

NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

## FIRST PRES. PRESS

SEPTEMBER 2016

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### PERSONAL EVANGELISM FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE

WHEN: SATURDAY, SEP. 10  
9AM-3:30PM

WHO: CHRIS WALKER,  
EVANGELISM COACH

REGISTER ONLINE AT:  
[WWW.EVANGELISMCOACH.ORG](http://WWW.EVANGELISMCOACH.ORG)

Our fall kick-off will be Saturday, Sep. 10 and Sunday, Sep 11. Chris Walker, an evangelism consultant, will be our keynote speaker. He will preach on Sunday and hold an evangelism workshop on Saturday from 9am-3:30pm. The only cost for the day is \$7 for the catered meal. Please register (by Sep. 4 to guarantee lunch) online at: [www.evangelismcoach.org/2016/conference-personal-evangelism-for-ordinary-people-september-10-2016/](http://www.evangelismcoach.org/2016/conference-personal-evangelism-for-ordinary-people-september-10-2016/). If you need assistance in registering, please call the church office. Check your weekly email blasts for more info!

### OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

September 1  
Janet Weber

September 16  
Helen Jephson

September 25  
Sandra Tillotson

September 29  
Dot Melrose

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT 9AM

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 18

Our regular worship time for the contemporary service is changing! We are shifting back nine minutes in order to ease our transition time between services as volunteers and musicians break down from the first service and prepare for the second service. The traditional service time will remain at 10:45am.

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

*From one ancestor [God] made all nations to inhabit the whole earth,  
and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries  
of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and  
perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed He is not far from each one of us.  
Acts 16:26-17*

**What do this fall's preaching series and church-wide small group study have in common?**

**FALL CHURCH-WIDE SMALL GROUP STUDY– “TO TRANSFORM A CITY”**

by Eric Swanson & Sam Williams

We are all aware of the decline in our community. It is by no means unique to our area, but is still difficult to experience as businesses close down or move out of the area, lay-offs continue, the heroin epidemic rises, community resources decline, families become more broken, and schools and community organizations struggle to help with such overwhelming needs.

In the midst of these changing times, we want to share the good news of the Gospel with our surrounding community. But we are unsure how to do so- especially in the context of so many challenges. Eric Swanson and Sam Williams have been working with missional leaders from cities around the world with similar struggles to discover examples and principles of city transformation. They understand that spiritual and social change can go hand-in-hand when people of good faith partner with people of good will for the common benefit of the community. In this study, Eric and Sam share effective and proven ways that we as a church can partner with community leaders and organizations to bring about both social good and spiritual impact.

What would transformation look like for us here in Endicott and the surrounding area? Join us for this 7-week study, “To Transform a City,” where we will be challenged to serve our community in tangible ways that make sharing the Gospel our ultimate motive, rather than our unspoken or ulterior motive.

**FALL PREACHING SERIES– THE O.T. BOOK OF NEHEMIAH**

After 70 years of captivity in Babylon, God's people were allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their city that lay in ruins. Great time, energy, and resources went into rebuilding the temple, the walls of the city, and the houses. But it was not enough to restore the structures and infrastructure of Jerusalem. The secular and the spiritual work were both addressed as government and temple leaders worked side by side. The most important transformation that took place was within God's people, as they renewed their covenant promises and were once again shaped by and conformed to God's Word and will.

The book of Nehemiah is the story of a transformed city and people long ago. We have the opportunity and responsibility to help write the story of a community and people being transformed today!

## WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

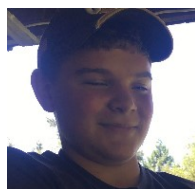
### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Alisha Finn and her family, upon the death of her Aunt Jan in July.
- Meaghan and Eric Cady, who welcomed a new son, Wyatt Lewis, on July 11!
- The family of Joyce Curtis, who passed away on July 11.
- Families who are in transition: Jen and Gary Hunt and family, as they prepare to move to the Poughkeepsie area for Jen's work; Meaghan and Eric Cady and family, who have moved to Iowa temporarily for Eric's job.
- Shelly and Hosanna Tandl, who were baptized at Two Rivers Church.
- Stacey and Tony Paradiso, who welcomed their first child, Henry Raymond Paradiso, on July 21!
- Joel Everett, who was recently promoted to Major.
- Taylor Mansfield and Madison Latture, who were married in Tennessee!
- Alisha Finn's brother, Aaron, who was hospitalized for over a month with an unknown illness.
- Gabby Laubisch, who was discharged from CHOP after 41 days. Continued prayers for her recovery as she remains in Philadelphia for 3-6 months for follow-up care.
- Jon Beatty's mother, who had a fall and dislocated her shoulder.
- Billy Beardsley, who is doing well with the physical therapy treatment for his hips and legs; continued prayers for healing are needed.
- Praise to God for children who were led to Christ during Child Evangelism Fellowship's Five Day Club held at FPC:E.
- Alyssa and Brad Bauermann, who were united in marriage on July 29!
- The family of John Scott upon his passing on July 20. John was a family friend of the Mezas and generously served the community.
- Janet Frederick's younger brother, Craig, who has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer.
- Devon King's future mother-in-law, Kathy, who is facing complications in her battle with cancer.
- Pam Davis and family upon the death of her sister-in-law, Sandi.
- Lou and Terri Pasquale's daughter, Karissa, who, after losing sight in one eye, had surgery to save her vision in the other one.
- The family of Paul Randall, upon his passing. His wife, Heather, was a former member of FPC:E and the choir before moving to the Buffalo area.
- Joe, a longtime friend of Ben Loughridge, who is battling serious depression.
- The Shafer family, as Kristen got engaged!
- The Hoeys, who will be staying in the area.
- Dawn Weber's sister, Karen, who had surgery.
- Abby Cutler's brother-in-law, John, who is battling melanoma.
- Jeff Shafer, as he recovers from a hospital stay for a GI bleed.
- The family of Gerarde Desjardin, upon his passing. He was a friend to several in our congregation.
- Janet Cook's brother and sister, who are both facing health struggles.
- Bill Jenkins, a friend of the Eiches, who is battling the end stages of cancer.
- Ruth Harrison's daughter-in-law, Mandy, who has developed a large lump on her neck.
- Gloria Johnston, who cracked a rib during a fall.
- Kayla King, daughter of John and Grace King, who was married to Casey Shope.
- Kristin Shafer, who had her white coat ceremony at Stony Brook School of Medicine.
- Barb Wilcox, who fractured the radius in her left forearm during a fall.
- Carole Cockrell's neighbor, Maria, for healing and peace, and Carole's nephew, Ron Smith, who had bladder surgery.
- Stuart and Tom Wattles and their families, as they grieve the deaths of both their mother, Betty, and their sister, Alida, within a week of each other.

