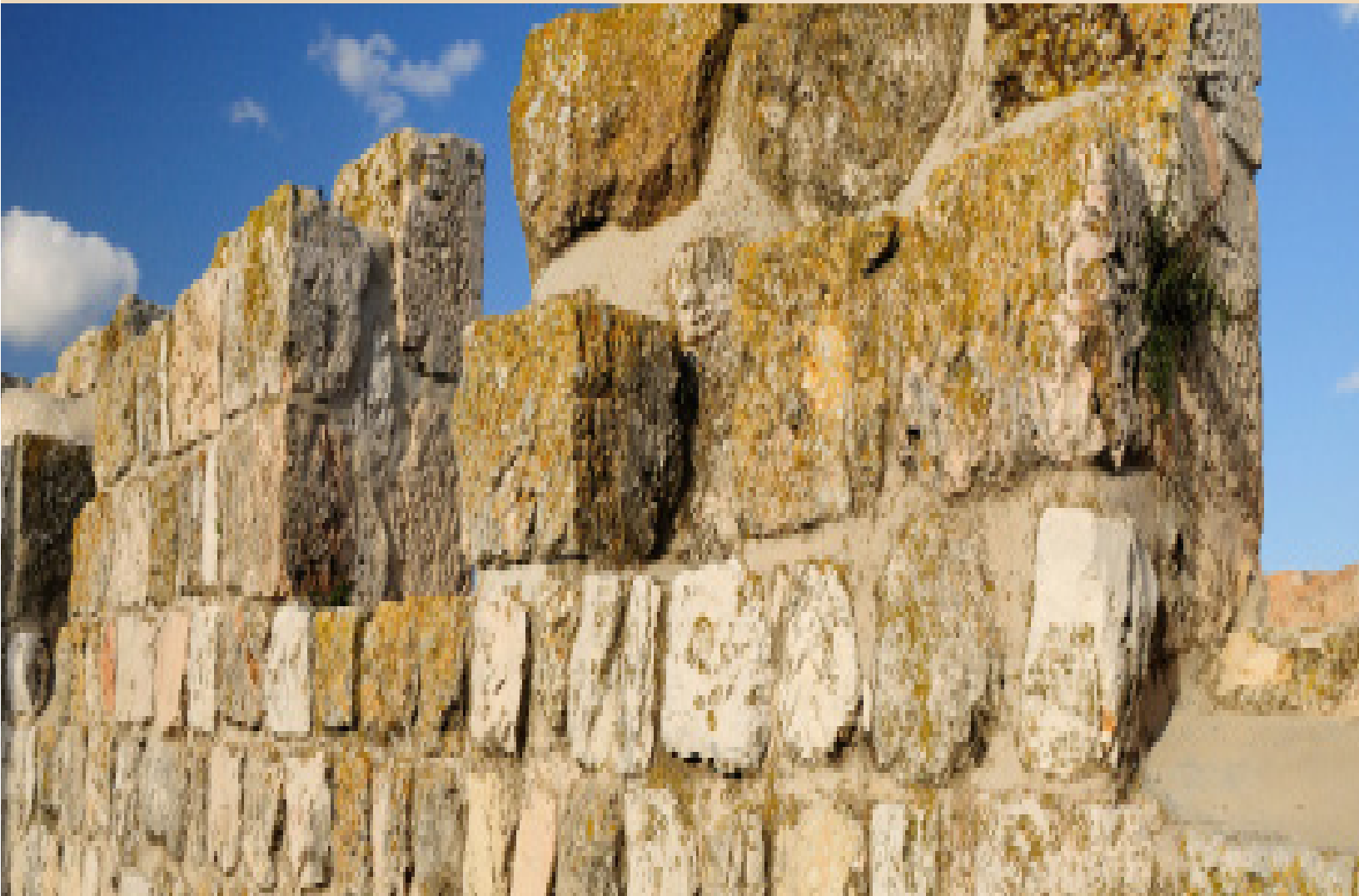


Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Living with Christ, serving the world

Newsletter July 2020



One Nation Under God

But if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name. Nehemiah 1:9

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

NEHEMIAH REOPENS THE CHURCH

Nehemiah was a man who had experienced loss. He was living far from his spiritual home, Jerusalem, and he hears about the distress of his people and ruined condition of his homeland. Many of us can relate to some degree. While we may not have witnessed devastation at our doorstep, we have certainly heard about all manner of troubles from racial conflicts and rioting to economic woes from COVID-19 restrictions. Nehemiah's response to what he has heard is instructive. "I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of Heaven." [Nehemiah 1:4]

Nehemiah grieved and he prayed. As we live out these days it is important to make space for grief and prayer. There are times in which I have been in a grumpy mood or have been severely tempted to do wrong things and, in that moment, I realize that I'm acting out of my anxiety and grief over the condition of my country, the reality of racism, the amount of violence in our streets, and callousness of our politics. Instead of the peace of Christ, I am acting out my fear that I may get very sick or cause another to fall ill with COVID-19. Grief is the process of identifying those feelings and thereby learning to manage them rather than blindly acting them out. Praying through grief is turning all of it over to God.

