

Fenton First Presbyterian Church

September 2021 Newsletter

Grace, Truth & Discipleship

A still life photograph featuring a bouquet of flowers in a silver pitcher and an open Bible on a white surface. The bouquet includes yellow daisies, purple chrysanthemums, red daisies, and a pink rose. The Bible is open to a page with text, and a small yellow flower is visible in the bottom right corner.

*And let
us not grow
weary in
well-doing,
for in due
season we
shall reap, if
we do not lose
heart.*

Galatians 6:9



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

Why

Pastor Robbie Carnes

Why.

“He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.” Friedrich Nietzsche

This quote has a very practical ring to it. All of us can look back at times in which we have accomplished things that we never thought possible because of an innate drive. We had a reason to persevere and purpose that sustained us. It may have been starting a business or completing a college degree. It could have been raising a child or maintaining 50 years of marriage. The ‘whys’ of our life can make molehills of the mountainous ‘hows’.

When Jesus is asked by the Pharisees, “What is the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:34)?” Jesus replies in a remarkable way. Combining two important summaries of Torah, Jesus offers to the Pharisees a tremendous ‘why’ for their faith.

37 He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

One commentary suggested that this was the moment in which Jesus ensured his condemnation by the religious leaders. Not because Jesus did anything contrary to the law, but that Jesus presented a purpose, a ‘why’, that transformed their ‘hows’. The part about loving God was a piece of the basic confession of the Jewish Faith. Deuteronomy 6, “Hear O Israel, The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.” If Jesus had simply left it at this, the

Pharisees would have been pleased. They were happy with their why. It was safe for them and they had created an entire system of belief and practice in order to make sure they complied. They were commanded to Love the Lord because, the Lord is lovely, worthy, majestic and almighty.

But Jesus didn’t leave it at that.

Jesus presented something more nuanced than an individual worshiping identity. There is a purpose to that worship—a reason for the ritual. Jesus includes a mission identity. We are to love the Lord so that we might love our neighbor. It follows that we should love our neighbor because we love the Lord.

Jesus is connecting the ‘hows’ of worship and mission with the ‘whys’ of relationship. We worship Jesus, learn more about his words and ways, and we engage together as a church family to go about doing Jesus’ works. All this has the revolving purpose of building relationships with God and others so that we can serve, and serving God and others so that we might be in right relationship with God and others.

God is calling all of us into a close relationship in which we might know the one who created us and be known as a beloved child. It is this love that is properly lived out when we go out on mission to extend the boundaries of God’s kingdom of love into the lives of others. We do this by relating to others [and to God] in love and service. The ‘hows’ of our faith are underwritten by powerful ‘whys’. We are beloved people sent out to share that love. How does this ‘why’ change things for you?

WORSHIP

September Sermon Series

As we enter the Fall season we will be stepping back to try and grasp the entirety of the story of Scripture. We find that there are two truths that emerge. The first is that God loves each one of us and desires to enter into a committed relationship (or Covenant) with us. The second is that God is the King, and part of being in a relationship with God is being an agent of the Kingdom in the world. We are loved and we are given a job to do. We hope you can join us for this exciting sermon series.

How to Worship with Us

Join us online as well as in person, this Sunday at 10am. We will be worshipping in the Sanctuary as well as using Zoom software and Facebook Live. In addition, those who do not have an internet account can listen in by phone.

What You Need to Know Regarding In Person Worship Service this Sunday.

We will be meeting at 10am for Worship. Face Masks are optional. Paper masks will remain available for those who might need one, and handwashing stations will remain available throughout the building. If you have been exposed to COVID or feel ill, please be considerate and stay home.

Here is how to join us Online

Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/fentonfpc>

Zoom

1. [CLICK HERE](#)

2. use the Zoom app and use this Meeting ID

Meeting ID: 830 914 2301

Meeting Password: 5013

3. Use your telephone line to listen in:

Call +19292056099 and dial 8309142301# at the prompt US (New York)

Or

Call +13126266799 and dial 8309142301# at the prompt US (Chicago)



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.

