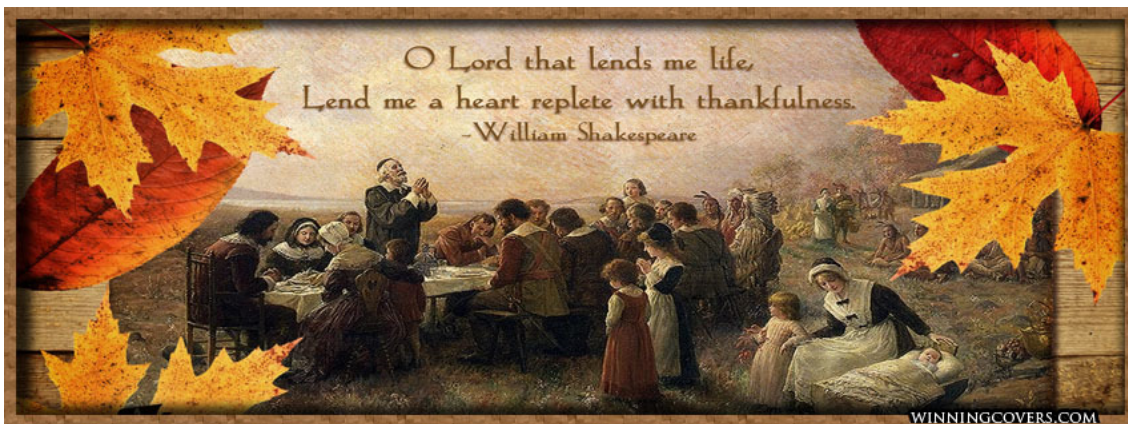


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**A THANKFUL THANKSGIVING**

**- NATHAN JACOBS**



Traditionally, Thanksgiving is seen as a time of feasting for the Pilgrims and Native Americans as they came together. The reality is that after losing over half of their population in the first year of life in the New World, the Pilgrims gathered together to give thanks to God for his provision in difficult times. As the world continues to tell us that we are self-sufficient, and continually earlier store openings tell us that shopping on Thanksgiving is more important than stopping to actually give thanks, let us be more like the Pilgrims, giving thanks to God for his provision; let us be like Joseph, giving God credit for all his accomplishments (Gen. 45:9); let us be like Paul, “giving thanks to God the Father at *all times* and for *all things* in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:20). Let us have a truly thankful Thanksgiving!

**WHO'S THE BOSS?**

Do we buy a particular home on the basis of the call of God, or because of the availability of money?

Do we buy a new car because we can afford it, or because God instructed us to buy a new car?

If money determines what we do or do not do, then money is our boss.

If God determines what we do or do not do, then God is our boss.

My money might say to me, “You have enough to buy that,” but my God might say to me, “I don’t want you to have it.”

Now, who am I to obey?

- From *Money, Sex and Power* by Richard J. Foster

**SAVE THE DATE:**

- Nov. 10- Stewardship Dedication and Deacon/Elder Meet and Greet
- Nov. 17- Children's Ministry Family Day and Congregational Meeting
- Nov. 26- Community Thanksgiving service @ 1st UMC Endicott

## FAITH VERSUS FRUGALITY

### - JAN AND TIM DEVINE, CO-PASTORS

Dear Friends,

FPC Elders spent a lot of time talking, working and praying this month in order to develop the 2014 proposed budget. If you had been at the two October Session meetings, you would have listened to a group of people wrestling to be faithful stewards of both the money you give and the mission God calls us to. It is not easy to balance these two things.

There are people who naturally tend to be “balanced budget” people. They believe a balanced budget has integrity; but it is also a theological issue to be good stewards of all that God has graciously given us.

Others tend to be “faith budget” people. For them, it is a theological issue to not short-change God and his mission by our human fears and limitations.

Whatever our natural human tendencies, the elders together recognize that it is best to live by faith and Frugality, to focus on good stewardship and truly believe that God is more than able to accomplish what concerns us in every area of life... including the church budget.

