



FIRST PRES. PRESS

APRIL 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PASTORS' PAGE	2
AMONG OUR PEOPLE	3
YOUTH	4
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	5
CONNECTING	6-7
NURSERY SCHOOL	8
SESSION	9
COMMUNITY	10
APRIL CALENDAR	11

ONE SERVICE ON APRIL 10 TO CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN

There will be a united service at 10:00am on April 10 with the children of our congregation sharing what they have learned this year in children's ministry! In addition, five students will profess their faith; three will be baptized and two will join the church! After the service, there will be refreshments, an organ demonstration, and children's ministry family day activities. See page 5 for more details.

TWO UPCOMING PARENTING STUDIES

Just a reminder that two small groups are starting parenting studies right after Easter. If you are interested, please contact Sharon Early. You can either join these groups, or if there is enough interest, we can try offering them at another time.

- The men will be using a series from Authentic Manhood, *A Man and His Fatherhood*. They will look at how to think strategically about being a dad and how to prepare themselves to launch healthy sons and daughters into the world. The men's group meets from 6:15—7:30am on Wednesday mornings in the church dining room.



OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

April 2
Marion Cianciosi

April 4
Janet Cook



house OR home?

Parenting Edition

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR BIBLICAL PARENTING

VOLUME 6
A MAN AND HIS FATHERHOOD

- The women will be using Living on the Edge's *House or Home? Parenting Edition—God's Blueprint for Biblical Parenting*. The most precious gift and possession that God will ever entrust to us is our children. That's why, through His Word, He's provided us with the tools to help us make our children into learners and followers that honor Him. The women's group meets from 9:15-11:30am on Thursday mornings in the church lounge.

PASTORS' PAGE**- TIM AND JAN DEVINE, CO-PASTORS****UP FROM THE GRAVE HE AROSE!**

*If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain
and your faith has been in vain. . .
If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
(1 Corinthians 15:14, 19)*

A woman recently told us about a conversation she had with someone she cares about deeply—someone who claims to not believe in God.

She said, “OK, if you decide you are an atheist, I will respect your decision. But you need to be able to tell me why. You can’t be a lazy atheist. So, I want you figure out if the tomb was empty or not, because everything rests on this one question: Did Christ rise from the dead?”

Apparently that question was at the center of conversations the apostle Paul had 2,000 years ago as well. And Paul agreed with those who were questioning the resurrection, that there are serious implications if Christ has not been raised:

- Our preaching is in vain (verse 14).
- Our faith is in vain (verse 14).
- We will be found to be misrepresenting God (verse 15).
- Our faith is not only futile; we are still in our sins (verse 17).
- Those who have died in Christ will perish (verse 18).
- And we, of all people, are most to be pitied (verse 19).

Paul agreed that our lives would be futile and our disillusionment would be devastating if Christ did not rise. But then he went on to proclaim:

*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died!
(1 Corinthians 15:19)*

The women at the tomb, the disciples, and more than 500 people were witnesses. They saw, heard, touched, and ate with the risen Christ. They were so certain of Jesus’ resurrection that they were willing to endure exile, poverty, persecution, and martyrdom to share that truth with others. Who would knowingly defend a lie when they had nothing to gain from a worldly perspective?? If it is not true, Paul said, “*why are we putting ourselves in danger every hour?*”

Because we believe Jesus did indeed rise, we claim the opposite of all the things Paul laid out in verses 14-19:

We, of all people, are most to be envied! We will not perish! We are no longer slaves to sin! Rather than misrepresenting God, we have His truth to share! We have put our trust in the right place! We can trust what the apostles preached is true— then and now!

