

Fenton First Presbyterian Church

June 2021 Newsletter





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 Need To Party

Pastor Robbie Carnes

For many of us COVID has produced a deep seated need to be with people. Much of this is because we have not been able to gather in groups like we have in the past, and even when we do gather with family members or friends, even in small numbers, there is an insidious fear that we might be unintentionally prolonging the pandemic and passing on the virus. Even for those of us who have maintained skepticism about the pandemic and have tried to maintain normal patterns throughout this past year have been effected by the drastic reorientation of how we gather together and socialize.

As we look forward to restrictions being lifted and the pandemic ceasing, the general tone of our society is how to restart our social lives. Open houses for graduates, camping trips, graduation celebrations, and baseball games are all being planned. This is a great sign of things getting back to normal.

As I think about what normal is, I have some doubts about whether we should settle for that.

While I imagine that extroverts withered in the pandemic relational famine, being a self-proclaimed introvert, I didn't mind so much. But the pandemic season of isolation was crippling to me. This is because whether you are extroverted or introverted, everyone needs authentic relationships. The pandemic removed our normal social rhythms that gave us a structure to develop the kind of relationships that really have meaning—

the kind we all really need. For many of us this past year has forced us to be intentional about developing relationships or miss out on them.

What if we kept being intentional about maintaining and creating new relationships even after the pandemic ends?

One thing that my family has done for the past year is to set aside Sunday night for a zoom call. Four households from across the country meet and chat for about an hour. While this may sound normal to you, it took a 100 year pandemic to get the Carnes family to carve that rhythm out of each week. We have never done that before and it is a beautiful thing. New babies were introduced, celebrations were shared, sorrow was mutually born; all because we had to be intentional about meeting or it wouldn't happen.

Before you start scheduling zoom calls, I want to express to you the kind of relationship that I'm talking about. Simply spending time with each other isn't a meaningful relationship. It's certainly fertile ground for relationships, but we have all had kids on the track team, enjoyed the track parents, and as soon as the season is over we loose contact and move on. In the off chance that a real friendship develops that can be defined beyond the specific rhythm of the track season, that is what we can develop into a meaningful relationship. And, of course, it is those meaningful relationships that extroverts and introverts really need, pandemic or not.

My family zoom calls are deeply meaningful because the people I am relating to remind me who I am (they have intimate knowledge of all of the stupid stuff I have ever done), we share our life goals with each other, and keep each other accountable, sharing joys and bearing sorrow. Beyond simply being with people, what feeds our hearts is being in relationships with others in which we are known and we can share our stories as we live life together. Beyond an individual's need to socialize, authentic relationships create living giving community that nurtures its members and grows beyond mere acquaintance into a Spiritual Family. A Spiritual Family has a Spiritual Father and I am blessed that those Sunday zoom calls not only serve to draw us closer to each other, but closer to God. **This, of course, is the ultimate result of real relationships; addressing not just emotional needs, but spiritual realities as well.**

It feels strange, as an introvert, to feel the need to host parties and spend time with people. It might be that this past year has revealed a new need for balance in my social life. In Luke 10:38-42 we read the familiar story of the sisters Mary and Martha. Martha is busy with the details of hosting and gets upset with Mary who is intent and content with spending time with Jesus. While it can be helpful to recognize our personal tendencies toward either Martha or Mary, it is crucial to recognize that we need both. We need Martha, who is intentional about creating the environment for relationships to happen, and we need Mary, who is intentional about nurturing connections with others and ultimately connecting to Jesus. In this season of renewed openness, don't

neglect the need to gather together in any safe and responsible way that you can. As you make your party plans, don't neglect the need for all of us to have authentic, nurturing, and deep relationships as well. Be open to how Jesus will enter in and don't hesitate to journey with each other in the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is in the well planned out garden that Martha plants that we see the precious fruit of Mary's intentional community.

June Sermon Series

Discipleship is a lifestyle not a program. It is something we are and not just do. Or worse, just talk about it! Discipleship is what happens when we embrace who we are in Christ and step out in obedience by the power of the Holy Spirit. When we witness the Spirit in our personal lives it manifests in specific ways within the Family of God. This month we will be talking about Walking in Obedience, Sharing the Wealth, and Resting Well. Specifically on how the Church body calls each member to a gospel oriented life. We also are welcoming Pastor Isaac Chung on June 6th. He will be speaking on his calling to be a missionary to Tajikistan. As a Spiritual Family, the Holy Spirit works to send some out to be emissaries of the Kingdom of God. As the Holy Spirit works in our Spiritual Family, we recognize more and more the ministry gifts of others and the need for people of hear of God's love for them.



