

*"Faithfulness springs
up from the ground, and
righteousness looks down
from the sky. Yes, the
Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its
increase. Righteousness will
go before him and make his
footsteps a way."*

Psalm 85:11-13



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

Powerless

Pastor Robbie Carnes

Have you ever felt powerless? I have. From the war in Ukraine and weather cycles to racial tension and inflation there are plenty of things that are far beyond our control. Frankly, I look at the state of my living room, with the books piled up, newspapers stacked haphazardly and dog fur floating in the air I feel pretty powerless. How do you cope?

I was reading a Dear Ann newspaper article about powerlessness in which several folks wrote in to give advice on how to be more resilient in the face of looming powerlessness. Over all, two things rose to the top:

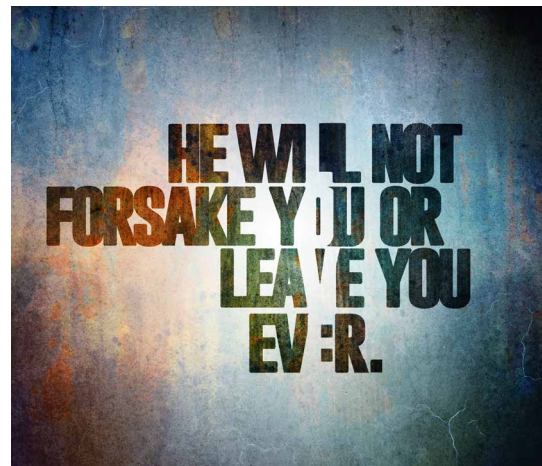
1. Stop consuming so much news media because it is designed to cause you anxiety so that you will watch it.
2. Stop using Social Media so much for the same reasons.

While those are practical steps one can take to limit anxiety and maintain a positive focus, I was a little disappointed. Simply ignoring or limiting our awareness of the world isn't ultimately going to solve the problem. The perceived problem is the problem. The solution to a feeling of powerlessness is acknowledging that, indeed, we are powerless.

This may seem like a cop-out to you. How could this be any different from limiting the emotional damage done by reality and others' false notions of it? This is just the dark side of the same coin and really doesn't

do anything different for us. If we admit we are powerless rather than rail against our lack of power, the choice between despair or hedonism remains.

But for Jesus.



This is where living with Jesus is transformative. We are quite powerless ultimately and I believe this is where God wants us to be. Take Gideon for example. The youngest son in the weakest clan of Israel, in Judges 6 Gideon is confronted by an angel of the Lord and told, "You have the strength. Deliver Israel from the power of the Midianites!"

Gideon did not feel that way at all. He felt very powerless. Sometimes when we feel powerless we project that lack of ability to do anything onto God. This is a big mistake. God is very capable, especially in our weakness. After the angel challenges Gideon he says,

“Have I not sent you?...I will be with you! You will strike down the entire Midianite army.”

This makes all the difference to Gideon. He needs to test the Lord several times establishing and reestablishing God’s call on his life. After Gideon commits to leading the army to defeat the Midianites, God thins the rack of Gideon’s army from 32,000 to 300. This is so that Israel might know that it was not their own power but God’s. In short, God wanted them to experience the power of God in such a way that it could not be missed. God is firmly in control over seven years of oppression by the Midianites, over the moment of deliverance and over the nation of Israel’s future.

While Gideon mustered a large army and displayed skill at organizing and leading people, God was ultimately the power that prevailed. This story reminds us that it is so easy to forget that it is only through God’s power that we can accomplish anything. Living in Fenton we have a great deal of influence over what we do each day, how we feel, what we eat and where we go. In many ways it is like trotting after the Midianites with an army of 32,000 men. We can accomplish many things!

How many of you have had your ‘army’ decreased to 300? Did you receive that phone call? Read that text? Learn something awful about your child or partner? The armies in our heads can be quickly thinned out by circumstances and we might feel so very powerless. It is at this place that our stiff necks become tender enough to look up into the eyes of our Savior.

Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me—and I in him—bears much fruit because apart from me you can accomplish nothing.” Even when we thought we could do it all, it is only by the grace of God. Even when we thought we had solved all our problem, that was like flowers in the field, beautiful today and gone tomorrow. It is our Father in heaven whose constant love sustains us, in season and out. An older member of our congregation commented that she wakes up every morning thankful that God has given her one more day. As a younger person I go to bed each night thankful that God grants me rest after a busy day. I figure we had something to learn from each other. Everyday is a gift from a loving God, from the beginning of it to the end.

