

FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER



*He Is Not Here
For
He Has Been
Raised*



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

The Wrath of God

Pastor Robbie Carnes

The following article is inspired from a devotional Called 'God is Wrathful Because God is Love' written by Skye Jethani, a pastor, speaker and unique thinker about our faith. I encourage you to seek him out.

The most quoted verses of the Bible, by the Bible itself, is Exodus 34:6-7.

Exodus 34:6 The LORD passed by before him [Moses] and proclaimed: "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abounding in loyal love and faithfulness, 34:7 keeping loyal love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. But he by no means leaves the guilty unpunished, responding to the transgression of fathers by dealing with children and children's children, to the third and fourth generation."

This is God's self identification of God's character. God proclaims his name to Moses on mount Sinai after the Hebrews have violated their promises with the golden calf. At first glance, this is a beautiful statement of God's faithfulness and love to God's people who are consistently failing. However, the second part of the second verse does not have the same comforting timbre to it. It's all going really well until God reminds us that sin will be punished. To our ears this quickly decreases the tenderness of the previous sentences.

This is a distillation of what frustrates many as the Old Testament God who has a contractual agreement with us. If we do good we will receive good. If we do bad we will be punished. This is so different from the person

of Jesus depicted in the New Testament, yet we proclaim that Jesus is the incarnation of God who was and is and will always be. How can the God of the Old Testament be the same God of the New?

This has to do far less with who God is and much more with who we think we are.

We live in a therapeutic culture that places a high value on feeling good, about our world, about our actions and about ourselves. This leads us to avoid mention of the wrath of God. We don't want others to think they will be judged and we certainly don't want to be judged ourselves. Fire and brimstone, Dante's inferno and morality courts are to be avoided. This is a reaction to the misuse of spiritual authority that the church has struggled with every since it was established. However, reactions have a way of going too far.

A world without God's wrath or anger is a boundary-less world without justice.

Let me explain by way of a quote. "Children are innocent and love justice, while most adults are wicked and prefer mercy" (On Household Gods and Goblins, GK Chesterton). As far as generalizations go this seems pretty fair. Many conversations that are had over our dinner table are along these lines. The younger members of my family want unjust things to change immediately and the older members are more temperate because we are more complicit. Yet, if mercy was the only answer, how could good prevail? And if acting out justice is paramount, who would be innocent?

Could it be that our inability to equate mercy with justice is at the core of our myopic view of God's character? Our country's history with race relations is a good example. Arguments over the definition of racism and the remediation of that sin in our culture swings wildly between mercy and justice. An act of mercy toward a particular racial group that has been disadvantaged is perceived as an act of injustice to those not directly benefiting (I.e. Affirmative action and reparations). In the same way, a perceived act of justice dealt to one may seem inconsistent with the needs of mercy by others (I.e. bail bond reform, lenient misdemeanor drug laws, violent police action). In some cases any steps toward mercy are depicted as violating justice and any step toward justice as abandoning mercy. This is an ancient dichotomy that is part and parcel with our culture's divisions today. We struggle with this socially, politically and theologically.

What do we do with a God who in the same motion offers us unconditional love and acceptance and threatens punishment for evil? Here I would like to quote Skye Jethani.

Those who've not experienced war, hunger, abuse, or oppression can easily erase [God's] wrath and feel no loss, but that is not true for those who have acutely experienced the world's injustice. This may explain why the therapeutic, angerless god is often found among more affluent, white Christian communities in America, but is far less common among the poor, minorities, or the global church.