For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:21-22)

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

– NATHAN JACOBS

FPC:E is coming out of a study on the power of prayer and is beginning a time of intentional prayer (using the things we learned over the last 5 weeks) in the season leading up to Pentecost. One of the things we discussed in our study was to pray for the specific needs of people. So, in this next season of life and prayer, please pray for these specific things that we know about in the life of our community:

- Tina Mitchell's son, Christian, who spent time recovering from pneumonia.
- Isabelle Fongue's mother, Francoise Teku, who is here from Cameroon for an extended stay.
- Linda Glajch's father, who is undergoing treatment for a blood disorder.
- Gloria Johnston's aide, Kimberly, who totaled her car in an accident.
- Hunter Beck, who is recovering from knee surgery.
- We give praise for the joy of the birth of Sheila Beblavy and Connie Stanton's niece.
- Sheila Beblavy, who is facing some health issues.
- Tina Mitchell, as she heals from surgery.
- The Waughtel family, as they deal with several medical issues within a short timeframe.
- Meaghan Cady, who committed her life to Christ and lit the Faith Candle!
- For the teaching, ministry, and fruit of the Dunamis conference, which seven members of FPC:E were able to attend.
- The Huebner family, who welcomed a new daughter, Evangeline Grace.
- The family of Linda Ross, who was welcomed home by her loving Lord after suffering a brain bleed while she and Stu were serving in Kenya through The Outreach Foundation.
- The family of Leo, a former neighbor of Gloria Johnston, as they grieve his death.
- Carole Cockrell, who had cataract surgery .
- Carole Cockrell's sister, Ellen, who was re-hospitalized following complications from her surgery.
- Eileen Keely, who is dealing with mobility and pain issues.

*Hear my prayer, LORD;
Listen to my cry for mercy.
When I am in distress, I
call to you, because you
answer me.
-Psalm 86:6-7*

AN HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT

Becky Sutliff, a member of the Thursday morning women's small group, was promoted to Police Captain, making her the highest-ranking female officer in Binghamton Police Department history.

Mayor Rich David had this to say about her: "Capt. Sutliff's law enforcement resumé speaks for itself. She's a proven leader with experience in many facets of police operations. In the Binghamton Police Department's 149-year history, there has never been a female serving in this high-ranking position. Capt. Sutliff is a role model for young women seeking careers in law enforcement."



YOUTH NEWS

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

Sundays at the Monroe House, 5-6:30 pm.
Bring your Bible, a snack to share, and a friend!

- April 3–** April's Fool! Bring your best brain teaser "trick" to stump the group!
- April 10–** Tax Day Weekend! Bring 50 pennies for negotiating!
- April 17–** Gaga Ball!
- April 24–** Outdoor activity, weather permitting.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Small Group meets each Sunday morning at the Monroe House, 10:45-noon. Recently students have been hearing the "cardboard testimonies" of people in the church, as they describe their lives before and after having a relationship with Jesus!

To connect, contact Megan at megmansfield22@gmail.com or Chris at ccampbe77@gmail.com.

A WORD TO PARENTS

Last month, you were encouraged to help your child think about 4-5 godly adults that he/she would want to be on his/her "team"- people who are committed to Christ, and because of that, would be willing to commit to your child. There are so many ways they could support your child over the next few years- by showing up at some of your child's important events, spending 1-on-1 time together, mentoring, speaking truth and love while eating ice cream or pizza together, celebrating his/her birthday with the family, praying with and for your child, studying the Scriptures together, talking about life decisions, sharing a mutual hobby. The ways this can be lived out are endless, depending on your child and the adults. Have you done anything about it yet?

On April 10, as three students profess their faith and are baptized and as two students profess their faith and join the church, you will see the teams that are forming around them. The whole congregation takes vows to support those who are baptized and/or confirmed, but this helps that commitment become real . . . and exciting!



Sunday, April 10

CELEBRATE!

KIDS LEAD THE SERVICE

Join us @ 10:00am
as we walk thru the Bible from
Genesis to the Gospels!

CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATION to follow from 11:15am - 12:00pm

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

April 3 – DVD 11 – Episode 1 – A Helper Arrives! Pentecost, Holy Spirit

April 10 - **CELEBRATE KIDS!** combined service @ 10:00am

CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATION 11:15am - 12:00pm

April 17 – DVD 11 – Episode 2 – God Picks Paul. Road to Damascus

April 24 – DVD 12 – Episode 1 – Letters from Paul!