However Nehemiah didn't just grieve and pray. He repented. This means that his confession of wrong action on his own part and the part of his people led to action. This is a crucial part of his story. Many of us are grieved over troubling issues, racial injustice among others. But our grief and sadness don't carry us anywhere unless we can manage some action, however small at first. Nehemiah's action was to ask his boss for some time off. He requested King Artaxerxes for permission to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the city. Permission is granted and a new chapter in Nehemiah's life begins.

FFPC is in the process of rebuilding. While we do not have smoking rubble to contend with, (thank you all who have been faithfully giving of their treasure and time in the past few months!), we are recreating what it will mean to worship again, in the new reality of COVID-19. Just like Nehemiah, building a wall as well as reviving a people, we are striving to maintain our Church building as a safe and healthy place as well as encourage people's hearts. As we reopen we will be using the best knowledge that we have to keep each other safe as well as provide a meaningful worship experience. Just like at the end of Nehemiah chapter 4, as the builders worked with one hand and held a weapon in the other hand to fend off detractors, we will be worshiping as best we can, safely distanced for each other and wearing masks, for the time being.

But our worship is not the only thing we are called to do as a Community of Faith. We will also be seeking to do justice and love mercy as we walk together humbly before our God. Not only are we looking for new ways to worship together, we are also working to serve our community in new ways. Our grief, our prayers and our worship compels us to express the love which we have received to the world around us.

I hope that we all can approach this with a spirit of forbearance and patience, looking out for each other and building each other up.

I hope that we can find ourselves being bound together by the Holy Spirit; finding new and creative ways to pray, to worship, to serve and to lead.

I hope that we can be shaped by the Holy Spirit as a faithful community of Christ and we might be renewed in all things.

Pastor Robbie Carnes

DEAR FFPC, WHAT CAN WE SAY ABOUT RACISM? Pastor Robbie Carnes

In the midst of COVID-19 and shelter in place rules and the economic impacts, our nation has had the opportunity to reflect on racial injustice, prejudice and instances of police brutality that occurs in all corners of our country. The tragic video of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis has resonated across the globe, allowing many kinds of injustice and inequality to come to light.

We are living in times ripe with potential as our national conscience is turning to issues of injustice. It feels like we are more capable than we have ever been to listen to the anger, frustration and grief, especially from people of African heritage.

In the past few weeks I have struggled as to what I should say, as a Christian and as a pastor, about what we have seen in the news. However the biggest thing I struggle with is saying something about racism as a white male, who has never truly experienced any real deprivation. I certainly have my own pain, but by far I am deeply convicted that as a white male, my role is to listen, seeking to understand the frustration and pain of people of color in the United States and to speak sparingly.

Somethings do need to be said however, and so I speak as a white pastor to a white congregation. Social sins like racism flourish in silence. I would urge you, as the congregation of FFPC, to listen as well as you can to the pain of injustice that people of color are expressing so clearly right now.

After we listen we must reflect on what things need to be said. First, racism is wrong, unethical and evil. There is no version of racism that can be defended through scripture or theology without it severely distorting the Gospel in such a way as to render our faith useless and dead. Racism has a corrosive effect on our faith. If the Gospel isn't for everyone, how can you be sure that it is for you?

The question then is, if we can adamantly say that racism is wrong, how is it that we are still struggling as a nation and as individuals with racism? How is it that we have not recovered from the trauma of institutionalized slavery, reconciled as free citizens, and moved forward in equity? It is a national tragedy that we have experienced hopeful moments in our collective history that offer the hope of resolution only to find ourselves at the same hateful roadblocks time and again. The Abolitionist movements before the Civil War, Reconstruction efforts after the Civil War, even the Civil Right movement of the 50s and 60s, all have moved us forward as a nation and yet we come face to face with horrifying evidence that our core problems are not being addressed.



From The Oshkosh Northwestern - Peaceful Black Lives Matter protest takes over downtown Oshkosh. Rylie Blue holds a sign during a Black Lives Matter march and rally on Sunday, May 31, 2020, in Oshkosh, Wis. Protests have been happening across the country this week, after George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, was killed Monday by a white Minneapolis police officer who knelt on his neck while arresting him.

<https://www.thenorthwestern.com/picture-gallery/news/2020/05/31/peaceful-black-lives-matter-protest-takes-over-downtown-oshkosh/5302850002/image/5302886002/#slide:5302886002>

What is the real problem? While I speak as a white person to a white congregation, and there are many other worthwhile voices to listen to, I hope the following ideas help.

Naomi Wachira is a modern folk musician, born in Kenya and now living in Seattle. The lyric of one her songs, 'I believe', is profound to me. In the song, Naomi shares that she has believed lies about herself which have become chains that need to be thrown off. These lies are all encapsulated in whether she deserves beauty: to have beauty in her life, to be called beautiful and to create beautiful things. The most profound part of the song is this: 'I can't wrap my brain around why I keep falling for lesser stories'.

As a nation, and certainly as white people, we consistently fall for lesser stories that are told about people of color and different economic status. We tell these stories about who belongs where and who deserves what. We tell stories about what we are capable of and what could or should never happen. We tell stories about what we might lose if others gain. These are all lesser stories.

When we try to justify brutality toward people of color, perpetrated by police, other people of color or anyone, we are telling ourselves lesser stories of who we are. We divide the world between 'us and them' and deny individuals and ethnic groups an identity as people who have been made in the Image of God. If we insist on telling lesser stories about the racial realities of our national experience, we engage in the corrosive nature of racism by denying the capacity of people of color to deserve and create beauty that God has granted all people by the virtue of making them.