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



Do you need help with simple household chores? Do you need someone to pick up groceries or prescriptions? Do you need a ride to a doctor's appointment? We have HELPING HANDS for you. If you have a request or question, please contact Nancy Berger, 810-701-6556, Rick Bard, 810-629-8729 or the church office 810-629-7801.

Prayer Requests



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

Shepherd Group

As an expression of love, the FFPC family will be receiving calls from Shepherds. The Holy Spirit gathers us together as the church and everyone of us is worthy of attention and love. We hope that the Shepherds will be able to communicate this to the church his next month. 1 John 3:1 *See what sort of love the Father has given to us: that we should be called God's children—and indeed we are!*



Senior Are you a young 70 years old or older? If so, mark your calendar for October 9.

We are planning our Senior Luncheon. Invitations will be sent out to our eligible members. However, if you have not received an invitation and are eligible, please contact the church office. We don't want to leave anyone out.

We ask that you RSVP to the church office and indicate your choice from the menu.

It is has been too long since we have met as a group.

MISSION & STEWARDSHIP



North End Soup Kitchen a rewarding experience

This is a GREAT opportunity to be of service to the agency that does so much to feed the hungry in Flint. Please join us Saturday, September 18th, 2021 from 9am-1pm. We will help prepare and serve lunch.



CROP Hunger Walk - The Fenton Area CROP Hunger Walk will be Sunday, October 3rd at 1pm in Bush Park, and FFPC is one of five local churches participating. The CROP Hunger Walk raises money to fight hunger locally (25%) and globally. The event will include live music, fun stations along the walk that educate about hunger, and free Uncle Ray's ice cream at the conclusion. We hope everyone will join us. If you are unable to walk, there will be rocking chairs

available. Donations can be made to the church office, to Donna Anderson, or online at the following link: events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/fentonmi Be sure to join the FFPC team before you donate. Thank you!



Do you want to “Follow” what God is doing in Central Asia and through the lives of The Chung Family?

Please connect directly with Pastor Isaac, Misty, and the kids by subscribing to their Newsletter. <https://mailchi.mp/9dad7af44f7b/newsletter-signup>

Also, you can make a huge impact by joining their Financial Support Team! Please sign up with your email and phone number, or contact them directly at mistyandisaac@protonmail.com to get a personal presentation with all the details of their upcoming Chung family journey.

Samaritas Update

August of 2021 has been an incredible month for our refugee ministry. I am excited to tell you that we delivered furniture and home goods to six families this month! That brings our total for 2021 to 15! We have now accomplished our goal of delivering to one family each month. I will have to reevaluate the end of year goal. First I will share a little about our deliveries...

This month's deliveries took us to Dearborn, Detroit, Sterling Heights, and Clinton Township. The first two families live on the same street in Detroit. They needed a few items to round out their new households. We brought them a bookcase, booster seats, bed linens, vacuum cleaners, a tool kit, several throw blankets, sets of towels, a dresser, a television with digital antenna, and a floor lamp. The booster seats are especially appreciated as it allows young children to be transported to their many initial appointments by Samaritas volunteers.

The next two families were in Dearborn. Two volunteers brought them a trailer and a truck full of furniture and goods. Included were home office supplies, a buffet with hutch, glasses, vacuum cleaners, bookcases, a dining table and 6 chairs, 3 dressers, lamps, an air conditioner, and bed linens.

The final deliveries went to Sterling Heights and Clinton Township; both of the families are originally from Iraq and have been in Michigan for about one month. I was greeted at the first apartment by a happy pet bird named Lulu, and by two toddlers at the second apartment who seemed very excited to open the boxes that were being delivered. The highlights of these deliveries were a roll-away bed and a bed frame. Both were received with excitement and gratitude. Sleeping in a bed instead of on the floor can be such a huge boost to morale!

Now I would like to share our current needs. We still have a good stock of items, but are running low on dressers, towels, booster seats, and silverware. I am also hoping to find someone who would like to make "Welcome to Michigan" cards. It is nice to be able to give the families a card that tells them who we are, and I'm sure there are some card makers who could do this much better than I! Let me know if this is your talent and I can give you more details. And of course, we are always looking to expand our delivery team. If you would like to help make deliveries please let me know. More trucks and drivers = more impact for our group.