A NOTE FROM SESSION

Dear FFPC Friends,

The Session of FFPC has met to discuss the ever improving information about and changing restrictions surrounding COVID 19. At the most recent Session meeting the following was decided:

1. Beginning June 1st, FFPC will adopt the position that masks are optional for the majority of the use of the Church Building and Church events. Paper masks will remain available for those who might need one and handwashing stations will remain available throughout the building.
2. As Christ's body we will treat everyone with the same love, respect and compassion that we receive from Christ. This means that all of us will be diligent in maintaining our personal welfare and be considerate of the health and welfare of each other. Let us practice love for each other as some may wear masks and others may not. Let us extend every grace to be considerate as we all will have different comfortabilities with social distance and physical contact such as hugging, hand shaking and sitting closely together.
3. The various groups that wish to meet in the Church building are welcome to do so. With the support of the Session and Church staff each of these groups (Knitting Group, Deacons Boards, Chancel Choir, etc...) should establish specific agreements

surrounding masks and social distancing with the goal of promoting the peace and unity of the church.

Colossians 3:12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

Shelter of Flint Playhouse Renovation – April/May 2021

Volunteers from our church went to the Shelter of Flint 5 times during April and May of 2021 to renovate a very cute and well loved playhouse. Initial work involved replacing several damaged boards. Then the roof shingles were replaced and the playhouse was painted with 2 coats of paint. Finally, the window openings were glazed with lexan plastic, the entrance had a new plywood covering and the floor was stained. Our volunteers thought this was a very worthwhile project and enjoyed our time together.



Flint Neighborhood Clean-Up Mission

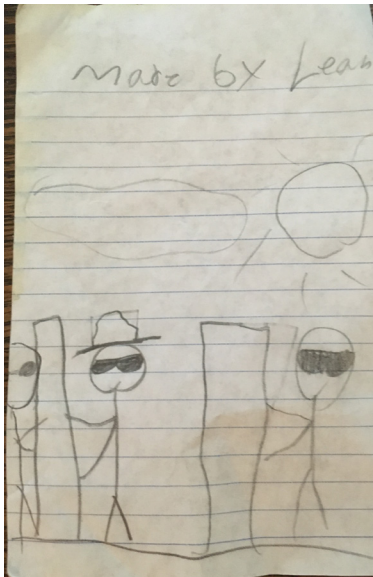
On May 15th, Fenton 1st Presbyterian Church members participated, along with Flint residents, in Flint-wide efforts to clean up blight in the city by helping to clean up trash that's been dumped in the city. We filled up 2 huge dumpsters, and the streets of Flint looked significantly better when we left. The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40



Adopt-a-Pet – Saturday – May 15, 2021

Volunteering for Adopt-a-Pet is always a treat and a surprise! Armed with rakes to rake the walking trails, our group soon found itself instead drilling post holes, setting the posts, fastening 2x4 boards to the posts, and fastening pallets to the boards. Once completely assembled, green garden cloth will be attached to the pallets. The result will be a new Halloween maze for the 2021 Halloween fun at Adopt-a-Pet!

Last year, the Halloween walk raised \$35,000 from their Halloween celebration; funds much needed to support their program through the pandemic. Adopt-a-Pet is always looking for ways to enlarge its purpose in caring for and adopting out its furry friends. Stop by and see the outdoor fenced runs for the dogs and the outdoor kitty screened-in porch – and add the Howling Halloween Party and Haunted Trail to your calendar for family fun this fall.



Samaritas Update

It hasn't been quite a month since my last report, but I have another request for donations already! It is exciting to see arrivals begin to pick up! This year we have already delivered items to 4 families. Most recently, I asked for help to find things for a man, Sameer, who had recently arrived from Iraq, and your response was incredible!



The delivery to Sameer went very well. He was very grateful for the help. We are keeping in contact as he is likely to move again once he is able to find work. We may need a bed and a few other items for him soon. Along with two dressers and a dining table, we brought dishes, glasses, silverware, kitchen utensils, bedding, and lamps. Here is a photo of the items and above one of Sameer with Robbie. Thank you all who were able to help with this effort!

We are currently arranging our 5th delivery of the year. A changing table, high chair, and pack and play will go to Angie and Jonatan, a Columbian couple in Detroit who are expecting a baby. We have previously brought them other items and are happy to help welcome an addition to their family!

This week I was contacted by Samaritas to see if we could help a family arriving later this week. This family is coming to Michigan from Egypt where they have been waiting for a permanent placement after fleeing their home in Syria. Their travel plans have been cancelled several times over the past year, so Samaritas is really excited to see them finally arrive. The family of four consists of Mom, Dad, and two young sons (ages 1 and 5). They are in need of a crib, a full or queen sized bed for mom and dad, a changing table, and dressers. If we are able to secure any of these items, they will be delivered as soon as possible.



