

A large American flag is shown waving in the wind against a dramatic sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that illuminates the clouds and the flag. The flag's stars and stripes are clearly visible, with the stars appearing as a field of white points on a dark blue background.

ONE NATION
UNDER GOD

Blessed is the nation
whose God is the Lord



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

Sharing the Good News

Pastor Robbie Carnes

All of us know the following scriptures:

Mark 16:15 And he said to them, *“Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.”*

Matthew 28: 18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

These are the last words of Jesus to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. These are clear commands to go out into the world and share the good news of Jesus with people who don't know. Jesus wasn't just commanding James, Peter and John, he was commanding all of his disciples. I think you would agree that we do a pretty poor job at going out into the world and telling people about Jesus.

The question is, why are we so bad at sharing something that is so good?

First, a clarification: We aren't talking about sending money to foreign missions or supporting the local food bank. We aren't talking about sharing a 'minute for mission' during a worship service or even going on a mission service event. We are talking about verbally sharing, with another human being, that the death and resurrection of Jesus is good news. All of those other things aren't bad, however they are best used as vehicles

that get us to a point in which we can actually speak the Gospel to another individual.

Why is this so hard to do? One reason is that we are too busy, too self-absorbed, and individually focused. All of us have segmented our lives and all too often the one thing that transcends all of it and should center our lives (i.e. the Gospel) gets syphoned off into one of our lesser categories. When we do have free time or energy to invest, we simply don't care to imagine how we might lovingly share the great love of our lives with others.

If we are willing to take seriously the commands of Jesus, then we need to intentionally carve out space in our schedules and adjust our values in order to invite people into our lives so that we might share the Gospel. This can be a hard task. Our culture does not support this, and if you are anything like me, you come home each night to sit in your chair, read a book, and watch TV. Not dream up new ways to connect with people.

We cannot hope to adequately share the Gospel alone. We need a team; we need a spiritual family. Teamwork transforms the task of evangelizing from dispensing information to inviting others into a lifestyle. It is imperative that we have Gospel words to share with those who do not know Jesus, and it is imperative that our words are grounded in Gospel ways. Jesus rarely did anything alone and he never sent his disciples out alone, therefore we need to go out with each other.

Another reason that it is difficult to share

the Gospel is that it is a Spiritual battle that we are completely unequipped for. When you prayed last, what did you pray for? Your cousin who is ill in the hospital? Your nephew in the military? The political rancor in our nation? That is what I prayed for. Notice that I did not pray for God to introduce people in my life to whom I may share the Gospel with. I did not pray for particular people who I know I should be spiritually investing in.

When we speak to others about Jesus, we need spiritual strength which we cannot hope to obtain but through prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us power to obey Jesus in all things and this is no exception. We should pray for eyes to see the people God puts in front of us with whom we might connect. Our prayers should also include those we already know who do not have a relationship with Jesus. Here again, it is the Holy Spirit that regenerates people's hearts giving them the ability to respond. We need to be praying for specific people to come to a life-giving relationship with Jesus.

A final reason we have difficulty sharing the Gospel is that we often don't know what to say. Specifically, we don't know what the Gospel is. Even more specifically, we don't know what the Gospel means for us personally. Figuring out how to say something as incredible as the "Maker of the Universe loves you" is a simple issue. Practice will lead to progress. Not knowing what the Gospel is, at its most basic, is another simple issue. Try this on for size:

The world is a broken place, full of broken people and broken systems, full of sickness, sadness and suffering. This is not how it was intended. The world

was created to be beautiful, bursting with life where there is no pain, problems or prejudice. It was when humans turned away from God that sin entered the world and why we experience brokenness. In a very real sense we need a reboot, a reset, a new birth. This is what Jesus offers in his life death and resurrection. A new life, turning to God, that is defined by forgiveness, freedom and a future. Broken, we yearn for Beauty. We find it by way of a new Birth into the life of Jesus who blesses us so that we might be a Blessing.

