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SAVE THE DATE:

- Dec. 8– Loving Hands
- Dec. 8 & 15– Officer Training
- Dec. 25– Christ's Birthday!
- Dec. 29– United Worship Service @ 10am
- Jan 1– New Year's Day

Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?

People tell the story of a strange place where everything is just a little bit backwards. Not quite right. And in this mysterious land, there lived an eight-year-old boy named Jason. It was his birthday, and Jason was excited about his birthday. But strange things took place. His grandparents came, but instead of stopping at Jason's home, they went up the street and spent their entire visit with a family that Jason and his family did not even know. Jason's mother baked a birthday cake for Jason but gave it to the mailman. Jason's friends heard about his birthday and they exchanged gifts with each other and gave gifts to their pets, but Jason received nothing. Everybody sent birthday cards to one another, but Jason never got a single card. Finally, Jason went outside and yelled as loudly as he could, "Who's birthday is it, anyway?" But the only response was the echo that bounced off the distant mountains, "Whose birthday is it, anyway?"

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Every day, thousands of people around the world die from preventable waterborne diseases. On Christmas Eve, you will have a chance to help provide safe drinking water for people in India and the D.R.. Before teams travel to these two countries in the new year, several people will go to Louisville, KY, to participate in water, health and hygiene training. They will also learn how to effectively treat water and install/maintain a water purification system that can purify 10,000 gallons of water/day. They will pass the knowledge on to our partners in the D.R. and India. Designated gifts given on Christmas Eve will be used to help train people and purchase the water purification systems to be installed. Please consider this opportunity to celebrate Jesus' birthday in a way that honors Him and serves others.

CHRISTMAS: WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT, ANYWAY? - JAN AND TIM DEVINE, CO-PASTORS

Have you ever come to the end of the Christmas season
and felt like you missed the point?

So often the true meaning of Christmas gets overshadowed
by the decorations, parties, gifts, rushing about . . .
and the focus on ourselves.

If we were really serious about doing things differently this year, we probably should have started in September. That's when decorations started appearing in the stores. Right after that, commercials started airing on television. We have been hearing Christmas music for weeks. And if you hadn't already started your Christmas shopping, Black Friday marked the busiest shopping frenzy of the year. It's hard to preach a Christmas series in September, however.

But it isn't too late to redeem this holy season and start focusing on what is most important . . . more of Christ.

- More of Christ in our own lives.
- More of Christ in our families.
- More of Christ in our worship.
- More of Christ in our serving.
- More of Christ in our speaking.
- More of Christ in our giving.
- More of Christ in our school, our workplace, our community.
- More of Christ on Monday through Saturday.



We challenge you to sit down with your family or friends and have a serious conversation about how you might truly honor Christ in this Christmas season. There are many possibilities . . . be creative!

A FEW IDEAS TO MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS MORE SIMPLE AND CHRIST-CENTERED

- Find a way to share the true meaning of Christmas with someone who doesn't know Jesus.
- Set aside a percentage of the amount you spend on your family for others who are less fortunate.
- Make gifts instead of buying gifts.
- Give a gift "in honor" of a loved one, instead of giving something they really don't need.
- Buy one family gift that brings you together instead of individual gifts.
- Support the Christmas Eve offering which will be used to train people and provide a safe water system for India, the D.R., and possibly Kenya.
- Make time for family or individual devotions during Advent. Use resources from FPC or online.
- Talk about the theme-related questions in the bulletin each week with your family, friends, or in your small group.
- Invite someone who may be alone or struggling to share your Christmas celebration.
- Start a new Christmas tradition that is focused on the right things.
- Work as a family or in a larger group to raise money for a mission.
- Serve somewhere during the Christmas season.
- Send a gift to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) or another mission agency that works in areas that have been devastated by disasters.
- Take a family trip to a non-commercialized, spiritual celebration, such as Sight and Sound Theater.
- Have your family make a crèche using household materials - wood, cardboard, fabric, toothpicks, craft sticks, etc.

