



NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

FIRST PRES. PRESS

OCTOBER 2016

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On September 18, we began our fall sermon series on the Old Testament book of Nehemiah. If you have missed any of the beginning sermons, you can catch up at: fpcendicott.org/sermons. Below is the reading schedule so that you can read ahead or keep up if you are away.

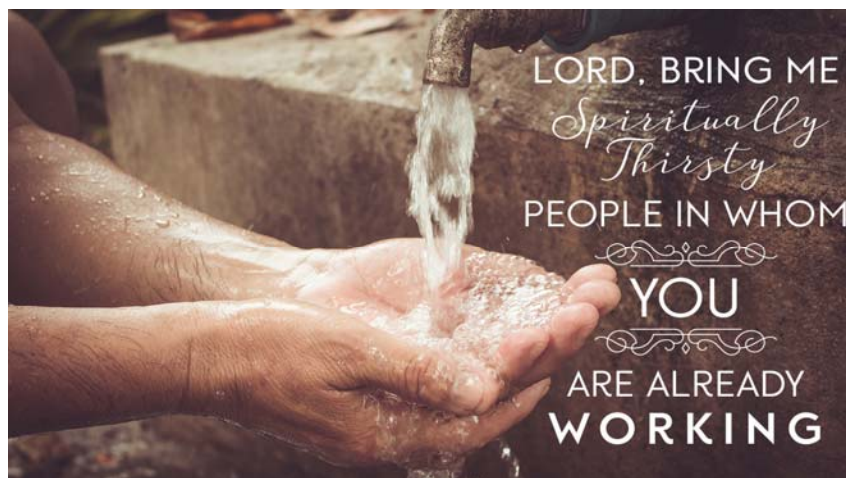
October 2	Nehemiah 3	Overcoming Obstacles: Unity to Complete the Work
October 9	Nehemiah 4	Overcoming Obstacles: Courage in the Face of Opposition
October 16	Nehemiah 5	Overcoming Obstacles: Sacrifice to Deal with Injustices
October 23	Nehemiah 6	Overcoming Obstacles: Prayer to Silence Accusations
October 30	Nehemiah 7 and 8	Spiritual Renewal: Reorganization and God's Word
November 6	Nehemiah 9	Spiritual Renewal: Repentance
November 13	Nehemiah 10-12	Spiritual Renewal: Covenant, Appointments, Leaders
November 20	Nehemiah 13	Spiritual Renewal: Faithfulness

OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

October 6
Flo Powley

October 25
Bev Jones

October 25
Jane Sprague

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

Isn't it strange . . . we love Jesus and believe that our purpose as Christ-followers is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with both our lives and our lips. But, oh, how we struggle to speak confidently about the One whom we hope our lives reflect. How contrary this is to Jesus' observation:

"For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of." (Luke 6:45b)

On Saturday, September 10, Chris Walker (EvangelismCoach.org) presented a day-long workshop here at FPC:E on "Personal Evangelism for Ordinary People." He nurtured our passion to share the gospel with others, gave us tools and training for personal evangelism, and reminded us that we do not work alone, but in cooperation with the Holy Spirit.

One of the most powerful things he offered was a prayer for those of us who are introverted, unsure how to begin a conversation, or worried about how others will respond. He invited us to pray this simple prayer each day and then watch to see what God will do:

"Lord, bring me spiritually thirsty people in whom You are already working."

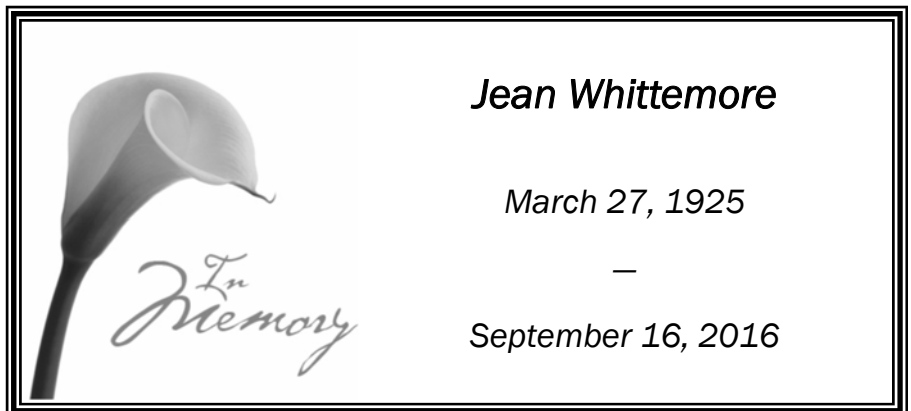
It is amazing to see how God has already started to answer that prayer! How freeing it is to remember that God is the initiator! Our job is not to create spiritual thirst within people: it is the Spirit who softens hearts and prepares people to receive the Good News. Our job is not to force ourselves or Jesus onto others: we have the privilege to simply watch for that thirst in someone and be ready to share our own story or an invitation to get to know the One who quenches the thirst. Our job is not always to "bring in the harvest" each time we have a conversation, but to be ready to plant seeds that will bring the harvest in God's time. Friends, let this be the prayer that echoes through this congregation . . .

