


# Fenton First Presbyterian Church

November 2023 Newsletter



GIVE THANKS IN ALL  
CIRCUMSTANCES;  
FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF  
GOD IN CHRIST  
JESUS FOR YOU.

1 Thessalonians 5:18





# 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

### End of Life, Beginning of Resurrection

Pastor Robbie Carnes

It was the second time she was diagnosed with cancer. She had beaten it last time. Her energy returned and her vitality was just as it had been. But this time, this time was different. The thought of going through surgeries, chemo and radiation wasn't hopeful. It was wearying. Like a burden that would slowly crush her rather than pain that would blossom into gain.

She got a second opinion. The second doctor agreed that her condition was terminal and there was a drastically smaller chance that she would recover a second time.

She decided to walk out of the hospital instead of being carried out. She entered into a care facility and spent the next 8 months patiently waiting with her family and friends for nature to take its course.

For him, it was dialysis five days a week that was the last straw. He was exhausted by the constant procedures and tests. Every doctor's visit was a new medication to try. Every new medication was a new list of side effects and restrictions. The balance of taking care of his own medical needs and enjoying the lives of his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren was becoming seriously askew.

He was too weak to walk out of the hospital, but the next four weeks were filled with joy as he invited his family and friends into his home. He made sure that each of his family members knew they were loved, forgiven and cherished. He joked, laughed and played Euchre with anyone who happened to come by.

---

He was 21 when he learned he had cancer the first time. He was bitter. He raged against God. To be faced with death at such a young age was unfair. Somehow, he got through it. He was in remission and he reconciled with his God and his faith. His life was transformed. He changed careers, he got married.

His cancer came back.

This time there was very little that could be done. The choice was his to engage with every therapy available, no matter how untested, or accept his situation and make the best of it. He spent the rest of his days meeting new people, investing in relationships he already had, and writing. His last days were filled with peace and contentment. He used the time he had well.

---

The common denominator between these three stories is Hospice. Many of us have had



to consider the options for family members and friends. A few of us have had to consider it for ourselves. There is a tendency to view Hospice as throwing the towel in and giving up. It can even be seen as an immoral choice because it is akin to suicide, giving up on life. I would like to assure you that Hospice is no such thing. Hospice is simply a switch of philosophy care that attends to the emotional and spiritual needs of the patient and does not employ curative medicine. It is a medical approach that upholds the value of kindness and promotes the dignity of the patient and their family.

Hospice is also designed for family and friends to be involved in a meaningful way with the process of death. Facing death together with a family and a community is always easier than alone. Hospice is structured to create that support for the patient, family and friends.

Hospice is also honest. We all face death. Most of us do a great job of ignoring it most days—and there are many other things to concentrate on and enjoy. But when the ultimate questions are being asked, Hospice gives us a healthy way to answer them or maybe just hold each other as we wait to find out. God is in those moments. God made us and God calls us back to himself. And while we look forward to a day without death, sickness or tears, for now, we can find great solace in the reprieve that Hospice can bring. In a manner of speaking, Hospice slows down time and allows us to consider well the moments we receive and order our steps before a loving God.

---

She was dying in her home. Just like she had imagined. The nurse came once a day to check how she was doing. Friends came to sit for a while. The pastor came to pray.

She was bitter at first. Used to managing her family and life, she tried to command from her bedside. It only frustrated her and annoyed her family. One day, she had an epiphany of sorts. She came to accept her circumstance. She reconciled her feelings with God. In that moment, her life changed. Peace began to exude from her. People who came into her room felt it, received it, and it was good.

