

FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LIVING WITH CHRIST, SERVING THE WORLD

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

In
Christ
alone
my
hope
is
found

Pastor's Article

Discipline is not a bad word

We are living in strange times. Some of us are struggling financially and spiritually. Some of us are ok, for now. For all of us, life has been put on pause.

Hope is what we need. We need to be able to count on a few things, like our finances, our ability to travel, our ability to find groceries and other household necessities at the store, and our ability to be reasonably healthy as we interact with each other.

We can't hope in those things right now. We can't trust that our ability to make money or our savings will see us through. We can't trust that our health will remain steady. We can't trust that we will be able to easily find the things we need at the store, every time we choose to go shopping.

So what do we hope in?

The easy answer is Jesus. We hope that our Creator, Savior and Sustainer will see us through. We hope in the Almighty Power that holds the universe together. We trust in the inheritance of eternal blessings that we have in Christ.

But what does all of this mean when we aren't supposed to leave our homes for weeks on end? What does this all mean when our workplaces have become a biological danger zone? What does this mean when we cannot plan for summer vacations, school in the Fall, or family reunions?

When a rock climber wishes to come down from the top of a rock face, rappelling is a safe way to do so, controlled by a belayer who is holding the working end of the rope on the ground. The only trouble with rappelling is that, if you are on the top of the rock face, you must trust the rope you are attached to. I have seen many Scouts fail to trust the rope enough to lean back into the open air and descend gracefully, and instead, fight the slack, slam into the rock wall and descend more like a sack of potatoes rather than a conquering hero. The trick is to trust the rope.

Do you trust the climbing rope of our faith? If you do, the answer to translating the hope that we have in Christ with the present calamity might sound severe, but it will make sense.

Get to work.

Let me explain. We can be given hope seven ways to Sunday, but if we fail to cling to it, it will do no good to us. The quickest way to do this is to be active in exercising that hope. In Mark 13, Jesus speaks about the end of the age in a passage that is sometimes called the 'little apocalypse'. He describes some very scary things. Nations rising up against nations, famines, wars and rumors of wars. Jesus describes political and personal attacks on his disciples. He speaks of false teachers and spiritual devastation. In the face of all this bad news, he commands his followers to stand firm and to watch for his coming. He promises two things, the first is that the disciples are heading for hard times. The second, that those who cling to their hope and 'stand firm' will reap the benefit of that hope.

If you go into my family bathroom right now, you will be appalled. We are not living at a state of readi-

Mission and Stewardship



Pentecost Offering - May 31st, 2019

Who was the first person to teach you about Jesus? Who was the first person to show you how to honor God with your life?

WHO HELPED YOU OPEN THE DOORS TO NEW UNDERSTANDINGS OF GOD AND FAITH?

When did these things happen? For many of us, they happened during our childhood. They happened at home, at Sunday School, at church, at camp, or perhaps through mission trips or experiences of service.

We probably don't need a study to tell us that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood, the first third of life, helps ensure lifelong faith and service – yet studies do show this to be true. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.” The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life.

During Pentecost, we celebrate that the Holy Spirit has opened the doors to faith in Jesus Christ. Just as many of us were nurtured in faith during our youth, we give to support these ministries and offer ourselves in service to the faith formation of other youth and young adults. We join with the Spirit and the whole church, so that the generations to come will still proclaim God's wondrous deeds.

Won't you join in your support? If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

40% of the Pentecost Offering remains with our congregation.

25% goes to Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) experience.

25% supports ministries with youth, ages 12–18, and those called to accompany them.

10% supports the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” national initiative.

World Mission

Dear First Presbyterian Church Fenton,

We want to say thank you for your gift and support on behalf of ourselves and the Nigeriens we work with! During this time we are reminded of the encouragement from Hebrews 12:1-3, telling us not to lose heart as we are a part of a larger community that is setting its eyes on Jesus, who himself endured so much. It is so easy to focus on ourselves during all this isolation and uncertainty, but the way you have looked outward is an encouragement.

We know that you are an important part of this community of people ("great cloud of witnesses") that are gathered around the Perfecter of our faith together with us. Your prayers and presence with us are a big part of our work. What it leaves with us is thankfulness! Like many of the songs in Niger say, "Thankfulness, thankfulness, thankfulness, we have so much thanks to give to God." It's in this mood of thankfulness that we want to thank you for your sharing special gifts with us this year. And our prayer is that you may be equally encouraged with the knowledge of what a blessing you are!

We thank God for you!

Michael, Rachel, Hassan, Adeline, Simeon, Zach and Isaac Ludwig

[our blog](#)

[our latest email newsletter](#)

our latest PCUSA mission newsletter: [Broken Down Bible School](#)



Family Picture in Holland, MI - First time Rachel has made tulip time, although it was cancelled.

Mission Opportunities

The Mission and Stewardship committee met during the month of May, via Zoom, and had a lengthy conversation about a change of direction. The schedule of mission activities have all been postponed/cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This discussion resulted in the formation of things that we could do as a congregation to assist our neighbors. The following details those efforts.



St. Jude's has been doing great work in attempting to provide food to those in need during this trying time. We are hoping to enlist the help of our congregation in assisting their efforts by providing food that St. Jude's is unable to acquire through the Food Bank. We will be receiving weekly updates from St. Jude's that we will share with our congregation via email, Facebook and our website, so stay tuned.

St. Jude's provides:

- Groceries for 60 seniors at Dauner Haus every other week.
- Groceries every other week for employees of two local restaurants that have been laid off due to the shelter in place order. This includes 11 families, 30 people total.
- Food for weekend lunches for Fenton, Lake Fenton, and Linden students, every Saturday.

Carriage Town Ministries is temporarily unable to accept clothing donations during the pandemic time period. It has been recommended that during this time we take our clothing donations to "Community Threads" located here in Fenton. Once Carriage Town is able to again accept donations, we will resume our efforts there.

We are always open, and look forward to suggestions of how we can play a pivotal role in assisting our neighbors and community during this trying time. We also look forward to once again being able to resuming our normal scheduled mission activities.

Holly Food Ministry

First Baptist Church of Holly has a food ministry that is not limited to Holly or Oakland County Residents. It is the first and third Fridays of the month and starts at 10:00 a.m.

