



NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

# FIRST PRES. PRESS

NOVEMBER 2015

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## OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

**November 7**  
**Virginia Ulsh**

**November 13**  
**Bob Thomas**

**November 25**  
**John Melrose**

**November 29**  
**Vivian Tallman**

## COMPASSION BUILDERS



In the July-August FPP, we celebrated the first Compassion Builders project completed this summer- putting a new roof on the Tandi's home. In late summer, Compassion Builders came together again to work on a second project- the home of a single mom in our community. Her goal is to open a daycare in her home, but her home had been unsided and exposed to the elements for a year and a half. The siding needed to be completed in order to get insurance. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers (for siding work and meals), Compassion Builders has helped this mother of two daughters move forward in becoming self-sufficient. Thanks to all that were able to help!



**PASTORS' PAGE****-JAN AND TIM DEVINE, CO-PASTORS**

Je—sus loves me, this I know, for the Bi—ble tells me so.

We are halfway through our study of the Essential Tenets held by our church and our denomination. If we really believe the simple truth of the song above:

- Why are we looking at our foundational beliefs (again)?
- Why are we wrestling with mysteries and paradoxes, big words and bigger concepts— things that we readily admit are beyond our ability to comprehend?
- Why are we so concerned about doctrine and theology ?

It's enough to cause our brains to ache! Why can't we just sing "Jesus Loves Me"?

Here's why:

- When you compare the amount of time you spend reading God's Word and learning biblical truth vs. the amount of time you spend absorbing all kinds of messages through social media and TV , what do you think is the predominant influence shaping your worldview- directly or subtly?
- We do not have enough knowledge about what we believe and why we believe it to stand strong in the face of the barrage of anti-God, anti-Bible, anti-church rhetoric that continually confronts us.
- When our children go off to college and our young adults go into the workforce, they are unequipped to answer the questions and counter the challenges that they face every day. Their faith is rocked and often broken.
- When we try to understand what God says about some aspect of life, we must examine "the whole counsel of God." It is not enough to read one or two passages or books of Scripture: God's truth is revealed as we study what is taught from Genesis to Revelation. Theology (the systematic study of God and God's relation to the world) or Doctrine (a set of beliefs held and taught by a church) are attempts to look at the whole picture and boil it down to a faithful summary of God's Word and Truth.
- Knowing what we believe and why we believe it shapes our identity and how we live.
- Knowing what we believe and why we believe it equips us to share God's truth with others.

So, stick with it!

Exercise your 3-lb. brain until it aches!

Wrestle with things that are too big for us to fully understand . . . it gives us a deeper sense of awe for the God who does!

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15).*

Then you can come back to the simple truth of the gospel and sing with confidence and joy:

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

## WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

— NATHAN JACOBS

*"Sovereign in the mountain air  
Sovereign on the ocean floor  
With me in the calm  
With me in the storm  
Sovereign in my greatest joy  
Sovereign in my deepest cry  
With me in the dark  
With me at the dawn  
In your everlasting arm  
All the pieces of my life  
From beginning to the end  
I can trust you"*

—Sovereign by Chris Tomlin

With so much going on in our world right now, from war, to hurricanes, to civil unrest and assault upon the church, it's important to remember the sovereignty of God. We can trust in Him and come to Him with all our fears and celebrations. Keep your prayer life strong as we lean into the God who is able to work even the worst of human disasters into good.

As you spend time in prayer, keep these friends in your conversations with our Father:

- George Rynick, who is recovering from surgery for a brain bleed.
- Bev Conklin's daughter-in-law, Barb, who continues to battle cancer.
- The Cook family, upon the death of Joe's niece, Ashley Summerlee, on Oct. 2.
- For the 15 children and 5 adults who went to the Rock Mountain retreat.
- For those whose lives have been torn apart across the globe by natural or manmade disasters.
- Jeff Shafer, as he recovers from a knee replacement.
- Gertrude Campbell, who fell and broke her pelvis.
- About 40 BU students, who came to the 1st annual MCC Climbing Competition. Thanks to the young adults who are reaching out in such a tangible way.
- Hemant and Saima Tandi, as they travel to India ahead of the mission groups from Faith Bible and Two Rivers going there in November.
- Bruce Barney's father, Bruce Sr., who suffered a stroke following a heart attack.
- For Greg Barsigian's brother, who was hospitalized following a quad accident and heart concerns.
- For the Schrader family upon the death of Jamie's father.
- Nathan Jacobs' grandmother, Marge, as she recovers from surgery.

