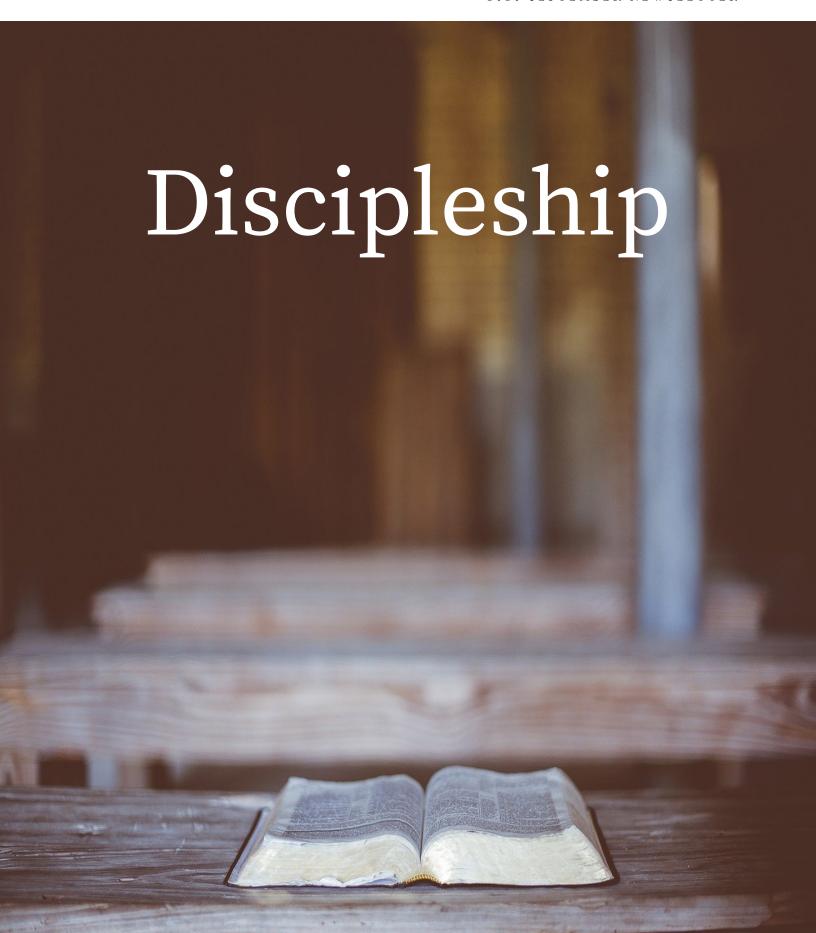
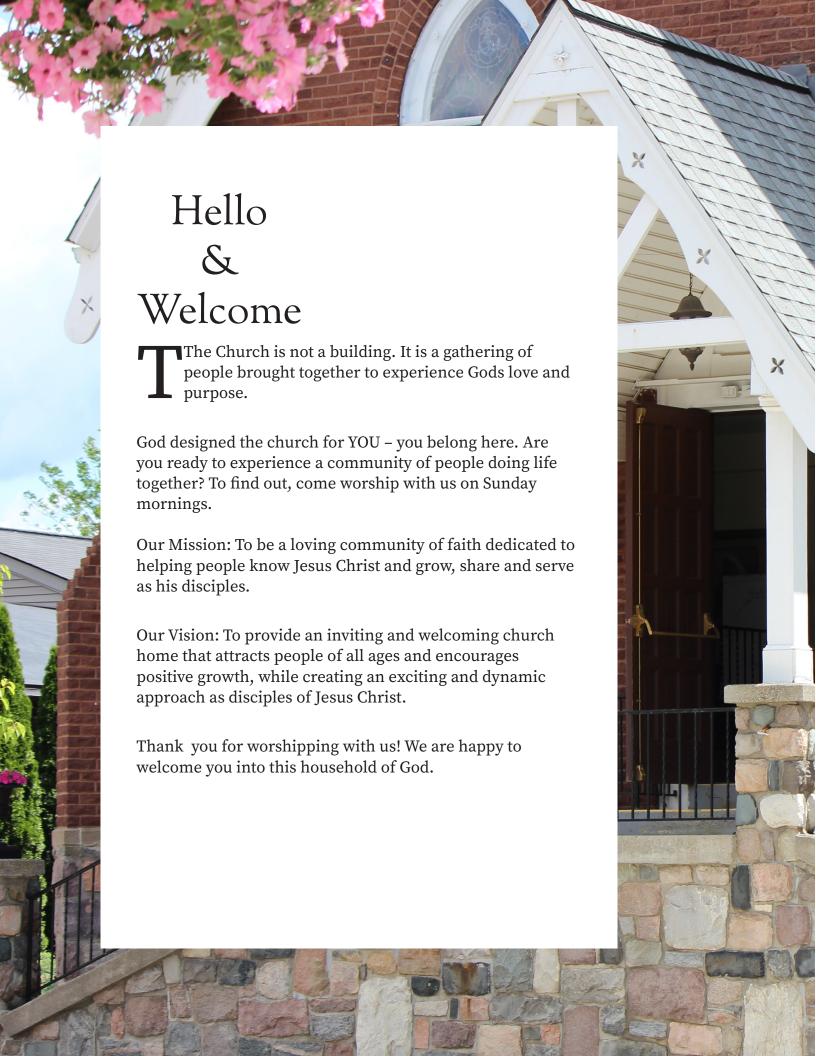
### FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2020 SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER





# PASTOR'S LETTER

# Discipleship

#### Pastor Robbie Carnes

That do you want out of Church? What do you hope to gain from a Spiritual Life? In what way does the Bible and Theology affect how you live your life and how you see the world?

I dearly want you to get something good out of our church. I want you to find rest in the love of God, purpose in the life of Christ, and be strengthened by the presence of the Holy Spirit. In short, I want your faith to matter so much that everything about you and around you is transformed.

The Christian Tradition has called the transition from knowing Jesus to having your life sustained by the life of Christ the process of discipleship. Becoming Christians, we join a community of people who have submitted themselves to Jesus and seek to live in Jesus' way.

Discipleship is a personal endeavor, within a community, to be more like Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in response to God's marvelous love for us. This personal endeavor takes work. Let me tell you a story...

There was a man who lived at the foot of a very tall mountain. This man had worked the third shift at the local GM assembly plant for many years. He went to work as the sun went down and arrived at home in the dark hours of the morning and quickly

fell asleep. Because of this schedule he had never seen a sunrise.

It came to pass that his schedule was going to be changed to first shift. He was ready for this new season in his life and arrived at 8am at the plant. His supervisor said to him, "Did you enjoy the sunrise? It was spectacular this morning." Having never seen a sunrise, the man didn't know how to answer, but a strange longing arose in his heart. He suddenly realized that he had been given a wonderful opportunity to witness the sunrise every morning and he vowed to celebrate this miracle the next day.

He was in for a disappointment. He woke the next day and realized that because of the position of the mountain, which his house sat at the foot of, he could never hope to see the sunrise. Being a man of faith, he prayed to God, "Dear God, please remove this mountain, so that I can witness the miracle of your sunrise."

You might think this very foolish, but this man prayed fervently every night for the mountain to be removed. Every morning he faithfully expected to see the mountain moved because in Matthew 17:20 Jesus said that even with a little faith mountains will be moved. Every morning he was disappointed and finally he lamented in prayer, "Lord, why do you ignore me? I

want to know your goodness and see your great work in the world. Why haven't you moved this mountain so that I can witness your glory as the sun rises?"

The next day the man found that his prayer had been answered, but not in the way that he supposed. As he got out of his house that next morning, everything was as it had been, his house, the mountain, the sky's early soft colors annealing into the solid tones of the day. Everything was the same except for the shovel that lay at the foot of the mountain.