Like many of us, Miroslav Volf used to minimize God's wrath in favor of a one-dimensional God of love. That is until the Bosnian War destroyed his homeland. He wrote: "I used to think that wrath was unworthy of God. Isn't God love? Shouldn't divine love be beyond wrath? God is love, and God loves every person and every creature. That's exactly why God is wrathful against some of them. My last resistance to the idea of God's wrath was a casualty of the war in former Yugoslavia, the region from which I come. According to some estimates, 200,000 people were killed and over 3,000,000 were displaced. My villages and cities were destroyed, my people shelled day in and day out, some of them brutalized beyond imagination, and I could not imagine God not being angry. Or think of Rwanda in the last decade of the past century, where 800,000 people were hacked to death in one hundred days! How did God react to the carnage? By doting on the perpetrators in a grandparently fashion? By refusing to condemn the bloodbath but instead affirming the perpetrators' basic goodness? Wasn't God fiercely angry with them? Though I used to complain about the indecency of the idea of God's wrath, I came to think that I would have to rebel against a God who wasn't wrathful at the sight of the world's evil. God isn't wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love."

It is said that the opposite of love is not anger, but indifference. Love and anger can be seen as different sides of the same coin. This does not mean that anger is always justified by love or the other way around. Each of us can be angry poorly and we can love poorly. It means that God's anger is proof of God's love and God's love necessitates his anger. We see this on the cross. Jealous for his people and his creation, God pours out wrath, sin, abuse, violence and tragedy on Jesus. Yet the darkness of death could not extinguish the light of love. It is this wrath-satisfying-love that rose Jesus from the dead. Without recognizing the injustice and doing something about it, resurrection would not be possible. Without mercy resurrection would not be attainable.

DEACONS

The ministry of Deacons as set forth in scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the 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 your Deacon. 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 Program



This service is available for those in the congregation who have returned from a hospital stay, who are ill at home and are unable to cook for themselves, new mothers, or members who have recently lost a loved one. If you are in need of meals or willing to provide them, please contact the church office or Karen Terrill.

Easter Project



Deacon's Easter Project is underway. We will be collecting monetary donations to buy candy, stencils, figets and Easter buckets to donate to FARR for the Fenton Community Easter celebration.

Volunteers are also needed starting at 11am on Good Friday (April 7th) to help with the children's activities, delivering and loading ham dinners into homes and cars, and help parents make Easter baskets for their children.

See a Deacon in fellowship Hall for the donation bucket and volunteer signup sheet.

Deacon's Scholarship



Scholarship are available online as well as in the office and Fellowship Hall.

Dealine for entry is 4/30/23

*How Can We Pray
For You?*

*Prayer requests and updates
can be sent to Nancy Parkin
by phone at 810-241-6497*

*or by email at
prayerchain@ffpc.org*



GRIEF SHARE[®]

New Group Forming.
More information coming soon!

Grief recovery support groups

April

MISSON

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT
April 2, 2023

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE

Through your congregation
Donate by credit card online at
presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs
Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10

-or-

You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

Text SHARING to 56512 to learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, or visit pcusa.org/oghs.





Family Promise

You are invited to a gathering of persons to receive updates on Family Promise of Genesee County hosted by Dave Rayner at St. Jude's Church, Tuesday April 11 at 7 p.m. Family Promise has been very active helping families

with children avoid homelessness by providing many services plus case management counseling and encouragement.

A recent development is the acquisition of a recreational trailer to be used as a mobile shelter. It is currently residing at Transfiguration Lutheran Church, 14176 N. Fenton Rd. (just north of Sagebrush Cantina). We are supporting Transfiguration as they host two mothers and three children in this mobile shelter through Sunday April 2.



Shelter of Flint Mission Opportunity

On Saturday, April 22, 2023 (weather permitting), we will carpool from our church at 8:30 am for an outside workday at the Shelter

of Flint approximately 4 hours (9:00 am to 1:00 pm).

Please consider joining us to do yard work (picking up debris, raking the yard). This event is open to youth as well as adults. Please bring your own rake and gloves: the Shelter will provide yard waste bags. Lunch is provided.

If you are interested, please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Mike Vanderlip or Ken Wensel with any questions.