This is a "no contact" food distribution. People line up in their cars and volunteers put boxes of food in their trunks, back seats or hatchbacks. There is no paperwork and no one takes names. Two semi-trucks deliver the prepacked boxes on pallets and it is all done outside.

All are welcome!

Visit their website for more information: <http://www.fbcholly.org/>

St. Jude's Outreach

Thank you for answering the call from St. Jude's Outreach for bread and cereal. It is a delight to witness your generosity and churches working together to support those in need.

Below is a letter from Dave Rayner of St. Jude's:

We wanted to send our gratitude to your congregation for all you are doing to help with our community feeding programs. We had no idea what we might receive when we put out a call for bread and cereal last week, but WOW, what a wonderful surprise.

We needed 75 loaves of bread and 75 boxes of cereal by Saturday. We ended up giving away 98 of each on Saturday morning, and still have 55 loaves of bread and 169 boxes of cereal left over (seems like I've read a similar story in another Book somewhere?).

In addition to the cereal and bread, we thank you all for your financial support, for the use of your refrigerator and for those who have volunteered to help pack and hand out food. It is clear that God is working in our midst and in the hearts of the members of First Presbyterian and St. Jude's Episcopal.

Based on our recent experiences we feel called to expand our programs, so we are now inviting even more from the community to come and receive food. We will continue to need cereal and bread and welcome your continued support.

Know that we feel blessed to have you walking with us in this journey doing the work we are all called to do.

Blessings,
St. Jude's Outreach



Stewardship

Dear FFPC,

I want to sincerely thank you for your generosity as a congregation. In this time of isolation you have stayed connected and have been faithful in your giving to the operation of the church and this is such an encouragement to us as a staff and to your Session.

While I urge you to continue to prayerfully support the budget of FFPC, your faithfulness has allowed us to continue paying necessary bills, meet commitment and continue to pay staff. We won't be unscathed from this, but we will come out of it a church firmly in God's hands. Thank you!

On top of that, thank you for your generous giving to St. Jude's Outreach, keeping the food pantry outside our front door stocked, and using the membership directory to call church folks you don't know as well. Little things and great things all add up to what we call FFPC. Thank you Church!

Pastor Robbie



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

Financials

Financial Review - March, 2020

Profit/ Loss	March	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income:	\$30,145.46*	\$117,581.42	\$90,138.57	\$360,341.58
Expense: *	<u>\$25,486.01</u>	<u>\$75,027.63</u>	<u>\$79,942.30</u>	<u>\$304,831.71</u>
Net Income:	\$ 4,659.45*	\$42,553.79	\$10,196.27	\$55,509.87

***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:	\$80,585.29
Cash at End of Period:	<u>\$84,014.70</u>
Net Cash for Period (Increase)	\$3,424.41

Respectfully Submitted, April 10, 2020
 Debera J Bard
 Treasurer

Building Fund Report – March 31, 2020

Building Account Balance:	\$21,595
Mortgage Remaining:	\$187,247

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.



Christian Education



Lindsey Gibb is attending the Central Michigan University Honors Program in the fall and will be majoring in Biomedical Sciences. She plans to become an obstetrician/gynecologist.



Emily Kinser – Albion College



Liza Kirkey is graduating from Linden High School



Waverly Ritchie is graduating from Lake Fenton High School and will be attending Oakland University studying Dance Education and Occupational Therapy.

To Our Graduates

We come together not in the way we would want, but in the way we are able. We would rather be sitting in rows of chairs cheering for you as you cross the stage. We would rather be standing side by side for photos to mark your accomplishment. We would rather be in the same space, telling you face to face how proud we are of you, how excited we are for your future, how grateful we are to have you in our lives. Someday, we hope soon, we will be able to celebrate you in person, surrounded by all who cheer you on, but until then we want you to know we recognize this milestone, all the work and energy, all the change and challenges, all the memories and experiences that have gotten you to this point.

You are fearfully and wonderfully made, a unique reflection of God's image. We rejoice that God made you just as you are. We thank God for the gifts we see in you.

You persevered through challenges, refusing to give up despite difficult circumstances. We recognize your tenacity and strength.

You accomplished much during your time as a student, learning new skills, trying new things, making new friends, finding new passions. We celebrate your many achievements.

Your curiosity and creativity are inspiring. We cannot wait to see where your questions lead you. We will be eager to hear about your explorations.

You have many people who love and care for you. We support you and we believe in you. We believe that you can, and we believe that you will become all that God has made you to be.

We know that you are God's beloved child, surrounded by the Holy Spirit and prayed for by us and by Jesus Christ. You are claimed and named by God. We trust God's promise that if we ask, we will receive and therefore we promise to pray for you.

We are people who live in hope, at this time of transition, when you begin a new phase of your life's journey we pray that you will find your hope in Christ.

We know that the road ahead will not always be smooth or easy or obvious, nonetheless, we have faith in your ability to navigate whatever lies ahead. We have faith in God's sure presence with you. We have faith in your willingness to ask for help when you need it, accept and extend mercy often and practice courageous kindness always. When you are afraid or anxious, unsure or struggling, we want you to know that you can call on your church family to support you.

We want you to know how valuable you are to us and to God. You are irreplaceable. While we are proud of all you have done to reach this goal, we love you for who you are. We ask that God will bless you and we want you to remember that nothing can separate you from the love of God, we pray: God of every season, we ask your prayers this day for our graduates and look to the future, remind them of all they have achieved so far. May these memories embolden and strengthen them when they face challenges. Help them to know that they are beloved by you and by all of us. Comfort them in their grief at the loss of the rituals of cap and gown, ceremony and speeches, gatherings and celebrations with friends. Assure them of your presence, your power, your providence and your grace. Reveal to them a sure sense of purpose and peace, especially when they feel afraid and anxious. May they recognize the gifts you have given them, and may those gifts bring them joy, a joy that increases when they are shared with the world. Surround them with the Holy Spirit so that everyday they may know that they are beloved, beautiful and blessed to be a blessing. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage! Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Lord bless and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.



Sunday Evening Study: We'll be covering Biblical "wisdom" literature – the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job. These three books have a unique relationship to each other and to the rest of Biblical literature.

