

Fenton First Presbyterian Church

August 2022 Newsletter



*Do not be conformed to this
world,
but be transformed by the
renewal of your mind,
that by testing
you may discern what is the
will of God,
what is good and acceptable
and perfect.*





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

Walking with Jesus

Pastor Robbie Carnes

In Luke 14:23 Jesus shares a story about a man giving a dinner party. He tells his servants, "Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled." While allegorical, this resonates with Jesus' commands to his disciples (and us) to proclaim the Gospel to the world, to baptize and to teach, and to tell others about him.

Many times this feels like the missing leg of my three legged faith. I am inspired to worship and serve God, especially with my congregation. I enjoy being with people who love Jesus and I learn so much from being with faithful disciples. However, I don't feel very successful at proclaiming the Gospel on a personal level. Sometimes I feel like I have tapped out all the appropriate avenues to share God's love. I know that I miss out on many opportunities.

This month I am going to challenge myself to try the following things in order to stretch myself to share the Gospel more. I got these ideas from a Blog by Paul Macaonochie.

1) Find value in Prayer. We live in a world of efficiency. Constantly we press ourselves to produce, answering emails, sending texts, serving, accomplishing, traveling. Yet this might not be so effective when it comes to spiritual things. In Acts 6 the Apostles raise up 7 leaders to handle administrative tasks so that the disciples can pray more! If we are to communicate spiritual truth we need to pray for the Holy Spirit. How can we expect the Holy Spirit to fill us unless we ask the Holy Spirit? How do we expect to know

the mind of God unless we take time to ask him? Praying is the foundation to sharing. How can you dedicate more time in a day to prayer?