We do this when we, as white people, assume intention or character traits of people based on their ethnicity. We do this when our imaginations excuse racist behavior as an isolated incident. We do this when we assign blame to victims of racial violence because of their clothing, their bearing or stature, their fears or their past. We tell brief and unconnected stories that cannot be woven into a greater story because they are too thin and trite to hold together.

WHAT WE NEED IS A GREATER STORY. We need a story that speaks of the capacity of all people to join God in the creative acts of making the world a better place. We need a story that tells of the potential of all of us to glorify God through our voices, our activities, our cultures and the color of our skins. We need a story that is so much greater, so beautiful and lovely, that we can't help not speak of it.

We need a story about each other that we are constantly proclaiming, and in doing so, we stomp out any weed of racism or prejudice as quick as starts to sprout in our hearts. We need to remind ourselves constantly that God loved the WORLD so much that he gave his only begotten son. So that instead of death we might hope in life and that we might know a God who does not come to condemn us, but to rescue us. This greater story is the story of Jesus.

ISAIAH 11 SPEAKS OF THIS GREATER STORY:

¹ *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

² *The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—*

³ *and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.*

*He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;*

⁴ *but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.*

*He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.*

⁵ *Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.*

⁶ *The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.*

⁷ *The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.*

⁸ *The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.*

⁹ *They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.*

¹⁰ *In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.*

DEAR FFPC, THIS IS A STORY BIG ENOUGH TO CARRY ALL OF US INTO GOD'S FUTURE. It is a story that doesn't get old and reminds us of what we need to fight for in our communities and sustain in our hearts. Let us tell the greater story of Jesus that outshines all other stories. Let us tell a story that constantly reminds us of the evil of excluding those of other races from the goodness of the Gospel. Let us tell a story in which ALL people are made in the image of God and worthy of dignity and honor.

It is God's story that God tells to us, that we should tell our children and proclaim to a world hungry for a better story. It is also a story we need to tell ourselves every time we watch the news, read the newspaper or meet a stranger.

MISSION & STEWARDSHIP

LOCAL MISSION

North End Soup Kitchen – June 13, 2020

During this COVID-19 pandemic, access to food has become even more important for everyone. Our church supplied a small group of volunteers (at their request) to assist the North End Soup Kitchen in preparing a warm lunch and other foods for the people of Flint who are struggling the most. We prepared a warm meal of French toast, diced potatoes and sausage patties for 60 people and placed them into styrofoam containers. In addition, we prepared 183 ham sandwiches and placed them into sandwich bags. We also helped sort various incoming food supplies into more usable tubs that were sorted by specific food types. All of this while maintaining the best social distancing practices that we were able to perform. We felt that this was a very worthwhile outreach that also made us feel very useful.



ST. JUDES UPDATE

While the Mission Committee supports many different outreaches and organizations in our community and beyond, we have been hearing a great deal about FFPC's partnership with St. Jude's Outreach at the Episcopal church across the street. It has been a marvelous opportunity to extend the love of Jesus outside the walls of the church and present a witness of unity to our neighborhood.

This partnership has provided food for an average of 55 residents of Dauner Haus apartments and Townhomes for the month of June as well an average of 25 residents of Millpond Manor. We have averaged about 75 kids and 30+ families participating in our Saturday food distributions. This is not including our special effort to provide food for kids in the School District. Overall we are seeing a decrease in the presented food need, however we have been a big part of helping people and are ready to meet needs as they come throughout the summer.



What a joy it is to see Presbyterians, Episcopalians and other community members helping to meet needs and creating loving community as we do it. Below are some of the things we have collected this month:

-120 loaves of bread	-30 bottles of BBQ	-80 units of Laundry Detergent
-100+ units of Baby Wipes	-85 hotdog buns	-257 boxes of cereal

Thank you for all of you who have contributed materials goods, given time and prayed for our community!

GLOBAL MISSION



Dear Family and Friends,

We greet you with Christ's peace amidst the pandemic and protests.

Although we are worlds apart, we are reminded that social concerns that confront and unite us: police violence, extrajudicial killings, and the commitment to justice. As a family, we've had several conversations about these matters and how they relate to our identities and our faith. Especially speaking for myself (Cathy), I've spent more time in self-reflection and trying to find ways to confess, repent and move forward with new commitments. Through it all, we know that we are together.

1. Prayers – After sheltering in place in Quezon City, Philippines, we are now preparing to travel to the US. Starting this Sunday, June 21, our whole family will travel to California for a very short visit. The travel will be long because of several layovers, as well as our anxiety of getting sick. Because of Juan's green card, he is required to re-enter the US, with one year between each visit. Since we are foreign nationals in the Philippines, we are still restricted from entering the Philippines – these were put in place during our lockdown, and still in place. We are hoping against hope that we will not face any troubles in our travels or while resting with family in California. Please join us in your prayers for safe travels and our health and well-being.

2. Zoom check-ins - Assuming that we arrive safely and stay healthy in California, the first 14 days will be our self-quarantine. If your church, Mission Committee, Presbyterian Women circle, Sunday School, or any other group, would be interested in a weekday virtual visit, please contact us. We are thankful for the churches that have already hosted us virtually, since we had to change our original in-person plans for this summer.