Our meetings start at 5PM and last between 1 and 1½ hour. You should have a Bible available to you for these meetings.

Objective will be to learn the wisdom in wisdom literature.

We'll spend time on overviews and looking at internal ties between books. We'll try to get into the author's head to see what each book is trying to tell us. And, of course to see the overarching theme of the Bible reflected in these books.

Members of the group choose the next topic.

Until we can again meet in person, our meetings are on ZOOM at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/665389567>

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

William Barclay's, The Letter to the Romans, The New Daily Bible Series. Updated verse by verse commentary that helps clarify less familiar illustrations and look into the importance of Romans.

Zoom. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/983542300?pwd=L3VjTUxIMG9PUmY0S3NLNUZaa2FEUT09>

ID: 983 542 300

Password: 194611

join by conference call by dialing 312-626-6799

When prompted enter the meeting ID code 983 542 300

Wednesday Women's Study with Tina Ritchie

Continues weekly through June 17 from 10am - 11:30ish via zoom

Join us for "[Better - A Study of Hebrews](#)" by Jen Wilkin: In this verse-by-verse study of the Book of Hebrews, Jen explores how God "provided something better for us" in the person of Jesus Christ (Heb. 11:40). Through stories of Old Testament heroes and practices, the author of Hebrews demonstrates how the new covenant is superior to the old and how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of every promise. Explore familiar verses in context of the entire Bible, learning how to place your hope and faith in Christ alone.

There is video content about 30-40 minutes that will be shown after discussion.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/782620253?pwd=SXM1T29xNlVVK0l0djdJQ1oxY2lEZz09>

Meeting ID: 782 620 253

Password: 001336

May God's Peace reign in your hearts.

Men's Group Study with Pastor Robbie Carnes

Continues weekly on Thursday's from 7:00pm-8:00pm via zoom

I could stand to be more empathetic.

We have all done it. Turned off from the people we love the most because we are too tired, or too frustrated to or too confused to be emotionally present. We have all wondered how we got to a full blown argument when we really meant to start a productive discussion. We have all felt helpless before the emotional outpouring of a friend, family member or spouse.

Using Scripture, movie clips and Ken Sande's concept of 7 steps Toward Empathy, we will learn what empathy is and some practical steps toward being more empathetic.

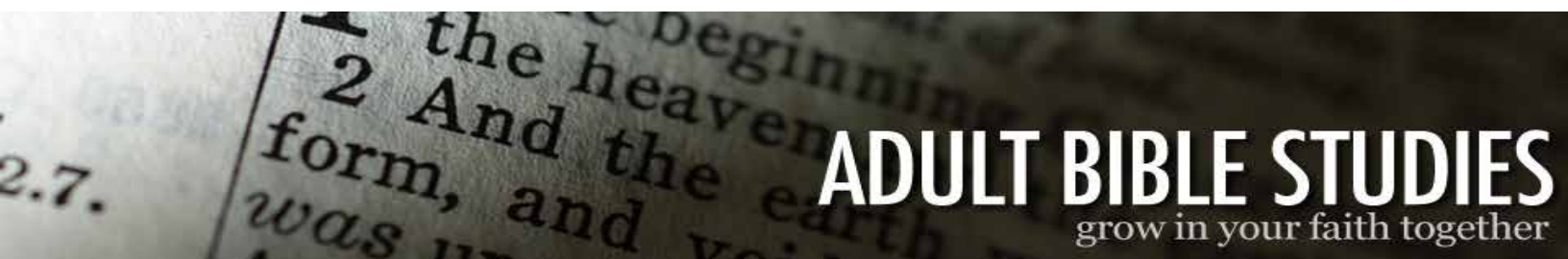
This is a Zoom meeting folks, so you don't even have to dress up.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85384873434>

Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 853 8487 3434

I hope you can make the time to be here with us.



Growing Together in Faith

Family Corner

35 Tech Free, Faith Forming, Fun Activities For Families to Do at Home
May 17, 2020

THEY'RE HOOOOME! And so are you. And while you love spending time with your kids, you've got work to do—whether it's paid or unpaid. And if that wasn't challenging enough, you've had little time to do advance prep and stock up on things for them to do; and you also know that while screen time is tempting, too much of it is not a good thing.

Thankfully, since families have had to radically change their lifestyle as the world copes with the Coronavirus, people have been sharing fabulous ideas and sites with everything from [virtual museum tours](#) to [free learn at home resources](#). Here's one other approach to add to your list of possibilities while the kids are home. It's tech-free, faith-forming, and fun!

Begin with a clear container. Those jars you bought to make jam and then never used? Perfect. Now get a sheet of paper and cut it into strips. Grab a pen and write one activity idea per strip. Fold the strips and place them in the jar. Each day your child(ren) can select a strip from the jar and do that thing. Here are 35 things; use the ones that will work in your household and add more. Let your kids come up with some ideas too!

1. Make up a dance to a song. Teach it to an adult.
2. Make up motions for the words of Joshua 1:9. Do them while you say the verse. Then just do the actions while you think the verse.
3. Make up a secret handshake.
4. Build a fort by draping a large bed sheet or blanket over a table or some chairs. Eat a snack and read a book inside it.
5. Play I Spy.
6. Scavenger Hunt! How many blue things can you find in your house in 15 minutes? Make your own list and keep the game going.
7. Collect five things from nature outside. Make something with them.
8. Make a pet rock. Create a home for it.
9. Do a science experiment from [63 Easy Science Experiments for Kids Using Household Stuff](#) or [25 STEM Activities Easy Enough for Preschoolers](#).
10. Read Psalm 23 and illustrate it, either on your own or as a family mural.
11. Bake something.
12. Backwards Day! Turn your clothes around, spell and say your name backwards and eat dessert before dinner.
13. Plan and have an indoor picnic.
14. Play hide and seek. Or hide an object for someone to find. Tell them when they are getting warmer (closer) and colder (farther) from the hidden object.
15. Make [playdough](#).
16. Create a comic strip about your family.
17. What's your favorite book? Make up a story about what comes next after the story ends.
18. Read a Bible story. Use blocks or LEGO™ to build a scene from it.