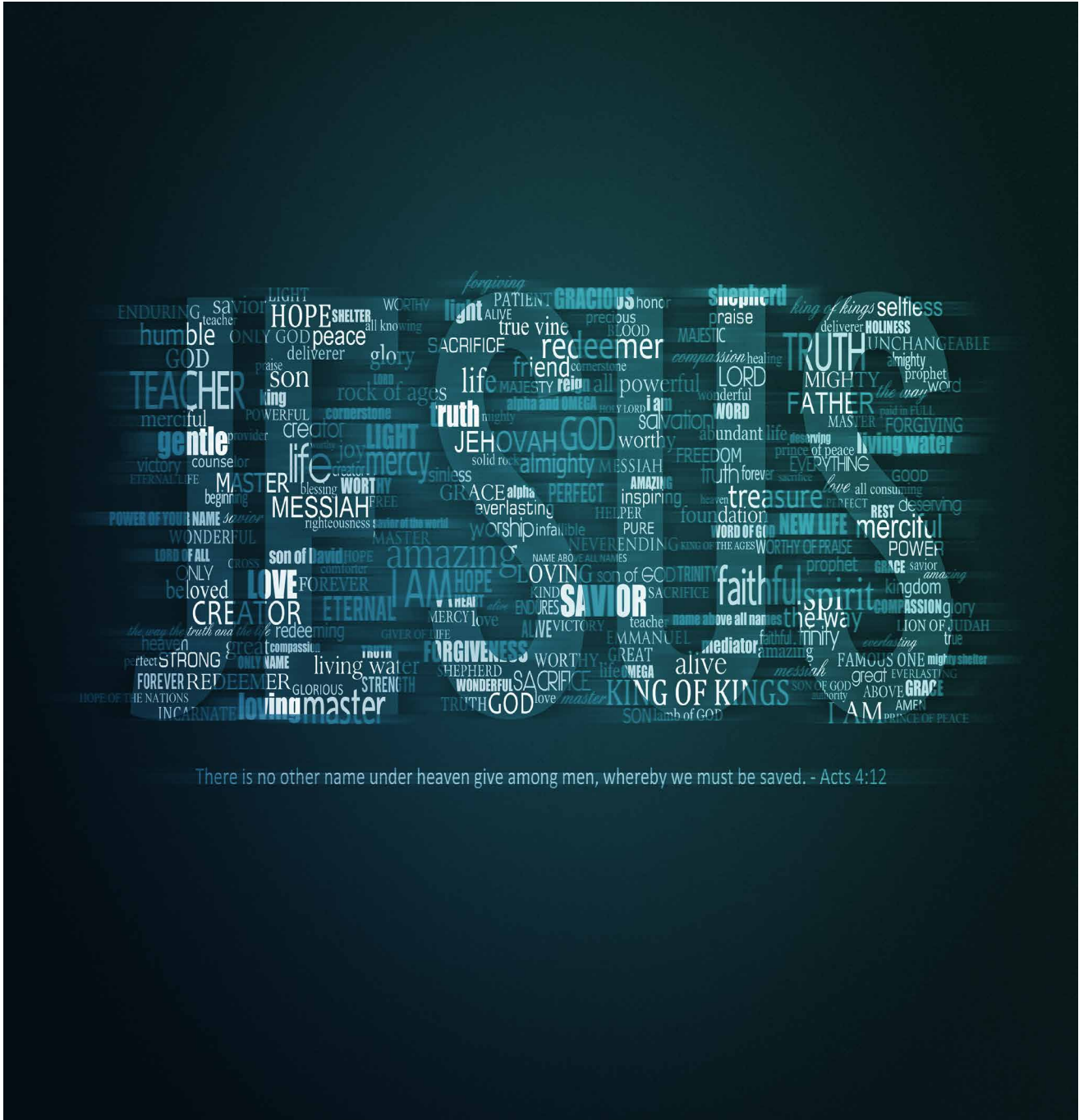
2) Find third spaces. This is a social science term that refers to public places that are not our homes nor our work places, in which we find significant community. When I worked at Starbucks we were encouraged to think of our customers as our community and, therefore, make our coffee shop a third space for everyone who came in. Do you have a third space? A place that isn't your home or work, that you feel like a part of the community? This could be a favorite restaurant, bar, or coffee shop. It could be a community organization. It should be a place where you can intentionally expose yourself to new people. Jesus speaking to the woman at the well in John 4, Bartimaeus receiving his sight (Mark 10) and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8) are all biblical examples of choosing to be in places where other people are who may be open. We could call them chance encounters or we could faithfully consider them movements of the Holy Spirit.

3) Intentional extended family community. In what ways do you try to connect with other disciples who are trying to follow Jesus? How are you seeking to grow spiritually with other people? Do you have spiritual mentors whom you seek out to challenge you? This might be the hardest thing on this list because it demands us to change our schedules and allocate time. It also calls us to humble ourselves and be willing to learn from

others. Jesus always sent his disciples out in groups and so we shouldn't try to do it alone.

Whether we are parents of small children or a retired petitioner, these are simple things that we can try on and see how Jesus works in our lives. Finding love and

acceptance in the Father through Jesus, we are compelled to walk in Jesus' ways, speak Jesus' words, and seek Jesus' will. What is the next step for you in your walk with Jesus?



There is no other name under heaven give among men, whereby we must be saved. - Acts 4:12

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

In the month of August we will continue tapping into the book of Acts to hear more about how the Holy Spirit works in the life of the church.

August 7th: Communion Sunday, Pastor Lindsey will speak on Saul's conversion in Acts 9:1-19a.

August 14th Pastor Robbie will speak about Saul's commissioning as a missionary in Acts 13:1-3.

August 21st Elder Mike Vanderlip will speak about his journey of faith and specifically looking at James 2:14-26 and Living Faith.

August 28th Pastor Lindsey will speak on how to work on genuine relationships and avoid soliciting Celebrity in Luke 14:1,7-14.

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.