3. Update and projects for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) --- My colleagues with Migrante Philippines have created several videos to provide an overall situation faced by migrant workers, as well as the testimonies of 3 migrants. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjDpapd053SepT-dRWjrwK1g/featured>

a. Feel free to reach out if you have more questions about these videos.

b. In case you are compelled to give financially towards Migrante's projects, you may give towards our ECO 52147. You must designate the gift in the memo line "For Migration and Anti-Human Trafficking." You can give directly here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/e052147/>

We remain grateful that we are serving together in God's mission. We would really love to hear from you -- please drop us a line and share how you are and how we might be praying for you.

With the deep peace of Christ,
Cathy, Juan and Aurelie

Rev. Cathy Chang
Presbyterian World Mission
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Regional Facilitator for Addressing Migration and Human Trafficking

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Review - May, 2020

Profit/ Loss	May	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income:	\$64,140.24*	\$204,203.34	\$168,356.57	\$360,341.58
Expense: *	<u>16,167.35</u>	<u>114,863.15</u>	<u>128,933.57</u>	<u>304,831.71</u>
Net Income:	\$47,972.89*	\$89,340.19*	\$39,423.00	\$55,509.87

*this does not include additional obligations such as restricted funds or mortgage payments. This reflects \$33,880.00 Payroll Program loan from the Small Business Administration.

Statement of Cash Flows May

Cash at Beginning of period:	\$79,088.63
Cash at End of Period:	<u>118,313.22</u>
Net Cash for Period (Increase)	\$39,224.59

Respectfully Submitted, June 8, 2020

Debera J Bard

Treasurer

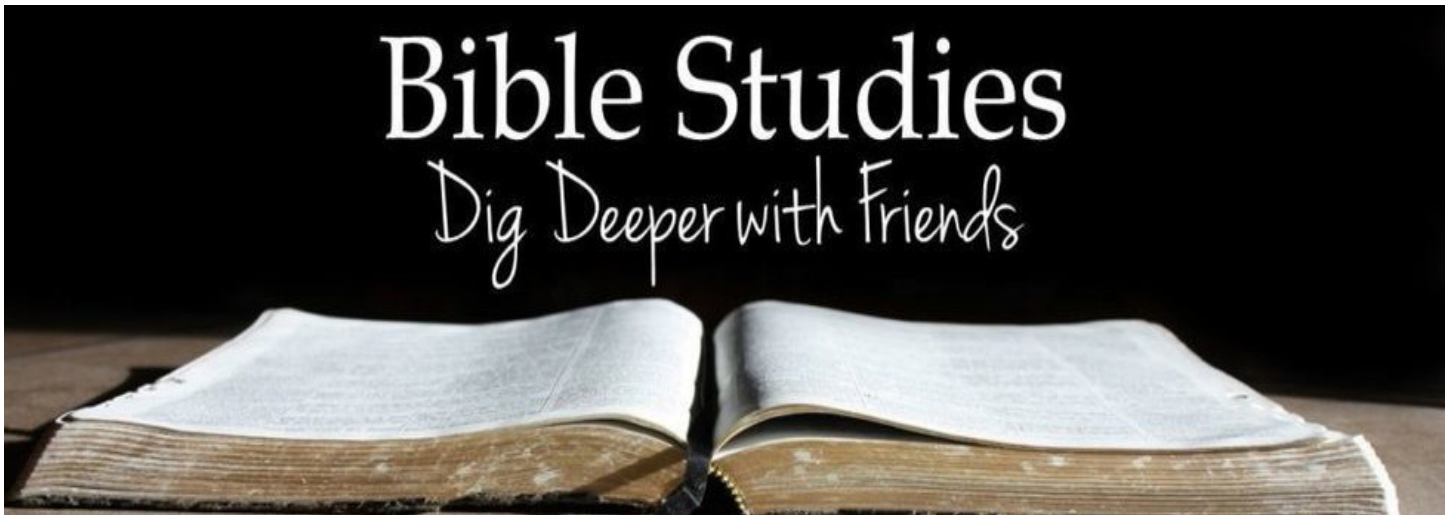
Building Fund Report – May 31, 2020

Building Account Balance:	\$9,302
Mortgage Remaining:	\$174,094

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



Sunday Evening Group Study with Larry Zimble

Sundays beginning July 19th at 5pm

Participants will meet at 4square Tax & Accounting.

This group will be discussing the Space Trilogy by CS Lewis.

Out of the Silent Planet - 1938

Perelandra - 1943

That Hideous Strength - 1945

These are fundamentally science fiction with DEEP theological roots, as would be expected from Lewis. We will likely discuss the trilogy as a whole, rather than a book at a time.

Please contact Larry Zimble at larry@4squaretax.com for more information

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 is an 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

Monday evening and Wednesday Morning Women's Covenant Groups will resume in the fall with studies by Jen Wilkin.

Emotionally Healthy Relationships course will be offered in September. Sign-up information coming soon

FAMILY MINISTRY

Got kids? Got teens? Ever noticed how their needs seem to be the only needs in the house that matter?

Their brains are wired to work this way during teenage years so they develop courage to take steps to leave home.

However, in order to have healthy relationships kids still need to know why it is important to consider others and respect boundaries. Using the tips in the article below will help them think outside of themselves. If you are interested in learning more about Love and Logic techniques, check out our full library of books and media in the Conference Room, or see Tina Ritchie.



