



Growing in God

WE COMMIT TO KNOWING JESUS THROUGH WORSHIP, BIBLE STUDY, AND PRAYER,
ENCOURAGING CONTINUED SPIRITUAL GROWTH AS HIS DISCIPLES.

Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing

by Pastor Robbie Carnes



A friend of mine died recently. I had not seen him in 8 years and even then it was through the window of a hospital door. He had gone through a very difficult procedure. After recovering and living well for those 8 years he was overcome by complications. All in all, I hadn't had a decent conversation with him for 20 years or more.

In reading Facebook eulogies and doing my own remembering the term 'One thing' surfaced. This was a by-line used by my friend constantly. 'One Thing' was a call to focus the efforts of our lives to what God was doing in the world.

Proclaiming the Gospel with all we have, sharing God's love with our neighbors and the world, and resting confidently in our identity of being a beloved child of God. Living a life of spiritual integrity so that the reality of God's presence bubbled up through everything we did.

What struck me was that my friend has been incredibly consistent in his spiritual integrity. He ended his emails and letters with, 'One Thing'. He shared the idea so fervently that those around him shared the sentiment and took it on as a communal focal point. In a complicated, busy world, it was a call to a simplistic order of priority and identity. In what you are doing, are you living worthy of the Gospel, or not? Keep the one thing, the one thing.

I could ask you what your one thing is. However, that quickly misses the point. In the Kingdom of God there are not a plethora of 'one things'. There is only ONE, 'one thing'. As citizens of the kingdom, as slaves of Jesus, we don't get to choose our focus. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the one thing. Everything else is secondary.

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.

Philippians 1:27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Paul exhorts the church in Philippi to live a gospel oriented, worthy life. He calls them to unity: standing in one spirit, striving together, being of one mind for the Gospel. I imagine a church that is unified on mission, equipping its members for fruitful ministry and celebrating as every member exhibits the fruits of the Spirit in their lives. I imagine a Church worthy of the Gospel.

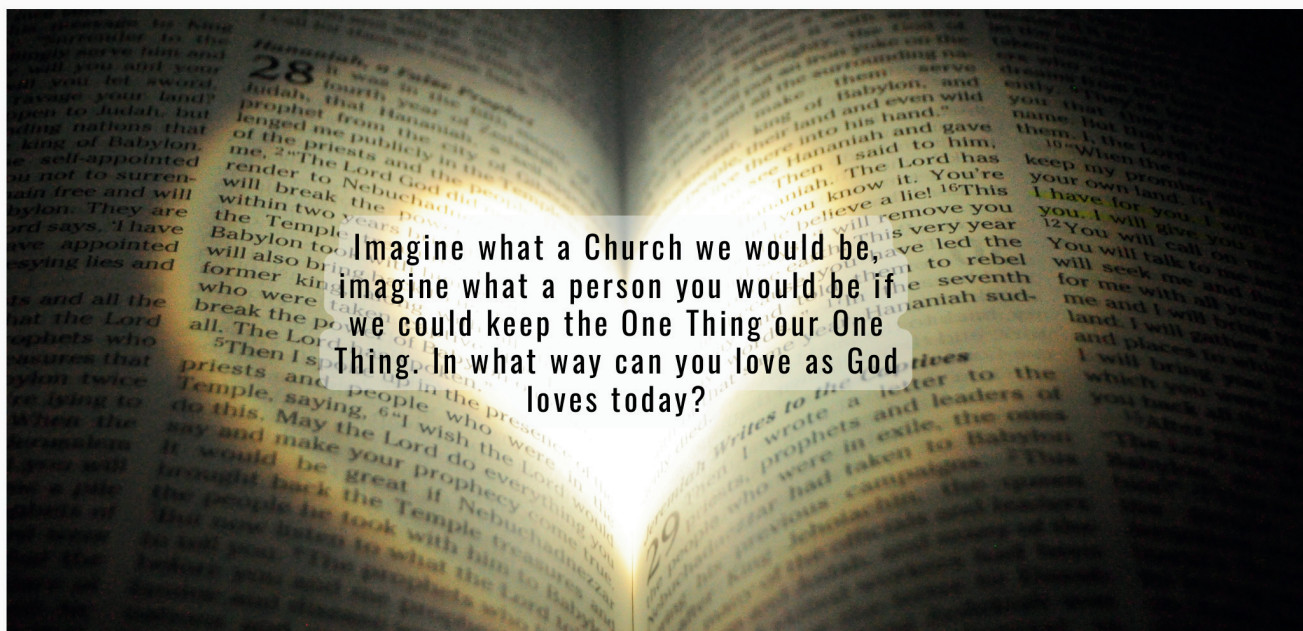
In this day and age, how can anyone expect any organization to be unified under the Gospel? We are a polarized society demanding ideological purity of all who we associate with. We think our jokes about the other side are much funnier than they really are. We take the jokes that are launched at 'us' from 'them' way too seriously. We are all wound up in a fiery maelstrom, stoked by the fearful prophesies of those who want our unquestioning loyalty and political allegiance for their own ends. Simply ignoring the news does not staunch the soul crushing fear that seems to be the currency of our times.