---

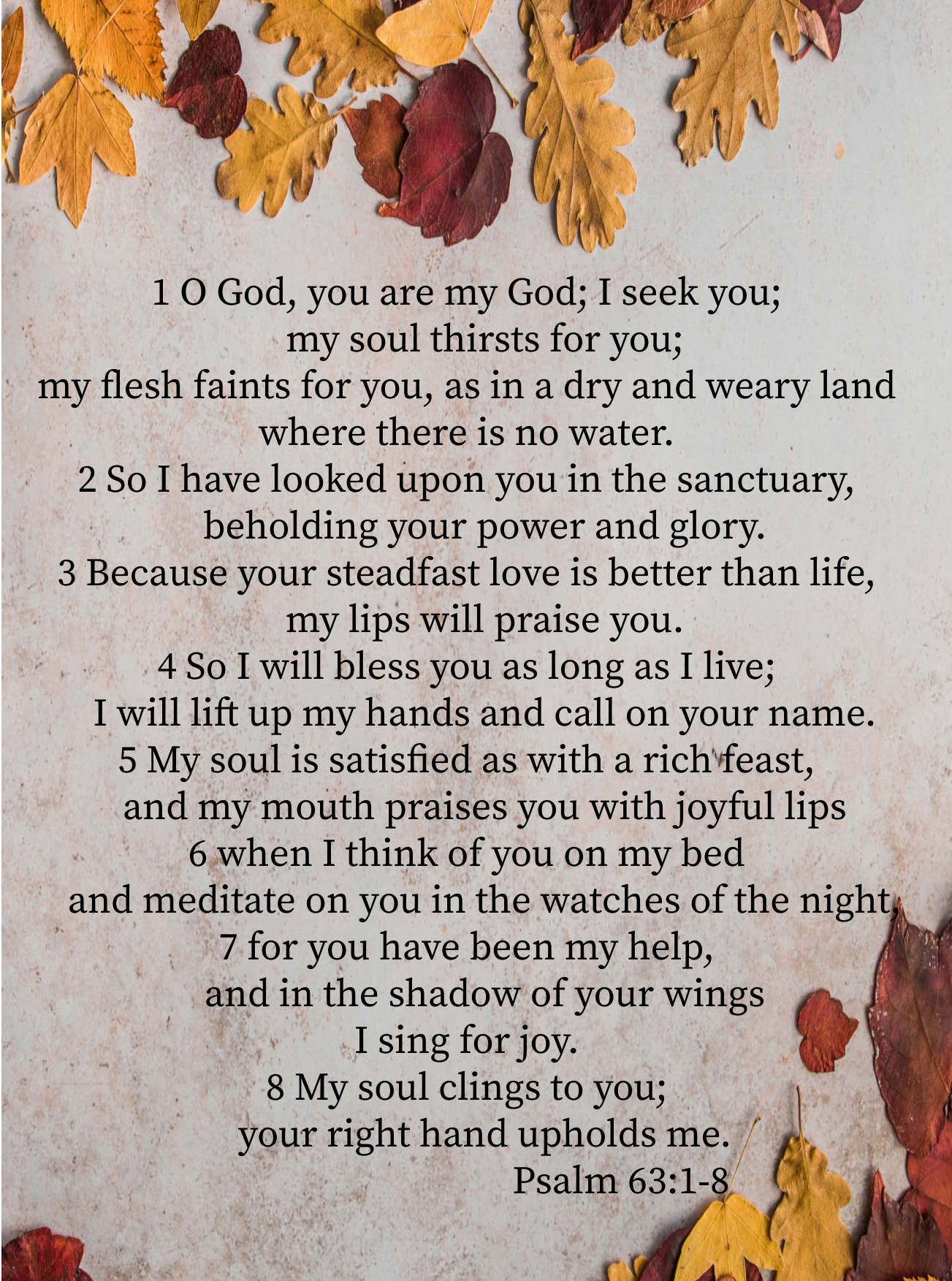
It was after a few weeks in the telemetry floor that she ended up in the intensive care unit. Her heart was failing and her mind did not understand. The day came: “Code Blue!” was screamed out over the intercom. The crash cart was rushed into the room and a crowd of specialists performed their well practiced life preserving rituals. The head physician, straddling her body, applied the AED paddles again and again until finally he stopped, checked his watch and they recorded the time of death. They left her body alone lying on the gurney, crushed and deflated.

A nurse cried softly to herself after putting the phone back in its cradle. The woman’s son, not knowing how to grieve, refused to come and claim his mother.

---

She laid in bed where she had been for the past few weeks. She was having a good evening. Her pain and nausea had been managed and she had a little more energy than she had had in a while. Her son played songs from the sixties on his phone. Her daughter stood at the foot of the bed lip-syncing to Mic Jagger. They told jokes, old and new. They shared memories and dreamed dreams. Then hugged each other, told each other, “I love you,” prayed together and went to bed. She was gone in the morning.





1 O God, you are my God; I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land  
where there is no water.

2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.

3 Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.

4 So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

5 My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

6 when I think of you on my bed  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night,

7 for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings

I sing for joy.

