### Fenton First Presbyterian Church

October 2022 Newsletter





## PASTOR'S LETTER

#### The Political Pothole

#### Pastor Robbie Carnes

#### How to Survive this year's Election Season

It used to be, not too long ago, that one could avoid inane political advertisement by fulfilling one's need for visual entertainment solely through streaming services and internet content. Nothing remains sacred today, my friends, as politics have creeped into youtube, facebook and other forms of internet media. There is no escape.

For many of us, election season is a source of angst. Policies and ideologies that we adhere to are the champions of the hour and our cherished guardians of virtue are triumphant. Or they aren't and our hopes for the future are dashed; food turns to ash in our mouths as we don sack clothes and prepare for the end of the world as we know it.

Instead of asking how Christians might be more politically savvy, I think the better question is to ask how might a Christian be faithful? Not only at the ballot box but also as we read the news and live with our neighbors (who may or may not vote like we do).

#### Separation of State, Church and Kingdom

As he is questioned by Pontius Pilate shortly before his death, Jesus describes his kingdom as not belonging "to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here (John 18:36)." What does it mean to be a Christian and a citizen of a Kingdom that isn't from here? How do we act like Jesus, who saw divine truth in spite of the very real and nasty earthly truth that was about to kill him?

Clearly it is an issue of priority. Knowing he was going to be condemned, Jesus remained focused on the bigger reality of what God was accomplishing through Jesus' obedience and humility. More striking is that this perspective tempered Jesus' expectations of his followers in light of his imprisonment and condemnation. There were no demonstrations for Jesus' release. There was no conspiracy to spring him out of prison. Jesus was convinced that God was firmly in charge and the purposes of Heaven far outweighed the circumstances of earth.

As American Christians we live between schisms of political life, church life, and Life in Jesus' Kingdom. As I see it now, it is not our job to try to combine these aspects of our lives. It is our job to organize the appropriate priorities in such a way that the most important of these influences the less so. I would hope that all of us can claim our Citizenship of Heaven as the most instructive influence on our lives. The fellowship of our Spiritual Family, the Church, filled with a variety of ideologies and politics focused on Jesus, secondarily focuses our social lives. Drawing inspiration by Jesus' will and through the obedience, humility, and mutual submission that it takes to live as a Church/ Spiritual Family, we then look at politics as a way to reflect God's justice, providing for the poor, widows, and orphans and remembering the foreigner among us.

### How to Keep Friends and still talk about Politics

Have you lost friends in the past several years because of a disagreement about political topics? There have been rifts in families, marriages, and institutions because of our inability to discuss political issues peaceably.

#### The issue is twofold:

- 1. How can we maintain deeply held political values and have friendships with others who do not share those values?
- 2. How can we put up with others who obnoxiously share their deeply held political values and make adherence to their brand of thought as a crucial element to friendship?

This is the question of the times. The answer is to be more like Jesus. Maintain our highest obedience to Jesus, rather than a political ideology, and humbly avoid thinking "of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned (Romans 12:3)." If important perspectives are not being represented at the table or even malinged, would Jesus leave in a huff? Or would Jesus sit in the midst of it and strive to be a peacemaker? Jesus had no need to defend himself to Pilate: we should think twice before we mount a defense of our politics. Are we doing it in a loving, humble, and obedient way? Are we seeking to understand rather than be understood?

While some of us might be that guy, how does one behave toward someone who consistently picks fights over politics and seems to revel in catching people Once again, Jesus' in arguments? differentiation shown before Pilate is instructive. You can engage or not, however to be triggered and allow the interaction to become heated or violent is wrong. To harbor grudges and allow bitterness to take root in your hearts isn't Jesus' way. Living with a Kingdom perspective allows us to say, "Sounds like you really feel strongly about that. I would rather talk about something else....

What do you think about those Tigers, Lions, Irish?"

### No Joy in Mudville, mighty Casey has struck out

For some, the only thing worse than the election season is the results of the elections. It is a scary thing to think that values that we hold so closely, and that are woven into the fabric of our society so neatly, could be torn out and hastily replaced with some antithetical attempt at social engineering from an opposing viewpoint. Every election there are winners and losers and yet "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)".

Politicians will come and go. Supreme Court Judges will come and go. Laws and policies will rise and fall. God remains firmly in control over all things, through all things, and in all things. Live into the Kingdom sisters and brothers. Our Father in Heaven has things well in hand. May we, as Jesus followers, live lives of peace in all circumstances and extend that peace to others so they might know the will, the way, and the works of our Lord.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.—Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

### 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. <u>If you feel ill or have been exposed, be considerate and stay home.</u>

#### Here is how to join us Online

Facebook Live: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/fentonfpc">https://www.facebook.com/fentonfpc</a>

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

Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8309142301?pwd=RHJ4dDBPdEhMN25vKzFzSzZNeUVPQT09

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

We continue to hear from the book of Revelation and from a number of voices. Just like our faith, we can sometimes live with the symbols and not take the time to learn how to make them relevant to our everyday life. The Book of Revelation was written to real people, just like each of us, trying to make sense of a crazy world and our saving faith.

