

FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Growing in God

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

Nightmare Church by Pastor Robbie Carnes



Everyday I drive by the church building I take note of what the community has written on the chalkboard on South LeRoy Street. Each month there is a thoughtful question written for response and a space to scrawl prayer requests. I try my best to pray for each thing that is written. It has become an important part of our community's spirituality and a wonderful way for our Church to be present in Fenton.

It's all good, until it isn't. Many times, the words and images draw on the blackboard become crowded and illegible. Sometimes there are nasty political references that take away from the spirit of the board and meant to cause derision. Very few times there are foul words that need to be erased immediately.

Recently, the question, "What do you expect from a Church?" was written for a response. Someone wrote underneath, "Nightmare."

My heart broke a little. I wonder if this was just another sarcastic snipe at institutional organization? I wonder what sad story lies beyond that word? I wonder what kind of Church that person was referring to? I wonder how FFPC can be experienced as a nightmare?

Don't get me wrong. I love our church. There is a gaggle of folks here who consistently give of themselves, share of their resources and love in remarkable ways. There are dedicated people who serve others and faithfully lead ministries and worship services. There is a lot of God's light shining.

But you know that sometimes there isn't enough of that warming light to go around. Someone gets left out. Someone gets snubbed. A word is spoken that shouldn't have. A false story is spun based on incomplete facts. A motive is questioned, a reputation is tarnished, forgiveness is withheld, relationships are broken. A cloud of negativity settles in and gripe sessions are scheduled.

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.



We all know that this happens, we all have participated in it one way or another, and we all received our personalized invitation for the upcoming nightmare event.

How do we not be a nightmare church? How do we keep from slipping off Jesus' narrow road into that deep and wide ditch? I believe that we are tempted to simply ignore the issues and carry on. Someone gets hurt at church and we encourage them, but its too little too late and they quietly shift into the margins. There isn't a healthy way to air all of the dirty laundry without causing more of a stir. Let's bury it, grin, and bear it. If we wait long enough, until the pain is forgotten or the hurtful people have left or new people come in and bring some change, we will get through it.

I do not believe this is the way Jesus teaches in his words or actions. In fact, I believe that the act of ignoring our nightmare is also an act of ignoring what Jesus has accomplished on the cross. Jesus died and was resurrected so that we, ourselves, might be reconciled with God. We are also given the ministry of reconciliation to be reconciled with each other and to encourage everyone to be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). To ignore this role of our faith in our church community is like Superman fighting the bad guys and forgetting that he can fly.

We combat the tendency of being a nightmare church by seeking to be reconciled with each other. This is hard, spiritual work. It means that we need to be quick to forgive and eager to be forgiven. It means that we need be honest with our feelings; sorting out what the real problem is before we confront the wrong person about the wrong subject. It means that we value our words and strive to lift everyone up as positively as we can. Loose (negative) lips can sink the Church ship. We can not take full responsibility of our words and actions if we haven't done the introspective work of discerning what belongs to us and what belongs to the other.

This doesn't mean that we ignore or whitewash bad behavior. It doesn't mean that we aren't allowed to express contradictory thoughts, beliefs, or feelings. It does mean that we speak the truth in Love (Ephesians 4:15). Here are five crucial points about this verse:

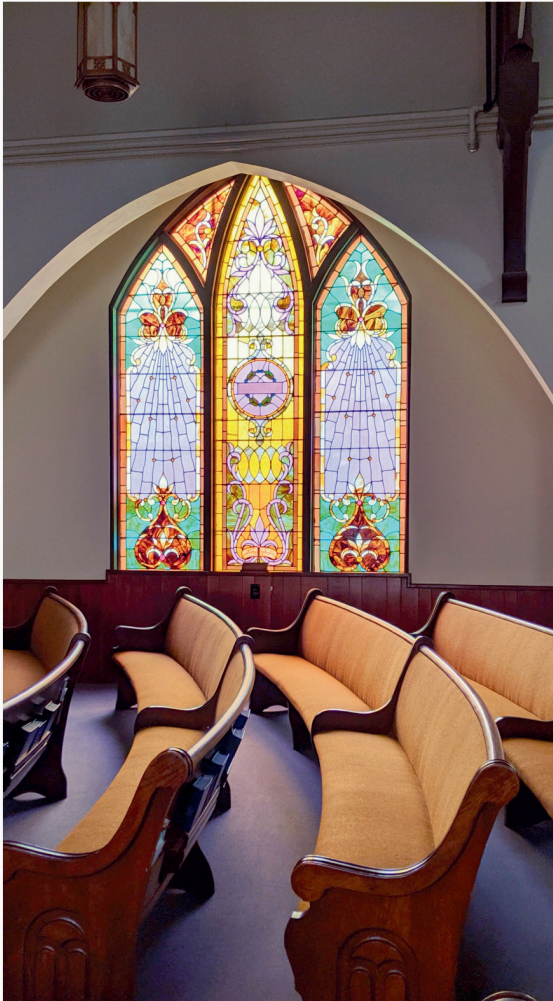
1. **Speak.** If you choose to remain silent, you need to let the issue go. It is dishonest to harp about an injury when you are not looking to resolve it. You are simply picking the scab and not allowing it to heal.
2. **The Truth.** Make sure that you are speaking what is true and relates correctly with facts. Ask for clarification. Make room in your perception for other people's views and ideas. Give yourself space to be wrong and allow for correction. I suffer from the perverse belief that I can read minds. When I try to read minds, I suffer.
3. **Love.** Do you want to remain in relationship with this other person? If so, temper your words. Be honestly gentle. Don't burn the bridge with arrogance, pride, or ill timed jokes.
4. **Discipline.** 'Loving TruthSpeak' is the action of one disciple of Jesus to another. However, we cannot discipline those we do not have a relationship with. Ranging from ineffective to abusive, seeking to discipline without a relationship is perceived as judgmental and prone to drive people away. We need to invest in relationship before we can share our helpful comments for everyday living. If we have a relationship with another, the goal of discipline is to restore a healthy relationship with Jesus and with the other.
5. **Health.** Striving for healthy relationships and resolving harmful situations can, at times, cause rifts in relationship. Healthy boundaries are necessary and we shouldn't be surprised when harmful people challenge those boundaries and tax our support networks. As Followers of Jesus, we look to be as healthy as we can toward God, ourselves, and others. We also look for the overall health of our church and community. Sometimes that means we need to exclude others. This is in order to resolve the nightmare rather than to be a nightmare.

Jesus came to seek the lost and to save the Nightmare Church. Our Church is made up of sinful humans and we will always find ways to hurt each other. Praise God that through the Power of the Holy Spirit we can seek what was lost by our bad behavior and ill advised words and be reconciled with each other because we have been reconciled with Christ. Let's wake up from the nightmare friends.

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>

Closed Captioning Available

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkBa-DrcqSECxjAyeaiC4bg>

Closed Captioning Available

Zoom

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

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

Meeting ID: 830 914 2301 Meeting Password: 5013

Closed Captioning Available

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)

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 6th, 20th Sunday after Pentecost, World Communion Sunday

Sermon: "The Kingdom of Heaven has Come Near"

October 13th, 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: "The Kingdom of Heaven is without our reach"

October 20th, 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: "Wondering with Jesus: The Kingdom of Heaven is like a King Who prepared a wedding Party for his Son"

October 27th, 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Deacon Sunday



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

Children are welcome to stay and worship with their families that day. Normal Sunday school and nursery resumes September 8.

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.

OCTOBER TEACHERS

ELEMENTARY & PRESCHOOL/NURSERY

October 6 - Heidi Howieson

October 13 - Heidi Howieson

“All Things New” topics: Unit 2 – God Formed a Nation (Genesis)

God's plan to save people through Jesus began to take shape when God chose to bless Abraham's family by grace. God made a covenant with Abraham and promised him a new home and a large family. God also promised Abraham that one day all the people of the world would be blessed through his family - a promise that points to Jesus.

10/6 God's Covenant with Abraham
10/13 Abraham and Isaac
10/20 Isaac and Rebekah
10/27 God's Promise to Isaac

Big Picture Question: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because God is faithful and does everything for God's glory and our good.

Unit Key Verse: And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise - Galatians 3:29

“All Things New” topics: Unit 3 – The Nation Grew (Genesis)

God's promises for Abraham and Isaac were promises for Jacob too. God showed Jacob in a dream that God would bless Jacob's family, which would grow to be a whole nation as part of God's plan to bring Jesus, the Savior of the world.

11/3 Jacob and Esau
11/10 Jacob and Rachel
11/17 Jacob's New Name

Big Picture Question: Does God keep God's promises? God always keeps God's promises because God is faithful.

Unit Key Verse: I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. Genesis 28:15



Story Time beginning November 10!