8 My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

Psalm 63:1-8



# WORSHIP

## 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)

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Nov 5th:** Pledge Dedication Sunday, Communion, Daylight Savings Ends

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: Grow into an Emotionally Healthy Adult

**Nov 12th:** 24th Sunday after Pentecost, Veterans Day, Congregational Meeting,

- Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: Go the Next Steps to develop a "Rule of Life"

Developing a Personal "Rule of Life"

**Nov 19th:** 25th Sunday after Pentecost

**Nov 26:** Christ the King Sunday, Hanging of the Greens





## Thanksgiving & Advent Worship Schedule

**November 19th**, 4pm-6pm Thanksgiving Service Project at the Fenton United Methodist Church Family Life Center

**November 26th**, Hanging of the Greens

**November 27th**, 1st Sunday in Advent "The Christmas You Long For"

**December 2nd**, Jinglefest Festivities from 3-5pm!

**December 3rd**, 1st Sunday in Advent, Communion - "The World Made New"

**December 10th**, 2nd Sunday of Advent - "The Promise of Being Made New"

**December 17th**, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Christmas Joy Offering - "New Life (Conceived by the Holy Spirit)"

**December 24th**, 4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve - 10am Christmas Eve Morning Service, "New Identity (Baptized by the Holy Spirit)"  
11:00pm Candle and Carol Service

**December 31st**, 1st Sunday of Christmas





# 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.

## November Teacher

Elementary/Preschool  
Janet Stork



### Unit 27 – Out of the Grave (Matthew, Luke, John, Acts)

The darkest moment of the gospel story became the brightest when Jesus rose from the dead to provide forgiveness for all of God's people. After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent 40 more days proving that He is alive and preparing His followers to continue His mission after He returned to heaven to be with God.

- 10/29 Jesus' Resurrection
- 11/5 The Emmaus Disciples
- 11/12 Jesus Appeared to the Disciples
- 11/19 Jesus Returned to Heaven

**Big Picture Question:** Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of God.

**Unit Key Verse:** *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ~John 11:25*

### “The Mission Begins” topics:

#### Unit 28 - The Holy Spirit Empowers (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

After Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit - whom He had promised to send - was given to the disciples. Filled with the Holy Spirit's power, the small group of disciples shared the gospel and the early church grew rapidly.

- 11/26 The Holy Spirit Came
- 12/3 Peter Healed a Man
- 12/10 Faithful in Hard Times
- 12/17 Living Like Jesus
- 12/24 Jesus Was Born!

**Big Picture Question:** How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.

**Unit Key Verse:** *His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ~ 2 Peter 1:3*



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FALL STUDIES

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



**Sunday Evening Bible Study** - Sundays from 5 - 6:30PM  
Led by Larry Zimble, this class meets in the conference room at 4square Tax & Accounting

Rabbi Larry's Small Group is looking at the apocryphal/deuterocanonical books from the inter-testamental 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). We are looking at Tobit, Judith, Baruch, Sirach, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, and First Enoch. All of the books are available at no cost online; and are printed in some study bibles.

Chapter 1, Article 3 of the [Presbyterian] Westminster Confession says: "The books commonly called Apocrypha, not being of divine inspiration, are no part of the Canon of Scripture; and therefore, are of no authority in the Church of God, nor to be any otherwise approved, or made use of, then other human writings." Join us for a walk on the wild side as we continue to push the boundaries of creed and dogma in reverence to our Triune God.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** Led by Pastor Robbie Carnes Tuesdays from 11AM - 12:15PM in the Conference Room.

**"Discovering the Bible"** by Kerygma.

We are learning about the people, places and stories of the Bible and discover where The Story lives in our story! Through a process of reading, reflection, discussion and creative expression, both the first-time learner and the lifelong student are invited to an engaging, rewarding encounter with Scripture that will greatly deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Bible! The Coffee is hot, the fellowship is good and all are welcome.

**CURRENT Women's Study** - *Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today*  
**Monday Evening Through November 27**

6:30 - 8PM via ZOOM facilitated by Dee Dee Ainsworth

**Wednesday Morning Women's Study Through November 22**

10AM - 12PM in Fellowship Hall facilitated by Tina Ritchie

**NEW January 2024 Women's Study - Register Now!**



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

**Monday evenings, January 8 - March 25** from 6:30 - 8PM  
via ZOOM facilitated by Dee Dee Ainsworth

OR

**Wednesday mornings, January 3 - March 20** from 10AM - 12PM  
in Fellowship Hall facilitated by Tina Ritchie

We'll look at the lives of the **Proverbs 31 Woman**: How Not to Do It All, **Deborah**: Fight Like a Girl, **Shulamite Woman**: We Had God at Hello, **Ruth**: Staying Focused in a World of Distractions, **Puah and Shiphrah**: How to Fight Your Fears, **Esther**: Letting God Be in Control, **Priscilla**: Living a Life of Blessed Ordinary, **Mary and Martha**: Finding Life in Death, **Bent Woman**: We've Got God's Complete Attention, **Woman with the Issue of Blood**: When Persistence Pays Off, **Elizabeth**: How to Win the Waiting Game, and **Anna**: How to Live a Life Devoted to God.