Here are some of the factors that make setting the budget a logistical and spiritual challenge :

- In addition to the economic realities all around us, there have been some very gracious gifts that we cannot count on in the future, either because of death or because these gifts are running out.
- It would not be good stewardship to simply cut budgets across the board without discerning. What is most fruitful/necessary in order to further the Kingdom of God? Are there things that we might cut that will ultimately cost us more than the money we save? Can ministries combine efforts more to do things better?
- There have been questions about which groups of people give the most financial support to the church. Knowing what portion of our support comes from different age groups in the church is important information in terms of how we disciple and encourage people and how we plan for the future, but not to use as leverage for one service over another or one program/ministry over another. The session and finance committee will be looking at our giving patterns in the coming months in order to help us discern how these patterns will affect the future.
- As we look at finances, what are the root problems that cannot be fixed by cutting dollars from the budget:
  - Is the level of giving a spiritual issue in our congregation?
  - Is the congregation uninformed?
  - Are we focusing on the right things?
  - Do we have more staff than we can afford for our size and level of activity?
  - Has prayer truly been an integral part of our process as individuals, as elders, as staff, or do we lean more on human wisdom and solutions?
  - Is it all of the above?
- How do we address these problems so that we are not in the same place—spiritually or financially- in 2015, '16 and '17?

As one elder said, “I am always concerned that there is a danger of cutting programs vital to our ministry. Cutting items is only a first step to balancing a budget. We must prayerfully consider what God is calling us to do, and then act on the belief that the means will be provided. In particular, we should find ways in which to enhance our Stewardship Ministry. The church budget is a statement of faith. . . faith that God is calling us to this work, and faith that the means will be provided. Our faith is strengthened through struggle. When we struggle, we learn to rely on God’s faithfulness.”

*My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4)*

## WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

### - NATHAN JACOBS

Several of our members that have not had a chance to meet me face-to-face made a request to put a face with my name, so I am including a picture here for that purpose. I hope to meet all of you in person one of these days!

The month of November is a busy one as we celebrate All-Saints, stewardship dedication,

Thanksgiving, and begin to prepare for Advent. In these events, we remember what has gone before, give thanks for what is happening now, and look forward with anticipation for what is to come. We have much to be thankful for here at FPC, and I hope that in this season, you take time to slow down and recognize these blessings in your life.



### BLESSINGS...

As we begin to count our blessings, allow me to share some of those blessings that occurred throughout the month in the life of our congregation. Rich and Sally Kastl's daughter, Dorothy, was selected as a civilian to train as an officer in the US Air Force. She began her training school on Oct. 1 in Montgomery, AL. Barry Driggs underwent a

successful hip replacement surgery on Oct. 8. Thank you to all for your prayers and thoughts on his behalf.

On Oct. 17 and 18, several children from our congregation had the opportunity to spend time at Rock Mountain Bible Camp. Our own Alisha Finn spoke and led chapel time for the overnights.



A big thank you to Adele Everett for creating an "Egyptian" stole for the pastors to wear during our Joseph series!

### ...AND STORMS

In the same way that we give thanks for His blessings, so we give thanks for His provision in stormy times.

On Sep. 30, Jen Hunt's grandmother went to be with her Lord. Bob Heinle's father, Harold Heinle, also passed away this last month, on Oct. 7. A memorial service was

held for Harold at Conklin Presbyterian Church.

Several of our friends and members were in the hospital this month. Vince Earley was hospitalized with congestive heart failure. Hilde Johnson broke the wrist of her dominant hand. Bev Conklin's granddaughter, Megan, was in the ER sev-

eral times for very serious, and unfortunately, undiagnosed symptoms. Cindy Anderson's father had heart surgery on Oct. 14. Carleen Rynick was taken to the ER on Oct. 22 for sudden asthmatic bronchitis. Please keep all these friends in your prayers as they continue to seek God's shelter.