The Gospel is 'Good News' and all of us are in desperate need of good news. What is the good news that Jesus brings? God saves (1 Timothy 1:15). No only does God save sinners (like you and me), God is also in the business of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18), he is also working for the redemption of all creation (Romans 8:20-22). This is profoundly good news! God is saving, reconciling, and redeeming all things. This is the one thing.

When you watch the news tonight, remember the one thing. When you consider how to respond in social media, remember the one thing. When the Spirit nudges you to serve the poor and marginalized, remember the one thing. When dark strongholds in your mind attempt to tear you down, remember the one thing: God Saves.

The Gospel of Jesus is not something that limits us to any particular politic or ideology. The Gospel is beautifully expansive and grows us closer to the imagination of God.



WORSHIP

HOW TO WORSHIP WITH US

Join us online as well as in person Sunday's at 10am



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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8309142301?pwd=RHJ4dDBPdEhMN25yKzFzSzZNeUVPQT09)

Zoom

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 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 4th, Communion

Sermon: "The Message of Philippians: What is a Christian?"

August 11th, 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: "The Message of Philippians: Suffering"

August 18th, 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: "Wondering With Jesus: Why Parables?"

August 25th, 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: "Wondering with Jesus: The Kingdom of Heaven is Like
someone who planted"



Do you use the T Coil hearing loop? If you are having trouble with the system, please contact the church office or Mike Cupp.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL AND WORSHIP INFORMATION

Class begins at 10AM

Children return to worship after the sermon where they are welcome to sit with their parents or with Miss Tina. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kate Kirkey or Tina Ritchie.

AUGUST TEACHERS

ELEMENTARY

Tina Ritchie

PRESCHOOL/NURSERY

August 11 - Heidi Howieson
Other Dates TBD

“All Things New” topics:

Unit 36 – Come, Lord Jesus
(Acts, Ephesians, Philippians)

John, who was one of Jesus' disciples, shared more of God's plan to send Jesus again. When Jesus returns, He will undo everything that was ruined by sin and He will make everything new and right forever.

7/28 John's Vision of Jesus
8/4 Letters to the Seven Churches
8/11 Before the Throne
8/18 Jesus Will Return

Big Picture Question: What is the hope of the church? The church looks forward to Jesus' return when He will make all things new.

Unit Key Verse: The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever." ~ Revelation 11:15

“In The Beginning” topics:

Unit 1 – God Created Everything
(Genesis, Job)

In the beginning, God created everything for God's glory. God made people in God's image. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God revealed God's plan to bring people back to Himself through a descendant - God's own Son, Jesus.