Participant guide - \$11

Register in Fellowship Hall or to [tina@ffpc.org](mailto:tina@ffpc.org) by December 15

## **Thursday Nite LIVE**

Both classes meet from 6 - 8PM in Fellowship Hall or the Conference Room; childcare is provided in the children's library.

### ***1. Emotionally Healthy Spirituality***

Through November 2, this discussion group meets in Fellowship Hall

Take a deeper dive into unpacking Biblical principles to guide you into an experience of lasting transformation in your relationship with Christ.

### ***2. SEXUALITY from the Colossian Way Series Curriculum***

Through November 16, this discussion group meets in the Conference Room

Facilitated by Helen Dilworth & Tina Ritchie, we are sharing our beliefs, fears, and loves while seeking to learn Christian practices for engaging in disagreements through conflict stemming from sexuality and LGBTQ issues.

**Our goal is not** to be right, fix another, or find a solution.

**Our goal is** to deepen our love and understanding of God and neighbor in the midst of conflict.

# 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.



## Youth Group Events for 6 - 12 graders and friends,

Meetings are generally Sundays unless noted. Sign up for events on the youth bulletin board or email [tina@ffpc.org](mailto:tina@ffpc.org). Friends welcome with a current parental consent form on file.

\*Events subject to change

## Youth Group 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:

#### November

**Fri 3-Sat 4:** Youth Group Retreat Weekend

**Sat 11:** Serving at the Turkey Dinner 5:30pm

**Sun 12:** Family Faith Activities in Fellowship Hall after worship

**Sun 19:** Ecumenical Thanksgiving Project 4-6pm at FUMC

**Sun 26:** Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Window Art 11:30am - 1:30pm

#### December

**Sun. 3:** Triple "C" - cookies, cards, and crafts for Deacons' care receivers, 11:00am-2:00pm lunch provided

**Sun 17:** Youth Christmas Party, time: TBD

### 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!



## College Care Packages

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our care package efforts! Here are a few texts Tina received from recipients:

**Annabeth Carnes:** Thanks for the care package. It was a lovely surprise; just in time for midterms too!

**Liza Kirkey:** I got my care package from church; thank you all <3

**Lola Parkin:** Hi! Thank you so much for the package!! I love you guys and miss you guys so much :):)



## Family Fellowship Group 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:

**Nov. 11, \*Sat** - FFPC Turkey Dinner 5:30pm

**Nov. 26** - Hanging of the Greens & Christmas Window Art 11:30am till done!

**Dec.3** - Cookies, Cards, and Crafts for Deacon's Care Receivers 11:30am - 2pm





*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](mailto:mibobalink@gmail.com))



## Yarn Rappers

Do you knitor  
crochet, or  
would you like to  
learn?

Join the YARN Wrappers  
Tuesdays at 1:00pm  
in the Adult Library



*Communion  
Table  
Flowers*

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

CONTACT HEIDI ROBERTS AT  
[HROBERTS6862@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HROBERTS6862@GMAIL.COM)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION



*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](mailto:prayerchain@ffpc.org)*



Scan for Newsletter Sign-up  
Visit [ffpc.org](http://ffpc.org)





**GriefShare®**  
SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS  
NOVEMBER 18TH  
10:30AM-12:30AM  
**REGISTER NOW**  
[www.griefshare.org/surviving](http://www.griefshare.org/surviving)

Sign-up in Fellowship Hall  
Sunday November 18th  
from 10:30am-12:30pm  
Contact Hannah Hall for more information



**Save the Date**  
**Hanging of the Greens**  
Join us is decorating church for Advent  
Sunday, November 26th from 11:30-1:30  
Food and Beverages Provided



**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!



**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.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kate Kirkey	Nov 1
Chris Anderson	Nov 3
Kelsy Hoerauf	Nov 6
Cathy Hollopeter	Nov 6
Nancy Casteel	Nov 7
Cheryl Sharpe	Nov 8
Joy Thompson	Nov 9
Erin Bradley	Nov 10
Joan McLive	Nov 10
Jonathan Wenzel	Nov 10
Chas Kopplin	Nov 12
Annabeth Carnes	Nov 14
Larry McMellen	Nov 14
Michael Cupp	Nov 15
Amy Fetzer	Nov 17
Sara Wrage	Nov 23
Lee Black	Nov 25
Thomas Allen	Nov 26
Jerry Hope	Nov 28
Lorraine Eshleman	Nov 30