Please let me know if you would be able to help locate any of the items for the Syrian family, and thank you all again for your amazing support!

Peace,
Sarah Martin Fanone

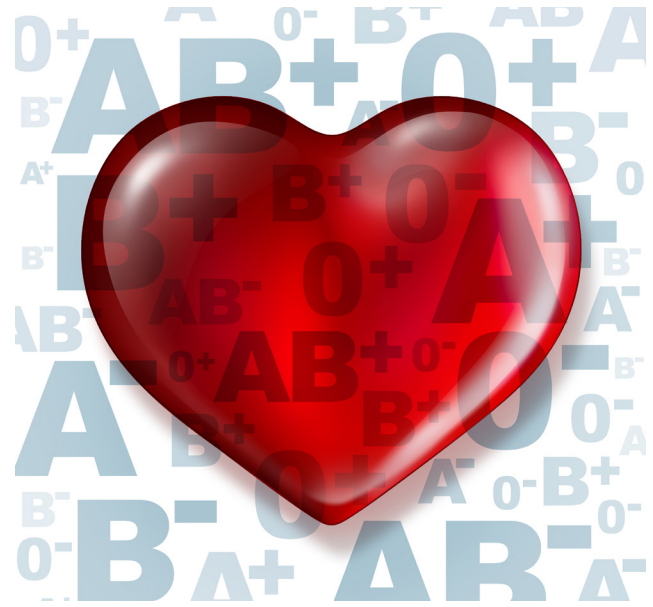


World of Wonder Mission Opportunities

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.



BLOOD DRIVE - TUESDAY JUNE, 8th

11am - 4:45

If you wish to schedule an appointment to donate, visit redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: fentonfpc) or call 1-800-733-2767. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for all who wish to volunteer on that day. Any questions please contact Sherry Hunt (810- 735-6428) or Jo Beardslee (810-750-9768).



North End Soup Kitchen Mission Event

This is a great opportunity to be of service to an agency that does so much for the hungry. Please consider joining others from our congregation on Saturday , June 12'21 from 9 am to noon. It will be a rewarding experience to help others by putting our faith to work. All those interested are asked to meet at the church at 8:15 am in order to carpool to and from Flint. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Ken Wensel at 810-513-1340 , or email him at wenselkenneth@yahoo.com.

Financial Review - March, 2021

Profit/ Loss	March	Budget	Jan-Apr. Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income:	\$25,106.71	\$22,416.01	\$130,715.14	\$139,567.30	\$339,859.36
Expense:	\$27,620.68	\$29,534.19	\$104,247.83	\$107,078.96	\$311,863.34
	\$2,513.97*	\$7,118.18	\$26,467.31	\$32,488.34	\$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

	April	YTD
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$112,882.05	\$100,783.08
Cash at End of Period:	\$106,006.53	\$106,006.53
Net Cash Increase:	\$6,875.52	\$5,223.45

Respectfully Submitted May 7th, 2021

Debera J Bard
Treasurer

Building Fund Report - April 30th, 2021

Building Account Balance: \$9,200

Mortgage Remaining: \$130,818

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=dXdS SUR3cUdocGJCRDRR eEhPUnd3UT09>

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



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

Beginning June 13, this group will meet through the summer (June-July-August) and discuss women in the bible (both heroes and villains), one or two a week, BUT because people travel etc., we don't have a set schedule. The plan is to decide each meeting when to meet and which characters to study during the next meeting. Contact Larry Zimbler for more information.

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

7-SESSION BIBLE STUDY

TRUTHFILLED



TRUTHFILLED

THE PRACTICE OF PREACHING TO YOURSELF THROUGH EVERY SEASON

Online Study hosted by LifeWay Women

This summer we're studying TruthFILLED—a 7-session study by Ruth Chou Simons—starting on Thursday, June 10. You'll be able to watch the weekly teaching videos for free!* All you'll need is a copy of the Bible study book to follow along with the discussion. So join us!

