

Fenton First Presbyterian Church

July 2023 Newsletter



FOR YOU HAVE BEEN
CALLED TO LIVE IN
FREEDOM, MY BROTHERS
AND SISTERS. BUT DON'T
USE YOUR FREEDOM TO
SATISFY YOUR SINFUL
NATURE. INSTEAD, USE
YOUR FREEDOM TO
SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN
LOVE.

– GALATIANS 5:13 [NLT]



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.

GROWING IN GOD

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



PASTOR'S LETTER

Oh Boy, Boycotts!

Pastor Robbie Carnes

Never would she ever, ever, ever(!) enter a Sears department store again. It was the last straw, the final offense. She was going to boycott Sears for the rest of her life. Why? They didn't allow her to return a purchase. For many years, it was a secret vanity of hers to imagine that her personal boycott had helped bring about the collapse of the business.

Have you ever felt the desire to boycott a business? There are many reasons that you might do so. Whether it be in response to hiring practices or working conditions; the lack of use of sustainable materials or wasteful manufacturing practices; or a nod to a political or cultural movement that you disagree with. More and more the role of being a consumer requires being literate in symbols, logos and ideology. It is becoming more important to know what a business 'stands for' because the power of a logo to promote an idea can insinuate a consumer's own stance.

For instance, there has been much ado about the promotion of the Trans-gender

experience by Bud Light and Target. Needless to say, there are many Christians (and others) who have felt the need to boycott these companies. It is remarkable how much a particular beer or where you buy paper towels can say about you.

In what way does the boycott by Christians of businesses for certain practices or social comments promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Granted, there are many valid reasons why Christians may choose to avoid certain establishments. Jerusalem's exhortation to avoid meat that has been sacrificed to idols in Acts 15 is an example. **However, the question is significant because boycott is not the primary tool of evangelism. Jesus sends us to all nations. That means go to them, not avoid them.**

Boycotts can backfire. Did you know that some Christian groups are boycotting the Chick-fil-A restaurant and 'The Chosen' films? The former is due to a new hire of a vice president of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). The latter is because of a rainbow flag that was seen on the production

equipment for four seconds during a 'behind the scenes' promotional video. Seen as bastions of Christian Culture, it is a blow to see that these two business are 'caving' to social pressure.

Here is what Chick-fil-A says about that on their DEI website (<https://www.chick-fil-a.com/dei>): Chick-fil-A's Corporate Purpose is "To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us. To have a positive influence on all who come into contact with Chick-fil-A."

Here is what Dallas Jenkins, The Chosen's creator and director, says about that on Twitter: "Just like with our hundreds of cast and crew who have different beliefs (or no belief at all) than we do, we will work with anyone on our show who helps

us portray or honor the authentic Jesus. We ask that audiences let the show speak for itself and focus on the message, not the messenger, because we'll always let you down."

Brothers and sisters, beyond whatever you feel about these particular issues; beyond how you feel about what is lost and what is gained in cultural battles; please prayerfully consider how Chick-Fil-A and Dallas Jenkins have witnessed to Jesus' Gospel in this matter. **In what way are they going to places where boycotts cannot? In what way can you share Jesus by extending a welcome rather than a boycott?**



July

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)

In the month of July we are continuing a sermon series in the book of Acts. The problems that face our church today are similar to the ones the early church faced. How did they face them? Did they always succeed? What can we learn about how they failed or triumphed?

July 2nd; Communion Sunday Dealing with Legalism: Caesarea, Acts 10

July 9th Dealing with Identity: Antioch, Acts 11:19-26; Acts 13:1-3

July 16th Dealing with Self-Centeredness: Jerusalem, Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11

July 23rd Dealing with Unsound Doctrine: Syria and Cilicia, Acts 15:1-35

July 30th, Dealing with Estrangement: Ephesus, Acts 18:18-28



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.

July Teachers

Elementary/Preschool

Cheryl Kopplin; Tina Ritchie 7/2 only

July Shepherds

Jeanne Cupp 7/16, 23, 30



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.

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*

Unit 24 – Jesus the Miracle-Worker (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) Jesus' miracles were part of His purpose in bringing glory to the Father. His miracles proved that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. They strengthened people's faith and met people's needs. Through Jesus, God did what is impossible for us to do on our own. He provided forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life.

