Fenton First Presbyterian Church August 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

But I have called you friends.

Pastor Robbie Carnes

I have had several conversations recently about being God's friend. Calling the Makerof-All-Things-Seen-and-Unseen a seems to be all at once a marvelous miracle and a ridiculous joke. We stand in danger of not appreciating the intimacy that God desires on one hand, and taking the matter entirely for granted on the other. A 70's band called Sonseed had a song called 'Jesus is my Friend' which reflects how we can claim God's friendship and somehow belittle it at the same time. (I cannot attest to the intention of the folks who wrote and performed this song, however, check it out on Youtube and see what you think; https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=7-NOZU2iPA8).

How can Jesus (God and the Holy Spirit) be our friend and also be our Savior, Redeemer, Creator and Lord? There seems to be a formality that is necessary in order to properly recognize those latter roles that friendship cannot compete with. You might feel that being God's 'friend' is something entirely different than having a human friend. Instead of God exhibiting the perfect qualities of friendship toward us, we assume that God's friendship has a different quality all together.

The friendships that we have with other humans are contractual. The best kind of friendships are ones that have some sort of equality to them. Unequal friendships always stand out. If there is a big difference in age, wealth, gender, or physical ability we tend to ask, "What do they see in each other?" It can be inspiring to see a relationship of seeming nonequals because it teaches us to dig a little deeper for genuine friendship.

There is no greater inequality than between ourselves and God. The God of Scripture is so far beyond our understanding and that there is no way we could consider equality with God as remotely possible. Yet, Jesus calls us friends.

Jesus says in John 15:14 "You are my friends if you do what I command you." Jesus calls his disciples his friends as he teaches them; Luke 12:4 "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body and after that can do nothing more." Even as Judas betrays him he calls him friend; in Matthew 26:50 Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Jesus defines his life's work as friendship; John 15:13 says No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

The reason, in part, for Jesus' incarnation (Jesus becoming human) was to address the inherent unequal relationship that we have with God. It's like your rich friend constantly taking you out to eat at really fancy restaurants and paying for everything (because you can't). No matter how deep the relationship, the rich friend is still footing the bill and that affects the friendship. You can appreciate what your rich friend does for you and value the time that you get to spend with them, but you can never hope to bring to the relationship anything that comes close.

We will never have an equal relationship with Jesus. However, we know that God desires relationship with us. He says 'I will be your God and you will be my people' over and over again. John 15:15-16 says: I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

Jesus claims us as friends! This is profound. There is nothing that I can do to prove to my rich friend that I am an equal. It is the work of the rich friend to consider me so. I could never enter the fancy restaurant without him, I'm dependent on him. Therefore, the power to consider me an equal, rests completely with him. The title of friend is a gift.

For some, this isn't enough. To say Jesus is a friend will always be presumptuous. The fact that Jesus saved us from sin and reconciled us with God is too much to ignore. It is impossible to sit at a table

at that fancy restaurant trying to have friendly conversation when we both know that I should be serving the food, not eating it. I should be washing the dishes, not sitting at the table. I should be hauling the trash to the alleyway dumpster and clearing the drains, never to be seen by the guests of the restaurant.

In truth, Jesus doesn't just call us friends and ignore the overwhelming sense of inequity to remain. Imagine sitting down to Ragü di Vitello Bianco with Jesus enjoying a Tiefenbrunner Chardonnay. The table is in the middle of the restaurant but the view of the sun setting over the lake is magnificent. The other guests are quietly enjoying their meals.

Across the table, Jesus takes off his tie, folds it up and puts it in his suit coat pocket. He takes the coat off and hangs it on the back of his chair. He rolls up his sleeves and ties a large towel around his waist. A washbasin full of warm water is brought from the kitchen and Jesus kneels down and washes your feet with the water and dries them with the towel.

In front of all the other guests and high society gossip, Jesus humbles himself to not only admit that he knows us, but serves us as well. Not just play-acting the role of a servant in order to condescend, Jesus serves us in a way that is costly. Imagine the snickers all around the restaurant and the questioning glances. How would you feel if this happened to you? This is a simple picture of what Jesus' life and death and resurrection mean for us and what true friendship is.

