



NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

FIRST PRES. PRESS

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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

OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

December 17
Arlene Lyon

January 10
Barry Driggs

ADVENT RESOURCES

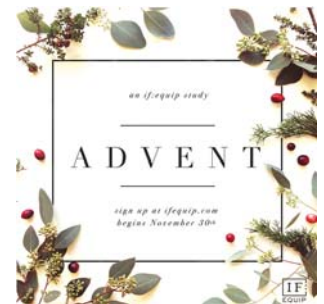
FPC:E offers children/families and adults a variety of digital and hard copy Advent Resources to help you make Jesus Christ the focus of this holy season. You are encouraged to pick up a resource at church or use one of the following available online:



The Fellowship Community Advent

Resource: To You Is the Song (<http://www.fellowship.community/join-the-fellowship-community-in-an-advent-experience-2015/>)

"IF:Equip" Advent Study for Women
(<http://www.ifequip.com>)



Tales of Christmas Past

(ThrivingFamily.com/Advent)

IT'S A FAMILY NEW YEAR!

Be sure to join us for worship on December 27 at our 10am united service. It will be the 3rd day of Christmas, but it will also be the Sunday before New Year's Day, and we will celebrate new beginnings with story and song and activity for everyone. Following the service we'll share a meal together in the dining room. Feel free to bring cookies to pass (or a cabbage to roll around the room for good luck). Don't miss gathering with your church family for this joyous time together.

PASTORS' PAGE

- TIM AND JAN DEVINE, CO-PASTORS

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 (Isaiah 9:6)*

We watch images on TV, listen to reports on the radio, read accounts in the news. . . sometimes it is so hard to trust that the Prince of Peace has come and that He has authority over this broken world.

Just as puzzling is what we can do in response to evil and sin, because the problems are so big. What can I do about the refugee crisis in Syria and Iraq? Bombs exploding in crowded cities like Paris, Beirut, and Yola, Nigeria? People facing persecution across the globe?

The apostle Paul tells us to *"hate what is evil, cling to what is good."* (Romans 12:9) We can get behind that! But what does that really look like? Not what you might expect or like. Paul goes on to say. . .

*Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. **Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. . . Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. . . if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*** (Romans 12:11-21)

And if that weren't challenging enough, Paul tells us that *persevering in prayer* includes this: *I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Wait, you think, Paul isn't here today to see what is happening. He wouldn't tell us to pray for evil, oppressive leaders. Ah, but Paul's circumstances were very similar. The early church was persecuted by both the secular Roman government and the religious authorities. Both wanted Paul dead and the Christian movement stamped out. Christians throughout the known world were suffering, fleeing, and dying at the hands of enemy authorities. And still, this is how Paul taught us to pray.

Well, you might say, Paul was not realistic. He can't really expect us to pray for horrible people. But if we won't listen to Paul, then hear what Jesus said, *"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:44)

The one who is called Prince of Peace and Mighty God, the One whose birth we are about to celebrate, the One who came into the world so that all might live said, *"Pray for those who persecute you."* If we are to be obedient., we will pray.

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

—NATHAN JACOBS

- David Glajch, who was an escort on a recent Honor Flight to honor and take WW2 vets to Washington D.C.
- Bruce Barney's father, Bruce Sr., who is recovering from a stroke following a heart attack.
- Greg Barsigian's brother, Carl, who was hospitalized following a quad accident and heart concerns.
- The Schrader family, upon the death of Jamie's father.
- The Tandis and the teams that are in India.
- Sandy Chambers, who is home after rehab from a recent fall.
- Carol Smith's mother, who celebrated her 100th birthday.
- Gerry Wilcox, who had cataract surgery.
- Jeff Thomas, who has been declared cured and will be able to return to work.
- Rebecca Barney, Danné Beck, and Helen Jephson, for their support of the Thursday morning small group by providing child-care. Also, for the moms in that small group and their children.
- Gertrude Campbell, who has returned home after rehab for a fall.
- The Rynick family, as both Carlene and George face health concerns.
- Bev Conklin and others who maintain contact with college students by sending notes of encouragement.
- All the saints who have died over the last year.
- Bob Thomas, who celebrated his 90th birthday on Nov. 13.
- Bev Conklin's daughter-in-law, Barb, as she struggles with cancer.
- Ed and Linda Fiaschi, and their new grandson, Colton Timothy, born to Tim and Rebekah Hudson.
- Carole Cockrell's sister and brother-in-law, who are in need of physical and spiritual healing.
- We give praise and thanks to God for a full slate of elders and deacons.
- The family of former FPC:E member, Maralyn Hall, upon her recent death.
- Former FPC:E summer intern, Michelle Smith Wahila, who currently serves as the Associate Pastor of The American Church of Paris, as she ministers in this devastating time.
- Bob and Hilde Johnson, who celebrated 50 years of marriage.
- The quiet servants who help prepare the sanctuary for worship.
- Pam and Chuck Holmes, who celebrated 46 years of marriage.

