



FIRST PRES. PRESS

MAY 2016

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OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

- May 4
Ralph Tallman
- May 13
Donald Tillotson
- May 21
Eileen Keely
- May 24
James Jephson
- May 25
Ede Sornberger

WEBSITE AND DIGITAL GIVING



The new website design is coming along nicely and we hope to roll it out in May! Alongside the redesigned website, the church will now be offering an option for digital giving.

Using the digital system through EasyTithe, you can quickly and securely setup a one-time gift or recurring gift to the church. Creating an account is optional for a one-time gift, but will allow you to save your information for faster processing and will allow you to see a record of your giving and print statements at any time. There is also a smartphone app available.

Now concerning the collection for the saints... On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. -1 Cor. 16:1-2

We want you to be aware of several ways to give:

- 1) **Best** - These 2 options have no fees attached, so 100% of your donation goes toward ministry
 - Place your gift in the offering box/plate on Sunday or bring it to the office
 - Have you bank send a check to the office automatically as a recurring bill pay (29 Grant Ave., Endicott, NY 13760)
- 2) **Better** - Give through ACH bank draft. This has a much smaller fee than credit and debit cards, allowing more of your donation to go toward ministry. This can be done through the new digital giving platform. *We highly recommend this over using a credit card.*
- 3) **Good** - Give with a credit or debit card. Our new platform will accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express.

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

It's spring and everyone's starting to trade out snow shovels for rakes, seeders, and pitch forks. The Devine's planted grass seed in the backyard already. It involved a lot of work – raking, spreading lime, seeding, fertilizing, mulching, and finally, watering. Our partners in developing countries are amazed that we Americans spend so much time and effort to grow a crop that has no harvest. At the same time, our neighbors would not be happy if we didn't mow, weed, and rake our yards!

Gardens have always been a part of the human experience. The Bible begins and ends in a garden. Eden, the garden in Genesis, was a place of intimate fellowship with God. It represented the fullness of life. . . before life and all of creation was corrupted by sin.

The book of Revelation looks forward to the restoration of Eden in the New Jerusalem. John's vision, recorded in Revelation 22:1-2, says: *"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."*

Revelation describes a garden that echoes back to Eden. A life-giving river runs through it, and the tree bears fruit for life and leaves for healing. It's a place where intimate fellowship with God will be restored and there will be no death. The opening chapters of the Bible tell of a man and a woman being expelled from that paradise because of sin, and the closing chapters describe men and women being welcomed back into paradise through the blood of the Lamb.

We aren't there yet, however. There's still a lot of cultivating to do. In this in-between time, listen to one more biblical garden story found in the book of Ezekiel:

Ezekiel was a priest who was sent into exile in Babylon with his countrymen. In Babylon, Ezekiel became God's spokesperson to the exiles. He foresaw the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians and the grief this would bring to the Jews, his people. But Ezekiel also had a vision of God's restoration of the people. He said, *"This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden ..."* (Ezekiel 36:35). As God did some cultivating of His own, not only would the people be restored to the land, but they also would experience a newness in their spirits. God told them through Ezekiel, *"A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you...(36:26)*. These words helped the people endure as they looked forward to the promise of a fuller restoration still to come.

The time is right for us to focus on tilling the soil, planting the seed, and watering the growth. April 10, when the children led worship, three children were baptized, and two students joined the church, was a wonderful example of the harvest that is ripe. The gospel is good news for children and adults alike in our world that is lost and broken and weary. So, let's pour our energy into crops that were meant to bear a harvest!

And may we, like the exiles, receive a new heart and a new spirit as God cultivates us.