Here are some great pictures from the Rock Mountain Fall Overnight Retreat!



"In my distress I called upon the Lord,  
And cried out to my God;  
He heard my voice from His temple,  
And my cry came before Him, even to His ears."  
— Psalm 18:6 NKJV



## YOUTH NEWS

## NOVEMBER PLANS

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

**Sunday, November 1**

Bonfire and Glow Light Games!  
Beth and Brian Dean's House  
Airport Road, Endicott  
5:00-7:00pm  
DRESS WARMLY

**Sunday, November 15**

Surprise Event  
Monroe House  
5:00—7:00pm

**Sunday, November 29**

No Youth Group-  
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

**Sunday, November 8**

Hayride & Manhunt!  
Larry & Christina Pierce's Farm  
Anderson Road, Vestal  
5:00-7:00pm  
DRESS WARMLY

**Sunday, November 22**

Ultimate Frisbee Game  
(in lieu of our Turkey Bowl  
Football game)  
3:00-5:00pm  
Park to be decided.

**Sunday, December 4**

Loving Hands Event  
3:00-6:00pm

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

**Join 150+ other students at the ECO Northeast Region High School Retreat  
November 20-22, 2015**

MontLawn Camp & Retreat Center, Bushkill, PA.

Flyers available online (<http://firstpresendicott.org/youth.htm>) and in the sanctuary.

## PARENT INFORMATION

*"When we fail to see and answer the influence our culture has on kids,  
we forfeit the influence we should be having on our kids."*

Walt Mueller, Center for Parent/Youth Understanding ([cpyu.org](http://cpyu.org))

Does the world your teens live in overwhelm you? Do you struggle to know how to respond and guide your children in today's culture?

Walt Mueller has spent 30+ years studying youth culture to help parents and others who work with teens first understand and then reach today's youth from a relevant, biblical perspective. Spend some time on his website ([cpyu.org](http://cpyu.org)): it is frightening to see the issues our children face every day regarding social media, suicide, bullying, porn, self-image, substance abuse, sexuality, relationships, health issues and more. Know enough about our world and about our God to help them face this world with a strong foundation in Christ.

# BOOMWHACKERS® & BLACKLIGHT

*We are super excited to introduce "Boomwhackers" for Christmas!*

Kids, students, and parents will have a blast this November and December practicing some Blacklight and Boomwhacker fun! If you're curious and want to see what this is all about, check out our practice schedule below.

*A snack & snack break is included in every practice!*

THURSDAY, November 5 - 5:30-6:30pm "Boomwhackers!"

THURSDAY, November 12 - 5:30-6:30pm Blacklight

THURSDAY, November 19 - 5:30-6:00 - Blacklight, 6:15-6:45 - Boomwhackers

THURSDAY, December 3 - 5:30-6:00 - Blacklight, 6:15-6:45 - Boomwhackers

THURSDAY, December 10 - 5:30-6:00 - Blacklight, 6:15-6:45 - Boomwhackers

THURSDAY, December 17 - Dress Rehearsals for both! 5:30-6:45pm

SUNDAY, December 20 - Morning Services "Boomwhackers" Performance

CHRISTMAS EVE, Sunday, December 24 - 4:30PM Blacklight Performance

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 6 4:00PM



**WE NEED YOU**  
to participate in  
**LOVING HANDS!**

Loving Hands is an event for every age. We will decorate ornaments, sign cards, fill baskets with all sorts of baked goods, candy, fruit, and other treats, and after eating a slice or two of pizza, we will head out to Christmas carol and deliver our gift baskets.