On October 18, Gordie Pollard was inducted into the Upstate New York chapter of the Lacrosse Hall of Fame.



Paul and Adele Everett report that they are enjoying living a block away from their grandsons and having the chance to spend time with Joel and Isaac and their daughters-in-law. Joel, a former elder of this church, is enrolled at Harvard, studying for a Masters in Public Administration. Isaac, a former deacon of this church, works on the staff of a Boston church and is pursuing ordination. We look forward to seeing them back next summer!

YOUTH NEWS

DECEMBER—EARLY JANUARY PLANS

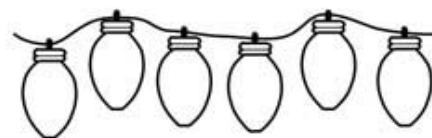
Middle School Youth

Sunday, December 6

Loving Hands Event
4:00 - 7:00pm
DRESS WARMLY to go
Christmas Caroling!

Sunday, December 13

Christmas Extravaganzaballooganza,
5:00-7:00pm
Meet at the Oakdale Mall entrance between Penney's & Burlington
Follow clues to find amazing treasures!

**December 20****December 27****January 3**

No youth group.
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

Wednesday, January 6

BU BEARCATS Men's Basketball
Game vs. Stony Brook
Meet in FPC:E Parking Lot @
6:30 to carpool —7:00 game.
Tickets are provided.
Bring money for refreshments.

Sunday, January 10

Mark & Marisa Pellerito's House
323 Pierce Avenue
Endwell, NY 13760
5:00-7:00pm

High School Youth

**Sunday,****December 13**

Climbing with
Megan & Chris!
5:00– 7:00pm
Meet at the

Mansfield Barn (564 Jones Rd.)
or 4:45pm at church for a ride.
Wear layered clothes for warmth.
Climbing shoes provided.

Sunday, December 6

Loving Hands Event
4:00 - 7:00pm
DRESS WARMLY to go
Christmas Caroling!

Wednesday, January 6

BU BEARCATS Men's Basketball
Game vs. Stony Brook
Meet in FPC:E Parking Lot @ 6:30
to carpool together—7pm game.
Tickets are provided.
Bring money for refreshments.

A WORD TO PARENTS

Research shows that the faith of parents is the most determinative factor in the faith formation of children.

- Share your own faith journey as much as you ask about your children's.
(Do your children even know how you came to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior?)
- Tell your children how you are praying for them, not just that you are praying for them.
- Share how you see God at work throughout the day or week.
- Share your mistakes/sins even as you correct theirs.
- Pray with them about real life, not just about vague things.— and listen for God's answers!
- Reclaim the cracks of time you have with your children to intentionally talk/disciple them.
(Car rides, meals, bedtime, shopping, during commercials, doing a chore or homework...)

FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

10:30 meet in Treehouse Room

10:50 support the Boomwhackers' Performance!

11:00-12:00 Christmas Play, Refreshments, Family Craft, and lots of Christmas FUN!

In the midst of all the special events in December and January we have a couple of weeks of quiet detour from our Sunday morning Route 66 schedule. We hope you will celebrate the birth of Christ together with your family!

December 27 – **Merry Christmas!** - NO Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

January 3 – **Happy New Year!** - NO Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

BOOMWHACKERS® & BLACKLIGHT

SUNDAY, December 20 - Morning Services "Boomwhackers" Performance

CHRISTMAS EVE, Sunday, December 24 - 4:30PM Blacklight Performance

We hope you'll come support the kids for each of these artistic endeavors!

SUNDAY DECEMBER 6 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!

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN THE NURSERY SCHOOL

- RONNE SISCO, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

- DEREK WASHBURN, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS



*Taking a snack
break during our
Parent Council's
Fall Fest!*



Pajama Day!

Our three-year-olds invited their loved ones to join them for an evening Family Night! Left, a mom gets a first hand lesson on play dough manipulation while, below, our student models easel painting for his younger brother.



Halloween giggles...



WOW!

Our Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser yielded fantastic results! Preliminary calculations of \$12,000 in sales will earn the Nursery School 50% of that! Thank you so much for your orders!



Senior Master Sargent of the U.S. Air Force Peter Sheehan and Army Major John Evangelista visited our four-year-old classes to help our students better comprehend what a "veteran" is and the meaning behind Veteran's Day. Major Evangelista then topped off their visit with a story H is for Honor. These veterans are the father and husband of our very own teacher Mrs. Ally Evangelista. Our deepest gratitude for their sacrifices, bravery, and dedication.