Samaritas

AN EASY WAY TO ASSIST REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT! Sarah Martin-Fanone has created a registry on Amazon.com for our most needed items. If you purchase from the list it will ship directly to Sarah's home for delivery to families. Please consider sharing the list if you know anyone who might like to join our efforts. <https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/2DEQ4NSYO42CL/guest-view>

If you would like to donate an item on the list, but prefer not to purchase on amazon, please call the church office or Sarah directly. We hope that this is a helpful way to share the current needs for our group.

The Refugee Welcome Team is also seeking volunteers to deliver donations to incoming refugees. Please contact Sarah Martin-Fanone at (586) 295-9447 to volunteer or for more information.

CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH

The Congregational Outreach Committee has been busy planning 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 or 810-845-2132).



*We have a Gift for
Sunday Morning
Visitors!*

IF YOU ARE AWARE OF A VISITOR, THERE ARE TUMBLERS ON THE CABINET IN FELLOWSHIP HALL OR PLEASE LET DEB BARD, NANCY PARKIN, MARY ZIMBLER OR MARILEE SMILEY KNOW SO THAT THEY CAN WELCOME OUR VISITORS.

Welcome



Coffee time:
We need YOUR HELP!

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)



Visit ffpc.org

Scan for Newsletter Sign-up

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Review

Profit/ Loss	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan-Feb</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income:	\$21,770.29	\$21,331.90	\$44,261.87	\$42,663.80	\$255,982.80
Expense:	<u>\$29,634.83</u>	<u>\$24,280.15</u>	<u>\$48,395.39</u>	<u>\$51,530.12</u>	<u>\$288,511.64</u>
	\$3,097.56	(\$2,948.25)*	(\$4,133.52)	(\$8,866.32)	(\$32,528.84)

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

Statement of Cash Flows	Feb	YTD
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$29,951.10	\$39,163.66
Cash at End of Period:	<u>\$30,869.52</u>	<u>\$30,869.55</u>
Net Cash Decrease:	(\$918.42)	(\$8,294.14)

Balance in the Building Repair & Improvement account as of February 2023, \$1302.69

Respectfully Submitted March 12, 2023
 Marilee Smily
 Treasurer



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday Evening Study

“Controversial Christianity” This group will recess for Palm Sunday and Easter and reconvene on Sunday April 16th.

For the next 6 or so weeks we will be doing an exploration of various aspects of Christian practice and tradition with a view toward their history from the Hebrew Scripture and practice and through the development of the belief structures that exist across multiple denominations today.

Each of the topics carries a level of historical controversy that, over the span of centuries, has created bitter and sometimes deadly conflict about the “correct” practice(s) and belief. We encourage participation with personal histories and beliefs, and personal meanings of the various items. We will also try to identify the Holy Spirit at work in the world.

We will draw from scripture, church councils, writings of church fathers, Calvin, Luther and others, and consider multiple Christian belief structures including Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed Protestantism, and sometimes “fringe” sects.

ALL ARE WELCOME! Participants are encouraged to propose additional or replacement topics. I’d like to ultimately cover 6 weeks then break for the summer.

We meet in the conference room at 4square Tax & Accounting at 5PM Sunday evenings.

Spring Sunday Morning Study

Love: Building Healthy Relationships, Fruit of the Spirit Bible Studies by Peter Scazzero

April 16 – May 21

11:30-12:45 in the Conference Room

Participant book \$10

Register in Fellowship Hall or via email tina@ffpc.org by April 9

In this 6 week interactive study you'll discover how to develop a love that affirms, a love that forgives - a love that lasts. The Fruit of the Spirit Bible Studies series not only helps you discover what the Bible says about the vital traits that the Holy Spirit produces in believers, but also moves you beyond reflection and discussion to application. As a natural follow up to the Boundaries class, this study will help you grow in your ability to reflect the character of Jesus.

Tuesday Morning Adult Study

11AM-12:15PM In the Conference Room

Led by Pastor Robbie Carnes, the group is studying The Book of Acts.