19. Make some origami “fortune tellers.” Fill some with exercises, [some with ways to pray](#), and some with your own fun ideas!
20. Plan a church service for your family. Then have it in your living room!
21. Create a comic strip about a parable. (You’ll find 16 parables to choose from in Luke 7-18.)
22. Make a list of places from A to Z. Non-readers, make a list of places you love to go.
23. Set up an obstacle course.
24. Build a band using instruments you make from household objects. Practice, then put on a concert for your parent(s).
25. Build a story with a buddy. One person begins with “once upon a time” and the next person adds a sentence. Keep going, taking turns adding sentences until you get to “the end.”
26. Think of someone you could surprise with a reminder of how much God (and your family!) loves them. Make or do something to brighten their day.
27. Ask your parent to fill a container or baggie with 15 random things from around the house like a paper clip, piece of foil, tissue, comb, fork, rubber band, string, coin, etc. Use only those objects to create a scene from a Bible story.
28. Puppet show! Stick paper eyes on wooden spoons or spatulas, or stick your hand into two different socks. Crouch behind the couch and tell your tale.
29. Play Simon Says. Take turns being Simon.
30. Play a board game. Or make your own using two sheets of paper taped side by side or the inside of a cereal box as the board.
31. Lego Challenge Day! Choose a challenge from this [list](#) (if you’re school aged) or this [list](#) (if you’re in preschool.)
32. Make a list of all the things you’re grateful to God for.
33. Act out the story of Daniel in the lions’ den. Film the final play and send it to someone you haven’t seen for a while.
34. Make [invisible ink](#) and use it to write messages to each other.
35. Use letters to make your own [Alphabet BINGO game](#).

“But wait,” you’re saying, “I thought you said the ideas were faith-forming! I only see six ideas that mention the Bible or involve church.” Yup. That’s because faith is also formed in the ordinary details of everyday life. The way you talk together, laugh together, and meet challenges together forms faith.

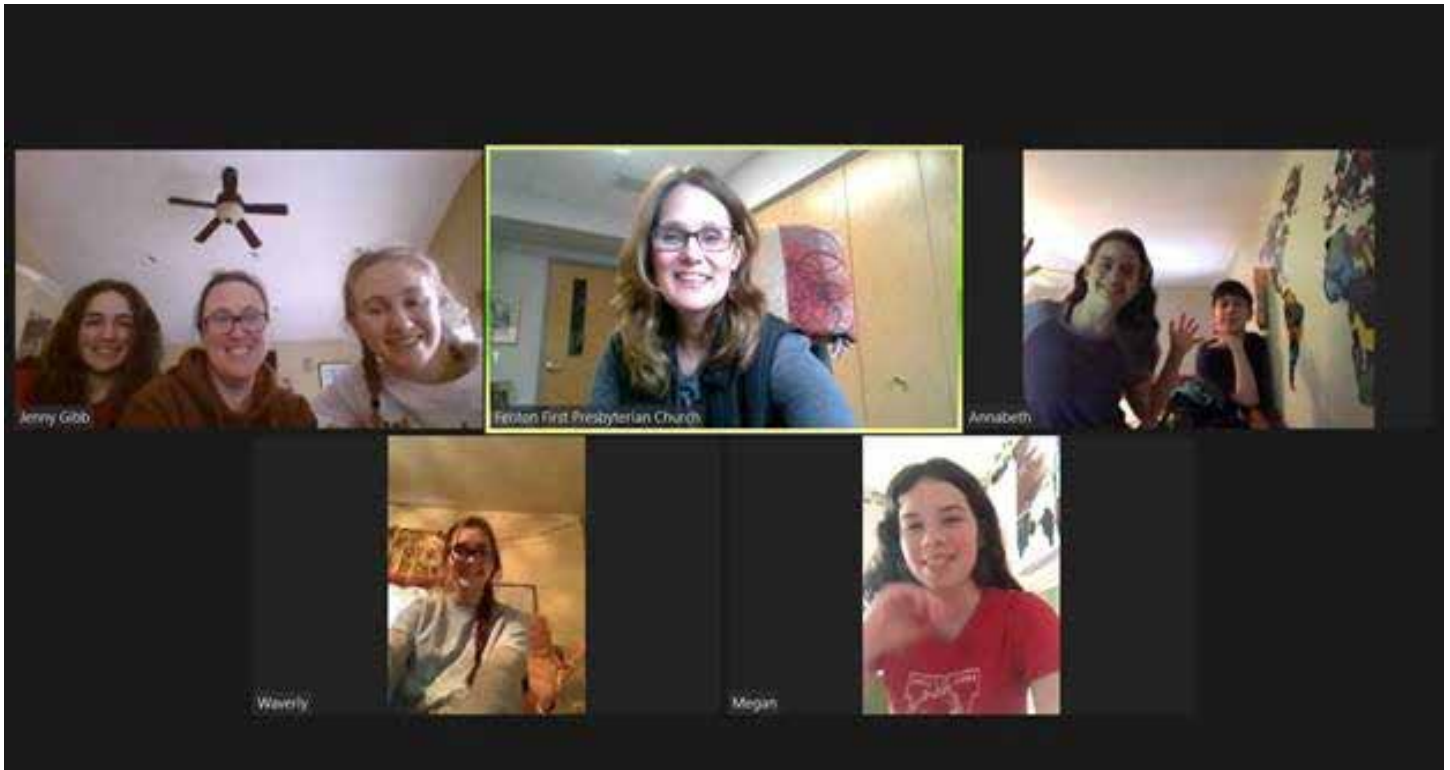
During this time of uncertainty, as you interact with your kids—whether that’s in doing a science experiment, baking, or playing a game together—take the opportunity to weave wonder into your conversations about the amazing world God made, express gratitude for the big and small ways in which God is providing for your family, and share stories of the ways in which God has been faithful to you in the past and remains faithful to you now.

