

FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER



*The
Season of
Lent*



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

Believing is more than seeing

Pastor Robbie Carnes

He was blind. He had always been blind from the day of his birth. Who can say what happened? Did his mother have one too many glasses of red wine? Did his father violently beat his wife? Was it just an accident of genetics? Whatever, the case he was blind. Then one day everything changed.

A man was walking by our blind friend. He stopped and looked. Then he spat on the ground and made some mud. Taking the mud, he spread it onto the blindman's eyes. From the dust of the ground and the breath of God, this man's eyes were recreated and he could see.

Yet, no one believed it happened.

"It couldn't have happened like that."

"You must be someone who just looks like that blind guy."

As this man, who used to be blind, shared his story, it became such an issue that they took him before the local leaders to decide what was the truth. There was a great argument and they even called in the man's parents to testify that he had been born blind. You see, they could not believe that this healing could possibly have taken place. Only God can heal like that and they were the representatives of God. How could this man spit on the ground and give sight and not be one of them? They saw this so clearly and yet proved to be the most blind of them all.

Of course, the healer was Jesus. The irony of this story is that a healing event draws a man

who was considered a 'sinner' into a believing relationship with Jesus and repels the Jewish leaders into unbelieving animosity. The argument that claims a miracle of sight is an example of the influence of God is rejected, even as it seems that that line of logic is tailor made for the scribes and religious lawyers of the day. Was there any argument or miracle that would have convinced them of anything other than their preconceived notions.

Does this sound like our world today? Even in the face of clear evidence of the goodness of



God there are those who would refuse it. Is it our role to convince them? Maybe convince is the wrong word. Jesus said before he healed the man, “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Could it be that we should be light in the world, not to convince, but to provide evidence for those who are willing to look?

At the end of the story Jesus finds the man he healed and asks him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man (Messiah)?” The man replies that he would love to but he doesn’t know who that is. Jesus introduces himself and just as this man’s physical eyes were opened so then, the eyes of his heart were opened in belief. Jesus had no argument, no tightly wound theological diatribe (although he was certainly capable of that). Jesus simply introduced himself to a man whose eyes were opening up to faith.

This season of Lent may your eyes be opened. Clear eyed, may you see the work that God has put before you while it is day. May you be a light to the world. Live the truth, so that those who are opening up to the reality of Jesus, may be introduced to the one who made them, died for them, and loves them. Not with brainy polemics, but with the healing person of Jesus.

WORSHIP

March begins the season of Lent. We will be listening to the ancient prophets to teach us to open our eyes to what God might be doing in our lives. The journey of Lent leads us through the cross to the empty tomb. We say that God is good all the time, but do we mean all the time?

March 2nd , Ash Wednesday, Open House Worship Experience in the Fellowship Hall, 6pm-7:30. Come to the fellowship hall and walkthrough Lenten worship stations. Ashes will be imposed and communion celebrated.

March 6th, 1st Sunday in Lent, The Shaking of the Temple, Isaiah 6:1-13. What does it mean have to hear God’s no before we hear God’s yes?

March 13th, 2nd Sunday of Lent, Bloody Backs and Pulled-out Beards, Isaiah 50:1-11. Hope shines brightest in the darkest places of our lives. Is it no wonder that the way of salvation is through the cross?

March 20th, 3rd Sunday in Lent, A Scroll of Remembrance, Malachi 2:17-3:16. The Goodness of God is this: Even as we go through the motions and wallow in commitment, God keeps covenant with us and even gives us the power to live in the light and to obey his will.

March 27th, 4th Sunday in Lent, Man of Sorrows, Isaiah 52:13-53:12. The cross is a horrible image. Jesus suffered in order to provide atonement for our sins. What is that? What does the atonement of Christ mean for us?

How to Worship with Us

Join us online as well as in person, this Sunday at 10am. We will be worshipping in the person, as well as using YouTube, Facebook and Zoom software. 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>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkBa-DrcqSECxjAyeaiC4bg>

Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8309142301?pwd=RHJ4dDBPdEhMN25yKzFzSzZNeUVPQT09>

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)



Music Ministry

Mark your calendars! CHOIR AND BELLS ARE COMING SOON!