**October 2nd**, World Communion Sunday, Peace and Global Witness Offering, Sermon Title: Revelation/ The Magnitude of God

October 9th, Revelation/What is Heaven like?

October 16th, 4 horseman and the 144,000

October 23rd, How the Spirit of God speaks through chosen

October 30th, Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Deacon Sunday









### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

The Congregational Outreach Committee (even though we are a small committee) we have been busy working to bring back some events to involve the congregation and community. Please note that we would welcome you to join us, if you are interested on serving on the committee, please contact Marilee Smiley (mibobalink@gmail.com).











DO YOU LIKE

### Coffee & Treats on Sunday Mornings?

We Need Your Help!
Please consider signing up to host a coffee hour on Sunday Morning.
Please contact Marilee Smiley at mibobalink@gmail.com with questions







Sign up sheet located in Fellowship Hall

### **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.



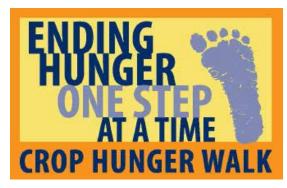




Helping Hands If you are shutin and need some help, think about calling the church. The Deacons' Helping Hands program may be just what you need.

If you need someone to run an errand or 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. DEACON'S
SUNDAY
IS
OCTOBER
30TH!

# MISSION & STEWARDSHIP



CROP Hunger Walk - The Fenton Area CROP Hunger Walk will be Sunday, October 9th at 1:30pm in Bush Park, and FFPC is one of five local churches participating. The CROP Hunger Walk raises money to fight hunger locally (25%) and globally. The event will include live music, fun stations along the walk that educate about hunger, and free Uncle Ray's ice cream at the conclusion. We hope everyone will join us. If you are unable to walk, there will be rocking

chairs available. Donations can be made to the church office or online HERE



A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence.



#### Now Taking Equal Exchange Orders!!

Why do we order from Equal Exchange? The support we give helps these small farmers and their families by providing housing, food and education. We are going out and doing Mission Work without leaving our church.

Orders will be taken October 2nd through October 23rd. Forms will be available in Fellowship Hall.

Contact Kelly Sunman-Davis by email at office@ffpc.org or by phone at 810-629-7801 for more information.

#### Financial Review - July, 2022

Profit/ Loss	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan-Aug</u>	YTD Budget	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income:	\$18,457.48	\$26,429.36	\$285,110.69	\$211,434.88	\$317,152.70
Expense:	\$24,427.57	\$25,619.67	\$250,665.86	\$214,672.36	\$317,152.70
	(5970.09)*	809.69	34,444.83*	(3,237.48)	

<sup>\*</sup>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	Aug	YTD
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$58,048.85	\$125,208.38
Cash at End of Period:	\$53,323.94	<b>\$53,323.94</b>
Net Cash Increase:	(4,724.91)	(71,884.44)

Balance in the Building Repair & Improvement account as of August 31st: \$3,995.75

Respectfully Submitted, September 12, 2022 Debera J Bard, Treasurer

### 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!!



<u>Online Giving:</u> An easy and convienent 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.



<u>Church Giving:</u> 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.



<u>Automatic Bank Pay:</u> 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!!



Mail offering to Church:
Fenton First Presbyterian Church

503 S. Leroy

Fenton, MI 48430

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

#### **Sunday Morning Sermon Discussions**

Currently discussing the Book of Revelation Meets downstairs in the Conference Room from 11:15 - noon

#### **Sunday Evening Small Group**

Book of Acts in the Bible, facilitated by Larry Zimbler 5-6PM in the conference room at 4Square Tax in Fenton

#### **Monday Evening Women's Study**

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World by Joanna Weaver Through November 14 from 6:30-8:30 Via ZOOM only Contact Tina Ritchie for more information – tina@ffpc.org.

#### **Tuesday Morning Adult Study**

11AM-12:15PM In the Conference Room Led by Pastor Robbie Carnes, this group is watching the second season of The Chosen.

#### **Wednesday Morning Women's Study**

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World by Joanna Weaver Through November 16 from 10AM – noon in Fellowship Hall Contact Tina Ritchie for more information – tina@ffpc.org.