All of this is all well and good but means nothing unless it means something specific to you. If we have nothing to say about what the Gospel means to us personally, then no wonder we might have anxiety about sharing! We are giving away a borrowed Gospel.

How can you make the good news of Jesus Christ your own? What has Jesus done in your life? How have you seen your life change as you have lived in Jesus' way? If these questions make you uncomfortable, consider that this might be the Holy Spirit working on your pride and sharpening your spiritual acuity. Sharing the Gospel, at its most basic, is simply speaking a story about how God has been good to you. Everyone has a God story, what is yours?

July

WORSHIP

How to Worship with Us

Join us online as well as in person Sunday's at 10am

Masks are optional. Paper masks will remain available for those who might need one, and hand sanitizer stations are 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>

Use the Zoom app and use this Meeting ID

Meeting ID: 830 914 2301 Meeting Password: 5013

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)

Worship Schedule

During our worship Services in the month of July we will be continuing to explore how the early church dealt with a variety of problems. In some cases they succeeded in the Spirit, in others they are a clear warning about what not to do. In all cases they provide us with ample fodder to feed holy imaginations toward proper obedience to Jesus.

July 3rd No Longer Afraid (Holy Boldness), Acts 4:1-22; Peter and John questioned before the Jewish Council

July 10th I Need to Make a Call (Prayer), Acts 4:23-31; Believers prayer for Boldness

July 17th Extravagant Generosity (Wealth Distribution?) Acts 4:32-37, Believers Sharing their Belongings

July 24th They've turned the World Upside Down, Acts 17:1-9; Thessaloniki is in an uproar

July 31st Hallelujah Anyhow (Martyrdom) Acts 6:8-7:60; Stephen's arrest and martyrdom

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. If you would like to bring flowers from your garden, that would be great also!

All you have to do is call or email Heidi Roberts at 810-625-4637 or hroberts6862@gmail.com.

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.

Great News!

You have another chance to apply for a Deacons sponsorship!

The Deacons have reviewed and revised the requirements of both \$500 sponsorships offered. We have made the process much simpler in hopes that it will reach more members and/or their immediate family, as well as encourage more participants in this wonderful program. Please contact the church office at 810-629-7801 or office@ffpc.org.

Deacon's Non-Food Drive

The Deacon's have become aware of a growing need in our community. Did you know that people on certain types of assistance, such as food stamps, can't use it for everyday items like toothpaste, kleenex and toilet paper? To that end, we have started a non-food drive to collect items. Care products that we are collecting include: toilet paper, deodorant, bodywash/soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, laundry soap, band aids, antibiotic cream, dish soap, paper towels, and multi purpose cleaners. Bins are available in Fellowship Hall and the church entryway, Thank you.

MISSION & STEWARDSHIP



Every year here at Genesee Habitat for Humanity we host an event in Fenton called the Bastille Day Race. This year on July 9th, the Bastille Race is back in person and we need help putting on the event. This is the perfect opportunity for groups such as youth groups, sports teams, and other teen groups to get volunteer hours. We are also looking for interested individuals or pairs to help with traffic control, photography, and handing out water. If this is something you or someone you know may be interested in, please contact Ellen Yope at volunteer@geneseehabitat.org or 810-766-9089 ext 203.



AUGUST BLOOD DRIVE. Our church will be hosting a blood drive Monday, August 8th, from 11am to 4:45pm in Fellowship Hall. Your blood donation can save lives. Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. To schedule an appointment for a donation with the Red Cross, call 1-800-733-2767 or go online to www.redcross.org. We also need volunteers that day for registering donors and getting them to the canteen for juice and a snack. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or contact Sherry Hunt or Jo Beardslee for any questions regarding the blood drive.

