



FIRST PRES PRESS

MARCH EDITION

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise. Jesus said to his mother: "Woman, this is your son." Then He said to the disciple: "This is your mother." My God, My God, why have You forsaken me? I thirst. It is finished. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

WORDS FROM THE CROSS

A LENTEN STUDY

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A Note from the Pastors

Looking forward to 2017... In 2017, could we be so focused and intentional that we would help 17 people whom we are nurturing (either individually or collectively) to take that final leap of faith and put their trust in Jesus? In 2017, could we be so focused and intentional that we would help 17 people move from casual Christianity to become committed disciples of Christ? One of the speakers at the ECO National Gathering asked this question: "Which messy believer are you going to invest in until he or she becomes a leader?" In 2017, could we be so focused and intentional that we would help 17 people move into leadership in some new capacity?

In 2017, could we begin to pray about starting some kind of new worshiping community, without any preconceived ideas about what it would have to look like?

It's hard when we set goals and put numbers to those goals, because all of a sudden, we are being held accountable to do something. But remember, **the things we value, we measure.**

Lord, help us to value these kingdom goals. Give us the courage to work toward them. Let it be so.

Looking back at 2016... There was a rhythm to 2016, which was due partly to human efforts, but was more surely the result of God's sovereign hand. The things we focused on built upon each other, and we believe they were meant to prepare us for things that are to come.

PRAYER | EVANGELISM TRAINING | COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Think on these things... Every church, including FPC:E, was once a church plant. People took a risk 110 years ago so that they could reach our community for Christ. "Half of all churches in the U.S. did not add one new member by conversion last year." (Matthew Lee, National Church Planting Catalyst) The things we value, we measure.

"Which messy believer are you going to invest in until he or she becomes a leader?"

Jan & Tim

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

In this newsletter, and over the last year in the teaching in our church, prayer has been an often discussed topic. We have been asked to pray

for discernment, for healing, for direction, for ministry, and much more— as is fitting in the call to bring everything to the Lord in prayer.

I would add my voice to the admonition to pray earnestly. I can speak from personal experience that prayer is effective as it brings something of value to God, to the person praying, and to people who are prayed for.



As we enter the season of Lent, I would encourage you to heed the encouragement by the leadership of our church and by the Scriptures to deepen your practice of prayer as a spiritual discipline.

Finishing our study of Colossians, Paul reminds us in Colossians 4:2 to “devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.” Let it be so.

— Nate

We remember and give thanks for the lives of **Bob Thomas**, who passed away on Feb. 3 and **Anita Brumbaugh**, who passed away on Jan. 16.

Doug Kerr had a hip replacement | **Laura Shafer** broke her hip rollerblading and had surgery | **Ralph Tallman** had a temporal biopsy | **Elizabeth Kerr’s daughter, McKenna**, had mono | **Rebecca Barney** had surgery | **Bruce Barney’s dad, Bruce Sr.**, had hernia surgery | **Ruth Harrison** is grieving the death of her brother, Frank Ryder | **Jim and Norma Santacrose** celebrated their newest granddaughter, Arabella Anne | **Meaghan Cady and her family** are grieving the sudden death of her 57-year-old uncle | **Billy Beardsley** is continuing to break his smoking addiction | **Dawn Weber** is dealing with difficult life transitions | **Katherine Wilkie** is seeking strength and wisdom about treatment options following the discovery of more lesions on her liver | **Kyle Skidmore** was in a bad accident and is now in rehab | **Jim and Norma Santacrose** are dealing with health issues | **Paul Jacobs** spent time in the ER for a kidney stone | **Kevin**, a friend of Sheila Beblavy, sustained injuries being a Good Samaritan and is fighting for his life | **Ed Fiaschi** is continuing to heal from knee surgery | **Devon King** is dealing with making major life decisions | **Gloria Johnston’s son, Kevin**, has been having health issues | **Linda Willets’ mother, Betty**, was hospitalized | **Florence (Happy) Ludlam** is recovering from a fall and broken leg | **Karen**, a friend of the Kerrs, is very sick after chemo and hip surgery, complicated by Lupus | **Jon Beatty’s brother, Dave**, was diagnosed with cancer and there are complications in treatment | **Alyssa Baumann** has been in the hospital dealing with new cancer growth and treatments that made her sick



