



FIRST PRES. PRESS

MARCH 2016

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OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

- March 7**
Florence Ludlam
- March 22**
Ken Wadman
- March 22**
Lois Wadman
- March 27**
Jean Whittemore



Hello from the ECO National Gathering in Newport Beach, CA!

If you haven't yet checked out the highlight video from the conference, check it out here: <https://vimeo.com/155586587>

Evening worship



The event's theme: *Strive*



PASTORS' PAGE**- TIM AND JAN DEVINE, CO-PASTORS****HOLY WEEK:
One Week
... and a lifetime's worth of important questions**

Anyone who is seriously and deeply trying to understand and grow in faith has to ask a lot of questions. Reading the gospel accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection, I am struck by how many questions were asked in the narratives during this one week.

Some were asked by doubters.
Some were asked by accusers.
Some were asked by the faithful.
Some were asked by Jesus himself.

The questions give us insight into what happened two thousand years ago, but they also lead us to ponder the answers for our own lives. As we draw near to Holy Week, we encourage you to spend time reading these passages where some of the important questions are asked. Look for answers in the passages. Most importantly, think about what the questions and answers mean for your life. They make an eternal difference!

PALM SUNDAY

The question the whole city asked as Jesus rode into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11)

"Who is this?"

MAUNDY THURSDAY

The question the disciples asked when Jesus said one of them would betray him (Mark 14:17-21)

"Surely, not I?"

GOOD FRIDAY

The question the high priest asked when the Council examined Jesus (Mark 14:61-62)

"Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

The question Jesus asked while hanging on the cross (Matthew 27:45-54)

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

EASTER

The questions Jesus asked Mary Magdalene at the tomb (John 20:11-18, Luke 24:1-12)

"Whom are you looking for?"

"Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

The question two followers asked after meeting Jesus on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

— NATHAN JACOBS

As we discuss and study the importance of prayer in our Lenten study, one thing we can start with is the specific needs that we know of in our church family. Please, as you pray, keep these in mind:

- For the opportunity for 6 elders and staff members to attend the ECO national gathering.
- For wisdom, faith, and strength for the incoming elders/deacons, and deep gratitude for those who have completed their service.
- Meaghan and Eric Cady, who are expecting their second child in July.
- Sheila Beblavy's family, as they celebrated the marriage of her son, Cody.
- Marian and Chris Loughridge, who are the proud grandparents of Mary Margaret Giordano, born in Feb.
- Congratulations to Taylor Mansfield and Madison Latture, who became engaged.
- Deb Eiche, for the marked improvement of macular issues she has been dealing with.
- Pam Davis, who had successful cataract surgery.
- Ed Fiaschi, as he recovers from successful heart surgery.
- Doug and Liz Kerr, who traveled safely to and from Kenya for mission.
- Erica Barney and a friend from Houghton College, who returned to the DR for another week of mission work.
- Patti Stillings, who is recovering from her hip replacement.
- Billy Beardsley, who has recovered from a bout of pneumonia.
- Lois Engel, who had a partial knee replacement and is recovering well.
- The Conklin Family, as they grieve the death of Bev's daughter-in-law, Barb.
- The families and friends of the three Geneseo students who died tragically in Feb.
- The family of Rev. George Rynick, as they grieve his death and celebrate his life.
- Pastor Brown Naik, who had surgery to remove a tumor on his spine. He will return to Boston for follow-up treatment.
- Jane Sprague's nephew, who is battling cancer.
- Jane Kamper's 2-yr. old nephew, David, who was hospitalized with pneumonia.
- The Mitchell family, as they grieve following the sudden passing of Jason's mother, Tammy Mitchell.
- Sheila Beblavy, whose health was compromised by asthma and bronchitis.
- For Jane Sprague and Joy Stein (Jane's sister), as they grieve the death of Joy's son.
- Analise Farrell and family, as they grieve the death of her mother.
- The Cook family, as they grieve the death of Joe's father.
- Derek Buffington, who broke his clavicle skiing and had surgery.
- The Wilcox and Moyer families, as they grieve the death of Barb and Bonnie's younger brother, Bill.
- Charlie Waughtel, who was hospitalized for tests.
- Pam Holmes, who had rotator cuff surgery.
- Alisha Finn's father, who will be having surgery to remove a cancerous growth on his ear.
- Mary Montgomery, upon the death of her mother.
- Hemant Tandi's mother, who is hospitalized.
- Hemant and Shelly Tandi, who are travelling to India.
- Gary Slater, who while in Myrtle Beach was diagnosed with a very serious form of cancer.