It is gratitude that should be the result of recognizing that we are powerless. Thanks is given not because we are incapable, but because we are children of the one who is ultimately capable. While it remains a good idea to limit our consumption of media, social or otherwise, even when we are confronted with all that is troubling, scary, threatening and evil, Jesus said,

“I am not alone because my Father is with me. I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble and suffering, but take courage—I have conquered the world.” (John 6:32b-33)

May

WORSHIP

Music Ministry

Spring Choir Concert

Hosted at Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Saturday May 14th at 5:00pm

Reception to Follow

Join us for a collaborative evening of worship music with participants from Fenton First Presbyterian Church, Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church and more!

All Music Sunday

Don't miss this morning of hymns, handbells, choir, instruments, praise and scripture!

May 22, 2022 During the 10am worship service

A special offering will be collected for the sacred music fund.

Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Come be part of our Adult/Child Mother's Day Song

Bring your children (young or grown), grandkids, nieces/nephews, or any child that is special to you and join us for a song that celebrates the gift of moms and family!

Final practice at 9:30am on May 8th prior to the worship service



May Sermon Series

After Easter Jesus established his church through his disciples. Sending them out into the world to live in Jesus' way, teaching Jesus' words and doing the works of Jesus made them apostles. We read the story of the apostle in the book of Acts and in May we will be concentrating on a few specific stories about how the early church dealt with the challenges of being the church.

May 1st, Communion Sunday and 40+ years celebration. Dealing with Identity: Antioch.

Acts 11:19-26; 13:1-3

May 8, Mother's Day. Dealing with Self-Centeredness: Jerusalem. Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11

May 15, Dealing with Close-Mindedness: Damascus. Acts 9:10-25

May 22 All Music Sunday

May 29 Dealing with Loss of Leadership: Miletus Acts 20:13-38

How to Worship with Us

Join us online as well as in person, every Sunday at 10am

Worship begins at 10am, 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)

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.



MISSION & STEWARDSHIP



Mission Opportunity

Adopt-A-Pet - May 14th from 9am-12pm

How many members of our church have a loving member of the family that is furry and has four legs ?? Perhaps you, like me, found your little bundle of love at this very location ??

Regardless of where your loving pet was obtained, we have an opportunity to assist this wonderful organization on Saturday, May 14th, 2022 from 9am to 12pm. This is an entire member of the family event. All those interested in doing primarily outdoor work are asked to contact Ken Wensel at 810-513-1340, or email him at wenselkenneth@yahoo.com. The Mission committee thanks you, and to be sure, Adopt A Pet thanks you !!

Financial Review - March, 2022

Profit/ Loss	<u>March</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Mar. Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income:	\$19,148.22	\$26,429.36	\$182,359.17	\$79,288.08	\$317,152.70
Expense:	\$34,734.04	\$27,238.83	\$91,842.11	\$81,716.49	\$317,152.70

*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

	February	YTD
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$149,894.89	\$127,480.38
Cash at End of Period:	<u>\$132,755.16</u>	<u>\$132,755.14</u>
Net Cash Increase:	\$17,139.73	\$5,271.76

Balance in the Building Repair & Improvement account: \$39,891.34

Respectfully Submitted, April 10, 2022

Debera J Bard, Treasurer

Building Fund Report for April as of April 30th, 2022

Building Account Balance: \$83.32



FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

INVITES YOU

To Celebrate

the Completion of Our Miracle

June 5th

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

11:30am-1:30pm

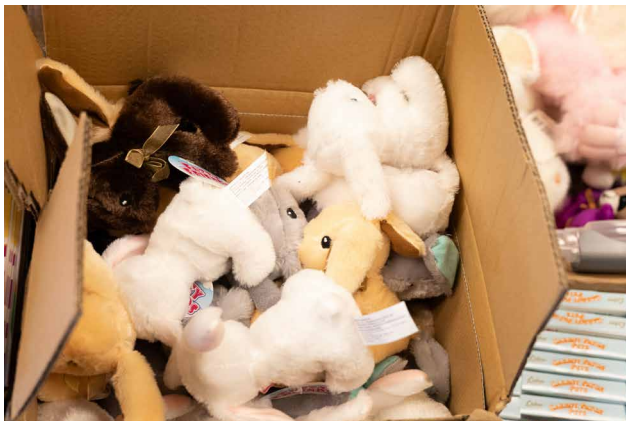
Burning of the Mortgage Papers
Food & Refreshments
Activities For All Ages

503 S. LEROY STREET FENTON, MI 48430

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.