May 1 – DVD 12 – Episode 2 – Good News in Action! Sanctification, Fruit of Spirit, Discipline

May 8 – DVD 13 – Episode 1 – More Letters! Hebrews, James, General Epistles

May 15 – DVD 13 – Episode 2 – The Revelation to John. Revelation

CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATION

APRIL 10

11:15am - 12:00pm



There will be lots of activity for everyone of every age to participate in so make sure you stick around after the 10:00am joint service!

REFRESHMENTS - Grab some refreshments in the gathering area to celebrate all that children and students have learned, professed, and understood this season.

ORGAN - Check out the organ and all the unique ways it works as Larry Hoey demonstrates!

CARE PACKAGES - Head to the Dining Room to pack some fun and delicious boxes for our college students. We need cards to be made and signed and boxes decorated!

April Memory Verse:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

CONNECTING THOUGHTS

—SHARON EARLY

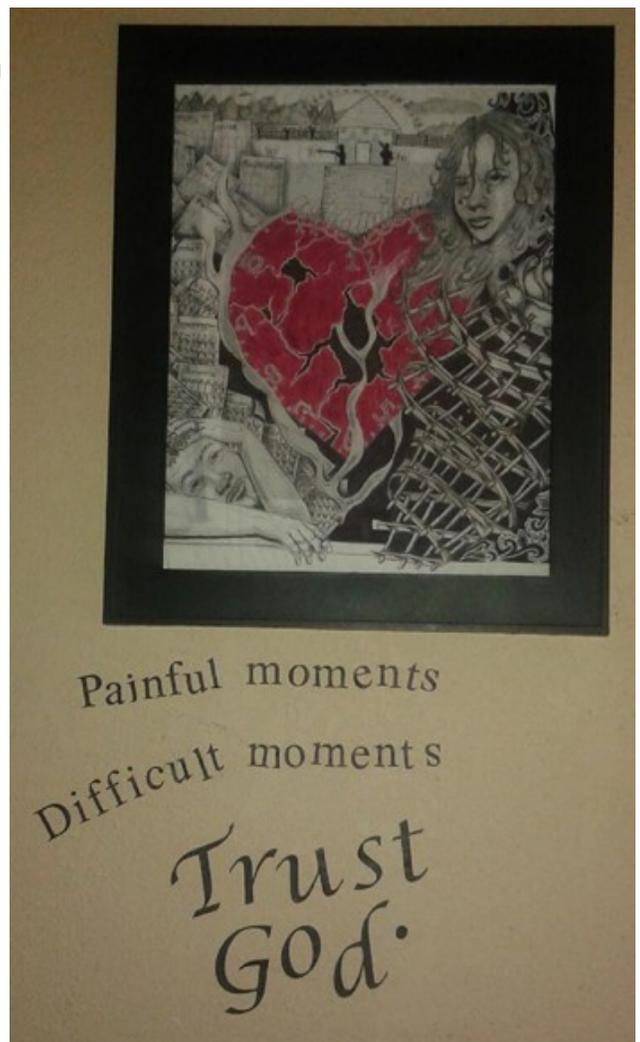
I have been experiencing a truth that Beth Guckenberger shared in a recent webinar: *“Vision is listening to the Lord and taking the next step.”* The Lenten study has been powerful, yet it was not what I originally thought we would be doing. I had no idea we would be incorporating a prayer room with the study, yet while attending the ECO gathering in January, I experienced their prayer room and how powerful it was to have others pray for our church and our upcoming study. I came back convicted that putting together a prayer room was one of our next steps, even though I did not know how it would all come together. It unfolded one week at a time- in God’s timing, not mine- and dovetailed right into the weekly sessions of the study. Many of the stations were quite different than what I originally envisioned, and since I am not overly creative, it was definitely an unfolding of God’s vision. To be honest, I typically feel the most connected to God in nature; yet I have had some powerful prayer time in the prayer room by quieting myself and listening for God’s leading on who and how to pray for situations.

