

**FIRST PRES. PRESS**

JUNE 2016

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Beginning June 26, we will move both services to 10:00am. The services will be held simultaneously, with the pastor preaching at both services. The traditional service will be held in the air-conditioned chapel and the contemporary service will be held in the sanctuary. The move will help facilitate fellowship as both services will release about the same time. There will be refreshments provided each week as we take the opportunity to be together in the building at the same time!

Our Fall Kickoff United Service will be September 11. Children's Ministry kicks off on September 18.

**A THANK YOU FROM THE MAG GATHERING**

Jan and Tim,

I have been attempting to get a Thank You Note off to you for hosting the MAG meeting last Saturday. Franklin Hill does appreciate all of the effort that you and your church family put into the day. We were greeted and welcomed by your hostess and your registration team. We especially want to thank your Chef and his wife for the excellent noon meal. The Prayer and Praise Band led a wonderful worship service. The video "The Irreducible Minimum: People Need Jesus" was very thought provoking. The SMART goals led to some good discussion in the Session groups and the commitment to the goals was outstanding. God is working through ECO.

Blessings,  
Jim

**OVER 80  
BIRTHDAYS**

**June 6**  
**Patti Stillings**

**June 12**  
**June Hayes**

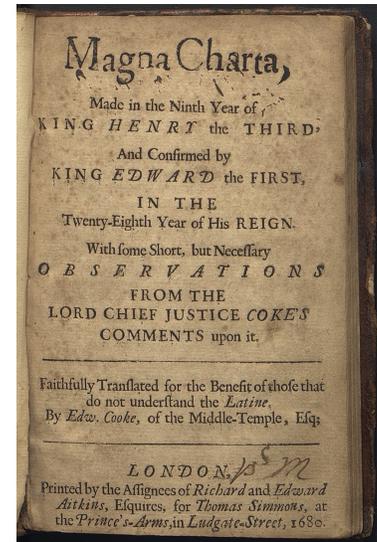
**June 20**  
**Gerry Wilcox**

**PASTORS' PAGE**

- TIM AND JAN DEVINE, CO-PASTORS

**GALATIANS-  
THE MAGNA CARTA OF CHRISTIANITY**

In 1215, the Archbishop of Canterbury first drafted the Magna Carta (Latin for *The Great Charter*) to establish peace between King John of England and a group of rebel barons. It promised protection, justice, and freedom. Although the charter was amended, annulled, broken, and repealed over the years, it was influential in the formation of the American Constitution in 1787 and still stands as an important symbol of liberty today.



The New Testament book of Galatians has been called the Magna Carta of Christianity. In his letter to the church of Galatia, the Apostle Paul calls the church to deep and abiding faith in the liberating gospel of grace. This grace does not give us license to live recklessly, but instead invites us to experience a joyful freedom from self-reliance, human effort, and autonomy. In Jesus Christ, we have been set free to live out the gospel of Christ alone by faith alone!

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.*

*Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

(Galatians 5:1)

This summer we will be studying Paul's letter to the Galatians. Below you will find the schedule for June, so that you can read ahead in preparation for our time in worship.

Together, let's explore what we are freed from and what we are freed for!

June 5, 2016	-A.T.O.B. (10:45am) -Organ/Brass mini-concert after services	Galatians 1:1-10	Greeting and reason for the letter
June 12, 2016	-Communion	Galatians 1:11-17	Paul's Defense of his Apostleship: The gospel received directly from God
June 19, 2016	-10am United Service -Graduation -Father's Day -New Members	Galatians 1:18-2:21	Paul's Defense of his Apostleship: His relationship to other apostles
June 26, 2016	Beginning of our summer schedule- simultaneous services in sanctuary & chapel at 10am	Galatians 3:1-5	Paul's Defense of the Gospel of Justification by Faith: The personal argument

## WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

– NATHAN JACOBS

As you will read about in the Session Update, our Elders have committed our church to pray intentionally for our children and youth. Specifically, by June 19, each high school graduate, college student, and young adult in the military will have a designated prayer intercessor. As we deepen our commitment to prayer, both collectively and individually, I would encourage you to keep our youth, our nation, our world, and these specific requests in mind:

- The Pierce family, upon the death of Larry's grandfather.
- That children who are far from God and/or their family will come home.
- The Castoro family, upon the death of Phil's uncle, Vincent, in a motorcycle crash.
- Sue Tuch, who was hospitalized.
- Anna Beers, who gives thanks for a stranger who

showed her the love of Christ.

