

**FIRST PRES. PRESS**

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

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OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

January 1
Richard Davey

January 1
Lois Engel

January 1
Marge McNeely

January 10
Barry Driggs



There are several times to mark on your calendar for the upcoming months:
Christmas Eve: 4:30pm Worship Service (Blacklight Special and Candlelight)
7:30pm Worship Service (Candlelight and *A Touch of Brass*)
Christmas Day: 10:00am United Service
New Year's Day: 10:00am United Service

ADVENT RESOURCES

Beginning Nov. 27, there will be Advent resources available in the gathering area. In this season of expectation, we want to encourage you to spend time with your family studying the Word, talking about what the Advent season meant and what it means for us now, and building a sense of expectancy that God will show up and do incredible things. When we have this mindset, when we are actively looking for God's movements in our world, it's amazing what we see!

The Worship Ministry Team is offering the book *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ* by Tim Keller as its recommended study for Advent this year. For all who are interested in making this journey together, we will have a Facebook page in which we can share with each other our thoughts, questions, and discoveries each day. Tim Keller, a well-known New York City pastor, opens up scripture in a way that is understandable and accessible. Books and the reading schedule are available at the church. If you wish to participate on-line with others in our church, sign up by joining the Facebook group- *FPC: Advent 2016*.

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

One of the surprises for me as I (Tim) recover from my total knee replacement is the inability to sleep. The doctor said it would be about 6 weeks before I would return to my normal sleep pattern. Wow, he was right.

In the sleepless moments, I do laps around the first floor with my walker throughout the night. I have gained a new appreciation for noticing, looking, and hearing what is going on outside. I also have realized that night is a time to open not only my eyes, but also my spirit, so that I can be aware of how God is moving and guiding me through my life. I have been reading the psalms during this time of physical and spiritual alertness.

We are in the season of Advent, a time in the life of the church that is set apart for spiritual preparations and reparations. It is in this spirit of preparation and reparation that Jesus admonished his listeners to watch and be ready for the unexpected and unpredictable return of the Messiah.

In Matthew 24:36-44, Jesus calls us to attention with his urgent message: "*Stay awake!*" so that we will be ready to respond to the needs around us. "*Stay alert!*" so that we can notice God at work in our midst. Advent is a time for our spirits to wake up so that we can be aware of God's presence in our lives.

Jesus is not really telling us to never shut our eyes, but rather, to avoid closing down our spirits. It is easy to move through the day as though in a dream. We interact with screens from morning to night, while avoiding interaction with other human beings, not to mention the Holy One. We can be plugged into one device or another, fill our eyes and minds with news and images, and never leave room for a whisper of the Spirit or a nudge from a guiding and loving God. We can be lulled into complacency by watching endless loops of music videos or reruns of our favorite TV shows. We immerse ourselves in an ocean of blogs that invite us to click from one link to another. Minutes and even hours can go by before we realize that this was not the best use of our time. Wake up!

Jesus commanded us to be watchful and to expect the unexpected. He talked about a God who will surprise us by coming when we're not looking or arriving in a way that we do not expect. This powerful Advent passage reminds us to be aware that the God who came into the world as a baby so many years ago still wishes to enter our lives today. Too often, our minds are so full, our calendars are so packed, and our expectations are so low, that we don't actively look for the living Christ in our midst.

- Wake up! -- God is at work all around you.
- Wake up! -- Don't miss the blessings that are right here.
- Wake up! -- See the ways we can share the good news and the good deeds of Jesus Christ with our community in the new year.

Jesus Christ has come into our world. He has promised to come again. And in this in-between time, Jesus cries, "Church, wake up! See the world as I do. Love the world as I do. Serve the world as I do."