*"Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

*1 Thess. 5:16-18*

# FPC YOUTH

WINTER EDITION

## An Urgent Message from Proverbs

### HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS

Many people do not consider the importance of carefully considering friendships. In Proverbs we see the consequences of our choices:

**Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.**

**- Proverbs 13:20-21**

This Proverb reminds us that it is important to connect most closely in with people that care about God's truth - WISDOM. This Proverb promises two important things:

1. If we chose friends who value/ live out God's wisdom we will become **WISE**.
2. If we chose friends who live their lives ignoring God's truth we will be **HARMED**.

How carefully are you choosing your friends?



## Winter Weekend 2014!

Thanksgiving and Christmas are fast approaching. That can only mean one thing...

Winter Weekend is CLOSE!

Do what is necessary to save a seat on the bus! Registration will be available soon on Facebook and the FPC Youth Website.

Winter Weekend is a GREAT opportunity to get away from the normal wear and tear of life. It provides the perfect setting to get closer to your friends and the Lord.

Lock these dates into your calendar:

March 7-9



### IGNITE BIKES

Saturdays - Rain or Shine  
Meet at FPC - 1:00pm  
Return to FPC - 3:00pm



### SMALL GROUP

FPC Youth Small Groups will be relaunching this winter.  
Stay tuned for more details!



### WINTER WEEKEND 2014

The Loft Camp - Great Bend, PA  
March 7-9  
Stay tuned to FPC Youth Website and Facebook

**BLACKLIGHT PRACTICES ARE STARTING SOON - WATCH FOR REMINDERS!**

**\* Sunday, November 17 \* FAMILY DAY!**

Parents - come **WITH** your kids to our regular children's ministry morning.

We will be re-capping the life of Joseph and making gifts to take to our friends at Hilltop on the 24th.

*Sunday, November 24 - HILLTOP VISIT*

*We will be taking our joy to friends at the Hilltop Campus in Johnson City!*

*Parents and guardians - please plan to drive your kids for this special morning of sharing.*

*Meet at Hilltop @ 10:40am - Deyo Hill Road, Johnson City.*

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 8**

**4:00PM**



**LOVING**

**HANDS**

**WE NEED YOU**

to participate in

**LOVING HANDS!**

We strive to share Christ's love to those that have had a difficult year due to tragedy and loss.

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**

**Password: Hands2013**

## CONNECTING MINISTRIES

— SHARON EARLY

As FPC has been preparing its budget for next year, it became clear to me that in order to determine where (and if) I could cut my budget, I needed to evaluate how we have been doing with our small group ministry goals. The box to the right gives three main goals of the ministry and highlighted to me that we need to once again refocus our direction in the area of small groups.

Each goal has suffered over the past couple of years; not because we haven't had dedicated leaders (because we do!) but because we don't always step back to evaluate what is happening within a ministry. The budget process can be frustrating at times, but it does force us to evaluate whether we are being good stewards of God's money and expanding His Kingdom here on earth.

### SO WHAT'S NEXT IN THE AREA OF CONNECTING MINISTRIES?!

**Bathing the ministry in prayer!** If you are willing to be part of this prayer ministry, please let me know. In the past I have sent out prayer reminders to these prayer warriors to keep our small group leaders in prayer; for the decisions for our church-wide studies; and to be praying for new leaders/groups to be listening for God's calling to new connecting points in their lives.

**Continue to provide entry points into small groups.** I have had the desire to increase this beyond Lent for a number of years now and yet it still has not become a reality. We also desire to have all members be praying for who God is calling them to disciple! Small Groups are only a starting point for nurturing disciples of Christ—it is the one-on-one of each of us mentoring others that effectively forms disciples.

**Search out new DVD-based curriculum for groups.** This has been one of our most effective ways to help people test the waters of leading a group. We have had some excellent church-wide studies, but it is especially helpful for new leaders to have the resource of supporting DVD's.

**Reinvest in our leaders.** We have been regularly having quarterly leaders' gathering, but we need to get our coaching network back off the ground. Our leaders are vital to the ministry, and if we truly believe this, we will be nurturing and investing in them.

