

FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



PASTOR'S LETTER

Looking for Joy

Pastor Robbie Carnes

Lent can be a dark and somber time. Many of the traditional ways to celebrate Lent can be traced back to the Medieval European worshiper, finding that fasting was inevitable around this time due to bare cupboards. While there is great spiritual benefit to depriving yourself for a time so that you can pursue Christ better, what if I told you that this year we should be looking for joy?

During the next few months we will be studying the Fruits of the Spirit. The Fruits are visible evidence of God working in your life. How is God working in your life or trying to get your attention? Many times we are simply struck with a sense of God's joy as we worship, live and work. However, this can be a hit or miss thing; especially if we are depressed or frightened or anxious. How might we intentionally look for God's joy in our lives?

Have you ever been struck with an intriguing thought or funny emotion? Or been surprised how you reacted to a certain situation? Good or bad, it's something you know is important but you don't really know exactly what to do with it. It may be that God is trying to get your attention. It may be that taking time to prayerfully observe and reflect what is going on will reveal God speaking to you. Many times it is when we know God is speaking to us that the seeds of joy get planted in our hearts.

Moses had an experience like that in Genesis 3. He was tending sheep in Midian when he noticed a 'bush [that] was blazing, yet it was

not consumed.' He turned aside to look at it and it was at that moment that God spoke to him. In that conversation there was challenge, purpose, and an invitation to know God and be used in an incredible way by God. These are the seeds of joy.

Is there a burning bush in your life? Something that feels worth turning aside to explore? It might be helpful to journal your thoughts. It can be helpful to spend some significant time in thoughtful prayer. It most likely will be helpful to share your 'burning bush' with 2 or 3 other people and ask them what God might be saying to you. Fundamentally, this is the core of Christian Fellowship and how we draw each other into discipleship relationships with Jesus. Allowing faithful believers to speak into your life is like tilling the good earth of your heart.

The next step is to do something about what God is saying. As it takes other faithful followers to help discern what God is saying, it takes others to help make a plan and keep you accountable to what you have said you would do about what God is saying. This is where joy really kicks in. We begin by listening. Listening to God, listening to other people and then we embark on a journey of obedience to what God is saying.

This results in a life that is pursuing a relationship with God, nurturing relationships with fellow believers, and going out into the world to do God's will, seeking the lost, the

least and the last. It is in this kind of living that we will see fruit from our life in the Spirit. In this kind of living we discover our cup overflowing with joy. This kind of joy isn't about circumstance or fortune, but depends wholly and completely on noticing what God is doing in our lives.



February Sermon Series

In February we are concluding our Discipleship 102 series with the topic of adoption. We will be exploring what it means to be a part of the family of God, to have sisters and brothers in Christ, and, most importantly, what it means to have a Father in Heaven.

In the middle of February we come upon the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 17th and we will celebrate with an online service and a drive through communion and ashes imposition. We hope that this will allow us to take stock of our spiritual lives and ask, 'How is God trying to get my attention?'

Through the rest of February we will be looking at how to cultivate the Fruits of the Spirit in our lives. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit dwells within me? It means that we are being transformed and the fruit of the Spirit is evidence of that transformation. This season of Lent let us joyfully account how God is transforming us to love him more dearly, to care for each other more sensitively, and to reach out to the least, the last and the lost more lovingly.

MISSION & STEWARDSHIP

Mission



Snuggle Sacks Update

Eight volunteers from our church braved another day during the COVID pandemic to first sort donated supplies into various bins and then to assemble 40 Snuggle Sacks on Saturday, January 16. Each sack holds various hygiene supplies, one meal, socks, gloves, and a blanket. They deliver these sacks to homeless shelters as well as on the streets of Flint. They were grateful for our assistance and we are very grateful for their service to the MANY homeless people in our area.

Snuggle Sacks is a new mission outreach opportunity for our church to serve the homeless in Michigan. It was founded 5 years ago by then-8-year-old Addisyn Goss of Fenton and her siblings after discovering their grandfather had been homeless. They gave us a better understanding of the needs of the homeless and how essential this type of support is to survival. Her family is now distributing about 800 sacks to the homeless each month. The program continues to expand in Michigan and now Indiana.

For more information or ways to volunteers visit <https://www.snugglesacks.org/>



The Shelter of Flint

on Feb 27, 2021, we will car pool from our church at 8:30am for a workday at the Shelter of Flint from 9am-4pm. Please consider joining us to do a variety of maintenance tasks, which may involve cleaning, painting, sorting, organizing, etc. Lunch will be provided.