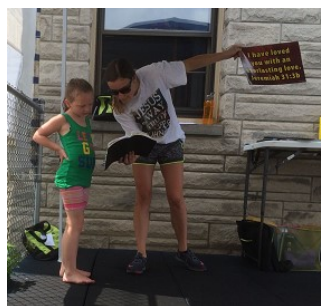


## YOUTH NEWS

## SUMMER HAPPENINGS WITH FPC:E YOUTH

JUNIOR HIGH, SENIOR  
HIGH, & BACKPACKING  
CAMPS

**CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP:** Caitlyn & Anthony teach neighborhood kids about Jesus



## COMING THIS SEPTEMBER . . .

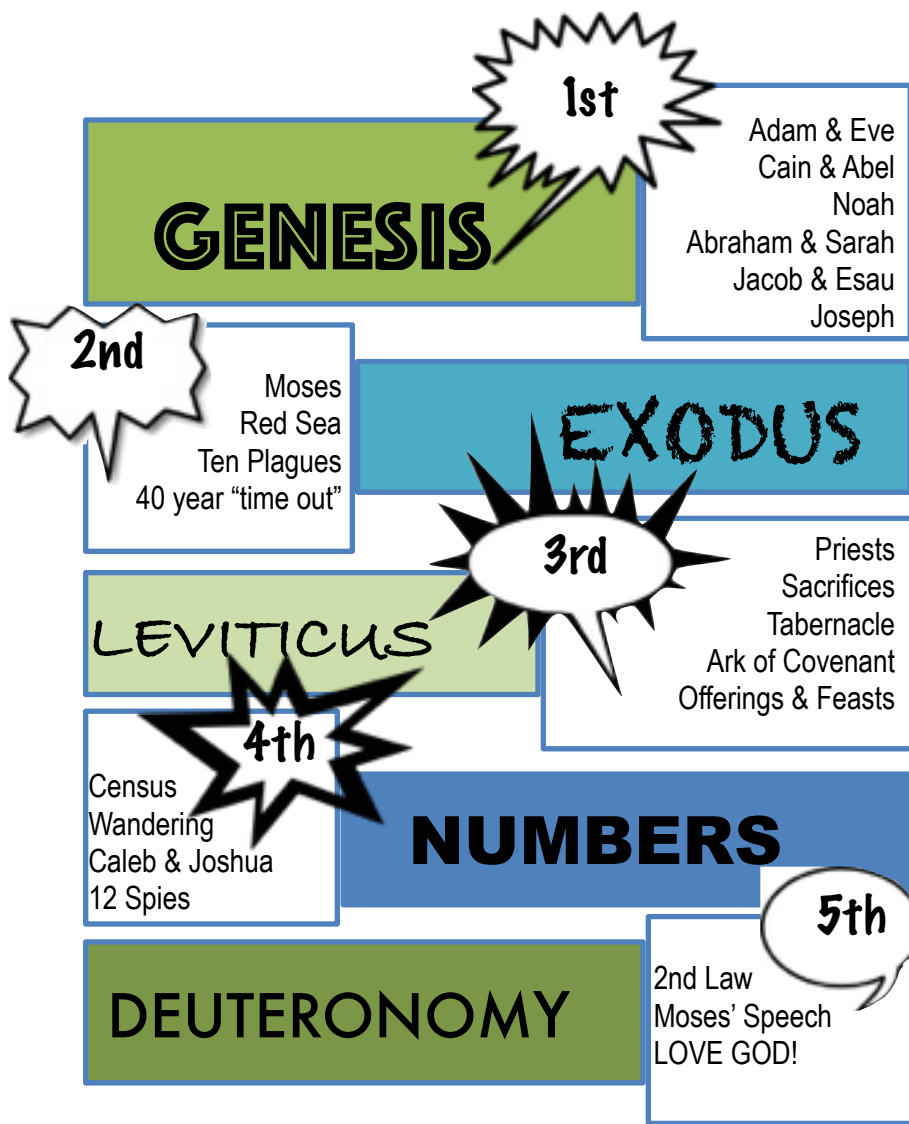
**SUNDAY MORNING SMALL GROUPS** begin on September 18 at 10:30 am. Grades 6-8 meet in the Jr. High Lounge on the ground floor of the Christian Ed wing; Grades 9-12 meet in the Monroe House. FPC: Youth Middle School nights will resume on Sep. 18 as well.

**High School Students- let's RAMP IT UP!**

On Saturday, September 17, we will be building a wheelchair ramp for a homebound resident of Broome County. Teams of students and adults have built more than 100 ramps since the Broome County Council of Churches began this mission. There is a need for 6-8 youths, ages 14-18 to assist in this project. If you are interested in participating, please contact Bruce Barney at 607-727-3677 or [bbarney@stny.rr.com](mailto:bbarney@stny.rr.com).

More information will be coming!