Finally, remember this: it’s okay for your kids to be bored. In fact, it’s a good thing! It’s often during those “There’s nothing to do!” moments that imagination comes alive and creativity is sparked. So have no fear when your child says, as they inevitably will during the next weeks: “I’m bored.” Try this suggestion from Dr. Vanessa Lapointe instead:

“With a knowing and swagger-filled smile, just nod and say “I love bored” and offer zero options for filling in that void of nothing. And then watch. Watch as your child’s mind becomes quiet. Watch as their internal sense of self takes over. Watch as their sense of being comes bubbling out of them and spills over into this incredible energy to create and do and conquer.” (Huffpost 5/2/16)

How about you? What are you doing with your family during these weeks? And what have you been learning during this experience? *“Originally posted on The Network, a sharing website of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.”*

Youth Group



From D365.org's devotion discussion:

Breath of Heaven, comfort us with new life and hope.
 Breath of Life, empower us to act creatively and compassionately.
 Breath of Peace, guide us in the way of love and truth.
 God the Shepherd, bless us and keep us.
 God the Redeemer, smile upon us and be gracious towards us.
 God the Spirit, lead us in the path of wisdom and peace.
 And all of God's people say: Amen.

Youth Group - Noon on Zoom For 6th-12th graders and friends!

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

Youth Group Check-in Parties continue on Zoom – Join us for some “Whose Line is it Anyway” games with a twist! Meeting on Sundays at noon, we play some games, share what we've been up to, sing, pray, and have devotions. This is also a great time to share poems, artwork, or sing your favorite song. It's been wonderful to see your lovely faces :-)
 Use the link below to access our meeting space.

Topic: Youth Group Check In Party

Time: Sundays at noon

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/812637736?pwd=TzVBUEViZUgrY2JXQjR3RmNVUnN2dz09>

Meeting ID: 812 637 736

Password: 673300

Hey Youth, Here are a few things you can continue to do for yourself and others:

1. Contact your pen pal regularly. If you do not have one or would like another, please email me!
 2. Create art work for church expressing where God is in the midst of this difficult time. It could be a drawing, painting, poem, sculpture... Wouldn't it be cool to fill Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary Annex, and hallways with signs of God's love to share with the congregation upon our return?
 3. Make an "Accomplishments Banner" - idea from the Martin-Fanone household. Keep track of the books you're reading, movies watched, how many online worship services you've shared as a family, homework done, closets cleaned, etc.
 4. Make masks - see Annabeth and Pastor Lindsey or the Gibb family for simple designs.
 5. Get to know your Mom and Dad - I mean really get to know them. Ask questions about their childhood, how they felt when they met each other, what they've learned through life experiences, etc. Listen with your heart!
 6. Have family game nights - it's totally easy to sit and watch a movie together because we don't really have to interact. Have some fun playing together, and don't focus on who's winning ;)
 7. Practice Self Care – that means exercise, meditate, exfoliate, spend alone time, get to know thyself!
- I'd love to hear what you are doing and have learned during this time - please email tina@ffpc.org.



Confirmation 2020

This year's confirmation class was shared with three other churches and it was a delight to meet new friends and share perspectives of other church communities. Due to the virus crisis and the subsequent limiting of activities, the 2019-2020 FFPC Confirmation Class will need to schedule a time in which we can re-group and finish up when it is safe to do so. "We look forward to the future when we can all be together in worship to learn about and celebrate their faith journey, and plan to do so as soon as we can.

Pastor Robbie Carnes



EASY Ways Congregation Members Can Help Make A Difference in our Youth Pogram

Kroger Community Rewards

Our quarterly statement from 01-Feb-2020 to 30-Apr-2020 shows 9 households participating raised \$38.91 for our youth group scholarship account!

If you'd like to sign up visit <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>

Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.

If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, please stop at the customer service desk at any Kroger to get one.

Click on Sign In/Register

Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the New Customer box.

Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions

You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.

Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.

Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.

Update or confirm your information.

Enter Non-Profit Organization Number or name of organization, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - FENTON (MD497), or select organization from list and click on confirm.

REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card(s).

Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

VG's Community Rewards

A BIG THANK YOU to our congregation for turning in your VG's receipts! We are only \$20,000 away in receipts to request our next \$1000 check for the youth group scholarship account. Your faithfulness to this program makes a world of difference allowing youth to participate in conferences, mission, and other trips. We are fortunate to be a part of a loving and supportive congregation! Bless you!!!

Bottle Return Donations

Youth Group has decided to donate all money raised from returnables during the pandemic to Center of Hope in support of their local food distribution efforts. Below are a few safety guidelines we ask you to follow:

1. Please rinse all bottles and cans
2. Bag/box glass separately from the cans and plastic
3. Since we do not have proper storage for these items, we ask that you store them until they can be returned.
4. For those who do not have storage space, we are working on securing storage and having a couple collection days at church.
5. Once returnables can be redeemed, we ask that you either:
 - a. Cash them in and give the money to the office marked youth bottle drive
 - b. Cash them in and return your VG's bottle slips to the church office
 - c. Bring them to church on a pick up day appropriately rinsed and bagged and we will take care of redemption

At this time the State of Michigan does not have a plan to handle returns. We will keep you posted on the details, and we thank you for helping us help feed our community!



Children's Ministry

A Note from Tina...

Dear Families,

While we are not yet able to gather together, it is my sincerest hope that you have found time throughout each week to gather as a family creating moments for worship at home. It might be as simple as daily prayers before meals and bedtime, reading Scripture or devotions upon waking, searching for God's beauty in nature and others, singing hymns, giving things such as toilet paper or cereal to someone in need, and practicing kindness.

Below are a few links you can use to supplement faith formation lessons and discussion at home. Please let me know if you need assistance, and I'd love to hear your experiences with using these resources. You can also learn memory verses together. Here are two from recent Gospel Project curriculum lessons:

He must become greater; I must become less. ~ John 3:30 NIV

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ~ John 3:16 NIV (This is the first memory verse that I learned as a child)

One last thing... This time of social distancing has allowed us to imagine creative ways to engage each other in worship while expressing our gratitude to God.

In lieu of the "time with children" during worship, Pastor Robbie now has a "moment of household worship" at the beginning of service. This involves a recorded segment on specific topics that engages children of all ages. Please contact me at tina@ffpc.org, if your family would like to create such a video. I can help you with ideas, scripts, object lessons, etc., and even a video camera if needed! We plan on keeping this practice in place throughout the summer.