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Praise for a successful weekend retreat for mothers and daughters at Rock Mountain camp.
- We give praise for the Night of Worship on Nov 19: it was a blessing to all those who attended, from multiple churches and the community.
- Praise for God's hand in raising up leaders to serve as deacons and elders in the coming year.
- Bob Thomas, who celebrated his 91st birthday on November 13.
- We give praise for Serve Day: we collected and packed close to 50 emergency kits for the Rescue Mission and walked our community, praying and picking up litter/garbage.
- Ford and Sharon Drake's grandson, Kyle, who earned his Eagle Scout.
- Missy and Larry Goetz, who are celebrating the expected birth of a grandchild in April.
- Christy Williams, who spent time in Mexico for the last step of discerning long-term missionary work at an orphanage through Back2Back Ministries.
- The Hunt family, who began a new season of life in moving to the Poughkeepsie area.
- Pam Holmes, who was able to come to worship just 5 weeks after her double knee replacement.
- Friends of Deb Eiche and Jane Kamper and Carole Cockrell's sister, who have received God's gift of improved health.
- Hemant and Saima Tandi, who are in India, working to strengthen the ministries of GPMO.
- Alyssa Baumann, as she continues her fight against cancer.
- The family of Linda Fiaschi, as they grieve the unexpected passing of her brother, Michael, on Nov. 1.
- Friends of Stacy Paradiso, who recently lost their 6 yr. old son.
- Ed Fiaschi, who is recovering from a knee replacement.
- Tim Devine, who is recovering from a knee replacement.
- Helen Jephson, who had successful surgery to remove a malignant spot on her lung.
- Janet Frederick's younger brother, Craig, who is having a hard battle with cancer and the treatment.
- The family, friends, school and community of Elijah Ellis.
- Barb Wilcox, who fell leaving church and fractured a bone in her hand and another in her wrist.
- Kristy Mansfield and her family, as they grieve the passing of her father in Tennessee.
- Janet Cook, who is healing well enough to graduate from a body brace to a neck brace.
- Carissa (Pasquale) Jones, who underwent spinal surgery.
- Jason Mitchell, who is suffering from debilitating back problems.
- Shirley Wennagel, who had an extended hospital stay and rehab.
- Our veterans, our country, and our police force.
- Our mission partners in the Dominican Republic who are dealing with extensive damage from flooding rains.
- Alisha Finn and her family, as they grieve the death of her father on November 14.
- Liz Kerr, who fell and must be non-weightbearing as her leg heals.
- Ann Driggs, who is recovering at home from pneumonia.

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you the sign.

Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means "God is with us").

-Isaiah 7:14

YOUTH NEWS

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH—SUNDAY EVENINGS

Sunday, December 4

FPC:E

4pm - 7pm (ish...)

Loving Hands event! Whole families are invited to join in an evening of filling gift bags with all sorts of goodies, decorating ornaments, eating some pizza and heading out to Christmas carol and deliver our gifts!



Sunday, December 11

Oakdale Mall

5:00-7:00pm

Christmas Picture Treasure Hunt!

Meet at the Mall Entrance between Burlington and JCPenney @ 5:00.

Bring your cell phone, wear something comfortable, and be ready for some competition. We will hunt the mall looking for Christmas "things" and then end the time with pizza!

Sunday, December 18

No Youth Group! Get ready for Christmas!

Sunday, December 25

No Youth Group! Merry Christmas!

Sunday, January 1

No Youth Group! Happy New Year!



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH—SUNDAY MORNINGS

<<<

Each Sunday morning, high school students gather with Megan and Chris to enjoy waffles with toppings— and sometimes a quick ice breaker game. The most important part of the morning, however, is conversation about life and faith.

Recently, they have been looking at Scripture and asking: Who is Jesus? What did He do? What did He say? How are lives changed because of Him?

The Small Group meets at the Monroe House, 10:30am-noon. Don't miss out on the fellowship and a chance to study Scripture and what it means for your life.

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

FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:30 meet in Treehouse Room

10:45 support the Boomwhackers' Performance!

11:00-12:00 Christmas Play, Refreshments, Family Craft, and lots of Christmas FUN!