Financial Review - May, 2022

| Profit/ Loss | May | Budget | Jan-May | YTD Budget | Annual Budget |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Income: | \$32,109.77 | \$26,429.36 | \$230,547.88 | \$132,146.80 | \$317,152.70 |
| Expense: | \$43,667.41 | \$27,238.83 | \$162,104.65 | \$136,194.15 | \$317,152.70 |
| | -11,557.64* | -809.47 | 68,443.23 | -4,047.35 | |

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

Statement of Cash Flows

| | April | YTD |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cash at Beginning of period: | \$118,362.12 | \$125,208.38 |
| Cash at End of Period: | \$87,038.56 | \$87,038.56 |
| Net Cash Increase: | -31,323.56 | -38,169.82 |

Balance in the Building Repair & Improvement account as of May 9th: \$40,200.66

Respectfully Submitted, June 6th, 2022
Debera J Bard, Treasurer



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Fenton Farmer's Market Community Outreach Table Volunteer Opportunities

Our church has a spot at the Farmer's Market for 8 weeks on Thursday evenings July 7 through August 25, from 5-7:30pm (set-up help needed 3:30-4:30). Sponsored by the Christian Education, Mission, and Congregational Outreach committees, each week we will focus on a different organization or community need.

Our main goal continues to be to interact and share our presence within the community by doing the following:

- Offer activities for families and individuals to engage in mission, music, children, and general family activities
- Promote various community resources (FARR, Center of Hope, food pantries, etc.)
- Listen to community/family/individual needs and offer prayer
- Have fun while providing hospitality



Volunteers are needed for set-up, tear-down, and to interact with the community and weekly activity assistance. Use the Sign-Up Genius link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48aaa62da7fdc61-fenton>, or see the signup sheet on the black bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are also asked to wear a church t-shirt. If you do not have one or have other questions, please contact the office or Tina Ritchie. Thank you for your support and participation!

Farmer's Market Schedule of Events

July 7 – Bird Houses and Habitat for Humanity

July 14 – Voices for Children

July 21 – Drum Circle and Fenton Community Orchestra

July 28 – Adopt-A-Pet

Aug 4 – The Wee Pantry

Aug 11 – Community Prayer & Art

Aug 18 – Women's Issues

Aug 25 – Snuggle Sacks

YOUTH GROUP

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

Allow, Meet, and Go!



Youth checking in to the Massanetta Conference!

Summer Youth Group Events - for 6 - 12 graders and friends

Watch your texts and email or contact Tina Ritchie tina@ffpc.org for current information. Friends always welcome with a current Parental Consent form on file!

Upcoming events:

Wed: July 20 - Ann Arbor Shopping trip 1-5pm

Sun – Sat, July 24 – 30 Montreat High School Conference “More Than Enough”

Friday: August 5 - Warren Dunes Day Trip 7am – 9pm

Wednesday: August 17 - Swim Day 1 – 5pm

Ways to support Youth Group scholarships and activities:

- **Bottle returns** - drop off your rinsed returnable bottle and cans to the youth room. THANK YOU to Chas Kopplin for cashing them in!
- **Kroger Quarterly Earnings** - \$33.72 Link your Kroger Rewards card to FFPC. Contact the office if you need info on how to do this!
- **VG’s receipts** – We are \$100,000 short in receipts to receive a \$1000 check. THANK YOU to Nancy Parkin for counting receipts!



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Sunday School for children ages kindergarten through 5th grade

Sunday school begins at 10am in the lower level Christian Education classrooms wing. Children join worship after the sermon where they either sit with their parents or with Miss Tina; masks are optional at their parent's discretion. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tina Ritchie or Pastors Robbie or Lindsey.

Unit 11 – Great King David (1 & 2 Samuel, Psalm 23 & 51)

Because of Saul's disobedience, God rejected him as Israel's first king and chose David to be king. Through David's family, God brought forth the last King – the Redeemer Jesus Christ. Jesus is the perfect King who brings peace and salvation to the world.

