

FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER



*“He is not here;  
He has risen!”*



# 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

## Filling Moments

Pastor Robbie Carnes

For the past six years I have walked my kids to the bus stop. We have gone through more than a few bus drivers and several kids who used to walk to school and old enough to drive now. It used to be that a group of parents would gather to watch our kids get on the bus. Many times a certain family would bring their dog and all of the kids on the bus would ooo and aww over it.

Ever since the transportation department changed the official bus stops it has been just the Carnes family at our stop. Soon enough all of our kids will be walking (or driving!) to school rather than taking the bus.

One thing has remained constant though. I have made it my habit, whenever I am at the bus stop, to wave as the bus drives away. It began by simply waving goodbye to my kids. However, the windows are dark and sometimes it was hard to tell where my children were sitting, so I figured I'd wave to everybody.

For six years, nobody waved back.

This year, after many months of school, after COVID is finally easing up, after masks have been removed, after winter is receding, a kid in the back of the bus waved at me. In financial terms this could be seen as a poor performing investment. All of that hand waving has finally resulted in a meager return. In relational terms, this is simply the cost of knowing and being known.

This small daily investing transformed strangers into individuals who wave to each other each morning. Layer upon layer of consistency and trust has developed into interaction. While not quite a meaningful relationship, I bet if I don't show up next week, that kid will notice.

The irony of it is that rarely do big relational things pay off at much as the daily little stuff. It is consistency that breeds trust and value. Which is more valuable? The parent who showed up once to a birthday party with the coolest present ever? Or the parent to raised you, put up with your hell, rejoiced in your victories and comforted you in your pain and was there every day?

In this Easter Season, we might be tempted to devalue Jesus' death and resurrection because it is a big thing, but still only one thing. It's the snarky response, 'But what have you done for me lately?'. As much as we value the big thing, it is easy to disregard it for the rest of the year. Just like that amazing birthday present, the daily little stuff piles up and confronts us with a more solid reality of trust, or in most cases, dependency.

Even if Jesus' big thing is the most amazing thing, it can be quickly swallowed up with whatever we fill the rest of our lives with. Our children's schedules. Our vacation plans. Our work. Our home. Our hobbies. Our charities. Our volunteer work. We can fill every moment

of the day chock full of anything other than Jesus and the realities of Jesus' love, sacrifice, and calling can dim quickly.

It's like we have been riding the school bus for years, never noticing the guy at the bus stop who has been waving to you all along. Maybe you have even seen him smiling at you, but you haven't taken the time to respond. You were barely awake. You have a lot on your mind. There was good song on the radio. You had homework to finish.

Jesus has died, Jesus has risen and Jesus will come again. Jesus is also alive right now. Following Him, he lives in us through the Holy Spirit because of the big stuff. The way that we come to know this more clearly is through the daily little stuff. The daily little stuff like prayer and worship, Christian fellowship and accountability, and sharing our Jesus stories with others.

It's the daily little stuff that may seem costly, but will produce the best fruit.

*Revelation 3:20 Jesus said, "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me."*

# WORSHIP

**The Month of April we will rejoice in gathering together to celebrate Lent, Passion Week, and the Easter Season. Beginning April 24th we will begin a new sermon series on the experiences of the Early Church and how they navigated various challenges following the book of Acts.**

**April 3rd, 10am Worship**, 5th Sunday in Lent, Communion Sunday.

The Suffering Servant; Isaiah 52:13-53:12.

**April 10th, 10am**, Palm Sunday, Procession into the Sanctuary.

**April 14th, 7pm**, Maundy Thursday.

**April 15th, 12pm**, Community Worship Service at Fenton United Methodist Church.

**7pm**, Good Friday Concert, Tyrone Covenant Church, on White Lake Road.

Featuring combined choirs of Tyrone Covenant and FFPC.