As I am sure you are aware, the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is likely to bring many more refugees to Michigan. Our partner organization, Samaritas, is looking for community partners to work with as they prepare to receive refugees from Afghanistan. We have agreed to be a co-sponsoring organization, and now we have some time to decide what that will look like. There is a list of tasks/volunteer jobs that we can consider and choose from to define our role. We have scheduled a meeting for September 8th from 7pm-8pm to discuss what resources we think we have to offer and where our group would best fit into the resettlement process. To be sure, this will be a longer term project. The process of resettling as a refugee usually involves at least a 2 year vetting process. Although that might be shortened for Afghans, the initial arrivals will likely not be until next year or later.

If you think that you would like to be involved in our efforts please contact Sarah Martin-Fanone or the church office.

Sincerely, Sarah

Financial Review - July, 2021

Profit/ Loss	July	Budget	Jan-July Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income:	\$28,345.52	\$22,315.21	\$206,721.25	\$214,175.10	\$339,859.36
Expense:	\$24,484.79	\$25,689.50	\$181,463.41	\$188,906.61	\$311,863.34
	\$3,860.73	\$3,374.38	\$25,257.84	\$25,268.49	\$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	June	YTD
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$101,436.86	\$100,783.08
Cash at End of Period:	\$107,726.77	\$107,726.77
Net Cash:	\$6,289.91	\$6,943.69

Respectfully Submitted July 9, 2021
 Debera J Bard
 Treasurer

Building Fund Report - July, 2021

Building Account Balance: \$9,143.64

Mortgage Remaining: \$127,417.04

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 Sermon Discussions will resume in September!

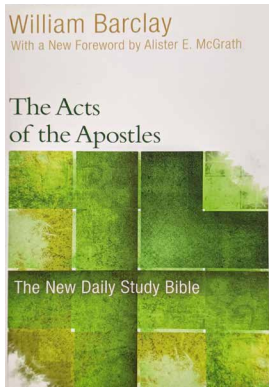


Sunday Evening Small Group from 5 – 6:15PM

This group will meet again beginning October 3rd to study the book of Revelation. Contact Larry Zimble for more information. Join us in person at 4square Tax AND also on Zoom.

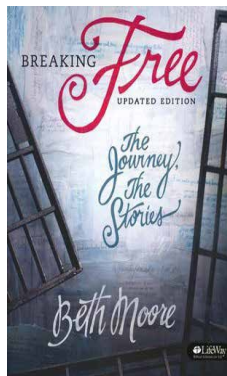
Join via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82961241969?pwd=M0lPMmxYU001SnQ0Z3cwV3h5Z1phdz09>

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



Tuesday Morning Study using Charles Barclay's Acts of the Apostles Beginn September 14th

Acts is the story of God's grace flooding out into the world. The book of Acts is an historical account of how the resurrection of Jesus changes everything. Luke records the early days of the church after Jesus' ascension and how, still today, the gospel of grace draws them in, constitutes them as a church centered on the grace of Jesus, and then sends them out in mission to the world. Each week we'll take a few sections of the study and you are invited to read ahead or just come and read and discuss it together.



Women's Covenant Groups – Breaking Free by Beth Moore

Discover the freedom available to you from the transforming power of Christ. Based on Isaiah 61:1-4, this in-depth Bible study draws parallels between the Israelites in captivity and believers in spiritual captivity. Beth uses Scripture to help identify spiritual strongholds in your life and explains that anything that hinders you from the benefits of knowing God is bondage. First released in 1999, this updated version includes 11 new video teaching messages along with reedited Bible study content and testimonies of how women like you have been delivered from their personal captivity.

Monday Evenings, September 13 – November 22, 6:30-8:30pm **OR**

Wednesday Mornings, September 8 – November 17, 10am – noon

Participant books are \$17 each

Everyone Is encouraged to invite a friend to join us!

