

FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Growing in God

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

Word of the Day: Confelicity by Pastor Robbie Carnes



Chances are, you have had a conversation (er... exchange?) with someone you disagreed with this past month. It should be a natural experience to converse with people of differing opinions. However, if that conversation is with someone who is incredibly toxic or narcissistic it can be damaging. But what if we are the ones who are toxic or narcissistic? For the next few months, I will be exploring how to avoid toxic and narcissistic behavior in our own lives. Using the book of Proverbs and an article from the BBC, we will be looking at 5 different ways we can examine ourselves and seek to be better people and friends.

The word 'empathy' has its Latin roots in the concept of "shared pain". It is when we take on the suffering of another in such a way that our sharing of those feelings is a comfort for those in pain. To be empathetic is to listen when a friend needs to cry on your shoulder. It is to stand in another's emotions and seek the perspective (and the benefit) of the sufferer. There has been recent conversation about how empathy can be used to manipulate people's feelings and draw them into unhelpful service and wasteful sacrifice. While there may be some nuanced truth in that, empathy describes what Jesus has done by being incarnated as a human, living, dying and being resurrected for us and the reconciliation of all creation. Empathy is a clear Christian Virtue.

We tend to accept empathy as a foundation of friendship and healthy relationships in general. We all need to have people in our lives with whom we can share our pain. Life gets too heavy not to share it with others. However, there are other topics of conversation than our pain, shared or otherwise. This is where the word "confelicity" comes in. The Latin roots mean "shared happiness".

How to avoid being a toxic friend

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20241129-how-to-avoid-being-a-toxic-friend>

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.

The word for shared joy (confelicity) is much less well known than its counterpart for shared pain (empathy)

What would it look like if our friendships and familial relationships not only had the capacity for sharing pain, but we could share our joys as well? Could it be that sharing our joy can be more vulnerable than sharing our pain? We might think we would be seen as boasting or arrogant. We might assume that we would be perceived as over-enthusiastic or nerdy. Our joys are precious; why would we share them and risk having them ridiculed or diminished? Or worse, somehow reflect poorly on us? Does not sharing joy affect our ability to enjoy our joy?

Proverbs 15 says:

22 Without counsel, plans go wrong,
but with many advisers they succeed.

23 To make an apt answer is a joy to anyone,
and a word in season, how good it is!

24 For the wise the path of life leads upward,
in order to avoid Sheol below.

While these verses in Proverbs have multi-layered meanings, it is clear that joy is to be shared and that wisdom and spiritual health are related to sharing joy. Some of our best friendships are based on people who share the same joy in an activity or interest. Sharing joy is connected to some of the best experiences in our lives.

In order to mitigate the risk of sharing joy with others, perhaps we should consider what 'seasonal word' we can use when someone attempts to share their joy with us. How can we be supportive of this person's joy? We could ask for more information and talk through the implications (i.e., what does this joy mean for your life?). All too often, we respond too passively. We should avoid changing the subject by saying, "That's nice" and moving on. We should also avoid being actively destructive by making comments to minimize the significance of what is being said or trying to compare it with another person or event.

Say that the joy that someone is sharing with you is not something that you enjoy or approve of. Is sharing that joy with others akin to endorsing that event or activity? If I won a prestigious award in a firearms competition and you held strict anti-gun opinions, could you be happy for me? In order not to add toxicity to a relationship, it is important to value the person's feelings and hold your understanding, approval, or enjoyment of the matter at hand loosely.

What would it look like if we could enjoy other people's joy? What kind of relationships would you have if you focused on celebrating the joy in another's life? Would your life be fuller? Would you learn about new things? What if, in our sharing of pain and joy, we look to lifting everyone up on the path of life?

Does Jesus share your joy?

WORSHIP

HOW TO WORSHIP WITH US

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



APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 6th 5th Sunday in Lent
Temptation to Mock Faithfulness

April 13th Palm Sunday

April 17th Maundy Thursday, 7pm
First Presbyterian Church of Flint

April 18th, 12:00pm
Good Friday Service, Fenton United Methodist Church

April 20th, Easter Sunday

April 27th, 2nd Sunday of Easter
The Gospel in Acts

**Closed Captions during worship are available
on the TV located in the Sanctuary Annex.**

Here is how to join us Online

Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/fentonfpc>

Closed Captioning Available

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@fentonfirstpresbyterianchurch>

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).



*Order Your
Easter Lily
Today*

Order forms are located in the church
office as well as in Fellowship Hall.