8/25 God Created the World
9/1 God Created People
9/8 Sin Entered the World
9/15 Noah and the Ark
9/22 The Tower of Babel
9/29 The Suffering of Job

Big Picture Question: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

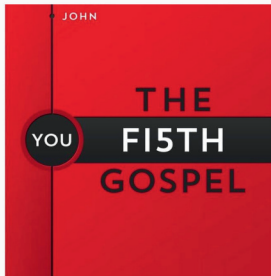
Unit Key Verse: For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ~ Colossians 1:16-17



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADULT STUDIES

Adult Education classes reconvene in September.
Here is a preview - mark your calendars!



Sunday Evening Bible Study - Reconvening September 29 from 5 - 6:30PM
Led by Larry Zimble, this class meets in the conference room at 4square Tax & Accounting and will continue reading The Fifth Gospel by Bobby Conway. This book is different; it's an invitation to actually live out the message of the gospel! Please see Rabbi Larry for more information.



Tuesday Morning Bible Study - Reconvening September 10 from 11AM - 12:15PM
Led by Pastor Robbie, this group meets in the Conference Room and will be viewing and discussing season 4 of The Chosen.



Women's Studies - Wednesday morning or Thursday evening
Revelation: Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom by Jen Wilkin
Participant book: \$25
Register in Fellowship Hall or to tina@ffpc.org by August 25.

Perhaps no other book of the Bible feels as inaccessible and as intimidating to us as the very last one. The book of Revelation overflows with images and ideas that confound our modern ears. But if all Scripture is God-breathed and profitable, we should assume Revelation is as accessible and helpful as any other book of the Bible. Why don't we see it that way?

Two thousand years ago, John's Revelation was circulated and read aloud among seven churches in Asia Minor. Those who heard the letter understood it and drew encouragement from its message. The same can be true for you today. Over 10 sessions of verse-by-verse Bible study, Jen Wilkin helps you discover how the last book of the Bible—the culmination of God's great story—speaks both a steadying word of assurance and a strong call to endure to the church in every age.

Wednesday morning, September 11 - November 13 from 10am - NOON

This class meets in Fellowship Hall and is facilitated by Tina Ritchie

OR

Thursday evening, September 12 - November 14 from 6:30-8:30PM

This class meets via zoom and is facilitated by Dee Dee Ainsworth

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 & friends,

Watch your texts and email or contact Tina Ritchie tina@ffpc.org for more information. Adults seeking to be part of the program are asked to see Tina.

Youth Group Summer Schedule

Incoming 6th graders - graduated seniors and our returning college friends are welcome to join us! Sign up for special events on the youth bulletin board or email tina@ffpc.org. Friends are always welcome; a parental consent form is needed for offsite events.

August

Wed, Aug 7, 10AM - 1PM, Salvation Army and M Street Bakery e will leave church at 1 and return by 4:30.

Wed, Aug 13 - Sat, Aug 17 Holly Recreation Area Group Campsite - come for a day, two, or all! See the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall, Pastor Robbie, or Tina.

Ways to support Youth Group scholarships & 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!

Help Needed to Clean Sunday School Classrooms! Saturday, August 10 from 9am - Noon

Families and adults are invited to help the Christian Education Committee clean the children's classroom for the start of the school year. Children and youth are welcome too! Please see the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Tina & 1st Pres. Youth Group ~
Thank you so much for your kind donation of \$77 to help feed the poor amongst us. We will put it to good use and it's nice knowing we have such caring youth in Benton! ♡

May the Love of the Lord
bless you this day.

Deane Savastal
Pastor Coordinator


"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."
1 Peter 4:10



How can we pray for you?

Prayer requests & updates
can be sent to
prayerchain@ffpc.org

Communion Table Flowers



*A perfect way
to honor a
person, couple,
or special
occasion*

*Contact the Church Office
or Heidi Roberts for more
information*



Yarn Rappers

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



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



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.

We will meet the 3rd Saturday of each month from
9:30am-12pm. If you are interested
in participating, please contact the office at 810-629-7801
or see Deb Bard or Mary Zimmler.

