

Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Living with Christ, serving the world

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020

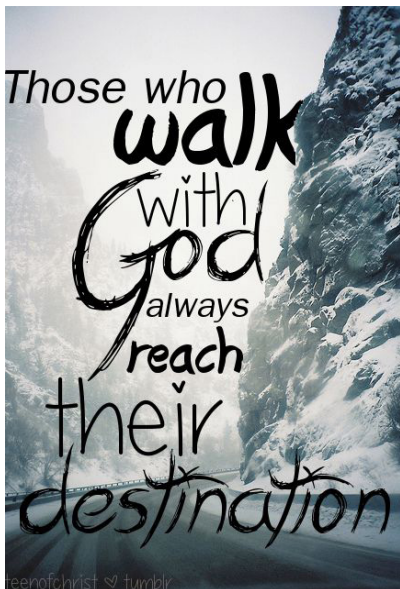


Pastor's Article

A LONG WALK IN THE SAME DIRECTION

Almost forty years ago, Eugene Peterson, a Presbyterian minister, linguist and author, published a reflection of the Psalms entitled 'A Long Obedience in the Same Direction'. The focus of his book, the Psalms of Ascents (120-134) are a grouping of songs that are generally agreed to have been used by Jewish pilgrims as they traveled up to Jerusalem for festivals (The Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles, Deut 16:16). All of them being brief, many of them are cheerful pieces that can easily be imagined being sung as families and even whole villages would joyfully tramp down dusty roads to celebrate the festivals. Some of them are of a more introspective and reflective nature, but all of them conclude with a hopeful tone and an expectation of future blessing. Depending on where you lived in ancient Israel, you might have sung these songs several times over before you arrived at Jerusalem.

Discipleship, or one could say the Christian Life, is a commitment to a long obedience, not unlike a long pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Discipleship is investing in our relationship with our loving God. Peterson suggests that this investment is not a one time payment, but a long discipline, producing virtue and a deeper relationship with God.



For us modern pilgrims, these past days and months have been a pilgrimage indeed. As we have walked through the enfolding of a global pandemic, we have been surprised again and again at how easy it is to believe that we are in a fast sprint rather than a long distance marathon. Too often we have exhausted ourselves dashing around what we think is the last corner of this disaster, only to find that we have a very long way to go.

Many times our spiritual lives are like that too. We think that going to a conference (pre-COVID) or attending a Zoom bible study (post-COVID) will produce in us a transformative effect that will forever change us. It certainly does, but then we may find ourselves going back to the same bad habits and blasé moods. As opposed to one event or study, our spiritual life is a long walk in the same direction and with the same companion. We never walk by ourselves toward God. We are walking with God into a deeper relationship. Just as Paul said, 'To live is Christ, to die is gain.'

(Phil 1:21) our spiritual journey is never beyond Jesus' reach. Even if we go through the valley of the shadow of death, we need not fear evil. Our God's rod and staff, his discipline and protection are with us.

As we continue this long walk through COVID country, remember that we do it with our Lord at our side, behind and before us. 'As the mountains surround Jerusalem so the Lord surrounds his people' (Ps 125:2). The journey will be long and tedious, but we do not walk alone. We are God's people and God is our God, loving Father, faithful brother, Lord and ever present Spirit.

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes O Lord, like the water-courses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of Joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seeds of sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves." (Ps 126:3-6)

Mission & Stewardship

LOCAL MISSION

St. Judes Update

We are now in the planning stages for the August 10th and August 17th Food Give Aways for the Fenton School kids.

The plans will be the same as our July giveaways. We plan to pack bags on Sundays August 9th & 16th, and pass out the food on Mondays August 10th and August 17th.

From First Presbyterian we are looking for 3 volunteers on each of the Sundays 2:00 - 3:30. On Mondays we are looking for 2 volunteers from First Presbyterian 10:00 - 2:30.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the office or click the link provided below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aaea629a6f58-stjudes1>

Thanks for your partnership in these giveaways!

Dave

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Were you like me and utilized the time at home to clean out and declutter? Thinking of getting rid of your old household items and appliances? The ReStore is in constant need of donations. If you have items left over from a bathroom or kitchen remodel, or have a garage cluttered with construction materials, electrical fixtures, or used, yet operable appliances you no longer need, please consider donating your goods to the ReStore. By doing so, you will be supporting the Genesee County Habitat for Humanity, and be eligible to receive a tax-deduction for your donation. We accept donations Tuesday - Saturday 9:30-4:00 pm or a pickup can be arranged within Genesee County.

To schedule your FREE pick-up of 3 or more large items, please click here: <https://resupply.app.link/geneseehabitat>

Please see their website for information about items they can and cannot accept.

If you call before or after our working hours please leave a message and we will get back to you promptly.

Open to the Public!

The Habitat ReStore is a place for donating and purchasing used and new building materials and home improvement items. The ReStore is open to the general public, so stop in and see what's new! Prices at the ReStore are at least 50% below retail price, and all proceeds from Restore purchases go towards supporting Genesee County Habitat for Humanity's mission of providing affordable home-ownership opportunities to individuals and families right here in Genesee County.