Spring Women's Study

Finding I AM – How Jesus Fully Satisfies the Cry of Our Heart by Lysa TerKeurst Facilitated by Tina Ritchie

Participant book - \$23 payable to FFPC
Register in Fellowship Hall or tina@ffpc.org

We join Lysa on the streets of Israel to explore the I AM statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John, ultimately trading feelings of emptiness and depletion for the fullness of knowing who Jesus is in this in-depth Bible study. Finding I AM helps participants see that Jesus not only cares about us in times of deep, spiritual wrestling, but He also wants to step in and see us through them.

Monday Evening April 17 – May 22 from 6:30-8:30 Via ZOOM only

OR

Wednesday Morning April 12 – May 17 from 10AM – noon in Fellowship Hall



 **CELEBRATE
RECOVERY**
A safe place to find healing from
hurts, habits, & hangups

Celebrate Recovery Group
Wednesday Evenings
7-9pm in Fellowship Hall

For More Information
Fenton First Presbyterian Church
503 S. Leroy St. Fenton, MI 48430
Phone 810-629-7801
Email office@ffpc.org
Website www.ffpc.org

CHRIST CENTERED Recovery Program

April

YOUTH GROUP

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



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

Watch your texts and email or contact Tina Ritchie tina@ffpc.org for more information. Friends always welcome with a current Parental Consent form on file! Adults seeking to be part of the program are asked to contact Tina Ritchie.

Youth Group Calendar Spring 2023

Meetings are generally Sundays unless noted

Sign up for events on the youth bulletin board or email tina@ffpc.org. Friends welcome with a current parental consent form on file.

April

- 2 Palm Sunday Movie Night 5-7:30pm, The Pursuit of Happiness
Adults are invited to join us.
- *8 Sat Around town scavenger hunt and Egg Hunt 11am - 12:30pm
- 16 Earth Day Mission Event 12-2pm
- 23 No meeting
- 30 Youth Group Soup & Talk 5-7pm, Location: TBD

May

- 7 Mission event with younger children and families 12-2pm
- 14 Happy Mother's Day - no meeting
- 21 Youth Group 5-7pm

CHILDREN & FAMILY

Children's Sunday School and Worship Information

Class begins at 10AM

Children return to worship after the sermon where they are welcome to 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.

Unit 20 – Prepare the Way (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

Jesus grew up and began to prepare for His ministry. When Jesus was baptized, God confirmed Jesus' sonship. Jesus was subsequently tempted by Satan, but He did not sin.

3/26 Jesus' Baptism

4/2 Jesus' Temptation

4/9 Easter - Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

4/16 John Pointed to Jesus

4/23 Jesus Called Disciples

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

Unit Key Verse: *He must become greater; I must become less.* ~ John 3:30

Unit 21- Among the People (Mark, Luke, John)

As Jesus traveled throughout Judea, His personal encounters with ordinary people changed their lives in extraordinary ways. Jesus revealed that He was God the Son in human form, living among God's people and bringing salvation in Him alone.

4/30 Jesus' Early Miracles

5/7 Jesus Taught in Nazareth

5/14 Jesus and Nicodemus

5/21 Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

Big Picture Question: What makes people special? People are special because we are all made in God's image to know God.

Unit Key Verse: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* ~ John 3:16 NIV

April Teachers

Elementary:
Tina Ritchie

Preschool/Nursery:



Family Fellowship Group Events

Children with their parents are invited to participate once a month with Youth Group events. Please see Kelly Sunman-Davis or Tina Ritchie with any questions.

Upcoming Events

***Saturday, April 8** – Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am - 12:30pm

April 16 – Earth Day Mission Project 12-2pm

May 7 – Mission Event 12-2pm

Kids on a Mission

Our Kids on a Mission are seeking to pay off delinquent lunch accounts for kids who qualify for free and reduced lunches at Lake Fenton, Fenton, and Linden Schools. Choose from Chicken Noodle and Lentil Rice soup available after worship on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall.

WE ONLY NEED \$615 TO REACH OUR GOAL OF \$2400 BY EASTER SUNDAY!



Let's make a Nature Cross in the courtyard in celebration of Earth Day!