Chancel Choir: Wednesday, March 2nd from 7:30-8:30PM

Handbells: Wednesday, March 9th from 6:30-7:15PM

Spring season runs March-May. Masks are required at this time for Chancel Choir. This will continually be reviewed based on community COVID count status. New members interested in joining one (or both!) of our groups must pre-register with Rebekah Ratza at RebekahRatza@gmail.com

GUEST ORCHESTRA LENTEN/EASTER CONCERT:

SUNDAY, MARCH 20th at 4PM

Plan on joining us for this wonderful afternoon of glorious music! We have the honor of hosting our guest instrumentalists and guest vocal soloist live and in-person this time around. Grab friends, family, and neighbors; you won't want to miss this time of seasonal worship music with our beloved guest musicians!



Joint Good Friday Concert hosted at Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church:

Friday, April 15th at 7PM

We have a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with Tyrone Covenant's music department to present a Good Friday concert! Join us for an evening of meaningful music that will enrich your weekend and prepare your hearts for the resurrection of our Lord. Since this will be on their campus, we are following Tyrone Covenant's building COVID protocol: masks are optional for congregants as well as participants.

Looking ahead...

The following are subject to change depending on community COVID count status:

Joint Spring Concert hosted at Fenton First Presbyterian

Saturday, May 14th at 5PM

Details to come; save the date!

All-Music Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, May 22nd at 10AM

Join us for this special morning of music and praise! Breaking from our normal worship service, this particular Sunday service will solely consist of – you guessed it – music! Hymns, choir, handbells, children's handbells, organ, and more will be lifted up for a unique morning of worship. This Sunday also marks the end of our Spring season and the beginning of Summer break for our music team.

MISSION & STEWARDSHIP

Mission

Samaritas

First Presbyterian Church has worked in partnership with Samaritas since 2018. Our effort started modestly, when two of our members prompted by disturbing news coverage of the Syrian refugee crisis attended an informational meeting on Samaritas' New Americans program. Our volunteer efforts began soon after that meeting and now four years later our church is an official co-sponsoring organization, working in partnership with samaritas caseworkers. Our work has two main facets.

The first is furniture and household item delivery. Caseworkers connect us to newly arrived individuals or families who need furniture or household items. We collect new or gently used items and deliver them directly to refugees at their homes. In 2021 our church was able to deliver furniture and/or household items to 15 families! Each delivery is unique as each family has unique needs. We tried to be welcoming new neighbors for these New Americans who are starting their lives over in our state.

The second piece of our ministry is called our welcome team. The welcome team is a group of trained volunteers who work

collaboratively to support an individual Refugee or family more comprehensively as they begin their life here in Michigan. We have had the privilege of serving as a welcome team three times. Each time the refugee(s) have stayed with a family in our community while members of the welcome team do the best that they can to help navigate their first months in their new home. Typical volunteer roles include teaching driving, helping to navigate the Secretary of State, providing transportation to appointments or work, helping to enroll in school or ESL courses, and other mentorship.

Understanding that a refugee made many sacrifices in order to arrive in Michigan is an important part of this program. They have left behind their language, their culture, their country, and often close family members in order to seek safety. We want to make sure that they feel loved and welcomed in our community.

Anyone who feels that they have a heart for this ministry is welcome to join our efforts. We are always looking to add to our team. We could always especially use help with transportation and deliveries.

Please contact the church office or Sarah Martin-Fanone if you would like more information or are wishing to volunteer.

Souper Bowl of Caring Collection

Way to go church! We collected 394 food and personal care items for the Fenton United Methodist Food Pantry and \$150 for the North End Soup Kitchen.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this mission event!



Financial Review - January, 2022

Profit/ Loss	January	Budget	Jan Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income:	\$33,187.42		\$33,187.42		
Expense:	\$25,787.72		\$25,787.72		
Net Income:	\$7,399.70*		\$7,399.70*		

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

Statement of Cash Flows	December	YTD
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$127,480.41	\$127,480.41
Cash at End of Period:	\$126,406.27	\$126,406.27
Net Cash Increase:	(1,074.14)	(1,074.14)

As of today, the 2022 budget hasn't been put into QuickBooks.