**Please plan to join us!**

To sign up to provide goodies, please go to:

[www.perfectpotluck.com](http://www.perfectpotluck.com)

Coordinator Last Name: Finn

Event Name: Loving Hands

Password: **HANDS\15**

## “What’s in the Bible?”

In *Buck Denver Asks...What’s in the Bible?* you meet Buck Denver and his friends and join them on a journey through the WHOLE Bible in this kids’ Christian video series. It’s perfect viewing for the entire family – you will laugh and learn together!

In his first new project since VeggieTales®, Phil Vischer has set out to teach kids (*and parents!*) the story of the Bible – God’s great rescue plan! We know the stories of Moses, Noah, David, and Jesus, but in this groundbreaking new kids’ series, we see how they all fit together to tell one big, redemptive story.

Vischer’s signature wit shines through with his all-new cast of characters, fast-paced flash animation, and catchy tunes. This is one journey through the Bible you won’t want to miss!

**We have been using this video series as part of Children’s Ministry and would like to make it available to your family...**

**As we finish viewing a DVD and move on to the next, the DVD will be made available to YOUR FAMILY to borrow and TAKE HOME for the following week.**

Transform your Friday family movie night into something that will lead to incredible family discussions about the Bible. Take ten minutes a day to watch and discuss the content with your kids as morning or evening devotions. Ask Alisha Finn about the available activities that go along with each DVD that you can do as a family. It will be well worth your time and family investment to borrow and watch these videos!

**Please stop by the “Treehouse” in the church basement at the end of any Sunday to sign a DVD out.**

### **Snacks!**

Looking for a fun way to contribute to the kids of FPC? Here’s a great way to help! We provide our kiddos with small, simple healthy snacks on Sunday mornings. As a result, we eat lots of **fresh fruit, pretzels, rice chips, corn chips, and veggie straws.**

If you would like to contribute any of these items, we will gladly accept them.

If interested in donating a snack item, please contact Alisha Finn at [lishp3578@gmail.com](mailto:lishp3578@gmail.com).

**SUPPORT THE NURSERY SCHOOL IN TWO SWEET WAYS...****-RONNE SISCO, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION****- DEREK WASHBURN, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS**

The Nursery School's annual Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser is running through November 4. This effort earns our Parent Council most of its spending budget for the year with **fifty percent of all sales coming back to enrich the nursery school's curriculum!** Gertrude Hawk treats **make great holiday gifts** which will be delivered to the nursery school for distribution in plenty of time. **Please see Michelle Beatty** to browse the 2015 Holiday Sweets catalog and place an order. Additional order forms may be found on the FPC:E Information Desk in the Gathering Area. Pamper your sweet tooth and the nursery school. **Please remember—orders must be made no later than November 4.**



Endicott First Pres. Nursery School is continuing to participate in the Labels for Education program as well this year. Through this program, we collect UPCs and Beverage/Sauce caps from participating products to earn points that can be redeemed for **FREE educational merchandise!** We could use your help...please save UPCs and Beverage/Sauce caps from participating products such as Campbell's Soups and Pepperidge Farm products, for example—**wherever you see the Labels for Education label.** For a complete list of participating products, visit [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com). These may be deposited in the plastic collection tub on the FPC:E Info. Desk.

\*\*\*\*\*Any support with these two efforts is greatly appreciated. Thank you! \*\*\*\*\*

## **SESSION UPDATE AND TRANSITION REPORT**

### **- LINDA WILLETS, CLERK OF SESSION**

The Session held its regular meeting on October 7, 2015. This fall continues to be an exciting time in the life of FPC:E-