Please reach out to me if I can be of help to you in any way and know that I miss regularly seeing you and your children.

In Christ's Love and Service,
Tina Ritchie



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>

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
- For short and fun kid friendly worship videos at home go to <https://www.gominno.com/lp/church-at-home>
- Looking for easy faith-filled family activities and discussions at home? Check out vibrantfaithathome.org!
- <https://whatsinthebible.com/activities/>

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.*



GROWING
FAITH





A Note From Session

Task Force to Reopen the Church Building

The Session of FFPC has called a Task Force to examine the issues surrounding the safe use of the Church Building for worship and other ministries. The Task Force will begin by studying guideline material from the CDC and the Presbytery of Lake Huron and then make recommendations to Session on the how we might safely gather together again.

We all look forward to the day we can gather in prayer, worship and fellowship.

Nominating Committee

We Need YOU!

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve and grow in your faith? Are you looking for a way to support your church? Consider serving as an Elder or Deacon this next year. The Nominating Committee is prayerfully working to discern with people whether God is calling them into leadership at FFPC.

If you are interested in exploring leadership possibilities or have someone in mind that the committee can contact, please call or email Jenn Wenzel (jenn720308@gmail.com) or (810-938-4933).

Matthew 9:35-38 - ³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."





Worship

We have been so grateful for the patience and the encouragement that FFPC has given as we have navigated these strange waters of worshipping online. The emails, texts and cards are uplifting in ways that you can't imagine. I also want to thank you for your constructive comments. We depend on knowing your experience in order to make everyone's experience that much better.

Please remember that the Facebook comment section and the chat feature in Zoom are great ways to identify issues and ask for help. Tina Ritchie monitors both areas and would be delighted to help in any way she can to connect you. Additionally the email Helpdesk@ffpc.org is another way to communicate with Tina during the service.

Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ *Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.*

²⁴ *And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Robbie Carnes

Recognizing our Choir Members

2019-2020 FFPC Chancel Choir

Peg Allen	Cheryl Kopplin
Donna Anderson	Lisa Mehlberg
Erin Bradley	Patti Nelson
Cindy Crawford	Lee Ott
Peggy Fowler	Nancy Parkin
Peggy Fulcher	Ed Schwarz
Mark Grams	Gary Smith
George Hameline	Bob Strom
Cathy Hollopeter	Steve Sutton
Kelsy Hoerauf	Jerry Welch
Arden Irwin	John Wrage
Jesse James	
Alex Joitke	
Paul Joitke	

2019-2020 Celebration Ringers

Nancy Berger
PJ Collier
Jeanne Cupp
Peg Fowler
Cathy Hollopeter
Ellen Horton
Cheryl Kopplin
Lisa Mehlberg
Carolyn Post
Kelly Sunman-Davis

2018-2019 Lamplights and Illuminate Choirs

Gabe Bentley
Annabeth Carnes
Leah Carnes
Zoey Nichols Cupp
Emma Davis
Madeline Gibb
Makenzie Harp
Payton Harp
Maggie Hodgkin
Emily Hollopeter
Megan Hollopeter
Matthew Maxwell
Adlin Moore
Izzy Moore
Hali Sayre

Mason Skaff

2019-2020 Special Music: Bobby Clark, Gretchen Coles, Peggy Fowler, Peggy Fulcher, Morris Fulcher, Patti Nelson, Steve Sutton

We are grateful for the following people who served as Sound Techs in the past year:

Morris Fulcher, Ina Golden, Mark Gibb, Mark Grams, Jay Kirkey and Doug Watters

June Worship Schedule

In the month of June we will continue our study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. As we worship and delve in, will you pray with us that we might discern the Holy Spirit and that our hearts might be softened so that we, as a church, might hear and obey what God is calling us to do?

June 7th, Trinity Sunday, Graduates Recognized

“Life in the Holy Spirit”: Ephesians 5:15-21, If we are to be a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit as a Church and as Individuals, what does that look like? How are we to act? How are we to treat ourselves and each other? Do not get drunk with wine but be filled with the holy spirit...Singing and being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

June 14th, 2nd Sunday of Pentecost

The Gifts of the Spirit: Ephesians 4:1-13, Christ gives us many different gifts through the Holy Spirit. These are gifts for ministry, mission and the proclamation of the Gospel. These gifts are ultimately for the Glory of God and designed to unify us as a Church, through peace, faith and maturity.

June 21st, 3rd Sunday of Pentecost, Father’s Day

Praying in the Spirit: Romans 8:12-16, 26-27, When we don't know how to pray, the Spirit prays for us with groans too deep for words. The Spirit joins with us as we pray in our suffering and in our joy. What a wonderful thing that the God that we pray to would join us in that prayer.

June 28th, 4th Sunday of Pentecost

The Cosmic Spirit: Romans 8:17-25, The Holy Spirit is not just a close friend who helps us with our troubles. The Spirit is the third person of the Godhead and is working to set free the entire creation from the bondage of sin. We who have the first fruits of the Spirit know in part about what it is to live in the Spirit. But this will be nothing like an eternity of living as we were meant to live, in full communion with our God.