7/30 Jesus Calmed a Storm

8/6 Jesus Fed a Crowd

8/13 Jesus Walked on Water

8/20 Jesus Showed His Glory

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.

Unit Key Verse: *You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told. ~ Psalm 40:5 NIV*



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.





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

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. *Events subject to change

July

- Wed. 5** Drive-in or outdoor movie 8-11pm TBD
Sun. 9 Beach Day & WhoaZone, Holy St. Park 12-4pm
T-TH 25-27 Warren Dunes Camping Trip Cost: \$75

August

- Wed. 9:** Ann Arbor trip 10am - 4pm
Sun. 6 Decorate Foster Care bags 12-2pm in Fellowship Hall
Sun. 13 Linden Wooden Park & Ice Cream Garage 12-2pm
Sat. 26 TBD

Family Fellowship Group Summer Events

Children, with their parents, are invited to participate once a month with Youth Group for fun activities or community mission projects. Please see Kelly Sunman-Davis or Tina Ritchie with any questions.

Upcoming Sunday Events:

- July 9** - Beach Day & WhoaZone at Holly St. Park 12-4pm - Cost: \$15/person for WhoaZone; bring your beach supplies, snacks and drinks. Concessions available.
Aug 6 - Decorate Foster Care bags 12-2pm in Fellowship Hall
Aug 13 - Linden Wooden Park and Ice Cream Garage 12-2pm



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 Committee 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 seeking to engage and familiarize more members with the building maintenance needs and procedures. 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.

First Presbyterian Saturday Grounds Beautifying Work Group: We need the help of a few individuals to keep our flower gardens clean, pretty and weed free. This group meets in conjunction with the facilities work group on the third Saturday of every month from 9AM to noon. Bring your gloves and hat! For more information contact the office at 810-629-7801 or office@ffpc.org.



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.

FFPC Yarn Rappers
 Do you knit or crochet, or would like to learn?

We have the group for you!

Join the YARN Rappers every Tuesday at 1pm in the Adult Library.

HELPING HANDS

Sometimes in life the world gives us too many lemons. If you are in need of assistance for transportation to run an errand or a doctor's appointment, please call the church office at 810-629-7801. The Deacon's Helping Hands are here to help you!

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)



Scan for Newsletter Sign-up
Visit ffpc.org



*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*



*Communion
Table
Flowers*

**ARE A PERFECT WAY TO
HONOR A PERSON, COUPLE OR
SPECIAL OCCASION**

**CONTACT HEIDI ROBERTS AT
HROBERTS6862@GMAIL.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Happy Birthday

Sharon Stone Jul 3
Denise Warba Jul 4
Rick Stanfill Jul 9
Tina Ritchie Jul 11
Emily Kinser Jul 16
Lindsey Gibb Jul 17
Janet Stork Jul 17
Brian Rourke Jul 18
Bruce Coffin Jul 21
Debbie LaVanway Jul 21
Rita Vadasz-Miller Jul 22
Ellen Horton Jul 23
Cameron Miller Jul 23
Robert Chappelle Jul 24
Max Kryza Jul 25
Sharon Crary Jul 26
Jacob Kinser Jul 26
Keith Morris Jul 26

Brian Smith Jul 27
Maggie Watters Jul 28
Adie Eddington Jul 29
Sherry Rourke Jul 29
Toadie Middleton Jul 30

Happy Anniversary

Sandy Nelson & Helen Dilwort July 4
Mark & Sarah Martin-Fanone July 19
Jeff & P.J. Collier July 24
Marlo & Heidi Howieson July 26
Ty & Andrea Smith July 26
Brian & Tina Smith July 27

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 Mission Updates!

Soup Jar Fundraiser updates:

From Heidie E. Ciesielski, Superintendent of Fenton Area Public Schools. She states:

Your donation helped to pay off negative balances for 96 students or approximately 89 families as some families had more than 1 student. Thank you so much for the generous donation - you not only helped ease the stress of these families but of our food service department as well. Take care and enjoy the sunshine of summer!