- What a blessing for our church to have 15 children in grades 3-6 and 4 adults registered to attend the Children's Fall Overnight Weekend at Rock Mountain on October 16 & 17, 2015.
- The Children's Ministry Kick-Off was great! In a fun and interactive way, the foundation was laid for the Route 66 curriculum. This year we want children to EXPERIENCE: God's Word, God's Love, God's Forgiveness, God's Adoption- and as a result, obey God's Call in their life.
- The Small Group Ministry is currently working to support our church-wide study of the Essential Tenets and also beginning to preview Lenten studies for next year. Small groups are challenged to think about whom they might invite to join them.
- The Nominating Committee gave thanks to God for the encouraging responses of people asked to prayerfully consider serving as elders or deacons in the coming year.
- The Mission and Stewardship Committee reported:
  - ◊ They will be using a newly redesigned commitment card with the new FPC:E logo.
  - ◊ The focus of this year's stewardship emphasis will be a 48-hour prayer vigil preceding Stewardship Dedication Sunday on November 22.
  - ◊ The elders have committed to increase their own commitment and to participate in the service on November 15 when we address Essential Tenet #7– Faithful Stewardship of All of Life.
  - ◊ M&S awarded scholarships from the "Mission Sponsorship Fund" to Hemant and Saima Tandi as they lead two groups to Orissa, India in November.
  - ◊ Adjustments were made to 2015 mission dollars to reflect this year's transition to ECO.
  - ◊ Approval was given for a "church-sponsored" mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Bruce, Rebecca, and Erica Barney will be leading the trip over Christmas break.
- The final Deacon's Pantry was held on October 5, 2015. The deacons will be partnering with Mother Theresa's Cupboard at St. Ambrose to provide personal care items now as well as financial support.
- The House Committee is hoping to address two immediate concerns: repairing the potholes in the parking lots before winter, and organizing/reducing items in our limited storage areas.
- Five members of Session attended the ECO-Presbytery of the Northeast Meeting on October 2&3, 2015. The ECO 2016 National Conference is being held in January in California; commissioners from the Session were elected to attend.
- We are hosting our Mission Affinity Group on Saturday, October 24.
- Treasurer Art Davis gathered/organized all the information so Session could have an initial conversation about the 2016 church budget. While Session knows that this is a critical year, they also believe that within this congregation, we have everything we need to accomplish what God wants us to do, if we all give prayerfully and obediently. Please participate in the prayer vigil.



**DEDICATION SUNDAY- NOVEMBER 22**  
**- DOUG KERR, CHAIR OF MISSION & STEWARDSHIP**

*Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.  
Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.*  
(1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

**No frills. No gimmicks.**

**Just serious conversation about stewardship and a commitment to pray as we seek God's will for us as individuals and as a congregation.**

**Sunday, November 15:** **Faithful Stewardship of All of Life- Essential Tenet #7**  
This will start a week of study about the stewardship of our lives.

**Friday, November 20 -  
Sunday, November 22:** **48-hour Congregational Prayer Vigil**  
Sign up for a 1/2 hour prayer slot at:  
[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040E45AFAC2DA31-48hour](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040E45AFAC2DA31-48hour)

We will seek the Lord to ask:

- What are You calling our congregation to do for the sake of your kingdom in the coming year?
- What does it mean that Jesus Christ is Lord over every area of my life?
- How should my spiritual gifts be used to help accomplish what You want us to do together?
- How should my time be used to help accomplish what You want us to do together?
- What portion of the financial resources You have blessed me with should I return to help accomplish what You want us to do together?

**Sunday, November 22:** **Stewardship Dedication Sunday**  
Let us make a commitment together to joyfully pursue what God is calling us to do and be. We are convinced that if we humbly approach the Lord, diligently seek Him, and faithfully respond, we will be able to accomplish what God has planned for us.

## COMMUNITY

### **Samaritan Supper Is in Need of Help with Cleanup**

If you can spare 45 minutes (6:15-7:00) on a Tuesday night once a month, please let me know. Or better yet, come at 5:30 and eat, then stay and help with cleanup. If this sounds interesting to you, please contact Analise Farrell at [toothdr13@aol.com](mailto:toothdr13@aol.com).

### **From InterVarsity**

Dear Jan and FPC:E,

Thank you for hosting us at Peace and Evangelism Sunday! It was truly a pleasure to share about what God is doing through InterVarsity at BU. We hope it was a blessing to you as much as it was to us... we were so encouraged by your community. We will come every year if you invite us! Thank you for your support, both financial and prayer, for the campus. Know that we are keeping your church and ministry in prayer as well. Thanks again!

Blessings in Christ, Lauren Kirst and Lisa Ojetayo.