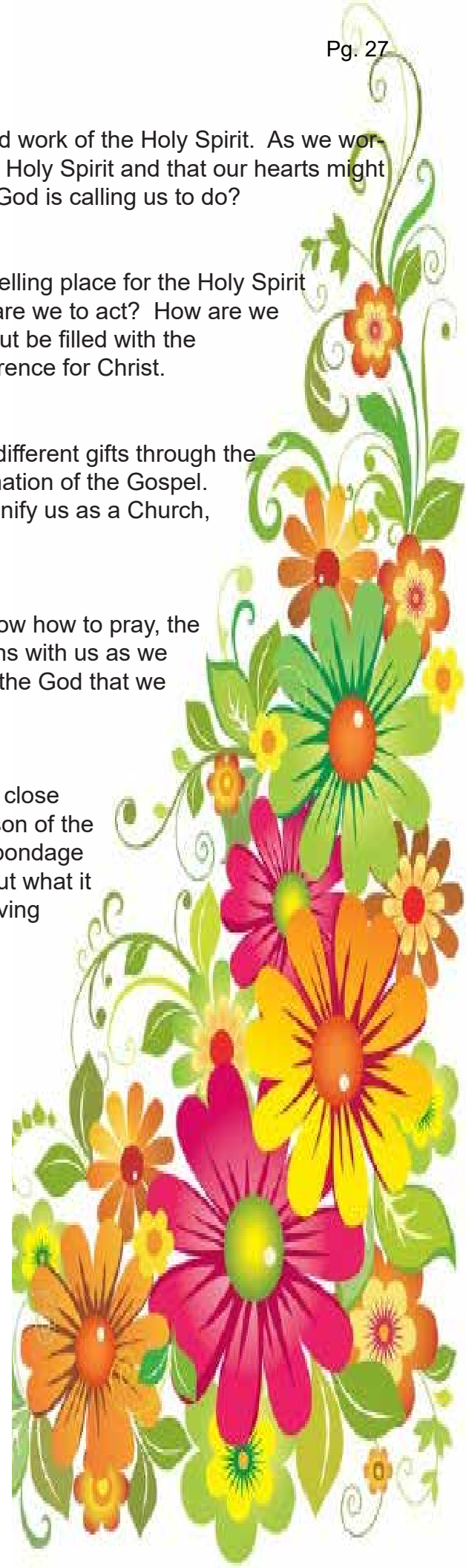
Here is how to join us

1. Go to this browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8309142301?pwd=RHJ4dDBPdEhMN25yKzFzSzZNeUVPQT09>

2. use the Zoom app and use this Meeting ID
Meeting ID: 830 914 2301
Meeting Password: 5013

3. Use your telephone line to listen in:
Call +19292056099 and dial 8309142301# at the prompt US (New York)
Or
Call +13126266799 and dial 8309142301# at the prompt US (Chicago)

Please share this information!



Dear God

by Vanessa Skaff

Dear GOD,

This has indeed been a very interesting couple weeks. I don't need to go into detail as you know very well what has been happening. Never imagined a virus could be so multi sided. Some days are better than others but for the most part I must say I am rather enjoying this sabbatical from life as usual!

The tears flow daily for those that have suffered & passed but then I begin to cry more with tears of joy because I KNOW they are with you and although I'm extremely happy here I have a fleeting feeling of jealousy as they can see you and I'll wait my turn :)

This started out for me about a year ago doing research & listening to all the political worldly critics who know everything of course! lol. My pantry slowly started looking like a small grocery store, and I know you watched me, probably thinking some crazy thoughts about me again :) But you see in my mind I wanted all my family, friends, neighbors, employees, church peeps & the list goes on over to my house to live, love & laugh through what I kinda thought might be a mild adventure while the world straightened up. WOW, I have been enlightened to what my granny would say back in the day, "Oh Lord this feels like the end of the world is here". I know this happens from time to time as you have said in my bible.

My children think I have really lost my mind because now I talk to you out loud more than ever!! Does it ever annoy you? I can only imagine how busy you must be on any normal day, and now all of us looney people are dropping prayers in your lap every second of everyday. I want to bake you a huge chocolate cake, add a hot vanilla latte with heavenly foamy milk & carve in the foamy milk a big beautiful heart because I love you more than life itself. Thank you for holding us so close throughout this messiness of life on your earth.

Did you send the angels in my dream the other night or was that their idea? It was delightful and for a moment when I woke I totally forgot about the turmoil.....THANK YOU!

Have you noticed my kids are talking to me more? I still don't know as much as them but I am working on that everyday! As you know their wish came true, NO SCHOOL for the rest of the school year. I WAS SO EXCITED to hear that as well. I know, I'll go to confession on that one as soon as my church opens back up. As soon as I stopped screaming in my head with joy of course I decided this is going to be fun, fantastical, wonderful, educational, reflective & loving. As you've noticed we have been playing find the toothbrush & flush the toilet daily. I never thought that my teens could be so thoughtful because every time they eat a cookie they leave a trail of crumbs for our sweet kittens to eat. Oh and thank you, because I found all of the missing sock mates under the kids beds when I was picking up the potato chips bags off the floor in their bed-



rooms.

Day 5, My hands are raw from washing them so much but when I ran my hands through my teens hair to fix it the 6 day old oil on their scalp soothed my abrasions. But shucks enough about me.

I know you saw me writing a new beautiful schedule for my beloved children and it turned out so nice :) At first I got the wonky looks like I'm sure their fabulous teachers get, btw teachers need LOTS more money plz. The schedule is going well. On a daily basis they have to be responsible for...self care (bathing, brushing & that stuff) , healthy eating, 30 mins. of exercise, 1/2 hour or more of reading from a book, put on semi clean clothing, then report to their superior..... hahahah ME ! After these things are accomplished we bake, do art projects, play board games, bicycle a bit, have television show marathons together, bonfires, movie night with homemade popcorn, nice conversations about current events, love, life & memes, we are taking your advice and reading scripture & daily devotionals as well.

Thank you for the internet as thats how the kids communicate & game with friends besides the things that resemble phones growing from their hands & ears.

Now here I go again but since I have your attention could you plz crash the trash on the world wide web because that in itself is going to be the death of me..... omgosh!!!!

I'm really glad your son Jesus our savior changed the water to wine as that is quenching my thirst when I open the ovens. I have REALLY enjoyed cooking for my family. Jesus was right, to break bread with your loved ones is such a heart felt connection that will last a lifetime. We are sharing meals everyday and its been so fabulous.

I miss communion so very much. I miss my church so very much!!!! Do you hear me say thank you to you my ABBA late at night when I turn over and look at my sweet sleeping hubby? My cries to you are for us all, for the world, for the children, mothers, fathers, daughters, sons of all colors creed & faith. Forgive us my Lord for we know not what we do even today. You'd think we would have learned by now. I'll close this note by saying I TRUST YOU LORD, I know all will be right as rain soon.

All my love to you and the Heavens
Sincerely your faithful imperfect servant xoxo
Vanessa Skaff

Announcements

2020 FFPC Golf Announcement

There are buds on the trees, flowers are blooming, the grass is greening up nicely, we've been cooped up in our homes for weeks...all that means it's time for GOLF!