**Keep remembering and praying into Ephesians 3: 20-21:**

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

### SG Goals

- **Small Group Entry Points**
  - ⇒ Lenten Studies
  - ⇒ People Inviting
- **New Leaders/Groups**
  - ⇒ DVD Based Curriculum
  - ⇒ Prayerful Seeking of God's Leading
- **Leadership Development**
  - ⇒ Quarterly Leaders' Gatherings
  - ⇒ Coaching Network

**SPOTLIGHT ON THE STAFF**  
**- CAROLYN PREISENDANZ**

This month's Spotlight is on Alisha Finn, our Associate to the Pastors in Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry. Alisha has a passion for ministry, for children, for music and worship. In fact, Alisha has a passion for everything that she does and you can see this for yourself by just watching her in her many roles at

FPC. You often see Alisha in front of the sanctuary during the 9:09 Contemporary Worship Service on the bass guitar, playing keyboards, and singing as she is a part of our worship team. But if you make your way down to the lower floor at 10:15, she can be seen actively leading our children in the

Jungle Room, bringing her many talents and knowledge to the Children's Christian Education Program. What you may not see in Alisha's life is the work that goes into making all this happen. She is a leader of leaders, making disciples of our volunteer Sunday School teachers. She chooses and



develops curriculum, spurs on parents and families, redecorates and refurbishes the classrooms, and develops leaders in their personal faith. Alisha continues to develop her own knowledge by regularly attending conferences and has networked with some of the world's best speakers, keeping our church relevant on the

topic of Children's Ministry. Her knowledge is also shared in venues outside our area as she is often asked to speak to groups to encourage and develop others. Alisha brings all these talents also to the Youth Ministry alongside her husband, Jeremy, as they actively direct and often redirect the spiritual visions of our high school

and college students. She can be seen Monday nights with the Relevant group as they gather for food and small group ministry. Her efforts continue in a volunteer role working with the Nursery School. Alisha has served as a board member for six years, as a vice-chair for two years, and most recent-

ly chaired the board for one year. She will serve this next year as co-chair. Alisha's passion and energy is unending. She serves our congregation and the community in so many wonderful ways. Describing her love for children wouldn't be complete without mentioning the one who

keeps Alisha and Jeremy busy as they watch over those within the church, and that is their son, 3-year-old Malachi. We are blessed to have Alisha teaching our children, developing our teachers, and tirelessly making a difference in our church and community.



## BLESSINGS IN ABUNDANCE

– RONNE SISCO, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

During this month of giving thanks, all of us a part of our Nursery School are so grateful for an **abundance** of blessings. The generosity of many selfless donors here at Endicott First Presbyterian Church, our Nursery School's Parent Council and Derek Washburn's Golf Tournament Fundraiser has provided scholarship assistance for ten families this 2013-14 school year!

Our school and community's pride and spirit were shining on a stellar day September 28th as our festively-decorated wagons and scooters strolled in the Union-Endicott's Homecoming Parade!



And after much planning and remodeling, (drum roll, please...) the new and improved Nursery School Library had its official Grand Re-Opening on October 16th! Colorful, spacious and inviting, our students' literary adventures are now even **more** enhanced thanks to the efforts of Alisha Finn and our Nursery School team!

On a personal note, I am very thankful for the welcoming warmth and gracious support I have received upon joining your family here at F.P.C. and my new relationships with **both** the big and little.

Here's wishing you all a peaceful Thanksgiving!



## SESSION UPDATE

### - JANET FREDERICK, CLERK OF SESSION

Our October meeting actually turned into two meetings as the discussion on the proposed 2014 budget was extensive. We have been concerned for the last several years that if the difference between our expenses and revenue increases, we will have to rely more on the Wagner Fund each year. Since this was not a trend we wished to see continue, serious time was spent not only in discussions at the meetings, but also in meetings with the committee leadership

and staff members whose work is part of the budget. The final version of the budget proposed will be presented to the congregation in the stewardship mailing that will go out in early November.

Other business dealt with in the two meetings included:

- Action on a request for transfer of membership of Jason and DeeDee Camp.
- Approval of a request by the House Committee to do needed work on the Monroe Street house.

