FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.





PASTOR'S LETTER

Combatting Homelessness

Pastor Robbie Carnes

I learned a new word this past month: 'Shelter Diversion'. This is a technical word in the world of social work that refers to one of the many tools that are used to combat homelessness. Currently, it is one of the new cool kids on the block (i.e. best practices) and one of the pilot programs of the State of Michigan to address those without homes.

Several years ago, I received a call from a woman asking about help with her mortgage. It was 2010 and many people were struggling. I searched high and low and found that she only qualified for housing assistance if she was in fact homeless. Granted, I was in Los Angeles at the time and being without a home there is a lot different than experiencing homelessness in Michigan. However, there were clear cracks that people in real need fell through. It seemed silly that this woman would need to lose everything before she could be helped.

This is where Shelter Diversion comes in. Instead of waiting until a family's resources are drained, Diversion provides the financial capacity to avoid entering a shelter. It is important to note that Homelessness Prevention is targeted at keeping a household in their homes. Shelter Diversion is designed to provide opportunities beyond a shelter for housing. This includes friends and families' homes, re-entering a previous residence, temporary motel stay while seeking new housing, or even relocating to a safe place out of town.

Imagine a household is going to be on the street. They have a grandmother in the immediate area who owns a home. However, the expense of additional family members all under the same roof would overburden grandma's finances.

Shelter Diversion efforts look at what it might take to allow grandma to feel comfortable with inviting her family into her home. It might be that the water bill would be out of reach with that many people. Shelter Diversion funds would provide for the water bill and thus avoid having another family in a shelter. With the addition of case management and mentoring, the family would be in a much better position to be rehoused quickly than if they were in a shelter.

This can lead to interesting bills being sent to the exchequer. Family utility bills, groceries, gas cards, toilet paper and cell phone bills might all show up. For some this might seem like it is missing the point of providing housing. But considering that the average cost to shelter an individual in Michigan can be up to \$1200 monthly, a \$400 water bill to house a family seems to be quite the bargain. It also limits the harm to the family of losing a home and grants the recipients dignity.

Resolving conflict and empowering those effected in order to decrease the trauma of displacement, Shelter Diversion is about taking a human approach to the issue of homelessness. It is one of the many tools that Family Promise of Genesee County is using to live out the belief that homelessness is solvable with a community based response.

Does this sound interesting to you? Would you like to know more or become involved? Check out www.familypromisegeneseecountymi.org or speak to the Mission Committee.

Matthew 25:35 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...'

WORSHIP

In the month of May we will continue delving into the historical context of the life of Jesus. Pastor Lindsey will share her experience and her photos with us. We will also be celebrating Pentecost this month and look forward to focusing on the work of the Holy Spirit among us.

- May 7 5th Sunday of Easter, Communion, 40+ year member celebration, In the Footsteps of Jesus: Capernum (Synagogue, Jesus Boat)
- May 14 6th Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day, In the Footsteps of Jesus: Crowds come to Jesus.
- May 21 7th Sunday of Easter, In the Footsteps of Jesus: Wilderness
- May 28 Pentecost Sunday, Memorial Day Weekend, In the Footsteps of Jesus

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.

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)



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.

MISSON



How Did They Do That?

"... building up the Body of Christ." Ephesians 4:12

How many times have we seen a modern building, an historic landmark, a great cathedral or a monument and thought, "How did they do that?" Regardless of when it was built, the skill and craftsmanship needed to not only imagine it, but to make it sturdy enough to safely and securely withstand the test of time, boggles the mind.

But what of people? We watch, listen and read as sports legends, great orators, talented musicians of every style of performance and brilliant writers astound us with their skills. And even though we know that the raw talent that leads to great skill is honed through years of practice, patience and persistence, we still look with awe at these accomplishments and say, "How did/do they do that?"

They did it because someone saw a spark. A spark that with the right teaching, coaching, leadership and practice could lead to great things.

Someone working with Good Success Academies in New Jersey recognized Tariq's academic potential and helped him pursue his dream of studying computer science. A Young Adult Volunteer named Yuriko, which means "lily girl" in Japanese, blossomed in Peru, while a shy teenager named Grace boldly connected with her peers at a statewide youth conference.

How did they do that? They were lifted up, they were mentored and they were encouraged to grow into the person God was calling them to be. Fanning that spark, the raw talents and abilities within young people throughout the church and beyond builds strong and gifted leaders that God can use.