Thank you for your donation of \$800.00 to help pay off lunch debt at Fenton Area Public Schools. We really appreciate the generosity of the First Presbyterian Church and the kids mission in helping to lift this financial burden off of families that are struggling to pay off lunch debt.
Anna Goss
Food Service Director
Fenton Area Public Schools

WAY TO GO FFPC FAMILIES!!



7205 W. Silver Lake Road, Linden, MI 48451

PH: (810) 591-0980
FAX: (810) 591-5587

May 15, 2023

First Presbyterian Church
Tina Ritchie, Director of Young & Christian Education
503 S. Leroy Street
Fenton, MI 48430

Dear Ms. Ritchie:

On behalf of the Linden Board of Education and myself, I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for your donation of \$800 to support Linden students free and reduced lunch accounts that are in arrears.

Your support of the students, families, and of our school district is greatly appreciated. Having the assistance of First Presbyterian Church and individuals like you, is what makes our community so great.

Thank you for your continued support of Linden Community Schools!

Sincerely,

Russell Ciesielski
Superintendent



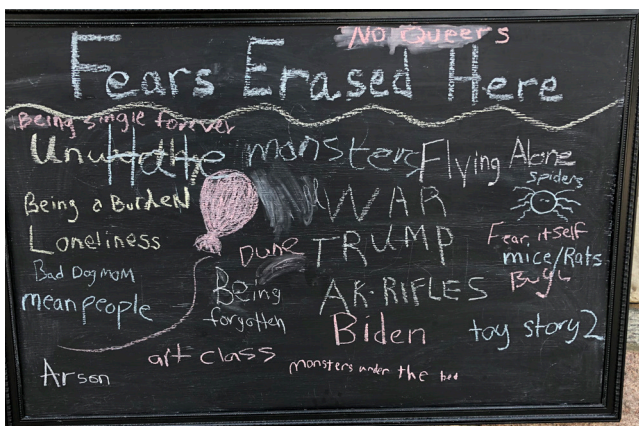
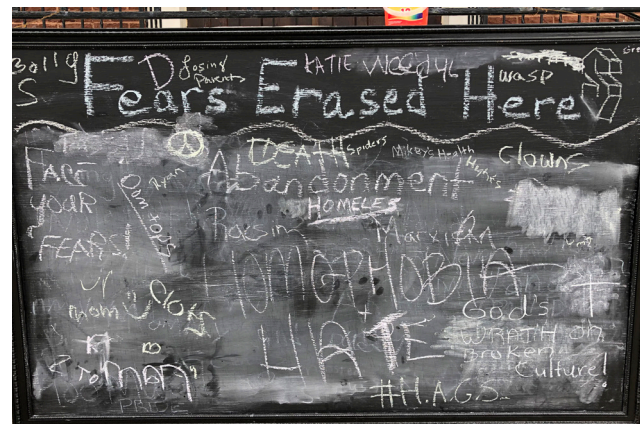
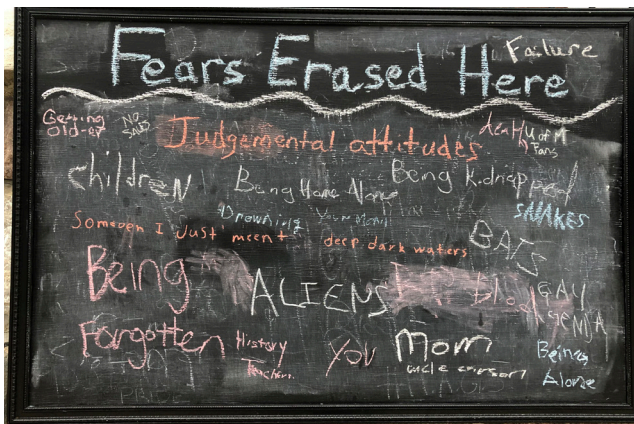
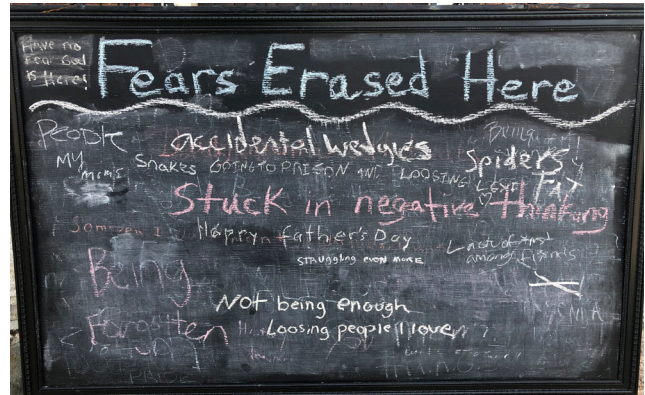
Sensory Garden

