



FIRST PRES. PRESS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

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OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

January 19
Doris Gerard
January 21
Betty Wattles
January 24
Richard Scroxton
January 26
Gertrude Campbell
February 13
Raili Wrenner



LIVESTREAM REMINDER

Just a reminder, we livestream all of our services so that those who cannot be here on Sunday morning are still able to be part of our worshipping community. The main video shot for the livestream is down the center aisle of the sanctuary, so any activity other than worship (looking around, running out to the restroom, etc.) is captured on the video and is a large distraction for those trying to worship with us from afar. If you must leave the sanctuary for some reason, please consider using one of the side aisles. Also, please be aware of the camera itself, as stepping on or near the tripod (especially when moving quickly) causes the camera to shake and interrupts the already more difficult experience for our home worshippers. Thank you.



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

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.
- Psalm 25:1

Hear my prayer, O LORD, listen to my cry for help.
- Psalm 39:12

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.
- Ephesians 6:18

They all joined together constantly in prayer...
- Acts 1:14

Prayer.

An invitation to be in relationship with God.

A discipline to grow in relationship with God.

A promise to experience the power, presence, and grace of God.

But so much gets in the way of a rich prayer life.
Questions about the purpose of prayer and how it works.
Self-consciousness.
Self-reliance.
Busyness.
Apathy.

The Scriptures are full of examples of prayer, instruction about prayer, answers to prayer. . . and the command to pray! It is obvious that prayer is not only important, it is essential for people of faith. God created us for fellowship with Him. At our core we are spiritual beings, and God has placed a longing for the transcendent within us. *He has set eternity in the human heart* (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

This Lent, beginning with the Agape Supper on Ash Wednesday (February 10), we are going to be studying prayer and pursuing a deeper prayer life together in worship, small groups, micro-groups, and in our personal devotional life. Hopefully as our understanding of (and conviction about) prayer grows, our desire to nurture our prayer life will also grow. What an amazing thing that we are invited to have a relationship with the Creator of the universe!

We are asking each person to make a commitment this Lent. Attend worship for the five weeks of our church-wide focus on prayer. Be part of a small group or micro-group (3-4 people) and take the study seriously. See what God can and will do within us and through us when we seek Him.

"Lord, teach us to pray." - Luke 11:1

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

— NATHAN JACOBS

The holidays are always a crazy time and a lot happened in the life of our church family. Here are some of what has been shared with us about our members' lives:

- The Meza family's niece, Reagan, was prematurely born at 1 lb. 11 oz. a year ago, and is now a thriving one-year old!
- Jeff and Linda Willets celebrated the engagement of their oldest daughter, Amy!
- Carl and Sharon Baumann celebrated the engagement of their daughter Lindsey!
- Brad Baumann and Alyssa Beck got engaged!
- Susan Mayer and Mark Bentlage were married on December 27!
- Val Tokarz and Garret Holland were married on December 31!
- Chris and Karli Campbell welcomed a second son, Kellen David Campbell, into the world on Tuesday, January 5!
- Stacey and Tony Paradiso are expecting their first child in July!
- Carolyn and Peter Preisendanz, are expecting their first grandchild in June!
- Grace and John King celebrated the birth of a new granddaughter, Kiska Elaine Rose Shope, born December 15!
- Dawn Weber is finding fulfillment in different kinds of training that she is receiving and using.
- John King was named State 4-H Volunteer of the Year.
- Kat Barsigian served on a medical outreach to Haiti with her college.
- We give thanks for Hemant and Saima's safe return from India and the way God worked in and through the two mission teams.
- Homework Café volunteers began their ministry with middle school youth this year.
- The DR Mission Team ministered in word and deed to the people of the Dominican Republic. They returned safely and shared their testimony with the congregation.
- The Kerr's are preparing to go to Kenya.
- Marisa Pellerito's father had a medical scare on Thanksgiving, but has recovered well.
- Beth McKeown's father is healing from a broken hip.
- Anna Beer's co-worker received the gift of a kidney on Christmas Eve; we pray for good function and healing.
- We pray for young adults who are struggling with life and making godly decisions.
- Bev Conklin's daughter-in-law, Barb, entered hospice care.
- Carol Cockrell's sister, Ellen, had back surgery.
- Ed Fiaschi had a heart catheterization in anticipation of surgery.
- Gordie Pollard's older sister, Sharon, had a reoccurrence of cancer.
- Paul Everett was hospitalized in Boston over Christmas.
- Kamora Wang's great grandmother was diagnosed with cancer.
- Christina Pierces's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.
- One of our pre-schoolers, Gabby Laubisch came out of remission from leukemia and is awaiting a bone marrow transplant.
- Several families experienced the death of a loved one over the holidays.
- Carol Smith's mother passed away on Jan. 3. A Witness to the Resurrection service was held on Jan. 8.
- Stacey Rundle's nephew passed away from a traumatic brain injury.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