“Teaching Kids to be Thoughtful of Others” by Jedd Hafer

Abby, a friend of mine, asked me if other parents are getting as frustrated as she is. Her teenaged son appears to have forgotten that other people actually live in their house too. He repeatedly turns the volume way up on his device without considering if it will bother those around him and he often leaves messes wherever he goes.

She knows that the Love and Logic® approach encourages parents to resist the temptation to nag. “But what can I do about this?” she pleaded.

She’s not alone, is she? Many of us have probably experienced kids getting cranky when they are asked to get off a video game or clean up after themselves. Or, when we ask them why they downed the last of the _____ that was meant for the whole family!

So how do we get kids to be more considerate of others?

Like so many things, it starts with us. Here are a few suggestions for how we can be intentional about helping our young ones improve their thoughtfulness of others.

1. **Slow down before speaking:** That’s right. We say fewer things that we regret when we carefully consider words before they leave our mouth. We do this for ourselves AND we do it to set a powerful example.
2. **Model thoughtfulness:** You are probably more thoughtful than your kids, but are you intentionally showing them acts of thoughtfulness such as letting others go first or asking, “Will this bother anybody if I ...?”
3. **Notice and celebrate thoughtfulness:** When you see thoughtful behavior, describe it in specific terms and celebrate out loud (without going over the top and embarrassing them). Be proactive by setting out to find even tiny moments of politeness.
4. **Talk to kids about problems when there aren’t problems:** Many parents tell us that having a calm conversation removed from the rude incident is much more effective than jumping on the behavior with wrath in the moment. Catch them later, when brains are calm and defenses are down, and ask them, “Have you noticed that when you play your music too loud, it bothers other people in the house?”
5. **Sometimes they need a logical consequence:** We list this last for a reason. It’s possible Abby will actually need to provide a delayed consequence, such as, “This is sad. You finished off the cookies without saving any for your dad. Be thinking about how you can make that up to him.” It is highly effective when consequences require kids to solve the problems that they caused.

It can be challenging to be around people we love for extended periods without many breaks. It can also be a good time for kids to learn how to be more thoughtful and considerate. Working on these skills now will pay off later – even when they are away from us and are around other people.

Love Your Neighbor: Family Resources on Racial Injustice

by Minno’s



Love Your Neighbor: Family Resources on Racial Injustice

By Minno's Editorial Team on June 10, 2020

“And he answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’” Luke 10:27 (ESV)

At Minno, we believe we are to be actively engaged in bringing God’s goodness and love to our families, communities, and to the broader world. Racism and other similar injustices are arrayed against God’s best for us as His image-bearers.

Our hearts have been heavy as we think about the death of George Floyd. We’ve been asking ourselves, “How would we feel and respond if this same injustice happened to someone we know and love deeply?”

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.” Romans 12:15 (NIV)

As parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends, we have been challenged in how best to address recent injustices and advocate for God’s Kingdom in our families. Below, we have some resources to help you and your family have conversations about racism and what it means to “love your neighbor as yourself”.

“And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8 (NIV)

While we often think about love in relation to individuals and each other, we believe God calls us to think about what it means to have institutions and organizations that lay “loving others as ourselves” as a foundation and hold being good neighbors as a goal.

We hope these resources are helpful and can serve as a guide to addressing systemic evil that exists in our society and how the Gospel can serve as a beacon for hope and change in all areas of our lives.

Resources to Help Lead Your Family in Response to Racism and Injustice

A Helpful Message on Race and Racism

“We have wandered away from a value system that was established by God for how human beings were to live and act and relate to one another. Across racial and class lines we have come up with our own standards and it has not done us good.” Dr. Tony Evans

Listen in as Dr. Tony Evans [speaks from his heart about social injustice](#)

Articles on Talking to Kids About Racism

Family Life: [Before I Talk to My Kids About Another Black Man’s Death](#)

Only Girl, 4 Boyz: [Dear White Moms, What I Need You To Know](#)

Common Sense Media: [How to Talk with Kids About Racism and Racial Violence](#)

Common Sense Media: [Resources about Race and Racism](#)

Black Christian Voices to Follow

Latasha Morrison: [latashamorrison](#) author of [Be the Bridge](#) / [beabridgebuilder](#)

Marcie Walker: [Black Coffee with White Friends](#) and [Mockingbird Lessons: History Lessons for Adults](#)

Danielle Coke: [ohhappydani](#)

Kids Books to Spark Conversations

[Coretta Scott King Book Award Winner List](#)

At Minno, we are praying for our families, communities, and the broader world working toward a better future. We will stand together, with our children by our side, and with the hope and trust in the healing power of Jesus.

A Prayer for Parents from Liturgies for Parents

Compassionate God,
We ache
With every headline and Tweet
And we wonder
What kind of world are we giving our children?
Merciful God,
We lament
With every hashtag and video
And we wonder
How do we raise children in these times?
Righteous God,
We grieve
With every heartache and loss
And we wonder
Who will our children see their parents be?
In Your compassion, mercy, and righteousness
Lead us to cultivate peace
And create a more beautiful world with and for our children
We pray this in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

YOUTH GROUP



All summer event costs will be paid from VG’s receipts reimbursement. Friends are welcome with a current parental consent form on file.