-Acceptance of the report of the Nominating Committee and the scheduling of a congregational meeting on November 17.

-Affirmed approval for a children's retreat to Rock Mountain Bible Camp the weekend of October 18 & 19.

-Approval of an evening of training for parents as part of the Leadership Conference scheduled for February 7 and 8, 2014.

-Action on Jeremy Finn's request to hold a Winter Weekend for youth on

March 7 - 9, 2014 and approval of the concept of another Family Mission trip in 2014.

-Reviewed and approved a revised Wedding Policy proposed by the Worship Committee.

Session members worked especially hard in October to ensure that they were being good stewards of the resources God has given to us and which you have entrusted to us. We ask for your prayers and support as we move ahead with our planning for 2014.

## HOMework CAFÉ UPDATE

### - JUSTIN PARK

In the October First Pres Press we outlined the objectives of the Homework Café program and briefly how volunteers would fit in. For November, we'll add the specifics that we have at the present time and once again ask anyone interested in participating as a volunteer to contact Justin Park (748-4192) or Barry Driggs (748-1770).

Homework Café began on Monday October 28 and is an after school program on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at Jennie F. Snapp School from 2:30 to

4:00pm. The school is planning to divide the students selected for the program into three groups. The first two groups will focus on English and math for students who are at risk of doing poorly on the state tests to be given in the spring. Content of the material covered in these groups will most likely supplement what is done in the math or English classes. The third group will focus on homework assigned for the next class of any subject students are taking this year, so in addition to math and

English, science, social studies and languages (French, Spanish, and Italian) may be encountered. Students will be from grades 6, 7, and 8, and teachers will administer each session.

There is a possibility that there may be some opportunity to tutor some students in specific subjects during the school day. We'll pass along information on this possibility if it materializes.

Volunteers at UE are required to provide a form to the school with name, address, a bit of background information

and two references who may be contacted. The church (FPC) requires that volunteers provide or have on file a sexual misconduct form. Both forms will be available in the office or from me.

If you like working with young people and want to help them through their education journey, consider volunteering. We will be as flexible as we can to accommodate your schedule and to use your background. Thanks for your consideration.

## STEWARDSHIP

### THE HABIT OF GIVING BACK TO GOD

A **STEWARD** is a person who is given responsibility for overseeing the possessions, affairs, servants, training of children, etc., of his/her owner or master.

In **Genesis 1:28**, God made human beings the stewards over creation.

In **1 Corinthians 4:1-4**, Paul said that the apostles were given responsibility for the gospel.

According to **1 Peter 4:10-11**, every Christian is a steward entrusted with a divine gift, and we have a responsibility to use those gifts well.

#### DID YOU KNOW . . .

The Bible talks more about giving than it does about either heaven or hell.

Jesus talked more about giving than almost any other subject.

Over half of Jesus' parables have to do with money.

There are more promises in the Bible related to giving than any other subject.

#### WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACH ABOUT GIVING?

*"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* 2 Corinthians 9:7

#### 1. The Principle of Regularity (1 Corinthians 16:2)

Deeply embedded in the Old Testament idea of tithing and the New Testament teachings on giving is the principle of regularity. Regularity provides safeguards around giving:

- a. **Regularity takes giving out of the realm of emotions or mood-giving.** Giving often begins as a simple act of obedience; the joy in giving comes as our faith matures.
- b. **Regularity takes a lot of the pain out of giving.** There is often real grief in parting with money, but when we make a decision to give a particular amount or proportion, then it's just a matter of carrying out the decision regularly and systematically.
- c. **Regularity saves us from self-deception.** If we give sporadically as our heartstrings are tugged, we can be deceived into thinking that we are very generous. But when you divide that into a year, it may only turn out to be a few dollars a week.