CONNECT



FOR I AM LONGING TO SEE YOU SO THAT I MAY
SHARE WITH YOU SOME SPIRITUAL GIFT TO
STRENGTHEN YOU— OR RATHER SO THAT WE
MAY BE MUTUALLY ENCOURAGED BY EACH
OTHER'S FAITH, BOTH YOURS AND MINE.
— ROMANS 1:11-12

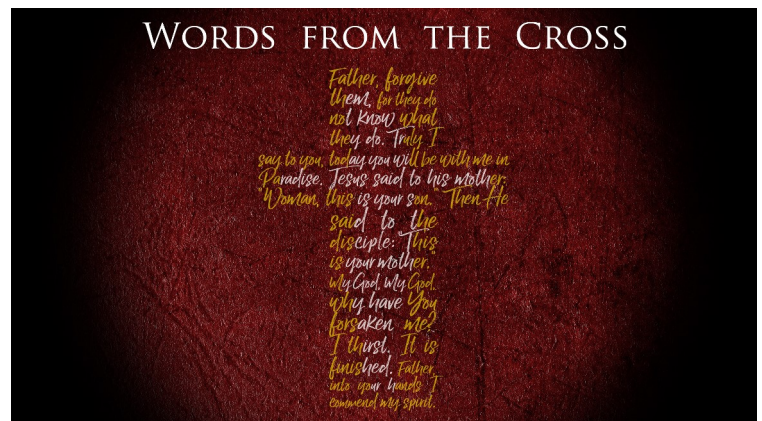
In mid-February, our small group leaders gathered together to share a meal, study the Word and encourage one another, modeling the Scripture above as we prepared for Lent this year. We have found here at FPC:Endicott, that by intentionally prioritizing our time to be part of a small group— as a leader/shepherd of the group or as a participant- we all walk away encouraged and strengthened in our faith, and together our faith grows as the body of Christ. To that end, for the last thirteen years we have used Lent as an intentional time for people to join a small group and get a taste of what it means to be “mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.”

This year is no different, except we will be simplifying our time together by:

- Focusing on the seven last words of Jesus spoken from the cross
- Being in prayer to discern next steps of service our church can participate in to reach out to the community around us

I encourage **everyone** to be part of a small group. Sign-ups have been in the gathering space prior to Lent, but there is still time to join a group:

men’s, women’s or mixed groups are all still available. Or, if your schedule makes it difficult to make a commitment to the same day/time each week, for the last couple of years we have helped people form micro-groups (3 or 4 people). A micro-group offers greater flexibility of scheduling, yet allows you to still benefit from community and encouraging each other’s faith!



||| **DON'T LET LENT PASS YOU BY THIS YEAR WITHOUT BEING IN**
AN INTENTIONAL, MUTUALLY ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY!! |||

GENESIS

Adam & Eve
Cain & Abel
Noah
Abraham & Sarah
Jacob & Esau

Moses
Red Sea
Ten Plagues
40-Year "Time Out"

EXODUS

Priests
Sacrifices
Tabernacle
Ark of the Covenant
Offerings & Feasts

HILLTOP VISIT

SUNDAY, MAR 26

10:45 am — Meet at United Methodist Home J. G. Johnson Nursing Home

11:00-11:30am — Visit, sing, and hand out gifts!

286 Deyo Hill Road
Johnson City, NY

If your kids are into superheroes and superpowers, check out the stories in Exodus! God's miracles are beyond what you could find in any comic book!

LEVITICUS

We are working our way through the PENTATEUCH! It has been a great Bible adventure in Genesis and Exodus and we can't wait to keep going. Plan to join us on March 19 for our next FAMILY DAY and see what we've been learning!

FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY, MAR 19

10:30AM

MEET IN TREEHOUSE ROOM

- ◇ Work with your kids to build a replica of the tabernacle and see how it was set up.
- ◇ Make gifts for our Hilltop visit.
- ◇ Review what we've learned.
- ◇ Eat some snacks.
- ◇ Don't miss out!



THAW

Winter Retreat

Friday, March 3 — Sunday, March 5

Middle School Youth

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Meet at the Monroe House, 5:00—6:30pm.

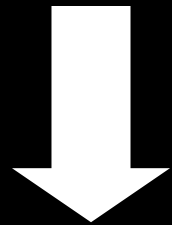
You never know what crazy things Alisha has planned!



