

**FIRST PRES. PRESS**

SEPTEMBER 2015

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**OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS****September 1**  
Janet Weber**September 16**  
Helen Jephson**September 25**  
Sandra Tillotson**September 29**  
Dorothy Melrose

Save the date for our fall kickoff! We will have a united worship service followed by a lunch/concert time. We will also have a stone painter here painting several large stones to be put in our new prayer garden space. There will be an opportunity for each congregant to decorate a stone with the name of someone who they are praying for to come to faith. These stones will be placed in the prayer garden as well.

**FALL NEW MEMBER CLASS**

If you have been attending worship at FPC, are ready to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and want to invest in this particular community of faith, let us know! Each spring and fall, we provide an opportunity for people to meet and talk about their faith journey, who we are as a congregation, what we believe, and the values we pursue because we believe they have great worth. Increasingly, the desire to formally belong to institutions and organizations is waning. While you can certainly be active at FPC without being a member, membership gives people the opportunity to be in leadership and have a voice and vote in the directions that are set and the decisions that are made. After attending, you will be able to decide without pressure if this is the right time and place to commit to doing life and ministry with others here at FPC. Please contact Jan Devine or the church office to let us know of your interest so we can coordinate dates to gather. We will choose two of the following three afternoons that work best for everyone: Sunday, October 18, October 25, and November 1.

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

As we begin a new school year, we also have an opportunity for a new start as a church. BUT... if we are going to be different - more purposeful, more faithful, more fruitful -

**A new logo isn't enough.****A new denominational affiliation isn't enough.****Adopting ECO's mission statement isn't enough.**

*"To build flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ"*

Our study of the book of Acts over the past few months has shown us what is necessary to be the Church of Jesus Christ. We will only look different if ALL of us commit to being an Acts church. Acts 20 summarizes the priorities we need to set in our lives, as individuals and together as the body of Christ.

We must commit to serve God:

- With "all humility" (Acts 20:19)
- With "tears" (passionate commitment)
  - Do you care so deeply about the "lost" that you have a great urgency to share the Gospel? (Acts 20:21, Romans 9:1-3)
  - Do you care so deeply about the "least" that you are willing to live more simply so that others might simply live? (Acts 20:33-35, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9)
  - Do you care so deeply about the health and purity of the Church that you are willing to pursue and defend truth? (Acts 20:28-32, 2 Corinthians 2:3-11)
  - Do you seek God passionately in prayer, worship, and the study of Scripture? (Acts 20:7, 36)
- By "enduring the trials"- being willing to face suffering and hardship for the sake of Christ (Acts 20:19)
- By making our highest aim the "ministry that [we] received from the Lord Jesus to testify to the good news of God's grace" (Acts 20:24)

We must commit to serve one another:

- By not shrinking from teaching and speaking truth to/with one another, in groups and one-on-one (Acts 20:20, Ephesians 4:11-16)
- By being content with what we personally have so we can share with a spirit of generosity toward others (Acts 20:32-35, 1 Timothy 6:6-10)

We must commit to serve unbelievers:

- By sharing the gospel of repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21)
- By being content with what we personally have so we can share with a spirit of generosity toward others (Acts 20:32-35, 1 Timothy 6:6-10)

## WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

— NATHAN JACOBS

As summer winds down and the school year begins, we gather back together, trading stories from vacation, sharing God-sightings, and reconnecting as a community. Here is a brief sharing of some of the things that happened here at FPC and in our community over the last few months. As you catch up with what you might have missed, please remember these people in your prayers:

- Young adults Erica Barney, Christian Fedczuk, Mel Kania, Mike Perry, Christina Perry, and Corey Quealy, who worked with children through our summer tennis program in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club.
- Josh Bennett, who went on a five-week mission trip to China.
- The family of Ethel Whittemore, who passed away on Aug. 24.
- John Early, who had knee surgery.
- Ede Sornberger, who had surgery.
- Linda Glajch, who had a hospital stay for a kidney stone that thankfully did not require surgery.
- The Schrader family, who celebrated Jamie's parents' 50th anniversary, even in the midst of hospice care.
- Graduates, as they seek God's direction in their lives through work and/or education.
- The family of Beth McKeown's friend, Jean, and the healing reconciliation that took place at the end of her life.
- Bev Jones, who lost her sister and a brother-in-law the same week.
- Kristen Willets, who found a full-time teaching job in VA.
- Billy Beardsley's brother-in-law, Tom, who has found employment.
- Gordie Pollard's sister, who finished a round of chemo.
- The Sole Hope party and those that have followed up afterwards, as we made over 200! pairs of shoes to send to children in Uganda.
- Alisha Finn and twelve students, who went to Rock Mountain Jr. Camp.
- Jane Sprague, who moved into a new apartment.
- Bev Conklin's daughter-in-law, Barb, who got the good report in her fight against cancer that her lung biopsy was negative.
- Reuben Marvin, upon the death of his father.
- Paul Everett, who spent some time in the hospital with issues related to his heart.
- Lucas Steven Heidrich, who was born to Danielle and Steve. Lucas was born several weeks early, but after spending a short time in the NICU, is home and doing well.
- Christy Williams, who moved to Virginia to teach at a school in Fairfax.
- Bev Conklin's niece, Val, and cousin, Bob, as they deal with health issues.
- Erin Schrader, who had surgery.
- Helen Jephson, who had surgery.
- For the 50 women who gathered for fellowship, worship, and the Word, we give praise and thanks to God.
- Jim and Norma Santacrose, who celebrated 37 years of marriage.
- Alyssa Beck, whose scans showed no evidence of cancer!
- Students leaving for college, that God's guidance and protection would be upon them.
- Families, especially parents and students, as a new school year begins.
- Connie Stanton, as she recovers from wrist surgery.

## YOUTH NEWS

We are in a transition of leadership for youth ministry.  
But that does not mean that ministry has stopped.



On July 20, junior and senior high youth gathered at Chuckster's for an evening of miniature golf, ice cream, and small group time.

August 24 took us out to a homestead in PA for fishing, swimming, a large-scale scavenger hunt, hot dogs toasted over a fire, and reflecting on the Word of God while we watched the sun set from the top of a hill.

## SEPTEMBER PLANS

We are going to let students settle into their fall routine before starting a regular youth program/schedule.

### September 13 –

Come be part of building a prayer garden as we celebrate our church-wide *Fall Kickoff 2015*. Worship will be at 10:00am, followed by lunch, prayer garden preparations, and a concert by the Worship Team.

### September 20 –

Family Day to mark the first day of this year's Children/Student Sunday Morning Ministry

- ⇒ **Jr. High Students** will meet their new Sunday Morning leadership team: Gary Hunt, Jen Hunt, Erin Washburn, Derek Washburn, and Ian Wang
- ⇒ **Sr. High Students** will be working with Alisha and the children's leaders to introduce the kids to what's ahead this year!

## PARENT INFORMATION

Parents– Please plan to come to a youth parents' informational meeting on **Sunday, September 27, at 11:00am**. For parents who cannot attend during this timeframe, there will be an opportunity for a recap after the second service.





# FALL KICK-OFF!

## ROUTE 66



Rev up your engines and join us along Route 66-  
a trip through the 66 Books of the Bible,  
Genesis through Revelation!

**BUILD** your very own box car,  
**RACE** the track,  
**SNACK** at the diner,  
**FUEL UP** on God's Word,  
and **TAKE A PIT STOP** to get your  
Souvenir Scrapbook started!



# FAMILY DAY

SEPTEMBER 20

10:30AM-12:00PM

**CONNECTING THOUGHTS****— SHARON EARLY**

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*

This summer was a sober reminder that we continue to be a transitional church in this community of the southern tier of New York. God commanded us to go to the ends of the earth, and many of the people we have connected with over the years here at First Pres. have gone out from this community to reach others for Christ in many other parts of the world. This past year alone Bryan and I have had to send off close family friends, other colleagues from our church, and even our own daughters to different parts of the country.