Your gifts to the Pentecost Offering assure that these young people of God have opportunities to participate in programs as varied as the Young Adult Volunteer Program, Presbyterian Youth Triennium and other ministries with youth, and the Educate a Child, Transform the World national initiative. Each leads to interacting with educators, mentors and leaders committed to building these youngest members of the body of Christ into the people God would have them become. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for participating in building up the body of Christ.

Refugee Welcome Team

MAKING MICHIGAN HOME

Things are speeding up...

After a relatively uneventful February and March, April has brought us 5 new families in need of furniture and housewares. After locating volunteers to help with translation, we have been able to contact the first two families and have lists of their most needed items. My hope is that we will be able to deliver everything late next week. This means we will need three things:

- 1. Donations of furniture (see lists below)
- 2. Monetary donations to order things that we cannot find locally
- 3. Volunteers to sort and deliver (see description below)

Please let me know if you have donations or are available to volunteer. The list of specific needs is below.

Thanks as always for your support!

Peace,

Sarah

Family One Needs:

double bed (we have the mattress and just need bed and box spring) cooking pots

large area rugs

Kitchen items (we have these and need volunteers to put together a box of useful items) Sofa (we have one)

Family Two Needs:

Sofa

Dining table (we have one)

Dressers (we have several)

Volunteer Needs:

Sort kitchen items (located at First Presbyterian) into a useful box of items, one per family Deliver furniture with Pastor Robbie.

Please contact Sarah Martin Fanone or the church office 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).









Visit ffpc.org

Scan for Newsletter Sign-up

Upcomming Opportunites and Events

We have a gift for visitors to our worship. If you are aware of a visitor, there are tumbles on the cabinet in fellowship hall.

COFFEE SIGN-UP – If you like having coffee and a treat after worship which gives us the opportunity to visit with others, THEN you need to sign-up for a Sunday. Please see the sign-up sheet on the counter of the kitchen pass through. If you have not done this and would like to, please ask and one of us on the committee will be willing to assist you

We have plans for the following activities, YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT. Actual dates will be announced as we get closer to the event; watch for more information as we move forward.

Mother's Day – Jerry will oversee coffee hour.

Father's Day – We will host the PI (Pie contest) The Golden Pie Award will be given again. We will use tickets to vote for our favorite pie.

Summer Picnic – A picnic will be held at the home of Marilee Smiley on Sunday, July 23 with Sunday, July 30 at a rain date backup. Marilee will provide the hot dogs, and paper supplies with a donation basket to cover the cost. It will be a potluck. There will be a sign-up sheet so that she has a head account of how many to plan on. People will be asked to bring chairs and would like to use the canopy that belongs to the church. She will have the corn hole game. Kelly will provide bubbles for the children.

August - Possible ice cream social

September 9 – BUNCO

October - College/ High School Celebration

October 31 - City Trick or Treat

November 11 - Turkey Dinner – Theme will be honoring Veterans with a discount on the ticket price to Veterans. The Scouts will be asked to do a Flag presentation before we eat.

December 2 – Jingle Fest

December 9 – Winter Wonderland Prayer Fling

January - Birthday Celebration

February - Chili Cookoff

March - Potato Bake

Marilee Smiley (mibobalink@gmail.com) Chair of Congregation Outreach

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Review

Profit/ Loss	Mar	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan-Mar</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income:	\$23,583.92	\$21,331.90	\$67,845.79	\$63,395.70	\$255,982.80
Expense:	\$24,928.20	\$25,080.15	\$71,823.59	\$ <u>76,610.27</u>	<u>\$288,511.64</u>
	(\$1,344.28)	(\$3,748.25)*	(\$3,977.80)	(13,214.57)	(\$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	March	YTD	
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$32,370.81	\$39,163.66	
Cash at End of Period:	<u>\$31,436.69</u>	<u>\$31,436.6</u> 9	
Net Cash Decrease:	\$934.12	\$7,726.97	

Balance in the Building Repair & Improvement account as of March 2023, \$1417.16

Respectfully Submitted April, 2023 Marilee Smily Treasurer



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Spring Sunday Morning Study

Love: Building Healthy Relationships, Fruit of the Spirit Bible Studies by Peter Scazzero through May 21

11:30-12:45 in the Conference Room

Participant book \$10

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 watching and discussing the third season of *The Chosen*.

Sunday Evening Study

"Controversial Christianity" We are 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.