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

– NATHAN JACOBS

On April 5, our congregation as a whole began spending 40 days in intentional prayer leading up to Pentecost to help understand God's vision for us. As we are in intentional prayer for FPC:Endicott, our ministries, our people, and our own individual roles in our congregation, we continue to lift up individuals and families. Here are just some of the things you can pray for as we finish out our 40 days of prayer:

- Nancy and the family of Gary Slater, who died on Good Friday surrounded by loved ones. A private graveside service was held in Horseheads. Nancy's sister also passed away in April.
- Meaghan Cady's grandmother who was hospitalized with congestive heart failure and pneumonia.
- Florence (Happy) Ludlam,

who was hospitalized over Easter with pneumonia.

- The extended Pellerito family, as they grieve the unexpected passing of Marisa's cousin, Jill, at age 37. She leaves behind a husband and three young children.
- Erin Schrader, who was dealing with some health issues.
- Larry Pierce's grandfather, who is in hospice care.
- Jessica Clement and her family, upon the death of her step-father, Esa Eramo.
- Maxine Waughtel, who had surgery.
- Adria, daughter of Derek and Heather Kasmarcik, who spent time in Golisano Children's Hospital fighting a serious infection.
- Sharon Baumann and her extended family, as they mourn the unexpected

passing of her uncle, Paul Kachinko.

- Linda Glajch's father, who has responded to treatment for a blood disorder, so that chemo was cancelled!
- Session members of our Mission Affinity Group (MAG), who gathered at FPC:E on April 30 for a day of worship, fellowship, accountability, and training/equipping.

*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*

NEW MEMBERS



This last month, we welcomed two new members to our church family: Ciara and Kayla Davis! Ciara and Kayla are the daughters of Tim Davis and the granddaughters of Pam and Art Davis. Through Affirmation of Faith, the two sisters stood with our congregation and proclaimed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior! We welcome them with open arms and open hearts.

Ciara is in 9th grade at UE High School and enjoys playing clarinet and lacrosse.

Kayla is in 8th grade at Jennie F. Snapp also enjoys playing lacrosse, as well as tennis, drawing, and reading.

Both girls have been attending with their family since they were little, and it is a blessing to see them declare their faith for themselves!

YOUTH NEWS

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

Sunday mornings- We will not meet on Sunday morning, May 29 (Memorial Day weekend). Our year-end celebration will be Sunday, June 5, followed by a visit to Hilltop on June 12.

Sunday Evenings- Meet at the Monroe House @ 5:00pm on May 1, 15, and 22.

PARENTS- please read weekly e-mails, as plans and locations may change depending on weather and activities. We will not meet on Sunday, May 8 (so families can celebrate Mother's Day together) or Sunday, May 29 (Memorial Day weekend).

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Small Group meets each Sunday morning (except Memorial Day weekend) at the Monroe House, 10:45-noon, for waffles, witness, and the Word!

A WORD TO STUDENTS

How are you spending your summer? As relaxing as it may be to chill at the pool or spend time hanging out with friends, what if you chose instead to make an eternal impact in the lives of kids?

FPC:E is offering students an opportunity to be part of the "Christian Youth in Action" camp on beautiful Canandaigua Lake, from June 27- July 3. Along with time for sports, water activities, and relaxing, you will see your own faith grow and be trained with other students to teach children about God and the gospel in effective and engaging ways.

If at least 3-4 students receive the training, we will host a "Summer 5-Day Club" at the church each morning during the week of July 11-15. It will be an exciting, fun-filled time, using games and activities, for children in our community to learn about God, the gospel, and the powerful stories of missionaries across the world. Speak to Tim Devine or Alisha Finn if you want to learn more.

A WORD TO PARENTS

June 12 is the last day of our Christian Education program at FPC:E for this school year. But summer should not be a 10-week hiatus from praying, reading/studying God's Word, worshiping and serving - for your children or you! Sit down together now and plan some spiritual goals for this summer. Be purposeful and specific.

- What will you do?
- When and how often will you do it?
- Who will you allow to hold you accountable?

If you want help brainstorming, talk with other families or FPC:E staff members. Remember, the family is the spiritual center of your child's life. What happens at home has more impact on your child's life than anywhere else.