To be honest, it is hard, and I could feel myself turning inward and trying to shelter my heart from pain in the future by not reaching out to form new friendships. But God is good, and he connected me this summer with people from the past to remind me that we are always connected through Christ. We have been a part of each person’s story: we have blessed each other in friendship, nurtured one another, and grown in faith together.

The beginning of the summer was the first reminder that in today’s world, when someone moves, it does not mean we will never see them again. While moving Sarah to Colorado, I discovered that a son of one of the very first good friends I made after moving here and Sarah are working in the very same town! Once the dust settles, we hope to arrange a common time to visit our children and reconnect with each other!

This summer, I was also able to connect back with the first person who drew me to First Pres. She was part of my first Bible Study group: she helped nurture the concept that our faith is a continual journey and modeled how small groups can help us really wrestle with our faith and step out to do God’s work no matter where we are called.

Lastly, the “epic” fire from this summer pictured to the right was taken when we were camping with other families from the church along with a family that had moved east several years ago. It was so good to sit around the fire and share stories about where God has taken us since we were at First Pres together. Our friend shared that he reminds himself continually of one of Tim’s mantras, “build slowly, build solidly.” He has realized that he earned more from his time in Endicott than he ever thought as he now shepherds two different churches.

God is moving in our lives, and I needed the reminder that we are in each others’ lives for a season. Although it is painful to have to say good-bye each time someone moves on, it was truly awesome this summer to be reminded how much my faith has grown through the people God has shared with me for a season. As I look forward to a new “season” of my life, I can truly say I am looking forward in expectation to see whom God will bring into my life and how my faith will grow as a result! I hope others are also watching to see whom God is asking them to connect and share life with in a group! Be on the lookout in September for small group opportunities to connect with others and help our church continue to *reach more people and together grow in Christ!*



*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

**HERE WE GO!**

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

A busy nursery school we will be! **150 three and four-year-olds are excitedly preparing** for a year of new adventures and friendships with us! That is 21 more children than last year!

We are very privileged to welcome **Mrs. Lisa Dutcher** to our staff! As the newest member of our teaching team, Lisa possesses a great deal of experience in childhood education as a teacher, mother, and volunteer. She truly enjoyed First Pres. as a parent of a former student here at our school and we are excited for her new role as she returns.

## Congratulations

**Mrs. Vanessa Cross and Mrs. Cathy Aspling!**

Last June marked Vanessa's 10-year anniversary and Cathy's 12-year anniversary here at First Pres. Nursery School. Vanessa and Cathy teach our three-year-old students in the Frog Room.

Our unsung heroes- **Lou Pasquale and Joe Knapick**- have made some wonderful improvements to the nursery school this past summer. Classroom window, paint, and floor needs were addressed and look fantastic. Lou and Joe have dedicated themselves once more to creating a safe and polished environment for our students.



Our heartfelt thanks to both of you!



## SESSION UPDATE AND TRANSITION REPORT

### - LINDA WILLETS, CLERK OF SESSION

The Session held its regular monthly meeting on July 8, 2015.

The Clerk reported:

- Receiving a letter update regarding the IBM settlement. Because of client confidentiality, Session is still not permitted to share information with the congregation at this time.

The Pastors reported:

- They attended the *Hope 2015: Restored Hope Network's Annual Conference* on June 26 in Lancaster, PA.
- The Summer Outreach Program in partnership with the Boys' and Girls' Club is serving over 100 children, with an average attendance of 20-30 per age group.

Summer/Fall Plans that were reported:

- The Nominating Committee has begun its work. A 24-hour period of prayer and fasting was held on July 20-21 in preparation for their discerning work this summer and fall. Session reviewed the Nominating Committee's revised "Discerning Your Call" documents for both elders and deacons to reflect ECO polity; these were made available to the congregation.
- Phase 2 of the stained glass window restoration (storm windows) has begun.
- The Fall Kick-Off will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2015.
- FPCE will host the Mission Affinity Group (MAG) gathering in October.
- Nate Jacobs gave a preview of the new FPCE website design to be rolled out this fall.