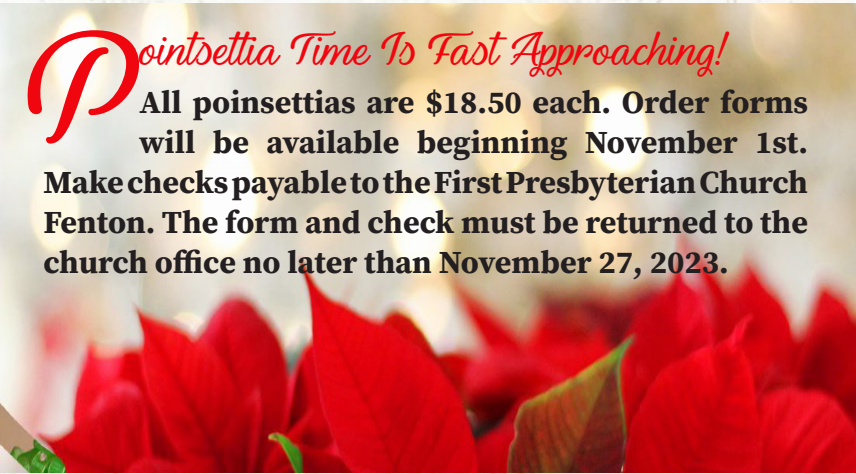
If your birthday is not listed, please contact the office so that we may update your information.

# ANNIVERSARIES

Ron & Pam Andersen	November 12
Dan & Ellen Horton	November 17
Chris & Donna Anderson	November 26
Keith & Denise Morris	November 29

*P*oinsettia Time Is Fast Approaching!

All poinsettias are \$18.50 each. Order forms will be available beginning November 1st. Make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church Fenton. The form and check must be returned to the church office no later than November 27, 2023.

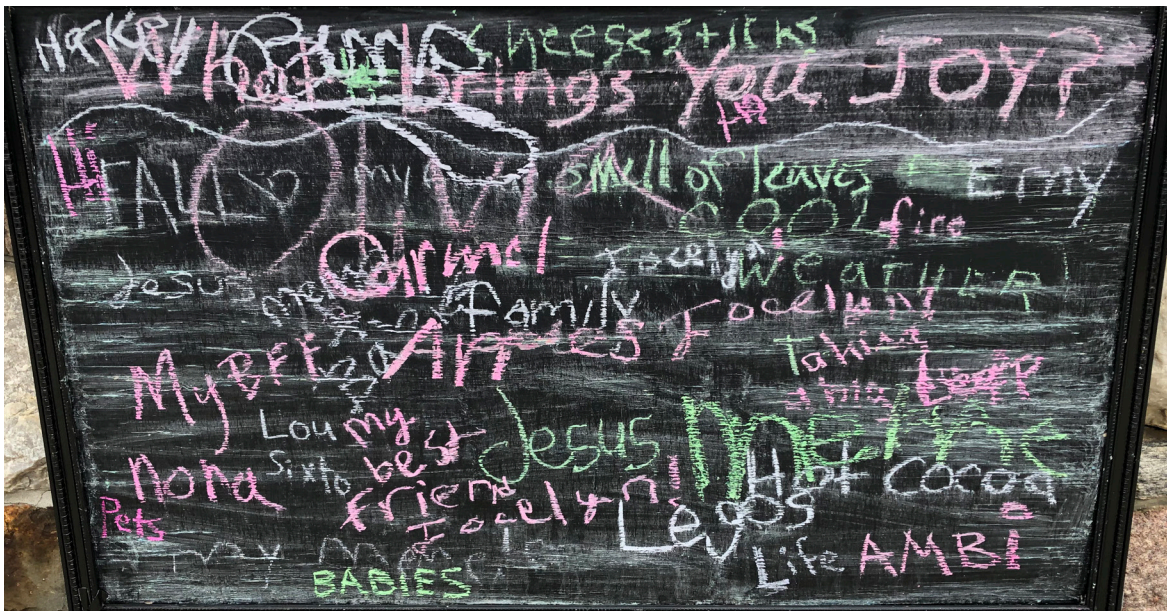
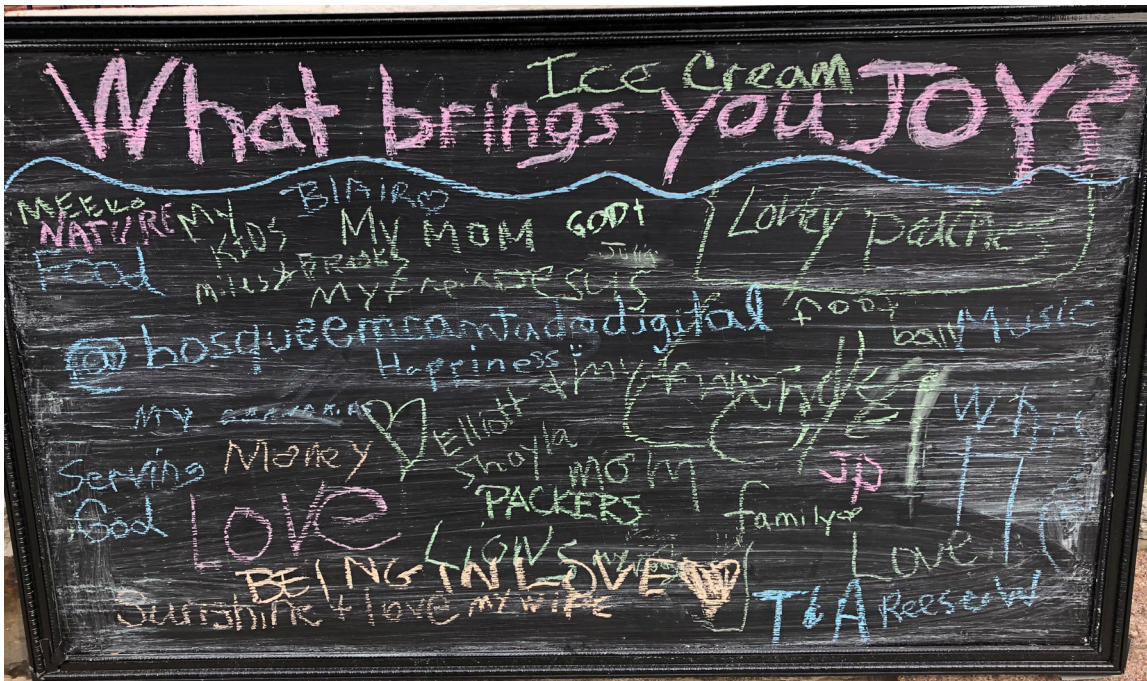




