29
Gretchen Coles	Apr 12	Connie Morrison	Apr 29
William Eddington	Apr 14	Jayce Erwin	Apr 30
Christian Coffin	Apr 16	Ann Fetzer	Apr 30
Meredith Weldon	Apr 18		
Mark Gibb	Apr 20		
Millie Roe	Apr 20		
Betty Jean Skinner	Apr 20		
Thelma Buffmyer	Apr 21		

Happy Anniversary

James & Ina Golden April 20
Michael & Jeanne Cupp April 22
Scott & Cathy Hollopeter April 29





ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



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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