"Lord, bring me spiritually thirsty people in whom You are already working."

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Jim and Sandy Chambers, upon the recent death of Jim's mother.
- Devon King's future mother-in-law, who has been hospitalized for many weeks.
- For the birth of Luke Maxwell Preisendanz, Carolyn and Peter's second grandchild.
- For the Maine-Endwell Little League Team who are world champions! (May we be as passionate about living for Christ as we are about sports!)
- Jane Kamper's father, who had gall bladder surgery.
- For the recent birth of Ellie Taylor's twin great granddaughters, Hazel and Scarlet.
- Those who are still struggling with grief and loss, as we remember the events of 9/11/01.
- Bruce Barney's father, as he recovers from a fall and brain bleed.
- Carole Cockrell's brother-in-law, Jim, who had testing done on nodules on his lung.
- Mark Pellerito and all those working at the devastating Soberanes Wildfire in California.
- Vivien and Isabelle Fongue and their children, who moved to Miami for Vivien's work.
- Ruth Harrison's brother, Frank, who has been put in hospice.
- We celebrate the building of a wheelchair ramp for a community member by FPC:E on September 17.
- Devon King, who was in an accident as he swerved to avoid a deer, sustaining minor injuries and much damage to the car.
- Janet Cook's sister, Jessie, as she had surgery in Burlington, and for Janet as she cares for her sister.
- Sandy Cook's sister, Lisa, who was diagnosed with breast cancer and is scheduled for surgery in Oct.
- Larry Pierce's father, Larry, who has a serious infection, but is showing miraculous signs of recovery.
- Pam Holmes, who had double knee replacement surgery on Sep. 26. The surgery went well and she is recovering.
- Dave and Jean Jenkins' son, Ken, is engaged; he and Elizabeth will be married December 11.
- Gloria Johnston's son, Kevin, who has been experiencing migraines.
- The extended family of Jean Whittemore, who died on Friday, Sep. 16.
- Claudia Delafield, who is recuperating from a fall and a broken wrist.
- Alyssa Beck, as she recovers from radiation to her brain and enters the next phase of her treatment.
- Alisha Finn's father, Gary, who is hospitalized following a stroke.
- Dawn Weber, as she works through a difficult time.
- For the productive trip to Kenya and safe return of Doug Kerr.
- Praise for the fruit of our Evangelism weekend and the Dunamis Conference.
- Kristen Talley and Josh Bennett, who were recently engaged and plan a June wedding.
- The extended Jephson family, as they celebrate the birth of Helen and Jim's great grandson, Connor.



YOUTH NEWS, MID-JANUARY THRU FEBRUARY

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH—SUNDAY EVENINGS

Sunday, October 2

Arnold Park

Vestal, NY

5:00-7:00PM

Romping through the woods, stupid games, devotions,
and snacks!

Bring your Bible, a snack to share, and a friend!

Sunday, October 9 (*Columbus Day Weekend*)

Highland Park

Endwell, NY

5:00-7:00PM

Run-around games, devotions, and snacks!
Bring your Bible, a snack to share, and a friend!

Sunday, October 16

No Youth Group!

Rock Mountain Bible Camp Fall Overnighter for
3rd-6th graders

Sunday, October 23

Letterboxing!

Jones Park, Vestal, NY

5:00-7:00PM

Read the clues, find the Letterboxes.
Stamp them and move on to the next!
Bring your Bible, a snack to share, and a friend!

Sunday, October 30

Looking for a family to host our get-together!
Contact Alisha Finn



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH—SUNDAY MORNINGS

Been missing those fresh waffles and toppings over the summer?
How about the chance to gather with Chris, Megan, and other students to talk about things that
matter in life and faith?

Small Group has started again each Sunday morning at the Monroe House, 10:30-noon.
Don't miss out on the fellowship and a study in the Gospels.