Samaritas Update

Hello Everyone!

I want to apologize for how long it has been since I last updated all of you on our refugee aid efforts. I have updates on all of our friends that I will share, but very little information for refugees in general. The current pandemic has stopped all incoming refugees for the time being. This is disheartening for me as a volunteer, and I imagine devastating for refugees world wide who have waited so long to restart their lives and are now being forced to continue their time in camps. On a more hopeful note, there is still much that we can do if we turn our focus to helping those refugees who are already here in Michigan and struggling to build their lives in these uncertain times. I will outline how we can be of help, but first the promised updates:



Rolly: In February I was a part of a conference call with Rolly, his caseworker, and the employment specialist for Samaritas. We discussed Rolly's need for a higher income (he was currently earning minimum wage and paying half of his wages for rent). He expressed that he is willing to move for a better job, but not wanting to lose the security he feels in his current place. He was making enough to exist, but unable to save anything nor pay for any unexpected expenses.

He was able to secure a second job in March, but of course that only lasted about two weeks. I am hopeful it will resume soon, but no word to date. In the meantime money is a huge concern, and he is struggling with basic expenses like food and phone service. Again, the generosity of this group has aided him and sent him a bit of donated money in April.

Finally, his family has been approved for resettlement, but that will be a lengthy and expensive process. The first of many expenses is an \$800 DNA test that he needs to pay for to prove his relationship with his wife and children. Thanks to the generosity of this group and First Presbyterian Church in Warren, that will be paid for.

Anyone who would like to help Rolly is encouraged to send donations to First Presbyterian Church of Warren, 3000 E 12 Mile Rd, Warren, MI 48092. Put "pastor's discretionary fund" in the memo line and let Pastor Delezenne know the money is for Rolly. She is keeping in close contact with him.

Masoka: I have only a short update and unfortunately not a very happy one. She is still struggling. The housing crisis that you may hear about on the news really affects our poor and disabled citizens.



Masoka is both poor and disabled. She has been on a waitlist for affordable housing and was recently approved for an apartment. I am serving as a reference for her.

New arrivals Kerly and Eduardo: On MLK day a group of 7 of us drove down to Southwest Detroit to deliver our largest donation ever of furniture and housewares! Kerly and Eduardo arrived in December from Ecuador with their 2 year old son, and a daughter on the way. They are originally



from Columbia. They were not resettled by Samaritas, but we met them when their cousin Angie reached out to me. They had been staying with her family while their caseworker tried unsuccessfully to find them the resources to move into their own place. It was a delight to meet them and help them to move into their home. Here is a non-comprehensive list of our donation: 2 full sized mattresses, 2 dressers, buffet with hutch, a couch, dining table with 4 chairs, a large set of china, a set of silverware, new towels, sheets, electric can opener, a modest cash donation that they used to buy a gas stove, every kitchen utensil one could imagine! We were also able to bring a dining table with four chairs, a set of silverware, and new towels for Angie and her family of 6.

In May Kerly gave birth to a healthy baby girl who she named Brithany. Everyone is doing well considering the pandemic.

If you would like to support this family, they are looking for a computer to take online English as a Second Language courses. I will be accepting donations towards the purchase for about the next week; please let me know if you would like to contribute.

Salah: After having been laid off from his job at a local restaurant for a few months, he is back to work. He has been promoted to line cook. This is a better wage, but fewer hours. He is looking to find a second part time job that will bring up his income enough for him to be able to rent an apartment. He has been with our family for a year now and would love to be able to spread his wings and move into his own place. This is of course a challenge as he learns to budget and gets quotes for his own car insurance, etc. If you know of any local places hiring please drop me a line. He is still taking high school classes online and is now only 8 classes shy of his diploma! If he keeps up his current pace, he will graduate in December!

Thank you all for your continued support and for getting to the bottom of this long email. I have received some calls/emails/texts from you wondering if there was still a need, and I can identify three big needs:

1. We can support Rolly and Kerly financially.
2. We can continue to collect household items and furniture for eventual arrivals and for when Salah finds an apartment.
3. We can work to find a better job for Rolly. If that job is near Fenton we would also need to help secure housing.

I have and will continue to keep in contact with the caseworkers at Samaritas for the eventual reopening of the resettlement program.

Peace to All,
Sarah

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Review - June, 2020

<i>Profit/ Loss</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>YTD Actual</i>	<i>YTD Budget</i>	<i>Annual Budget</i>
Income:	\$21,919.36	\$192,242.70	\$193,733.35	\$360,341.58
Expense: *	<u>19,085.68</u>	<u>133,328.24</u>	<u>152,631.09</u>	<u>304,831.71</u>
Net Income:	\$2833.68*	\$28,914.46*	\$41,102.26	\$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:	\$118,933.81
Cash at End of Period:	<u>118,963.73</u>
Net Cash for Period (Increase)	\$29.92

Respectfully Submitted, June 8, 2020

Debera J Bard

Treasurer

Building Fund Report – June 30, 2020

Building Account Balance:	\$9,300
Mortgage Remaining:	\$172,106

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 at 5pm

Participants will meet at 4square Tax & Accounting.

