

Fenton First Presbyterian Church

May 2021 Newsletter



*See!
The winter is past;
the rains are over
and gone. Flowers
appear on the earth;
the season of singing
has come, the cooing
of doves is heard in
our land. The fig
tree forms its early
fruit; the blossoming
vines spread their
fragrance. Arise,
come, my darling;
my beautiful one,
come with me.”*



Hello & Welcome

The 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

The 5 Things

Pastor Robbie Carnes

May is the month of graduations and open houses. It is wonderful to celebrate the accomplishments of students and wish them well in future endeavors. It is about this time that I start repeating my 'Five Things' speech to my kids. They have a few more years ahead of them before they graduate, however I figure it is never too early to give advice about how to figure out who God has made you to be.

There are five things that you need to pursue in order to have a reasonably happy life and be generally fulfilled. While these things are best discovered and pursued in the context of the Christian Faith and intended to honor Jesus in every way, they can be applied to anyone if they are a follower of Jesus or not. These five things are geared toward young people starting out in life, however there are clear implications for people of all ages, especially people who are facing major transitions (such as empty nesters, retirees, widows/widowers, etc...).

These five things can be separate pursuits in your life but they don't necessarily have to be. There are many people who successfully combine them. However, the reverse is true as well. While a few of these things naturally fit together at times, it is important to be open to the possibility that each of these five things can be separate endeavors.

The first thing that everyone needs is a skill that you can leverage to feed yourself and provide for basic necessities. For many of us this was customer service at a local restaurant or an entrepreneurial spirit delivering

newspapers or cutting lawns and then developed into other, more lucrative, things. This can also be a trade such as painting, electrical, or plumbing. For those who are retired it might be that you are enjoying the results of the skills that you have leveraged over your lifetime.

This is the first thing because in an effort to combat apathy and cynicism, our culture would try to tell us that we need to place other priorities before our basic needs. For the most part, the practical care of our basic needs is the foundation that allows for the pursuit of higher goals. While this seems obvious, we all can tell stories of unwise decisions that were based on unwise priorities.

The second thing that everyone needs is a passion. This is what gets us up in the morning. At times in our lives this might be a job. Or it might be education and a hopeful future. What we are passionate about gives us energy and, if healthy, can provide us with a useful way to prioritize our time and resources. While it is convenient for your passion be connected to skills that allow you to feed yourself, your passion does not need to be the main breadwinner of your life. However, it can and will shape your life in dynamic ways. Ultimately, whatever skills that you have to meet your basic needs should be in service to your life passion.

Have you considered what you are passionate about? Have you considered how your life patterns might reveal your passions? Ironically, there are times when my life

patterns reveal that I am very passionate about sitting in my favorite chair and watching YouTube. It is possible that I need to consider nurturing some of my passions rather than anesthetizing my evenings with electronics.

Thirdly, we all need a hobby. This about active recreation. Something that we do to have fun. This could be model building, car restoration, woodworking or puppeteering. It could be reading, collecting baseball cards or running. There is a vast amount of things that are wonderful hobbies that exist purely because they are fun. It is ok to have fun and it is important to share the fun things in our lives. When is the last time that you had fun? How did you do it?

The fourth thing that everyone needs is an art. This is something that is meant to create beauty in a disciplined manner. Playing a musical instrument, drawing, sculpture, gardening, woodworking, even playing sports can be applied here. While this can be fun and we can find passion around it, it is the fact that we are working to learn about the subject and shape ourselves as a crafter that is important. It is the act of combining the efforts of our body, mind, and heart to learn how to create beauty that can be very fulfilling and glorify God.

Lastly, we all need a way that we can serve. All of us, no matter what age, have something to give. If Jesus' parable about the widow who gave her two mites toward the building of the Temple was any indication, there is value in service no matter what impact. Being a contributor to the common good is a powerful source of identity. Being a servant in the name of Christ is the Christian's mission. Growing in ways to serve, love, and express compassion to others ultimately produces a life well lived.

Living well isn't the ultimate goal however. As humans we are at our best when we are glorifying God. What this means in a nut shell is enjoying who God is and sharing that joy with others. These five things are really simply tools about how we might enjoy who God has made us to be at any specific moment in our lives.

For the graduate who has the rest of your life ahead of you, start plotting out these patterns now. For the mid-lifer who is too busy getting things done, take a moment and consider which of these things you might nurture to rekindle joy in your life. For the retired empty nester, remember that these things change over the course of our lives. The need for fulfillment remains throughout our lives, the healthy and holy avenues in which we live out who God has made us to be change as we age and grow.

