Fenton First Presbyterian Church June 2023 Newsletter





GROWING IN GOD

We commit to knowing Jesus through worship, Bible study, and prayer, encouraging continued spiritual growth as His disciples.



PASTOR'S LETTER

What A Pastor Wants

Pastor Robbie Carnes

In our spiritual family that we call Fenton First Presbyterian Church we have a variety of people at different levels of spiritual, emotional and physical health and wholeness. It is the goal of this spiritual family to draw each of us, no matter where we are, closer to Jesus. This is a process, or more accurately lifestyle, that we call discipleship.

Many times, we measure growth by involvement in church activities and by a willingness to become a member (and eventually a leader on Session or the Deacon Board). However, growth in our pursuit of Jesus can be more adequately described in another way. Based on the thoughts of Bob Logan (a Christian Leader and Discipleship Coach) I offer the following ideas about what it might look like to be growing in your faith.

Healthy Foundations. The seed of faith gets planted in our lives and needs good earth to grow. Are you taking time to worship and to learn about the character of God? Are you trying to act out the mercy of God and the compassion of Jesus by serving your friends, family, neighbors and strangers?

As Christians we are called to know the word of Jesus, follow in the way of Jesus, and do the work of Jesus. These are the fertile soils that our faith grows in best.

Seasonal Growth Patterns. One Arbor Day I received seven Michigan White Pine seedlings. I planted them along my back fence. I watered them and weeded around them and all of them died a slow and terrible death. That spring was extra dry, the ground wasn't exactly suited to pine trees, and getting run over by the lawn mower once or twice didn't help either. The season was not right to grow pine trees in my backyard. In the same way, it is the Holy Spirit that accomplishes spiritual growth in our lives. If we try to force it, we might hamper what God is wanting to do with us. It might not be the right season for the kind of spiritual growth that we expect. We may need to spend more time than we like listening and resting in the presence of God. We should all be growing, but Jesus is the Master Gardener and it is his cycles of mulch, planting, fertilizing, pruning and fruiting in our lives that we need to pay attention to, not our own agenda.

Visible and Beautiful Growth. Throughout the centuries the Church (and Christians) has been at fault for wounding those it tries to minister to. This is because we may experience growth or find some spiritual reality that we are desperate to share, but, by doing so in a condescending way, we hurt others. Extolling the virtues of a vegan diet may be healthy and fulfilling for you, but complaining about the meat-eating habits of your family at every meal will not raise their affections for you. As we grow in our knowledge of God's love for us, we should also be growing in our sensitivity and love for others. We should be getting better and better at being who we are while allowing others to be who they are.

Nurturing Community. Related to the previous point, as we grow spiritually, we become more and more concerned with the spiritual family and spiritual

relationships. It becomes easier and safer to talk about spiritual things and we begin to realize new ways that the Spiritual World relates to the physical one. We also become much more patient with others, especially when they don't agree with us, because the relationship becomes more important than being theologically, socially, or politically right. We recognize that our value comes from what God says about us, not in what we accomplish or what we adhere to. Therefore we can get on with the business of nurturing Spiritual Community and loving relationships in Jesus name.

How do you see yourself growing along these lines? Have you learned something new about who God is? Has Scripture become real to you in a new way recently? I would love to hear about it.



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)

June 4th, Trinity Sunday, Celebrating Graduation, Deacon Scholarships, The Chancel Choir

June 11th, 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, Dealing with Disbelief: The Church in Antioch, Acts 13:13-52

June 18th, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost, Father's Day, Dealing with Prejudice: the Church in Samaria, Acts 8:4-25

June 25th, 4th Sunday after Pentecost, Dealing with Close-Mindedness: The Church in Damascus: Acts 9:10-25.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 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.

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

Unit 23 – Jesus the Teacher (Matthew, Luke, John)

Jesus preached to many people so they could learn about God. Jesus taught how believers should live, and He told parables about the kingdom of God. He showed that God wants God's people to be saved from sin. 6/25 The Sermon on the Mount 7/2 The Cost of Following Jesus 7/9 Jesus Taught About Prayer 7/16 Jesus Taught About Possessions 7/23 The Good Shepherd

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and God's kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

Unit Key Verse: All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.. ~ John 14: 25-26 NIV

June Teachers

Elementary: Preschool/Nursery: TBD TBD



GROWING IN LOVE

We model Christian love towards each other, providing an inviting and welcoming spiritual home that attracts people of all ages to share their faith.