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

— NATHAN JACOBS

As I was driving home from Syracuse with my family the other day, we experienced a whiteout storm that made travel a difficult and frightening experience. I was tense and worried about the safety of my other passengers as cars slowed down, cars sped by, tires slid, and visibility was limited. It was chaos and it felt like an eternity before we

finally made it out of the storm and to the safety of home. I remember getting home and thanking God for a safe return, quickly followed by muttering about the snow in the Northeast. The next morning, I got up thinking about the snow I would have to clean off and what a burden it was to have to clean up the mess after the storm.

When I actually got outside though, I was struck by how beautiful the world had become—delicately draped in lacy snow and diamond ice. It was an unexpected perspective that God gave me. Sometimes, given time and perspective, we are able to see God's fingerprints in our lives, and are able to give thanks, even for the storms...



A STORMY NOVEMBER

It certainly felt like a stormy November in the life of our congregation. There were many people that we lifted up before the Lord. Gloria Johnston asked for prayer for her sons after the death of their father. Paul Everett's mother, Katie, struggled with some health issues, though thankfully Paul was able to travel to be with her for a time.

Lans Jones fell after dialysis and broke his wrist, requiring surgery. He is currently in rehab. Jon Yerger was in the hospital with DVT after travelling; he is home now. Ethel Whittemore had open heart surgery and after a few initial complications is recovering well. The Dattoli family continues to need prayer as Vicky had back surgery this month

and Ellie faces increasingly difficult health challenges. Roberta Hunsinger was briefly hospitalized this month as well. Services were held here at FPC for Bill Stuempfle following his passing on Nov. 22. Pastor Nissi's son had a serious seizure and the cause and treatment plan are still unknown. Dawn Weber had surgery on her knee

and Jane Kamper asked for prayers for Steve as he underwent surgery on Nov. 26. In addition to the people in our congregation that we lift up, several of our members asked for prayers for friends with cancer. Please continue to pray for these people that God would see them through.

GIVING THANKS

This month we also took extra time to give thanks for God's blessings. With joy, we welcomed a renewed partnership with the Chinese/Taiwanese church as their children joined our children's ministry program. The children also held a successful family day event as well as travelling

to Hilltop to visit. On Nov. 11, we celebrated our veterans and the service they have given over the years, especially Joel Everett as he returns home from Afghanistan. This month also saw a successful mission trip to the D.R. We are thankful for the families that chose to organize and do this mission work.

On Nov. 24, our church was blessed by an ecumenical pairing with Union Center Methodist and First UMC Endicott for a service of praise and Thanksgiving. As we move into December and beyond, it is with anticipation that we look forward to a new year of life at FPC, as our newly elected

Elders and Deacons spend time discerning God's will for this branch of His Church.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father most holy!

FPC YOUTH

DECEMBER '13



Four fearless Ignite Bikers (and one brave Ignite photographer) conquer the elements while exploring trails between Endwell and Johnson City.

PROJECT IGNITE CYCLES INTO WINTER

Project Ignite Bikes will continue through the winter!

This fall has provided absolutely PERFECT RIDING CONDITIONS. We feel blessed that God has given us sunny and mild days to ride.

We are looking forward to peddling right through winter. So, it's time to begin thinking about how to PREPARE FOR THE INEVITABLE COLD WEATHER RIDE. Think layers and consider

a bandana to keep your head and ears warm.

You may be asking, "Why do we continue to ride?" The answer is simple...because it is awesome!

Ignite Bikes provides an ideal environment for the development of a healthy community. Bottom line, IT IS A GREAT CONNECTING OPPORTUNITY.

So the question we have for you is, "Why not roll in and see what it is all about?" Join us for a Saturday ride.



IGNITE BIKES

Saturdays - Snow, Sleet, Rain, or Shine
Meet at The Warehouse - 1:00pm
Return to The Warehouse - 3:00pm



SMALL GROUP

Special Event : "Family" Kickoff
January 12

Save the date and stay tuned for more info!