This group is discussing the Space Trilogy by CS Lewis.

Out of the Silent Planet - 1938

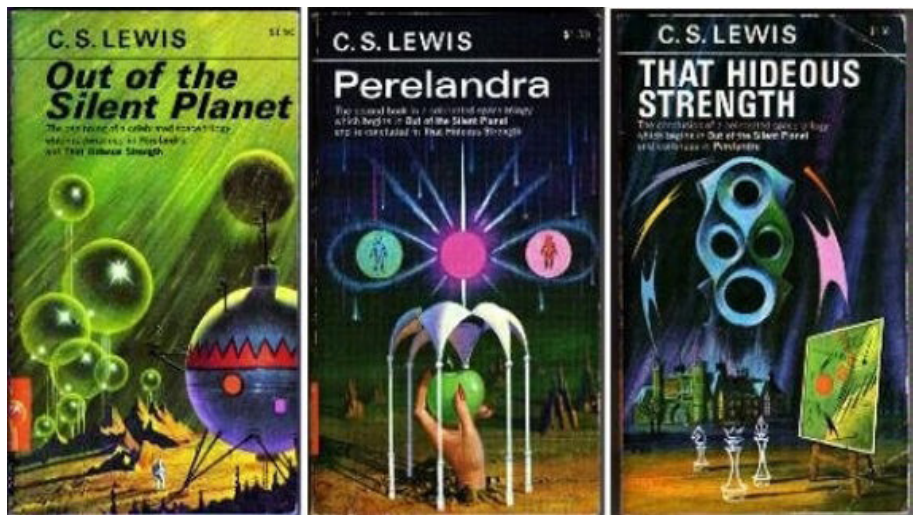
Perelandra - 1943

That Hideous Strength - 1945

All three books are available in a single codex for 8.99 at <https://www.christianbook.com/>

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.

As always, we'll spend the time we want on this without any artificial ending date; this is a small group and not a specific scheduled bible study.



YOUR EXPERIENCE AND YOUR REACTION TO THE BOOK IS IMPORTANT AND WE WANT YOU TO SHARE.

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



Monday evening women's study

FIRST PETER: A LIVING HOPE IN CHRIST by Jen Wilkin

September 14 – November 9 from 6:30 – 8pm

Via Zoom, facilitated by Tina Ritchie

Cost: \$14 for workbook

Register by August 21 to reserve your copy to tina@ffpc.org, or contact the church office 810-629-7801



Our inheritance through Christ is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. In 1 Peter, a man of faith and flaws and eyewitness to the life of Christ challenges us to look beyond our current circumstances to a future inheritance. He shares his concerns on big picture issues for the early church, describes believers' true identity in Christ, and ultimately helps readers discover what it means to experience the Living Hope they have in Christ. Key themes of humility, submission, and identity in Christ guide the study of 1 Peter as participants are challenged to read the book in its entirety each week.

Wednesday morning women's study

FIRST PETER: A LIVING HOPE IN CHRIST by Jen Wilkin

September 16 – November 11 from 10am – noon

Via Zoom, facilitated by Tina Ritchie

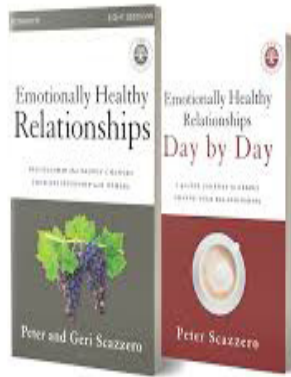
Cost: \$14 for workbook

Register by August 21 to reserve your copy to tina@ffpc.org, or contact the church office 810-629-7801

See class information above



Let's work together...



Spiritual Growth and Community Building for Couples

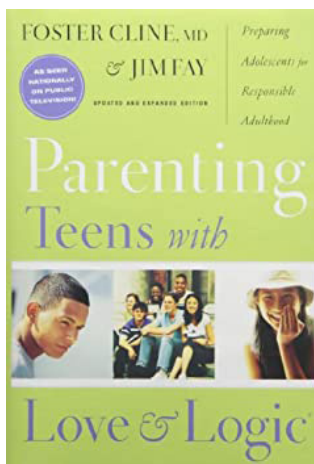
Emotionally Healthy Relationships study by Peter and Geri Scazzero

Monday evenings September 14 – November 2 from 7:00-8:30pm via zoom

Discussion facilitated by Bill & Nikki Black

The Emotionally Healthy Relationship course is being offered to build community among married couples while expanding relationship skills in all areas of their lives. It's not a marriage encounter, but rather an immersive study that teaches 8 practical Bible-centered skills that help break through relational roadblocks. The ultimate goal is to help us grow together into emotionally and spiritually mature followers of Christ by revitalizing the way we listen to and love one another—even in difficult situations.