#### **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



### FFPC's Celebrate Recovery (CR) Ministry

CR is approaching its first birthday! This life-changing ministry has grown over the last year and brought to those that attend a fellowship in recovery, music-filled worship, and a closer relationship with Christ. Between winter weather, the pandemic, summer travels and other challenges, not everyone could attend every week, but if all our leaders and new attendees came at once we would have almost 20 people. Most attendees found out about our meeting from the sign out front, which was a surprise to me since I wondered if it was reaching the community. In order to celebrate our birthday, and hopefully reach more people in the community, we are planning on having a BBQ in late September. You will soon find more CR resources in Fellowship Hall in the hopes that some of you will seek the fellowship, worship and recovery that CR offers. It is not just for chemical addictions; only 30% of people that attend struggle with chemical addiction.

Most people seek recovery from life's other hurts, hangups and habits, like:

Food and body image issues
Codependency
Anger issues
Gambling
Over spending
Mental health issues like anxiety and depression
Sexual Integrity
Loneliness
Pride
Procrastination

Low self esteem, to name just a few



For our God, there is no challenge too big or too small! If it is important to you, and affecting your life and relationships negatively (especially your relationship with God), then it is important to God, and important to all of us at CR. We are here for you and would love to welcome you to our meetings. If you don't feel comfortable, even though meetings stress confidentiality (attending a meeting at your home church), please visit www. celebraterecovery.com to find a meeting near you, or speak to/text me, Jennifer MacLean at 810-240-2301. I would be more than happy to talk to you privately about CR, help you with CR resources, or even go with you to another meeting in the area (I've been to them all); they are all amazing. And please, please spread the word! If you know or meet someone that is struggling, please tell them about CR, and invite them to our church.

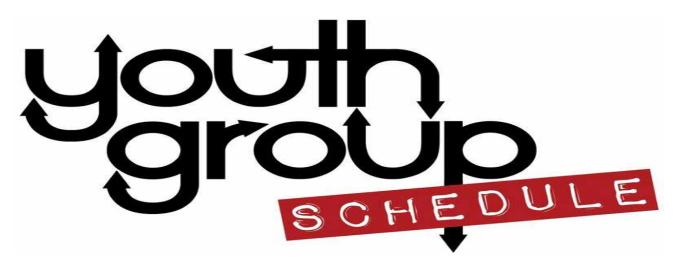
Celebrate Recovery Meetings are Wednesdays from 7-9pm in Fellowship Hall

In His peace, Jennifer MacLean

### YOUTH GROUP

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

Allow, Meet, and Go!



#### Fall Youth Group Events - for 6 - 12 graders and friends

Most meetings are Sundays right after church or from 5-7PM unless noted. Check out the October newsletter for the full schedule through December. College friends are welcome to join us for events if you happen to be home. Adult chaperons are also needed - please see me.

#### **Upcoming events:**

#### October 2: Youth Group Kick-off 5-7pm, Youth Room

Lot's of silly games, snacks, and catching up are planned. Friends welcome. Prizes include the nintendo game consoles!!! Please RSVP to me via text 810-701-4136

#### October 9: CROP Walk 1:30-3:30 at Bush Park

Please see Donna Anderson or check out the worship bulletin for more details!

#### October 16: No meeting

#### \*Saturday, October 22: Spookey Trails Zombie Hunter Hayride 6:30-9pm - \$12

Drop off and pick up at the site on Baldwin Rd. If you have a parent attending, you can include the UnDead Field of Fear and Original Haunted Straw Maze for \$30 for all 3 (includes Hayride). I will only be doing and staying **for** the Hayride;)

#### October 30: Pumpkin Carving Contest 12-2pm, Youth Room

Bring your pumpkin and carving tools - lunch provided\_

#### November 6: Group, Soup & Talk 5-7pm, location TBD

Host home is needed - contact me if you are interested!

#### 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 \$60,000 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 beings 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 Kate Kirkey.

#### Nursery & Preschool Teachers and Shepherds are needed during Sunday morning worship from 9:45 – 11am.

The Christian Education Committee is seeking adults and youth to fill this role.

Please see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, or contact Kate Kirkey or Tina Ritchie.

#### **October Volunteers:**

**Elementary Teacher:** 

Tina Ritchie and Deb Bard

**Preschool/Nursery Teacher:** 

Kate Kirkey



Through blowing up balloons, the children were learning about when God gave a double portion of God's Sprit to God's servant Elisha, who followed in the footsteps of Elijah.

**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

### **Unit 14 – The Northern Kingdom of Israel** (Jonah, Hosea, 2 Kings)

Despite continued sin by the people of God, God used Hosea's life to show that God still loved Israel, though Israel was unfaithful. God called Jonah to a godless nation, showing that no one is beyond God's compassion. Ultimately, God judges Israel's sin and punished them, Jesus took our punishment for sin upon Himself. Jesus brings us into God's presence and keeps us there.