I have also been thinking a lot about personal prayer space. Do we each have a place, in our home or out in nature, where we can regularly go and intentionally quiet ourselves and listen for God’s leading? One of my first experiences with this was when we were moving the Spragues, and I saw the area Wendell had set up in their basement as his prayer space. It was nothing fancy, basically a rocking chair placed inside some partitions, but he knew when he entered that space that family and obligations were put on hold and he was going to be praying.

Pictured to the right is what another young family has created for their own personal prayer space to remind them to trust God and bring everything to Him. What a testimony to their children that they have a spot set aside in their home—especially since their apartment is limited in space and it could have easily been justified that there just wasn’t enough room. It has me rethinking how I use our space and where I might be able to create a sacred area within our home.

*Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you;
he will never let the righteous be shaken.*

Psalm 55:22



WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY—WHEN FPC:ENDICOTT PRAYS... —SHARON EARLY

All are encouraged and invited—

The sixth session of Jim Cymbala's study, "When God's People Pray," is on creating a prayer ministry within your church. Instead of each individual small group doing this study, we are encouraging the congregation as a whole (*whether you have participated in the Lenten study or not*) to gather and ponder what it would mean if FPC:Endicott had an active prayer ministry. We do not want another "program," but instead desire to see what an effective prayer ministry here might look like and who within our congregation has the spiritual gift of prayer. Whether you have this spiritual gift or not, we would like **everyone** to participate in this session to help us understand what would be meaningful within our congregation and to support the ministry that results. Three times are being offered to participate in Session 6:

- Sunday, April 3 after the 9:09 service in the lounge
- Sunday, April 3 after the 10:45 service in the library
- Monday, April 4 at 6:30 pm in the lounge

No RSVP is needed, but the first people there have first choice of snacks and seats!

40 Days of Prayer —

One of the next steps to understand God's vision for us as a congregation is that we be in intentional prayer for FPC:Endicott, our ministries, our people, and our own individual roles in our congregation. Starting April 5, we are asking that the congregation as a whole spend 40 days in intentional prayer leading up to Pentecost on May 15. A prayer booklet will be available with different prayer requests for the church and devotions for each day. In the booklet, there will be space to journal as part of your "listening prayers." In May, we will ask the congregation to share how you sense God leading as we seek God's vision for our church and its mission here on the corner of Grant and Monroe. During this time the prayer room in the chapel will continue to be available.



*"We are able to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and God only through the work of the Holy Spirit. He comes to us as He came to the gathered disciples at Pentecost: **to kindle our faith, to embolden our witness, and to accompany us in mission.**"*

Excerpted from our Essential Tenet on the Incarnation

HAPPY SPRING FROM THE NURSERY SCHOOL

- RONNE SISCO, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

- DEREK WASHBURN, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS

Nationally-accredited Endicott First Presbyterian Nursery School is seeking a **Lead Teacher for our Three's Program** starting Fall 2016. This individual must:

- * have or be working on an Associates degree or higher in ECE, Child Dev.-Family Studies, ECE in Spec. Ed., or Elem. Ed. w/ concentration in ECE, OR
- * have an Associates degree or higher outside of ECE & 3+ yrs. of work exp. in an NAEYC-accredited program, **OR**
- * have an Associates degree or higher outside of ECE w/ 3+ yrs. of exp. in non-accredited prog. & @ least 30 contact hrs. of relevant training during the past three years, **OR**
- * possess or be working on a CDA credential by the "Council for Professional Recognition" **OR**
- * have obtained a minimum of 12 college credits (semester hours) in ECE, child development, elem. ed., or early childhood special ed. These classes must encompass the following: child development & learning of children birth through kindergarten; family & community relationships; observing, documenting, and assessing young children; teaching and learning; and professional practices & development

The position is part-time and based on enrollment as registration continues. Please forward your letter of interest, resume and credentials to Ronne Sisco, Director of Education, Endicott First Presbyterian Nursery School, 29 Grant Ave. Endicott, NY 13760, 607.748.1744

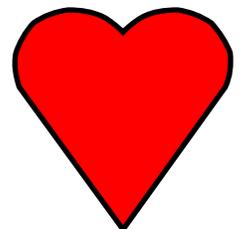
The deadline is Friday, April 15, 2016.



