

HE IS RISEN

CELEBRATE THE RESSURECTION





Hello & Welcome

TThe Church is not a building. It is a gathering of people brought together to experience God's love and purpose.

God designed the church for YOU – you belong here. Are you ready to experience a community of people doing life together? To find out, come worship with us on Sunday mornings.

Our Mission: To be a loving community of faith dedicated to helping people know Jesus Christ and grow, share and serve as his disciples.

Our Vision: To provide an inviting and welcoming church home that attracts people of all ages and encourages positive growth, while creating an exciting and dynamic approach as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for worshipping with us! We are happy to welcome you into this household of God.

PASTOR'S LETTER

Easter Sunday

Pastor Robbie Carnes

In Southern California, Easter Sunday regularly corresponds to two weeks of light rain and mild temperatures. This results in the normal 'drab green' of the hillsides transforming to 'wet green'. Today in Michigan, the snow has all melted from my lawn and it resembles the familiar drab green-brown from those California hills. It is a curious 'in-between time' as Winter is ending and Spring is coming to life. Knowing how green the grass will be in just a few weeks, I still look out the window each morning and catch myself asking, "How long?"

According to Mark's Gospel, it was Saturday, after the Sabbath had ended around 6pm, that the three women, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and Salome went to purchase aromatic anointing oils for Jesus' body. This is curious because according to Luke 23:56 spices and oils had already been applied when the body was buried before the Sabbath. Why then did these three women go out at dusk to purchase additional spices? It was not the practice for Jews to embalm bodies at the time. Therefore, the spices and oils were not for the preservation of Jesus' body; these items were important to mask the stench of the decomposing corpse. However, if oils and spices were already present, why then did these three women feel the need to come out again? Did they not use the correct amount at first? Was the quality of the first application lacking in some way and these faithful were making up for an initial mediocre send off?

Most commentaries concede that the women got up at dawn on that first day of the week out of loving devotion for Jesus. I can imagine that their grief drew them to the tomb as they were not ready to say goodbye quite yet. They carried perfumed oils to anoint Jesus' body, out of loving reverence, and potentially in order to more comfortably be in the presence of Jesus' corpse for one last time. They were openly grieving and in the 'in-between time' of what we now call Holy Week. After the triumph and betrayal of the previous week, and the violence and finality of Good Friday, these three women had no expectation of finding anything other than a sealed tomb and jeering guards suggestively waiting to be convinced to roll the stone way.

We all know what happened. They found the tomb empty and the angel said, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here." Being so familiar with this story we might not fully appreciate the terror and amazement that filled their hearts. I do not react with terror or too much amazement when the grass turns green and the trees start to bud. This is because I have read this chapter before. Spring is coming and all I need to do is patiently wait for it. Many of us might have circumstances in our lives in which we don't have such confidence. COVID has put many things into a tail spin. We may have a loved one in the hospital and struggle to visit and care for them. We may be floundering financially, experiencing social

isolation, or be in the midst of deep conflict with people we dearly love. We may feel like we are in the 'in-between time' after the triumph and betrayal, violence, and finality, and now find ourselves broken and numb.

If Jesus' resurrection means anything, it means that God is firmly in charge. God's power and love has arrived ahead of us at the tomb of our frustration, pain and shame. We can have confidence of God's faithful love for us, even in the face of death itself, because God has already conquered and we know the end of this story. HE IS RISEN!!!



April Sermon Series

In his book, *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis said, "The Son of God became man to enable men to become sons of God." This means that transformation is the end goal of Grace. This month we are going to be talking about how to put wheels on our faith in our third installment of our Discipleship series. What does it really mean to become like Christ? The first thing we learn is that we can't do it alone. We need the Holy Spirit and we need each other. I'm looking forward to worshiping and learning together with you in the month of April!

DEACON'S

The Ministry of the Deacon's is set forth in scripture as 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 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.

Sign up at <https://ffpc.org/deacons/>

**Thank you to all those
that donated to the
Deacon's Easter Project!!**



Have you experienced a loss? Whether recently or many years ago, it is healing to gather with people who share a sense of loss to talk things through and receive love and support. This next month we will be re-forming GriefShare groups to provide a space for just that. For more information please contact the Church Office or Hannah Hall (517)881-4732).

MISSION & STEWARDSHIP

Shelter of Flint - April mission opportunity



The Shelter of Flint serves more than 1000 homeless adults and children every day! The average stay for their client is 37 days and they consistently report 90% in positive housing destinations.

At the main shelter, they have an outside play area for the children. In that play area, they have a very nice playhouse that needs some maintenance. We would like to provide that maintenance work so that the children can more fully and safely enjoy the playhouse. We believe that we will need 3 days of “good” weather to complete our work between April 19-30. The first day will be repairing and fixing the house windows and framing. The second day will be re-shingling the roof, priming repair lumber, and painting the tower outside. The third day will be scraping, sanding, and painting the inside and outside of the whole playhouse. If you would like to join our happy work crew, please contact either Maureen Utt (810-701-2336 cell) or Bill Black (810-750-4189 home) and indicate which type of tasks you might like to do. We will then let you know exactly which days we plan on working dependent on progress and weather.