Ice Skating at BCC

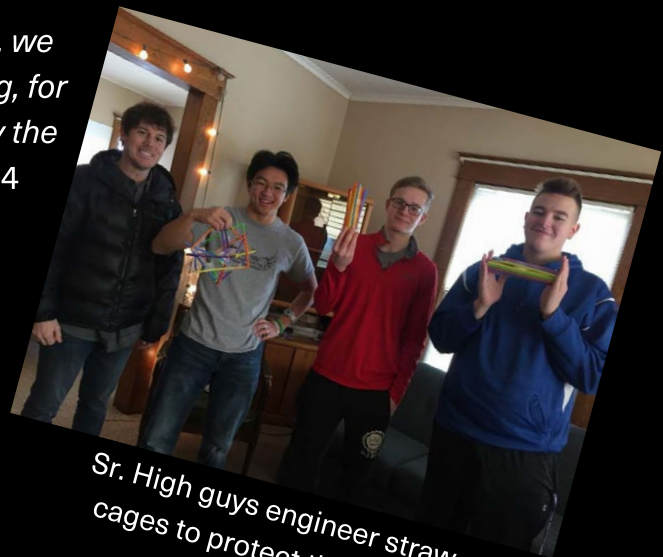
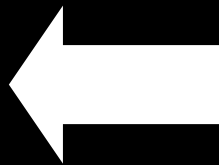
*Do not forsake wisdom,
and she will protect you;
love her, and she will
watch over you.*

-Proverbs 4:6



Feb. Ski Trip— no injuries!

*Though we stumble, we
shall not fall headlong, for
the Lord holds us by the
hand. -Psalm 37:24*



Sr. High guys engineer straw cages to protect their eggs

High School Small Group meets at the Monroe House on Sundays, 10:30am-noon. Students are working through a curriculum called "Alpha." Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith, based on the premise that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith and ask questions. Don't miss out on the fellowship and a chance to study Scripture and what it means for your life. Breakfast is included!



OPEN HOUSE

Do you or someone you know have a three or four year old who is eager for a stimulating and whimsical preschool adventure? Mark your calendar for Endicott First Pres. Nursery School's Open House! Friday evening March 10 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Come tour our classrooms and speak with our staff to learn why First Pres. is nationally accredited by the NAEYC (National Assoc. for the Education of Young Children)! Enjoy some refreshments, stop by our Parent Council booth, and share in the silliness with children's D.J. entertainer "Johnny Only" from 6:45 - 7:30 p.m. Register before the end of March and we'll treat your child to a First Pres. Nursery School t-shirt! **Our way of saying "Welcome to our family. Now hold on to your hat!"**



Parent Council's *Cuddle Up & Read* night brought over 50 children who headed home with a new book!



CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE

THU. MAR. 30 | 6:30PM | CHURCH LOUNGE

FREE CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

Join Ronne Sisco for a workshop built on the premise of developing discipline within children rather than applying discipline to them. Dr. Becky Bailey will be focusing on *Choices + Positive Intent*. Register on the pink sheets throughout the nursery school.

5TH ANNUAL JANET COOK SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, June 10 @ Traditions at the Glen | Captain and Crew Shotgun start @ 1:00pm

Dinner, prizes, and fellowship for a wonderful and much-needed cause— helping children attend our preschool.

Contact Derek Washburn @ 607.748.1744 or derek@firstpresendicott.org

TRAINING & EDUCATION

The elders studied *A Brief Statement of Faith* in the ongoing study of the *Book of Confessions*. Also, Chris Loughridge, Sharon Early, Art Davis, Rev. Jan Devine, and Rev. Dr. Tim Devine briefly shared what had impacted them from their experience at the 2017 ECO National Gathering.

DISCIPLESHIP

Jerry Fourroux, chair of our presbytery's Church Planting Team, wrote a personal note to thank the congregation for the year-end gift of \$3,000 to support a church planting effort in Boston.

Junior High students will be going to the "THAW" winter retreat at Rock Mountain Bible Camp, March 3-5.

Session began dialogue with an ECO ministry candidate about the possibility of doing an internship at FPC:E.

LINDA WILLETS CLERK OF SESSION

Each month, Linda provides an overview of the work of our Session. Keep an eye out on this page to see what God is doing through the work of our leadership.



PERSONNEL & ACCOUNTABILITY

Session approved a 3% increase for 2017 to be given to all staff members. A financial review of the 2016 finances was completed by Viera & Associates.