Visit ffpc.org

Scan for Newsletter Sign-up



Do you want to meet people at church? Show your commitment to putting your faith in action? FFPC is always seeking volunteers to fill a wide variety of roles – from coffee service and ushers, committees to Helping Hands, Wednesday Work Group and Mission Events. There is a place for you to get involved, no matter what your availability or skillset. Contact the office or a Comiittee Chair to discuss current opportunities.

We are excited to see, share and promote the wonderful things that happen here at **FFPC!** We are hoping to place emphasis on increasing the amount of photography captured and shared through social media and our website. As we continue this effort, we invite YOU to help capture and share the church activities you are involved in. Help us tell our story! To share images, please email them to Kelly at office@ffpc.org

First Presbyterian Saturday Facilities Work Group:

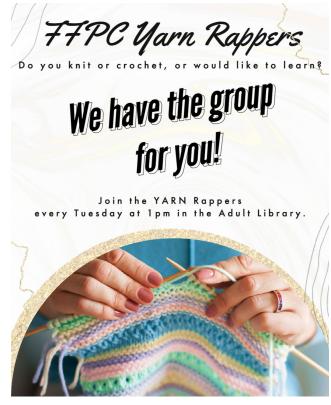
The administration committee and the dedicated team from the Wednesday Work Group are hoping to engage and familiarize more members with the building maintenance needs and procedures. On the third Saturday of every month from 9AM to noon, we will be prepared to accomplish identified projects. If you are interested in participating, please contact the office at 810-629-7801.

First Presbyterian Saturday Grounds Beautifying Work Group:

We need the help of a few individuals to help keep our flower gardens clean, pretty and weed free. Our first meeting is Saturday June 3rd from 9am-12pm. After this intial Saturday, we will meet in conjunction with the facilities work group on the third Saturday of every month from 9AM to noon. If you are interested in participating, please contact the office at 810-629-7801.

Adult Studies have concluded for the Summer. Look for information on fall studies in the July Newsletter















Happy Birthday

Karen Terrill Jun 3 Donna Anderson Jun 4 Suzanne C. Carter Jun 5 Kara Kinser Jun 5 Lori Murray Jun 5 Joshua Collier Jun 7 Jane Motta Jun 7 Doug Hartwell Jun 8 Jun 14 John Wrage Rachel Baker Jun 15 Julie Grams Jun 16 Jim Morris Jun 20 Georgiann Tunningley Jun 20 Joe Kryza Jun 24 Caitlin Roberts Jun 24 Richard Bard Jun 25 Megan Hollopeter Jun 26 Nora Kryza Jun 28 JoAnn Beardslee Jun 29 Andrea Smith Jun 30 Richard Tunningley Jun 30

Happy Anniversary

Michael & Deborah Vanderlip	June 1
William & Adie Eddington	June 2
Robert & Joan McLive	June 2
Gene & Connie Morrison	June 6
Margie & Doug Congdon	June 7
Mike & Julie Hussar	June 13
Jay & Kate Kirkey	June 16
Clark & Nancy Casteel	June 23
Joe & Nora Kryza	June 27
Jim & Suzanne Carter	June 28
Edward & Debbie Hoeglund	June 28
Marc & Kelsy Hoerauf	June 28
Chas & Cheryl Kopplin	June 28
Adam & Meredith Weldon	June 29
Christopher & Melissa Browne	June 30



Celebrate Recovery Update

FFPC is no longer hosting Wednesday evening large group meetings, yet we are continuing to hold step studies. Currently, a women's step study meets on Monday mornings, and other women's step studies may be added when that one is finished. We are also discerning the best way to begin a men's step study.

We will remain on the Celebrate Recovery website as a CR contact and a place for step studies as this is common in many churches; resuming large open meetings is a possibility in the future. The Christian Education Committee greatly appreciates Jennifer MacLean's heart and leadership for bringing FFPC this healing ministry of grace, transformation, and redemption. She, too, will remain listed as a contact person for CR on our website and social media since there were often calls that benefited from general CR information.