### **WorldRenew**

How can you be part of current disaster relief efforts in our nation and across the world? We are excited about ECO's partnership with WorldRenew (<http://worldrenew.net/>), a faith-based organization that organizes efforts and funds to address many issues, including domestic and global disaster relief. Their mission statement is: "Compelled by God's deep compassion for justice and mercy, we join communities around the world to renew hope, reconcile lives, and restore creation." Gifts may be given online, sent directly to World Renew-US (1700 28th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508) or sent through FPC:E. Take some time to browse the website and see the breadth of their ministry: literacy, anti-trafficking, sustainable agriculture, clean water, and much more.

### **Succoth Booth**

Sukkit, or "Festival of Booths," is a Jewish festival that originally commemorated the end of the harvest season. We have our own Sukkit (Succoth Booth) in the back of the sanctuary. For several weeks in November, the deacons will be collecting food to place in Thanksgiving boxes. This is a joint project between the congregation and the Nursery School. Food donations can be placed in the booth at the back of the sanctuary through Friday, Nov. 20. The needs in our community are growing each year and hunger is a big problem. Food donations benefit church and Nursery School families. This year's needs include canned fruits and vegetables, juice, pasta, rice, potatoes, stuffing, pasta sauce, cereal and peanut butter (all in non-breakable containers). Please help us reach out to those in need by bringing your donations to the Succoth Booth.

### **Dominican Republic Mission Trip: Dec. 30, 2015– Jan. 6, 2016**

Make a Difference this Winter break! Calling all college students/young adults! Here's a great opportunity to experience first-hand a short term mission trip to Las Terrenas, Samana, Dominican Republic. Come with us and visit some remote villages, worship and fellowship with wonderful people, spend time in God's Word and His work. Spend your week helping the people in these areas build their homes and churches. Visit those in need of food, clothing, or fellowship. Reach out, take a chance, eat the food, speak the language, and fall in love with the people...you might not want to leave. For information: call or email Bruce Barney at 607-727-3677 or [bbarney@stny.rr.com](mailto:bbarney@stny.rr.com).

# Calendar

# November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Daylight Savings- fall back 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	<b>2</b> 5:15 pm Personnel Committee	<b>3</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Worship Committee	<b>4</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 6:30 pm Joint Session/Deacon/Staff 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 5:30 pm Boomwhackers Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Ed Fiaschi- Guest Preacher Communion 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	<b>11</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 5:30 pm Blacklight Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 6:00 pm NS Movie Night	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:15 am Elder/Deacon Meet and Greet 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	<b>16</b> 1:00 pm Women's Club Board Meeting 6:30 pm Parent Council Mtg.	<b>17</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	<b>18</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm House Meeting 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 5:30 pm Blacklight Rehearsal 6:15 pm Boomwhackers Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> Stewardship Prayer Vigil Madness High School Retreat	<b>21</b> Stewardship Prayer Vigil Madness High School Retreat
<b>22</b> Stewardship Dedication Madness High School Retreat 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:20 am Congregational Meeting 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	<b>23</b> 1:00 pm Women's Club Meeting	<b>24</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 6:00 am Men's Group	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 1st Sunday of Advent 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	<b>30</b> 5:30 pm Nursery School Board Meeting					

## DEACON AND ELDER ROLES IN ECO

– CAROLYN PREISENDANZ AND DAID JENKINS, RULING ELDERS

As our congregation makes the denominational transition from the Presbyterian Church USA (PC(USA)) to ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, it is useful to consider what roles deacons and elders have had in the Presbyterian church in general and what, if any, changes may be allowed in these officer positions in ECO.

### Deacons

The office of deacon was established early in the New Testament church to make sure food was distributed to widows and others in need (Acts 6:1-6). The leader of the first group of deacons was Stephen. Within the Presbyterian church, deacons are ordained members (covenant partners) who pursue the scriptural practice of expressing the love of Christ by caring for the poor, distributing food to the hungry, ministering to the sick and lonely, collecting school supplies and other materials for the needy, assisting with communion preparation, and performing other acts of service in the church.