Cost is \$29 /per couple for the course pack which includes a short daily devotional and a participant workbook. **This course is open to the first 8 couples to RSVP to the church office 810-629-7801.**



Love & Logic Parenting teens Course –

Wednesday evenings September 16 – October 21

6:30 – 8pm

Facilitated by Tina Ritchie

Class meeting information will be provided to registered guests
\$35/family for materials – free for returning attendees!

Parents need help to teach their teens how to make decisions responsibly- and do so without going crazy or damaging the relationship.

Parenting Teens with Love and Logic empowers parents with the skills necessary to set limits, teach important skills, and encourage decision-making

in their teenagers.

RSVP by September 9 to tina@ffpc.org or the church office

FAMILY MINISTRY



Love and Logic®

Do you have challenging people in your life? The following article speaks to dealing with strong-willed kids, however these kids can turn into strong-willed adults. We all come across strong-willed people at any age, and may be that person is even you! It's really about setting healthy boundaries, and these limits are for you, stating what you will allow. Want to learn more? Check out the various books on Boundaries and Love & Logic from our library, or see Tina Ritchie for more information.

Getting Worn Down by a Strong-Willed Kid by Charles Fay

How often are caring, effective parents required to make decisions unpopular with their kids? Which of the following do you feel rings truest?

- a. Never
- b. Once a month
- c. About once a week
- d. Every day

Some of us were blessed with easy-going children. While various people deny the existence of such youngsters, they really do walk the earth. With these win-win personality types, our parental popularity polls often look fine.

Our approval rates often hit the skids, however, when we find ourselves blessed with the strong-willed variety. When parenting at least one of these tigers, it often feels like the limits we set are creating one hissy fit after another.

By the way, "hissy fits" take a variety of creative forms, including huffing, eye rolling, arguing, laying guilt trips, slamming doors, refusing to listen, etc. Is it possible that this type of behavior shows that we are on the right track?

When we do the right thing with challenging people, it almost always feels like the wrong thing in the short term.

It's easier to appease challenging kids. It's not a good long-term strategy, but it does give us the illusion of well-being. Parents committed to the Love and Logic approach prefer tackling reality head on:

- They understand that great moms and dads must often do the unpopular thing.
- They know strong-willed children will dominate... and self-destruct... without loving boundaries.
- They remind themselves that childhood is a far better time to learn about limits and consequences than adulthood.
- They resist feelings of discouragement by remembering that they are making investments that will eventually yield multi-generational rewards.

If you are parenting a strong-willed, exceptionally challenging child, take heart. At times, the battle for their hearts, souls, and minds can seem impossibly fierce. But you can do this, as long as you remember the following:

Success in parenting is not determined by how many skirmishes you win, but by the consistent durability of the love and healthy limits you provide.

YOUTH GROUP



All summer event costs are being paid from VG's receipts reimbursement. Friends are welcome with a current parental consent form on file – click the link here <https://ffpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/PARENTAL-CONSENT2019.pdf>

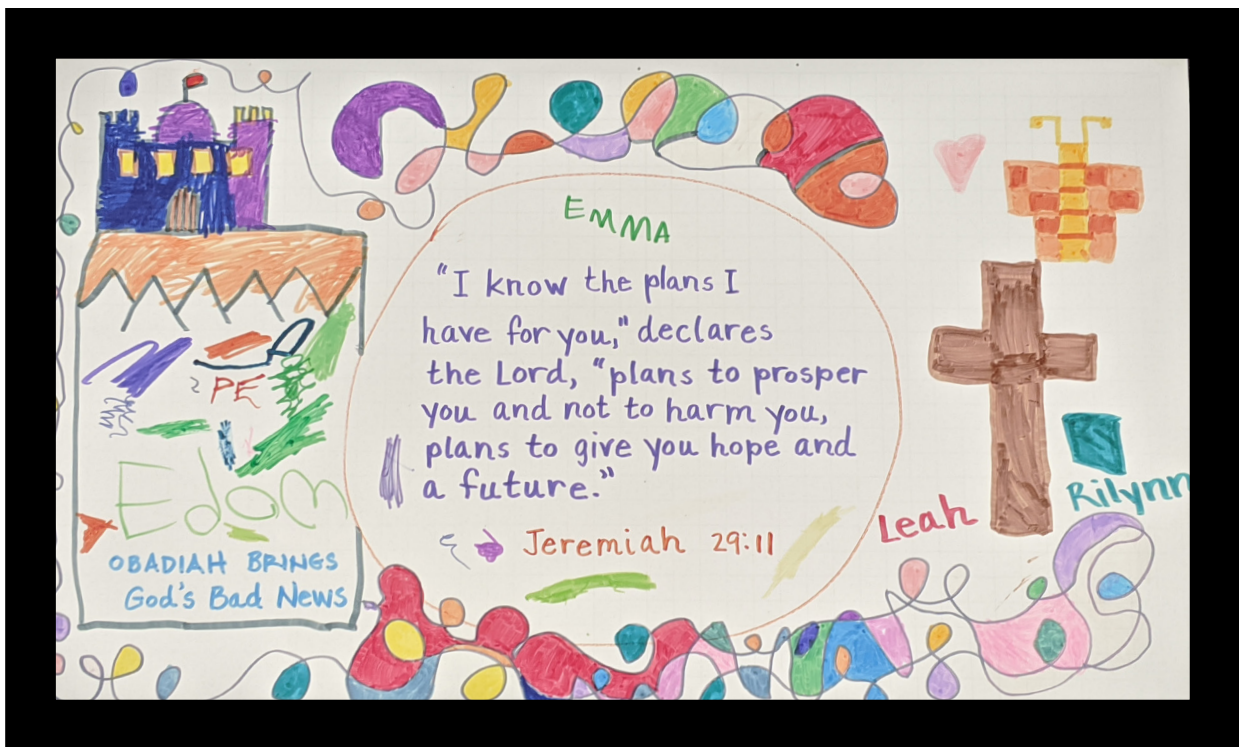
Due to covid considerations, all activities will be outdoors, local, and require your own transportation. Please bring a mask to wear as required in closer spaces, and stay home if you are ill or have been exposed to anyone who is ill! Contact Tina 810-701-4136 if you need help securing a ride.