In the midst of all the special events in December and January we have a couple of weeks of quiet detour from our regular Sunday morning schedule. We hope you will celebrate the birth of Christ together with your family!

December 25 – **Merry Christmas!** - NO Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

January 1 – **Happy New Year!** - NO Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

BOOMWHACKERS® & BLACKLIGHT

SUNDAY, December 18 - Morning Services "Boomwhackers" Performance

CHRISTMAS EVE - Saturday, December 24 - 4:30PM Blacklight Performance

We hope you'll come support the kids for each of these artistic endeavors!

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 4
4:00PM**



Loving Hands is an event for every age. We will decorate ornaments, sign cards, fill baskets with all sorts of baked goods, candy, fruit, and other treats, and after eating a slice or two of pizza, we will head out to Christmas carol and deliver our gift baskets.

Please plan to join us!

DECEMBER 2016 SESSION UPDATE

- LINDA WILLETS, CLERK OF SESSION

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." - Luke 2:10

Let us use the season of Advent to welcome Jesus and be changed by Him.

SESSION EDUCATION/TRAINING:

As part of our ECO study of the *Book of Confessions*, elders focused on the *Heidelberg Catechism* at our November meeting. Elders appreciated the question-answer format to study the biblical truths found in the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer.

FPC:E MISSION/EVANGELISM:

- Session spent time praying for the Men's Mission Trip to Honesdale, PA (November 3-5); Serve Day (November 13); the 48-hour prayer vigil and Stewardship Dedication (November 11-13); the Praise and Worship Service shared with First Baptist Church (November 19); where God will lead FPC:E beyond the Evangelism weekend, Nehemiah series, and "To Transform a City" study; and for particular people and needs within the congregation.
- Discussed possibilities for the church-wide Lenten study, which may include "doing" as well as "studying."
- FPC:E Kenya Mission Trip - June 25/26 through July 8, 2017. Interested? Talk to J/T Devine or P/A Davis.

SESSION WORK:

- Approved funds from the Conference Support Fund to help offset costs for at least 8 participants to attend the National ECO Gathering in Greenville, SC on January 24-26, 2017.
- December 7 will be the annual joint Elder-Deacon-Program Staff Meeting.
- Approved using 2017 Capital Improvement Fund to purchase a new control panel for the sanctuary lights and to share with the Nursery School the cost of purchasing a copier to replace the Canon copier.
- Approved the remaining 2016 ECO-related Mission Funds as follows:
 - \$3,000 to church planting initiatives in our Presbytery of the Northeast
 - \$2,000 to Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship
 - \$2,000 to Antioch Partners
 - \$1,600 to The Outreach Foundation
 - \$524 to water projects Doug Kerr and team will install in Kenya in January.
- Approved allocation of the remaining 2016 Disaster Relief Funds: \$3,000.75 to WorldRenew for National Disaster Relief and \$2,000 to WorldRenew for International Disaster Relief.
- Approved re-designating \$1,000 of national funds to WorldRenew for national disaster relief.
- Approved the initial recommendations of M & S Committee for 2017 mission designations.

FPC:E NEWS AND PLANS:

- Elders heard about the October 7-8 Presbytery Meeting. Jan and Tim Devine will become co-moderators in January 2017. They hope the non-preaching pastor can visit and support churches in our Presbytery on different Sundays during the upcoming year.
- The Mother/Daughter weekend at Rock Mountain Bible Camp was a great success.
- Simple plans were made to celebrate the 110th anniversary of FPC:E on November 6.

CONNECTING THOUGHTS

– SHARON EARLY

Driving by Toledo on our way to Michigan, I was reminded of the first mission trip we took with the church youth group. It was in a neighborhood with stately, old homes, and although you could tell the area had declined, it didn't appear all that terrible. That is, until we came back out to the parking lot to discover that within the first 30 minutes there, our car had been broken into. I guess that really made it click why the church had a security guard walking the building, locked doors and a security system, and why the church was using endowments to survive. That was 17 years ago in Toledo: today we are facing many of the same dynamics in our community and within our own church.