DISCIPLESHIP begins with understanding the truth of who God is. Creator. King of Kings. Holy. Sovereign. Then it continues with the truth of who we are in light of God's Holiness.

The attributes of God and understanding our relationship to Him can only be learned through EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD. What does it mean to experience God's Word? An experience is a particular instance or the process of personally observing, encountering, or undergoing something. If you want to EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD, you have to read it, study it, and then let it form you as put it into practice!

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the result of EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD is gaining the knowledge of God, understanding redemption, accepting salvation, learning Biblical history, attaining practical wisdom, and deeply desiring to apply God's truth to life while allowing it to shape your world view.

As kids, students and adults read, study, and experience God's Word, they can also



EXPERIENCE
 God's **Love**,
 God's **Forgiveness**,
 God's **Adoption**
 and as a result,
 obey God's **Call** on their life!



We are on the home stretch of the season and we want to finish strong. Thank you to all the leaders, teachers, and helpers volunteering in FPC:E's Children's Ministry! We would not have a Sunday morning program without you. Your investment is eternally impactful and greatly appreciated!

Our Upcoming Schedule is:

May 1 – Pauline Epistles! Good News in Action! Sanctification, Fruit of the Spirit, Discipline.

May 8 – More Letters! Hebrews, James, rest of General Epistles.

May 15 – The Revelation to John. Revelation.

May 22 – Bible Review & Small Group Celebrations!

May 29 - **Memorial Day Weekend** - NO Sunday Morning Children's Ministry.

June 5 – **FAMILY DAY - Wrap Up Celebration!**

June 12 - HILLTOP VISIT

SIGN UP TODAY!

SUMMER CAMP @ ROCK MOUNTAIN

PICK UP your information packet for Rock Mountain Bible Camp **MINI-**

CAMP (Ages 6-10 with parent - June 24-26) and

JR. CAMP (Ages 8-12 - July 17-22) at the Registration Station today!

CONNECTING THOUGHTS ON 40 DAYS OF PRAYER —SHARON EARLY

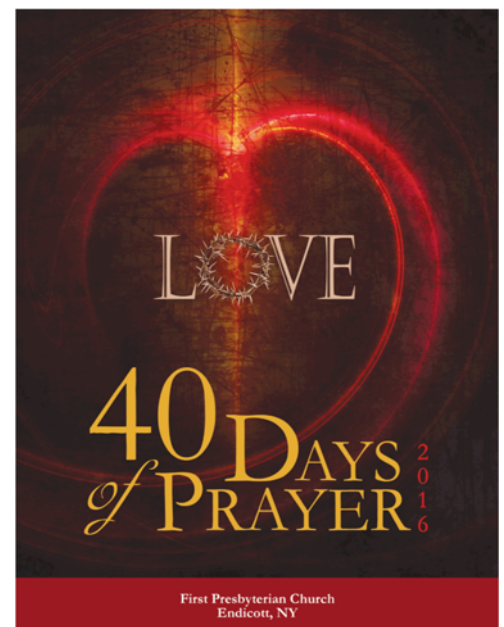
As our church has entered a season of prayer leading to Pentecost, we are asked to keep in prayer ten specific requests for FPC:Endicott:

1. That we will be in awe of God so that we may glorify, praise, honor, and enjoy Him forever.
2. That we will encounter the living God in all His beauty and glory through engaging, life-transforming worship experiences.
3. That we will experience God in deeper ways as we pursue His truth rooted in the Bible.
4. That we will cultivate relationships with others that bridge all ages and social demographics.
5. That our community of faith will become a safe place for God's people to be nourished, supported, and encouraged to grow together in Christ.
6. That we will be transformed by the power of God and be conformed to the image of His Son.
7. That we will demonstrate God's love through word and deed.
8. That we will be equipped to serve, engage, reach, and influence our community, nation, and the world with the life-transforming gospel of Jesus Christ.
9. That we will be effective witnesses within our networks of relationships.
10. That we will be good stewards of the time, talents, and treasures God has given us.