To connect, contact Megan at megmansfield22@gmail.com or Chris at ccampbe77@gmail.com.

STUDY GENESIS WITH YOUR FAMILY!

September 25 – God Created World & People – Genesis 1-2

October 2 – Sin Entered the World - Genesis 3:1-24

October 9 – Cain & Abel – Genesis 4:1-16,25-26

October 16 – Noah – Genesis 6:5-9:17

October 23 – Tower of Babel – Genesis 11:1-9

October 30 – God's Covenant with Abraham – Genesis 12:1-3;15:1-21;17

GENESIS

LEVITICUS

DEUTERONOMY

EXODUS

NUMBERS

The first five Books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch, Torah, Law of Moses, and 5 Scrolls. These books are jam packed with amazing stories of God's power, God's love, and God's provision. From creation to Noah, God's promise to Abraham to Israel's escape from Egypt through the Red Sea and even through the Israelite's forty years in the wilderness, the Bible gives us glimpses of our magnificent King of Kings. Join us as we jump into the Pentateuch!

This season we are celebrating each of the first five Books of the Bible:

Genesis - In the beginning, God created, then flooded, then called Abraham's family as a nation.

Exodus - Israelites exit Egypt and God provides in miraculous ways!

Leviticus - Worshipping God was the most centrally important part of life.

Numbers - Before entering the Promised Land, a census was taken and soldiers numbered.

Deuteronomy - Moses' big speech and pep talk to remind the Israelites of God's commands.

**Let's
Review
and
Learn
Some
Verses!**

Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was without form and void, and darkness covered the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Exodus 20:3-5

"You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image or the likeness of anything that is in the heavens above or on the earth beneath or that is in the waters under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God."

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

*Shepherd the flock of God that is among you,
exercising oversight,
not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;
not for shameful gain, but eagerly.
-1 Peter 5:2*

SESSION EDUCATION/TRAINING:

- Elders are currently studying the Book of Confessions as part of a denomination-wide process to determine which of the Confessions we brought from the PC(USA) will continue to be part of the confessional foundation of ECO.

SESSION WORK:

- Session approved updates and revisions to the Personnel Policies and Procedures document and shared them with the staff.
- Personnel Committee is working on how the church must adapt to upcoming changes to the Labor Laws.

FPC:E MISSION/EVANGELISM:

- Local, National, and International Opportunities
 - ⇒ “Ramp-It-Up” project- September 17—completed (Bruce Barney, Jeff Willets, Bryan Early)
 - ⇒ Men’s Mission Trip to Honesdale, PA- November 3-5, 2016 (Bryan Early, Nathan Jacobs)
 - ⇒ Kenya Mission Trip- June 25/26 – July 8, 2017 (Pam/Art Davis, Jan/Tim Devine)(If you are interested in participating, talk to the contact people listed above.)
- Session has completed the two goals set at our MAG meeting: to have 3 elders share testimonies this summer in worship, and to create prayer cards so that each child in this congregation will be specifically prayed for in the coming year.
- The fall stewardship emphasis will center on a 48-hour congregation-wide prayer vigil preceding Stewardship Dedication Sunday on November 13, 2016.
- The summer tennis program was a very positive investment of mission money. Three adults and seven high school students worked with 80-90 children from the Boys & Girls Club and the Drop-In Program at the Park. Daily devotions for the staff helped students ask questions and wrestle with their faith. Children began to learn tennis skills, but more important, they had healthy activity and people who cared about them pouring into their lives.
- Many FPC:E children and parents participated in summer camps at Rock Mountain– a great experience of faith, friendship, and fun!
- Chris Walker spent the weekend of September 9-11 teaching and training the congregation in the areas of evangelism and hospitality.
- Eight FPC:E folks participated in the Dunamis Conference, September 14-18, focused on “Listening Evangelism” in cooperation with the Holy Spirit.

FPC:E NEWS AND PLANS:

- Session approved fall camp/retreat opportunities for children and families at Rock Mountain.
- The next presbytery meeting will be in Honesdale, PA, on October 7-8, 2016.
- The ECO National Gathering will be held January 24-26, 2017 in Greenville, SC. It is a life-breathing time of worship, fellowship, education, and growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. Everyone is invited, so speak to Jan or Tim if you might be interested!

CONNECTING THOUGHTS

– SHARON EARLY

Last month I shared the acronym **BLESS** as a simple way to be conscious of sharing our faith with others. As a reminder it is to always:

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

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

E- Eat with them. 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. Show people God’s love and...