WINTER WEEKEND 2014

The Loft Camp - Great Bend, PA
March 7-9

Stay tuned to FPC Youth Website and Facebook

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

4:00PM



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

Coordinator Last Name: Finn

Password: Hands2013

As we studied the life of Joseph, we learned some major lessons about what it looks like to trust God. Following are two of the lessons I need to be reminded of each and every day.

ONE - In Genesis 37 Joseph had no choices in the events that took place. He was outnumbered. He found himself in a pit that he could not dig himself out of. Even if we haven't felt like we were in a pit because of a job, life crisis, relational difficulties, etc., the reality is that we're all in a pit that we can't dig ourselves out of. Sin has separated us from God from the garden of Eden until present day. Without God's rescue plan, there is no help. There is no remedy. Only God's forgiveness through Christ can dig us out.

Unlike Joseph though, we have immediate relief available from our pit. Joseph was in a waterless pit. There was no drink even if he was thirsty; No rope extended to let him out; No forgiveness or change of heart by his brothers towards him. We have an exit strategy! We have Christ pursuing us, being our advocate to the Father, and telling us to cast our burdens on Him. All we have to do is confess.

Take time to confess. Make your relationship right with God. He promises to forgive and heal the broken relationship we have with him. (1 John 1:9)

TWO - God NEVER provides for us so that we can be independent of Him. He ALWAYS provides enough to sustain for a moment so we have to look back up at Him and depend on Him for the next new step. Vision and success in life is saying: "God, how can I follow and serve You today?" and "What is the next step you want me to take?"

Joseph did this. It wasn't that he lived in a palace his whole life and had the best of the best. Instead, he had grueling episodes that stretched and challenged him throughout his whole existence. He kept his eyes focused on God's provision and chose daily to trust. As a result, he gained God's wisdom, insight, and blessing.

Keep your eyes fixed on God. Ask each morning: "**God, how can I follow and serve You today?**"

**There is NO REGULAR Children's Ministry on Sunday, December 22 & 29.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

CONNECTING THOUGHTS FOR DECEMBER – THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY BY SHARON EARLY

It is that time of the year when people's thoughts tend to turn to family. We just celebrated Thanksgiving—one of the most heavily traveled holidays as people go 'home' to be with family. Now Christmas is right around the corner.

As we who follow Christ strive to celebrate the true meaning of the season (Jesus' birth rather than rampant mass

consumerism), another important aspect of the season is family.

When people discuss their Christmas plans, they usually mention which side of the family they will be with this year and who is able to come home. For those who have lost a loved one, there is no ignoring the pain and how different things will be. This is no different than how Jesus began his life

here on earth. He was born into a family and spent his formative years as a human with Mary, Joseph and his siblings. Why do you think that was so? Jesus could have been raised within the priesthood, as Samuel was after his mother gave him back to God when God answered her prayer for a child. Instead, God chose that Jesus would remain within Mary

and Joseph's family. To be honest, I had never considered this before, but now wonder at the significance.

If God felt family was vital to Christ's experience here on earth, then it must be important in his overall plan for humanity. Families should a priority for us as well!

JANUARY THOUGHTS—CONNECTING WITH GOD'S FAMILY

1 John 3:23

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

As FPC looks toward 2014, we want to continue to reinforce the importance of our immediate families and the dynamics within. To that end, our Children's Ministry invests in families by providing resources for spiritual development between Sundays, Family Days for sharing what is happening on Sunday mornings, and visits to Hilltop to connect with another generation. Youth Ministry is also focusing on families with the first successful family mission trip this past spring. Quarterly parent meetings are held to reinforce what is happening in the ministry and to talk about what parents can do to help connect with their teens. Adult small groups periodically focus on the discipling process of becoming godly parents raising up godly children.

But this is just a start. Families cannot do it alone, especially with the downward spiral occurring within our society. We need the family of God—the Church—and specifically **FPC Endicott**, to surround these families and together raise up the next generation to know God, grow in their faith, and ultimately take personal responsibility for accepting Christ and making Him Lord of their lives!