**DAILY
ACTIVITIES**

**FUN FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY**



LET'S GO

CAMPING

**HIKING
SWIMMING
&
A WHOLE LOT
S'MORE**

**AUGUST 13TH-17TH
HOLLY RECREATION AREA
GROUP CAMPSITE
SIGN-UP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**COME FOR A DAY
OR
STAY FOR THE
WEEK**






FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOOKING FOR CHOIR MEMBERS

PRaise THE LORD THROUGH MUSIC PRaise THE LORD THROUGH MUSIC

If you have a passion for singing and/or ringing, join us!

Practice With Us Wednesday Evenings Beginning in September

 Chancel Choir - 7:30pm-9:00pm 
 Hand Bell Choir 6:30pm-7:15pm 





Save
The
Date

Yummy!

ICE CREAM

Social

AUGUST 25TH



CLASSROOM CLEANING



Saturday, August 10 from 9am - Noon Families and adults are invited to help the Christian Education Committee clean the children's classroom for the start of the school year. Children and youth are welcome too! Please see the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall.



Happy Birthday

KEN WENSEL AUG 1

VERA THORNTON AUG 9

SHIRLEY A. COOK AUG 14

JENNIFER WENZEL AUG 22

JUDY BROWN AUG 2

PEGGY BLOUGH AUG 10

BILLIE MORRIS AUG 14

ERIC MURRAY AUG 23

JAN JACOBS AUG 5

JOHNNY FOGUTH AUG 11

SAMMY CARNES AUG 18

BONNIE GRIFFITH AUG 25

ADAM J. WELDON AUG 5

HOLLY HODGKIN AUG 11

MARK GRAMS AUG 19

SHERRY ZOLLARS AUG 27

JIM SAVAGE AUG 7

CECILIA LADD AUG 13

CLARK CASTEEL AUG 22

Happy Anniversary

JIM & GLORIA LINDSAY AUGUST 1

ROY & AMY FETZER AUGUST 10

MARK & JENNY GIBB AUGUST 18

GUY & SHARON COWING AUGUST 27

RICHARD & JANE MOTTA AUGUST 2

GREG & JENNIFER MACLEAN AUGUST 10

JIM & LORI MURRAY AUGUST 22

JOHN & SARA WRAGE AUGUST 29

MICHAEL & ELAINE PELLETIER AUGUST 4

CHRIS & TONYA COFFIN AUGUST 11

RICHARD & GEORGIANN TUNNINGLEY AUGUST 24

MORRIS & PEGGY FULCHER AUGUST 7

KEN & KAREN WENSEL AUGUST 15

Thank you to the work team for maintaining the HVAC systems:
Chas & Cheryl Kopplin, Bob Chappelle, Guy Cowing and Janet Stork.

The belts are tight, the fillers are not dusty and the coils are clean.
Great Job!

Also a big thank you to Patty Thompson for helping to paint the Art
Room.

We hope to see more of you at the work group.

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.

Refugee Welcome Team

MAKING MICHIGAN HOME

Two more families are on their way! A family of 2 will arrive on August 6th and a three-generation family of 7 will arrive on August 7th. While we have much of the needed furniture for these families, we are still looking for some items and for volunteers to greet the families with welcome meals and transportation from the airport. It is really wonderful that there are now so many opportunities to get involved locally in the important work of refugee resettlement. To keep it all organized, we now have a sign-up-genius site to list all of the needs for both donations and volunteers. You can check it out [here](#).

Don't forget, if you are interested in any of the opportunities that will involve working directly with refugee arrivals, please register as a Samaritas volunteer using [this link](#). The process is simple! And our Amazon registry is always being updated with our current needs. You can use our [wish list](#) link to have items shipped directly. Finally, as more refugees arrive we would love to have more volunteers. Please consider sharing this email with a friend!

Peace,
Sarah

For more information or to volunteer

please visit <https://ffpc.org/samaritas/>

or scan the code below



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!