House of Promise Saturday, April 17

House of Promise assists women recover their lives from being caught in sex trafficking. They can house up to 10 women at a time in their home in the Lansing area. They provide medical

attention, clothing, food, shelter, and education for a GED.

The home is situated on 5½ acres and they need some assistance with their spring yard clean-up. A group of volunteers from our church will car pool there on Saturday, April 17. We will leave our church at 9:15 am, work from 10 am-2 pm, and return before 3 pm. If you are interested in joining our group of volunteers, please contact Ken Wensel (810-513-1340 or wenselkenneth@yahoo.com).

One Great Hour of Sharing - April 4th, 2020



Financial Review - February, 2021

Profit/ Loss	February	Budget	Jan-Feb Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income:	\$29,591.07	\$31,393.96	\$53,444.62	\$87,144.06	\$339,859.36
Expense:	<u>\$26,651.97</u>	<u>\$25,556.23</u>	<u>\$49,607.94</u>	<u>\$49,834.01</u>	<u>\$311,863.34</u>
Net Income:	\$2,939.10*	\$5,837.73	\$3,836.68	\$37,310.05	\$ 27,996.02

*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	February
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$101,799.72
Cash at End of Period:	<u>\$105,522.51</u>
Net Cash Increase:	\$3,722.79

Respectfully Submitted March 8, 2021
 Debera J Bard
 Treasurer



Building Fund Report - March 1, 2021

Building Account Balance:	\$9,055
Mortgage Remaining:	\$154,738

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 Morning Coffee Hour Bible Study

11:15 – noon Led by Pastor Robbie Carnes

Join Pastor Robbie following worship to discuss theme of the Holy Spirit. *No class on communion Sundays (1st Sunday of each month).

The purpose of the Christian Life is to follow Jesus. At its basic level this is a lifelong process of repenting (turning to look and listen) and believe (acting out our convictions). As we follow Jesus we will find ourselves leading others to follow in Jesus' way. As we begin to live life together in Jesus' way we find that a Spiritual Family takes shape and we can 'go on mission' as a family. Come and learn about the church at its best. A family that tells whose we are that has a powerful purpose, living out the mission of God.

Join via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81586041549?pwd=dXdsSUR3cUdocGJCRDRReEhPUnd3UT09>

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

Spring Women's Study

She Smiles Without Fear: Proverbs 31 for Every Woman

A Joy-Filled Invitation to Move the Weight of the World from Your Shoulders to God's by Katy McCown

Monday Evenings, April 12 – May 17
from 6:30 – 8pm or **Wednesday Mornings**,
April 14 – May 17 from 10am – noon

Participant workbook \$15 Register to tina@ffpc.org by March 21

Join via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3159652381?pwd=WjZpVTVZWkV0WHRUbK1HNlZFwJjZQT09>

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

**Visit WWW.FFPC.ORG
for More Information
on Current Offerings**

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

Take a deep dive into Romans – Bible and Commentary, meditation & discovery. Led by Larry Zimble, our objective is to find in Paul's message to people from whom we are very distant things that resonate in our own lives, and help illuminate our walk with God.

Join us in person at 4square Tax AND also on Zoom.

Join via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82961241969?pwd=M0lPMmxYU001SnQ0Z3cwV3h5Z1phdz09>

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

Tuesday Bible Study

11am – 12:15pm:

April 27, May 4 & 11 We will do a short 3 week study on 1,2,3 John. I will put together materials that can be emailed out. If anyone needs them printed, can I let you know? Here's a promo video Video--overview of 1,2, 3 John <https://youtu.be/l3QkE6nKylM>

Led by Pastor Lindsey, this class meets via Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/983542300?pwd=cldCTEJoUFB5Y1RaUnJpQytDdGNtdz09>

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

A Jesus Shaped Life Lent Recap and Planning meeting for Part 2

When: Friday April 16, 6:30-7:30PM

Where: Fellowship Hall and on Zoom (link below)

Pitch in for a catered meal while we gather and discuss the next steps in our journey in discipleship.

Books are available in the office for \$13 each

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8222598633?pwd=cnpMWWQ0ZnMxYmRRK1N3ckNZWVdUZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 2259 8633 **Passcode:** 151415

YOUTH GROUP

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



The Easter Egg Hunt Fun!

We had a great time celebrating being together and hunting for eggs at the MacLean House on Sunday, March 21!

The littles had the front yard, middle and high schoolers had the back yard. We enjoyed a cookie and drink while listening to Miss Tina read an Easter story. Youth group then stayed to enjoy outdoor games and fellowship.

Thank you to the Christian Education Committee for helping coordinate this event, and to Marilee Smiley for stuffing all the eggs!!!

Youth Group Meeting Schedule For 6-12th graders and friends

Dates are tentative – watch your emails and texts for current information!