# GROWING IN COMMUNITY

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.

Community Chalkboard -October's theme "What Brings You Joy?"





FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER

SAT 11<sup>TH</sup>  
NOV

503 S. Leroy  
Fenton

DOORS  
OPEN

5:30PM

GRACE

5:45PM

Proceeds raised from this event will be used to support local veterans

## TICKETS

Adults \$15 | Seniors \$13 | Veterans \$10 | Kids 10 and under \$5

Call to Reserve Your Spot! Deadline is Nov. 5th

## TO GO DINNERS AVAILABLE

for pre-orders only 5:00pm-5:30pm

For more information or to purchase  
tickets contact us at  
810-629-7801 or  
visit us at [www.ffpc.org](http://www.ffpc.org)



## Mission Committee Mission Updates!



Mission Opportunity!  
Food Bank of  
Eastern Michigan

9am-12pm  
11 November, 2023

### **Food Bank Mission Opportunity**

Saturday, November 11h from 9am-12pm

All those interested in taking part in helping feed the food deprived, please sign-up in Fellowship Hall.

Those wishing to share a ride are asked to meet at the church at 8:15am. We will depart for the Food Bank at 8:30am. Questions? Please call Ken Wensel at 810-513-1340. Thank you to all who choose to participate.



**Check your calendars!!!!** We are looking for volunteers on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at the Walmart in Fenton. For many years we have rung bells for the Salvation Army. We have the opportunity to again support their mission to feed others during the Holidays. Feel good about putting a meal on someone's table, meet your neighbors, wish them a Merry Christmas. A sign up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Berger at 810-701-6556 or [n.berger1943@gmail.com](mailto:n.berger1943@gmail.com)



## Thanksgiving Service - Joining Hands to Lend a Hand

Looking to serve this holiday season? Mark November 19th from 4-6pm on your calendar.

Looking to financially support an effort for Good? A community service project sponsored by the Fenton Area Clergy Association needs your donations. **Read on!**

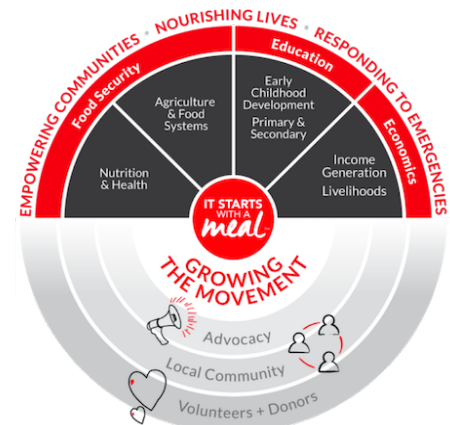
Serving others is fulfilling and an important part of living out our faith. Last year the Fenton area churches collected scarves, mittens and hats for Carriage Town. We spent an afternoon together and packaged them up. We set a goal of 300 'warm kits' and managed to package 900! It was a wonderful day of our community serving together.