*Hear my prayer, LORD;
Listen to my cry for mercy.
When I am in distress, I
call to you, because you
answer me.*

—Psalm 86:6-7

YOUTH NEWS

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

MARCH 4-6, 2016

“THAW” Spring Retreat at Rock Mountain!

MARCH 13 and 20, 2016

Meet at the Monroe House, 5-6:30pm

MARCH 27, 2016

No Youth Group Happy Easter!



An afternoon of ice skating



Pre-shred session at Greek Peak–
Chris, Caitlin, Casey, Derek, and Megan

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Small Group meets every Sunday morning at the Monroe House, 10:45-12:00, except Easter morning.

Breakfast served each week! All are welcome!

To ask questions or connect outside Sunday mornings, contact Megan at megmansfield22@gmail.com or Chris at ccampbe77@gmail.com.

A WORD TO PARENTS

40-50% of youth (who come out of even the best traditional youth groups) drift from God and the church, and many do not return. It is your primary responsibility to disciple your children at home, but research shows that there are 13 other variables that correlate with young people developing a mature faith that “sticks” when they leave home. Intergenerational relationships and worship is #1!

Have your child choose 4-5 godly adults that he/she would like to be on his/her “team.” Help your child ask those adults if they would be willing to be an active part of your child’s life– showing up at important events, spending 1-on-1 time together, mentoring, speaking truth and love, pouring into his/her life.

It’s not too late to create this kind of intentional intergenerational community for your child– it may make an eternal difference!



Sunday, March 6
HILLTOP VISIT

Meet at J.G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home @ 10:50am
We will sing and visit with the residents from 11:00-11:30!
United Methodist Homes Hilltop Campus
286 Deyo Hill Road
Johnson City, NY 13790



Sunday, April 10

CELEBRATE!
KIDS LEAD THE SERVICE

Join us @ 10:00am
as we walk thru the Bible from
Genesis to the Gospels!
CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATION to follow from 11:15-12:00



Our upcoming Schedule:

March 6 – **HILLTOP VISIT**

March 13 – DVD 10 – Episode 1 – God's Perfect Timing! The 4 Gospels.

March 20 - DVD 10 – Episode 2 – The Messiah has Come! Gospel Message.

March 27 – **EASTER** - NO Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

April 3 – DVD 11 – Episode 1 – A Helper Arrives! Pentecost, Holy Spirit.

April 10 - **CELEBRATE KIDS!** combined service @ 10:00.

FAMILY DAY 11:15am - 12:00pm

CONNECTING THOUGHTS

—SHARON EARLY

We will be mid-way through Lent and the Lenten study, “*When God’s People Pray*,” when this newsletter comes out, but as I write this we are only into the first week. Our hope is for our church to work through this study together and really discover what would happen in our community of faith when collectively “God’s People Pray” and honestly seek His will and not ours. Already people are wrestling with a number of questions concerning prayer, our role in it, and whether it really matters what and how often we pray if God is already in control of the situation? Obviously, we are never going to be able to answer these questions fully in this lifetime, so what does this mean for our faith?

This is where I am extremely thankful for being part of a church that believes living in community is critical and encourages each of us to participate in small groups. My small groups continue to encourage me to “keep on keeping on,” remind me when we have seen answers to prayer, and more importantly, remind me how God has used us and our prayers to actually partner with Him on his mission here! How awesome is that?!