Respectfully Submitted February 7, 2022
 Debera J Bard
 Treasurer

Building Fund Report for

February

as of February 28th, 2022

Building Account Balance: \$39,153.47

Mortgage Remaining: \$0



DEACONS

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

Helping Hands

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

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

Want to help? If you are willing to:

1) provide rides for small errands such as picking up a few groceries, prescriptions, or Doctor appointments or 2) do simple household chores for those unable to do them for themselves, then WE NEED YOU!

You can now sign up on the FFPC website for Helping Hands. Once you sign up, we can contact you to assist others needing help.

*Those willing to drive a church member somewhere must complete a form and provide a valid driver's license and proof of current auto insurance. These forms are available in the church office. We will help you complete the form.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 810-629-7801

Home Meals

The Deacons sponsor a program to make & deliver meals to church families in their time of need. We deliver meals to families/individuals when a member of their family is in the hospital, just coming home to recuperate, or during a very stressful time. If you would like to participate in this program or want more information - please call Jeanne Cupp (810) 287-7218."

Easter Project details coming soon!



GRIEF SHARE

FROM MOURNING TO JOY



**NEW GROUP
FORMING NOW
THURSDAYS FROM
1:00PM-2:30PM**

**GRIEF SHARE IS A GRIEF RECOVERY GROUP THAT
IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU SUCCESSFULLY TRAVEL
THE JOURNEY FROM MOURNING TO JOY!**

For more information please contact the
Church Office or Hannah Hall (517)881-4732).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

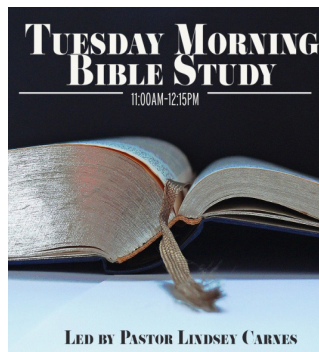


Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Sermon Discussions

11:15 –noon

This group WILL NOT meet during Lent beginning March 6.

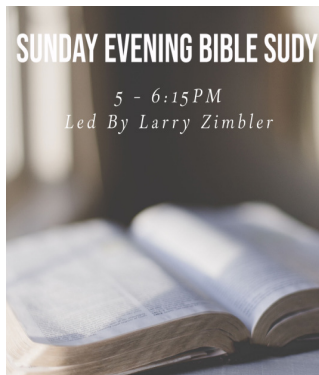
We will resume after Easter!



Tuesday Morning Study using Charles Barclay's Acts of the Apostles

11:00am-12:15pm

Each week we take a few sections of the study, and you are invited to read ahead or just come and read and discuss it together.



Sunday Evening Bible Study 5:00-6:00pm

This group is studying 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=M0lPMmxYU001SnQ0Z3cwV3h5Zlphdz09>

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



April Women's Study

Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You

by John Ortberg

This six-session, video-based Bible Study helps us discover what the soul is, why it is

important, how to assess the soul's health, and how to care for it so that it contributes to the depth and beauty of our relationship with God and others.

Study Guide \$10

Sign-up in Fellowship Hall by March 28

Monday Evenings April 18 – May 23 from 6:30-8:30pm via zoom only

or

Wednesday Mornings April 20 – May 25 from 10am – noon in Fellowship Hall and zoom

Those out of town can also join via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3159652381?pwd=WjZpVTVZWkV0WHRUbk1HNlZFWjZQT09>

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



Celebrate Life | Celebrate Hope

Wednesdays
7-9pm

503 South Leroy



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Freedom from Your Hurts, Hang-Ups & Habits

The road to recovery is paved with God's promises in this 12-step Christ-centered program



Celebrate Recovery Group

Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday Evenings

7-9pm in Fellowship Hall



For More Information

Fenton First Presbyterian Church

503 S. Leroy St. Fenton, MI 48430

Phone 810-629-7801

Email office@ffpc.org

YOUTH GROUP

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

Allow, Meet, and Go!



6 of us had a great time sledding at the hill in Linden on February 6. It was a perfect day!