In the coming year, FPC Endicott will be discerning ways to strengthen our understanding of being part of God's family, along with being intentional to nurture our intergenerational bonds. A strong FPC Family on the corner of Grant & Monroe will ultimately impact our community and families. Join us on the journey!



SPOTLIGHT ON THE STAFF: NATE AND JAMIE JACOBS

- JEN HUNT

This month's spotlight is on our Worship Team Co-ordinators, Jamie and Nate Jacobs. Jamie and Nate joined the staff in February of this year and have quickly become integral members of our church family. Having grown up just down the road in the Conklin Presbyterian Church, their love for music and worship started early as

members of Conklin's children's choir. As Jamie and Nate grew, they moved up through every age group of choirs at Conklin, landing most recently in Conklin's praise team. In addition to music ministry, they also share a passion for theater, as they have been involved with Christmas pageants and the Conklin Presbyterian

Theatre Group.

Over the year, Jamie and Nate have applied structure and co-ordination to the team through their use of technology and tools like Planning Center, an online church scheduling tool. Nate has also been influential in our church's adoption of Facebook as an avenue to reach more



(Seussical the Musical)



(Flood Relief Celebration)

people and together grow as a community of faith. Today you can find direct links to the songs that are used in worship each Sunday on Facebook to continue your worship throughout the week. Jamie and Nate are interested in growing the Worship Team and in working with people who have gifts and talents to share, either musically or

on the technology team. Jamie and Nate complement one another as co-leaders of the Worship Team and have led the team, not just as a group of musicians, but as a small group through team devotions, worship opportunities, and fellowship dinners at their home. Additionally, they have a great appreciation for traditional worship

and enjoy working collaboratively with Larry Hoey, the Chancel Choir and the Mary-El Ringers. When asked about what worship means to them, Jamie and Nate have shared that they believe worship (musical or not) is simply offering up what you have because of who God is. That's why they believe

all gifts - in the church, outside the church - can be used to give God the glory and the worship, that He deserves.

When they are not singing and playing guitar in the front of the sanctuary, you will find Nate in the church office as our Office and

Information Technology Manager and also around town, as a member of the local band, Brotherhood. Jamie is an Account Executive at Riger Marketing Communications and a 2013 graduate of the Broome Leadership Institute, a leadership development extension of the Chamber

of Commerce. Jamie and Nate recently celebrated their third wedding anniversary and live in Johnson City with their dog, Chloe. We are blessed to have Jamie and Nate as the co-coordinators of the 9:09 Worship Team.



(Jamie and Chloe)

SCORING FUN ON FAMILY NIGHT! - RONNE SISCO, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



Our Nursery School three-year-old students enjoyed showing off their classrooms and classmates to their families during an evening of Night School! Snacks, giggles and busy hands made for a memorable experience. December holds more of the same with our approaching Holiday Sing-Along and our four-year-olds off to the Endicott Visitor's Center!

With 2014 right around the corner, our spring Golf Tournament is already in the planning phase! Such a tremendous success last year, Derek Washburn is striving for even bigger numbers this time around. All funds raised are dedicated to student scholarships, so please reserve Saturday, May 10th, 2014, for a day of great exercise, prizes, food and laughs!



SESSION UPDATE

-JANET FREDERICK, CLERK OF SESSION

The fact that this is a busy time of year for First Pres. was reflected in the business transacted at the November regular meeting.

-A number of important dates were approved as we looked at the training, examination and ordination/installation of incoming officers, upcoming mission trips and plans for the annual meeting on January 27.

-As we looked ahead to Christmas, we learned that the theme for Advent and Christmas will be "Whose Birthday Is It Anyway?" Session approved taking an offering on Christmas Eve

to support a specific mission project in each of our international mission locations in India, Kenya and the Dominican Republic.

-Plans for the 2014 Lenten season were discussed but not finalized.

-Elders approved the use of undesignated funds remaining in the General Mission budget line this year, allocating money to local, national and international causes.

-We were pleased to hear of plans for a college student mission trip to the Dominican Republic in January; opportunities will be made available for

the congregation to offer prayer and financial support to the students hoping to participate.