Am I missing anything? Do you have nuggets of wisdom that you can share? I would love to hear it, (robbie@ffpc.org).

May Sermon Series

Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are adopted as children into God's family. Through the example of Jesus and the continuous presence of the Holy Spirit we are able to glorify God the Father through obedience. But what does this really mean? The month of May we will be talking about basic examples of what it means to glorify God through our lives and live in the Spirit. What does it mean to love? What is God's justice? How are we to be witness' of Jesus? What is the Church? In what ways does the Holy Spirit gift us for ministry?--

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:

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/>

Prayer requests and updates can be sent to Debbie Hoeglund by phone at 810-252-0410 or by email at pardeb18@hotmail.com.



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

House Of Promise

Thirteen volunteers from our church went to the House of Promise near Lansing to assist them in their spring yard clean-up. We all had a great time and learned more about their programs. The House of Promise assists women recover their lives from being caught in sex trafficking. They can house up to 10 women at a time and provide medical attention, clothing, food, shelter, and education for a GED.



World of Wonder Mission Opportunities

World of Wonder is located in downtown Fenton (404 W. Ellen St - the original High School location) and is an essential part of developing community. They offer an amazing variety of ways to support educating our young children as well as supporting families. If you are interested in making a difference, please contact their office manager, Amber Brown, for more specific information and referral to the best person for your interest. The office phone number is 810-591-8349. For more general information about their programs, visit their Facebook page.

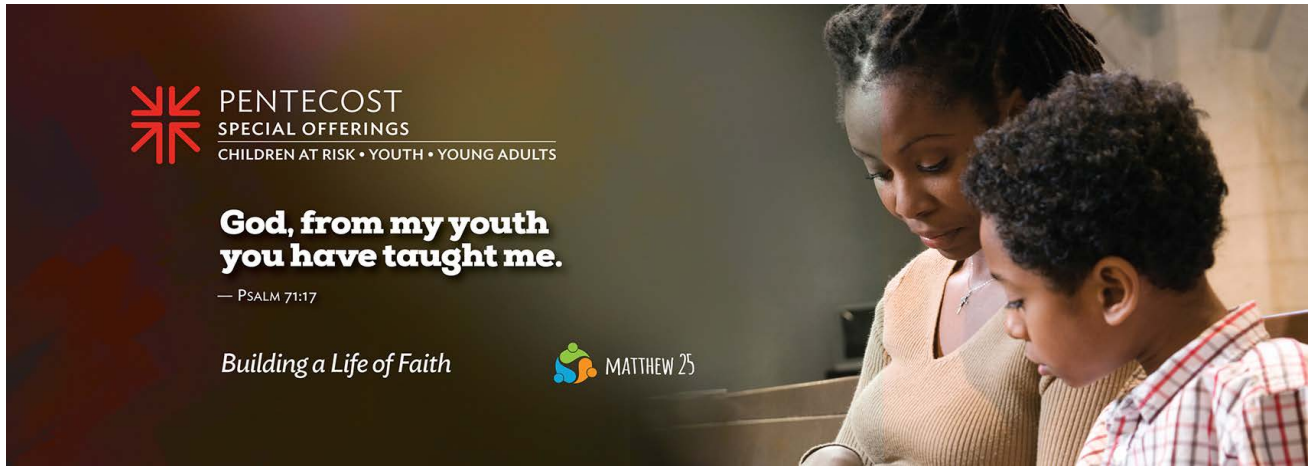
- Read to children – during the pandemic; this would be via a computer link to the classroom.

- Be a pen pal to a class of children in their program. The teacher of that class will then assist the children in writing a response to you. They have 10 classes.

- Make donations to their programs (Community Share, Helping Hands Food Program, Delivering Hope)

Suggested items are: Gently used clothing, baby items, furniture, bedding, household items, non-perishable food items, gift cards, weekend/summer food assistance (\$100/child/year), school supplies, books.