Discipleship is the long hard work of becoming Christ like. It is a work that we endeavor and that the Holy Spirit accomplishes in us. It is the moment in which we take the shovel into our hands and begin to work at removing the mountains that keep us from seeing God's glory in our lives and the lives of others.

As we discuss Discipleship these next few months, I hope that you can put your hand to the shovel of faith and do some major earth removal. I pray that the obstacles to growing in our faith that COVID presents and the pressures of our society to conform rather than be transformed by Christ, would be steadily removed.

It will not happen automatically or magically, it will take personal effort; effort that many of us have never needed to give before. We need to learn how to use the internet and communication technology well. We need to be much more intentional with our relationships, because we don't just happen to bump into people as much. We need to become more disciplined to read scripture, worship regularly, and serve our neighbor faithfully.

This is the shovel of discipleship that God has placed at the foot of this mountain of COVID/present day politics/social upheaval/anxiety over the future. Will you pick it up with me and explore how the Holy Spirit might change us as we dig into discipleship?

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.



# SERMON SERIES & DISCUSSION GROUP

# September

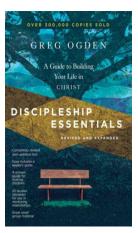
DISCIPLESHIP ESSENTIALS, A GUIDE TO BUILDING YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST

Then Jesus calls us into a relationship we enter into a relationship of discipleship. Discipleship encompasses the moment of decision when we chose to share life with Jesus and the lifelong process of transformation in which we are transformed into the likeness of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Discipleship is about building a life in Christ, one that is with Jesus and with other believers.

For the next 6 weeks we will be looking at various topics related to Discipleship duringourworship services, andreferring to the book, 'Discipleship Essentials, a guide to building your life in Christ', by Greg Ogden. Through this series we hope to further integrate God's truth into our lives by taking Scripture seriously. We will seek to develop genuine and authentic relationships with Jesus and each other, creating a faithful community of mutual submission and forbearance.

You are invited to attend a zoom Discussion Group directly after the worship services in September and October. For about 30 minutes we will speak to each other about the sermon topics and questions that are brought up.

More information will follow regarding this and I hope that you might take advantage of this faithful fellowship opportunity.



Topic: Sunday Morning Bible Study and Sermon Discussion

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom. us/j/81586041549?pwd= dXdsSUR3cUdocGJCRD RReEhPUnd3UT09

Meeting ID: 815 8604 1549

I O E

Passcode: 229105

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kPg7n8Ou

# SIGNS OF NEW LIFE

#### **Pastor Lindsey Carnes**

```
Reset.
Reboot.
Restart.
Recreate.
Recreate.
Revive.
Revitalize.
Resuscitate.
Rejuvenate.
Recalibrate.
RESET!
```

od's creation is being given another opportunity to RESET with this pandemic. This time, we will use our own choice, ingenuity, smartness and intelligence, all that God has given us. We all know there is an end, but there is actually a middle between the beginning (taking our first breath) and the end (taking our last breath.) And, the middle tends to last longer than the beginning or the end.

Let's not waste our middle! We are in the midst of it, so let's focus on getting it right with ourselves and each other. Romans 12:10 "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." There is a peaceful, beautiful place for all of us moving in the middle.

**Jeremiah 29:11** "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

I'm sure like me you have noticed many families out walking, biking, doing chalk art on the driveway, playing in the creek, and playing ball together. Marriages in which spouses weren't communicating with each other have a chance right now to hit the reset button. Strained family relationships between parents and teenagers have a chance to hit that reset button. Kids who haven't been told by their parents often enough "I love you" have a chance to hear that more frequently these days. Dads who haven't been around enough to pray with their children and tuck them into bed at night can hit that reset button now. What a gift.

There are lots of great RE . . . words, aren't there? What an opportunity for all of us to pause during this season of shutdown, take a deep breath, and bring back to life some things that may have been dead in our lives. What an opportunity to course correct some things that were going down the wrong path. What an opportunity to draw closer to God as he draws closer to us. What an opportunity to serve the people in our neighborhood in some very creative ways.