-The Tech Team recommended and Session approved the purchase of an upgraded projector for the sanctuary and a new color copier for the office.

-Because we are now members of The Fellowship of Presbyterians, Session and staff members recently attended a regional conference of this group and presented a brief report on the highlights of the event. The next step will be to plan for meeting with several other churches with whom we can form a group to hold each other accountable and to offer support as we each move forward toward the mission goal to which we feel God is calling us.



DIGITAL STATEMENTS

As we draw close to year end and the upcoming distribution of 2013 contribution statements for your tax records, it would be most cost effective to the church to distribute the statements to individual members electronically, rather than through the US Postal Service. Email distribution would save on postage, paper, envelopes and printing costs. If you would be interested and willing to receive future

contribution statements via email, please email geblerc@yahoo.com, and I will begin emailing your individual statements in Adobe pdf format starting with the 2013 year-end statement. I will return each request with a test email to assure that the communication with you is working.

Thank you,
Charlene Gebler,
Financial Secretary

POINSETTIAS

2013 Poinsettia Order Form

Please PRINT clearly! This information will be used in the bulletin. The deadline for orders is *Sunday, December 15*, and must be accompanied by payment. No phone orders please!

This poinsettia is donated by:

(Check one) in honor of in memory of

Amount enclosed: _____cash _____check

Price per plant is \$12.50. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Endicott.

NARRATIVE ON THE HEALTH OF MISSION AND MINISTRY

- JAN AND TIM DEVINE, CO-PASTORS

You may not be aware of this, but at the end of the year each PC(USA) congregation has to turn in an annual report to the denomination. It is full of questions asking for statistical information about things like membership size, Sunday School attendance, gains and losses, number of baptisms, racial/ethnic makeup of the congregation, age ranges within the congregation, percentage of people with disabilities in our congregation, our income, our budget, and our mission giving. Janet Frederick, as Clerk of Session, has to try to figure out how to accurately answer dozens of questions. The assumption is that this Annual Statistical Report will give a sense of the health of our church, and in turn, when all the reports are added together, how our denomination is doing overall.

A hundred years ago, Presbyterian congregations were also required to fill out an annual report. But instead of a statistical report, it was a set of questions from which the session would write a narrative. This *Narrative on the State of Religion* posed challenging questions regarding the mission and ministry of each congregation and required thoughtful responses. Not only were churches challenged to assess their work, but the overall report was made public to the world beyond. You can still find online the *Narrative of the State of Religion for the General Assembly of 1856*, published by *The New York Times*.¹ The article shares findings that give reason for gratitude and rejoicing, but does not shrink from also including exhortations to strengthen the life and witness of the Church. The *Narrative on the State of Religion from 1908*² asked congregations to describe:

- (1) Attendance upon the service of the sanctuary by members and others.
- (2) Give proportion of families that observe family worship (in their homes).
- (3) The observance of the Lord's day by members.
- (4) The home training of the children in the Scripture and in the catechism of the church. The training of pupils in the Sabbath schools in the Scriptures and in the catechisms of the church. (Sabbath School was not our Sunday School for church children, but classes for children in the community who were unchurched. As you see by the questions 2 & 4, the training of children in Christian families was largely done within the home.)
- (6) Fidelity of the membership in honoring the Lord with their substance.
- (7) Has your congregation paid its minister fully and promptly the amount promised him?
- (8) Has there been any special manifestation of the Holy Spirit's power in your church, either by conversions or by increased activity in church work?
- (9) To what extent does worldly conformity exist in your church?
- (10) What evangelistic work is done by your church outside of its bounds?
- (11) What efforts are made by your session to secure recruits to the gospel ministry?

¹*Old School General Assembly: Narrative of the State of Religion for 1856*, Published by the New York Times, May 30, 1856.

²Presbyterian Church in the U.S., General Assembly, Minutes, 1908, 64.