If you are interested, Contact Maureen Utt (810-701-2336 or mauutt@charter.net) Please feel free to leave a voice message with your name and number if she is not able to answer.

Hope you can join us!

*Note: This event could be cancelled if the shelter is not allowing outsiders into the building due to covid. In that case, participants will be contacted.

St. Jude's & FFPC Food Outreach Program

Our community outreach program, in partnership with St. Jude's, has continued providing food for people in need. So far this year, we have provided over 30,000 meals since the pandemic began!! THANK YOU to the many members who have contributed items, provided monetary support, and provided their time (and backs) in moving the food each week. We expect this program to continue through the winter until the pandemic is under control and these people can again have jobs to support their families.

Follow the link below for additional volunteer opportunities.

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

Souper Bowl of Caring



Youth Group is partnering with the Mission Committee to provide necessary items for the Shelter of Flint – list below.

We will also collect non-perishable food items to support the FUMC Food Pantry and St. Jude's weekly food distribution.

Collection bins are available through February 14, Valentine's Day. Let us express LOVE to our neighbors in this most needed way!

Shelter of Flint Items:

- Lotion
- Body Wash
- Baby Wipes
- Laundry baskets
- Household cleaning supplies
- Toilet paper
- Laundry soap
- Dish towels
- Bath towels and wash cloths (white preferred for laundry purposes)
- New hypoallergenic bed pillows
- Zippered pillow covers
- Twin sized sheet sets
- Gift cards - \$10 to \$25 value to stores such as Walmart, Meijer, or Forman Mills

Financial Review - December, 2020

| Profit/ Loss | December | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Annual Budget |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Income: | \$28,535.58 | \$344,561.18 | \$360,341.58 | \$360,341.58 |
| Expense: | <u>\$28,797.92</u> | <u>\$293,071.81</u> | <u>\$ 304,831.71</u> | <u>\$304,831.71</u> |
| Net Income: | \$ -262.34* | \$ 51,489.37* | \$ 55,509.87 | \$ 55,509.87 |

*this does not include additional obligations such as restricted funds or mortgage payments. Such as: Board of Deacons, Faith & Femininity, Organ Fund, HVAC Fund, etc.

| Statement of Cash Flows | December | YTD |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Cash at Beginning of period: | \$105,390.08 | \$66,843.88 |
| Cash at End of Period: | <u>\$102,621.00</u> | <u>\$102,621.00</u> |
| Net Cash Change: | -\$2,769.08 | \$35,777.12 |

(This includes \$33,880.00 Payroll Protection Program loan from the Small Business Administration)

Respectfully Submitted January 12, 2021
 Debera J Bard
 Treasurer

Building Fund Report – December 31, 2020

Building Account Balance: \$ 9,200

Mortgage Remaining: \$158,646

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.



DEACONS

The ministry of Deacons is set forth in scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service. Sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies of structure, or anyone else in distress.

Helping Hands

If you are shut-in and need some help, think about calling your Deacon. The Deacons' Helping Hands program may be just what you need.

If you need someone to run an errand, pick up groceries or a prescription, maybe we can help. Call the church office at 810-629 7801 and leave your name, contact number and your need. We will always wear a mask and leave any deliveries at your doorstep.

Want to help? 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 the church office. We will help you complete the form.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Nancy Berger at 810-701-6556.



2021 Deacon's Scholarship Application

The Deacons wish to encourage graduating high school seniors or post high school graduates of church members or their immediate family members seeking advanced education, to apply for the Deacon's annual \$500 scholarship. Applications are available online at <https://ffpc.org/deacons/> or you can pick one up from the table in the church lobby.

We need to have completed applications in by March 1, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

We are in the planning stage of our Annual Easter Project

This year we will partner with FARR, the United Methodist Church and our neighbor St. Judes. Current plans are that we will prepare Easter baskets. As details are known, we will notify you by announcements from the pulpit, facebook and our website. If you know that you want to participate, please contact Terrie Fisher at 810-845-3060, Nancy Berger at 810-701-6556, Fran Moore 810-458-4543, or at the church office at 810-629-7801. STAY TUNED.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Bible Study from 11:15 – noon:

Sermon series discussions with Pastor Robbie following worship. In February and March we are exploring topics in Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit. Join via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81586041549?pwd=dXdS SUR3cUdocGJCRDRR eEhPUnd3UT09>