Transition Process:

- FPCE members continue to decide what their relationship will be with this church as we affiliate with ECO.
  - Session approved the request of Carleen Rynick to transfer her membership to Northminster Presbyterian Church.
  - Session acted on the requests of members to be placed on the Presbytery's Residual Roll or to be removed from the membership rolls of FPCE.
  - Session set aside time to acknowledge the contributions of these people in the life of this church and to pray for God's blessing on each of them by name.
- Session approved the recommendations from the Personnel Committee for medical and retirement coverage through ECO for the pastors and full-time employees, beginning September 1, 2015.
- The Service of Dismissal, jointly planned by the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley and FPCE, will be held on August 23, 2015 at 4:00PM. The service will acknowledge our shared past and the mixed emotions of the transition, and charge both the Presbytery and FPCE to move forward in Christ's mission.
- Jan, Tim, and some elders have had conference calls with ECO folks who are actively supporting and providing resources to help our church move forward and flourish.
- Elders were encouraged to attend the 2016 ECO National Gathering in Southern California on January 26-28, 2016 - 3 days of worship, prayer, connection, Gospel teaching, and inspiration. This conference is open to the congregation as well!



**PEACE AND EVANGELISM SUNDAY**  
- DOUG KERR, MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

**Peace and Evangelism Sunday**  
**September 27, 2015**

*"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.  
In the world you will have tribulation.  
But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)*

The Hebrew word *Shalom* is most often translated as our English word "peace." But it means much more than just the absence of conflict. True *Shalom* encompasses health, wholeness, safety, tranquility, rest and completeness. The root word in verb form means to be complete, perfect and full.

We know that true *Shalom* can only come from being in relationship with the One who created us and put all things into place. And the way to find true *Shalom* is through God's Son, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

On Sunday, September 27, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (ICF) of Binghamton University will be our guests for Peace and Evangelism Sunday. ICF is a local campus ministry FPC supports which reflects a ministry of true *Shalom*:

*"InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is a community on this campus that is not content with the way things are. We are a student group that looks at ourselves, at our campus and at the world and says, 'Something is missing and we will not be satisfied until that something is found.' We're about living together and learning together and growing together-- making a difference with our short time on this campus, and preparing ourselves for making a difference when we leave. Our Vision is to see lives transformed, the campus renewed, and world changers developed."*

100% of the gifts received for the Peace Offering will be donated to the ministry of ICF on Binghamton's campus.

## **COMMUNITY**

### **Samaritan Supper**

Samaritan Supper will be starting again on Tuesday, September 8. We are always looking for volunteers. Please let one of us know if you plan to return or are unavailable to help this year. For those of you who aren't familiar with the Samaritan supper program, we would love to share what this ministry is all about. You can contact either Laura or myself at one of the following email addresses: Analise Farrell – [toothdr13@aol.com](mailto:toothdr13@aol.com) | Laura Shafer – [ultpowmom@stny.rr.com](mailto:ultpowmom@stny.rr.com)

### **FPC:Women Prayer Gathering**

Please join FPC:Women, Monday evening, September 14, from 7pm - 9pm for prayer. We will join with women around the world, and we will humble ourselves before the Lord in prayer to the Father from John 17.

## COMMUNITY CONT.

### Thank You!

Thanks to Rebecca Barney, her sister-in-law Kim, and the Sunday morning small group for the landscape and gardening work they have done on the church grounds.

### College Addresses

Whether you have college students going away to school for the first time or returning to college for their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year, please let the office know their contact information. We do send newsletters to our college students, so names and addresses are helpful. At the Christmas break, a fun evening is organized for students returning home, and that information is usually communicated via e-mail. It would also be helpful if we have cell phone numbers for those occasional last-minute communications. Please let the office know how we can stay in touch with our college students.

### 10 Top Reasons Why You Should Sing in Our Chancel Choir

10. Single men, we have a three to one ratio of women to men.
9. Reserved seating with a great view, if you don't mind watching the service sideways.
8. They don't pass the collection basket in the choir loft.
7. From your special vantage point in the choir loft, you'll develop new hobbies; among these is the guessing game "Who's Praying, Who's Sleeping."
6. It's exactly like singing in the shower, except you're wearing a robe and people are actually listening to you.
5. Sitting with our choir in the chancel every Sunday is excellent practice in case you're ever called for jury duty.
4. For years you've wanted to know who sits in the back pews but were always afraid to turn around.
3. Because there's a clock in the front row of the sanctuary, you'll be the first to know when it's noon each Sunday.
2. Men - because you'll be wearing a choir robe every Sunday, you're liberated from the challenging task of finding clothes that actually match.