If you would like information regarding step studies at FFPC, or general Celebrate Recovery information, including information about meetings at other churches in the area, please feel free to contact Jennifer at 810-240-2301 (call or text) or crfentonmi@gmail.com. Below is a list of nearby meetings:

Mondays 6:30-8:30

Mayfair Bible Church 5339 W Pierson Rd, Flushing

Mondays 7:00-9:00

Brighton Nazarene 7669 Brighton Rd, Brighton 810-227-6600

Tuesdays 7:00-9:00

Fowlerville United Brethren 9300 W Grand River, Fowlerville 517-223-9490

Thursdays 7:00-9:00

Emmanuel Baptist Church 6434 Richfield Rd, Flint 810-736-6111

Thursdays 7:15-9:15

Cornerstone Church 9455 Hilton Rd, Brighton 586-212-0464

Thursdays 7:00-9:00

Calvary Lutheran Church 6805 Bluegrass Dr, Clarkston 248-464-9039/248-560-5490

SUMMER BUCKET LIST

102 Fun Things To Do This Summer

* H	*	Mala Olassas	*	Parl card Carrier
Homemade Ice Cream		Make S'mores		Backyard Camping
Play in a Sprinkler		Wash the Car		Prank Someone
₩ Write a Story		Create a Puppet Show		Learn a Magic Trick
Complete a 1000 Piece Puzzle		CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF		Learn a Yo-Yo Trick
A Nature Hike		Watch an Old Movie		Read a Book
⇔ Bird Watch	*	Bike Wash with Friends	#	Take Underwater Pictures
☆ Go to a Farmer's Market	#	Draw a Picture	\$	Make a Summer Music List
☆ Eat Outside	文	Jump Rope	#	Pajama Day
☆ Play Card Games	#	Keep a Journal	#	Build a Fort
☆ Fly a Kite	\$	Write a Letter & Mail It	#	Mini Golf
☆ Go To the Beach	*	Home Spa Day	女	Bowling
Bake Cookies for Neighbors	*	Paint on Canvas	女	Donate Old Clothes & Toys
Blow Bubbles	*	Build a Sandcastle		Play an Instrument
₩ Look at the Stars	*	Feed Ducks		Bake a Rainbow Cake
☆ Ride a Bike	*	Go Fishing	#	Fry a <mark>n Eg</mark> g on the Sidewalk
₩ Water Balloon Fight		Ride in a Boat		Make Up a Secret Handshake
→ Play Frisbee		Play Hide-and-Seek		Build with Legos
Sidewalk Chalk		Plant Herbs or Flowers		Play Flashlight Tag
⇔ BBQ with Friends		Back To School Shopping		Teach Your Pet a New Trick
DIY Popsicles		Slip-n-Slide		Backyard Obstacle Course
Swim		Water Gun Fight		Make Cards
Swim at Night		No Technology Day		Cannonball
		Take a Walk		Sail Paper Boats
See Fireworks		Kids Plan & Cook Dinner		Learn a Sign Language Olphabet
Family Board Game Night		Climb a Tree		Make Root Beer Floats
Design T-shirts		Rearrange Your Room		
		Bubble Bath		Play a New Board Game
Play Charades Maka Rapas Obsolance				Throw a Party Do Random Octo of Kindings
Make Paper Oirplanes		Watch a Sunset		Do Random Octs of Kindness
Make Friendship Bracelets		Disney Movie Marathon Day		Camp Indoors
Temporary Tattoos		Host a Sleepover		Say "Hello" in 10 Different Languages
Collect Seashells		Write a Song or Poem		Look at Old Family Photos Together
Hula Hoop		Science Experiment Day		Dance
☼ Roadtrip		Finish an Entire Coloring Book		The state of the s
☼ Doodle	#	Pick Berries	#	Photo Scavenger Hunt
				FindingTimeToFly.com



Summer Youth Group Events - for incoming 6 - 12 graders, friends, and graduated friends

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our summer events planning meeting. Below is the fruit of our discussion :-) Friends are welcome to join us with a current parental consent form on file. Those are located on the bulletin board outside of the youth room, or I can email them upon request.

Parent or other adult chaperons are needed at some youth only events - please see me if you are interested in helping!

Sun. June 4: Graduate Recognition Sunday - Deacon's Scholarships awarded 10am worship

Sun. June 11: Sensory Garden 12-2pm with Family Fellowship Group - Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the courtyard.

Wed. June 21: Kayaking 9am - 4pm Cost: \$30 - Bring a sack lunch & water bottle. Location info coming soon!