Those out of town can join via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3159652381?pwd=WjZpVTVZZWkV0WHRUbk1HNlZFWjJZQT09>

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

Community Outreach Table at the Fenton Farmer's Market Update

A big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers who served our community outreach table, making this opportunity a fun and meaningful time! We met several people and had wonderful conversations, handed out resource information, chocolate, and craft bags, made kids' necklaces and WWJD bracelets, heard community prayers, played kids' handbells, had a selfie pic station, and gave out free books obtained from a PCUSA grant that supports discussion on faith formation, social justice issues, and understanding of God's love for us all. While we did not have a sign promoting our church, we did become known in the community as "That's the church who has resource information and is giving away free stuff. They have fun activities too!"

On our last night, we began a community art piece by having folks fill in a puzzle piece listing what they love most about their community, and writing on a colored hand how they serve their community. You can help us by adding your thoughts to these pieces found in Fellowship Hall. Once completed, the collage will hang outside our front steps for our Fenton community to enjoy.

Again, thank you CHURCH, for helping us be the hands and feet of Christ – demonstrating His love by serving, assisting, and providing hospitality to others!



Celebrate Recovery Group - Wednesday evenings beginning September 22 7-9pm in Fellowship Hall

What is Celebrate Recovery? Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12 step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life.

What are the meetings like? Celebrate Recovery meetings include music, worship, prayer, lessons or testimonies that focus on recovery through the use of the 8 Principles and 12 Steps, small group sharing and fellowship.

Who is welcome? Everyone! As christians we know we are all fallen in some way; we all have hurts, hangups and habits.

Contact the church office or Jennifer MacLean for more information

YOUTH GROUP

For 6-12th graders and friends Let's connect and celebrate being together!



Your legs on sunscreen and your legs on improperly applied sunscreen!



Ready for the WhoaZone!



Campfires are where the fun, food, conversation, and worship happens!



College Care Package items needed by October 10

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 10. Nothing says I love you like a package from home!

VG's Receipts and Kroger Rewards Update

Thank you for your ongoing support of our youth programs!!!

Keep those VG's receipts coming! We need \$35,000 more in receipts to get our next \$1000 check which benefits youth conferences and mission trips. Summer of 2022 we plan on attending the Massanetta Middle School Conference AND the Montreat Conference for those in high school!!

Kroger Rewards earned from 8 households participating from May – July was \$41.01. Linking your Kroger account to our church benefits youth group. Please call the office if you need instructions on how to do this.

September

Fall Youth Group Schedule

for 6-12th graders and friends

Most meetings are Sundays in the Youth Room from 1-3PM unless noted.

Watch for after school coffee shop meetings once a month!

Events are subject to change – See Tina to get on the youth news email and/or text lists!

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

God is good, all the time!

Ms. Tina



Fall Schedule:

Most days we will meet Sundays from 1-3pm, along with after school coffee shop meetings once a month!

***Saturday, September 11:** Lake Day at the Gibb home 11am – 5pm

September 19: Slip ‘n Slide kickball at the MacLean home 1-3pm

September 26: Game Time in the youth room 1-3pm

October 3 : World Communion Sunday & CROP Hunger Walk

October 10: “Show & Teach” TBD and College Care Packages

October 24: Self Defense Class and Spicer’s Corn Maze 1-5pm

November 7 : “Show & Teach” TBD

***Saturday, November 13:** Food Bank w/ Mission Committee 8am – 12:30pm

November 21: Triple C Event, cards, crafts, & cookies

December 5: “Show & Teach” TBD

December 19: Christmas Party 12-3pm

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

A Note from Ms. Tina

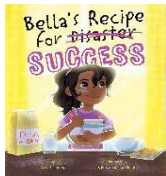
Dear Families,

Back-to-school is upon us, and for your family, this year may be filled with more uncertainty than the last. Whether your kids are attending school in person or learning from home, the books below from our friends at Beamingbooks.com. Encourage kids to continue to learn, grow, and ask questions. Also, ask your children about their glads and sads, highs and lows each day, and be sure to share yours with them too. Include these thoughts in dinner time and bedtime prayers, and begin each day with a prayer of thanks and encouragement to find joy and make good choices. Establishing a routine of talking with God throughout the day helps children begin to understand who God is, that they are loved, and never alone, even when they might feel like they are. Please let me know how I can best support you and your family during each phase of faith exploration and development! May God's guiding Grace, Wisdom, and patience be upon you.