Orders and payment are due to the
church office by April 9th, 2025

Pick up your lily after Easter Sunday
Worship, April 20th, 2025.



APRIL 13TH AT 10AM

PALM SUNDAY

Hosanna in the highest!


Remembering & celebrating the day
Jesus entered Jerusalem as
Savior & King.



APRIL 17TH AT 7PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Worship at Flint First Presbyterian
Church. Remembering the Last
Supper of Jesus Christ with the
Apostles.



APRIL 18TH AT 12PM

GOOD FRIDAY

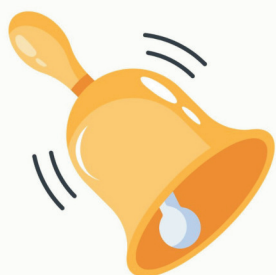
Interdenominational Worship at Fenton United
Methodist Church. Remembering the crucifixion
of Jesus and his death at Calvary.



APRIL 13TH AT 10AM

EASTER SUNDAY

Remembering & celebrating the
resurrection of Jesus from the dead.



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

Adult Chancel Choir - 7:30pm-9:00pm

Adult Hand Bell Choir 6:30pm-7:15pm



FFPC YOUTH CHOIR

PRACTICE WITH US SUNDAY'S
AFTER WORSHIP



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 Tina Ritchie.

APRIL TEACHERS

ELEMENTARY & PRESCHOOL/NURSERY

Tina Ritchie & Heidi Howieson

MAY TEACHERS

Elementary & PRESCHOOL/NURSERY

PJ Collier/Tina Ritchie & Heidi Roberts

"Into the Promised Land" topics:

Unit 9 – The Cycle of Judges

(Judges; Ruth)

When the neighboring nations threatened and attacked Israel, God provided new leaders, called judges, to help rescue God's people. While these judges could only give temporary help, they reminded God's people that one day God would provide a perfect Judge to rescue God's people for good.

4/6 Israel's Unfaithfulness

4/13 Deborah and Barak

4/20 Gideon

4/27 Samson

5/4 Ruth and Boaz

Big Picture Question: What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

Unit Key Verse: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ~ **1 John 1:9**

"The Kingdom Provided" topics

Unit 10 – Samuel and King Saul

(1 Samuel)

Despite all that God had done for Israel, God's people continued to rebel against God. They demanded a king, going against God's plan and ignoring God's warnings about how a king would rule them. God provided Israel's first king, Saul, to rule God's people. Christ, the final King, rules over all people as Savior.

5/11 Hannah and Samuel

5/18 The Ark Was Captured

5/25 Israel's First King

Big Picture Question: Is there anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

Unit Key Verse: No one is like you, Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. ~ **Jeremiah 10:6**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADULT STUDIES



Tuesday Morning Bible Study - Parables of Jesus

11 am - 12:15pm in the Conference Room

Led by Pastor Robbie, this class will resume April 22 after taking a break through Lent and Easter.

Lenten Simple Meals - Lead Us Not into Temptation

Thursday Evenings, March 13 - April 10, 5:30pm-7:00pm

This Lenten season we will be studying the Gospel selections of the Lectionary. Each scripture passage reveals a Story that presents a temptation to the characters. We will be looking at these passages, asking ourselves how we might be vulnerable to these pernicious temptations and how we might turn and live more faithfully together as God's people.

Women's Studies - April Women's Bible Study

Perfectly Flawed: God Transforms our Weaknesses in Strengths

Wednesday mornings April 23 May 28 from 10am - NOON

This class meets in the Conference Room and is facilitated by Tina Ritchie

OR

Thursday evenings April 24 through May 29 from 6:30 - 8:30PM

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

Learn to persevere in your faith, live confidently, and boldly step into God's purpose for you.

This study shows how the apostle Peter's passion and imperfections make him one of the Bible's most loved and relatable people. Even when Peter gave up, gave in, and gave out, Jesus was there for him. Join Lisa as she follows Peter through his time with Jesus, from the beginning of Jesus's ministry to the Resurrection and on through Pentecost when Peter begins to live into his call. Along the way, discover the raw honesty of a man who veered from staunch devotion to moments of doubt, mirroring our own human struggles.

Peter's story is an invitation to embrace imperfection, find strength in the relentless grace of God, and discover how each one of us is perfectly flawed but still deeply loved by God.

Participant book is \$14 - Register by April 6



Sunday Evening Bible Study Starting March 23rd **“Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewishness of Jesus can transform your faith.”** by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg.