Youth Group Summer Schedule: Incoming 6th graders – graduated seniors
August 6, 10am-4pm: Beach day at Holly State Park - RSVP by Tuesday, August 4th
August 13, 10am-4pm: Kayaking the Shiawassee River - RSVP by Monday, August 10th
August 20, 2-4pm: Geocaching scavenger hunt and Ice Cream

What will youth group look like in the fall?

Events will be planned according to specific guidelines of that time, HOWEVER, there will be girls specific and boys specific Bible study discussions offered on Sunday mornings after church via zoom. Watch for more information later in August!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Last Winter our children were learning about the prophets. This is from the lesson on Obadiah - The Book of Obadiah is God's message about Edom in response to their sin, namely gloating over the Babylonian's defeat of God's people.

What's up with Flat Jesus in August??? Similar to the book Flat Stanley who goes on various adventures, we are inviting kids of all ages (including adults) to carry Flat Jesus with you the month of August through Labor Day. To keep him durable, color the picture, attach the contact paper leaving space for the handle, cut out, and then attach the handle.

Your mission is to look for Jesus's action in the world, take a picture of yourself with Flat Jesus near that action, and post what was happening on your Instagram or Facebook. Please tag Fenton First Presbyterian Church (Facebook) and use the hashtag #flatjesus and #fentonfirstpresbyterianchurch (Instagram).

For every 5 different posts you will be entered into a drawing to receive a \$10 gift certificate to The Scoop of Fenton ice cream shop.

On Wednesday, September 9, ten names will be drawn to receive this prize.

Flat Jesus has been mailed to every household with preschoolers – 12th graders. Adults, you are welcome to join in the fun by picking up a Flat Jesus in the main entryway lobby at church during office hours. Contact tina@ffpc.org with questions. By participating you are highlighting God's shining light in our world! Let's spread the love!!



Jesus was with me at Salon 465 in Goodrich.



“GOD IS IN THE MIDST OF THE CITY; IT SHALL NOT BE MOVED; GOD WILL HELP IT WHEN THE MORNING DAWNS.” PSALM 46-5

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.

Make a Splash with These 8 Exciting Water Games

Certain things are synonymous with summer, and one that's a sure hit with kids are water games! Cool, refreshing, and fun—water is the perfect element when the sun scorches on a mid-summer afternoon. And the Bible is brimming with stories that reference water—so it's a great tool to drench kids' faith growth!

Whether it's an all-day water event at your church or a single activity to help kids cool off on a hot summer day, use these wet-and-wild activities to help kids have fun and refresh their faith.

1. Raindrop Relay:

Age Level: 5 to 12

Bible Connect: Noah and the Flood ([Genesis 7](#))



Materials: Two buckets per team, a plastic cup for each child, a permanent marker, water, and a sharp-tipped object such as scissors or a letter opener

- Use this water game to help kids imagine the Great Flood.
- Before the game, poke holes on the bottoms and sides of the plastic cups.
- Draw a line with a permanent marker to indicate the halfway point on both the outside and inside of two buckets. Form two teams, and have kids sit on the ground in straight lines. Place one bucket filled with water at the front of each line. Place a lined bucket at the back of each line. Then give each child a leaky cup.

On "go," have the first child in line fill his or her cup and carry it over the heads of the other kids sitting in line before dumping the remaining water into the bucket at the end of the line. Then the line shifts forward and the cup carrier sits in the back of the line. The game continues until teams fill their back buckets to the halfway marker.

Dry-Off Debrief

Ask:

1. *How did it feel to be constantly rained on during the game?*
2. *Is this game like or unlike what Noah and his family may have experienced when it rained for 40 days and nights?*
3. *How do you think Noah and his family felt when they saw God's rainbow?*
4. *Tell about a time you experienced that kind of hope.*

2. Ice Cold Toes

Age Level: 6 to 12



Bible Connect: The Parable of the Hidden Treasure ([Matthew 13:44-46](#))

Materials: A kiddie pool, ice cubes, water, ice cube trays, and green food coloring

- This game will help kids understand the value of the kingdom of heaven.
 - Prior to the game, freeze a dozen ice cubes dyed with green food coloring.
 - Fill the bottom of the kiddie pool with ice cubes and mix in the green ice cubes.
- Have kids remove their shoes and socks. Challenge them to retrieve the green ice cubes—which represent the treasure—out of the pool using only their toes.