Youth Group Schedule

6-12th graders and friends. Contact Tina Ritchie for more information!

At this time masks are required for indoor meetings. Check out d365.org for great daily devotions to read alone or with your family. God is good, all the time!

Upcoming events are being planned such as a Marvel movie night and mission oriented events. Watch your texts for more information.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Nursery & Preschool Volunteers Needed for Sunday mornings

The Christian Education Committee is seeking volunteers to fill this role. Please see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall!

March Volunteers

March 6 – Jeanne Cupp

March 13 – Jeanne Cupp

March 20 – Jeanne Cupp

Sunday School for children ages kindergarten through 5th grade

Join us at 10am in Fellowship Hall

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

“Into the Promised Land” topics are:

Unit 7 – Wandering in the Wilderness (Numbers, Deuteronomy)

Israel doubted and disobeyed God, yet God still planned to bless them. God was with His people as they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Finally, God led them back to the promised land. God later sent Jesus so that even disobedient doubters can trust in Him and receive His promised eternal rest.

3/6 Balaam and Balak

3/13 Moses' Farewell

Big Picture Question: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and God's

commands

Unit Key Verse: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.* ~ Proverbs 3: 5-6 CSB

Unit 8 – Conquering the Land (Joshua)

The Israelites needed to conquer the promised land, so God fought for them. Joshua led the people and encouraged them to be faithful to the one true God. Under Joshua's leadership, the people conquered the promised land and began to live in it. Joshua was a representative of Christ, leading the Israelites to victory in Canaan as Jesus leads us to victory in overcoming the world.

3/20 Crossing the Jordan

3/27 The Battle of Jericho

4/3 Taking the Land

Big Picture Question: How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving and obeying God.

Unit Key Verse: *It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.* ~ Deuteronomy 31:8 NRSV



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Did You Know... that you can have a beautiful flower arrangement on the alter for just under \$13! You pick the Sunday and then take it home after the service. All you have to do is call or email Heidi Roberts at 810-625-4637 or hroberts6862@gmail.com.

Attention All Campers! Time to go camping. We have reservations at Holly Recreation Area Campground from June 20th to the 26th at McGuinness Lake Campground on the Maple Loop on sites 16, 17, and 19, or join us in July from the 18th to the 24th. We are on sites 1 and 2 on the Maple Loop at Holly State Recreation Area during July. Come camping or just come and spend some time together. Lots of trails and beaches. If you need more information, feel free to call Pam Coffin.

Nursery & Preschool Volunteers Needed for Sunday Mornings: Childcare is available for nursery and preschool children during worship on Sunday mornings. We are seeking adult volunteers to shepherd this age group. Please see the sign-up sheet located in Fellowship Hall, or contact Jenny Gibb.

Making a difference with Equal Exchange -Why do we order from Equal Exchange? The support we give helps these small farmers and their families by providing housing, food and education. We are going out and doing Mission Work without leaving our church. Orders will be taken through March 27th. Order forms will be available in the church office. Contact Kelly Sunman-Davis at 810-629-7801 for more information.

Happy Birthday

Charmaine Thorley	Mar 1
Maureen Utt	Mar 1
Logan Kirkey	Mar 3
Bob Browder	Mar 5
Guy Cowing	Mar 5
Maggie Hodgkin	Mar 8
Phyllis Cmejrek	Mar 11
Tony Grams	Mar 11
Rebecca Ruppert	Mar 14
Jan Foster	Mar 16
Judy Hope	Mar 16
Deborah Vanderlip	Mar 19

Brian Coles	Mar 21
Jack Allen	Mar 22
Henry Glomski	Mar 22
Pam Andersen	Mar 23
Olivia Kirkey	Mar 24
Sharon Cowing	Mar 25
Scott Grossmeyer	Mar 25
Glenn Maxwell	Mar 26
Rhonda Moore	Mar 26
Madeline Davis	Mar 29

Happy ANNIVERSARY

Doug & Jan Jacob	March 3
Richard & Debera Bard	March 23
Steve & Sharlyn Sutton	March 28
James & Jan Foster	March 29



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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