This November 19th we will be partnering with Rise Against Hunger ([www.riseagainsthunger.org](http://www.riseagainsthunger.org)) to package over 12,000 meals for those in need. We will meet from 4-6pm at the Fenton United Methodist Church Family Life Center. After a brief moment of worship and prayer, people of all ages will sort and pack the meals.

All are invited to participate, so please put the date on your calendar. In the meantime, please consider donating to this effort. **As area churches we need to raise over \$4000 to pay for the material and bulk food supplies.** One church alone would struggle with this, but together, as a community and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we can do all things! All donations can be sent to the church office.

### Pathways to End Hunger

*We target remote, last-mile communities within hunger pockets designated "serious" or higher on the Global Hunger Index, which are the hardest places to reach and are often difficult to access, lack communication and have poor infrastructure. With the support of our global impact partners, we practice locally-led development by providing expertise vital to empower local communities and provide meals through local schools to incentivize attendance and enable kids to obtain an education. Our work starts with a meal.*





# Jinglefest

## Live Nativity & Warm-Up Station



**FREE FOR THE COMMUNITY!**

WARM UP WITH FESTIVE CRAFTS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES  
COFFEE, HOT COCOA, COOKIES AND POPCORN  
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR VISITORS.

**DECEMBER 2ND 3PM-5PM**

**The FFPC Chancel Choir will also be performing Christmas Carols in the Sanctuary from 4 to 5pm**

FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
503 S. LEROY STREET, FENTON | 810-629-7801 | WWW.FFPC.ORG

## Live Nativity Sponsors Needed

Fenton First Presbyterian Church is looking for local business sponsors to cover the cost of animals for the Live Nativity during Fenton's Jinglefest.

Sponsorship cost needed- \$500

**CONTACT US AT**

(810) 629-7801

**[office@ffpc.org](mailto:office@ffpc.org)**





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Join the Saturday Facilities Work Group!**

The long standing Wednesday work group has expanded in order to complete additional projects as well as provide those interested, who may not be available on Wednesdays, an opportunity to take part. This group meets once a month on the third Saturday at 9am.

## **Help Needed for Live Nativity and Warming Station during Jinglefest**

3-5:00pm Saturday, December 3rd in the Courtyard of First Presbyterian Church

Come and be a part of God's Story! Take in the scene; experience the awe and wonder as church members re-create the story, along with live animals.

Children passing by will have the opportunity to dress up as an angel, shepherd, or magi and have their picture taken in front of the nativity.

Fellowship Hall will serve as a warming station for the community serving coffee and hot cocoa and offering family craft activities.

Helpers needed to dress up as nativity characters and serve as indoor helpers. Please see the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall, Deb bard, or Tina Ritchie.

## **After Thanksgiving, look for the "Giving Tree"**

located in the New Narthex. This tree is sponsored by the Book Binders.

Suggested items are mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, underwear, socks, pajamas. All items are children's sizes up to size 16-18. Thank you for your KINDNESS.

## **FFPC will conduct a Congregational Meeting on November 12th**

directly after the worship service. We will conduct the following business: 1. Elect Elders and Deacons for the 2024 term. 2. First reading of the 2024 Budget. 3. Consider a recommendation by the Session to change the Bylaws. Currently we are required to have 12 Elders and 12 Deacons. The change would allow for 10-12 Elders and 10-12 Deacons.

## **Mugs & Hugs Presbyterian Women's Luncheon**

Trinity United Presbyterian Church Flint is hosting a Mugs & Hugs Presbyterian Women's Luncheon on Saturday, November 4th from 11am-2pm. The luncheon is free, just bring yourself and children are also welcome. Crafts, relaxation, and conversation is to be had. Please join us!! Please contact our office with any questions or concerns.



# STEWARDSHIP

## Financial Review

Profit/ Loss	<u>September</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jan-Sept</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income:	\$22,499.89	\$21,331.90	\$203,351.85	\$191,987.10	\$255,982.80
Expense:	<u>\$19,309.76</u>	<u>\$23,576.82</u>	<u>\$193,338.15</u>	<u>\$219,381.18</u>	<u>\$288,511.64</u>
	\$3,190.13	(\$2,244.92)*	\$10,013.70	(\$27,394.08)	(\$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.