#### 10/2 Israel Taken Captive

**Big Picture Question:** Why should we obey God? We should obey God because God made us, God loves us, and God's plans are good.

Unit Key Verse: The Lord isn't slow to keep his promise, as some think of slowness, but he is patient toward you, not wanting anyone to perish but all to change their hearts and lives. ~ 2 Peter 3:9

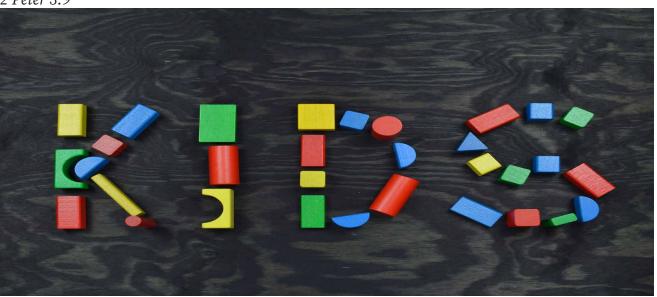
#### Unit 15 – The Southern Kingdom of Judah (2 Chronicles, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Habakkuk)

God called Jeremiah to tell the people about a new covenant in which sin can be forgiven once and for all. Judah continued in sin and was removed from the land. God was right to punish God's people for their sin, but God kept God's promise to provide a king through David's family. Ultimately, God punished our sin through Jesus and made Him our King forever.

10/9 Isaiah, Prophet to Judah 10/16 Hezekiah and Josiah 10/23 Jeremiah, Prophet to Judah 10/30 Habakkuk the Prophet 11/6 Judah Taken Captive 11/13 Ezekiel Gave Hope

**Big Picture Question:** How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before God created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save us from our sins.

**Unit Key Verse:** If my people who belong to me will humbly pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land. ~ 2 Chronicles 7:14





### **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.

# College Care Package items needed by October 16

It's that time of year to bless our young adults with a care package. Please drop of items in the bins located in the church main entrance. Items requested are microwave popcorn, cereal bars, crackers, pens, mechanical pencils, erasers, highlighters, post-its, hot cocoa, tea, oatmeal, raman, candy, gum, and the like. Youth Group will be packaging these items in late October. Nothing says I love you like a package from home!

**ATTENTION!!!** If you knit or crochet (or would like to learn) the YARN Rappers meet in the Adult Library/Grace Room every Tuesday at 1pm. This is a friendly group that shares fellowship and makes hats for chemo patients, prayer shawls, lap robes, afgahns & baby blankets to bring comfort to anyone going through difficult times. These can be very simple projects, and needles and yarn can be provided. If you know of anyone in need of an item please call Kelly at the church office at 810-629-7801 or email at office@ffpc.org.

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – 101 FALL FUN – FELLOWSHIP – FACTS

Saturday – October 22, 2022 (Registration begins at 9:30am)

Trinity United Presbyterian Church 5151 Lennon Rd – Flint

**FACTS:** Presbyterian Women Who are we Where are we going

**FELLOWSHIP:** Sharing (bring your joys & concerns)
How are you / we doing
What can Presbyterian Women do to help
you

**FUN:** Lunch together
Bring a book (or two) to share
A picture book with a message
A book you read that we all should read

#### FREE WILL OFFERING

"Motherly Intercession" (for children of incarcerated)

Registration begins at 9:30am Worship at 10:00am Presbyterian Women 101 = PW Purpose Lunch Closing Devotion at 1:30pm

**COST:** Individuals \$15.00 or \$12.00 for 5 or more from same church. Registration due October 8

<u>Click here</u> for more information and the registration form or call the church directly at (810) 720-5152,



# Birthday's

Cherri Maxwell	Oct 1	Linda Wilson	Oct 16
Denise Morris	Oct 5	Ernie Miller	Oct 20
Julie Hussar	Oct 6	Fran Moore	Oct 21
Waverly Ritchie	Oct 7	Cynthia Rzepka	Oct 22
Peggy Fulcher	Oct 9	Frances Allen	Oct 25
Steve Sutton	Oct 11	Sandy Nelson	Oct 26
Gene Morrison	Oct 16		



### **Anniversaries**

Jonathan & Jennifer Wenzel	October 3
Mark & Julie Grams	October 5
Jim & Lin Savage	October 6
Denise & Matt Warba	October 6
Lee & Vicky Graham	October 7
Greg & Rebecca Ruppert	October 11
Gregory & Erin Bradley	October 15
Bill & Polly Sheppard	October 15
Larry & Mary Zimbler	October 17
Pat Tucker & Harry Clark	October 18
David & Terrie Fisher	October 21

# 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!!



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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!