Any of these requests individually would dramatically change our community of faith, but take them all together—can you even imagine the life-transforming, community impact that would happen? We recently baptized three youth and lit the faith candle to represent our hope that their faith will be a light that shines forth into the world around them. May we all take our faith as seriously as these youth and pray into the above requests for our church and ourselves! Even if you have stumbled on these 40 days of prayer, you can recommit and pray daily for what God desires for us—individually and as a community.

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

-Ephesians 3:20-21



KEEPING UP WITH THE NURSERY SCHOOL

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

April 2 found staff members Domenica McKeon, Cathy Aspling, and me facilitating the First Pres. Nursery School booth at SUNY-Broome’s Children’s Fair! As our theme, we chose “Exploring the Ins and Outs of Me!” so we could zoom into the fun world of x-rays, feelings, and microscopic details of children’s hair, skin, and clothing!



Lead and Assistant Teachers became one with nature during an April 11 professional development workshop hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of B.C. and the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation...



Above, using her homemade binoculars, Miss Bassano scopes out natural happenings in her circle of earth.



Left, Mrs. Dutcher and Mrs. Reed put into action a tree exercise while Mrs. O’Neill attempts a healthy tree “snactivity!”

4TH ANNUAL FIRST PRES. NURSERY SCHOOL 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!

JOIN IN! CONTACT DEREK WASHBURN AT 607.748.1744 / DEREK@FIRSTPRESENDICOTT.ORG

SESSION UPDATE**- LINDA WILLETS, CLERK OF SESSION**

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, He hears us." (1 John 5:14)

Most of Session's time at the April meeting was spent looking to upcoming events and discussing possible opportunities for this summer and beyond:

- In keeping with our new polity as an ECO congregation, Elder Doug Kerr was given permission to baptize his granddaughters, Emma and Olivia Bates, with Rev. Dr. Tim Devine on Sunday, April 10, 2016.
- FPC:E will host our Mission Affinity Group (MAG) on Saturday, April 30. Sessions from ten churches in our region are invited for a time of fellowship, worship, accountability, and equipping/training. Together we will determine how to divide into smaller groups for future MAG's.
- Session approved using money from the New Program and Outreach portions of the Endowment Fund to offer teens an opportunity to participate in "Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)" training from June 27-July 3, 2016 at LeTourneau Christian Camp. If FPC:E teens participate, Alisha and CEF Regional Director Nancy Marlett will work with the teens to host a 5-day outreach event called Club at the church from July 11-15, 2016.
- New Program and Outreach Funds have also been set aside for the summer tennis program in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club and U-E High School. Tim Devine is working to find young adults to coordinate the program under his supervision.
- Session gave the pastors permission to explore the possibility of a summer intern to work with the tennis program, youth, and possibly CEF.
- Session approved using money from the New Program portion of the Endowment Fund to host Chris Walker, evangelism consultant, for the weekend of September 10, 2016. In addition to working with our congregation and preaching on Fall Kick-off Sunday, our MAG and other churches in our presbytery will be invited to take advantage of the opportunity.
- In an effort to make the front of the church better suited to meet the needs of both services, Session approved some first steps. The choir pews have been replaced with chairs so they can be reoriented to face forward and also be easily moved for broader use of the choir loft.
- Session celebrated the Lenten focus on prayer, the active use of the chapel/prayer room, and the positive feedback from small groups. In an effort to keep moving forward, Sharon Early introduced the *40 Days of Prayer* booklet.
- As the new FPC:E website is rolled out soon, Session approved adding online digital giving as another way for people to give regular and special gifts to the church and its ministries/missions. Other options still include giving in worship on Sunday mornings (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) and by automatic draft through your bank.
- ECO presbyteries are designed to remain small (10-20 congregations) in order to reduce staffing, simplify the work load, and promote authentic community. Due to continued growth, Session heard the presbytery's plan to reconfigure into three presbyteries in 2017.