Please join us!
Friday, August 12 | 7PM
DUO CONCERT



Presented by:
DR. ROSE STEVENS
&
REBEKAH RATZA

It's almost time!
**ADULT CHOIR &
HANDBELL CHOIR**
Fall and Advent 2022 Season
Wednesday, September 7th
Pre-registration is required to join!

IN EFFORT TO KEEP OUR MUSIC DEPARTMENT CHRIST-CENTERED AND PROMOTE A HEALTHY ATMOSPHERE, A SIGNED CHOIR COVENANT IS REQUIRED TO SERVE ON OUR TEAM(S). A MUSIC BACKGROUND IS **NOT** NECESSARY; HUMBLE AND SERVING HEARTS, HEALTHY BOUNDARIES, RESPECTFUL AND POSITIVE ATTITUDES, AND A HEART FOR CHRIST AND WORSHIP MUSIC ARE OUR REQUIREMENTS HERE AT FFPC! IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU, PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER JOINING US!

**Contact Rebekah Ratza, Director of Music,
at RebekahRatza@gmail.com to get started as a new
member or if you have any questions regarding FFPC's
Music Department goals and mission!**

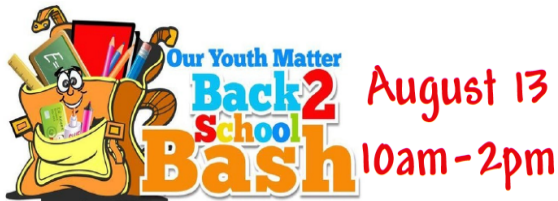
Soli Deo gloria!

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.



**Help Us, Help The Children
Of Our Community!**

Help provide **FREE Backpacks & School Supplies**
to Area Families by donating the following items...

- Colored Pencils
- #2 Pencils
- 24 Pack Crayons
- Washable Crayola Markers
- Glue(Elmers Bottles)
- Spiral Notebooks-1 Subject
- Sharpie FINE Point Black Markers
- Dry Erase Markers, Low Odor
- 2 Pocket Plastic Folders

For More Information Call 810-750-6244

**Watch Farrnetwork.org
for Registration Coming Soon!**



Deacon's Scholarship

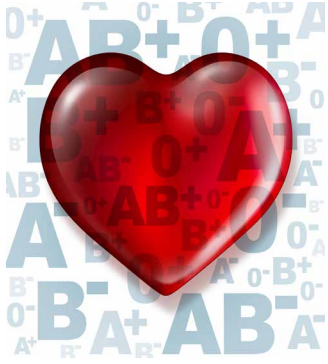
Opportunity! Great News! You have another chance to apply for a Deacons sponsorship!

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 visit

Deacon's Non-Food Drive

The Deacons 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



AUGUST BLOOD DRIVE. Our church is 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 Fellowship Hall or contact Sherry Hunt or Jo Beardslee for any questions regarding the blood drive.

Financial Review - June, 2022

Profit/ Loss	<u>June</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan-June</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income:	\$16,438.33	\$26,429.36	\$247,458.97	\$158,576.16	\$317,152.70
Expense:	<u>\$ 28,448.96</u>	<u>\$ 27,238.87</u>	<u>\$191,028.61</u>	<u>\$191,028.61</u>	<u>\$317,152.70</u>
	-12,010.63*	-809.51	56,430.36	-4,856.86	

*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

	June	YTD
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$87,045.83	\$125,208.38
Cash at End of Period:	<u>\$75,070.85</u>	<u>\$75,070.75</u>
Net Cash Increase:	-11,974.98	-50,137.53

Balance in the Building Repair & Improvement account as of June 30th: \$11,015.21

Respectfully Submitted, July 13th, 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 on Thursday evenings 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 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