Patti Nelson would like to invite any interested adult church member to join our First Presbyterian Church Golf League. The league is co-ed and all levels of golfers are welcome. We have room for one 2-some this year.

We play on Thursday evenings out at Springfield Oaks in Davisburg. Due to the virus, leagues won't begin until mid-June. The cost is about \$14.00 per night. There may be a slight increase for 2020.

Carts are optional and an additional \$9.00 per night. This has been a fun way to play a little golf and socialize with other church members. We are in need of 2 new golfers this year. (We are also always interested in subs!) Call Patti Nelson (248-634-8745) for more information. (She will share more info as it becomes available!)

Have Questions during Sunday Service? Helpdesk@ffpc.org is another way to communicate those questions or concerns during Sunday Worship with a staff member.



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

Let's Celebrate

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

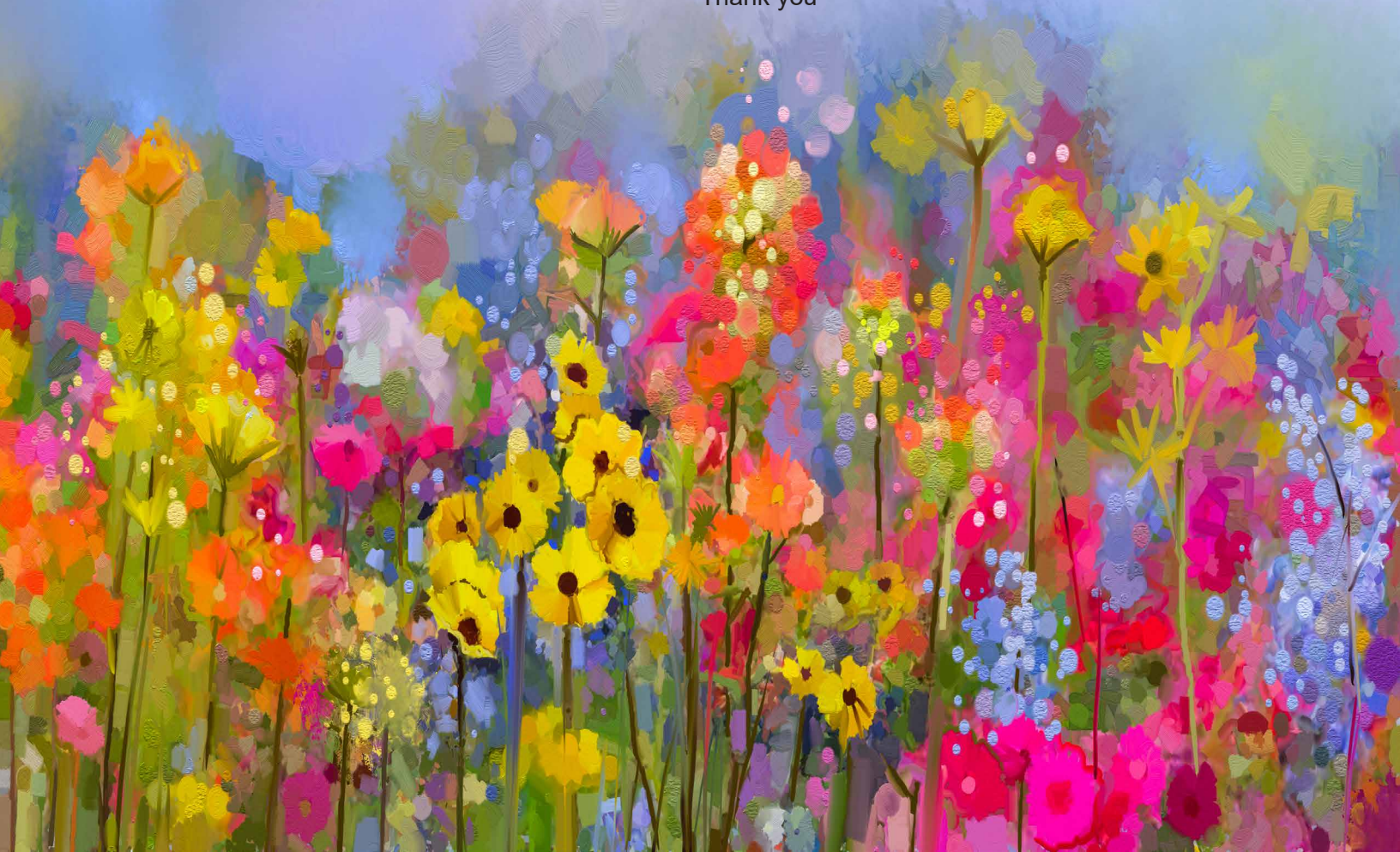
Dale Goss	Jun 3
Karen Terrill	Jun 3
Donna Anderson	Jun 4
Suzanne Carter	Jun 5
Kara Kinser	Jun 5
Jane Motta	Jun 7
Bill Black	Jun 8
Doug Hartwell	Jun 8
Al Thomas	Jun 9
John Wrage	Jun 14
Rachel Baker	Jun 15
Julie Grams	Jun 16
Colin Hodgkin	Jun 19
Matt Janowak	Jun 20
Jim Morris	Jun 20
Georgiann Tunningley	Jun 20
Joe Kryza	Jun 24
Richard Bard	Jun 25
Nora Kryza	Jun 28
JoAnn Beardslee	Jun 29
Richard Tunningley	Jun 30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Michael Deborah Vanderlip	June 1
William & Adie Eddington	June 2
Robert & Joan McLive	June 2
Ernie & Linda Miller	June 5
Gene & Connie Morrison	June 6
Margie & Doug Congdon	June 7
Mike & Julie Hussar	June 13
Jay & Kate Kirkey	June 16
Rick & Sherry Hunt	June 20
Clark & Nancy Casteel	June 23
Joe & Nora Kryza	June 27
Jim & Suzanne Carter	June 28
Edward & Debbie Hoeglund	June 28
Marc & Kelsy Hoerauf	June 28
Chas & Cheryl Kopplin	June 28
Adam & Meredith Weldon	June 29
Bill & Betty Brandon	June 30

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here please contact the church office so that we can update your information.

Thank you



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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