#### AND THE NUMBER 1 REASON MEN SHOULD JOIN OUR CHOIR:

1. When people ask you whether you've been behaving yourself, you can say with the utmost sincerity, "Hey, I'm a Choir Boy."

We sincerely invite all men and women who love to sing to join our chancel choir. No auditions are necessary. Our first rehearsal will be held on Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 PM in the choir room. We'd love to have you join us! Musically yours, Larry.

### MOPS

Looking for a way to minister to mothers and children? Retired? Home on Wednesday mornings? Mothers of Preschools (MOPS) of Pierce Hill Christian Fellowship in Vestal is looking for volunteer child-care helpers two Wednesday mornings a month (September thru May). Positions range from holding new babies to sharing the word of God with 5-year-olds. Transportation can be arranged if needed. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Tracy Adams (607-341-2436, adams.tracy@gmail.com) or Shannon Lamb (607-621-1278, belle123456789@yahoo.com).

## WHAT IS A COVENANT?

—JENNIFER HUNT, RULING ELDER

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31:33 (ESV)*

As we continue to explore our new relationship with *ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians*, we would like to dig deeper into some of the unique characteristics of being an ECO church. In the letter you received from Session in June, you might have noticed a new phrase—“Covenant Partner.” It might be tempting to just say that a covenant partner is the same as a member, and in some respects that’s true, but there is something special about a covenant, especially when modeled after God’s covenants with his people.

Miriam-Webster’s Dictionary defines a covenant as “a formal and serious agreement or promise.” God uses covenants to communicate to his people; it is how we are redeemed and how we find eternal salvation through Christ. The Bible itself is a covenant document and the word “testament” is Latin for Covenant. Some examples of covenants from Scripture are:

- **Eternal Covenant**, [Heb 13:20](#)—The redemptive covenant before time began, between the Father and the Son.
- **Edenic Covenant**, [Gen 1:26-28](#)—The creative covenant between the Triune God, as the first party ([Gen 1:26](#)), and newly created man, as the second party, governing man’s creation and life in Edenic innocence.
- **Adamic Covenant**, [Gen 3:14-19](#)—The covenant conditioning fallen man’s life on the earth.
- **Noahic Covenant**, [Gen 8:20-9:6](#)—The covenant of human government. Man is to govern his fellow men for God, indicated by the institution of capital punishment as the supreme judicial power of the state ([Gen 9:5-6](#)).
- **Abrahamic Covenant**, [Gen 12:1-3](#); confirmed, [13:14-17](#); [15:1-7](#); [17:1-8](#)—The covenant of promise. Abraham’s posterity was to be made a great nation. In him (through Christ) all the families of the earth were to be blessed ([Gal 3:16](#); [Jn 8:56-58](#)).
- **Mosaic Covenant**, [Ex 20:1-31:18](#)—The legal covenant, given solely to Israel. It consisted of the commandments- ([Ex 20:1-26](#)); the judgments (social) - ([Ex 21:1](#); [24:11](#)); and the ordinances (religious)- ([Ex 24:12-31:18](#)); also called the law.
- **Palestinian Covenant**, [Deut 30:1-10](#)—The covenant regulating Israel’s tenure of the land of Canaan.
- **Davidic Covenant**, [2 Sam 7:4-17](#), [1 Chr 17:4-15](#)—The kingdom covenant regulating the temporal and eternal rule of David’s posterity.
- **New Covenant**, [Jer 31:31-33](#); [Mt 26:28](#); [Mk 14:24](#); [Lk 22:20](#); [Heb 8:8-12](#)—The covenant of unconditional blessing based upon the finished redemption of Christ. It secures blessing for the church, flowing from the Abrahamic covenant ([Gal 3:13-20](#)), and secures all covenant blessings to converted Israel, including those of the Abrahamic, Palestinian, and Davidic covenants. This covenant is unconditional, final and irreversible. (Unger, Merrill F. *The New Unger’s Bible Handbook*. Revised edition. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. 595.)