We should never take for granted who God is, what Jesus has done for us or how the Holy Spirit works in our lives. But we should never doubt Jesus' desire to be our true friend.

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)

August 6th; Communion Sunday Dealing with Loss of Leadership: Miletus

August 13th Dealing with Disbelief: Pisidian Antioch

August 20th The Heart of the Matter

August 27th A Faith All Your Own

August 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.

August Teachers

Elementary/Preschool TBD

August Shepherds

TBD



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.

8/6 Jesus Fed a Crowd8/13 Jesus Walked on Water8/20 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"Jesus the Savior"

"Jesus the Saavior" topics:

Unit 25 – The Kingdom to Come (Matthew, Luke, John) Jesus told parables, or stories, to help people understand what the kingdom of heaven is like. Jesus' parables show what it looks like to live in God's kingdom where Jesus reigns supreme. One day, these stories will become our reality when Jesus returns and reverses the curse of sin.

8/27 Kingdom Parables9/3 THree Parables9/10 Jesus' Hard Teachings9/17 Jesus Raised Lazarus

Big Picture Question: How does God care for God's creation? God loves and rules over God's creation according to God's perfect plan.

Unit Key Verse: For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ~ Colossians 1:13-14



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FALL STUDIES

Newcomers are welcome at every class - invite your friends too :-)

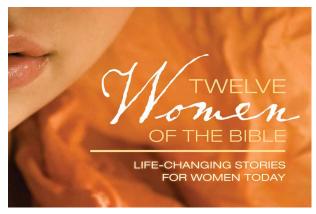
Sunday Evening Bible Study Led by Larry Zimbler - Reconvening Sunday, September 17 from 5 - 6:30PM in the conference room at 4square Tax & Accounting

Rabbi Larry's Small Group will start by looking at the apocryphal/deuterocanonical books from the inter-testamentary period. Confessions of the Presbyterian Church do not accept these books as scripture. There are many such books and even more that are only recognized by specific denominations (mainly Orthodox). Our first meeting back will be an overview of the historical and cultural context of these books.

- 1. Tobit
- 2. Judith
- 3. Baruch
- 4. Sirach
- 5. Maccabees
- 6. Maccabees
- 7. Wisdom
- -Plus 12 Additions to Esther, Daniel, and Baruch:

All of the books are available at no cost online; and are printed in some study bibles. Many of the books cover events in the inter-testamentary period, a time when the Holy Land was mostly under Greek domination following Alexander's defeat of the Persians. It was not a good time to be a Jew. Nonetheless, these books present an image of the religious thought process of the people during those 400 – 600 years before Yeshua Hamashiach.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Led by Pastor Robbie Carnes - This group will meet beginning September 12 from 11AM - 12:15PM in the Conference Room. Topic is yet to be determined.



Women's Study - Monday & Wednesday Classes Available

Monday Evenings via Zoom

Facilitated by Dee Dee Ainsworth September 11-November 27

Wednesday Mornings

Facilitated by Tina Ritchie September 6 - November 22 10AM - 12PM in Fellowship Hall

Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today

In this 12-session small group Bible study, Lysa TerKuerst, Elisa Morgan, Jeanne Stevens and others look at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve of the Bible's most empowered and iconic women and their implications in life today. Eve; Rebekah; Leah; Hannah; Abigail; Gomer; Mary, Mother of Jesus; Mary Magdalene; Mary of Bethany; Martha; The Woman at the Well; The Syrophoenician Woman

Study guide: \$11 - RSVP in Fellowship Hall or to tina@ffpc.org

THURSDAY NITE LIVE

Beginning September 14 from 6 - 8PM in Fellowship Hall or the Conference Room. The Christian Education Committee is seeking to provide childcare for this evening's studies - Please see Kate Kirkey or Cheryl Kopplin if you can help!