And the greatest RE word is . . . RESURRECT. God is the author of redeeming, restoring, reviving, and resurrecting what once was dead. Take a long look at the empty tomb. See the graveclothes of Jesus folded and in the corner of the tomb that could not hold him.

What you do TODAY can have a huge impact, even an eternal impact, on someone else's life. Everyone has a story. What story is God writing in your life during this season of opportunity? God gives us all second and third and fourth . . . and numerous chances to hit the Reset button. New life is springing up all around. The resurrection of Jesus from the grave is what empowers us to tackle those things God is calling us to renew. May the Holy Spirit breathe fresh wind into you today!



# MISSION & STEWARDSHIP

## Theological Education Offering September 20th



The Office of Theological Education is the liaison between congregations, the denomination, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seminaries, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Our work is designed to nurture and support the importance of informal theological education in congregations and the vital way formal theological education—your seminaries—nourishes the life of worshiping communities. Learn more about your Presbyterian seminaries.

Theological education happens in all sorts of ways in a Christian's life, whenever we ask questions, go to Sunday school and Bible studies, express doubts, inquire with our curiosity, or go to seminary. Theological education is a path of discernment and learning to think about God, who God is, and what it means to live as a beloved creature of God in the world.

In theological education, people engage in conversation and discussion, listen to the insights of others, bounce their ideas off of one another, and generally seek to deepen their understanding of what it means to live with God. Formal education theological \_ seminary education - exists in order to maintain the training for leadership of a culture of reflection within the church. Those who are formally trained become equipped to nurture and support the informal wide-spread examples and more of theological education that exist throughout our denomination.

In the end, theological education, both formal and informal, is all about growth in our Christian lives, deepening the relationship we have with God and the relationships we have with each other through God, in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### Financial Review - July, 2020

Profit/ Loss	July	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income:	\$22,344.57	\$214,366.97	\$223,562.14	\$360,341.58
Expense:	\$25,698.86	\$159,027.10	\$176,208.52	\$304,831.71
Net Income:	-\$3,354.29*	\$55,339.87*	\$47,353.62	\$55,509.87

<sup>\*\*</sup>This does not include additional obligations such as restricted funds or mortgage payments, Board of Deacons, Faith & Femininity, Organ Fund, HVAC Fund, etc.

Statement of Cash Flows July

Cash at Beginning of period: \$118,743.43 Cash at End of Period: 112,831.35 Net Cash for Period (Increase) \$5,930.08

Respectfully Submitted, August 10, 2020 Debera J Bard Treasurer

#### Building Fund Report – July 31, 2020

**Building Account Balance:** \$9,292 **Mortgage Remaining:** \$170,474

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

#### **Financial Peace**



# **Understanding the Psychology of Money** and What It's Costing You

https://www.daveramsey.com/blog/ psychology-of-money

Each of us has a money personality that's determined by our behavior with money. Your behavior will determine whether you win with money or not! Click the link above to see how.

#### Love & Logic

# From the Love and Logic Institute: What is Healthy Preteen and Teen Behavior?

Should I be Concerned about my Preteen's or Teen's Behavior?

Do you have a preteen or teen? If so, it's easy to start wondering, and even worrying, about the things they do and how to respond to them. Click this <u>link</u> (for audio) or this <u>link</u> (facebook)for an overview of what you can expect as normal behavior and what behaviors might warrant more concern.

Want to learn more about healthy loving relationships skills? Check out the various books on Boundaries and Love & Logic from our library, or see Tina Ritchie for more information.



## LOVE & LOGIC PARENTING TEENS COURSE

Wednesday evenings September 16 - October 21 6:30 - 8pm Facilitated by Tina Ritchie

PARENTS NEED HELP TO TEACH THEIR TEENS HOW TO MAKE DECISIONS RESPONSIBLY--AND DO SO WITHOUT GOING CRAZY OR DAMAGING THE RELATIONSHIP.