Throughout human history, we have continually broken relationship with God and one another- but God is faithful and keeps his covenant promises. When we understand that a covenant defines a promise, built on a mutual relationship of trust, there’s a great sense of comfort and peace because of God’s faithfulness, and it stirs within us a deeper desire to be covenant-keepers ourselves.

## WHAT IS A COVENANT? CONT.

As is true of God's covenants with his people, Covenant Partnership in a church comes with benefits. As a covenant partner, you:

“receive encouragement, support, and correction that the Lord promises to those who share spiritual fellowship... In Christian community, we realize the fullness of life together and life in Christ, and discover our unique place in a common mission and narrative of God's work. The covenant partner (member) and the congregation are both blessed and become a great blessing as they covenant together, intentionally, in Christ's work.”

(*ECO Polity* 1.0304, The Benefits of Covenantal Partnership)

Equally important, there are expectations of being a covenant partner as well:

“Faithfulness in Christ involves each covenant partner's dedication of time and talents for the congregation's mission and ministry, in accordance to the gifts that God has bestowed upon him or her. Faithfulness also involves the stewardship of finances. As each covenant partner grows in the grace of giving, financial support of the congregation's mission and ministry should grow, along with tangible support for other ministries that advance God's Kingdom.”

(*ECO Polity* 1.0305, The Congregation's Expectations of Covenantal Partnership)

Since the middle of August, women of the church have been studying Nehemiah. The book of Nehemiah tells the story of how Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem and leads the people to rebuild the city walls. Chapter 3 of the book of Nehemiah details the specific ways in which each person contributes to the rebuilding: high priests, goldsmiths, merchants, and city rulers all used their unique gifts to rebuild.

God is at work in our church. What is your part of our wall? What ministry will you plug into? Small groups? Greeting? Tech team? Children's ministry? Samaritan Super? Youth ministry? Will you join a committee/ministry team - house, worship, nominating, servant making, membership, Christian education, mission & stewardship, finance & investment? Will you make an additional financial commitment? Will you commit to pray for the church? Pray for the staff? Will you encourage those who serve? Will you welcome new people? Will you reach out to shut-ins? Will you “adopt” a widow? Will you instruct a young man? Will you help a young mother? Will you mentor a new Christian? The possibilities within this covenant are endless! What role is the Lord calling you to play in the body of Christ and as a Covenant Partner here at FPC?

References:

ECO Polity - [http://eco-pres.org/static/media/uploads/resources/eco\\_polity\\_and\\_discipline\\_020113.pdf](http://eco-pres.org/static/media/uploads/resources/eco_polity_and_discipline_020113.pdf)

Scripture References - <https://bible.org/illustration/covenants-scripture>

Nehemiah Study - <http://www.ifequip.com/3112>

### ECO INFORMATION SERIES

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

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

# September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Teacher Orientation 12:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>2</b> Teacher Orientation 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>9</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 5:00 pm Parent Orientation in Sanctuary	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Communion 10:00 am Fall Kickoff Service	<b>14</b> NS Begins 7:00 pm FPC:Women Prayer Gathering	<b>15</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Deacons 7:00 pm Nominating Committee Meeting	<b>16</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm Mission and Stewardship Committee 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry Family Day 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	<b>21</b> 6:30 pm Parent Council Meeting	<b>22</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>23</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm House Meeting 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Wedding Rehearsal	<b>26</b> Wedding-Meaghan Kintner and Eric Cady
<b>27</b> Peace and Evangelism Sunday 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 11:00 am Youth Parents' Meeting	<b>28</b> 5:30 pm Nursery School Board Meeting	<b>29</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal			



## VISION STATEMENT

### (What God wants to do)

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

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

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

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

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

## MISSION STATEMENT

### (What God wants us to do)

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

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

### (The reason we exist)

To reach more people and together grow in Christ.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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