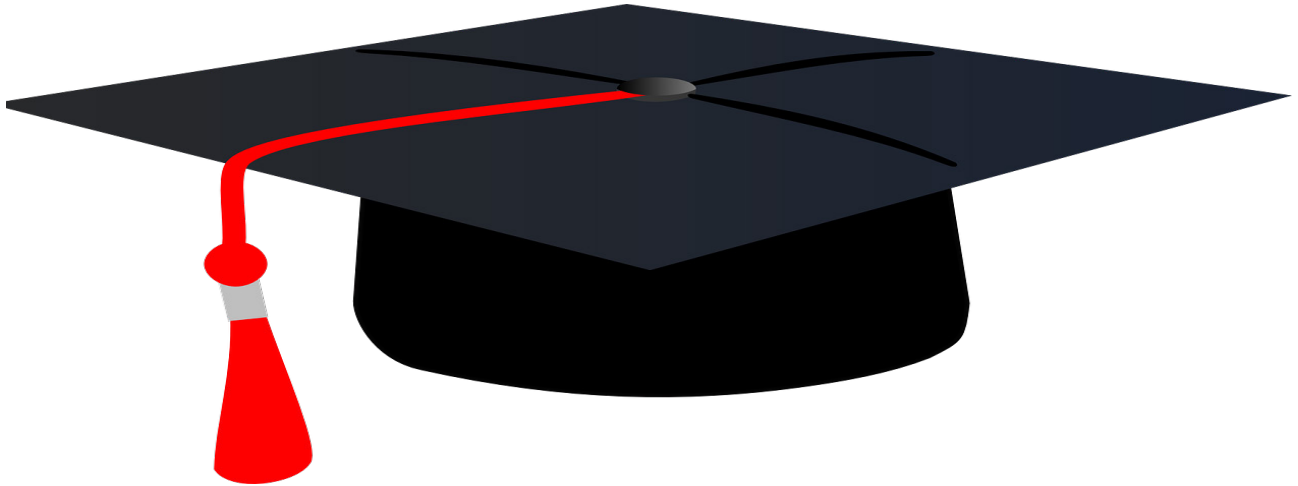
Study begins June 10, 2021, 1:00 AM!

Visit

<https://onlinestudy.lifeway.com/v/truthfilledobs>

YOUTH GROUP

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



On Sunday, May 23 we recognized our high school and college graduates. We wish them God's guidance and blessings as they journey on to their next adventures! Congratulations!!!



Casey Cohen is graduating from Linden High School, attending MSU this fall, and plans to study business with a possible focus in real estate or marketing.



Christian Coffin is graduating from Howell High School. He earned his Eagle Scout rank last year by renovating the church stage. He will be attending Mott Community College in the fall in pursuit of a degree in Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling.



Madeline Davis is graduating from Byron High School. She will be attending classes at U of M Flint this fall pursuing her associates degree before moving on to a bachelor's degree.



Logan Kirkey graduated on May 1 from Alma College with a B.A. in Business and Finance. He is currently looking for a position in Atlanta, GA. He and his fiancé have moved to Atlanta as she was accepted at Emery University for the midwifery program.

Madison Janowak graduated from Hope College



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

This summer we will focus on local mission and service projects, participating in the Farmer's Market at our church's activity table, meet up at Panera or other locations for discussions, and of course fun! Is anyone up for slip-n-slide kick ball???? Kayaking and beach day are planned too. Let's connect and celebrate being together! God is good, all the time!!!

The event schedule will be available early June – watch your emails and texts for current information! To get on the email list, contact tina@ffpc.org.



Six of us gathered at the MacLean house for the Mandalorian marathon. We watched 4 episodes and came up with a new youth group t-shirt idea with quotes from the show.

Jesus: This is the way
Holy Spirit: I will help you
God: I have spoken

We are excited about more outdoor movie nights over the summer. Stay tuned!!!



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

A Note from Ms. Tina

Dear Families,

Father's Day is approaching and here are a few activities to consider:

The first two are Time With Dad or Stories from Dad or Grandpa from vibrantfaithprojects.org. Both are available for download on our website <https://ffpc.org/children-family-ministry/>

Here are a couple activities from childrensministry.com:

1. Have your child(ren) make a card for Dad, Grandpa, or other men who are like shepherds to them.

Using their thumbprints, children can create pictures of sheep. Then have the children draw a shepherd and glue this poem to their picture:

Children are just little lambs

Needing love and care.

We have a Heavenly Shepherd

Who is with us everywhere.

But even on this Earth,

God gave us shepherds, too.

He knew just what I needed.

I'm so glad He gave me you!

2. Father's Day is a day we recognize all the great things about our dads, including their physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual strength. Father's Day is also a day to recognize that we have an amazing, strong, and powerful Father in heaven—God, who loves us very much and is stronger than anyone. Discuss with your Dad these questions:

- Tell about a time you felt strong.
- Other than physical strength, what are ways people are strong?
- Who's the strongest person you know—and what makes that person so strong?

Close your time together in prayer, thanking God for being a strong Father, and for giving kids great dads and men in their lives. Be sure to thank your Dad for working to be the best Dad he can be!