Due to covid considerations, all activities will be outdoors, local, and require your own transportation. Please contact Tina 810-701-4136 if you need help securing a ride, and be sure to bring a mask!

Youth Group Summer Schedule: Incoming 6th graders – graduated seniors

July 9, 2-4pm: Uncle Rays Ice Cream and Putt Putt Golf Kayaking

July 16, 6-9pm: Bonfire and Adventure Course at the MacLean’s

July 23, 10am-4pm: Service work day – lunch included

July 30, 10am-4pm: Kayaking the Shiawassee River

August 6, 10am-4pm: Beach day at Holly State Park

August 13, 10am-4pm: Service work day – lunch included

August 20, 2-4pm: Geochaching scavenger hunt and Ice Cream

**DUE TO COVID-19, MASSANETTA SPRINGS HAS CANCELLED ITS ON-SITE
MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCES.
BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET.**

VIRTUAL NETTA IS COMING YOUR WAY

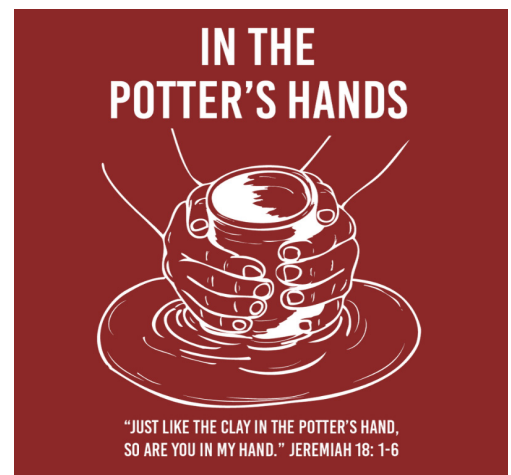
JULY 3-31

We can't meet in person this summer for Middle School Conference, but our high school Advocates, along with help from our Keynoters, Advocate Coordinators, and Music Leaders, are creating a video collection of energizers, games, theme skits, keynotes, a theme song, and a worship service that you can use for your own Netta experience at home! It's FREE, no registration required. Follow us on [social media](#) to stay up to date all the newest offerings.

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS IN THE POTTER'S HANDS

"The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel." Jeremiah 18:1-6

This summer we are going to explore what it means to be "in the potter's hands." Through this familiar metaphor, God teaches us that God is not done with us yet, and we are not forgotten. We are meant to constantly be remolded and reshaped into our intended purposes. During these hard times, we know that God has us in God's hands - and God will make something new and GOOD out of the marred clay.



EASY WAYS CONGREGATION MEMBERS CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR YOUTH PROGRAM

Kroger Community Rewards

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! Now we are only \$10,000 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. Bless you!!!

Bottle Return Donations: Youth Group will be donating 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. Now that 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, or drop them off in the youth room, appropriately rinsed and bagged and we will take care of redemption

Thank you for helping us help feed our community! Love, FFPC Youth Group

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday Morning Worship Opportunities

Families, kids, teens, couples, and grandparents are needed to present a "moment of household worship" at the beginning of service. In lieu of the "time with children," 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.

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.

On the next page 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

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



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 provided 12 weeks of free resources this spring. If you want to access them in the future, you can find them here https://www.illustratedministry.com/weekly-resources/?ck_subscriber_id=768870966, but you will need this password: 2020-COVID-19-FREE
- 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/>



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>

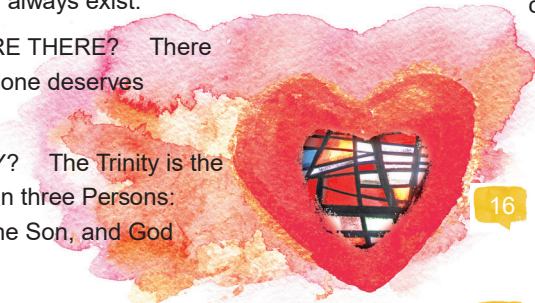
Parents: Please let me know if you need any assistance with these tools. The best way to reach me is 810-701-4136. Additionally, I would love to hear how you are using these resources and how they are shaping faith at home.



BIG PICTURE & QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FOR KIDS

GOD

- 1 WHO IS GOD? God is our Creator and King of everything.
- 2 WAS GOD CREATED? No, God has always existed and will always exist.
- 3 HOW MANY GODS ARE THERE? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.
- 4 WHAT IS THE TRINITY? The Trinity is the one true God existing in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- 5 WHAT IS GOD LIKE? God is holy, good, and loving.
- 6 IS GOD PERFECT? Yes, God is perfect in every way. No one and nothing compares to God.
- 7 IS ANYTHING OR ANYONE GREATER THAN GOD? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.
- 8 WHAT DOES GOD KNOW? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.
- 9 WHO IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.
- 10 IS THERE ANYTHING GOD CANNOT DO? God can do all things according to His character. God cannot sin.



Kids

- 11 DOES GOD KEEP HIS PROMISES? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.
- 12 WHO CREATED EVERYTHING? God created the universe, even things we cannot see.
- 13 WHY DID GOD CREATE EVERYTHING? God created everything for His glory and our good.
- 14 WHAT WAS GOD'S CREATION LIKE? God created everything perfectly good.
- 15 HOW DOES GOD CARE FOR HIS CREATION? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.