On Sunday, June 11 children, youth, and adults made a Sensory Garden outside church, then enjoyed a picnic lunch together. Check out what you can touch, taste, see, smell, and hear! THANK YOU to Julie Hussar, Holly Kopesky, Tina Ritchie, Kelly Sunman-Davis, Thomas Family, Charmaine Thorely, Rita Vadasz- Miller, and Mary Zimbler for contributing plants to our beautiful garden.



Community Chalkboard

Community Chalkboard - June's theme "Fears Erased Here"



Community Chalkboard - July's theme "How Can We Pray For You "

Prayers listed on the board will be included in the Prayers of the People during Sunday worship.

Mission Committee Mission Updates!

Duffle Bags for Foster Children- Building Sweet Cases Event

Every 2 minutes, a child enters the foster care system. Children in foster care transition from home-to-home with their possessions in trash bags. We will be decorating and assembling duffle bags for foster children after church on August 6th starting at 11:15am, and the bags will then be donated to a local foster care agency. Everyone is welcome to help, and pizza and lemonade will be provided for lunch. Please sign up in fellowship hall.

The Sweet Case Duffle Bag program began over a decade ago as a way to ensure that kids can move from placement to their forever home with dignity.

Many children going into foster care are given a trash bag to gather their belongings and move to their new home. With Sweet Case Duffle Bags, the focus is on replacing those trash bags with something that gives the children in foster care the dignity they deserve.

For more information visit <https://www.fosterlove.com/>



A purple graphic with a central circular image of hands passing a bowl of food. The text 'FFPC MISSION Opportunity!' is at the top. Below the image, a yellow banner says 'Saturday 8 July, 2023' and another says 'From 9am-1pm'. A large yellow button at the bottom says 'JOIN US!'. There are icons for a calendar and a clock, and faint heart and hands symbols in the background.

Mission opportunity at the North End Soup Kitchen July 8th from 9am-1pm! The Mission Committee is again offering an opportunity for all those interested in helping to feed the hungry. We help to prepare lunch, as well as help to serve all that show up. Please meet at the church at 8:20am, as we will carpool into Flint at 8:30am.

Join other FFPC members and friends at the 2023 Bastille Day Race. This event features three timed, races: the 15K run, the 5K run, and the 5K walk. All proceeds will be used to support our mission of providing decent, affordable housing in Genesee County.

Yearly, Genesee Habitat builds or rehabs 6-8 affordable homes, provides approximately 150 homeowners with critical repairs, and invest in various neighborhood improvement projects through out the City of Flint. This year, we are trying to raise \$30,000 to support our mission of building homes, community and hope in Genesee County. We can't meet this goal without your help. Sign up or donate today!

<https://www.geneseehabitat.org/bastille.html>





NEW SESSION BEGINNING AUGUST 13TH, 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

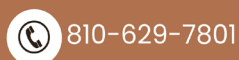
Feeling angry or full of regret? Are you depressed and wondering how to heal? Do you walk around in a mental fog? All this is normal. And while your grief journey is unique, you'll find many grieving people are facing the same struggles. And others who've gone before you can help.

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.