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

Spring Women's Study

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

Participant book - \$23 payable to FFPC

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 through May 22 from 6:30-8:30 Via ZOOM only

OR

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





NEW SESSION BEGINNING JUNE 4TH, 2023
11:30am-1:00pm at Fenton First Presbyterian Church
Facilitated by Hannah Hall

Healing from loss is a journey Everyone experiences grief differently

There's no "right way" to grieve

Feeling angry or full of regret? Are you depressed and wondering how to heal? Do you walk around in a mental fog? All this is normal. And while your grief journey is unique, you'll find many grieving people are facing the same struggles. And others who've gone before you can help.

Grief cannot be rushed

You may wish you could bypass the difficult emotions or push down the pain. Or maybe others are pressuring you to "get up and move on." But healing from grief and loss requires you to go through your grief. We have resources that can help you find relief and stability.

Finding support is crucial

Grief is a journey that shouldn't be traveled alone. You may feel like no one understands and be tempted to isolate, but as counselor David Bueno Martin says, "Healing happens in the context of finding others who can help you." A GriefShare group is a safe place to find support.







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.

May

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

June

- 4 Graduate Recognition 10am Worship
- 11 Sensory Garden 12-2pm

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.

"Jesus the Messiah" topics:

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

"Jesus the Servant" topics:

Unit 22 – Jesus the Healer (Mark, Luke, John)

In the Old Testament, God Gave the prophets Elijah and Elisha power to heal diseases and raise the dead. Jesus is greater than the prophets. Jesus not only healed the sick and raised the dead, He also defeated sin and death once and for all when He died on the cross and rose again. Jesus will return one day and eliminate sickness and suffering forever.

5/28 Jesus Healed Ten Men 6/4 Jesus Healed a Woman and a Girl 6/11 Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame 6/18 Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Blind

Big Picture Question: Why did God create people? God created people to worship and love God, and show God 's glory.

Unit Key Verse: Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ~ Isaiah 53:4-5 NIV

April Teachers

Elementary: Preschool/Nursery: Ianet Stork TBD



John explained that Jesus is greater than him. John said, "He must increase and I must decrease." The children were tasked with making a tower as tall as they could to show the increase of Jesus; they knocked towers down to demonstrate how we, too, must decrease making Jesus first and foremost in our lives.

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

May 7 - Community Kindness Board 12-2pm

June 11 - Sensory Garden 12 - 2pm

Kids on a Mission

THANK YOU for generously supporting our efforts to pay off delinquent lunch accounts for kids who qualify for free and reduced lunches at Lake Fenton, Fenton, and Linden Schools. WITH YOU HELP, WE REACHED OUR GOAL OF \$2,4000.00, HOW AWESOME IS THAT!

On Wednesday, May 10th at 5pm here at church, checks will be given to the Superintendent of each school. Youth families and the congregation are all invited to attend! In late June, we are expecting to hear back how many families this donation impacted. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins, on our social media accounts, and during worship!

Check out the Nature Cross youth, children and families made last week in our courtyard in celebration of Earth Day!





Ways to support Youth Group scholarships and activities:

<u>Bottle returns</u> - Drop off your rinsed returnable bottles and cans to the youth room. <u>Kroger Rewards</u> – 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!

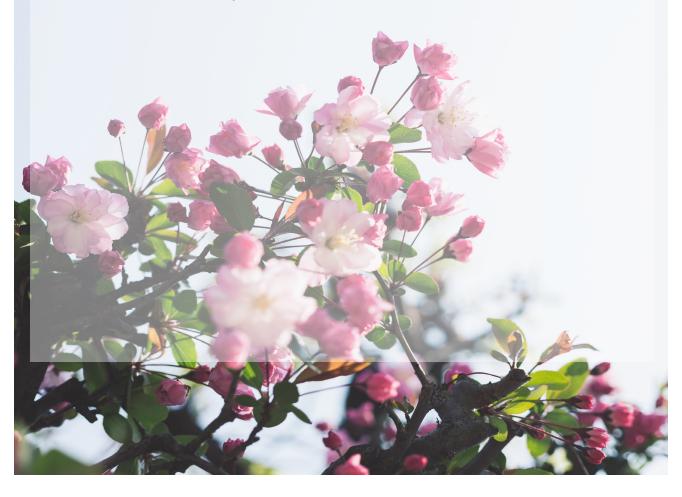
Happy Birthday

Michael Pelletier	May 8
Marilee Smiley	May 9
Cameron Anderson	May 10
Morris Fulcher	May 10
David Hall	May 11
Paul Joitke	May 11
Pat Allen	May 12
Melissa Erwin	May 13
James Foster	May 15
Sarah Martin-Fanone	May 16
Debera Bard	May 18
Chris Coffin	May 19
Mark Martin-Fanone	May 19
Madeline Gibb	May 20
John Danules	May 21