Dry-Off Debrief

Ask:

1. *What, if any, obstacles did you face when trying to get the treasure?*
2. *To what lengths would you go to pursue your treasure? Explain.*

[Read aloud the Scripture \(Matthew 13:44-46\)](#)

Ask:

1. *What do you treasure?*
2. *Why does Jesus compare heaven to a treasure?*

3. Dodge the Stones



Age Level: 6 to 12 **Bible Connect:** David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

Materials: Various large obstacle items, such as plastic garbage cans, tables, and chairs; boundary markers, such as orange cones; buckets; large sponges; and water

-Play this water game to help kids re-create the battle between David and Goliath.

-Create a play area using boundary markers. Place large obstacles kids can hide behind within the boundaries.

-Choose several kids to be “stone throwers,” and station them just outside the boundaries. Give the stone throwers buckets of water and sponges. Tell the other kids that the object of the game is to run from one end of the play area to the other without being “stoned” by wet sponges.

-Play several times, and have kids switch roles so everyone has a chance to cool off by getting “stoned” with the wet sponges.

Dry-Off Debrief

Ask:

1. *How did it feel to throw “stones” at kids?*
2. *Was it easy or difficult to hit kids with stones? Explain.*
3. *What helped you dodge the stones?*
4. *How do you think David felt when he stoned Goliath?*
5. *What are some “Goliath’s” that you have to defeat daily?*
6. *How does God help us in these situations?*

4. Swim, Jonah, Swim!



Age Level: 6 to 10

Bible Connect: Jonah and the Big Fish ([Jonah 1](#))

Materials: A swimming pool

This is a great water game to play at camp or at a church pool party. You’ll need a lifeguard and extra volunteers to monitor safety.

Select one person to be the “Big Fish.” Have everyone else jump in the pool and swim around, but tell kids they aren’t allowed to be within 3 feet of the sides of the pool. When the Big Fish shouts, “Big Fish!” he or she tries to tag others in the pool before they can touch the sides of the pool. The first person tagged is the next Big Fish. If no one is tagged, the Big Fish starts over.

Dry-Off Debrief

[Read aloud the Scripture.\(Jonah 1\)](#)

Ask:

1. *Was it easy or difficult to get away from the Big Fish? Explain.*
2. *How is this game like or unlike how Jonah felt when swallowed by the fish?*
3. *What did Jonah do when he was captured?*
4. *What can you do when you're afraid?*

[5. Our Cups Runneth Over](#)

Age Level: 6 to 12

Bible Connect: God Cares for Us (Psalm 23:5)

Materials: One cup for each child, an oscillating sprinkler, and a garden hose with access to water.

-Kids will discover a visual example of God's desire to bless them.

-Have kids each choose a spot around the perimeter of the sprinkler's path. Challenge kids to fill their cups with water from the sprinkler—but tell them they're not allowed to move from their spot. If children move, they have to dump the collected water over their heads and start over in a new spot.

Dry-Off Debrief

Ask:

1. *What made it easy or difficult to fill your cup?*
2. *Is this how God showers us with blessings? Why or why not?*
3. *What are some blessings God has given you?*
4. *How is this game like or unlike the blessings we receive from God?*

[6. Seed, Seed, Grow!](#)

Age Level: 3 to 5



Bible Connect: The Parable of the Growing Seed ([Mark 4:26-29](#))

Materials: A watering can and water

This water game will teach preschoolers about growing in their faith.

This game is a wet version of Duck, Duck, Goose. Have kids sit in a circle on the ground and choose one child to be the "Gardener." The Gardener taps kids on the head as he or she says, "Seed!" When the Gardener says, "Grow!" and sprinkles a child's head with the watering can, the Gardener puts down the can

and runs from the selected child. If the Gardener is caught, he or she starts over. If the Gardener makes it to the empty spot, the child who was sprinkled gets to be the Gardener.

Dry-Off Debrief

Ask:

1. *Name something a seed needs to grow into a plant.*
2. *What happens to a seed if it doesn't have water?*
3. *What does God give us to help us grow closer to him?*



7. Catapult

Age Level: 6 to 12

Bible Connect: Judging Others (John 8:7)

Materials: Water balloons, a beach towel for every pair of kids, and water

- This game will give kids a visual picture of what it's like to judge others.
- Fill the water balloons before the game. Have kids form pairs with each child holding one end of a beach towel. Then group two pairs of kids 10 feet apart. Place one water balloon in the center of one pair's beach towel, and have the kids launch the balloon to the other pair of kids. Tell kids to catch and launch the water balloon using only the towel. Continue tossing the water balloon back and forth between pairs until it falls and breaks.