Pentecost- May 23rd, 2021



Financial Review - March, 2021

Profit/ Loss	March	Budget	Jan-Mar. Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income:	\$52,060.02	\$30,007.23	\$105,506.38	\$117,151.29	\$339,859.36
Expense:	\$27,019.21	\$27,710.76	\$76,627.15	\$77,544.77	\$311,863.34
	\$25,040.81	\$2,296.47	\$28,879.23	\$39,606.52	\$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	March	YTD
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$105,529.28	\$100,783.08
Cash at End of Period:	<u>\$112,780.00</u>	<u>\$112,780.00</u>
Net Cash Increase:	\$7,250.72	\$11,996.92



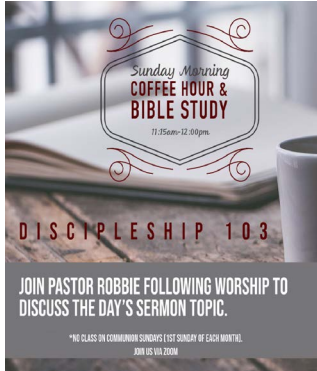
Respectfully Submitted April 12, 2021
Debera J Bard
Treasurer

Building Fund Report - March 31, 2021

Building Account Balance: \$9,250
 Mortgage Remaining: \$133,034

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

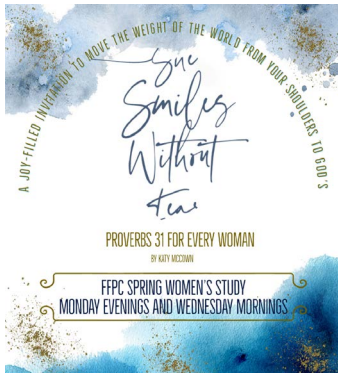
Led by Pastor Robbie Carnes

Join Pastor Robbie following worship to discuss the day's sermon topic. *No class

on communion Sundays (1st Sunday of each month).

Join via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81586041549?pwd=dXdsSUR3cUdocGJCRDRR eEhPUnd3UT09>

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

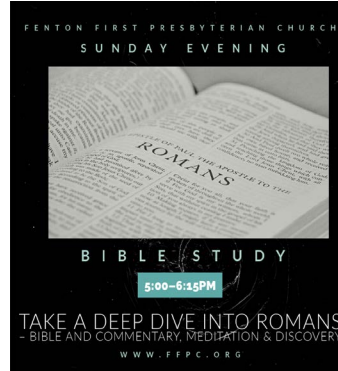
Monday Evenings, April 12 – May 17 from 6:30 – 8pm or

Wednesday Mornings, April 14 – May 17 from 10am – noon

Contact Tina at tina@ffpc.org for more info.

Join via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3159652381?pwd=WjZpVTVZVWkV0WHRUbk1HNIZFWjJZQT09>

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



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

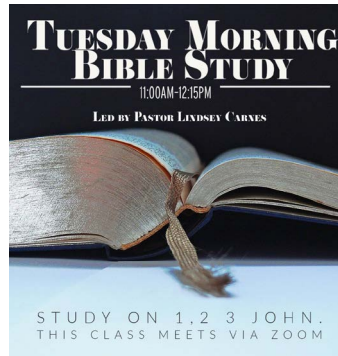
Take a deep dive into Romans – Bible and Commentary, meditation & discovery. Led by Larry Zimbler, our objective is to find

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:

Tuesday Bible Study from 11am – 12:15pm

May 4 & 11 finishing the study on 1,2 3 John; promo video overview of 1,2, 3

Promo Video: <https://youtu.be/l3QkE6nKylM>

Classes will resume in September studying Acts.

Led by Pastor Lindsey, this class meets via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/983542300?pwd=cldCTEJOUFB5Y1RaUnJpQytDdGNtdz09>

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

YOUTH GROUP

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

We gathered to make joyful noise on Sunday, April 18!



It's amazing what you can do with 5 gallon buckets and drum sticks!

8 youth and 2 adults had a great time on April 18 with a drum circle and enjoying ice cream from the Scoop! We practiced different rhythms to 2 different chants:

Holy, Holy, Holy Chant: Spirit divine, come to me. Feeling love, healing me. Open my heart, allow me to see. Beauty and love lives in me.

The Peace Chant: I'm gonna be the peace I want to see. I'm gonna be the peace; it's pourin' out of me!

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

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

Saturday, May 22, 7pm - The Mandalorian Marathon outside at the MacLean house, youth, friends, and families welcome! Bring a blanket, sleeping bag, or pillows to keep you comfortable, your mask, and personal snacks – pizza and drinks provided. Stay as long as you like or spend the night! If needed, small tents are available for siblings or family units. Safe distancing will be practiced! For those who spend the night, a light breakfast will be provided and we will attend church via zoom. Pick-up time by 11:30am!