-Psalm 34:18

YOUTH NEWS, MID-JANUARY THRU FEBRUARY

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

Sunday evenings, 5-7pm, at the Monroe House.
If any families would like to host an evening at their home, please contact Alisha.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH



Megan and Chris want to hang with students outside of Sunday mornings. Contact them (megmansfield22@gmail.com or ccampbe77@gmail.com) if you are interested in a climbing night at The Barn or a possible trip to the Sky Zone Trampoline Park in Syracuse.



7TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH- MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

WINTER RETREAT MARCH 4-6, 2016

\$99/person (Scholarship help is available)



Basketball, Volleyball, Disc Golf, GaGa Ball, Carpet Tourneys
Zipline and/or Snow Tubing (weather permitting)

Youth Group Challenge. Active and General Sessions, Night Game, Pizza Party, Small Groups, Rock Mountain LIVE!, Singing and Worship

**"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;
I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26**

A WORD TO PARENTS

Research shows that doubts about God and faith aren't toxic for teens— but silence is. Don't shut down your children for expressing sincere doubts or asking valid questions. If they deal with it openly now, they will be more likely to work through the doubts. Avoid pat answers. Four words to use with teens: "I don't know, but..."

"... that's a great question."

"... let's talk about it more."

"... here's what I do know."

"... let's see what Scripture says."

NEW YEAR?

Gratefulness. Joy. Peace. Quest for Truth. Faith. Commitment.

Make a resolution to share Biblical Truth with your kids... it will reap eternal reward!

GRATEFULNESS	JOY	PEACE	QUEST for TRUTH	FAITH	COMMITMENT
Gratefulness is a lifestyle that begins by saying "Thank you" to others who bless us. God has blessed us richly. Be grateful to Him!	Joy is an emotion evoked by the prospect of possessing what one desires. Desire a relationship with God and your joy will never cease!	Peace is a state of tranquillity or quiet. We can have peace from God that surpasses our own comprehension even in the midst of the world's chaos.	Truth is factual, transcendent, sincere, and fundamental reality. Truth is rooted in acknowledging God. Search for it in the Bible.	Faith is a firm belief, strong conviction, loyalty, and assurance about what we hope for but do not see. Building faith starts with knowing truth!	Commitment is an agreement or pledge to do something in the future. God is committed to redeeming His children. Are you committed to Him?

Here is what we're learning about in Children's Ministry this winter!

January 10 – The Big Split! Israel splits into 2 kingdoms. Elijah & prophets of Baal. (1 KINGS & 1 CHRON.)

January 17 – The End of Israel! Jehoram, Ahab, Jezebel, prophet Isaiah. (2 KINGS & 1 CHRON.)