**April 17th, 10am**, Easter Sunday, Communion.

**April 24th, 10am**, 2nd Sunday of Easter, Dealing with Prejudice: Samaria; Acts 8:4-25.

**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.

## 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 hand sanitizer 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

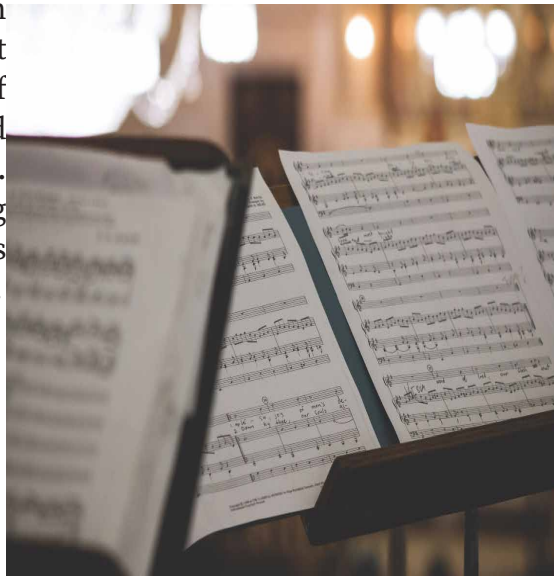
**Chancel Choir:** Wednesday, March 2nd from 7:30-8:30PM

**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. We ask the new members interested in joining one (or both!) of our groups, please pre-register with Rebekah Ratza at [RebekahRatza@gmail.com](mailto:RebekahRatza@gmail.com)

## **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.

April

# MISSION & STEWARDSHIP



Providing **RELIEF** from natural disasters,  
**FOOD** for the hungry, and **SUPPORT**  
for the poor and oppressed.

**April 3rd 2022**



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

03.02.22-  
04.17.22



## Mission Opportunity

Saturday, April 30, 2022 (weather permitting), we will carpool from our church at 9:00 am for an outside workday at the Shelter of Flint, approximately 5 hours (9:30 am to 2:30 pm). Please consider joining us to do yard work (picking up debris, raking the yard). Depending on how many sign up, we could also paint the outside play equipment. This event is open to

youths as well as adults. Please bring your own rake. The Shelter will provide yard waste bags and all painting supplies. The Shelter will provide lunch.

If you are interested, a sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall April 3rd – April 28th. Contact Maureen Utt (810-701-2336) or mauutt@charter.net with any questions.

If the April 30th date is cancelled due to weather, our mission will be postponed until Saturday May 21, 2022, same time and hours of work.

## Financial Review - January, 2022

Profit/ Loss	February	Budget	February Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income:	\$130,333.25		\$163,651.41		
Expense:	<u>\$28,036.07</u>		<u>\$57,108.07</u>		
Net Income:	\$102,297.18*		\$106,543.34*		

\*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	February	YTD
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$121,455.70	\$127,480.41
Cash at End of Period:	<u>\$150,335.35</u>	<u>\$150,335.35</u>
Net Cash Increase:	\$28,879.65	\$228,540.94

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

Respectfully Submitted March 8, 2022

Debera J Bard

Treasurer

## Building Fund Report for February as of March 30th, 2022

**Building Account Balance:** \$40,546.87

**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.



## Deacons Easter Project

Deacons are teaming up with FARR and other local churches to provide Easter Baskets to children in the community. The Deacons have ordered stuffed animals, as well as chocolate bunnies, to add to the baskets. Here is how you can help:

Volunteer to assist with basket assembly on Good Friday or monetary donations welcomed cheerfully. Questions? Please contact Rick Bard or PJ Collier.

## 2022 Deacon's Scholarship Application

The Deacons wish to encourage graduating high school seniors or post high school graduates of church members or their immediate family members seeking advanced education, to apply for the Deacon's annual \$500 scholarship. Applications are available online at <https://ffpc.org/deacons/> or you can pick one up from the table in the church lobby.

We need to have completed applications in by April 30, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



## 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.

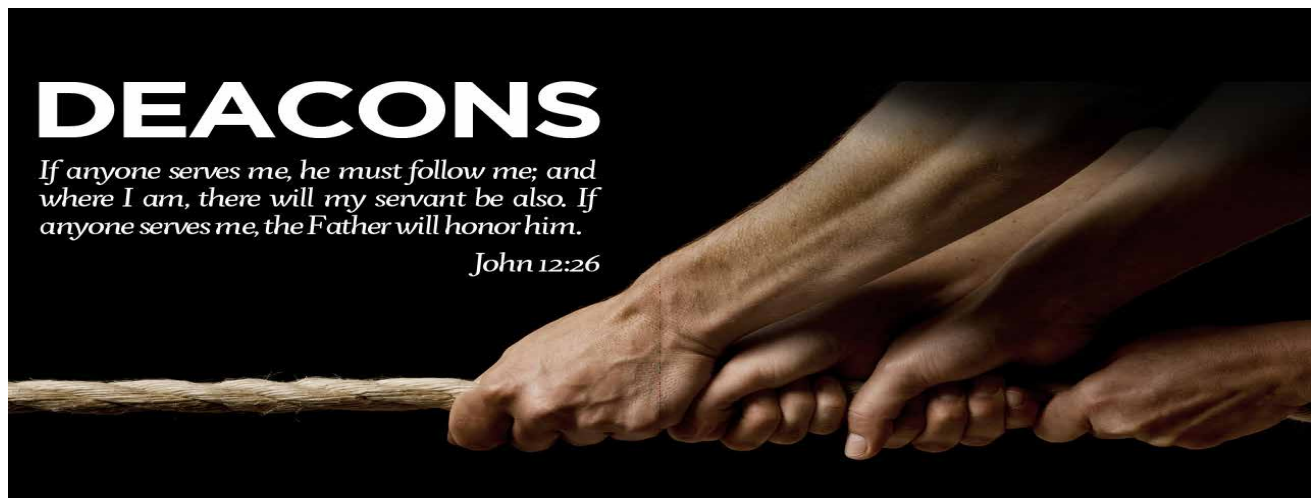
If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 810-629-7801