It has also been particularly encouraging to witness multiple instances where small groups have surrounded group members in prayer—through the laying on of hands, dropping into a home mid-week to intentionally pray with a member going through a struggle, and creating a prayer chain to bathe a person in prayer through a particularly rough time. These examples all happened in just one week here in the life of FPC:Endicott, and that is also only what I heard about!

It is so encouraging to witness this community living into the Scripture from 1 Thessalonians 5:15-19—*See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.*

If you aren’t currently blessed by being part of a small group, please see me. We continue to work with existing groups that are not at capacity, forming new groups when a critical mass presents itself, or our most recent option of forming micro-groups for people with challenging schedules- or even more exciting, those who desire to delve even deeper in their faith journey!

Testimony

When I was first invited into my small group I didn’t really know what it was about. Years later I am starting to get it! Even though I have children the ages of some others’ grandchildren, I get support and wisdom. I see how Christian women respond to difficult situations gracefully and grow in faith even through adversity.

Thanks to FPC:Endicott for all the work you do on the small groups at FPC:E. They really help make the church special. I don’t know where I’d be without my small group!

FROM THE LAND OF OUR LIL' LEPRACHAUNS!

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



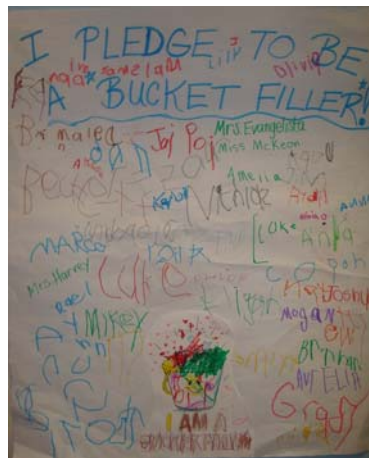
Below, Victoria Londner, Dtr. of Programming for the 4-H Education Ctr. at Finch Hollow, presented an interactive workshop, "Animals in Winter."



Left, our three-year-olds were treated to the Chinese New Year cuisine and festive attire by some of our families.



Approximately 250 Skate Estate lovers joined their First Pres. friends for some serious skatin', scootin', & ridin' last month - courtesy of our Parent Council!



Our four-year-olds pledged to become official "Bucket Fillers" by being kind in what they say and do.



CALLING ALL GOLFERS!!!

4TH ANNUAL FIRST PRES. NURSERY SCHOOL'S SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY JUNE 18, 2016 ENDWELL GREENS GOLF COURSE
1 PM SHOTGUN START 4 PERSON CAPTAIN & CREW
DINNER & FESTIVITIES TO FOLLOW IN THE CLUB HOUSE!



Painting with ping pong balls!



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

The Session held its regular meeting on February 3, 2016.

Session members gathered in the dining room first for a time of prayer and a light meal while Art Davis, Nathan Jacobs, Jamie Jacobs, Sharon Early and Tim Devine each spoke about the ECO Conference held in California. Three words were used to describe the overall experience: "awesome," "intense," and "challenging." They spoke about the energy and passion at the conference and then more specifically about some of the presentations on discipleship, mission, multi-ethnic congregations, and "Sticky Faith." The gathering was three days of praise, worship, biblical preaching, Christian fellowship, and Spirit-filled leaders who came to cast vision and help equip us "to build flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ."

In other business:

- Upon request, Session restored Missy Goetz from the Presbytery Residual Roll to active membership at FPC:E as a covenant partner.
- Sharon Early described plans to create a prayer room in the chapel during the Lenten series, "When God's People Pray." Session prayed for Dave Beers in preparation of him leading worship at the Agape Supper.
- Session formalized a prior email vote to approve a Sr. High Sunday School ski trip to Greek Peak on Sunday, February 7, 2016, with Chris Campbell and Megan Mansfield leading.
- Session approved the Hold Harmless, Waiver of Liability, and Emergency Medical Care Authorization Form which will be used for church-sponsored mission trips.
- Session approved communion at the Maundy Thursday service on March 24.
- Session approved FPC:E becoming a member of the Broome County COAD; Bruce Barney will represent the church.

The Annual Congregation Meeting was held on Sunday, February 7, 2016.