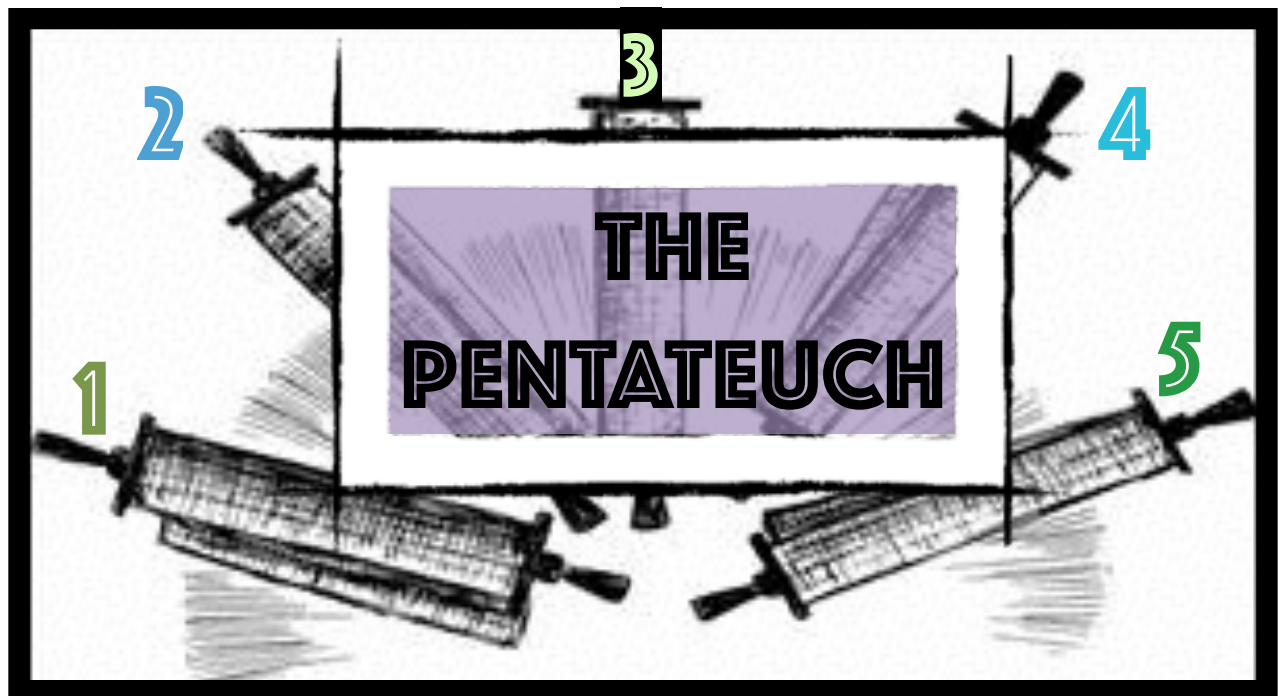
## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FAMILY DAY KICK-OFF

**Sunday, September 18**  
**10:30am**

Come join us this season for a grand adventure through the first five Books of the Bible, otherwise known as the Torah, Pentateuch, Five Scrolls, and Books of Law!

We're going to dig deep and explore God's plan for humanity - starting at the very beginning! We will discover how God wants to restore and redeem all people so that we can live for Him alone.

We will see what it looks like to LOVE GOD, and LOVE OTHERS!



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

*"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done"*  
Psalm 105:1

**VISIONING**

The June 29 Session meeting was designed to be a time for Visioning. Elders met outside, and while we ate a light meal surrounded by the community around us, we shared our answers to these questions:

- As you look around, listen to, and live in this community, what breaks your heart?
- What FPC:E ministries/missions help us achieve our purpose statement 'to reach more people and together grow in Christ'?
- What have you personally been dreaming about FPC:E doing?"

Elders then reconvened at the Monroe House and watched Part III of a video series called "To Transform a City" by Eric Swanson and Sam Williams. We also watched a three minute video called "Five Ways to B.L.E.S.S. Your Neighbors" (<http://www.vergenetwork.org/2012/12/27/five-ways-to-bless-your-neighbors-dave-ferguson/>). Following conversation and prayer, Session affirmed using the "To Transform a City" videos as a church-wide small group kick-off this fall. The hope is that our two fall initiatives— learning how to more effectively serve our community and becoming more comfortable with personal evangelism (Sept. 10 weekend with Chris Walker)- will go hand-in-hand to make a Kingdom difference in our area. Be a part of these two initiatives!