**COMING
SOON**

The Endicott First Presbyterian Nursery School will begin accepting registrations for the 2016-17 school year starting Monday, January 4, 2016. Registration forms will be available on our website nurseryschool.firstpresendicott.org and at the front desk. If you have a child who will be turning three or four years old by December 1, 2016, we invite you to contact us at 607.748.1744 to discuss available programming options. First Pres. is also an excellent avenue for your five-year-old who needs additional time for development prior to Kindergarten.

SESSION UPDATE AND TRANSITION REPORT - LINDA WILLETS, CLERK OF SESSION

First, I would like to express my appreciation to the Session members and pastors for their support as I became clerk of Session following Janet Frederick's move to Florida after many years of faithful service in our church. It has been a privilege to serve with this amazing group of church leaders, and I look forward to continued service in the years to come.

A joint meeting of elders, deacons, and program staff was held on November 4, 2015. Garry Ingraham, from the Love & Truth Network, presented his story and mission. It was followed by Q&A concerning how our congregation might implement ways to become both radically welcoming and radically transforming in dealing with the relational and sexual brokenness within all of us.

Session dealt with its regular business afterward, and the following items were addressed:

- Recent communication with the Taiwanese church, whose children participate in our children's ministry. Staff members affirmed that the children's curriculum aligns with the Essential Tenets of this church and ECO.
- Sharon Early received positive feedback about a possible 2016 Lenten study on prayer. She is also starting to develop another option for connecting people in micro-groups, as well as our current small groups.
- Nominating Committee presented the list of 2016 nominees for deacons, elders, and members-at-large. We give thanks for a full slate of elders and deacons!
- *Route 66* and *What's in the Bible* are proving to be great resources for the children's ministry. Alisha Finn is challenging parents to make church attendance and children's ministry a priority. She is encouraging parents to explore teaching life and attitude lessons to their children to help them EXPERIENCE God's Word, God's Love, God's Forgiveness, God's Adoption, and OBEY God's Call on their life.
- The Junior High Youth Group has been going well. Families have hosted many Sunday nights at their homes.
- Blacklight & Boomwhackers rehearsals will be held on Thursday evenings through Christmas.
- Mission & Stewardship Committee wrote thank you notes to families of the memorials used to help pay for the renovation of the stained glass windows.
- Session approved 2016 Mission Funds (\$84,980), which reflects the same % decrease as the projected decrease of the general budget and shifts in mission partners as we move to ECO.
- Session approved the remainder of the undesignated 2015 Mission Funds (\$777) to be allocated to: Love & Truth Network - \$500; Mercy House - \$277 (plus \$723 from the unused Good Shepherd chapel fund for a total of \$1000).
- Session approved \$518 from a previous Dominican Republic trip to be designated for the January 2016 trip, to use either for scholarships or for the work that will be done.
- Elders prepared to lead worship on November 15. They will deal with Essential Tenet #7- our call to be faithful stewards of all of life.
- Session approved Jen Hunt and Sharon Early as additional signatories for the church accounts.
- Additional church members are needed for the Investment Committee.
- The MAG Gathering, scheduled for October 24, will be rescheduled in the spring.
- Session approved the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 7, 2016.
- Session approved the women's IF Gathering to be held at our church on February 5 & 6, 2016.

COMMUNITY

Fellowship Christmas Dinner

Please join us on Friday, Dec. 18, at 12 noon for dinner, fellowship and a Christmas celebration at the Good Shepard Villages in Endwell. The cost is \$15.00 per person and reservations need to be made by Sunday, Dec. 13 to Charlie and Maxine Waughtel at 607-625-4693 or Bob Dealaman at 607-748-8810. We look forward to seeing everyone at this gathering.

Harmony Club

The Harmony Club of Binghamton, celebrating its 90th anniversary year, marks the holiday season with a program of music on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015 at 1PM at FPC:E. Selections include Christmas anthems by a holiday chorus and handbell choir, a sacred duet with piano/flute accompaniment, woodwind music, and a seasonal dramatic reading. Of special interest is a Christmas piano trilogy written 80 years ago, in 1935, by former Club member and President Allene Bixby, who was also an organist/choir director at FPC:E. The audience will have a chance to sing along with 4 familiar carols. A Tri-Cities opera student will also perform.

Continuing her "Meet our Founders" series, Club historian Dori Schriber will highlight the life of Elizabeth Britton, a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music in London, who enjoyed a long career in Binghamton as a music teacher, pianist, organist, choir director, and minister of music at First Congregational Church, Chenango Street Methodist Church, and West Presbyterian Church, and first Dean of the Binghamton chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The public is cordially invited to attend this free program, followed by light refreshments. Visit our developing website: www.harmonyclubbgm.org.