NARRATIVE ON THE HEALTH OF MISSION AND MINISTRY

One of the great tools that the Fellowship of Presbyterians is providing for PC(USA) churches and pastors is a *Narrative on the Health of Mission and Ministry*. Session is in the process of completing the Narrative for the first time. It will be part of the way that a handful of other church sessions get to know us and participate in a peer-to-peer review to strengthen the mission and ministry of each participating congregation. We thought it would be good to share the narrative questions/answers with the congregation, because we are all working together to fulfill our purpose *to reach more people and together grow in Christ*. One or two questions will be written up in each issue of the FPC newsletter. We begin this month with Question #1:

In what ways is your congregation seeking the welfare of the community to which you have been called, devoting itself to the poor, seeking justice and living out the whole of the Great Commission?

- Samaritan Supper – weekly community meal/fellowship
- Weekly Deacons' Pantry – free personal care and cleaning supplies available to the community
- Flood Relief/Recovery – financial assistance, leadership, volunteer labor, spiritual and emotional support, and a home for 20 volunteers at a time who came from out of town to assist with our 2-year effort
- Deacons- A multi-faceted ministry to church and community members
- Loving Hands – outreach program at Christmas time for members and nursery school families, providing them with support and gift baskets
- Nursery School – a mission of the congregation for 48 years and supported by the church; although a non-sectarian program, the congregation reaches out to build bridges with nursery school families, inviting them to participate in the life of this faith community
- Homework Café – a tutoring program at the local middle school, staffed by church volunteers
- Cooperative Work- with other area organizations, such as Mother Teresa's Cupboard, the UE school district, and the Boys and Girls Club of Endicott
- Community Advocacy- Taking a position to stand with the community in a lawsuit against a company due to widespread environmental contamination attributed to that company

Reflections on what is currently being done:

- Concern was raised that we may be over-extended; our priorities should be examined periodically
- The Session recognizes that each of these ministries could and should have a stronger spiritual component. We are better at reflecting the good news in our actions than speaking the good news of the gospel.

AN EVENING WITH
TINA HOUSER

FAMILY DEVOTIONS made **FUN &**
MAKING PRAYER REAL

Friday, February 7
6:00-8:00PM



**...for moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles, teachers, leaders,
anyone who has children and those who work with kids!**

If you like to take advantage of life's teachable moments, ever thought about, looked for, or attempted new ways to do devotions as a family or wondered how to interactively pray with kids, this night is for you!

This 90 minute high energy workshop will give leaders, guardians, and parents creative ideas to make family devotions a time where forever memories can be made. You'll be introduced to a variety of engaging ways for kids to pray—individually, with family, and in a group setting.

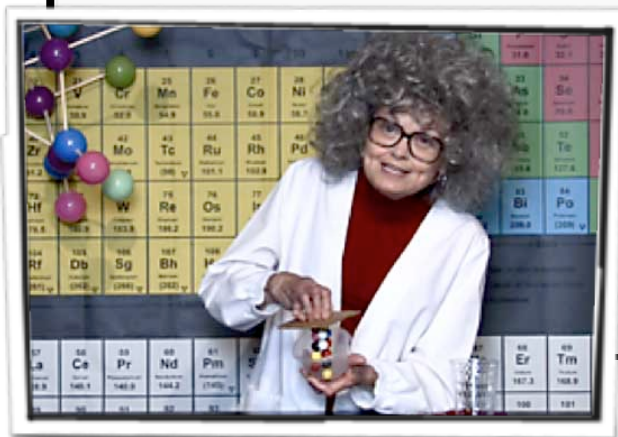
Tickets are \$5.00 per person and can be purchased by contacting the Main Office of First Presbyterian Church. You may also purchase tickets during Nursery School hours from the N.S. front desk. **Dinner is included.**

Quality childcare for infants through 1st grade will be provided at no extra cost, but kids must be signed up at no later than Monday, January 27 in order to participate.