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.

May you feel God's Peace guiding you,
Miss Tina

Sunday School Returns June 13 for children & youth ages kindergarten and up
Join Miss Tina at 10am in Fellowship Hall

In an effort to bring us all together after COVID and easily engage families, we are excited to offer Sunday school during the beginning of worship in the fun and relaxed atmosphere of Fellowship Hall. Our focus will be a Bible story, worship music skills, and activities. As classes grow we will transition to downstairs classrooms.

Children will move to worship after the sermon where they will either sit with their parents or with Miss Tina in a designated spot. ALL children are asked to wear a mask when being dropped off for class; they may take their mask off once seated in worship at their parent's discretion. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tina Ritchie, Rebekah Ratza or Pastor Robbie.

Cherub Club – “What’s that,” you ask?

It's a music class for children kindergarten – 5th grade on Wednesday evenings!
Join Miss Tina and Mrs. Carter June 2 -23 from 6:30-7:30PM in the Drama room.
Children will be learning basic music skills and rhythms, playing different Orff instruments and children's handbells, and doing a bit of movement and singing. This education setting is meant to supplement Sunday school faith formation and intended to teach children about music in worship as a fun engaging practice to glorify God. Our goal is to learn something to share for worship later this summer. Contact Tina Ritchie or Rebekah Ratza with any questions.

Did you know our church will have a table at the Fenton Farmer's Market this summer?

The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a table for 8 weeks – July 8 through August 26, from 5-9pm.

Our focus is to interact and share our presence within the community in various ways:

- Offer activities for families and individuals to engage in mission, music, children's activities, and general family activities like praying in color, sculpture, art, etc.
- Listen to community/family/individual needs
- Provide and share various community resources (FARR, Center of Hope, food pantries, etc.)
- Have folks available to pray with others privately
- Have fun while providing hospitality

Your help is needed! There will be a sign up genius for those wishing to be a welcome host, explain activities, pray with others, or assist with set up and clean up. Watch for the link in weekly emails, or contact the office or Tina Ritchie for more information!

Happy Birthday

Dale Goss	Jun 3
Karen Terrill	Jun 3
Donna Anderson	Jun 4
Suzanne C. Carter	Jun 5
Kara Kinser	Jun 5
Joshua Collier	Jun 7
Jane Motta	Jun 7
Bill Black	Jun 8
Doug Hartwell	Jun 8
John Wrage	Jun 14
Rachel Baker	Jun 15
Julie Grams	Jun 16
Colin Hodgkin	Jun 19
Jim Morris	Jun 20
Georgiann Tunningley	Jun 20
Joe Kryza	Jun 24
Caitlin Roberts	Jun 24
Richard Bard	Jun 25
Megan Hollopeter	Jun 26
Nora Kryza	Jun 28
JoAnn Beardslee	Jun 29
Andrea Smith	Jun 30
Richard Tunningley	Jun 30

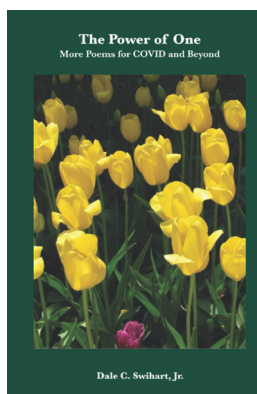
Happy Anniversary

Michael & Deborah Vanderlip	June 1
William & Adie Eddington	June 2
Robert & Joan McLive	June 2
Ernie & Linda Miller	June 5
Gene & Connie Morrison	June 6
Margie & Doug Congdon	June 7
Mike & Julie Hussar	June 13
Jay & Kate Kirkey	June 16
Rick & Sherry Hunt	June 20
Clark & Nancy Casteel	June 23
Joe & Nora Kryza	June 27
Jim & Suzanne Carter	June 28
Edward & Debbie Hoeglund	June 28
Marc & Kelsy Hoerauf	June 28
Chas & Cheryl Kopplin	June 28
Adam & Meredith Weldon	June 29
Bill & Betty Brandon	June 30
Christopher & Melissa Browne	June 30

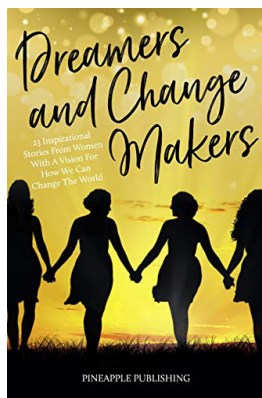


Communion Table Flowers: If you would like to purchase flowers for the Communion Table, please contact Heidi Roberts 810-625-4637 or hroberts6862@gmail.com.

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 Hoerauf, 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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