- Our mothers, who have blessed us with the gifts of life, lessons, and love.
- Our Children's Ministry, where students in grades 3-5 are learning the Lord's Prayer. What a joy to hear the first two students-Easton Kamper and Ky-mora Wang- say the whole prayer from memory!
- Sandy Chambers, who is making wonderful progress and is beginning to walk again.
- Dick Scroxtton, who was recently able to fulfill a dream and participate in a trip to Washington, D.C. through the Honor Flight Network, an organization committed to transport veterans to D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of themselves and their friends.
- Bob Thomas, who is re-

covering from pneumonia.

- Gloria Johnston's neighbors, John and Theresa, whose son was in the hospital with a throat infection.
- The 60ish BU Students who came to the second annual Climb Prom. Thanks to the young adults who are reaching out to the students in such a tangible way and providing a healthy alternative to celebrate the end of the school year.
- For 3-year-old Gabby Laubisch, as she prepares for a bone marrow transplant.
- For Connie and Sheila's sister-in-law and family as they grieve the death of her father.
- The family and friends of Terry Williamson, a housemate of Billy Beardsley, as they grieve his passing after being struck by a car while walking.

## "STICKY FAITH" TEAMS



Last month, at the Kid's Service, we celebrated baptisms and new members as 5 of our youth publicly declared their faith. At that time, we asked "teams" of adults to commit to being an active part of their lives— showing up at important events, spending 1-on-1 time together, mentoring, speaking truth and love, and pouring into their lives.

Good News— we are already seeing good fruit! Check out Gary Hunt teaching the Bates girls how to chop wood!

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*  
—Proverbs 22:6

## YOUTH NEWS FOR JUNE

### MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

**JUNE 5, 2016— No Youth Group**

**JUNE 12, 2016— 5-7pm**

Pierce's Farm— 633 Anderson Rd. Vestal  
Bonfire, Ultimate Frisbee, hike, and hayride.  
Bring your Bible, a snack to share, and invite friends!  
Last regular Sunday evening of the school year.



**JULY 31— Lake Adventure!**

Carpool from church @ 11:30am to BBQ, swim, fish, and boat!  
Return to FPC:E @ 4:00pm.



### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

This past month, students dug into what it means to “guard our hearts” (Proverbs 4:23). They also enjoyed a group trip to Moe's.

Small Group officially ends for the summer on Sunday, June 5, when high school students will help with the Children's Ministry finale. We will miss Nathan Jennings and Stephen Wilson who have regularly attended small group and are graduating!

Who's up for a spike ball tournament this summer?  
Contacts: Megan at [megmansfield22@gmail.com](mailto:megmansfield22@gmail.com) or  
Chris at [ccampbe77@gmail.com](mailto:ccampbe77@gmail.com).



### A WORD TO PARENTS

The congregation is going to partner in another way with you as you raise your children. At the Mission Affinity Group (MAG) Gathering on April 30, elders from each ECO church set some measurable goals to pursue in the next few months. FPC:E Session committed to the following:

As a congregation, we will pray intentionally for our youth, that they may come to faith and remain in the faith through the different seasons of their development.

- By Graduation Sunday (June 19), each high school graduate, college student, and young adult in the military from our congregation will have a person specifically committed to pray for him/her.
- By the Fall kick-off of our children's ministry (September 18), each child in our congregation from birth through high school will have a person specifically committed to pray for him/her.

Parents— we need your help: please read page 10 to help make this happen!

# SUMMER BREAK ≠ SPIRITUAL BREAK

Following are 5 great family summer devotion ideas from  
[www.ministry-to-children.com](http://www.ministry-to-children.com).

Try them out as you travel, stay home, get outside, or simply have family time!

1. **THE ZOO:** Hunt for five of the most bizarre animal facts. Discuss God's purpose in His specific design of each animal. Try to find an animal for each letter of the alphabet. Make an A to Z book. Talk about Adam's job to name the animals. What names would you have chosen?
2. **THE BEACH:** Build a sandcastle near the tide, on the sand. Build another one on a rock on higher land. Read Matthew 7:24-27. Discuss the wise man and the foolish man. How does that apply to us? Sing "The Wise Man Built His House Upon The Rock."
3. **THE BACKYARD:** Go cloud watching. Read Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."
  - a. Plant a vegetable or flower garden. Take care of it daily. Read Mark 4:30-32, the parable of the mustard seed.
  - b. Hunt for bugs. Find a caterpillar and a butterfly. Discuss 2 Corinthians 5:17.
  - c. At night, chase fireflies. Notice how they stand out in the darkness. Discuss John 8:12. Play flashlight tag. Sing, "This Little Light of Mine." Search for constellations.
4. **THE FARM:** Ask a local farmer if you can assist him for the day (or even an hour). Ask him questions about his job. Discuss how it relates to Scripture. Try to find the four soils explained in Matthew 13.
5. **A ROAD RACE:** Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 or Hebrews 12:1-2. Train for a race yourself and model healthy living for your children. If your child is old enough, have them participate in a race with you just for the fun of it. What do races teach us about living the Christian life?