## Home Meals

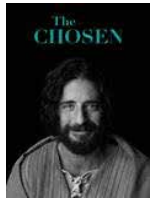
The Deacons sponsor a program to make & deliver meals to church families in their time of need. We deliver meals to families/individuals when a member of their family is in the hospital, just coming home to recuperate, or during a very stressful time. If you would like to participate in this program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

### **Prayer requests and updates**

can be sent to Nancy Parkin by phone at 810-241-6497  
or by email at [prayerchain@ffpc.org](mailto:prayerchain@ffpc.org).

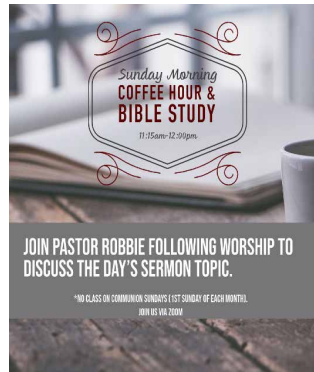


# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**Lenten Simple Meals** - \*Meets Thursdays, through April 7 from 6-7:30PM in Fellowship Hall

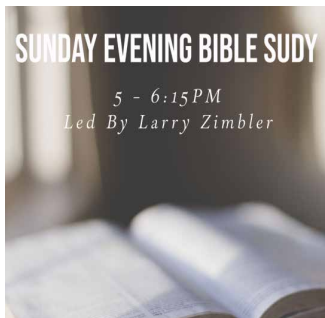
The Chosen - Season 1, Episodes 5-8 – Welcome to the first-ever multi-season series about the life of Christ. See Jesus through the eyes of those that met him. Families are invited to join us for a simple meal of soup and salad while we watch, then discuss the day’s video.



**Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Sermon Discussions**

11:15 –noon

Resuming May 1st! Join us at the table in Fellowship Hall



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

This group is studying the book of Revelation. Contact Larry Zimpler 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

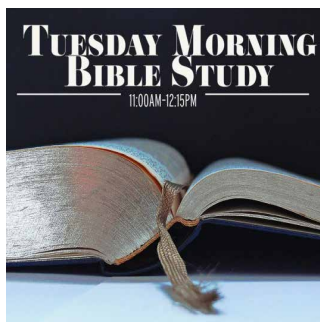
the soul is, why it is important, how to assess the soul's health, and how to care for it so that it contributes to the depth and beauty of our relationship with God and others.

**Study Guide \$10 - See Tina Ritchie to sign up**

**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



**Tuesday Morning Study using William 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. **We will take a brief 4 week break, from April 19th-May 10th, to watch the Chosen.**



**CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

Christ-centered recovery where many come to find hope, help, and healing from all types of hurts, habits, and hang ups.

**Celebrate Recovery Group**  
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

April

# YOUTH GROUP

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

**Allow, Meet, and Go!**

COME & JOIN THE FUN!

## EASTER EGG HUNT

For Children and Youth of FFPC and Friends

Sunday April 10 | 2 PM | MacLean Home

Egg Hunt • Crafts • Storytime

### Youth Group Schedule

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

**Field trip** TBD

**Maundy Thursday Worship** 4/14

**Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt for children and Youth of FFPC families and friends - April 10th** from 2 - 3:30 at the MacLean Home. Join us for story time and help create an art piece for worship! Don't forget your Easter basket to collect your eggs!! **Please call the office to RSVP**

**At this time masks are required for indoor meetings.**

Check out [d365.org](http://d365.org) for great daily devotions to read alone or with your family. God is good, all the time!