<b>Statement of Cash Flows</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Cash at Beginning of period:	\$38,143.48	\$39,183.66
Cash at End of Period:	<u>\$40,052.99</u>	<u>\$40,052.99</u>
Net Cash Decrease:	(\$1,909.51)	(\$869.33)

Balance in the Building Repair & Improvement account as of September 2023, \$3,628.72

Respectfully Submitted October 5th, 2023  
Marilee Smily  
Treasurer



# NOVEMBER 5TH IS PLEDGE SUNDAY!

Come and See God work through your talents, skills and experience, as well as your financial support.

Your offering to Christ and His Church can do as much as you empower it to do.  
We give to Christ and His Church not according to our means but according to our love for Him.

# LOOKING FOR GOD'S LEADING

## 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

2024 ESTIMATED BUDGET \$302,975.00

**FFPC will conduct a Congregational Meeting on November 12th** directly after the worship service. We will conduct the following business: 1. Elect Elders and Deacons for the 2024 term. 2. First reading of the 2024 Budget. 3. Consider a recommendation by the Session to change the Bylaws. Currently we are required to have 12 Elders and 12 Deacons. The change would allow for 10-12 Elders and 10-12 Deacons.

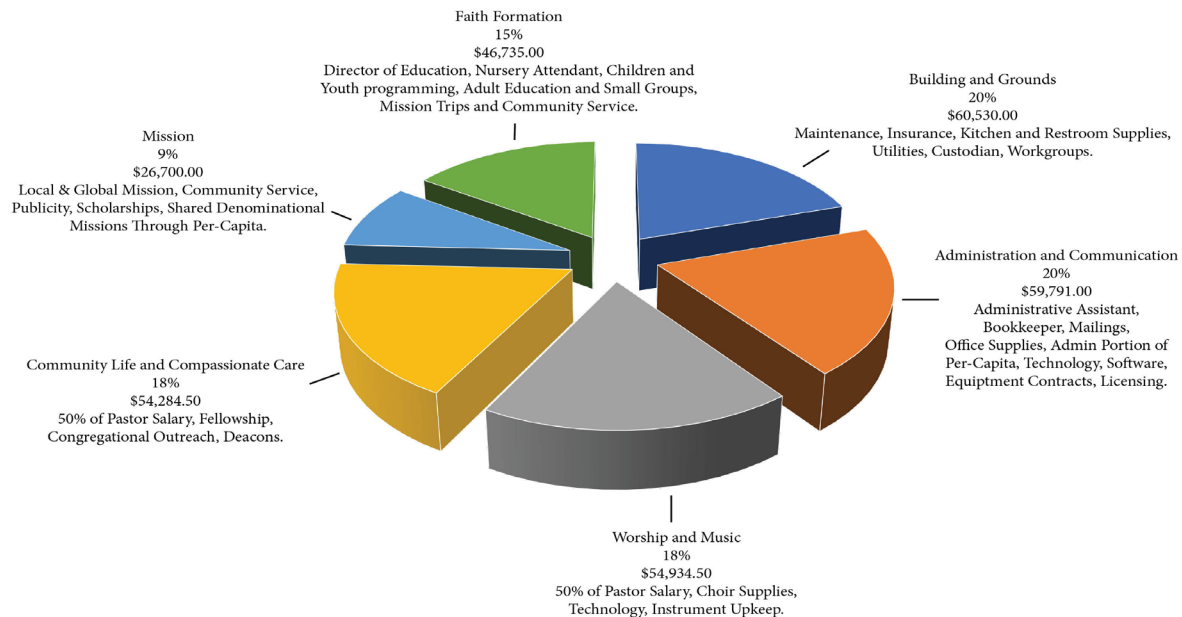
### 2024 FFPC Budget

FFPC Family and Friends,

God's goodness has been revealed to us over and over again. We should respond to God's goodness with faithful action. God has given all of us gifts that we can apply to the Ministry Journey of our FFPC Spiritual Family. What is your 'next step' in your journey as a disciple of Jesus?

The contents of this letter include a Pledge card so that you might participate in a special Dedication of Gifts during this upcoming Sunday Worship Service. There is an opportunity to pledge toward the 2024 Budget financial as well as committing to a 'next step' in answering God's call in your life through our time and our talents.

On the other side of this letter is a breakdown of the 2024 proposed Budget. We will be presenting this during our November 12th Congregational Meeting. Please prayerfully consider where your time, talent, and treasure fit into our ministry life together as Fenton, First Presbyterian Church.





# 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!**

NON PROFIT  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Fenton, Michigan  
Permit No. 85

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
503 S. LEROY STREET  
FENTON, MI 48430-1736