PEOPLE

- 16 WHY DID GOD CREATE PEOPLE? God created people to worship Him, love Him, and show His glory.
- 17 WHAT MAKES PEOPLE SPECIAL? People are special because we are made in God's image, as male and female, to know Him.
- 18 WHO WERE THE FIRST PEOPLE GOD CREATED? God created Adam and Eve as the first man and woman.
- 19 HOW DID SIN ENTER THE WORLD? Adam and Eve did not trust God's plan and they disobeyed God.
- 20 WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SIN? To sin is to think, say, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.
- 21 WHAT HAPPENED BECAUSE OF ADAM AND EVE'S SIN? After sin entered the world, God's world was corrupted, and all people were born sinners.

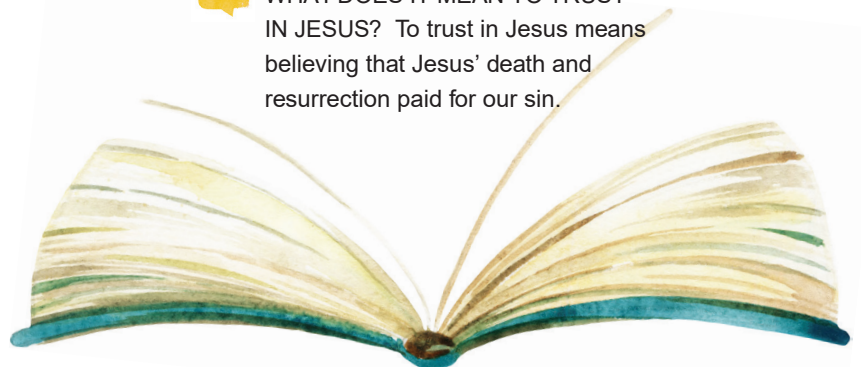


- 22** WHY DOES SIN SEPARATE US FROM GOD? Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.
- 23** WHAT IS THE FAIR PAYMENT FOR SIN? The fair payment for sin is death.
- 24** HOW DID GOD PLAN TO FIX WHAT SIN BROKE? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.
- 25** HOW CAN WE BE SAVED? We are only saved through faith in Jesus.
- 26** HOW WERE PEOPLE SAVED BEFORE JESUS CAME TO EARTH? People were saved by faith in God's promise to send the Messiah.
- 27** WHO WILL BE SAVED? Anyone who repents of sin and trusts in Jesus will be saved.
- 28** WHAT IS REPENTANCE? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

JESUS

- 29** WHO IS JESUS? Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to earth to save us.
- 30** IS JESUS GOD OR A HUMAN? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.
- 31** WHY DID JESUS BECOME HUMAN? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

- 32** HOW DID JESUS COME TO EARTH? Jesus was born of a virgin.
- 33** DID JESUS EVER SIN? No, Jesus never sinned.
- 34** WHAT DID JESUS TEACH WHEN HE WAS ON EARTH? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.
- 35** WHY DID JESUS PERFORM MIRACLES? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.
- 36** HOW IS JESUS THE PERFECT PROPHET? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.
- 37** HOW IS JESUS THE PERFECT PRIEST? Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin, and He speaks to God the Father for us today.
- 38** HOW IS JESUS THE PERFECT KING? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.
- 39** WHAT DID JESUS DO TO SAVE US? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.
- 40** WHERE IS JESUS NOW? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.
- 41** WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TRUST IN JESUS? To trust in Jesus means believing that Jesus' death and resurrection paid for our sin.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

CHURCH RE-OPENING JULY 12TH - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Members and friends of FFPC

While the Covid19 pandemic persists and is again growing in a variety of areas in the U.S, many businesses and activities are reopening. Churches are essential. In person worship is essential. But we cannot knowingly place people at risk, and many in our congregation are at an increased risk of serious illness and death from this virus.

The Session has acted on recommendations of a special task force to develop processes for re-opening our church. Based on physical considerations, we plan to open Sunday July 12th. We will continue to broadcast our services online via Zoom and Facebook. We plan to continue doing this into the future, even when there is no danger of meeting, because it allows all of us, including travelers and those that have moved away, to stay in touch.

In order to adequately provide a safe worship experience, we will be implementing a variety of changes. We ask that you agree and comply; and if you are unable or unwilling to comply, please continue to participate from home.

- Everyone must wear a face covering (mask) the entire time you are in the building; the entire time during worship, including singing. The mask does not protect you from anything; but it can work to protect those around you, and anyone could be infected without knowing it. Masks will be available at the door for those who forget to bring their own.
- You must disinfect your hands before entering the building (a monitored hand sanitizer station will be set up in the lobby by the east (parking lot) main door.
- The east (parking lot) main door will be the only entrance to the church building that will be unlocked. Once inside you may exit through any door.
- If you need the elevator, access through the hallway will be provided.
- Seating in the sanctuary will be in alternate rows, and only on the far ends of each pew. Family units living together are welcome to sit together. We estimate that at least 60 people can fit in the reduced spaces available.
- Exiting the sanctuary at the end of services will be by row, conducted by the ushers. We need to prevent the usual bottleneck at the doors to the narthex.

There will be other changes, and we will be making these known over the time between now and the first open worship. However, remember that we cannot provide any iron clad guarantee of your safety. Disease can spread in spite of the disinfectant actions and social distancing that we will implement. If you are uncomfortable with returning to live worship, you can still have live-virtual worship as we've been doing these last 3 months.