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

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



Visit FFPC.org for more information on uocoming events, groups & workshops









Sign up online for the LifeWay Women Live Simulcast at https://www.lifeway.com/en/events/lifeway-women-live-simulcast/lifeway-women-live-simulcast-2020-individuals\_

(Let Pastor Lindsey know you signed up, and she'll put you into a raffle for some fun giveaways)

## Sunday Group Study 5:00pm Via Zoom



McKnight challenges us to rethink how to read the Bible, not just to puzzle it together into some systematic belief but to see it as a Story that we're summoned to enter and to carry forward in our day.

Contact Larry Zimbler at larry@4squaretax.com for more information

# **YOUTH GROUP**

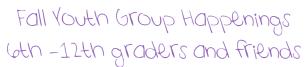
Creating space for youth to ask questions, encounter God and learn to live as disciples of Christ.

Allow, Meet, and Go!



Check out d365.org for great daily devotions to read alone or with your family.

Stay safe out there and be sure to Love and follow Jesus!



#### September 13, 1-3pm: Mission - Mask prep & The Scoop ice cream

**What:** Adults and youth are needed for mask prep to make 1200 masks for teachers, staff, and reduced income children in the Fenton Area Public Schools. Annabeth Carnes is heading up this project to earn her Girl Scouts Gold Award

Where: Outside Fenton Presbyterian Church - Tables will be set up on the sidewalks

**Needed:** Old Fenton t-shirts, 100% cotton fabric, fabric scissors. Sewing help needed to sew prep pieces together after the event. Please contact Pastor Lindsey, 810-444-6780, if you can help!



# October 4, 1-3pm: College Care Packages and CROP Walk with sign making

We are blessing 10 of our young adults with care packages. Please drop off items in the bins located in the church main entrance through Oct. 4. Items requested are microwave popcorn, cereal bars, crackers, pens, mechanical pencils, erasers, highlighters, post-its, hot cocoa, tea, oatmeal, raman, candy, gum, and the like. Nothing says I love you like a package from home!

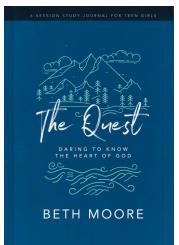
October 25, 4-6pm: Pumpkin Carving - Location TBD

**November 22**, 1-3pm: Fall Hike - Location TBD **December 20**, 1-3pm: Ice Skating & Gift Exchange

#### Below are a few safety guidelines we ask everyone to follow during events:

- Friends welcome with a current parental consent form on file. See website under youth tab
- Due to covid considerations, activities for groups of 10 or more will be outdoors and require your own transportation.
- Bring a mask they will be utilized where appropriate.
- Stay home if you are ill or have been exposed to anyone who is ill.
- Please contact Tina @ 810-701-4136 with questions or concerns.

## NEW THIS FALL!!! Middle and High School Girls study



#### Quest: Daring to Know the Heart of God by Beth Moore

Led by Jennifer MacLean Zoom meetings on Sundays from 1-2pm October 11 – November 15

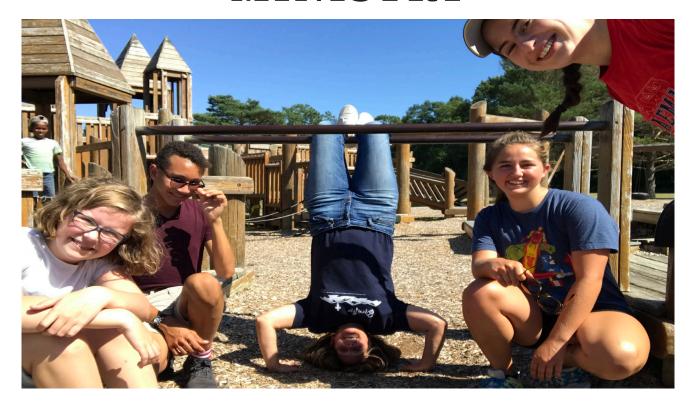
Participant workbook - \$15 (Please see Tina if you need assistance)

RSVP by October 4 to Jennifer @ 810-240-2301

In this six-session excursion with Jesus, Beth Moore uses questions from Scripture to lead you into intimacy with the One who knows you best. Learn to dig into God's Word, respond to the questions of God, and bring your questions before Jesus.