Led by Larry Zimbler

5 - 6:30PM in the 4square Tax & Accounting Conference room

Zoom participation is available upon request. Please see Rabbi Larry for more information

A rare chance to know Jesus as his first disciples knew him.

What would it be like to journey back to the first century and sit at the feet of Rabbi Jesus as one of his Jewish disciples? How would your understanding of the gospel have been shaped by the customs, beliefs, and traditions of the Jewish culture in which you lived?

Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus takes you on a fascinating tour of the Jewish world of Jesus, offering inspirational insights that can transform your faith. Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg paint powerful scenes from Jesus’ ministry, immersing you in the prayers, feasts, history, culture, and customs that shaped Jesus and those who followed him.

You will hear the parables as they must have sounded to first-century Jews, powerful and surprising. You will join the conversations that were already going on among the rabbis of his day. You will watch with new understanding as the events of his life unfold. And you will emerge with new excitement about the roots of your own Christian faith.

Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus will change the way you read Scripture and deepen your understanding of the life of Jesus. It will also help you to adapt the rich prayers and customs you learn about to your own life, in ways that both respect and enrich your Christian faith.

By looking at the Jewishness of Jesus, Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg take you on a captivating journey into the heart of Judaism, one that is both balanced and insightful, helping you to better understand and appreciate your own faith.

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

Our mission statement:

To create space for youth to ask questions, encounter God and learn to live as disciples of Christ.

ALLOW, MEET, AND GO!

Youth Group Events for 6 - 12 graders & friends,

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 lock-ins and offsite events.

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

April

Sun 13, 4-6PM: Youth Group

Sun 27, 4-6PM: Youth Group

May

*Sat 17, 9AM: Dibbleville Garage Sale Fundraiser

Story Time in Fellowship Hall!

The Library Committee is hosting story time the 2nd Sunday of each month after worship. 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.



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!





FENTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ESSENTIAL *FIRST AID* TRAINING

We can all benefit from learning basic techniques to save your own life as well as the life of someone you know.

TRAINING INCLUDES:

- ✓ Hands on CPR/AED
- ✓ Stop the bleed-bloodborne pathogens
- ✓ Choking Relief
- ✓ How to use an EpiPen and Narcan

MAY 3RD, 2025 | 9AM-12PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL



FREE EVENT

REGISTRATION REQUIRED



810-629-7801



office@ffpc.org



Apply now

DEACON'S SCHOLARSHIP

TWO OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

**Are you a Member of Fenton First
Presbyterian Church or child of a
member?**

**Are you a high school senior OR have
you graduated and continuing your
education at a college, trade school,
or seeking professional development,
or a certificate?**

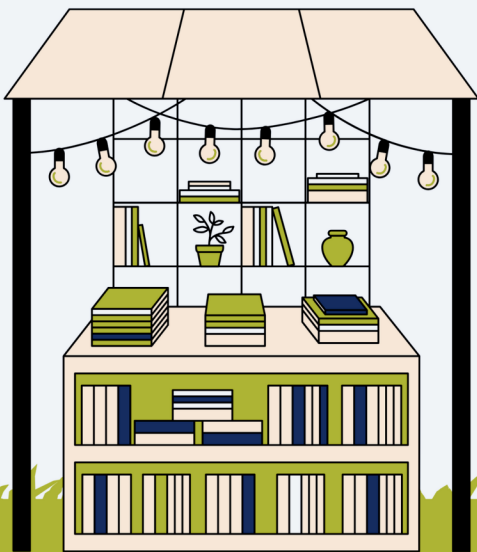
**Applications are available in Fellowship
Hall or online by visiting us at
<https://ffpc.org/deacons/>**



DIBBLEVILLE GARAGE SALE



**MAY 16TH & 17TH
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**



Fenton First Presbyterian Church and St. Jude's Episcopal Church
are sponsoring a neighborhood-wide Garage Sale in Dibbleville
(downtown Fenton).

During the sale, Fenton First Presbyterian Church restrooms will
be open to the public.

We will also be passing out maps, refreshments, and information
about our church.

If you have any questions or are interesting in participating in this
event, please contact Donna Anderson at
donna.ander@gmail.com or 810-691-2124 by March 24, 2025.

Official event signs are available for \$5 each.