The Library Committee will host story time the 2nd Sunday of each month after worship in Fellowship Hall. Children, youth and adults are invited to hear and discuss a story of the month and check out books from the library! Folks interested in being a reader are asked to see Jenn Wenzel.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADULT STUDIES



Sunday Evening Bible Study - Reconvening September 29 from 5 - 6:30PM

Led by Larry Zimbler, 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.

Join us in person at 4square Tax AND also on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82961241969?>

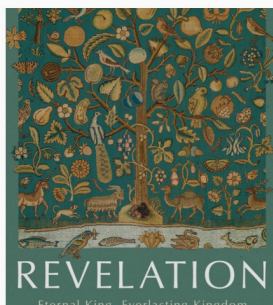
[pwd=MOIPMmxYU001SnQOZ3cwV3h5Z1phdz09](#)

Meeting ID: 829 6124 1969 Passcode: 017303



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

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,

Meetings are generally Sundays in the Youth Room. Please see Tina if you are interested in helping at any event.

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.

October

Sun 13, 4-6PM: College Care Packages and discussion

Sun 27 5-8PM: Pumpkin Carving at the Wenzel's - dinner provided

November

Sat 9, 5-7PM: Turkey Dinner assistance

Sun 24, 12-2PM: Triple C - cookies, cards and crafts for care receivers in the youth room - pizza provided

December

Sat 7, 2-5PM: Live Nativity and Jinglefest

Sun 15: TBD Youth Christmas Party and gift exchange

Minno Life

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS: HOW TO BE CONSISTENT WHEN LIFE IS BUSY

It's hard to be consistent with family faith-building time when life is busy and unpredictable. Here are 5 important aspects of family devotional time to help create rhythms that fit your family and help you become more consistent.

[READ ON](#)

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!



Youth Group is collecting goodies for 5 care packages for college students. Please drop off items to the bin in the main entryway by October 7! There's nothing like a treat from home :-)) Thank you for your support!!



Save the Date

SENIOR LUNCHEON

For our Members and Friends 70+



FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

OCTOBER 12TH, 2024 | 11:30AM-2:00PM



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

Communion Table Flowers



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

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



JOIN US FOR AN ALL STAR COFFEE HOUR

OCTOBER 20TH 11AM-12PM

PLEASE SIGN-UP TO DECORATE A TABLE BASED ON YOUR FAVORITE TEAM!
HAVE SOME SNACKS AND ENJOY SHARING YOUR TEAM WITH OTHERS.





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 



Happy Birthday

DENISE MORRIS OCT 5
MEGHAN ALLCORN OCT 17
FRANCES ALLEN OCT 25

JULIE HUSSAR OCT 6
BRENT LAVANWAY OCT 19
SANDY NELSON OCT 26

PEGGY FULCHER OCT 9
FRAN MOORE OCT 21

KRISTIN HARPER OCT 15
PATTIE THOMPSON OCT 22

Happy Anniversary

JONATHAN & JENNIFER WENZEL OCTOBER 3
TIM & JILL HISCOCK OCTOBER 12
PAT TUCKER & HARRY CLARK OCTOBER 18

MARK & JULIE GRAMS OCTOBER 5
GREGORY & ERIN BRADLEY OCTOBER 15
DAVID & TERRIE FISHER OCTOBER 21

LEE & VICKY GRAHAM OCTOBER 7
LARRY & MARY ZIMBLER OCTOBER 17
CECILIA LADD OCTOBER 27

College Care Packages



It's that time of year to bless 5 of our young adults with a care package. Please drop off items in the bin located in the church main entrance by October 7th.

There's nothing like a treat from home!



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

We continue to ask for support 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



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22 youth and adults gathered in the youth room on Sunday, September 22, to hear Salah Bajba share his story of coming to America as a refugee. This experience was a culmination of confirmation lessons on justice, hospitality, compassion, and unity. Often in the news and other media sources, messages of fear and intolerance are spread regarding those seeking refuge. Sarah Martin-Fanone explained the thorough and complicated process a refugee must go through to come to America, and it was shocking to learn how little we understand what a refugee goes through and the positive influence they contribute to our communities and economy.

Salah's thoughtful and honest story was inspiring and enlightening. Even while facing some adversity in America, this young man has a heart full of gratitude and compassion for a community and country that has given him a chance to give back. It takes a great deal of courage, integrity, and faith to overcome and find commonalities with all people, and that is exactly what Salah seeks to do each and every day, We all were blessed by him!

Peace & Global Witness Offering Sept 29th & Oct. 6th

TOGETHER

we promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice around the world and here at home.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

9/8-10/6
2024

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!