7/3 David's Kindness

7/10 David Sinned and Was Restored

7/17 David's

Psalm Big Picture Question: How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of kings.

Unit Key Verse: *Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.* ~ Psalm 145:13

Unit 12 – Wise King Solomon (1 Kings, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs)

Solomon rules Israel with great wisdom that God had given him, and he obeyed God when he built the temple. Despite his wisdom, Solomon sinned and his sin led to the nation of Israel being divided into two kingdoms. Solomon reminds us of our need for Jesus, the sinless King who is true wisdom.

7/26 Solomon Asked for Wisdom

7/31 Wisdom for God's People

8/7 Solomon Built the Temple

8/14 The Kingdom Divided

Big Picture Question: What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Unit Key Verse: *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.* ~ James 1:5

**Volunteers Needed for Nursery
& Preschool during Sunday
morning worship from 9:45 –
11am.**

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

Volunteers

July 3: Jan Foster

July 10: Kate Kirkey

July 17: Kate Kirkey

July 24: Kate Kirkey

July 31: Kate Kirkey

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Trip Opportunity

The Sandusky and Yale-First congregations invite you to join them on a mission trip to the Christian Appalachian Project in Paintsville, KY October 23-29 2022. Cost of the trip is \$540.

Click [here](#) to view the Christian Appalachian Project's website.

Contact Pastor Mark Garavaglia, Commissioned Ruling Elder of Sandusky and Yale-First at 810-404-9565 or garavaglia69@gmail.com for more information.

Notes From Session

The Admin Committee is looking to reformat the budget process. The Budget Committee will be meeting on July 19th at 6:45pm to begin to form the budget for next year. It is hoped that the budget will be ready to inform our stewardship season in the fall.

There will be an annual financial review on August 13th at 10am. Members are needed and eligible to help out, please see Deb Bard for more information. Donuts will be provided for participants.

A Review of the Manual of Operations will begin with the Admin committee. This should happen every 3 years.

Painting the Sanctuary is being scheduled for the week of July 4th. There will be a need for volunteers to help move pews. Worship for July 10th will need to be in the Fellowship Hall (or other place).

Join the New Saturday Facilities 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 meets once a month on the third Saturday at 9am.

Do You Like...

Having coffee after Worship on Sunday?

Having a treat with your coffee?

If you enjoy this then we need your help. Please sign up on the sheet when you get your coffee or email Marilee Smiley (mibobalink@gmail.com)



Happy Birthday

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Sharon Stone | Jul 3 |
| Denise Warba | Jul 4 |
| Lisa Mehlberg | Jul 7 |
| Rick Stanfill | Jul 9 |
| Emily Anne Kinser | Jul 16 |
| Lindsey Gibb | Jul 17 |
| Janet Stork | Jul 17 |
| Brian Rourke | Jul 18 |
| Nessie Brownlee | Jul 21 |
| Bruce Coffin | Jul 21 |
| Debbie LaVanway | Jul 21 |
| Rita Vadasz-Miller | Jul 22 |
| Ellen Horton | Jul 23 |
| Cameron Miller | Jul 23 |
| Robert Chappelle | Jul 24 |
| Max Kryza | Jul 25 |
| Sharon Crary | Jul 26 |
| Jacob Kinser | Jul 26 |
| Keith Morris | Jul 26 |
| Brian Smith | Jul 27 |
| Maggie Watters | Jul 28 |
| Adie Eddington | Jul 29 |
| Sherry Rourke | Jul 29 |
| Toadie Middleton | Jul 30 |

Happy Anniversary

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Sandy Nelson & Helen Dilwort | July 4 |
| Mark & Sarah Martin-Fanone | July 19 |
| Jeff & P.J. Collier | July 24 |
| Bill & Nikki Black | July 26 |
| Marlo & Heidi Howieson | July 26 |
| Ty & Andrea Smith | July 26 |
| Brian & Tina Smith | July 27 |

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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