It has been very timely to do the sermon series on Nehemiah and the small group study, "To Transform a City," this fall. It has opened my eyes to a community around us that doesn't anticipate a new Kingdom and doesn't even know that they can hope for more than what is.



Advent is a time when we remember the birth of the true King and anticipate his return. We love the Bible stories of people who anxiously awaited the birth of the King and were ready to worship Him at his birth. We, on the other hand, just spent more than a year swallowed up by a political process and election that has polarized our country— all because we are looking for a human president to save us.

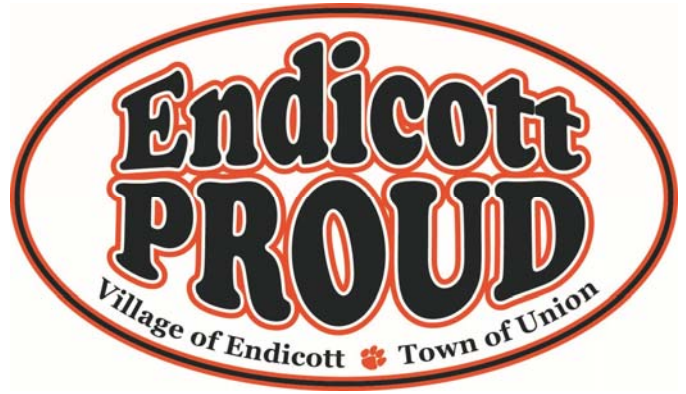
What is the role of the church in the world, and how can we bring healing and hope for something better? In our study, we learned that "Kingdom" is mentioned 121 times in the gospels, yet "church" is only referenced three times. What is the difference between "church-work" and "Kingdom-work"? I resonated with this quote: *Jesus builds the church and the church helps build the Kingdom, the embodiment of what life looks like when living under the reign of God—an attractive and compelling alternative to "what is."* How can we share with those around us that there is a compelling alternative to "what is"? There is growing consensus among those in small groups:

- Can we go one step deeper in each of our existing ministries to be more intentional about bringing the whole Gospel to our community? (Nursery School, Samaritan Supper, Climbing Ministry, Compassion Builders, Homework Café, Summer Tennis Program, etc.)
- Can we partner with existing organizations to help transform our city? We do not think that it is a coincidence that an exciting grassroots organization called "Endicott Proud" is rising up— please see additional information on the next page.

As we continue to discern our next steps, it will take everyone investing in Kingdom work to really help transform this community and give people a glimpse of *a compelling alternative to "what is."*

OVERVIEW OF “ENDICOTT PROUD”

This grassroots effort is made up of a diverse and growing team of people who share a vision to see the Endicott area renewed and revitalized. There are currently over 80 people involved, including Village of Endicott and Town of Union representatives, business owners, law enforcement officials, UE school administrators, and community members.



Their Vision: *Make Endicott the choice destination to live, work, and play for young professionals, as well as enhance quality of life for current residents.*

The group is subdivided into areas focused on safety, community appearance, culture, and new businesses as some first priorities. Our Serve Day on Nov. 13 showed quite a need for basic clean-up in the area, and we anticipate plugging into the community-wide clean-up this group will be organizing in the spring. We can also envision a revamping of our Compassion Builders to help in the surrounding neighborhoods. Both of those activities will be a few months out, but an **immediate upcoming need** is to show support of the group's vision when they host a news conference to roll out their plans. As soon as the December date is finalized, we will let you know the day, time, and location through the Weekend Update and Sunday bulletin. The more support we as a congregation and others in the community show, the more likely Endicott is to receive grant money and support for initiatives to tackle the work that needs to be done. We continue to be convicted that our church is planted on the corner of Grant and Monroe for a reason—and each of you were brought to this church for a reason. Whether you are called to do Kingdom work in your own immediate neighborhood where you live and work, or whether you will plug into Kingdom work in Endicott, God is doing some mighty things through FPC:Endicott!