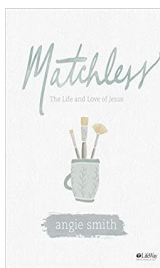
Meeting ID: 815 8604 1549 **Passcode:** 229105

Sunday Evening Small Group, 5 – 6:15PM:

Led by Larry Zimble. Beginning February 21st, we will take a deep dive into Romans. Bible & Commentary, meditation and discovery. Join via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82961241969?pwd=M01PMmxYU001SnQ0Z3cwV3h5Z1phdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 6124 1969 **Passcode:** 017303



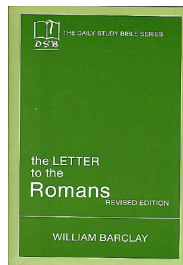
Monday evening Women's Study through February 22 from 6:30 – 8PM

Matchless by Angie Smith deepens your understanding of Jesus through biblical, historical, and cultural insight to help you see

Jesus less as an iconic figure and more of an intimate friend. Led by Tina Ritchie, join via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3159652381?pwd=WjZpVTVZWkV0WHRUbk1HNlZFWjJZQT09>

Meeting ID: 315 965 2381 **Passcode:** 384661

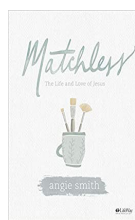


Tuesday Bible Study from 11am – 12:15pm:

Study of Romans from William Barclay's New Daily Bible Study Series continues. Led by Pastor Lindsey, this class meets via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/983542300?pwd=CTEJoUFB5Y1RaUnJpQytDdGNtdz09>

Meeting ID: 983 542 300 **Passcode:** 066220



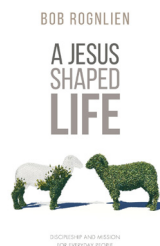
Wednesday morning Women's Study through February 24 from 10AM - Noon

This morning offering of *Matchless* by Angie Smith is led by Tina Ritchie. Join via Zoom.

Matchless by Angie Smith is led by Tina Ritchie. Join via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3159652381?pwd=WjZpVTVZWkV0WHRUbk1HNlZFWjJZQT09>

Meeting ID: 315 965 2381 **Passcode:** 384661



Wednesday Evening Lenten Journey on Discipleship, Feb 24th- March 24th. 6:30-7:30

'A Jesus Shaped Life', Bob Rognlien

'A Jesus Shaped Life', Bob Rognlien

What kind of shape are you in? How about your marriage?

Your family? Your job? Do you ever feel like you're missing something of the life you are meant to live? Jesus came not only to show us the way we are meant to live, but to invite us to follow him into that life of ultimate meaning and purpose. This Lent, you are invited to consider with us your way of life in the light of the life Jesus lived. Come Join us on Zoom!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89777681324?pwd=V1QzN1hSRzREcWlDQTdYRjFodXQ1dz09>

Meeting ID: 897 7768 1324 **Passcode:** 525767

YOUTH GROUP

CREATING SPACE FOR YOUTH TO ASK QUESTIONS, ENCOUNTER GOD AND LEARN TO LIVE AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.

Allow, Meet, and Go!



6 Youth, 3 Adults, and 1 Dog hiked 4.5 miles at the beautiful 7 Lakes St. Park on January 17. It was a perfect winter day!!

Youth Group Meeting Schedule

For 6-12th graders and friends
Events and dates are tentative – watch your emails and texts for current information!

- February 21, 1-3pm:** Ice Skating
- March 21, 1-3pm:** Outdoor Broom Ball???

We will be resuming regular zoom meetings mid-February – more details coming soon!!

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Dear Families,

I hope you are having fun with the "Moment for Household Worship" videos each week. If you'd like to revisit and discuss them, they can be found on YouTube by searching Fenton First Presbyterian Church, or in your weekly worship e-news. If you know of a family who might enjoy and benefit from the video messages, please forward each video link; this is one way to be church and share Jesus' message!

Looking for simple and free faith formation activities at home? Visit our website under the Education tab and click on the Illustrated Ministry button, or use this link <https://ffpc.org/illustrated-ministry/> to find coloring pages, weekly Lectionary lessons, and questions to consider. Use them for personal devotion time or family faith discussions. For more information, contact tina@ffpc.org.