What's happening for the boys? The Christian Education Committee is looking for someone to engage with our teen boys in creative discussions during activities through online gaming, fishing, etc. If you are interested or have ideas, please see Tina Ritchie or Pastor Robbie!

# CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY



#### A NOTE from Ms. Tina

#### Dear Families,

Jesus calls us to love and act responsibly toward one another, and with most schools starting the year virtually due to COVID 19, we continue love and keep one another safe by gathering virtually for worship and Christian Education classes. Please know I am missing you and your children greatly, and have been giving thought to connecting with you in meaningful ways. My heart is with each family's faith walk and spiritual growth, which, I believe, is meant to be a fun and shared experience!

In order to connect with you, remind you how much God loves you, and know that your church is still here, I will be creating and emailing you 1 short video each week; this is in lieu of inundating you with Sunday school curriculum when you already have your hands full with weekly school lessons!! Beginning September 13, these videos are meant to watch as a family, learning songs, sharing prayers, hearing Bible stories, and suggesting fun activities. Videos will be 10-15 minutes in length.

It is my sincerest hope that these videos enrich your family time, creating ritual and worship in your home. They might supplement your daily prayers before meals or bedtime, reading Scripture or devotions upon waking, or support other ways you seek and share God's love and kindness.

AS always, please reach out to me if I can be of help to you in any way.

In Christ's Love and Service,

Tina Ritchie, Director of Christian Education

#### Where Do You See Jesus? 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 through September 30th. 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 #fenton-firstpresbyterianchurch (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 Monday, October 5, 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!!

#### Mindfulness Exercises for Children

Kids experience negative thoughts and anxiety too, especially in difficult times or when their routines are disrupted. Mindfulness is a great way for us to practice how to be calm and relaxed and learn that our thoughts and emotions don't need to rule our minds. Click the link below for kid-friendly mindfulness exercises to help children learn to breathe and center themselves, especially during times of increased anxiety.

https://blog.beamingbooks.com/7-mindfulness-exercises-for-young-children

"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 NTV

# **YOUTH GROUP NEEDS YOU!**



# LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

1200 masks are needed!

Annabeth Carnes is heading up this project to earn her Girl Scouts Gold Award

Adults and youth are needed for mask prep to make masks for teachers, staff, and reduced income children in the Fenton Area Public Schools.

When: Sunday, September 13 from 1-3pm Where: Outside Fenton Presbyterian Church

Needed: Old Fenton t-shirts, 100% cotton fabric, fabric scissors Sewing help needed to sew prep pieces together after the event. Please contact Pastor Lindsey, 810-445-6780, if you can help!

### COLLEGE CARE PACKAGE ITEMS

#### NEEDED BY OCTOBER 4TH

It's that time of year to bless 10 of our young adults with a care package. Please drop of items in the bins located in the church main entrance. Items requested are microwave popcorn, cereal bars, crackers, pens, mechanical pencils, erasers, highlighters, post-its, hot cocoa, tea, oatmeal, raman, candy, gum, and the like. Youth Group will be packaging these items on October 4. Nothing says I love you like a package from home!



# **YOUTH GROUP THANKS YOU!**

\$753.80

FOR CENTER OF HOPE'S FOOD DISTRIBUTION!