FEB. 5, 2017 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We reviewed the progression of 2016 to better prepare us for more effective ministry: 1) during Lent we focused on the power and practice of prayer, so that it would become a greater priority individually and corporately and undergird all our work. 2) Early in the fall, Chris Walker, Evangelism Coach, spent a weekend at FPC:E teaching us how to be more comfortable and effective as we share our faith. 3) During October and November, we studied the O.T. book of Nehemiah in worship and *To Transform a City* in small groups, to deepen our passion for reaching the community around us through the good deeds and the good news of Jesus Christ. 4) In God's amazing timing, we learned about the rise of a grassroots effort in our community called "Endicott Proud," that mirrors the principles of *To Transform a City*. FPC:E is now part of "Endicott Proud" and involved in local efforts to rebuild/revitalize our community.

Ministry leaders briefly shared "wins" from last year and their visions for the coming year in their respective areas of ministry/leadership (see the posted minutes of the annual meeting). Our co-pastors shared their vision for 2017 as we build on all that happened last year (see pg. 2).

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to take up to \$55,000 from the Wagner Fund to support the 2017 General/Local Budget. The 2017 Terms of Call for the Co-Pastors were approved as presented. Art Davis, treasurer, spoke on behalf of the Session to remind us that budget decisions are not only about finances. He challenged us to invest our resources and time in ways that reflect and respond to God's vision for FPC:E.

FPC:E COMMUNITY

Look here for opportunities to serve the Kingdom and grow in your faith through the missions and ministries of FPC:E

- **A note from Samaritan Supper**— there will be no Samaritan Supper if UE schools are cancelled or if after school activities are cancelled due to weather.

- **A Big Thank You!** from the Worship Ministry Team to all who helped make the Annual Meeting luncheon awesome: Chef Lou and his cooking crew (Teri Pasquale and Danné Beck); the setup crew (Linda Glajch and Paul Everett); kitchen volunteers Bob and Hilde Johnson and Dawn Davey; beverage

table hostess Jamie Jacobs; dining room host Paul Everett; and the cleanup crew (Jeff and Linda Willets, Jamie Jacobs, Paul Everett, Charlene Gebler, and everyone who cleared their own place)!

The IF:Endicott Local Gathering 2017 is Friday evening, March 24, and Saturday, March 25!

This year the IF: team in Austin will be looking back to one of “the most influential generations that has ever lived – the early church. We believe they are the model we need right now.” Our gathering is a safe place to gather with women to

worship God, to dig into the Scriptures for guidance, and to encourage one another. If you would like to register, please go to our website at www.fpcendicott.org/events/ifendicott2017 and follow the instructions there.

We look forward to seeing you in March! If you have any questions, call Kristy Mansfield at (607) 349-0099 or email kmansfield@stny.rr.com.

- **The Men’s Mission Team is planning another trip to Honesdale.** We are looking at a potential date in April. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon.

MCC at THE BARN

The climbing gym celebrated its 4 year anniversary this past December 18. We have had a lot of people come and go but its undeniable to see what God is doing in the barn. We climb every Thursday night from six to eight pm and open it to anyone that wants to come. Every first Thursday of the month there is an open invitation for anyone to come up to the house and dive into the Bible. Our formula has been simple. Each "Climb Talk" is focused on the life of Jesus. We go through scripture and see who Jesus is, what did He do, what did He say, how did people respond to Him, what miracles did He perform and so on. If Jesus is God, we want to know everything about Him and relay that to our climbers. Through climbing and climb talk our relationships with so many people have deepened and often poured over into our lives. This past year we have had several outdoor climbing trips, a climbing competition, coffee and climb sessions, a Christmas party and our second annual prom. We have also received generous donations from family, friends and the climbing community and also have had a lot of volunteers, such as First Presbyterian Church: Endicott, to help with welcoming people, setting routes, making food, maintenance, and creating community.

— Chris

ECO NATIONAL GATHERING 2017

Early on the morning of January 23, Marian and Chris Loughridge, Jamie and Nathan Jacobs, Art Davis, Sharon Early, and Jan and Tim Devine loaded into two vehicles and headed off to Greenville, SC. With rain the entire way, and stops for meals, fuel and stretches, we arrived at our rented home 14 hours later.

Early the next morning, we drove to the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville to gather with 1,200 Christians in ECO for 2 1/2 days of worship, fellowship, education, training, and inspiration. In addition to dozens of break-out sessions, we were deeply challenged by the keynote speakers:



JO SAXTON
CHURCH PLANTER | VISIONARY | AUTHOR

Jo challenged us to live as Barnabas, who poured into people as he encouraged, partnered with, forgave, and impacted others for the sake of Christ.