Robert McLive	May 21
Jerry Welch	May 22
Jenny Gibb	May 23
Jeff Stone	May 24
Bev Tippett	May 24
Gerri Danules	May 29
Shirley Israel	May 30
Aubrey Howieson	May 31

Happy Anniversary

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





The PC(USA) Store

Prepare for Mental Health Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time where we can turn our attention to the emotional well-being of ourselves and those around us.

The resources below include books for both children and adults, and provide information on identifying emotions, processing our feelings and experiences, trauma-informed care, and more.

They are great to have on-hand for ministering to congregants and also can be used before a crisis happens to illustrate the care your congregation has for the mental health of members of all ages. Since we all have different needs, each book is provided below with a short description. You can find an excerpt for each book by clicking on the titles below and finding the excerpt buttons on the product's page, underneath the book description.

For Children

- My Elephant Is Blue helps us to understand the complex emotion of sadness, whether we are
 experiencing it or someone we love is. Download the Reading Guide | Download the Coloring
 Sheet
- Grandpa's Window provides a view into a child's experience of the illness of a family member and the grief they feel after their loved one has passed. Download the Reading Guide
- Simon and the Big, Bad, Angry Beasts explores how anger can overtake our interactions and provides alternative ways to engage this often-overpowering emotion. Download the Reading Guide
- One Thursday Afternoon begins after a school day when a lockdown drill has occurred and sheds light on the fears that children have living in the world today while also showing how art and creativity can help alleviate those fears. Download the Reading Guide | Download the Educator Guide
- Sidney the Lonely Cloud uses a cloud character to exemplify what it's like when we feel like we don't belong anywhere, and the joy that follows when we see how our gifts can transform lives.
- For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World allows us to see the emotional impact that racism and gun violence have, while also showcasing the necessity of patience when engaging with others about their emotions. Download the Reading Guide | Download the Coloring Sheet
- What in the World Is Wrong with Gisbert? shows the emotional consequences of bullying and how friendship can be a powerful antidote to these strong feelings.

- Bruno's Hat takes a different look at bullying, showing what it's like when your friend is the one being bullied and the options you have to stand up for your friends. Download the Reading Guide
- Babbit and Joan, a Rabbit and a Phone highlights the anxiety we feel when we're away from our electronic devices and how nature can be a balm to these concerns. Download the Coloring Sheet
- Binkle's Time to Fly illuminates how physical conditions can affect our mental health and how building a community of support can improve the quality of life for those we love. Download the Origami Activity | Download the Coloring Sheet

For Adults

- Post-Traumatic Jesus explores Jesus' life story through the post-traumatic lens with which the Gospel writers first wrote it. Download the Group Guide
- Professional Christian provides leaders with a guide for how to be their authentic selves even when faced with the scrutiny or adulation of those they lead. Includes discussion questions for group use or personal reflection.
- Then They Came for Mine offers a blueprint for healing and reconciliation in regard to the trauma of racial violence, showing how both white people and Black and Brown people are part of the process. Download the Group Guide
- Glimpsing Resurrection helps those who are ill and those who care for and minister to them deepen their understanding of how best to offer support.
- Recovering from Un-Natural Disasters provides a handbook for pastors and church leaders of
 communities who could or perhaps already have experienced an un-natural disaster, such as gun
 violence, suicides, or sexual abuse. Includes practical worship resources.
- Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality explores how practicing mindfulness can help Christians better live out their faith. Includes specific mindfulness practices.
- Searching for Happiness uses both research and Scripture to offer ten traits of happy and fulfilled people, showcasing the alternatives to the frequent methods we use to make ourselves happy. Includes a guide for group or individual study.
- Making Space for the Spirit supplies readers with one hundred simple exercises to strengthen your spirit, creating an enduring shift in how we choose to view the inevitable downsides of life.
- Overcoming Stress looks not only at the causes of stress but also at the manifestations and psychological conditions, offering information on both acute treatments and long-term management.
- Overcoming Depression provides specific advice about what to do if you are currently unwell, as well as valuable information for caregivers, medical professionals, or anyone interested in better understanding depression.

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!!



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!