**BUSINESS**

Session briefly addressed some business items to:

- Approve moving communion from July 24 to July 17, 2016.
- Approve the source(s) of funding for the chapel/sanctuary camera and distribute some other memorial funds in line with the wishes of the families.
- Approve a Letter of Transfer for Arlene Lyon to Grace U.M. Church in Gaithersburg, MD.
- Approve Carolyn Preisendanz as the second elder to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- Approve our Standards of Ethical Conduct for Ordained Officers, Program Staff, and Support Staff, which were revised to be consistent with our move to ECO.

**EVANGELISM**

- FPC:E will be hosting an evangelism weekend— PERSONAL EVANGELISM FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE— on September 9-11, 2016 with Chris Walker.
- Heard about plans and prayed for Caitlyn Verno and Alisha Finn as they prepared for the CEF (*Child Evangelism Fellowship*) 5-DAY CLUB for kids the church neighborhood on July 11-15.

**SERVING**

The House Committee expressed appreciation to Lou Pasquale and Richard Davey for overseeing the renovation of the nursery; the Monday Night Small Group for cleaning out the closet off the lounge and the cupboards in the dining room; and the Tuesday and Thursday AM Small Groups for sorting/organizing the storeroom behind the kitchen and weeding in the back of the church.



## CONNECTING THOUGHTS HEADING INTO SEPTEMBER

### — SHARON EARLY

Last September, I shared how our church continues to be a transitional church, and I encouraged each of us to be looking for whom God might bring into our lives. Those words were prophetic, as our Thursday morning women's small group swelled in numbers: we had five new members in addition to welcoming back two members from past years. There were growing pains: not everyone stayed with us throughout the year, and others will soon be transitioning away from us due to jobs and moves from the area. It is already hard thinking of people leaving our group, but it has been an incredible blessing to walk with these women for a season of life. Our group was blessed as we gained from our friendships with each other, both spiritually and by the bond that forms when sharing life with one another. Our prayer life has deepened along with our understanding of the tremendous responsibility God has given us to pass along our faith to the next generation.

As our church looks forward this year, we continue to see a community that needs the love of Christ shared with them—both physically and a call to faith spiritually. This fall we will be wrestling with how we can effectively love our neighbors and share our faith with them. I came across a model for evangelism using the acronym, **BLESS**, by Dave Ferguson (*Five Ways to Bless your Neighbors*). This really resonated with me, and I have been working on implementing it in my own life:



**B- Begin** with prayer. Ask, “God, how do You want me to bless the people in the places you send me?”

**L- Listen.** Don’t talk, but listen to people- their struggles, their pains- in the places God sends you.

**E- Eat.** You can’t just check this off– it’s not quick. You have to have a meal with people, or a cup of coffee. It builds relationships.

**S- Serve.** If you listen to people and you eat with people, they will tell you how to love them and you’ll know how to serve them.

**S- Story.** When the time is right, share the story of how Jesus changed your life.

This past year we focused on **Beginning** everything we do in prayer. Our kick-off weekend is designed to help us learn how to share our **Story** when the time is right. And the middle three: **Listening, Eating, Serving** is the human part we can all do to reach the point where we can share **Our Story/God’s Story** with others! God doesn’t need us but He **does** desire to use us!

## COMMUNITY

### School Supplies

There are still a few days left to give school supplies for the children at Charles F. Johnson School for the fall term! **All items must be turned in to the church office (Copy Room) by September 4.** Thank you in advance for your help!