CELEBRATING YOUNG LEARNING

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



You are invited to join us for a special

EPAC presentation of

"The Nutcracker!"

On Friday December 9, our Pre-K students will be enjoying Endicott Performing Arts Center's abbreviated version of "The Nutcracker." Join us! Located two blocks away at 102 Washington Avenue in Endicott, Mr. Joe Foti and his crew are treating the Endicott 1st Pres. Church & Nursery School families to a 9:30 am presentation with generously discounted ticket prices of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. (Revenue earned through the nursery school's annual Art Show will be covering the cost of our school's staff and students!) The performance is approx. one hour long.

The more the merrier so pick up your tickets at the front desk M-F 8:30-3:00!

COMMUNITY

Succoth Booth Thanks

The deacons thank the congregation and our Nursery School for their generous donations to our annual Succoth Booth. With help from our First Baptist Church neighbors in collecting, packing and distributing, we were able to help 15 area families.

Angel Tree

The Deacons are sponsoring an "Angel Tree" again this Christmas season. Please stop in the gathering area beginning Sunday 12/4 to sign up and get an angel from the tree. Make the holidays special for a Nursery School child by purchasing a gift. Guidelines for gifts are on each angel. All gifts should be returned to the church office by Friday 12/16, wrapped, and with the angel affixed to the package for identification.

Fellowship Christmas Dinner

Fellowship will be celebrating their annual Christmas Dinner on Friday, December 16, at 12pm. We will gather at Good Shepherd Village in Endwell. Everyone is invited to join us for wonderful food, entertainment and fellowship. Please call Charlie and Maxine Waughtel at (607) 625-4693 for reservations before December 11. We look forward to celebrating this special season together. Hope you can join us.

Loving Hands

Loving Hands is an event for every age. We will decorate ornaments, sign cards, fill baskets with all sorts of baked goods, candy, fruit, and other treats, and after eating a slice or two of pizza, we will head out to Christmas carol and deliver our gift baskets. Please plan to join us! If you would like to contribute goodies to fill up our baskets, please sign up in the Gathering Area, contact Alisha Finn directly @ 607-427-9565, or go the website at www.perfectpotluck.com and use the coordinator's name: Finn and password: Dec04 to sign up.

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 on 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.

Stewardship Pledge

Stewardship Dedication Sunday was November 13. If you did not receive a commitment card or have misplaced yours and wish to give a financial commitment for 2017, there are extra cards and envelopes available in the back of sanctuary. If you are unable to physically come to the church and need a card, please contact the office and we will mail one to you. Thank you for your support.

COMMUNITY CONT.

With Gratitude

Thank you for the many ways you have supported me and Jan as I recover from the knee replacement. We deeply appreciate the prayers, words of encouragement, meals, post-op equipment we borrowed, leaf raking, and being ready to help. Thank you for living Galatians 6:2-
“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” God bless, Tim.

Annual College/Young Adult Christmas Gathering

What would Christmas vacation be without our annual gathering - CHINESE BUFFET and BOWLING??

Be our guest as we gather for fun, food, fellowship, and faith. Reservations are not required, but if you can, let Jan and Tim know that you are coming: jantimdevine@firstpresendicott.org

Mark your calendars for **MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016**

6:00pm- Dinner at the Great China Buffet
 560 Harry L. Drive #3, Johnson City, NY 13790

7:30pm- Bowling at Laurel Bowl
 137 Laurel Ave., Binghamton, NY 13905



2016 Poinsettia Order Form

Please PRINT clearly! This information will be used in the bulletin. The deadline for orders is *Sunday, Dec. 11*, and must be accompanied by payment. No phone orders please!