Dry-Off Debrief

Have kids stay in pairs to discuss how the game is like or unlike when they judge others. The have kids share a time they felt broken because someone judged them. Tell pairs pray together and ask God to help them not judge others.

8. Protecting the Flock

Age Level: 8 to 12

Bible Connect: The Good Shepherd (John 10)

Materials: Garbage cans, shaving cream, two colors of plastic barrier tape, scissors, squirt bottles, and water

- This water game is the water version of Capture the Flag, and it works great with a lesson teaching kids about God's love for his flock.
- Form two teams and place a garbage can topped with shaving cream behind each team. Have each group tie one color of plastic barrier tape around their forearms to designate teams. Give each team an equal number of squirt bottles filled with water.
- Each team tries to protect its "flock" of shaving cream from getting squirted off by the other team. When one team squirts off all the opposing team's shaving cream, the game's over.

Dry-Off Debrief

Ask:

- 1. Was it easy or difficult to protect your "flock"? Explain.**
- 2. How did it feel when your flock was attacked by the opposing team?**
- 3. How is this game like or unlike how God protects us?**

For more great ideas like this in every issue, subscribe today to Children's Ministry Magazine!



BIG PICTURE
**QUESTIONS
 & ANSWERS**
 FOR KIDS

Kids



THE CHURCH

- 52** **WHAT IS THE CHURCH?** The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.
- 53** **WHO IS THE HEAD, OR LEADER, OF THE CHURCH?** Jesus is the head of the church.
- 54** **WHY DOES THE CHURCH EXIST?** The church exists to glorify God by worshiping Him, showing His love, and telling others about Jesus.
- 55** **WHAT ARE THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH?** Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the ordinances Jesus commanded His followers to do.
- 56** **WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?** The Lord's Supper is when Christians eat the bread and drink the cup to remember Jesus' death and resurrection.
- 57** **WHAT IS BAPTISM?** Baptism is how Christians show others that Jesus has forgiven their sin and given them new life.
- 58** **WHAT IS OUR MISSION AS CHRISTIANS?** Our mission is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 59** **WHY DOES GOD COMMAND CHRISTIANS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS?** We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe the good news.
- 60** **WHAT IS THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH?** The church looks forward to Jesus' return when He will make all things new.
- 61** **WHAT WILL HAPPEN FOR ALL CHRISTIANS IN THE FUTURE?** One day all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.





CHRISTIAN LIFE

62 WHY SHOULD WE GLORIFY GOD? We should glorify God because of who He is and what He does.

63 HOW CAN WE GLORIFY GOD? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

64 WHY SHOULD WE OBEY GOD? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

65 WHY CAN WE TRUST GOD? We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good.

66 WHY DO CHRISTIANS CONTINUE TO SIN? Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.

67 HOW CAN CHRISTIANS SAY NO TO SIN? Christians can say no to sin by asking the Holy Spirit for help, knowing God's Word, and confessing our sin to other believers.

68 HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP CHRISTIANS? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.

69 WHAT IS PRAYER? Prayer is talking with God to praise Him, ask Him for help, and confess our sins to Him.

70 WHY DO WE PRAY? We pray because we trust God, and we know He hears us.

71 WHAT IS WORSHIP? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

72 WHAT IS THE GOSPEL? The gospel is the good news that God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue sinners.

73 WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN JESUS RETURNS? Jesus will judge the world; and all who have trusted in Him will receive resurrection bodies, be fully free from sin, and live with God forever.

74 WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION? Justification is when God declares that our sins are forgiven and we are righteous.

75 WHAT IS ADOPTION? Adoption is when God welcomes us into His family as His children.

76 WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION? Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Worship Committee

Worship Update

As we have attempted to stream our face to face worship services we have come up against several challenges that have lead Session to decide to postpone face to face worship services until a later date.

This decision was not made lightly and was mostly due to the technology challenges that we have had hosting a face to face worship service and stream it online.

Simply said, we need more time to get it right.

What you need to know right now is that we are not having a face to face worship service on Sunday's.

If you have had trouble with connecting to the worship services on Zoom, Facebook or Youtube, please let the Church Office know. We would love to find time to try to get you connected.

Above all, please keep our church in your prayers as we try to navigate these strange COVID waters. I certainly ask for your patience and grace as we seek to worship God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength.

Thanks for listening,
Pastor Robbie

Worship Schedule August 2nd-30th

This month we are continuing in the prophesy of Jeremiah to explore about what God hopes for us and what God thinks of our sin; that of personal action and of corporate action. It is God's hope for us in Jesus Christ that we must strive to see all of this through, God has a plan of redemption. In repentance and prayer, lets live into God's hope for us.

August 2nd, 9th Sunday After Pentecost, Communion

Breaking Covenant: Between Us and Others, between Us and God Jeremiah 11:6-17

The people of God stuggle with Hard-heartedness, Idolatry, and false worship. These things constitute a breach of the covenant that was made through Moses. This brokenness results in the curse of God. We find Jeremiah saying 'So be it!' as God speaks of these curses. This is just like Jesus saying 'Your will be done!' in the garden so that we might find a Yes! in Christ.