Thank You! Once again, our congregation has responded with unbelievable generosity! The Deacons would like to thank you for giving so freely to our recent 'Easter Project. Working with FARR (Fenton Area Resource and Referral) and several area churches, we were able to provide a wonderful Easter dinner and baskets to 150 area families. The Deacons are very blessed to have you all as our partners in blessing others!



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.

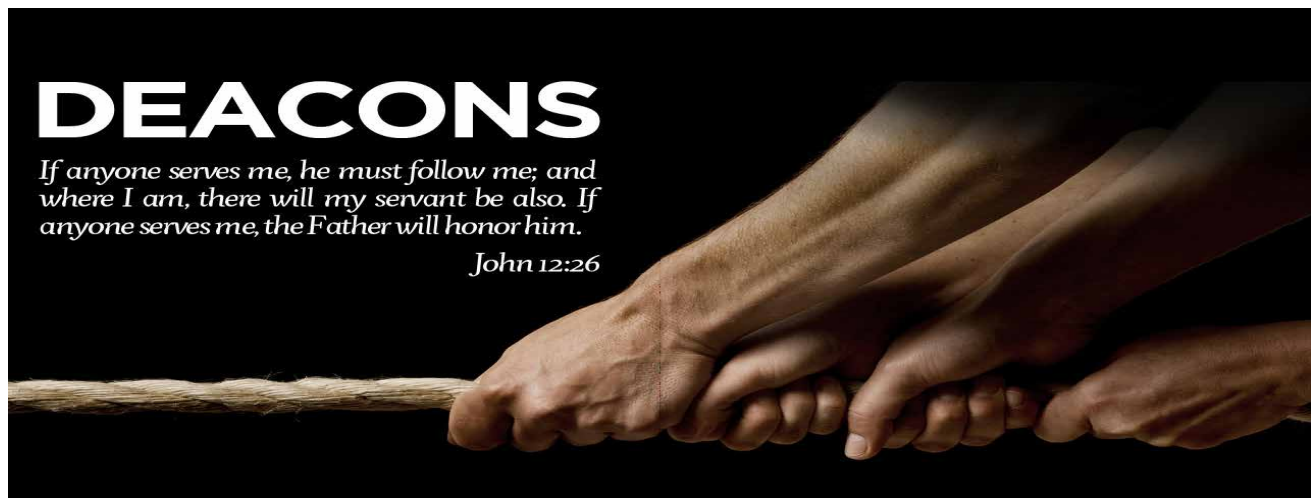
If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 810-629-7801.

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 at 810-629-7801 or 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.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

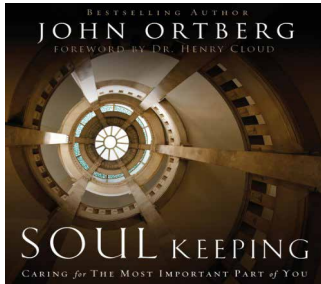
invite a friend
↓



Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Sermon Discussions

11:15 -noon

Join us at the table in Fellowship Hall



April Women's Study Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You

by John Ortberg

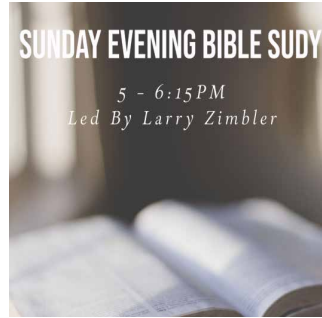
This six-session, Bible Study helps

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. See Tina Ritchie for more information.

Monday Evenings thorough May 23 from 6:30-8:30pm via zoom only

or

Wednesday Mornings through May 25 from 10am - noon in Fellowship Hall *in-person only



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

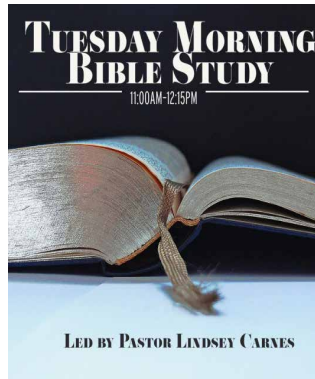
This group is studying the book of Psalms. Last class is May 22, as we will be taking the summer off.