God's Peace and Love be with you,
Miss Tina

For Parents of Big-Feelers by Britney Winn Lee, author of *The Boy with Big, Big Feelings*

It is an honor to be the caregivers and stewards of little bodies that house such big hearts! Sensitive children grow up to be empathizers with the world—and they remind us to press into the highs and lows of the moment and to make space for both deep joy and deep grief. It can be overwhelming, however, to guide and raise a highly sensitive child, especially for adults who may not so easily relate to such sensitivity. Here are six suggestions for nurturing kids with big feelings. More info at https://ms.beamingbooks.com/downloads/BB/TheBoyWithBigBigFeelings_ParentGuide.pdf?redirected=true

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion Table flowers are available February 14, 21, 28. Please contact Heidi Roberts at hroberts6862@gmail.com.

February COVID Reach Out (Update)

Oops

Thank you to our callers for our January Covid Reach-Out calls and to all of you who graciously talked with them. Our callers have commented on how much they enjoyed the engaging calls and renewed sense of church family. The effects of Covid have extended beyond the illness and so many of us have missed personal contact with friends and family—and these shorter dark days haven't helped. Thank you all for all the ways you have reached out to one another during this time!

Through a mix-up, in the newsletter there was an incorrect request for February Covid Reach-Out callers. There won't be a February Covid call program, but we hope reaching out and caring for one another all the time is something we all will be doing regardless. We are looking forward to being able to worship and fellowship with one another as soon as it is safe to do so. Miss you!

Nikki Black

Attention All Campers! Whether you like to camp in a tent, trailer or at a hotel please join us in June. We are camping at Tawas Point State Park June 2ndh-June 7rd. Come for the full weekend or just for a few days. You can book now. Bev and Debbie are on sides 183 & 181. So you know what site we are at. Or if you wish, there's plenty of Motel's, Bambi Inn for an example, in the area. We are so excited about camping this year. Since last year we had to cancel all our plans. Please come and have a time of your life!! Please call Bev Welch (248)634-4938 or Debbie Bard (810)629-8729 for more information.

Happy Birthday

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Alex Rourke | Feb 1 | Margie Congdon | Feb 15 |
| George Hameline | Feb 3 | D'Onte Fetzer | Feb 15 |
| Jay Kirkey | Feb 3 | Katy Black | Feb 16 |
| Shari Foguth | Feb 4 | Ty Smith | Feb 19 |
| Jerry Lee Flewelling | Feb 7 | Mitzi Uebel | Feb 19 |
| Elaine Pelletier | Feb 7 | Rog Zollars | Feb 20 |
| Peggy Fowler | Feb 8 | Carly Foguth | Feb 23 |
| P.J. Collier | Feb 10 | Julie Maloney | Feb 25 |
| Edward Hoeglund | Feb 11 | Vanessa Skaff | Feb 26 |
| Marsha Schwarz | Feb 11 | Sally Harwood | Feb 27 |
| Bev Welch | Feb 11 | Heidi Howieson | Feb 27 |
| Jennifer MacLean | Feb 13 | John Sharpe | Feb 27 |
| Carmen Ormsby | Feb 14 | | |

Happy Anniversary

Mike & Katie Simeon February 28

5 WAYS TO BE KIND TO YOUR COMMUNITY DURING CORONAVIRUS / COVID-19

Be a good neighbor. Check in with your neighbors to make sure they have what they need and to let them know they have people that care. Be especially aware of elderly neighbors and people that live alone. You know all that technology we have - let's use it like never before to truly connect.

Support local businesses. Order takeout or buy gift cards for later use. Send a Facebook message to remind them that very soon, we will all be back out and about again to visit their business. Keep your memberships going. Continue to give to your church and area nonprofits and give more if you can.

Remember the caretakers. Find a way to say thank you to health professionals and first responders. Post word of encouragement on their social media channels. If you have to go to the doctor's office or hospital, practice grace and understanding if they are short on time, resources, or answers.

Be generous. Don't take more than you need when it comes to groceries and supplies. Or if you do buy extra, drop them off at police stations, fire stations, and emergency rooms. If you eat out, leave a bigger tip than usual.

Help people. From hungry kids that are missing school lunch to people in demand-shifted jobs like restaurant workers and event custodians, there will be people all over our communities that will be struggling. If you know them, think of what help could look like and reach out. If no one comes to mind, give to your local United Way or food bank; the needs these organizations will be addressing will be fierce.

For more ideas visit

<https://inspirekindness.com/blog/practicing-kindness-during-the-coronavirus>



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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