In other work:

- Session temporarily restored Kevin Warwick from the Inactive Roll to the Active Membership Roll in order to send a Letter of Transfer to Sarah Jane Johnson Memorial UMC, where Kevin joined on March 27, 2106.
- Session received positive feedback from the congregation about the variety of flowers in the sanctuary for our Easter celebration.
- The elders closed with a time of prayer in the chapel.



GPMO continues to serve in rural Orissa, India, where our main focus is to support the orphanage/ hostel at Nanda, and the 140 children and staff who reside there. We also help support pastors serving small tribal churches, a community of aging lepers and their families, and medical and educational initiatives. The gospel is being shared with the formerly unreached Kutia Kondha tribe: a church has been built there, songs and prayers are offered in worship, and several of the children have been baptized!

Six months ago, we were able to begin providing basic medical care for the children at Nanda. A local doctor gave each child a physical examination and vaccinations. A better process of keeping medical records for each child was initiated. A new staff person is overseeing the children who are more prone to sickness and disease. We trust and pray that through the continuation of this program, some infections and ailments can be minimized or prevented.

Do you know that it costs just \$20/month to provide basic care for one child? If you are interested in sponsoring a child and improving the overall living conditions at Nanda, please contact Graham Upton (gupton@stny.rr.com) or Ann Upton (aupton@stny.rr.com).



COMMUNITY

National Day of Prayer

May 5 is the National Day of Prayer. There will be a prayer event at the Binghamton Courthouse from 12pm-1pm that day. If you are able to stop by to join with others in praying for our nation, cities, and families, please consider coming.

Grell Scholarship

Students who plan to pursue a career in ministry, religious education, or church-related activities are eligible to benefit from this scholarship fund established by William M. and Dorothy L. Grell. Preference is given to candidates who have a current or past relationship with FPC:E, but it is not limited to those. Applications are available in the church office and must be submitted by June 1. Questions may be directed to Adele Everett (adele.j.everett@gmail.com or 727-6117).

Samaritan Supper

We would like to thank everyone for their help with our Tuesday night dinners. We will stop serving for the summer on May 24 and resume our dinners on September 6. Please keep us in mind when we start back in the fall. —Analise and Laura

Free Dental Care Day

Lalor Family Dental is hosting their 8th annual free care day on Saturday, May 14. Registration begins at 7:30am and they will see at least 200 patients. Visitors will be seen on a first come, first serve basis; no scheduled appointments. Fillings, extractions, and cleanings are free to those in need. Lalor Family Dental is located at 2521 Vestal Parkway West, Vestal, NY 13850.

Graduates

Each year we recognize our high school and college graduates in June. If you know of someone who is graduating, please contact the office (office@firstpresendicott.org) with their information: Name, School, Degree, and Future Plans.

Spring New Member Class

If you have been attending worship at FPC:E, are ready to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and are interested in investing 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:E without being a member, membership gives people the opportunity to have a voice and vote in directions that are set and 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:E. Classes will be held May 1 and 15 at 2pm at the Devines' home, 307 Wheeler Place, Endicott, NY 13760. Please let Jan or Tim know if you plan to attend.

Church Calendar

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 2:00 pm New Member Class 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	2	3 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Deacons	4 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	5 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 6:00 pm NS Bike Rodeo	7
8 Mother's Day 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	9	10 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	11 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	12 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 Pentecost 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 2:00 pm New Member Class 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	16 1:00 pm Women's Club Board Meeting 6:00 pm Parent Council Meeting (kindergarten information night)	17 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	18 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	19 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 Communion 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	23 1:00 pm Women's Club Meeting 5:30 pm Nursery School Board Meeting	24 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	25 6:00 am Men's Group 11:30 am Teacher Luncheon 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	26 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	30 Mother's Day All Day Office Closed	31 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Mission and Stewardship				

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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