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



Were you not able to make it to Simple Meals? Join us Tuesday Mornings from 11am-12:15pm.

The Chosen - See Jesus through the eyes of those that met him. Come and see what they saw.



May

YOUTH GROUP

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

Allow, Meet, and Go!



Spring Youth Group Events

6-12th graders and friends.

*Please share ideas for summer events. I hope we can go camping this summer, along with kayaking and other fun day trips. A mystery trip perhaps??? Contact Tina Ritchie tina@ffpc.org for more information.

Field trip TBD

Saturday, April 30: Shelter of Flint 9 - 3pm

Join the Mission Committee to assist with yard work and possibly painting playground equipment. See the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall. Rain date: May 21

Saturday, May 14: Adopt-A-Pet 9am-12pm

Join the Mission Committee clearing trails and assisting with yard work.



Attention Graduates:

By May 20, please let Tina or the church office know what high school you are graduating from and what your future plans are. We would like to celebrate you during worship on Sunday, June 5!

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!

May Volunteers

May 1:

May 8:

May 15: Jennifer MacLean

May 22:

May 29:

Children's Handbell choir

Children did a wonderful playing handbells for Palm Sunday and Easter! Music education continues as part of Sunday school, and they will play again for "All Music Sunday" on May 22. Please see Ms. Tina with any questions.



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.

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.

5/1 Gideon

5/8 Samson

5/15 Ruth and Boaz

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

"The Kingdom Provided" topics are:

Unit 10 – Samuel and King Saul (1 Samuel)

Despite all that God had done for Israel, God's people continued to rebel against God. They demanded a king, going against God's plan and ignoring God's warnings about how a king would rule them. God provided Israel's first king, Saul, to rule God's people. Christ, the final King, rules over all people as Savior.

5/22 Hannah and Samuel

5/29 The Ark was Captured

6/5 Israel's First King

Big Picture Question: Is there anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

Unit Key Verse: *No one is like you, Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power.*

~ Jeremiah 10:6 NIV



*"Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
Luke 18:15*



Notes from Tina's Ministry Adventures...

I've recently had two interesting ministry opportunities to engage in learning while also serving. The first is serving as an ordination exam reader for the winter term PCUSA ministry exams. There are 4 different areas a reader can be assigned to in the written portion of the exam – Biblical Exegesis, Church Polity, Theology, and Worship. The readers task in whatever area assigned is to see if the responses answered all portions of the questions adequately. Readers used the following questions to help guide our responses in each exam area: Does the answer demonstrate a sufficient understanding of the issues that have been identified, and describe a pastorally appropriate response? Is the response theologically sound and expressed in a way that people can relate to in a given age group and cultural context? Does the answer demonstrate the ability to use appropriate resources and use them in effective ways? Do the examination responses provide evidence that the person who wrote them can apply the intellectual background developed in seminary to pastoral situations with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? Demonstrating the ability to listen carefully to what is before you, and to respond to what is completely required of you in a given situation with the ability to integrate academic training with ministry gifts and experience are key pastoral skills.

I was assigned to the exegesis portion evaluating responses to interpretation of Esther 4: 1-17. After initially feeling inadequate to the task, followed by many training modules, I quickly learned that being an exam reader is really about utilizing the same skills of listening and providing feedback as pastors are learning to do. Being a reader became a task of careful commentation on responses, NOT the person. The exegesis portion of the exam receives and overall "grade" of Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory with the opportunity to comment on what was good or what was lacking throughout, providing an overall critique of the exam at the end. It was fascinating to see the various interpretations and applications of the same text while also learning a bit of Hebrew! I spent roughly 20 hours reading exams during the course of a week, and would gladly do it again. What an honor it is to speak into a pastors young career by serving in this way. Below are the winter exam results:

Winter 2022 Exams

	#Exams	% "S"	% "U"	% Third Rds
Exegesis	89	75%	25%	23%
Polity	71	76%	24%	46%
Theology	81	80%	20%	21%
Worship	84	64%	36%	31%
Overall	325	74%	26%	

My second ministry opportunity is being part of a Christian Education Cohort through Union Seminary and the PCUSA. There are 9 of us from around the country who gather once a month via zoom for one year to provide ministry support and ideas, while also growing in our faith. So far we have met twice and are discussing books; the first being If God is Love, Don't be a Jerk by John Pavlovitz, and currently, Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr. I hope to see these and other titles in our adult church library. Our faith journey isn't meant to be stagnant – it is meant to be fully alive and growing as we continue the quest seeking spiritual maturity. Each day an adventure with God awaits! How will you challenge yourself in spiritual growth this year?