#### 2. The Principle of Proportionality (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

Also deeply embedded in Scripture is the principle of proportionality. We should give in proportion as we have received. Giving is not a transaction between you and the church treasurer. It is not a calcu-

## STEWARDSHIP

### THE HABIT OF GIVING BACK TO GOD

lation of how much you owe to give your “share” of the church budget. Giving is a transaction between you and God, the one who gave it all to you in the first place. A spiritually mature way to determine your level of giving is to ask *“What proportion can I return for God’s work in order to signify and confess that all I am and all I have comes from God?”* Some people with heavy obligations or little income will be challenged at a lower percentage than others. For many, however, a tithe (10%) is still no challenge at all, because it does not infringe on either their needs or desires. We have not necessarily “arrived” when we reach a tithe in our giving.

#### 3. The Principle of Priority (Matthew 6:31-33)

A third biblical principle of giving is the principle of priority: set aside God’s share first. It might seem like good stewardship to take care of all your necessities and then look around to see what is left for God, but the godly steward reverses the order. And that reorganizes your life!

#### 4. The Principle of Risk (Mark 12:43-44)

Finally, the principle of risk. If we actually give God the first portion of our income, then we will begin to live adventurously. Most of us have a hard time seeing how we will live off 100% of our income. If we give 5% away, can we live on 95%? If we give away 15%, can we live on 85%? It becomes a thrilling adventure to live responsibly, while trusting also in God’s care. Sometimes people will say that God promises if you give 10%, you will get that back, plus interest, every time. It may happen sometimes, but tithing (or risk-taking giving) isn’t just a magic investment with 100% guarantee. You can trust that God will provide for your needs, but you may have to go without some of your desires or simplify your life. The blessings or rewards can be much deeper than a simple payout on your financial investment. After all, a gift that doesn’t reorganize your life and make you step out in faith is no challenge at all to your spiritual maturity!

#### CONVICTING STATISTICS:

The median annual giving for an American Christian is actually \$200, just over half of one percent of after-tax income. (2009)

During the Great Depression, Christians gave about 3.5% of their income. Today, Christians average less than 2.5% of their income.

If committed American Christians (those who say their faith is very important to them and those who attend church at least twice a month) gave away 10% of their after-tax earnings, they could realistically increase their giving by somewhere between \$46 - \$85 billion to ministry around the world each year!

## PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2014

### ELDERS

— “RULING ELDERS, TOGETHER WITH TEACHING ELDERS, EXERCISE LEADERSHIP, GOVERNMENT, SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT, AND DISCIPLINE AND HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE LIFE OF A CONGREGATION AS WELL AS THE WHOLE CHURCH, INCLUDING ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS”(BOOK OF ORDER, G-2.0301).



Adele Everett



Janet Frederick



Charlene Gebler



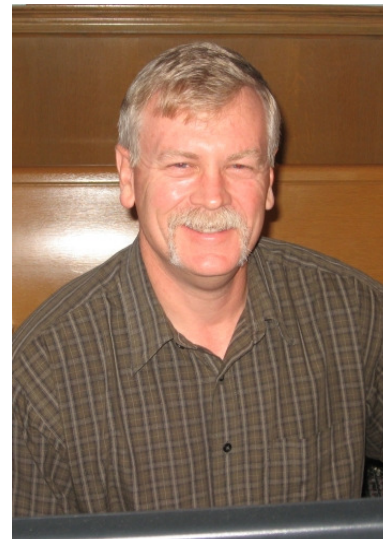
Chris Loughridge

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

— “THIS COMMITTEE BRINGS NOMINATIONS TO THE CONGREGATION FOR THE SESSION, THE BOARD OF DEACONS (IF THE CONGREGATION HAS A BOARD), AND THE TRUSTEES (IF THE CONGREGATION ELECTS TRUSTEES). THIS COMMITTEE MAY ALSO BE CALLED UPON, BY SESSION ACTION, TO BRING NOMINATIONS TO THE CONGREGATION FOR A PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE” (PRESBYTERY HANDBOOK)



Pam Davis



Bryan Early

## PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2014

### DEACONS

— THE OFFICE OF DEACON AS SET FORTH IN SCRIPTURE IS ONE OF SYMPATHY, WITNESS, AND SERVICE AFTER THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS CHRIST. PERSONS OF SPIRITUAL CHARACTER, HONEST REPUTE, OF EXEMPLARY LIVES, BROTHERLY AND SISTERLY LOVE, WARM SYMPATHIES AND SOUND JUDGMENT SHOULD BE CHOSEN FOR THIS OFFICE.