Option 1:



Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

Through November 2, this discussion group meets in Fellowship Hall

Participant course pack cost \$40 - Register in Fellowship Hall by August 13

In this 8-session Bible study, Peter Scazzero helps participants unpack core biblical principles to guide you into an experience of lasting transformation in your relationship with Christ. Offered in a safe, comfortable

environment that respects each person's journey, this course helps people to:

- 1. Leave a superficial, shallow spirituality
- 2. Open up their interior world so that Christ can transform it
- 3. Develop their own personal relationship with Jesus and not live off other people's spirituality
- 4. Read the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality book and meet with Jesus twice a day through the EHS Day by Day devotional.



Option 2:

SEXUALITY from the Colossian Way Series Curriculum

Through November 16, this small group meets in the Conference Room Participant guide \$25 and is limited to 10 people

This course is for you if:

- You've lost a relationship because of disagreements surrounding interpretations of sexuality in Scripture.
- You're hungry to find a faithful way to walk or lead your Christian community through conflict stemming from sexuality and LGBTQ issues.
- You want to live into your Christian role as reconciler but aren't sure how.
- You long to activate and deepen your faith in our polarized environment.

Participants will:

- Gain conflict engagement skills that translate into any context.
- Learn Christian practices for engaging disagreements.
- Understand the loves and fears behind our beliefs.
- Stay in community and communion with those you love without avoiding conversations around the topic of sexuality.

Our goal is not:

• To be right, fix another, or find a solution.

Our goals is:

• To deepen our love and understanding of God and neighbor in the midst of conflict.

See Tina Ritchie by August 13 if you are interested in this course

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 <u>tina@ffpc.org</u>. Friends welcome with a current parental consent form on file. *Events subject to change

August

Sun. 6 Decorate Foster Care bags 12-2pm in Fellowship Hall
Sun. 13 Linden Wooden Park & Ice Cream Garage 12-2pm
Sun. 27 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:

Aug 6 - Decorate Foster Care bags 12-2pm in Fellowship Hall **Aug 13** - Linden Wooden Park and Ice Cream Garage 12-2pm

Ways to support Youth 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!





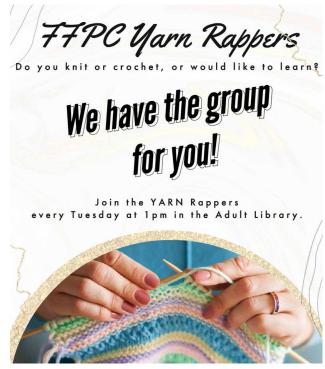
Do you want to meet people at church? Show your commitment to putting your faith in action? FFPC is always seeking volunteers to fill a wide variety of roles – from coffee service and ushers, committees to Helping Hands, Wednesday Work Group and Mission Events. There is a place for you to get involved, 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 810-629-7801or office@ffpc.org.













Scan for Newsletter Sign-up Visit ffpc.org





Happy Birthday

Ken Wensel Aug 1 Judy Brown Aug 2 Jan Jacobs Aug 5 Adam Weldon Aug 5 Jim Savage Aug 7 Vera Thornton Aug 9 Peggy Blough Aug 10 Johnny Foguth Aug 11 Lin Savage Aug 12 **Shirley Cook** Aug 14 Billie Morris Aug 14 Sam Carnes Aug 18 Mark Grams Aug 19 Clark Casteel Aug 22 Jennifer Wenzel Aug 22 Bonnie Griffith Aug 25 Sherry Zollars Aug 27 Polly Sheppard Aug 29 Laurie Thomas Aug 30 Royce Hyde Aug 31

Happy Anniversary

Jim & Gloria Lindsay	August 1
Rick & Jane Motta	August 2
Michael & Elaine Pelletier	August 4
Morris & Peggy Fulcher	August 7
Roy & Amy Fetzer	August 10
Greg & Jennifer MacLean	August 10
Chris & Tonya Coffin	August 11
Ken & Karen Wensel	August 15
Mark & Jenny Gibb	August 18
John & Cheryl Sharpe	August 18
Jim & Lori Murray	August 22
Richard & Georgiann Tunningley	August 24
Guy & Sharon Cowing	August 27
John & Sara Wrage	August 29

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here please contact the church office so that we can update your information.