August 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

Aug 4 – The Wee Pantry

Aug 11 – Community Prayer & Art

Aug 18 – Women's Issues

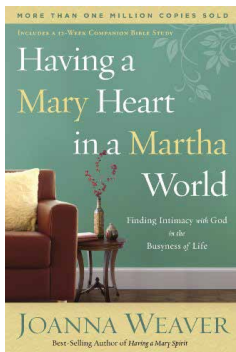
Aug 25 – Snuggle Sacks

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Evening Bible Study: Book of Acts in the Bible, also known as “The Acts of the Holy Apostles”

Beginning September 11th from 5-6PM in the conference room at 4Square Tax in Fenton

The group will follow the Bible directly, supplementing discussion with non-scriptural commentary from the books “Acts for Everyone” by N.T. Wright, parts 1 & 2. While very easy to read and understand, these books are not necessary yet are easily available from amazon, christinbook.com, and other outlets. Contact Larry Zimble for more information!



Fall Women's Study - Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: Finding Intimacy with God in the Busyness of Life by Joanna Weaver

Thoughtful and personal, practical and encouraging, this study looks at contrasting sisters of the Bible - Mary and Martha, the friends of Jesus - to gently show participants how they can deepen their devotion, strengthen their service, and experience less stress and greater joy. Joanna reminds us that Jesus extends to us the same invitation he gave to these sisters of Bethany: *Come to Me*.

Monday Evenings: September 12 - November 14 from 6:30-8:30 Via ZOOM only
or

Wednesday Mornings: September 7 - November 9 from 10AM – noon in Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$20 for book and study guide

To reserve your spot, register in Fellowship Hall by August 22.

More information available at <https://ffpc.org/monday-wednesday-womens-studies/>

Tuesday Morning Adult Study

11AM-12:15PM In the Conference Room

Led Pastor Lindsey Carnes, This group will be watching the second season of The Chosen

Celebrate Recovery – Every Wednesday from 7-9PM

Worship from 7-8PM in Fellowship Hall

Men’s and Women’s Small Groups from 8-9PM in the Truth and Discipleship rooms

YOUTH GROUP

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

Allow, Meet, and Go!



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:

Friday: August 5 - Warren Dunes Day Trip 7am – 9pm RSVP by August 1st. Bring money for food on the road, a sack lunch, water bottle, swimsuit, towel, sunscreen, and change of clothes!

Wednesday: August 17 - Swim Day 1 – 5pm

Location: Gibb house – bring a snack to share, swimsuit, towel, sunscreen, and change of clothes. Pizza and beverages provided.

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 \$70,000 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.

"The Kingdom Provided" Topics are:

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.

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*

"A Nation Divided" topics are:

Unit 13 – Elijah and Elisha (1 & 2 Kings)

Israel and Judah, ruled mostly by evil kings, continued to disobey God. God sent prophets like Elijah and Elisha to challenge Israel's kings about their idolatry and injustice. The prophets also revealed God's power, love, and faithfulness to God's people. God reminded God's people of God's plan to send a Rescuer, Jesus, to take away their sin.

8/21 Elijah and the Widow

8/28 Elijah at Mount Carmel

9/4 Elijah and Elisha

9/11 Elisha and the Army

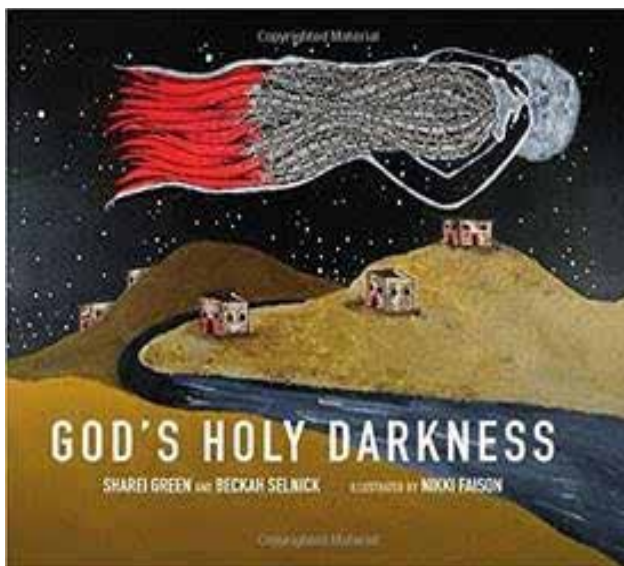
Big Picture Question: How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

Unit Key Verse: *I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.~ Isaiah 42:8*



Marshmallow sheep made in Sunday School learning about the 23rd Psalm

LIBRARY COMMITTEE



Have you taken a moment to visit our new libraries in the Grace and Truth rooms downstairs?