IT IS THE DUTY OF DEACONS, FIRST OF ALL, TO MINISTER TO THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED, TO THE SICK, TO THE FRIENDLESS, AND TO ANY WHO MAY BE IN DISTRESS BOTH WITHIN AND BEYOND THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH. THEY SHALL ASSUME SUCH OTHER DUTIES AS MAY BE DELEGATED TO THEM FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE SESSION, SUCH AS LEADING THE PEOPLE IN WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION, READING THE SCRIPTURES, PRESENTING THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE, AND ASSISTING WITH THE LORD'S SUPPER. (BOOK OF ORDER, G-6.0401-02)



Gordie Pollard



Jeff Willets



Marian Loughridge



Saima Naik Tandi

**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.

**November 7**

Virginia Ulsh

**November 13**

Bob Thomas

**November 25**

Jack Melrose

**November 29**

Vivian Tallman

**November 30**

Fran Ebbers

**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.

**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 Sunday, Nov. 24.

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 fruits, 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.

**SUPPORT THE NURSERY SCHOOL**

Support the Nursery School by ordering Gertrude Hawk candy. Michelle Beatty will be in the Gathering Area between services on Sunday, Nov. 3 to take your orders. The Nursery School is a mission of FPC, and this is a way we can support classroom enrichment and their scholarship program to ensure that more children are able to take advantage of this important first step in their formal education.

**MEMBERSHIP TEAM MOVIE NIGHT**

Come Nov. 2 for a viewing of the film that Rev. Tim referred to on Oct. 6, "The Emperor's Club." We will meet in the lounge at 6:30pm for the film (109 min.) and then enjoy dessert and beverages with our discussion. Childcare will be provided. Sign up on the easel in the gathering area. We welcome you and your guests!

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

There will be a special joint Thanksgiving worship service between the FPC and Union Center Methodist congregations on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 6:30pm at 1st United Methodist of Endicott (across the street).

**STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS**

Art Davis will be in the chapel between services on Nov. 3 to answer questions about the stewardship mailing and proposed 2014 budget.

# FPP Calendar

# November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Membership Movie Night- Lounge
<b>3</b> 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	<b>4</b> 2:30 pm Homework Cafe 6:00 pm Membership Team Meeting 6:00 pm NS Let's Get Together w/Ms. Terry 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	<b>5</b> 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Deacons	<b>6</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 2:30 pm Homework Cafe 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 2:30 pm Homework Cafe 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 Communion Stewardship Dedication</b> 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:20 am Deacon and Elder Nominee Meet and Greet 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	<b>11</b> 2:30 pm Homework Cafe 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	<b>12</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 6:30 pm NS Board 6:45 pm Small Group Leaders Gathering in Youth House	<b>13</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 2:30 pm Homework Cafe 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 2:30 pm Homework Cafe 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>15 FPP Deadline</b> 6:00 pm NS Movie Night - Sanctuary	<b>16</b>
<b>17 Children's Ministry Family Day</b> 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:20 am Congregational Meeting 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	<b>18</b> 12:00 pm Women's Club- Library 2:30 pm Homework Cafe 6:30 pm NS Parent Council Meeting - Choir Room 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	<b>19</b> 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	<b>20</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 1:30 pm Women's Circle 2:30 pm Homework Cafe 7:00 pm House Committee 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 2:30 pm Homework Cafe 5:30 pm Worship Committee 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Kid's Program Visiting Hilltop 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Service	<b>25</b> 12:00 pm Women's Club- Dining Room 2:30 pm Homework Cafe 7:00 pm Relevant Ministries	<b>26</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	<b>27</b> <b>No Nursery School</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>28 Thanksgiving</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> <b>No Nursery School</b> 9:15 am Small Group	<b>29</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> <b>No Nursery School</b>	<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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