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.

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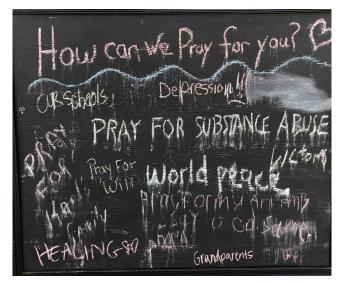
Aug 13 - Linden Wooden Park and Ice Cream Garage 12-2pm

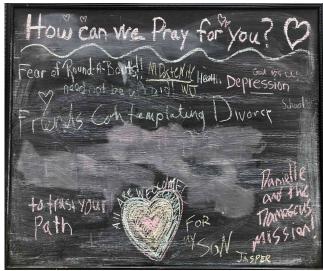
Our Sensory Garden now has sounds of beautiful wind chimes and will soon include a sign made by our children. THANK YOU to Hannah Hall for donating a set of wind chimes, and to Jan Jacobs and Judy Smith for their contributions to purchase a set of bamboo chimes and some additional sensory pieces!!!

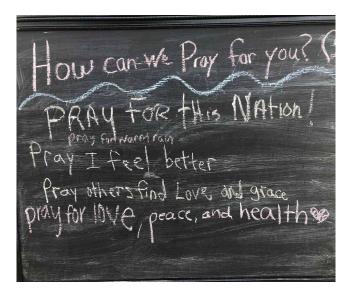


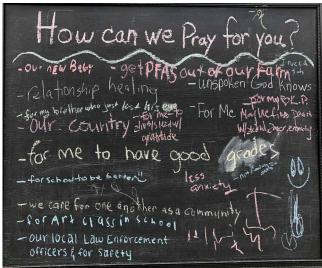


Community Chalkboard - July's theme "How Can We Pray for You?"









August's theme will be "What Do You Hope For?"



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 processions in trash bags. We will be decorating and assembling duffle bags for foster children after church on August 6th starting at 12:00pm, 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/





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	<u>June</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan-June</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income:	\$18,990.64	\$21,331.80	\$135,650.08	\$127,991.40	\$255,982.80
Expense:	\$19,190.58	<u>\$25,080.15</u>	\$136,380.05	\$150,250.72	\$288,511.64
_	(\$199.94)	(\$3,748.25)*	(\$729.97)	(\$22,259.32)	(\$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	June	YTD
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$35,616.65	\$39,163.66
Cash at End of Period:	\$34,671.48	\$34,671.46
Net Cash Decrease:	(\$945.17)	(\$4,492.20)

Balance in the Building Repair & Improvement account as of June 2023, \$4,492.20

Respectfully Submitted July 6th, 2023 Marilee Smily Treasurer



Family Wellness Tips for August 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Write and send at least five letters of gratitude.	As a family, volunteer your time or donate goods.	Pack a lunch and take a real or virtual field trip.	4 Do a puzzle together as a family.	5
6	Refocus your self-care needs with help from this worksheet.	Practice Taking A Pause as a coping skill.	9 Write and/or draw a story and then share it with the family.	Read for at least 10 minutes.	Instead of screen time, play card games as a family.	12
13	Learn about growth mindset goals by watching this video.	Have a family talent show after dinner.	Practice five- finger breathing as a coping skill for school anxiety.	17 Go berry picking as a family.	Read for at least 20 minutes.	19
20	Think about how you will show kindness to others this school year.	Pamily challenge: How long can each person go without screen time?	Read for at least 30 minutes.	Practice square breathing as a coping skill for school anxiety.	25 Enjoy a movie marathon with homemade snacks.	26
27	Refocus on your goals for a successful school year.	As a family, get outside as much as possible.	JO Play a new game together as a family outdoors or indoors!	Instead of screen time, do brain teasers as a family.		

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!