Don't let your family take a **SPIRITUAL BREAK** this summer!



FOR INFORMATION ON  
**ROCK MOUNTAIN BIBLE CAMP**  
**Mini-Camp** (6-10 yr olds with a guardian)  
**June 24-26**  
**Jr. Camp AND Jr. Day Camp** (8-12 yr olds)  
**JULY 11-15**

CONTACT ALISHA FINN @607-427-9565

## **A note to parents...**

This season we have taken an incredible journey through the 66 Books of the Bible on Sunday mornings in Children's Ministry. Starting in Genesis and working our way through an overview of the Old and New Testaments has been an exciting and formidable challenge! A foundation has been laid so when we double back, kids will have a launching point for each of the 66 Books.

Every child received a coloring workbook in April that covers the Books of the Old Testament. Please, Please, Please take the time to work through the pictures and descriptions with the kids as the summer progresses! You will learn a lot!

We also used a DVD series called "What's In The Bible...?" this season. There are thirteen lively and entertaining DVD's that introduce each Book of the Bible. Each DVD has 2 Episodes. If watched from start to finish, they do a great job of explaining God's Rescue Plan for us starting at creation and ending in completion with Christ's return.

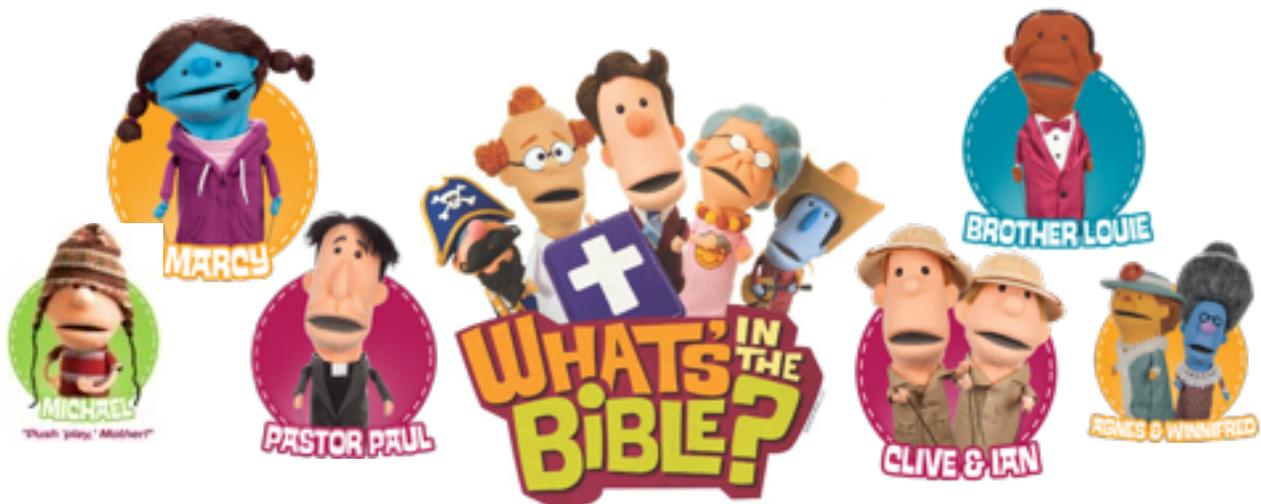
This summer we would like you to take advantage of our "What's In The Bible?" DVD library! Sign out a DVD each week, watch it, learn from it, talk about it with your kids, and then simply bring it back the following Sunday and sign out the next one!

***We will have these DVD's available to sign out in the gathering space each Sunday morning following the service.***

Some of you are thinking that since your kids have seen the DVD's on Sunday mornings, they will not want or need to see them again. NOT TRUE! I bet your kids have seen the same episode of their favorite show or listened to their favorite song a kazillion times in one day. Kids learn from repetition, so make the repetition count. Make the repetition count. Make the repetition count. Make the repetition count!