In Christ, Tina Ritchie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pews!

FFPC has a small number of pews that need loving homes. We only have one size available. If you would like to have a pew please contact Pastor Robbie. An appropriate donation is requested.

National Day of Prayer

Prayer Breakfast

Sponsored by



Thursday, May 5th, 8:00-9:00am
Fenton Community & Cultural Center
150 S. Leroy

Hosted by



Tickets \$10.00

Available at



Fenton First Presbyterian Church
Grace • Faith • Hospitality



Fenton & Linden
Regional Chamber of Commerce

150 S. Leroy

503 S. Leroy

104 S. Adelaide

Online at Farnetworkhelp.org
or call 810-750-6244

New Saturday Facilitateis Work Group

The long standing Wednesday work group is expanding in order to complete additional projects as well as provide those interested, who may not be available on Wednesday, an opportunity to take part.

This group will meet once a month on the third Saturday from beginning Saturday, May 21st. This first meeting will focus on preventative maintenance of the HVAC Unit



Congregational Town Hall Meeting "Did You Know?"

Sunday, May 15, 11:15 am Fellowship Hall

There's been a lot happening at church, did you know? Come and see snapshots from the roof repairs, choir room flood/renovation, balcony ceiling repairs, and hear more about the mortgage burning block party scheduled for Sunday, June 5th after church.

Dibbleville

GARAGE SALE

May 20 and 21

 **kw FIRST** KELLERWILLIAMS Courtesy of Chris & Donna Anderson, Realtors

The 2nd Annual Dibbleville Garage Sale is coming in May! 41 households participated in 2021, and we expect higher participation this year! Contact Donna Anderson if you're interested.



Happy Birthday

Rachel Black	May 1
Marilee Smiley	May 9
Cameron Anderson	May 10
Morris Fulcher	May 10
David Hall	May 11
Paul Joitke	May 11
Pat Allen	May 12
Melissa Erwin	May 13
James Foster	May 15
Sarah Martin-Fanone	May 16
Debera Bard	May 18
Chris Coffin	May 19
Mark Martin-Fanone	May 19
Madeline Gibb	May 20
John Danules	May 21
Robert McLive	May 21
Jerry Welch	May 22
Jenny Gibb	May 23
Jeff Stone	May 24
Bev Tippett	May 24
Gerri Danules	May 29
Shirley Israel	May 30
Aubrey Howieson	May 31

Happy Anniversary

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

40+ Year Members

Sep 29 1946	Royce Hyde
Feb 14 1954	Joyce Guilbault
Feb 14 1954	Phyllis Cmejrek
Feb 13 1955	Aulene Becker
Apr 14 1957	Judy Brown
Mar 30 1958	Pam Andersen
Mar 26 1961	Julie Hussar
Mar 22 1964	Betty Jean Skinner
Apr 18 1965	Ron Andersen
Dec 11 1966	Gloria Butts
Dec 20 1970	Barbara Hungerford
May 16 1971	Bob Browder
Dec 26 1971	George Hameline
May 20 1973	Melissa Erwin
Nov 25 1973	Peggy Fowler
Nov 25 1973	Steve Sutton
Nov 25 1973	Sharlyn Sutton
Jun 02 1974	Vera Thornton
Mar 20 1975	Lynne Watters
Mar 20 1975	Mitzi Uebel
May 18 1975	Denise Morris
May 20 1976	Richard Bard
May 20 1976	Debera Bard
Mar 17 1977	Alice Maletic
May 18 1978	Shari Foguth
Sep 21 1978	John Wrage
Sep 21 1978	Sara Wrage
Dec 20 1979	Lori Murray
Dec 18 1980	Carolyn Post
Mar 13 1980	Jerry Welch
Mar 13 1980	Bev Welch
Apr 13 1980	Chris Anderson
Apr 13 1980	Donna Anderson
Apr 13 1980	Dick Berger
Apr 13 1980	Nancy Berger
Jun 07 1981	Millie Roe

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!

NON PROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fenton, Michigan
Permit No. 85

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
503 S. LEROY STREET
FENTON, MI 48430-1736