Sunday, May 23: Graduate Recognition 10am worship

The summer event schedule will be available soon! 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!!!

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

A Note from Ms. Tina



Dear Families,

Spring is on its way, and with spring comes sunshine and new life. How do you help kids slow down and appreciate the world blooming around them? Click the following link from Beaming Books to help inspire a love for creation in children. [Here are our favorite tips](#)

Click here for [Six Indoor Activities Perfect for a Rainy Day](#)

It can be difficult to keep children entertained when rainy weather keeps everyone inside. It's tempting to park our kids in front of a screen for a little downtime—we've all done it. But with a little bit of creativity, it's possible to keep your child's mind and body engaged with activities that are every bit as fun as those played in the great outdoors—no TV required.

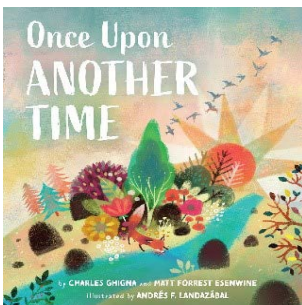
Click here for [5 Poses for Your Yoga Baby](#)

You don't have to be a yoga guru to enjoy the benefits of yoga with your little one. Yoga is all about exploring your body through a variety of movements, such as bending, twisting, reaching, and stretching. In fact, you only need three things to explore yoga with your baby...

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" video playlist can be found on YouTube by searching Fenton First Presbyterian Church. Feel free to share video links with friends and family; 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



Once Upon Another Time by Matt Forrest Esenwine and Charles Ghigna

What was the world like before roads and skyscrapers? Once Upon Another Time takes readers through an exploration of the world as it was before humans made their mark—and a world that can still be found if you know where to look. Contrasting the past with the present, this picture book serves as a warm invitation for all of us to appreciate, explore, and protect the magic and wonder of this planet we call home.

Happy Birthday

Rachel Black	May 1
Michael Pelletier	May 8
Marilee Smiley	May 9
Cameron Anderson	May 10
Morris Fulcher	May 10
Paul Joitke	May 11
Pat Allen	May 12
Melissa Erwin	May 13
Martha Smith	May 14
James Foster	May 15
Sarah Martin-Fanone	May 16
Debera Bard	May 18
Chris Coffin	May 19
Mark Martin-Fanone	May 19

Madeline Gibb	May 20
John Danules	May 21
Robert McLive	May 21
Jerry Welch	May 22
Jenny Gibb	May 23
Jeff Stone	May 24
Bev Tippet	May 24
Gerri Danules	May 29
Shirley Israel	May 30
Tabatha Dolan	May 31
Aubrey Howieson	May 31

Happy Anniversary

Jeff & Sharon Stone	May 19
Doug & Lynne Watters	May 21

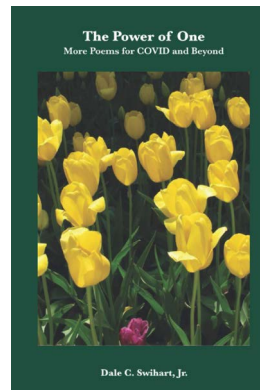


Calling all High School and College Graduates

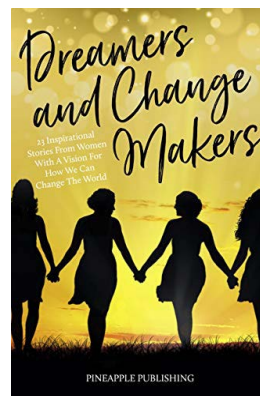
It's that time of year and the office needs to know who will be graduating, from what school, what your field of study will be, or what degree you have obtained. **Please contact the office by May 7** so we can honor and celebrate your achievements. There will be a worship service of recognition on May 23rd. May God bless you on your journey!

Communion Table Flowers: If you would like to purchase flowers for the Communion Table, please contact Heidi Roberts 810-625-4637 or hroberts6862@gmail.com.

Check This Out!



Dale Swihart has published a second volume of his daily meditations and photographs. It is called *Power of One: More Poems for COVID and Beyond*. It is currently available, along with volume one, through Amazon.



FFPC member, Kelsy Horauf, is featured and wrote a chapter for the book titled *Dreamers & Change Makers: 23 Inspirational Stories from Women with a Vision for How We Can Change the World*. This book is available through Amazon.

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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