Succoth Booth

Thank you to the congregation and FPC:E Nursery School for the generous donations to the Succoth Booth. It is a blessing to be able to provide food to families in need during the Thanksgiving holiday season. The deacons are grateful for your support to this ministry.

Angel Tree

The deacons are sponsoring an ANGEL TREE this Christmas season. Please stop in the gathering area starting December 6 to sign up and get an angel from the tree. Guidelines for gifts are on each angel. All gifts should be returned to the church by Friday, December 18, wrapped and with the angel affixed to the package for identification. Donations of gifts will be given to children attending the Nursery School here at FPC.

Dominican Republic Mission Trip: Dec. 30, 2015– Jan. 6, 2016

Make a Difference this Winter break! Calling all college students/young adults! Here's a great opportunity to experience first-hand a short term mission trip to Las Terrenas, Samana, Dominican Republic. Come with us and visit some remote villages, worship and fellowship with wonderful people, spend time in God's Word and His work. Spend your week helping the people in these areas build their homes and churches. Visit those in need of food, clothing, or fellowship. Reach out, take a chance, eat the food, speak the language, and fall in love with the people...you might not want to leave. For information: call or email Bruce Barney at 607-727-3677 or bbarney@stny.rr.com.

COMMUNITY**Stewardship Pledge**

Stewardship Dedication Sunday was November 22. If you did not receive a commitment card or have misplaced yours and wish to give a financial commitment for 2016, there are extra cards and envelopes available in the back of sanctuary. If you are unable to physically come to the church and need a card, please contact the office and we will mail one to you. Thank you for your support.

Annual College/Young Adult Christmas Gathering

Hosted by Jan and Tim Devine on Monday, Dec. 21. Be our guests so we can all catch up and share food, fellowship, and fun!

6:00pm- Dinner at the Great China Buffet
560 Harry L. Drive #3, Johnson City, NY 13790

7:30pm- Bowling at Ideal Lanes
119 Jennings St., Endicott, NY 13760

**2015 Poinsettia Order Form**

Please PRINT clearly! This information will be used in the bulletin. The deadline for orders is *Monday, December 14*, 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 (please specify!): _____cash _____check

Price per plant is \$13.00. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Endicott. Donated plants are delivered to home-bound members of the church by the deacons.

Church Calendar

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Deacons	2 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	3 5:30 pm Blacklight Practice 6:00 pm Boomwhacker Practice 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 Communion 9:00 am Elder Nominee Training 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 4:00 pm Loving Hands	7	8 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	9 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	10 5:30 pm Blacklight Practice 6:00 pm Boomwhacker Practice 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 11:00 am Deacon Nominee Training 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School 5:00 pm High School- Climbing	14	15 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	16 6:00 am Men's Group 12:00 pm House Meeting 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	17 5:30 pm Blacklight & Boomwhacker Dress Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 12:00 pm Fellowship Christmas Lunch @ GSV	19
20 Boomwhackers Performance No FPC:Youth 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry Family Day 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	21 6:00 pm College/Young Adult Gathering	22 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	23 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	24 Christmas Eve 4:30 pm Worship Service (Contemporary) 7:30 pm Worship Service (Traditional)	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	26
27 No Children's Ministry No FPC:Youth 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	28	29 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	30 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed		

Church Calendar

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2
3 Guest Preacher- Chris Loughridge No Children's Ministry No FPC: Youth 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	4	5 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Deacons	6 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm FPC: Youth Bearcats Basketball Game 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	7 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	11	12 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	13 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	14 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	18 1:00 pm Women's Club Board Meeting	19 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	20 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	21 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	25 1:00 pm Women's Club Meeting 6:30 pm Parent Council Mtg.	26 ECO National Conference 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	27 ECO National Conference 6:00 am Men's Group	28 ECO National Conference 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29 6:00 pm NS Cuddle Up & Read	30
31 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School						

VISION STATEMENT

(What God wants to do)

We believe God wants to transform our community through the saving love of Jesus Christ and calls us to share that hope with the world. To be an agent of hope, our congregation must work together and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to follow Christ, whatever the cost.¹ This commitment, which is grounded in a deep love of God and neighbor,² sends us out to share the Good News of Christ through our words³ and our actions.⁴

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

² *The Great Commandment*, Luke 10:27

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

⁴ *The Great Compassion*, Matthew 25:31-40

MISSION STATEMENT

(What God wants us to do)

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

PURPOSE STATEMENT

(The reason we exist)

To reach more people and together grow in Christ.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

29 Grant Avenue

Endicott, NY 13760

Phone: (607) 748-1544

Fax: (607) 748-1744

www.firstpresendicott.org

www.facebook.com/FPCEndicott

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 36

Endicott, NY