Wed. July 5: Drive-in or outdoor movie TBD 8-11pm

Sun. July 9: Beach Day & WhoaZone 12-4pm with Family Fellowship Group- Meet us at Holly St. Park! Watch for RSVP and cost for WhoaZone details.

July 25-27 (T-TH): Warren Dunes Camping Trip Cost: \$75 - RSVP by July 16 - scholarships are available; please see Tina.

Wed. Aug 9: Ann Arbor Trip 10am - 4pm - Bring money for lunch and shopping.

Sun. Aug 13: Linden Wooden Park & Ice Cream Garage 12-2pm with Family Fellowship Group

Sat. Aug 26: Lake Day, Slip-n-Slide kickball, Giant Bonfire????? TBD

Congratulations Graduates!

Aubrey Howieson graduated with honors from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology. Aubrey will be attending Grand Valley in the fall to pursue her Doctorate in Physical Therapy. Her parents are Marlo and Heidi Howieson and proud Grandma Billie Morris.

Abby Ruppert graduated from Lake Fenton High School. She will be attending Western Michigan University double majoring in Dance and Film, Video and Media studies. Her parents are Rebecca and Greg Ruppert and brother Luke

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!



GROWING IN COMMUNITY

We engage with our wider community, seeking to be a Christian influence and encouraging others to follow Jesus through service in mission and outreach endeavors.



Family Fellowship Group

Leading with Kindness

On May 7 children, youth, and parents created a Kindness Board and Praise Pathway at the front of the church. What a gift it has been to see community engagement with the many uplifting words and pictures! The board will remain through the summer with the following monthly themes: June - Fears Erased Here; July - How can We Pray for You?





Sensory Garden Wish List

In continuing with our community mission endeavors, youth, children, and families are creating a sensory garden outside church at the corner of Leroy and Elizabeth streets on Sunday, June 11 from 12-2pm.

We are in need of several different plants in 1-gallon containers. Please see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for what you can contribute, or contact Tina Ritchie or Kelly Sunman-Davis about an appropriate substitute plant. Thanks so much!

Upcoming 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 Sunday Events

June 11 - Sensory Garden 12-2pm

July 9 - Beach Day & WhoaZone at Holly St. Park 12-4pm

Aug 13 - Linden Wooden Park and Ice Cream Garage 12-2pm

Update-Kids on a Mission



Each year our youth group collects food and monetary donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday. While planning for that event, Tina Ritchie, our Youth and Christian Education Director, collaborated with Kelly Sunman-Davis, our Administrative Assistant. include younger children in that event. We came up with the idea to have youth and children make dry soup mixes as a fundraiser for the "Souper Bowl". Because monetary donations are always given to local food charities, the idea arose to use this money to

pay off delinquent lunch accounts for local schools. This would be a fantastic way to show children how to put wheels on our faith. Tina contacted Julie Williams, Superintendent of Lake Fenton Schools, who contacted Mrs. and Mr. Ciesielski from Fenton and Linden schools. Mrs. Williams then shared that the superintendents would like the money to specifically go to children who would normally qualify for free and reduced lunch, but missed out on this due to paperwork funding issues. \$800 was needed at each district, \$2,400.00 total.

FFPC children and youth prepared 62 jars of 3 different kinds of soup, then sold them after worship for 3 weeks, ending on Easter Sunday. The kids also made a promotion video which was shared on our social media accounts with a QR code for online donations. The \$2,400.00 raised was from our congregation.

Children involved are Alina and Rayla Allcorn, Annanbeth, Sam, and Leah Carnes, Zoey Cupp, Emma Davis, and Gracie Magnus.

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Review

Profit/ Loss	April	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan-Apr.</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income:	\$18,930.83	\$21,331.80	\$86,778.02	\$85,327.60	\$255,982.80
Expense:	\$21,176.43	\$24,280.15	\$93,244.31	\$ <u>100,890.42</u>	\$288,511.64
_	(\$2,245.60)	(\$2,948.35)*	(\$6,466.29)	(15,562.82)	(\$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	April	YTD		
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$31,193.80	\$39,163.66		
Cash at End of Period:	<u>\$29,069.90</u>	\$29,069.90		
Net Cash Decrease:	(\$2,123.90)	(\$10,093.76)		

Balance in the Building Repair & Improvement account as of April 2023, \$1530.75

Respectfully Submitted May 6, 2023 Marilee Smily 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!!



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!