January 24 – Ezra and Nehemiah, Rebuilding the temple (EZRA, NEHEMIAH)

January 31 – Brave Queen Esther (ESTHER)

February 7 – Poems in the Bible? (JOB, PSALMS)

February 14 – Wisdom from Above! (PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES, SONG of SOLOMON)

February 21 – Prophets, Prophets Everywhere! (ISAIAH, JEREMIAH +15 more!)

February 28 – Messages of the Prophets. (EZEKIEL, DANIEL + 15 more!)

March 6 – **FAMILY DAY**

March 13 – **HILLTOP VISIT**

After we have completed using a specific DVD on Sunday mornings, please stop in the Treehouse Room to borrow it to view with your family!

It is an amazing series that everyone in your family will learn from enjoy. The "What's In The Bible?" series will walk from Genesis to Revelation and you will discover the depth of God's Amazing Rescue Plan!

CONNECTING THOUGHTS

— SHARON EARLY

In September, we dedicated our new prayer garden and committed to pray that family and friends might come to faith. We also bathed the church in prayer throughout the past year as we went through the discernment process, worked through the budget process, and called new elders and deacons to serve.



So why do a Lenten study on prayer? Because we have the immense privilege to communicate directly with God, and yet too often we fall short, we wonder if our prayers really are effective, and we let the crazy busy-ness of life impact the time we spend in prayer. That may seem harsh, and some of you may have this area of your devotional life under control, but for many of us it is too often the brutal truth. Within small groups we continue to hear people struggle with their prayer life and question if their prayers really matter? So as a church, we will be using Jim Cymbala's study, *When God's People Pray*, to look at the following five topics: God's Heart for Us, The Amazing Power of Prayer, Obedience in Prayer, The Word of God and Prayer, and Why Prayer Matters.

We are asking everyone in our community of faith to be involved in this study- whether in a traditional small group, a ministry group, or with 2-4 others to form your own micro-group. As our world increasingly opposes Christian values and beliefs, we need to prioritize our time within our church community in such a way that we continue to build one another up and nurture a Christian way of living. The next generation will only be as good as the model we live out in front of them.

Dates to put on your calendars:

Tuesday, Feb 2—Small Group Leaders' Gathering (this includes micro-group point people)

Wednesday, Feb 10—Ash Wednesday Service/Agape Supper

Sunday, Feb. 14—Start of 5 week Lenten church-wide study on prayer

*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. Ephesians 3:20*

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM OUR WEE ONES!

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



Pastor Tim visited our *Sing Alongs* in December as we jingled in a happy, healthy **2016!**



FIRST PRES. NURSERY SCHOOL'S REGISTRATION FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW UNDERWAY!

Registration for our Three and Four-Year-Old Programs started January 4. The Registration Form may be downloaded on our website NurserySchool.FirstPresEndicott.org or may be picked up at the Front Desk.

The Art Show is coming, The Art Show is coming!

Friday February 26 from 6-8 pm.

Come stroll our halls filled with the best of our students' creations, bid on local artisans' pieces, and enjoy refreshments while taking in the musical talents of Alisha Finn & Family as well as Violinists Miranda and Sophie Werner. All donations benefit our Arts Program.

We hope to have your company!

We hope to have your company!

We hope to have your company!



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

Praise ye the Lord!
Praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!
Psalm 113:1

A special thank you to all of the faithful servants who have served our church as elders or deacons and are now rotating off active service:

Elders: Janet Cook, Janet Frederick, Jennifer Hunt, David Jenkins, Carolyn Preisendanz
Deacons: Paul Everett, Linda Glajch, Marisa Pellerito

The Session held its regular meeting on December 2, 2015:

- Session approved the 2016 schedule for regular Session meetings.
- The examination of incoming elders and deacons will be Sunday, January 17, 2016.
- The ordination/installation of incoming elders and deacons will be Sunday, January 31, 2016.
- Session approved the Christmas Eve Offering for two missions:
 1. The Outreach Foundation to continue to minister in the midst of the refugee crisis in Iraq and Syria.
 2. New windows and pews for a church being built in the Dominican Republic.
- Session approved the revised active member, inactive member, and active non-member rolls as of December 2, 2015.
- David Jenkins gave praise and thanks to God for those who answered the call to become elders or deacons.
- Session gave approval for Alisha Finn and adult volunteers to promote the THAW Retreat at Rock Mountain Bible Camp for students in grades 7-12 and to use the youth reserve fund, up to \$1,500, for scholarships as needed. Session stopped to pray for our youth, led by Bruce Barney.
- December 27, 2015 will be a joint service followed by a meal.
- Session set upcoming dates for Communion: January 10, February 10 (Agape Supper), and February 14 (First Sunday of Lent).
- Session approved a 2% bonus of current 2015 salary to all staff members on the payroll in December 2015. This included Rev. Dr. Tim Devine, Rev. Jan Devine, Nate Jacobs, Jamie Jacobs, Sharon Baumann, Alisha Finn, Larry Hoey, Kayley Huff, Nancy Boyer, William Jenkins, Lou Pasquale, and Christina Nava-Wilson. This bonus is a one-time payment to staff members for the recognition of challenges during the transitional year.
- Ede Sornberger expressed appreciation to Lou Pasquale for the relationship he built with the Town of Endicott engineer, which was instrumental in getting the alley completed.

COMMUNITY

Calling all women of FPC:E!

Join us for IF: Endicott on February 5 and 6. IF: Endicott is a unique Women's Retreat where we will wrestle with unbelief and what can God can do through us when we have faith. Over the two days, we will livestream speakers and worship from the IF:Gathering in Austin, TX. IF: is an organization with the mission and goal to gather, equip and unleash women to live out their purpose. To find out more about IF: go to <https://ifgathering.com/who-we-are/>

When: February 5 (5pm - 9pm) and February 6 (9am - 7pm)

Where: Church Dining Room and Lounge

Contact: Jen Hunt or Kristy Mansfield for more information or to register

IF God is real... then we want more than anything to live like it.

From the Deacons

The deacons are grateful for those that were able to help deliver poinsettias. Thank you so much!!

A Thank You

I want to thank all of you who came out to sing to me and bring delicious goodies. It was such a treat. These past months have been hard since Lans died. Even though I teared up I really did feel your love and kindness very much. May you all be blessed, Bev Jones.

IN THE NEWS



John King was honored as State 4H Volunteer of the Year



Rob Siegers was featured in the newspaper for his banjo playing and instruction

Church Calendar

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2
3 9:09 am Guest Preacher- Chris Loughridge Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	4	5 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 Communion DR Mission Team Preaching 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 7:00 pm Mission and Stewardship Committee	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 Examination of Officers 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 5:30 pm ECO National Gathering Samaritan Supper	27 6:00 am ECO National Gathering Men's Group	28 7:00 pm ECO National Gathering Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29 6:00 pm Cuddle Up & Read	30
31 9:09 am Ordination & Installation Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School						

Church Calendar

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30 pm Nursery School Board Meeting	2 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 6:00 pm Small Group Leaders' Gathering for Lenten Study 7:00 pm Deacons	3 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	4 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 IF Local Gathering in lounge/dining room	6 IF Local Gathering in lounge/dining room
7 10:00 am Annual Meeting United Service 11:15 am Annual Meeting 12:30 pm Luncheon 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	8	9 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	10 Ash Wednesday 6:00 am Men's Group 6:00 pm Agape Supper	11 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 No School	13
14 1st Sunday of Lent 9:09 am Communion 10:30 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	15 No School	16 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm M & S Committee	17 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	18 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 2nd Sunday of Lent 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	22 1:00 pm Women's Club Board Meeting 6:30 pm Parent Council Mtg.	23 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	24 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	25 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26 NS Art Show	27
28 3rd Sunday of Lent 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	29 1:00 pm Women's Club Meeting					

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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