May the LORD God protect you, but please, as Deuteronomy 6:16 tells us: "You shall not tempt the LORD your God..."

Stay safe and healthy. Shalom

FFPC Session

WORSHIP SCHEDULE JULY 5-JULY 26TH

The Prophet Jeremiah was tasked to call God's people into repentance. Jeremiah lived in tumultuous times, both socially and politically. His words pierce the heart and are surprisingly relevant to today. We live in great need of repentance. This does not mean going to church more often or giving up curse words. Real repentance is the reconciliation of relationship between each other and between ourselves and God.

July 5th, 5th Sunday after Pentecost, Communion Sunday "The Way Back Home is Repentance" Jeremiah 3:6-24

Speaking to Jeremiah, God paints a vivid picture of what he feels as his chosen people are unfaithful to him. It is sobering to think that God may feel this way as we commit our personal sins, let alone as our nation as a whole is struggling with social problems. In spite of God's disgust and disappointment, he draws up a plan for renewal and reconciliation; the foundation of this plan is repentance.

July 12th, 6th Sunday after Pentecost

"When we refuse to repent" Jeremiah 5:1-13

Repentance is not just a hand shake and a mumbled, "I'm sorry". It is a radical transformation of spirit, action and reconciliation. If there is not repentance over wrong doing there is not just spiritual consequences, but physical ones too. God uses natural and supernatural consequence of sin to call us to repentance. However, the more we refuse to repent the more our heart is calcified and we cease being able to hear God calling to us.

July 19th, 7th Sunday after Pentecost

"Lament for God's People" Jeremiah 4:19-31, Matthew 25:1-13

Matthew 25 tells the parable of the ten bridesmaids. Five are foolish and get left outside as the wedding party commences. How must they feel? Jeremiah shares about what they might have felt like and certainly how we should feel like if we find ourselves unprepared and unable to participate in God's saving work in the world.

July 26th, 8th Sunday after Pentecost

"How shall we grieve?" Jeremiah 8:18-9:11

No matter what your political affiliations there are many things worth grieving over in our world; from racial injustice, to economic opportunity lost, to climate change, to name a few. It is not wrong to feel bad about these things, however grief that leads to creative action is how we refuse to let our grief paralyze us.

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)

WE NEED YOU!

Leaders Needed:


The Nominating Committee is looking for FFPC members to serve on the Session and Deacon Board in the upcoming 2021 year. Please contact Elder Jenn Wenzel (jenn720308@gmail.com) if you have a nomination or would like to be considered for leadership.

Are you a people person? Do you like to smile? We need you! Ushers and Greeters are needed as we look forward to reopening the church doors. If you are willing to serve in this important role, please contact the church office.

We are in need of some help maintaining the church's flower beds. If you love being outside, getting some sun and enjoying the fresh air this is a job for you! Since the fitness clubs are shut down, this is also a great way to get in your deep knee bends... for free. Please call, Debbie Bard 810-629-8729

Calling all Techies: The Worship Committee is looking for additional sound and video technicians to help produce worship services and maintain our ability to stream live services. Willingness to learn is all you need to help in this crucial way. Please contact Jay Kirkey for more information (jaykirkey@icloud.com).

Working flat screen tvs needed: Have you upgraded in the recent past? Have an extra working tv that you no longer need? We are looking for flat screen televisions that can be easily hung on a wall. We are hoping to upgrade the technology within the church to assist us in furthering our ministry. If you have one that you would be willing to donate, please contact the church office at 810-629-7801 or office@ffpc.org. Thank you



Our beloved Choir Director, Bruce Neiuwenhuis has retired from conducting our Chancel Choir and Bell Choir. We are planning on a celebration of his work among us in the near future, when we can gather together safely. We hope that at that time we can adequately express to Bruce our gratitude. In the meantime, a search committee has been formed and is actively working to recommend to Session a new Choir Director and Organist. More details to follow.

LET'S CELEBRATE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sharon Stone	Jul 3
Denise Warba	Jul 4
Lisa Mehlberg	Jul 7
Rick Stanfill	Jul 9
Edith Miner	Jul 10
Tina Ritchie	Jul 11
Rebecca Drake	Jul 14
Emily Kinser	Jul 16
Lindsey Gibb	Jul 17
Janet Stork	Jul 17
Brian Rourke	Jul 18
Nessie Brownlee	Jul 21
Bruce Coffin	Jul 21
Debbie LaVanway	Jul 21
Jesse James	Jul 22
Rita Vadasz	Jul 22
Ellen Horton	Jul 23
Cameron Miller	Jul 23
Robert Chappelle	Jul 24
Cindy Crawford	Jul 25
Max Kryza	Jul 25
Sharon Crary	Jul 26
Jacob Kinser	Jul 26
Adie Eddington	Jul 29
Sherry Rourke	Jul 29
Toadie Middleton	Jul 30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Sandy Nelson & Helen Dillworth	July 4
David & Linda McCleary	July 17
Mark & Sarah Martin-Fanone	July 19
Jeff & P.J. Collier	July 24
Jon & Jan O'Connell	July 25
Bill & Nikki Black	July 26
Ty & Andrea Smith	July 26

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION!

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