This poinsettia is donated by:

(Check one) in honor of in memory of

Amount enclosed (please specify!): _____cash _____check

Price per plant is \$13.00. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Endicott. Donated plants are delivered to home-bound members of the church by the deacons. If you can assist with delivery on 12/18, please contact Beth Dean.

AN UPDATE FROM OUR PARTNERS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Our Christmas Eve Offering last year was sent to the Outreach Foundation to minister in the midst of the crisis in Iraq and Syria and to our partners in the D.R. to buy windows and pews for a church being built in the town of Abra Grande. Below is a picture of the beautiful church and ministry that is possible because of your gifts— thank you.



On November 13, we got word that 12 days of heavy rain had caused flooding in the communities, and the major road between the villages was washed away.



Please keep our Dominican brothers and sisters in prayer.

Church Calendar

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5:30 pm Blacklight Rehearsal 6:15 pm Boomwhacker Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 4:00 pm Loving Hands	5 6:00 pm Nursery School Board Meeting	6 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	7 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Harmony Club Christmas Concert 6:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Session/Deacons/Staff Joint Meeting 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	8 5:30 pm Blacklight Rehearsal 6:15 pm Boomwhacker Rehearsal	9	10
11 Reception of New Members 9:00 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 1:00 pm Staff Christmas Party 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	12	13 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper (FPC:E Teams Pray with Guests)	14 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	15 5:30 pm Blacklight Rehearsal 6:15 pm Boomwhacker Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 12:00 pm Fellowship Dinner	17
18 Boomwhackers No FPC:Youth Middle School 9:00 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:00 pm Worship Team Christmas Party	19 6:00 pm Young Adult Christmas Party	20 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	21 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	22 5:30 pm Blacklight Dress Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:30 pm Worship Service (Contemporary) 7:30 pm Worship Service (Traditional)
25 Christmas No FPC:Youth Middle School 10:00 am United Worship Service	26 Office Closed	27 No Samaritan Supper Office Closed	28 6:00 am Men's Group	29 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 Office Closed	31

Church Calendar

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Dave Beers Preaching No FPC: Youth Middle School 10:00 am United Worship Service	2	3 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Deacons	4 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	5 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 9:00 am Elder/Deacon Training 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	9	10 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	11 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	12 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 9:00 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:30 am Children's Ministry 10:30 am Elder/Deacon Training 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 5:00 pm FPC: Youth Middle School	16	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 Elder/Deacon Installation 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	23 6:30 pm NS Parent Council Meeting	24 ECO National Gathering 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	25 ECO National Gathering 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	26 ECO National Gathering 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 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	30	31 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper				

NEW MEMBERS

On December 11, we will welcome three new members to our congregation as they formally join FPC: Endicott. There will be a reception, hosted by their small groups, held between services that day. Please plan on joining us in saying hello and welcoming them. Below you will find brief bios to let you get to know each of them a little better:



Chris Campbell

Chris and his wife Karli (Todd and Kristy Mansfield's daughter) have been attending for several years now. They have two young children, Jack and Kellen. Karli is already a member and Chris has decided to make that formal commitment now, though he has been active in the life of the congregation for some time. He and his sister-in-law Megan Mansfield lead the Sunday morning FPC: Youth Senior High small group. Chris also participates in the Monday night men's small group and leads the MCC climbing ministry on Thursday nights. His passion for climbing, wakeboarding, snowboarding, and other extreme sports is matched only by his passion for Jesus. We welcome his leadership, energy, and passion in our congregation.

JD and Jesse Paff

JD and Jesse visited FPC:E after an invitation from Tony Paradiso, a co-worker of JD's at BAE Systems. Since then, JD and Jesse have attended regularly and both pour into their small groups and the relationships they have formed here. Their faith as individuals and as a couple has been inspirational to many already both in the ways they love God and people. JD and Jesse have one son, John Anthony. We welcome their whole family as part of ours.



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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Fax: (607) 748-1744

www.firstpresendicott.org

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