### **The Ministry of Deacons as stated in ECO Polity 2.02:**

**Ordinarily, the biblical office of deacon shall be utilized by the congregation. Deacons lead ministries that nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation. Deacons may also be asked to preach and teach. The congregation shall determine the manner in which they are selected for service. The session shall oversee and direct the ministry of the deacons.**

The polity allows for the congregation to determine how deacons are selected. At this time the Nominating Committee is selecting deacon nominees using the same procedures that have been used by this church for many years, namely through prayer and fasting, personal conversations with potential nominees, and finally through election of the slate of nominees by the congregation.

What is new about the office of deacon as we move to ECO:

**The polity states that deacons may also be asked to preach and teach.** In Scripture we see that at least two of the original deacons, Stephen and Philip (Acts 6:5), were active in preaching and baptizing (Acts 6:8, 7, 8:4-12).

### Elders

Elders in the Presbyterian church are called to be spiritual leaders, strengthening and nurturing the faith and life of the congregation.

### **The Ministry of Elders as stated in ECO Polity 2.01:**

**Elders are given authority and responsibility, along with pastors, to oversee the spiritual health of the congregation as well as the congregation's faithfulness to God's mission. Elders shall be elected by the congregation.**



## DEACON AND ELDER ROLES IN ECO CONT.

Responsibilities of the elders include overseeing the spiritual well-being and growth of the church, being the chairs, or having oversight, of the committees/ministry teams, having fiduciary oversight and vision, and considering what mission activities the church should support. Within the PC(USA), elders were permitted to serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. Within ECO, there is more flexibility in the duration and number of terms an elder may serve. Regardless of any changes adopted by the church in the length of a term or number of terms served, all members of session continue to be elected by the congregation.

### Expanded Role in ECO: Elders and Deacons as Lay Pastors

At the heart of it, a church is a gathering of believers in the name of Jesus in different settings and in different contexts. In order to increase the mission and ministry of a church or presbytery, there are times when it may be advantageous to commission elders and deacons to greater levels of service. Elders and deacons who have been properly trained can be authorized to provide pastoral leadership and administer the sacraments. There are two general circumstances that would call for this: (1) serving within the church while remaining under the supervision of session and a pastor, head of staff, or transitional pastor, or (2) by being commissioned to serve in the role of pastor or head of a new church (ECO Polity 2.0502).

Membership in ECO has afforded First Presbyterian Church: Endicott new freedoms, along with new responsibilities to determine new ways to reach others and together grow in Christ. Let us take this opportunity to prayerfully determine who has the gifts of service as deacons and elders of this church and support them in our efforts to carry the life-saving message of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins and God's eternal love for us.

### ECO INFORMATION SERIES

If you are interested in learning more about ECO, visit the website and find the "ECO Information Series" under the "Resources" link.

There are six sessions in this information series that each include a 10-20 minute video about the particular subject, an outline for the video if you would like to follow along and make some notes, and reflection questions on the bottom of that outline. This content-rich series is designed to help leaders, sessions, and congregation members have a better understanding of the culture, vision, and expectation of those churches that choose to make ECO their denominational home.

## VISION STATEMENT

### (What God wants to do)

We believe God wants to transform our community through the saving love of Jesus Christ and calls us to share that hope with the world. To be an agent of hope, our congregation must work together and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to follow Christ, whatever the cost.<sup>1</sup> This commitment, which is grounded in a deep love of God and neighbor,<sup>2</sup> sends us out to share the Good News of Christ through our words<sup>3</sup> and our actions.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Great Commitment*, Matthew 16:24-26

<sup>2</sup> *The Great Commandment*, Luke 10:27

<sup>3</sup> *The Great Commission*, Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>4</sup> *The Great Compassion*, Matthew 25:31-40

## MISSION STATEMENT

### (What God wants us to do)

We believe God wants us to share the life-changing power and love of Jesus Christ in such compelling ways that more people become fully devoted followers of Christ.

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

### (The reason we exist)

To reach more people and together grow in Christ.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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[www.firstpresendicott.org](http://www.firstpresendicott.org)

[www.facebook.com/FPCEndicott](https://www.facebook.com/FPCEndicott)

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