Did you know 60 new children's books have been purchased for the Youth Library located in the Truth Room?

Educating and enlightening curious growing minds, these books have been chosen to invite youth into the mystery of knowing the One who created and loves them, and who calls each of us to love others. One of those books is *God's Holy Darkness*. Below is taken from the book's "Note for Caregivers." Please take time to ponder its message.

"In our world and in our lives, Blackness should be celebrated. Darkness should foster wonder and awe. And we should find comfort and rest in the night. But instead, we usher in light/dark binaries. Look to John 1:5: "The light shall shine in the darkness and the darkness shall not overcome it." This passage speaks of literal lightness and darkness, but we have ascribed qualities of "good" versus "bad" to light and darkness, with light being "good" and dark being "bad." With the construct of race, these attributes were given to people with light-colored skin (white) and people with dark-colored skin (black and brown). But we are called, and always have been called, to disrupt this binary thinking and, ultimately, disrupt and dismantle the systems that value lightness over darkness, Whiteness over Blackness.

God's Holy Darkness features beloved Bible stories. Sometimes, we know stories so well we forget to listen to them. This book challenges us to hear those stories in a new way. To hear the stories of the beauty and holiness and goodness of Blackness and darkness and night. Read these words and ask questions. What other ways can we challenge our perceptions of race in church and theology? When you imagine God, Jesus, or other biblical figures, what do they look like? What images have you seen? What images are hung in church buildings? Look, and listen, at what is there. Look, and listen, for what is missing. Seek comfort and rest at night, wonder at the mystery of the dark, celebrate Blackness. Disrupt the binary and welcome God's Holy Darkness."

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join the New Saturday Facilities Work Group! The long standing Wednesday work group has expanded in order to complete additional projects as well as provide those interested, who may not be available on Wednesdays, 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

Ken Wensel	Aug 1
Judy Brown	Aug 2
Jan Jacobs	Aug 5
Adam Weldon	Aug 5
Jim Savage	Aug 7
Vera Thornton	Aug 9
Peggy Blough	Aug 10
Johnny Foguth	Aug 11
Holly Hodgkin	Aug 11
Lin Savage	Aug 12
Linda Miller	Aug 13
Shirley Cook	Aug 14
Billie Morris	Aug 14
Sam Carnes	Aug 18
Mark Grams	Aug 19
Clark Casteel	Aug 22
Jennifer Wenzel	Aug 22
Bonnie Griffith	Aug 25
Sherry Zollars	Aug 27
Polly Sheppard	Aug 29
Laurie Thomas	Aug 30
Royce Hyde	Aug 31

Happy Anniversary

Jim & Gloria Lindsay	August 1
Rick & Jane Motta	August 2
Jerry & Jill Flewelling	August 3
Michael & Elaine Pelletier	August 4
Morris & Peggy Fulcher	August 7
Roy & Amy Fetzer	August 10
Greg & Jennifer MacLean	August 10
Chris & Tonya Coffin	August 11
Edwin & Marsha Schwarz	August 13
Ken & Karen Wensel	August 15
Mark & Jenny Gibb	August 18
John & Cheryl Sharpe	August 18
Jim & Lori Murray	August 22
Richard & Georgiann Tunningley	August 24
Guy & Sharon Cowing	August 27
John & Sara Wrage	August 29

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

Thank you

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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