April 18, 1-3pm: TBD

May 16, 1-3pm: TBD

In May we will have a better idea of what events we can do during summertime! Until then we will continue to find ways to connect and celebrate being together during local mission and service projects, or meeting up at Panera or other locations for discussions and fun. Please stay tuned!!!

HAPPY EASTER

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

A Note from Ms. Tina

Dear Families,

Below are some resources for celebrating and talking with your children about the meaning of Easter:

Click this link for the [He is Risen Easter Family Guide by minno](#)



[Tips to Celebrate Easter's Spiritual Meaning with Kids](#)

Between chocolate, eggs, and a certain furry animal who likes to hide them both, it's easy to lose sight of what the Easter holiday is all about. These are some of our favorite tips to help teach your kids about the spiritual meaning of Easter while still engaging in secular traditions.

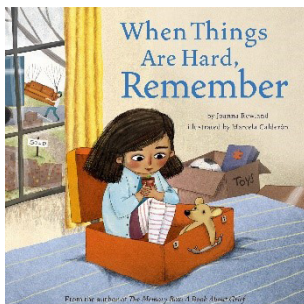
[How to Talk with Your Kids about Good Friday](#)

It can be difficult to teach your children about something as serious and sad as Good Friday. Where does one even begin? Sarah Raymond Cunningham, author of [This Is the Church](#), offers practical advice that you can use to begin this conversation with your children.

You can also visit our website www.ffpc.org under the Education and children's ministry tabs to find coloring pages, weekly Lectionary lessons from Illustrated Ministry, and questions to consider. Use them for personal devotion time or family faith discussions. And the "Moment for Household Worship" videos can be found on YouTube by searching Fenton First Presbyterian Church. If you know of a family who might enjoy and benefit from the video messages, please forward each video link along; this is one way to be church and share Jesus' message!

For more information on any of these subjects, contact tina@ffpc.org.

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



When Things are Hard, Remember by Joanna Rowland

A seed falls to the ground. A child moves away. Can life bloom in a new place? With gentle storytelling and poetic language, Joanna Rowland, author of the bestselling book *The Memory Box*, explores what it means to have hope—hope that things will get better, hope that you are cared for even when things are hard, and hope that new growth is waiting to burst forth, just around the corner. available today wherever books are sold.

Happy Birthday

Harry Clark	Apr 3
Sam Fetzer	Apr 4
Jean Hermann	Apr 4
John Stork	Apr 6
Betty Brandon	Apr 10
Bob Brownlee	Apr 12
Gretchen Coles	Apr 12
William Eddington	Apr 14
Carol Fulghum	Apr 15
Christian Coffin	Apr 16
Meredith Weldon	Apr 18
Mark Gibb	Apr 20
Millie Roe	Apr 20

Betty Jean Skinner	Apr 20
Thelma P Buffmyer	Apr 21
Barb Taylor	Apr 21
Debbie Hoeglund	Apr 25
Sarah Kasprzak	Apr 25
Lee Graham	Apr 28
Sherry Hunt	Apr 28
Lynne Watters	Apr 28
Roy Fetzer	Apr 29
Connie Morrison	Apr 29
Ann Fetzer	Apr 30

Happy Anniversary

Michael & Jeanne Cupp	April 22
Scott & Cathy Hollopeter	April 29

Calling all High School and College Graduates

It's that time of year and the office needs to know who will be graduating, from what school, what your field of study will be, or what degree you have obtained. **Please contact the office by May 7** so we can honor and celebrate your achievements. There will be a worship service of recognition either late May or early June. May God bless you on your journey!

Communion Table Flowers: April 11, 18 and 23rd are available for Communion Table flowers. Please contact Heidi Roberts 810-625-4637 or hroberts6862@gmail.com if you would like to have flowers on the communion table.

Worship With Us In Person or Online
Holy Week & Easter Services
 FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Palm Sunday - March 28th
 10:00 a.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday - April 1st
 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

Good Friday - April 2nd
 12:00 p.m. Community Service
 Fenton United Methodist Church

Easter Sunday - April 4th
 10:00 a.m. Worship

Join us
 Every Sunday
 at 10:00 a.m.

Contact Us
 (810) 629-7801 - www.ffpc.org - www.facebook.com/fentonfpc
 *Masks and social distancing required during in-person worship.

WAYS TO GIVE

There are many different ways that you can give back to the Fenton First Presbyterian Church. **Together we can make a difference!!**



Online Giving: An easy and convenient way to give. Just visit the Presbyterian Mission Exchange link in the Giving section of FFPC.org website. A fast and SECURE way to give back.



Church Giving: You can give during one of our services by placing your check or cash in the Sunday offering plates. When giving cash, please complete a giving envelope so we can properly record your gift.



Automatic Bank Pay: You can set up payments through your financial institution by utilizing the bill pay feature. Simply use First Presbyterian Church as the payee and your name for your account information. Saves on postage!!



Non-Cash Giving: Assets or Planned Gifts



Mail offering to Church:
Fenton First Presbyterian Church
503 S. Leroy
Fenton, MI 48430

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION!

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