S- Serve them where they are. 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. And finally, be prepared to tell your...

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

This concept continued to be reinforced between our kick-off weekend with Chris Walker focusing on “Listening Evangelism,” the Dunamis conference the following week (which went deeper into the topic), and then starting the Nehemiah study. In particular, the first chapter of Nehemiah begins with Nehemiah listening to the plight of his people and then being in intense prayer for them. I really question at times if I will ever have such an all consuming “holy discontent” for the people around me. At times, I capture a glimpse of this feeling, but usually it is when someone is hurting and crying out for prayer from others, not from my own passion for a lost generation.

As we start the video series *To Transform a City* by Eric Swanson and Sam Williams, my hope is that I will have eyes for the city around me and my prayer life will be transformed with a “holy discontent” for the spiritually thirsty people God is bringing into my life. I invite all to take the time to view these videos and to wrestle with the spiritual concepts amongst your small group.

Not presently part of a small group doing the study? Then plan on joining one of our two groups specifically formed to do this study: before choir practice on Thursday evenings or Sunday mornings after the first service. Also, feel free to contact me (sharon@firstpresendicott.org or 748-8196) to discuss what day/time would work best with your schedule.

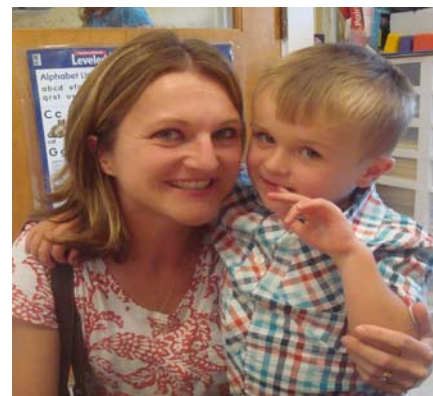
As we continue to discern God’s will for FPC:Endicott, here on the corner of Grant and Monroe, may we be truly listening and praying for the spiritually thirsty people God is bringing into our lives and willing to share the good news with them when they are ready to hear it!

He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” (Acts 8:30-31)

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET...

-RONNE SISCO, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

-DEREK WASHBURN, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS



First day feelings!



This year, veteran early childhood teacher Mrs. Kathy Beaudette is sharing her experience more regularly with us as a support in the Sea

Turtle afternoon class! We are so pleased

to have her part of this year's . . .



2016-17 Nursery School Staff Family!

(Not pictured: Lisa Dutcher
Derek Washburn)



S is for Sophie!



**First day fun with
Floam!**



**The creative juices are already flowing with Kentin's mom's rendition of
Fruit Pizza!**

COMMUNITY**School Supplies**

The deacons would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated school supplies for students in need at Charles F. Johnson Elementary. The supplies were received with great appreciation, and we too appreciate your help in reaching out to the community around us.

110th Anniversary

The first meeting regarding the formation of the FPC:E was held on May 6, 1906 in?:

☐ G. F. Johnson Library ☐ A storeroom at Spencer's Furniture Store ☐ U-E High School gym
FYI- Sunday, November 6, marks the 110th anniversary of this congregation!

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.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Each year on All Saints' Sunday (this year it's Nov. 6) we remember and honor the members of First Presbyterian Church: Endicott who have died in the past year. We also offer the opportunity for "friends and family of the congregation" to be remembered as well. This year we are again offering the option of showing a photograph of the deceased during a special "Time of Remembrance" in each service. To submit the name of a loved one who has died since All Saints' Sunday 2015 (Nov. 1), please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by Thursday, November 3.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 2016

Name: _____

Date of death: _____

Submitted by: _____

Relationship to deceased: _____

[] Photograph included

Church Calendar

October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worldwide Communion 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	3 6:00 pm NS Board Meeting	4 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Deacons	5 6:00 am Men's Group Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	6 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 Presbytery Meeting at FPC Honesdale 5:00 pm Nursery School Homecoming	8 Presbytery Meeting at FPC Honesdale
9 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	10	11 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	12 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00 pm Session- Budget Meeting (Tent.)	13 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Personnel Committee	14	15
16 No FPC:Youth Rock Mountain Fall Overnight 3rd-6th 9:00 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	17 6:30 pm NS Parent Council Meeting	18 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	19 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	20 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 Nursery School Fall Fest	22 Nursery School Fall Fest
23 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	24	25 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	26 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	27 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 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	31					

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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