Schedules change, but the need to fill our hearts and minds with God's truth is never ending. Don't take a break this summer from teaching your kids! Summer is the perfect time to learn new Bible verses, re-enact Bible stories, memorize Scripture, and especially to make non-rushed bedtime routines full of Bible stories and Biblical truth.

Make sure to sign out a DVD each Sunday and use the coloring books that were previously sent home. You'll be making the most important eternal investment!



## CONNECTING THOUGHTS FROM OUR SEASON OF PRAYER - SHARON EARLY

We seem to have finally entered spring—the tulips out front bloomed reminding us to invest in others; the fountain in the chapel has been re-located back to the prayer garden between the sanctuary and education building out back and summer projects are beginning to occur around the building. One of these projects is re-working the prayer room in the chapel. We are still discerning what a prayer ministry at FPC:Endicott will look like in its entirety, but one of the aspects that many have agreed upon is it was meaningful to have a sacred space in the church dedicated to prayer. The following elements of the prayer room will remain in place throughout the summer:



- ◆ A (quieter) fountain reminding us that Jesus has brought us eternal life (*Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”* John 4:13-14) )
- ◆ Background music to help quiet the “chatter” both within ourselves and the surrounding building. It is great to have our building utilized in so many ways but sometimes our “busy-ness” drowns out being able to hear the Spirit at work within us.



- ◆ The intercessory prayer wall has become a place for prayers to be left: private ones rolled up and placed in the wall, cards posted of intentional prayers that others can be praying for, or a prayer dove- left on the symbolic spirit ribbons for when we know that only through the spirit praying on our behalf will a situation be resolved on this side of eternity. *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.* Romans 8:26-27

- ◆ Scripture Promise cards are also available for when we need to meditate on Scripture and listen for God’s promises spoken long ago as well as to us individually in the present age.

One other aspect of prayer that is being rolled out this summer was an idea shared from a sister church of member prayer cards. We desire our church to be a house of prayer and in doing so, one aspect would be that we regularly keep each other in prayer—even when no prayer request has been expressly shared! Each week, a prayer card with someone from FPC:E may be picked up and prayed over throughout the week and then exchanged for a new card the following week. May this summer be one of intentional prayer for each of us to be a blessing to others!

**FORECAST: SUNNY FUTURES!**

**-RONNE SISCO, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION  
- DEREK WASHBURN, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS**



In honor of Mother's Day, all of our students paid tribute to the special ladies who care for them. After some yummy fare, they were also treated to jewelry making, a photo op, and picture frame decorating—all with a salon flair!



Right: Gianni pampers his mother with a manicure!



**Bike Rodeo 2016!**



It is always bittersweet as our school year comes to an end this month. The friendships that blossomed have provided a strong foundation for future learning. We wish our students moving on a beautiful new adventure. Join us in showing your school spirit by picking up your free "Endicott First Presbyterian Nursery School" car / refrigerator magnet at the FPC:E Information Desk while they last!

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

*"There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)*

**FPC:E/ECO NEWS:**

- Session had the privilege of hosting our first Mission Affinity Group (MAG) gathering on April 30. More than 30 elders and ministers from six churches joined together for a wonderful time of fellowship, prayer, worship, training and discussion. Each Session set at least one short-term goal, and members of the MAG will hold each other accountable to complete these goals.  
Our Session set two goals. The first is explained more on the following page. Our second goal is that at least 3 elders will share their grace stories with the congregation and/or with the youth between now and September.
- Sharon Early and Linda Willets reported on the April 8-9 Spring Presbytery Meeting. Rev. Martin Ban, President of Redeemer Seminary, Dallas, TX, spoke on "Living as Christian Missionaries in Our Secular Age."
- Jan and Tim were elected Co-Vice Moderators of our presbytery for 2016, and will serve as 2017 Co-Moderators of our presbytery when the Northeast region multiplies into three presbyteries.

**UPCOMING PLANS:**

- The pastors shared:
  - The U-E Varsity Girls Tennis Coach and a U-E Tennis Volunteer will be involved in the summer tennis program we share with the Boys & Girls Club.
  - Two or three high school students are interested in the Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) camp and the local summer "club" we would host afterward for neighborhood children.
  - They are currently holding new member classes.
- Pentecost Sunday concludes our "40 Days of Prayer." The congregation will be asked for feedback on how God might be leading us personally and as a congregation.
- Jean Jenkins shared opportunities for children and youth this summer, including Parent & Me Camp, Junior Camp, Father & Son Camp, and Child Evangelism Fellowship camp.
- Bruce Barney is looking into the possibility of working with the youth this summer to build an accessibility ramp through the Broome County Council of Churches.
- Session finalized plans for the summer worship schedule (see front page of newsletter) and approved the purchase of another camera to be able to record both services simultaneously.
- Plans are being made with Chris Walker, evangelism consultant, for the weekend of September 9-11, 2016. In addition to working with our congregation and preaching on Fall Kick-off Sunday, our MAG and other churches will be invited to take advantage of the opportunity.
- Approval was given to plan a possible mission trip to Kenya the summer of 2017.
- Ede Sornberger (House Committee) gave an update on the front of the sanctuary, reported that the Nursery is getting new paint and carpet, and several small groups are taking on specific projects around the church facilities.