- We reviewed 2015, including the discernment process, the statistical report and membership changes, and finances. A portion of the 2015 Treasurer's Report reflects where we have been and where we hope to go: "2015 was both a difficult and an amazing year for First Presbyterian Church of Endicott. We are thankful for God's guidance, but we've only just started the journey of defining a new beginning for FPC:E."
- Members of the congregation were invited to share how they have seen God working through the life of this church during the past year. Examples of joys shared included new people moving into leadership in children's ministry, the deacons' ministry, the blessing of small groups, Samaritan Supper leaders and volunteers, music/technology ministry, mission, the people resources on Personnel Committee, the blessings of our staff members, and the blessing of Janet Frederick's service.
- A motion was made, seconded and approved to take up to \$55,000 from the Wagner Fund to support the 2016 General/Local Budget. The 2016 Terms for the Call of the Co-Pastors were approved as presented.
- Those who attended the ECO National Conference shared at the annual meeting (see above).
- The congregation joined together for a time of corporate prayer as we enter the new year.

COMMUNITY

Membership

If you feel the call of the Holy Spirit to make a public declaration of faith and a commitment to this faith community, please see Jan or Tim about membership.

2016 Offering Envelopes

There are a number of boxes of envelopes with names at the back of the church. If you have not received your envelopes for 2016, please pick them up or make arrangements to get them to you.

Prayer Room in the Chapel (Feel free to come early to pray!)

As we work through our study on prayer, we will be adding various prayer opportunities in the chapel each week. While we were at the ECO gathering, we were able to visit the prayer room they had created for the conference; it was very meaningful to be led through different ways one may experience prayer. It was especially meaningful to have someone pray specifically for our church and our upcoming study. Stop by the chapel this week to experience prayer in new ways. If you would like someone to pray with you, please let a greeter/usher/worship leader know and they will ask an elder to meet you in the chapel.

2016 Easter Lily Order Form

Please PRINT clearly! This information will be used in the bulletin. The deadline for orders is *Sunday, March 20*, and must be accompanied by payment. No phone orders please!

This lily is donated by:

(Check one) in honor of in memory of

(Check one) _____cash _____check

Amount enclosed: _____

Price per plant is \$12.00. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Endicott.

The lilies will be delivered on Easter Sunday to members of our church who are homebound.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SPRING

— SHARON EARLY

Sticky Faith was one of the emphases at the ECO Gathering in January. It is sobering to think that almost half of graduating seniors will drift from God and the church after graduating. After Easter, two small groups will be looking at parenting, faith, and getting more serious about our role in our children's faith lives:



The men will be using a series from Authentic Manhood, *A Man and His Fatherhood*, and will be looking at how to think strategically about being a dad and how to prepare themselves to launch healthy sons and daughters into the world.



house OR home?
Parenting Edition
 GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR BIBLICAL PARENTING

VOLUME 6
 A MAN AND HIS FATHERHOOD

The women will be using Living on the Edge's *House or Home? Parenting Edition—God's Blueprint for Biblical Parenting*. The most precious gift and possession that God will ever entrust to us is our children. That's why through His Word He's provided us with the tools to help us make our children into learners and followers who honor Him.

If either of these studies interests you, please let me know. Depending on numbers, we would work on offering additional groups or other opportunities to meet.

Church Calendar

March 2016

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 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 Youth Retreat @ Rock Mountain	5 Youth Retreat @ Rock Mountain
6 4th Sunday of Lent Youth Retreat @ Rock Mountain 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 10:50 am Hilltop Visit	7 6:00 pm Public Meeting on IBM Proposed Contamination Remedy	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 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11 5:30 pm Children's Ministry Leader's Night	12
13 5th Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins 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	14 6:30 pm Parent Council Meeting	15 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	16 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	17 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 Palm Sunday 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	21 1:00 pm Women's Club Board Meeting	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 Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm Worship Service	25 Good Friday	26
27 Easter Sunday No Children's Ministry 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	28 Office Closed	29 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Nursery School Board Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	30 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	31 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 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.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.



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