August 9th, 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Religious Observance without Moral Obedience cannot Save Jeremiah 7:1-15

We tend to consider our involvement with worship, service and financial giving as avenues to salvation. If we are good, generous and pious we will go to Heaven. Jeremiah preaches to those entering the ancient temple to worship with an entirely different message. He says that the ritual of religion does not save, it is God. We cannot trust in our own pious actions or generous spirit for salvation, we have to trust and depend on God.

August 16th, 11th Sunday after Pentecost**Why Does God Let Us Down?****Jeremiah 15:10-21**

At times we can get mighty discouraged as Christians trying to make the world a better place. Like Jeremiah we can feel as if God doesn't answer our prayers, makes us suffer through things we don't deserve, and fails to reward us for obedience. We know that God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we would like. We may suffer things we don't deserve and not experience reward for our faithfulness to God. However God will never let us down. He has made promises through Christ that he will complete in us. Let us return to the Lord!

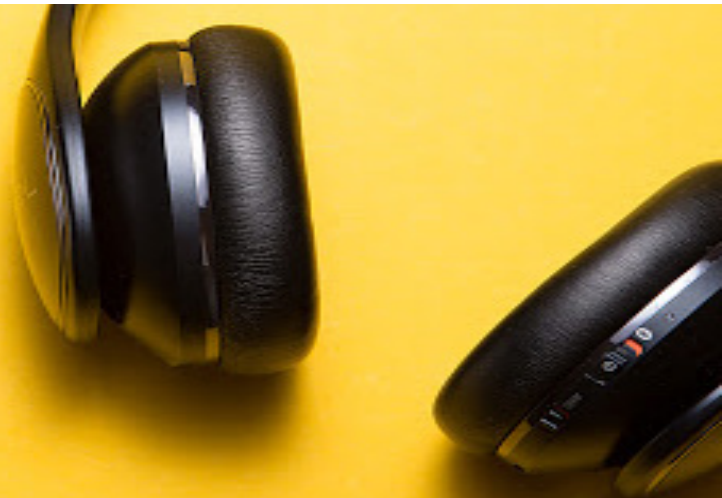
August 23rd, 12th Sunday after Pentecost**Comfort in the Restoration: Restored to a New Covenant****Jeremiah 31:27-40; Matthew 25:31-46**

In the posture of repentance we recognize sin, lament it and turn away from it, into obedience to God through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. But what does this result in? What is the end game, God's big idea? It is a new covenant in which we are God's people and God is our God, and it is utterly beautiful.

August 30th, 13th Sunday after Pentecost**So What does God Call us to Do?****Jeremiah 1:1-10; Matthew 25:14-30**

After all that we have heard about repentance, lament and this new covenant that God is calling us into, what are we to do? What, some of the practical outcomes of the Gospel, especially as it relates to church vitality, structural racism and systemic poverty?

LIVESTREAM
THIS SUNDAY 

**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.

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

August 9th & 16th are available for communion flowers. Please contact Heidi at roberts68@charter.net or 810-625-4637.

Bottle Return Donations: Youth Group is donating all money raised from returnables during the pandemic to Center of Hope in support of their local food distribution efforts. So far YOU have helped us raise \$308 and there are still plenty of cans to cash in!!!

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

LET'S CELEBRATE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ken Wensel	Aug 1
Judy Brown	Aug 2
Craig Williams	Aug 3
Jan Jacobs	Aug 5
Adam Weldon	Aug 5
Jim Savage	Aug 7
Michael Skaff	Aug 7
Vera Thornton	Aug 9
Peggy Blough	Aug 10
Johnny Foguth	Aug 11
Holly Hodgkin	Aug 11
Lin Savage	Aug 12
Linda Miller	Aug 13
Shirley Cook	Aug 14
Billie Morris	Aug 14
Sammy Carnes	Aug 18
Mark Grams	Aug 19
Clark Casteel	Aug 22
Jennifer Wenzel	Aug 22
Gary LaPointe	Aug 23
Walt Hungerford	Aug 24
Bonnie Griffith	Aug 25
Mary Frazier	Aug 27
Sherry A Zollars	Aug 27
Steve Muntin	Aug 29
Polly Sheppard	Aug 29
Laurie Thomas	Aug 30
Royce Hyde	Aug 31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jim & Gloria Lindsay	August 1
Rick & Jane Motta	August 2
Jerry & Jill Flewelling	August 3
Michael & Elaine Pelletier	August 4
Morris & Peggy Fulcher	August 7
Roy & Amy Fetzer	August 10
Greg & Jennifer MacLean	August 10
Chris & Tonya Coffin	August 11
Tom & Cindy Crawford	August 12
Walt & Barbara Hungerford	August 12
Edwin & Marsha Schwarz	August 13
Ken & Karen Wensel	August 15
Mark & Jenny Gibb	August 18
John & Cheryl Sharpe	August 18
John & Alice Maletic	August 22
Jim & Lori Murray	August 22
Richard & Georgiann Tunningley	August 24
Guy & Sharon Cowing	August 27
John & Sara Wrage	August 29

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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