Our Nursery School continues to participate in the **Labels for Education** program and we are only 300 points away from our goal this year! Please snip the orange and red **Labels for Education** from Campbell's, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson, BIC and other participating products. Each label carries a different point value; some one, some five, some ten! Help us earn educational resources for our students. Snip and drop them in the plastic collection container on the FPC:E Information Desk by April 30! We can reach 300 points with your help!

So blessed...

Through families "purchasing" their children's artwork and the generous bidding that took place at the Silent Auction, this year's Art Show brought in a whopping \$2,300! This money will enrich our arts programming for years to come.



SESSION UPDATE

- LINDA WILLETS, CLERK OF SESSION

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" James 5:16

At the March 2, 2016 meeting of Session, the pastors reported:

- Their Pastor Accountability Group (PAG) was formed with Karen Ballard (Rome), Dennis Dillman (Hallstead), and Michael Lyle (Honesdale). The first meeting was February 17 and all are excited for this new relationship of accountability and support.
- FPC:E's Mission Accountability Group (MAG) will now be with the above four churches and may change in the future as new churches join ECO and our presbytery.
- Two students are meeting with Jan and Alisha as they prepare to profess their faith and become members of FPC:E on Sunday, April 10, 2016.
- Session approved the baptisms of Emma and Olivia (Kerr) Bates and Easton Kamper on Sunday, April 10, 2016.
- Permission was given to Tim to pursue the tennis outreach program again this summer in partnership with the Boys' & Girls' Club and the U-E school district.
- A new member's class will be offered after Easter.

In other areas of ministry and celebration:

- Groups are actively engaged in the Lenten study on prayer as they process the material, wrestle with concepts, and pray. 118 members and non-members are participating in the study.
- A Prayer Room has been created within the Chapel and is open each day. Each week a new prayer station has been added (Praise Banner, Praying in and through the Spirit, Confessional Prayer, Listening Prayer, Intercessory Prayer).
- The church will offer three opportunities to study the last session of the Lenten study on "Starting a Prayer Ministry in your Church." They will be offered after each service on Sunday, April 3, and on Monday evening, April 4.
- April 10, 2016, will be an exciting day of celebration with the Children's Ministry at FPC:E! We will have one service at 10:00am, led by the children and students. We will also celebrate several baptisms and students joining the church.
- Session approved the 2016 Session-Approved Mission Causes as presented by the Mission and Stewardship Committee.
- A letter was sent to the Broome County Council of Churches encouraging them to continue to boldly lift high Jesus Christ and the cross through their ministry to our community.
- FPC:E was invited to be part of the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Mercy House. FPC:E donated an engraved cross to be hung in the chapel.
- Sharon Early and Linda Willets volunteered to be our Elder Commissioners for the April 8-9 presbytery meeting at Lycoming Centre PC (Williamsport).
- FPC:E will host the Spring Mission Affinity Group (MAG) gathering on April 30.
- At the end of the business portion of the meeting, Session members listened to Kara Powell's "Sticky Faith" presentation from the National ECO Conference held in January 2016.

COMMUNITY

Membership

There will be an opportunity after Easter to explore what it means to publicly profess faith and join the church. If you are interested in finding out more, please speak with Jan or Tim.

From the Deacons

The deacons would like to thank all those that were able to purchase a lily for a home bound or over-80 FPC:E member. We are also grateful for those who were available to help deliver the lilies on Easter Sunday. The gift of your time is very much appreciated not only by the deacons, but by those who received the lilies as well. Thank you!

American Cancer Society Western Broome Relay For Life

May 14, 2016. Saturday 2pm overnight until 6am
Sammon Field, Vestal, NY

Help us raise money to find cures for cancers!! Cancer survivors Bonnie Moyer, Bob Moyer and Barb Wilcox are continuing to help fight cancer. They and others from FPC:E are on teams that work hard to raise money for research.