"We can think and talk about something so much, that we think we've prayed about it."

JAMES CHOUNG
INTERVARSITY NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF EVANGELISM

James described the process of moving from skeptic → seeker → follower → leader → world changer, the goals at each stage, and the spiritual question of the day for each generation.

"Do you read the Bible or let the Bible read you?"





We are still processing all that we took in... and wondering where God will lead FPC:E!



JOHN ORTBERG
ECO PASTOR | AUTHOR

John spoke about the importance of pursuing the health of our soul- the sum of mind, body, spirit, heart, and relationships. *"The hiding soul cannot be healed."*

PAUL BORDEN

EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF GROWING HEALTHY CHURCHES

Paul challenged ECO from his work in church transformation and church planting, and shared what we must do to prevent sliding from a movement into an institution. *"As it says in 1 Corinthians, 3:7, we believe that only God can give the growth. So, if your church isn't growing, what does that say?"*





LAURA MURRAY
PASTOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Laura offered some spiritual formation questions we must ask.
"Our formation often comes from the places we want to escape, even home."



JIM SINGLETON
GORDON-CONWELL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
PASTORAL LEADERSHIP AND EVANGELISM

Jim spoke on the biblical basis for egalitarian leadership.
"The curse has been undone at the resurrection."



DANA ALLIN
SYNOD EXECUTIVE | VISIONARY FOR ECO

Dana echoed Paul's challenge by sharing resources that are available to ECO congregations to help us flourish as individuals and churches.
"Flourishing churches are led by flourishing leaders who are flourishing disciples. What are you doing to flourish in your own life and faith?"

PRESBYTERY NEWS

As the Presbytery of the Northeast prepares to multiply in 2017, our new smaller presbytery now has a name – *Cornerstone Presbytery*. It is based on Ephesians 2:20-22:

"... with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

MEMBER CHURCHES OF CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERY

Cold Spring/Rileyville PC (Honesdale, PA) | FPC:Corinth (NY)
FPC:Endicott (NY) | FPC:Hallstead (PA) | FPC:Honesdale (PA)
FPC:Northumberland (PA) | FPC:Towanda (PA)
Franklin Hill PC (Hallstead, PA) | Lycoming Centre PC (Cogan Station, PA) | Mountain PC (Sunbury, PA) | Rome PC (PA)
Stevensville PC (PA) | Sylvania PC (PA)

PENDING

Elysburg PC (PA) | United Church of Cohoes (NY)

MISSION AFFINITY GROUP (MAG)

Endicott | Honesdale

MARCH

01

6:00am Men's Group
5:00pm Chancel Choir
6:00pm Agape Supper
7:00pm Session
7:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

02

7:00pm AA Meeting

03 **THAW Retreat**

04 **THAW Retreat**

05 **THAW Retreat | 1st Sunday of Lent | Communion | No Jr. High Youth**

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

06

7:30pm AA Meeting

07

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Deacon Training
6:30pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Deacons

08

6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

09

7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting

10

6:30pm NS Open House

12 **2nd Sunday of Lent**

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
5:00pm FPC:Youth Middle School

13

6:00pm NS Board Meeting
7:30pm AA Meeting

14

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:30pm AA Meeting

15

6:00am Men's Group
1:00pm Women's Circle
7:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

16

7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting

19 **3rd Sunday of Lent**

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
5:00pm FPC:Youth Middle School

20

4:00pm Endicott Proud @ UE Admin
6:30pm NS Parent Council Meeting
7:30pm AA Meeting

21

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:30pm AA Meeting

22

6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

23

7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting

24 **IF:Endicott Gathering**

25 **IF:Endicott Gathering**

26 **4th Sunday of Lent**

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
5:00pm FPC:Youth Middle School

27

7:30pm AA Meeting

28

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:30pm AA Meeting

29

6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

30

6:00pm Conscious Discipline
7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH: ENDICOTT

An ECO Member Congregation

Father, forgive
them, for they do
not know what
they do. Truly I
say to you, today you will be with me in
Paradise. Jesus said to his mother:
"Woman, this is your son." Then He
said to the
disciple: "This
is your mother."
My God, My God,
why have You
forsaken me?
I thirst. It is
finished. Father,
into your hands I
commend my spirit.

FPC:ENDICOTT

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