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

**CALLING ALL PARENTS  
 OF CHILDREN FROM CRIB TO COLLEGE!**

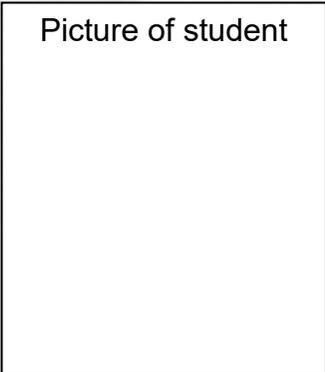
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**PARENTS– WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.**

We want to make prayer cards for each child/student to give to the person who commits to pray for him/her. Please provide us with a photo of your child(ren) and the information from below that is pertinent and/or known. Information may be emailed to [office@firstpresendicott.org](mailto:office@firstpresendicott.org) or sent to the church office.

<p>Picture of student</p> 	<p>NAME                  BIRTHDATE                  EMAIL                  SCHOOL/GRADE OR YEAR                  MILITARY BRANCH                  College or Military Address                  College Major</p>
<p><i>In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;                  in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.                  (Psalm 5:3)</i></p>	

## COMMUNITY

### Children's Ministry End of Year

The Children's Ministry Family Day Wrap-Up Celebration will be Sunday, June 5. The following Sunday, June 12, there will be a final Hilltop Visit at 286 Deyo Hill Road in Johnson City.

### Summer Worship Leaders

In light of our summer worship schedule (see front page) a short training is being held for lay leaders and elders on Wednesday, June 1, at 7pm in the chapel. Practical information and pointers will help you feel confident as you experience the great privilege of leading people into the presence of God.

### A Touch of Brass/Larry Hoey Mini Concert

On Sunday, June 5 at the 10:45 service, FPC: Endicott will feature our very own *A Touch of Brass*. To help kick-off the beginning of the summer months, *A Touch of Brass* will perform a "Mini-Concert" with Organist, Larry Hoey, and Timpanist, Nick Murray, immediately following our 10:45 service. Don't miss this exciting musical offering!



### Baby Shower Invitation

The ladies of the church are invited to a baby shower in honor of Stacy Paradiso on Sunday, June 12 at 1:00pm at the Kerr Residence (2632 Purdue Dr. in Vestal). RSVP to Michelle Beatty (570-881-3014 or [m\\_r\\_beatty@yahoo.com](mailto:m_r_beatty@yahoo.com)) by 6/5.

### Graduates

Each year we recognize our high school and college graduates in June. If you know of someone who is graduating, please contact the office ([office@firstpresendicott.org](mailto:office@firstpresendicott.org)) with their information: Name, School, Degree, and Future Plans. Please have items in to the office by June 8.

### Digital Giving

If you are interested in utilizing our new digital giving platform but have questions, please contact the office and we will help answer any questions you might have.

### Honored by the President

Lou Cioci, a JCPD officer and husband of our Nursery School speech therapist, Kristin, was presented with the Congressional Medal of Valor by President Obama on May 16 at the White House. The medal is awarded to public safety officers who have shown exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life. It is the highest national award for valor presented to a public safety officer. You can read more about Officer Cioci's story at [www.wbng.com](http://www.wbng.com).



# Church Calendar

# June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry Family Day 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 12:00 pm ATOB/Organ Micro Concert 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	<b>6</b> 5:00 pm Father's Night for Safari AM Suite	<b>7</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Deacons	<b>8</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Communion 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 11:00 am Children's Ministry Hilltop Visit 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>15</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> EFPNS Golf Tournament
<b>19</b> Father's Day Reception of New Members 10:00 am United Worship Service 11:00 am Reception for Grads and New Members	<b>20</b> 5:30 pm Nursery School Board Meeting	<b>21</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>22</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00 am Summer Worship Services Traditional- Chapel Contemporary-Sanctuary 11:00 am Fellowship in Gathering Area	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>29</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>30</b>		

## 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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