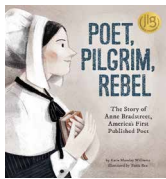
Many Blessings, Ms. Tina



1. Ask Challenging Questions: Kids ask so many questions. [In *The Girl with Big Questions*](#), question after question bubbles out from one little girl with twinkling eyes and a curious mind. When the girl finds that her big questions make some people uncomfortable, she stops asking. But then she learns that her questions can solve problems and that asking questions is how we learn and grow. Celebrate the spirit of curiosity and the joy of learning with this lively picture book about a persistent girl and her quest for knowledge.



2. Learn a New Language: Bella has talented siblings, but she isn't sure what she is good at herself. When she decides to learn how to bake with her wise old abuela, her first attempt at dulce de leche frosting looks like scaly cocodrilo skin. She must learn it's okay to try again. Peppered with Spanish vocabulary, [Bella's Recipe for Success](#) will show all kids the value of practicing to learn a new skill, and that it's okay to make mistakes along the way. Books are a great way to ease kids into learning a new language. [Download these flashcards](#) to help kids practice the Spanish from the book.



3. Be a Trailblazer: Puritan women in the 1600s weren't allowed to be writers. But when the world learned about Anne Dudley Bradstreet's poetry, composed by candlelight when her children were asleep, even she was astonished by what happened next. Charmingly illustrated, [Poet, Pilgrim, Rebel](#) tells the inspiring story of how a Puritan woman overcame the obstacles facing women of her era to become one of the most famous poets in history. Download the free [Poet, Pilgrim, Rebel Educator's Guide for kids](#) to continue learning about Anne Bradstreet and her writing.

4. Back-to-School Resources for Kids: This back-to-school season is filled with uncertainty. Our list of back-to-school resources includes the books highlighted above and many more to help us all prepare for the days ahead, covering topics like curiosity, mindfulness, inspiring historical figures, and everything in between.

Summer Sunday School for children ages kindergarten and up

Join Miss Tina at 10am in Fellowship Hall

Sunday school begins at the start of worship in the fun and relaxed atmosphere of Fellowship Hall. Our focus is a weekly Bible story, worship music skills, and activities. As classes grow we will transition to downstairs classrooms.

Children will join worship after the sermon where they will either sit with their parents or with Miss Tina. Children can wear a mask at their parent's discretion. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tina Ritchie or Pastor Robbie.

Currently, there is no childcare available for nursery and preschool children. The Christian Education Committee is looking to hire 2 people to provide childcare on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and during other programming as needed. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Kate Kirkey or Deb Bard for qualifications and other information.



LET'S CELEBRATE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Shannon Clemens	Sep 4
Doug Congdon	Sep 4
Edwin Schwarz	Sep 4
Pat Tucker	Sep 6
Clayton Miller	Sep 7
Marc Hoerauf	Sep 8
Sharlyn Sutton	Sep 8
Cheryl Kopplin	Sep 9
Ron Andersen	Sep 12
Laura Kinser	Sep 17
Sue Lantz	Sep 17
Roberta O'Hara	Sep 19
Halle Fisher	Sep 20
Larry Arrol	Sep 23
Alice Maletic	Sep 24
Gloria Butts	Sep 29
Jeff Collier	Sep 29
James Kryza	Sep 30
Doug Watters	Sep 30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

John & Janet Stork	September 1
Robert & Barbara Chappelle	September 12
John & Gerri Danules	September 17
John & Shari Foguth	September 20
Glenn & Cherrrie Maxwell	September 23
Dennis & JoAnn Beardslee	September 24
Steve & Carey Muntin	September 25
Brian & Sherry Rourke	September 25
John & Holly Hodgkin	September 26
John & Julie Maloney	September 26
Brian & Gretchen Coles	September 29

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here please contact the church office so that we can update your information.

Thank you

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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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