STEWARDSHIP

Financial Review

Profit/ Loss	May	Budget	Jan-Apr.	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income:	\$30,379.72	\$21,331.80	\$117,158.52	\$106,659.50	\$255,982.80
Expense:	<u>\$24,902.60</u>	<u>\$24,280.15</u>	<u>\$118,179.91</u>	<u>\$125,170.57</u>	<u>\$288,511.64</u>
	\$5,477.12	(\$1,021.39)*	(\$6,466.29)	(18,511.07)	(\$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

	May	YTD
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$29,037.68	\$39,163.66
Cash at End of Period:	<u>\$39,183.66</u>	<u>\$34,725.29</u>
Net Cash Decrease:	(\$10,145.98)	\$4,438.37

Balance in the Building Repair & Improvement account as of May 2023, \$2,735.23

Respectfully Submitted June 10, 2023
 Marilee Smily
 Treasurer





School's out for summer. Yay!

No doubt your kids are excited about summer break. How do you keep their minds engaged during the summer months and continue building their social-emotional wellness? How can caregivers keep their stress in check when the kids are around so much? And how can the family prepare for a smooth reentry to school?

The Stay Well program created this packet of resources to help. On the pages that follow, you will find:

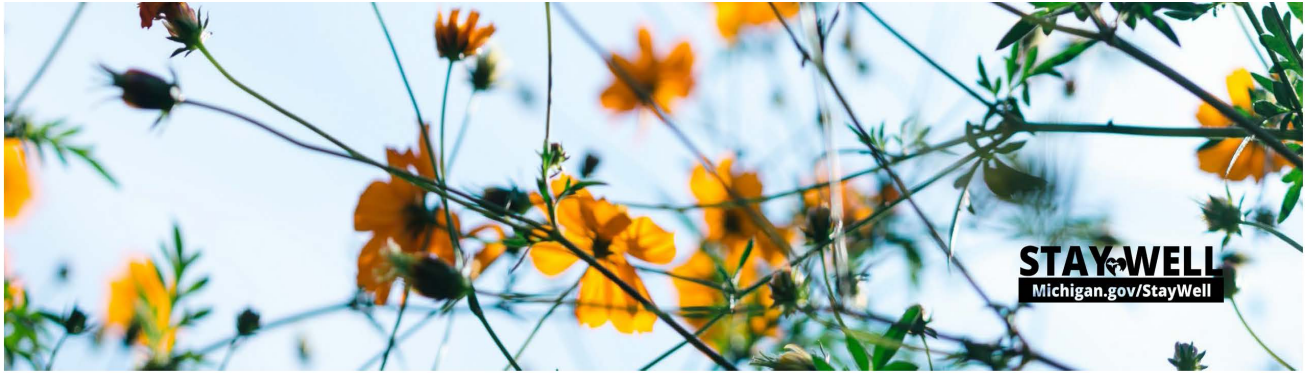
1. **A summer calendar** full of wellness tips and activity suggestions.
2. **A summer bucket list worksheet** to help family members brainstorm what they'd like to do this summer.
3. **Self-care tips for parents and caregivers**—because your mental wellness is key to a smooth-running summer.
4. **Family conversation-starters** for fun ways to get kids thinking, imagining and verbalizing.
5. **Back-to-school preparation tips** to make the return less chaotic.



For additional wellness resources, please visit the [Stay Well website](#). If you have teenagers, point them to the [Resources for Teens page](#). Younger children might enjoy attending the [Creative Coping](#) workshop with a parent or caregiver.



We have included the June calendar on the next page, but you can download the full kit at <https://tinyurl.com/45r232az>



Family Wellness Tips for JULY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Recharge this week with a creative activity.	4 Practice Mindful Eating during one meal.	5 Spend some time this evening stargazing with the family.	6 Take a picture of something and then try to draw it.	7 As a family project, find and try a new recipe.	8
9	10 Recharge by sharing five things you are grateful for.	11 Take a virtual visit to a National Park .	12 Put on a comedy show after dinner.	13 Camp in your yard or enjoy sitting by the fire tonight.	14 Make and enjoy your own favorite cold treat.	15
16	17 Recharge by meeting up with a school friend.	18 Plan a Family Olympics night.	19 Wake up early and watch the sunrise together.	20 Build a fort from a cardboard box.	21 Replace screen time with brain teasers .	22
23	24 Recharge this week by learning a new skill.	25 Make homemade play dough and then have fun creating!	26 Create music as a family or go watch live music together.	27 Take a virtual visit to the zoo!	28 Learn about bugs!	29
30	31 Recharge by praising each family member.					

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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