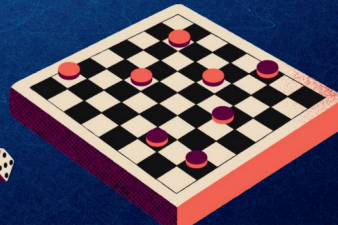
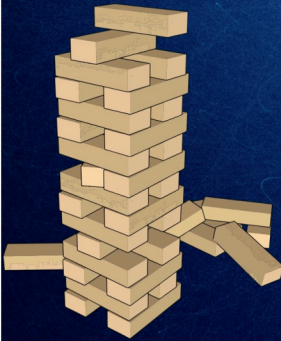
BRING A *Friend*

GAME NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT OF PIZZA & GAMES!

APRIL 5TH AT 7:00PM

BRING YOUR FAVORITE GAMES
AND JOIN US FOR FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP.



Let every Mother feel Special

MOTHER'S DAY *Tea*

SAT

10

MAY

1:00 PM

*Cost \$5 per person
Children 10 and under are free*

Make your reservation today!
810-629-7801





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*

Happy Birthday

BRIAN LEWIS APR 2

WILLIAM EDDINGTON APR 14

EMILY HOLLOPETER APR 21

GABRIELLE SMITH APR 26

JAYCE ERWIN APR 30

HARRY J CLARK APR 3

CHRISTIAN COFFIN APR 16

BARB TAYLOR APR 21

LEE GRAHAM APR 28

JEAN HERMANN APR 4

MEREDITH WELDON APR 18

DEBBIE HOEGLUND APR 25

LYNNE WATTERS APR 28

TINA SMITH APR 7

MARK GIBB APR 20

SARAH KASPRZAK APR 25

ROY FETZER APR 29

Happy Anniversary

JIM & MEGHAN ALLCORN APRIL 20

MICHAEL & JEANNE CUPP APRIL 22

CATHY HOLLOPETER APRIL 29

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.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY—FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

Repairing the breach

ISAIAH 58

MARCH 5 – APRIL 20, 2025



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

One Great Hour of Sharing Collection April 13th, 2025 & April 20th, 2025

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



Mary Kay Spa Facial and Fundraiser for Girls' Education

Join us on April 26th at 2pm in the Youth Room for a free Mary Kay facial, and learn about Camfed, an organization that helps girls in certain African countries stay in school. Refreshments provided. 10% of the total orders will be donated to Camfed. Sign up in fellowship hall.

CAMFED is a pan-African, grassroots-led movement tackling poverty, inequality and injustice through girls' education and women's leadership. Our focus is on vulnerable girls and young women in rural areas of Africa. This is where girls face acute disadvantage, and where unlocking their power will have a transformative impact.



DEACON'S

Easter Project



You can help give our local refugee families a blessed Easter experience by donating Easter basket items for the children, and/or contributing a monetary donation towards a grocery gift card for each family.

Drop Off Bin Is Located In The Entryway

For more information please contact Pat Tucker or see or an available Deacon.

Donations are due by April 17th, 2025

SUGGESTED BASKET ITEMS INCLUDE

- Fake Grass
- Chocolate Bunny or other neutral chocolate item
- Assorted Wrapped Chocolate or Candies
- Plastic Eggs.
- Small Toys (stuffed animals, bouncy balls, tiny cars, bubbles, puzzles, etc...)
- Small Craft & Art Items (play-doh, chalk, stickers, coloring books, crayons, pencils, and washable markers)



STEWARDSHIP

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REVIEW

Profit/Loss	February	Budget	Jan. - Feb.	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income:	\$ 28,148.37	\$ 21,027.99	\$ 47,120.61	\$ 41,856.19	\$ 253,545.17
Expense:	\$ 27,064.34	\$ 23,355.22	\$ 56,025.72	\$ 41,120.61	\$ 305,083.06
	\$ 1,084.03	\$ (2,327.23)	\$ (8,905.11)	\$ (5312.77)	\$ (51,537.89)
*This does not include additional obligations such as restricted fund:					
Board of Deacons, Faith & Femininty, Organ Fund, HVAC Fund, etc.					
Statement of Cash Flows		February	YTD		
Cash at Beginning of Period:		\$ 45,830.61	\$ 54,857.92		
Cash at End of Period:		\$ 50,654.85	\$ 50,654.85		
Net Cash		\$ 4,824.24	\$ (4,203.07)		
Balance in the Building Repair & Improvement account as of February 2025 \$7394.15					
Respectfully Submitted March 10th, 2025					
Marilee Smiley					
Treasurer					



**CHURCH
IS NOT
SOMETHING
YOU GO TO,
IT'S
A FAMILY
YOU BELONG TO.**





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!