April 16, children, youth, and adults are invited to join us for a nature walk from 12-1pm at Dauner Martin Preserve; use the Dauner Rd. parking area. We will collect sticks and other items to bring back to church to make the cross in our courtyard from 1-2pm. Pizza will be provided after the walk.

Ways to support Youth Group scholarships and activities:

Bottle returns - Drop off your rinsed returnable bottles and cans to the youth room.

Kroger Rewards – Linking your Kroger Rewards card to FFPC is easy and earns us quarterly benefits. Contact the office if you need info on how to do this!

April



EASTER TRAIL & EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY APRIL 8TH
11AM-12:30PM**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - FENTON, MI

Families and youth are invited to join us for this faith based scavenger hunt trail around the church and the Dibbleville area. Explorers will look for signs of Hope, Brokenness, Love, Value, and Togetherness, and participate in activities related to each theme. The Easter Egg Hunt follows inside the church. We hope you can join us!



Fenton First Presbyterian Church

New Members Class

The Session of FFPC would like to invite you to a New Members class on Sunday, April 23rd at 11:30 AM in the Youth/Disciple Rooms. We will meet some Elders and Deacons, learn about FFPC and share stories of faith. If you are interested in knowing more about our family of faith and/or making a commitment as a member please plan on being there.



Happy Birthday

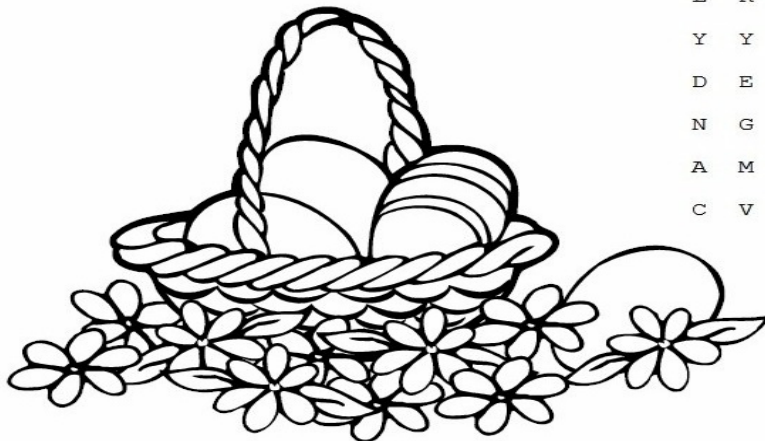
Harry Clark	Apr 3
Jean Hermann	Apr 4
Bob Brownlee	Apr 12
William Eddington	Apr 14
Christian Coffin	Apr 16
Mark Gibb	Apr 20
Betty Jean Skinner	Apr 20
Thelma Buffmyer	Apr 21
Barb Taylor	Apr 21
Debbie Hoeglund	Apr 25
Sarah Kasprzak	Apr 25
Lee A. Graham	Apr 28
Lynne Watters	Apr 28
Roy Fetzer	Apr 29
Connie Morrison	Apr 29

Happy Anniversary

Michael & Jeanne Cupp	Apr 22
Cathy Hollopeter	Apr 29

Easter

WORD SEARCH



H	O	P	Y	Y	N	N	U	B	Z	C
Y	E	F	F	E	T	D	H	A	R	M
B	V	Z	I	A	H	J	G	O	H	Y
M	Y	C	P	S	N	I	S	G	U	K
A	P	D	L	T	I	S	I	Y	H	T
L	K	W	A	E	R	K	V	C	J	E
Y	Y	U	F	R	M	J	R	E	J	K
D	E	L	B	I	B	U	S	L	W	S
N	G	T	M	K	H	U	Y	J	Q	A
A	M	L	Y	C	S	M	H	F	S	B
C	V	Q	P	P	Q	N	E	G	G	S

BASKET	CROSS
BIBLE	EASTER
BUNNY	EGGS
CANDY	JESUS
CHURCH	LAMB

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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