# 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!

April Volunteers

April 3 – Heidi Roberts

April 10 – Jennifer Maclean

## Sunday School for children ages kindergarten through 5th grade

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.

### Children's Handbell choir

Children have music education as part of Sunday school. They are currently learning songs to play for Palm Sunday and Easter! Please see Ms. Tina with any questions.

## 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.

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

## Unit 9 – The Cycle of Judges (Judges, Ruth)

When the neighboring nations threatened and attacked Israel, God provided new leaders, called judges, to help rescue God's people. While these judges could only give temporary help, they reminded God's people that one day God would provide a perfect Judge to rescue God's people for good.

4/10 Israel's unfaithfulness

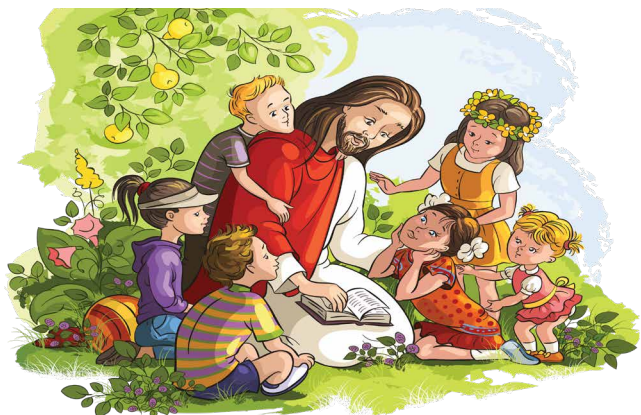
4/17 Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

4/24 Deborah and Barak

**Big Picture Question:** What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

**Unit Key Verse:** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

~ 1 John 1:9 ESV



### **Help families focus on Jesus during Holy Week.**

At Easter, we celebrate Jesus! When he died on the cross and came back to life again, Jesus made a way for us to be forever friends with God.

This Easter download includes three family-friendly devotions. One for Palm Sunday, one for Good Friday, and one for Easter Sunday. Plus, you'll find bonus activities designed to help children deepen their personal relationships with Jesus.

**Visit <https://ffpc.org/lent-resouces/>**

## **SOMETHING FUN TO TRY**

### **Resurrection Rolls**

#### **Ingredients**

1 can Pillsbury Crescent Dough  
8 large marshmallows  
water  
cinnamon & sugar mixed together in a bowl



#### **Instructions**

Preheat oven to 375°F. Spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray or line with parchment paper.

Unroll crescent dough and separate each triangle.

Have children dip marshmallow in water. Roll in cinnamon and sugar mixture.

Place marshmallow in the top of the crescent roll and roll into a crescent roll shape, then secure the sides by tucking them under and pinching them closed. (Don't worry about how they look! They will be yummy!)

Place on prepared cookie sheet and repeat with remaining 7 rolls.

Bake in preheated oven for 8-10 minutes or until golden brown on the outside.

Let cool for a few minutes and then let the children pick a roll to open up. The marshmallow has disappeared!

<https://www.yummyhealthyeasy.com/easter-resurrection-rolls/#recipe>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Happy Birthday

Harry Clark	Apr 3
Jean Hermann	Apr 4
Tina Smith	Apr 7
Betty Brandon	Apr 10
Bob Brownlee	Apr 12
Gretchen Coles	Apr 12
William Eddington	Apr 14
Carol Fulghum	Apr 15
Christian Coffin	Apr 16
Meredith Weldon	Apr 18
Mark Gibb	Apr 20
Millie Roe	Apr 20
Betty Jean Skinner	Apr 20
Thelma Buffmyer	Apr 21

Barb Taylor	Apr 21
Debbie Hoeglund	Apr 25
Sarah Kasprzak	Apr 25
Gabrielle Smith	Apr 26
Lee Graham	Apr 28
Sherry Hunt	Apr 28
Lynne Watters	Apr 28
Roy Fetzer	Apr 29
Connie Morrison	Apr 29

## Happy Anniversary

Michael & Jeanne Cupp	April 22
Cathy Hollopeter	April 29

Lily order  
forms are  
now available

Lilies are \$18 each.  
Completed forms  
& payment are due  
to the office no  
later than  
April 10th



**A limited number of Hyacinths will also be available for purchase on Easter Sunday**

# 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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