AT THIS TIME, YOUTH GROUP IS NOT ACCEPTING BOTTLES/CANS, HOWEVER THE OFFICE WILL ACCEPT RECEIPTS OR CASH FROM YOUR RETURNABLES



THANK
YOU,
MUCHAS
GRACIAS,
ARIGATO,
DANKE,
TODA,
GRAZIE,
AND MERCI
BEAUCOUP

# PLEASE WELCOME

#### Rebekah Ratza

FFPC Music Director Organist/Accompanist

Here at FFPC we love music and what music adds to our worship services. Our long time choir director Bruce Neiwenhuis was set to retire just after Easter this year. Due to COVID closures, we're still not able to gather together as an entire congregation to give Bruce a big send off and express our thankfulness for his dedication, talent and ministry. We look forward to being able to celebrate Bruce when we can safely gather again in large groups.

In mid-April our accompanist Benjamin Gittens shared that he was admitted to a doctoral program at Indiana University Bloomington. Benjamin was able to contribute to our worship services through video recordings as we began a search for a new church musician.

The search committee included the pastors, the chair of the Worship Committee Jeff Collier, the Personnel chair Jon Wenzel, Worship Committee member and choir member Peggy Fulcher, choir member and bell choir member Lisa Mehlberg, and an at-large member of the congregation Mark Gibb.



The search committee received many resumes for the combined role of music director, choir director and organist/accompanist. After phone calls, Zoom conference calls, and videos were received, the search committee interviewed 4 candidates in person and unanimously selected one candidate to present to the Session.

We are pleased to introduce our new music director and organist/accompanist Rebekah Ratza. Rebekah has directed and accompanied church choirs and bell choirs, most recently at Faith Presbyterian Church in Novi. Rebekah lives locally here in Fenton, where her husband is a Fenton HS math teacher and they have 2 small children. She loves the organ and we look forward to her making beautiful music with us!



#### 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.

#### 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 SCREENS 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

#### WE NEED YOUR HELPING HANDS

If you are willing to:

- 1) provide rides for small errands such as picking up a few groceries, prescriptions, or Doctor appointments or
- 2) do simple household chores for those unable to do them for themselves., then WE NEED YOU

You can now sign up on the FFPC website for Helping Hands.

Once you sign up, we can contact you to assist others needing help.

\*Those willing to drive a church member somewhere must complete a form and provide a valid driver's license and proof of current auto insurance. These forms are available in Fellowship Hall next to the sign up sheet or in the church office. We will help you complete the form. Contact Nancy Berger, 810-701-6556

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Nancy Berger.



Shannon M. Clemens	Sep 4	John & Janet Stork	September 1
Doug Congdon	Sep 4	Al & Laurie Thomas	September 9
Shane Maloney	Sep 4	Robert & Barbara Chappelle	e September 12
Edwin H. Schwarz	Sep 4	John & Gerri Danules	September 17
Pat A Tucker	Sep 6	John & Shari Foguth	September 20
Clayton D Miller	Sep 7	Nancy & James Nelson	September 20
Marc A Hoerauf	Sep 8	David & Kristin Harper	September 23
Sharlyn Sutton	Sep 8	Cheir & Glenn Maxwell	September 23
Cheryl Kopplin	Sep 9	Dennis & JoAnn Beardslee	September 24
Ron Andersen	Sep 12	Dave & Krystal Johnson	September 24
Laura Kinser	Sep 17	Steve & Carey Muntin	September 25
Sue Lantz	Sep 17	Brian & Sherry Rourke	September 25
Roberta O'Hara	Sep 19	John & Holly Hodgkin	September 26
Halle Fisher	Sep 20	John & Julie Maloney	September 26
Madison Janowak	Sep 22	Don & Karyn Kutchey	September 28
Larry Arrol	Sep 23	Brian & Gretchen Coles	September 29
Alice Maletic	Sep 24		
Gloria Butts	Sep 29		
Jeff Collier	Sep 29	If your birthday or anniversar	ry is not listed
James Kryza	Sep 30	here please contact the chur	
Doug Watters	Sep 30	that we can update your info	rmation.

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!!



<u>Online Giving:</u> An easy and convienent 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.



<u>Church Giving:</u> 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.



<u>Automatic Bank Pay:</u> 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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