Tina is the publications Director for Kidzmatter, copy editor of K! Magazine, creator of the Kitchen curriculum, speaker, and author of 8 children's ministry books, various DVD's and CD's. She regularly speaks at conferences, groups, and in churches around the United States. As a person with a wealth of information and an entertaining personality, it's the perfect recipe for a great night!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
29 Grant Avenue
Endicott, NY 13760

**Call (607) 748-1544
to get your tickets today!**



THIS MONTH'S OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

Each month, we take a moment to acknowledge our over 80 members that have birthdays in the upcoming month. Consider dropping a note, writing a card, or giving a phone call to help celebrate life with these friends.

December 7

Wayne
Hunsinger

December 23

Lillian
Stanko

January 13

Lans
Jones

**Call the FPC
office at
(607)748-
1544 for
contact
information
for our over
80
members**

ANNOUNCEMENTS**ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP GET-TOGETHER**

Save the date; Friday December 13, 2013 at noon for the annual Fellowship Group Christmas Luncheon. Again this year we will gather at the social hall at Good Shepherd Village at Endwell to share a meal, a time of singing Christmas Carols, some Christmas trivia, and a visit from a special guest. You may make reservations by calling Maxine or Charlie Waughtel at 625-4693.

ANGEL TREE

The Deacons are sponsoring the Angel Tree again this Christmas season. Please stop in the Gathering Area to sign up and get an angel from the tree. Make the holidays special for a Nursery School child by purchasing a gift. Guidelines for gifts are on each angel. All gifts should be returned to church by Sunday, December 15, wrapped, and with the angel affixed to the package for identification.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP MOMS GROW IN THEIR FAITH

The Thursday morning small group that meets here at FPC is in need of child care workers. Any assistance would be appreciated, whether you are able to volunteer weekly, or on an every-once-in-a-while basis. Small groups are an important ministry of our church and this service will help moms with small children remain connected and growing in their faith through discipleship. If you are able to volunteer, or know someone who might be, please contact Sharon Early at sharon@firstpresindicott.org.



The local MOPS group (<http://www.mops.org/about>) is also looking for child care helpers. They meet twice a month (2nd and 4th Wed. of the month) from 9:15-11:15. Also if you are mom of a child 5 or under, please consider joining the group. If you can help or have an interest in joining, please contact Tracy Adams (adams.tracy@gmail.com) or check out the Vestal MOPS page for more contact info: <http://piercehill.org/mops/>.

FPP Calendar

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion No Kids Program 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	2 1:30 pm Faith Partners 6:00 pm Membership Team Meeting-Library 6:00 pm NS Let's Get Together w/Ms. Terry - Dining Room 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	3 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	4 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Session /Deacons	5 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	6	7
8 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) (Officer Training) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) (Officer Training) 4:00 pm Loving Hands Event	9 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	10 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	11 6:00 am Men's Group 11:40 am FPC/NS Lunch 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	12 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	13 12:00 pm Annual Fellowship Luncheon	14
15 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) (Officer Training) 10:30 am Kid's Program (Christmas Play) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) (Officer Training)	16 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	17 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	18 6:00 am Men's Group 1:30 pm Women's Circle 7:00 pm House Committee 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	19 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	20	21
22 No Kids Program 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	23 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	24 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27	28
29 No Kids Program 10:00 am United Worship Service	30 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	31 FPP Deadline				

FPP Calendar

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 am Men's Group	2 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	3	4
5 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	6 6:00 pm Membership Team Meeting 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	7 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	8 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Mission and Stewardship Meeting 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	9 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	10	11
12 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 12:00 pm Officer Examination	13 6:00 pm NS Let's Get Together w/Ms. Terry 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	14 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 6:30 pm Nursery School Board Meeting	15 6:00 am Men's Group 6:30 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	16 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	17 3:30 pm Brain Gym workshop	18
19 Ordination/Installation 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	20 12:00 pm Women's Club 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	21 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting	22 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	23 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	24	25 Packing for India Trip
26 10:00 am United Worship Service 11:00 am Annual Meeting 11:00 am Children's Ministry 12:15 pm FPC Luncheon	27 Team leaves for India 12:00 pm Women's Club 6:30 pm NS Parent Council Meeting 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	28 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	29 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	30 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	31	

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

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