### 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.

### Kenya Mission Trip 2017

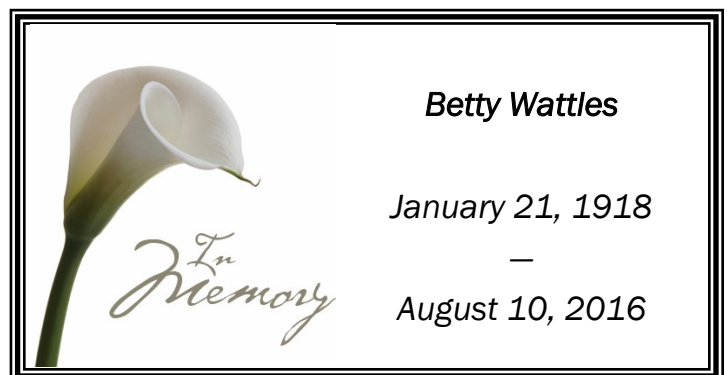
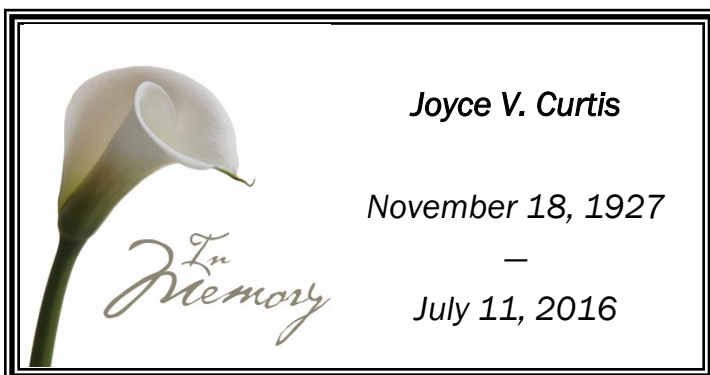
DO YOU HAVE A DESIRE TO TRAVEL? TO MEET PEOPLE OF GOD? TO HELP PEOPLE BUILD THEIR HOUSE OF WORSHIP? TO HELP BUILD A SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN? TO SEE GOD'S BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS?... If you have said yes to one or more of these then you might want to consider joining us as we plan another trip to Africa. We will be leaving around June 29 and returning around July 12, 2017. Please pray as to whether God is leading you in this direction. Watch for more upcoming information. If you are interested please let Jan/Tim Devine or Art/Pam Davis know of your interest as we have a limited number of spaces and it will be first come, first served.

### A Thank You

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the Deacons of First Pres. From my years at the church, I knew that this group of committed and dedicated individuals did a great deal of behind-the-scenes work to support our church family. However, I was especially touched when I received their card here in Florida telling me they were praying for my brother, who is battling cancer in California. My thanks for your prayers and love.  
- Janet Frederick

### Samaritan Supper

Samaritan Supper will be starting again on Tuesday, September 6. There are many different areas where we need volunteers. If you haven't helped in the past, but would like to volunteer this year, or if you want more information on this community outreach program, please contact Analise Farrell (toothdr13@aol.com).





# Church Calendar

## September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 5:30 pm NS Parent Orientation	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10:00 am Summer Worship Services 11:00 am Fellowship in Gathering Area	<b>5</b> <b>Labor Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>6</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>7</b> <b>First Day of NS</b> 6:00 am Men's Group Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Begins	<b>9</b> 5:45 pm Small Group Leaders' Gathering 7:00 pm Chris Walker and FPC:E Leaders	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Personal Evangelism Conference Day
<b>11</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>Fall Kickoff- Chris Walker</b> 10:00 am United Worship Service 11:15 am Church Luncheon	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Personnel Meeting	<b>13</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Deacons	<b>14</b> 5:30 pm Dunamis- Listening Evangelism 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>15</b> <b>Dunamis- Listening Evangelism</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> <b>Dunamis- Listening Evangelism</b> <b>NS Ice Cream Social</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Dunamis- Listening Evangelism</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Dunamis- Listening Evangelism</b> 9:00 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry Kickoff 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 1:00 pm Chow Hunger Walk Registration-1pm; Walk-2pm 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Mission and Stewardship	<b>21</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>Peace and Evangelism Sunday</b> 9:00 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	<b>26</b> 6:00 pm NS Board Meeting	<b>27</b> 12:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>28</b> 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>	

## 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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