If you are a cancer survivor, we would like to invite you to attend and be recognized!

If you want to volunteer, join a team, donate or help in any way, please contact Bonnie Moyer at 321-3726 or Bonnie.Moyer@yahoo.com

Thank You!

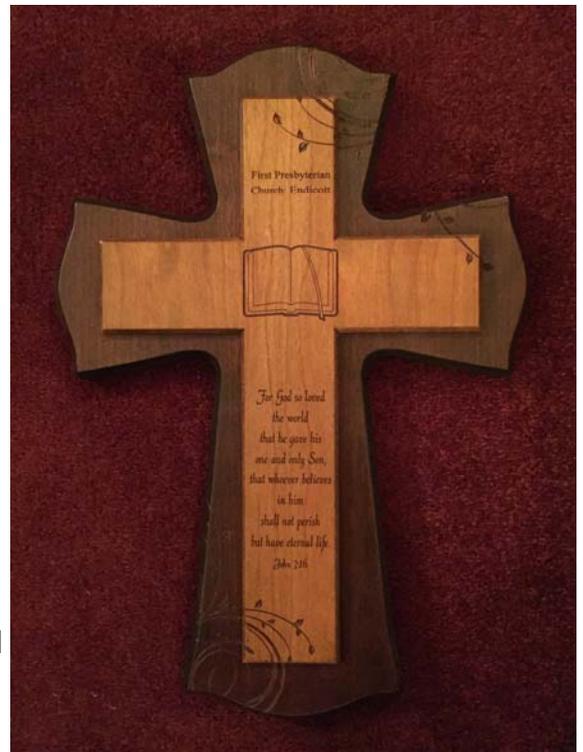
Thanks to Sharon Early for the vision and energy to create a prayer room in the chapel throughout Lent. Alisha Finn, Bryan and John Early, and Nathan Jacobs also helped make it happen.

Mercy House

On Sunday, Feb. 28, the Mercy House of the Southern Tier had its grand opening. The Mercy House provides a comfortable home for the terminally ill. As part of their opening, they asked if FPC:E would be willing to donate something to their chapel. We had this cross made and donated it to their space. We hope Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross and the truth of God's Word will bring comfort and peace to those who live out their last days there.

Boomwhackers for Mother's Day

Calling all 3rd-6th grade students to come and worship in a fun and creative way with Boomwhackers. There will be 5 practices which will take place in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays- April 5, April 12, April 19, April 26, and May 3- from 5:45-6:30pm. Children must be able to commit to at least four of the five practices, including the final one on May 3. We will have our performance for the church on Sunday, May 8, which is Mother's Day. To sign your child up, please contact Jesse Galli at 237-7007 or email her at jesse.galli@outlook.com. The more kids involved, the more praise to God!!!



Church Calendar

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	4	5 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Deacons	6 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	7 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 Spring Presbytery Meeting- Lycoming Centre P.C. in Cogan Station, PA	9 Spring Presbytery Meeting- Lycoming Centre P.C. in Cogan Station, PA
10 10:00 am Baptisms and Confirmation United Worship Service (Kids Service) 11:15 am Church Family Celebration 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	11	12 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Mission and Stewardship	13 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	14 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	18 1:00 pm Women's Club Board Meeting 6:30 pm Parent Council Meeting	19 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	20 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	21 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 9:09 am Communion Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	25 1:00 pm Women's Club Meeting 5:30 pm Nursery School Board Meeting	26 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	27 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	28 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29	30 11:00 am MAG Gathering

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.¹ This commitment, which is grounded in a deep love of God and neighbor,² sends us out to share the Good News of Christ through our words³ and our actions.⁴

¹ *The Great Commitment*, Matthew 16:24-26

² *The Great Commandment*, Luke 10:27

³ *The Great Commission*, Matthew 28:18-20

⁴ *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

29 Grant Avenue

Endicott, NY 13760

Phone: (607) 748-1544

Fax: (607) 748-1744

www.firstpresendicott.org

www.facebook.com/FPCEndicott

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 36

Endicott, NY