

NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

# FIRST PRES PRESS

MAY 2017 EDITION



## BEARING THE CROSS

SPRING SERMON SERIES

**Belief Requires Response.**

For the seven weeks following Easter, we are focusing on portions of the Gospel of Luke that prepare us to respond in love and gratitude by serving our Risen Savior with our lips and our lives.

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See what we're doing and get involved



# A Note from the Pastors

We have just come through the season of Lent and Easter, where we paid particular attention to the last words Jesus spoke from the cross and the first words He spoke after rising from the dead. His words and actions changed the lives of many people who were there as He died. It is interesting how each person came to Jesus from a different place and in a different way.

Earlier in his ministry, Jesus had healed Mary Magdalene of seven demons. In response, she faithfully followed Jesus and stayed with Him even to his death (Luke 8:2).

Simon of Cyrene was walking into Jerusalem, just minding his own business, when he was forced to get involved. One moment he was a spectator, and the next moment he was coerced to carry the cross in that

terrible procession to Golgotha (Mark 15:21). Many believe that Simon came to faith, and his son, Rufus, is the same Rufus mentioned in Romans 16:13 as the one who was “chosen in the Lord.”

The criminal, hanging on one side of Jesus, also hung onto every word Jesus spoke. In the last moments of his hopeless life, he asked Jesus for mercy and he received grace (Luke 23:39-43).

The Roman centurion was a seasoned executioner. He carried out his orders during the crucifixion with callous resolve. But as he watched the way Jesus died, his eyes were opened, his heart was softened, and he recognized that Jesus was truly the Son of God (Mark 15:39).

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were Jewish leaders and secret followers. They risked the anger of the Council by asking for the body of Jesus so that they could give him a proper Jewish burial (John 19:38-42).

All of these people remind us that each of us comes to Christ from a different place and in a different way. What is true for all of us, however, is that being a Christian is not for spectators. Jesus calls us- men, women, and children- to join Him in actively taking the gospel to others by sharing the good news and bearing the burdens of others.

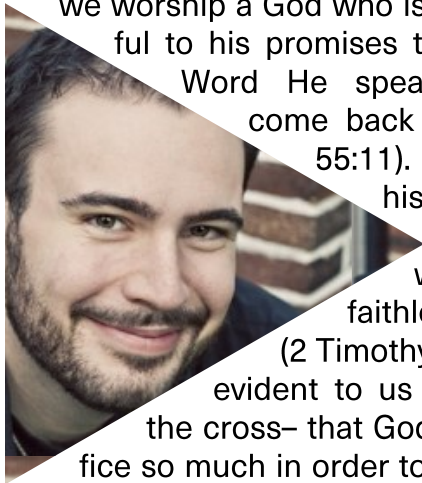
**Sharing and Bearing.** This is Jesus’ call on our lives. This is our grateful response to Him. This is what it means to be committed followers of Jesus.

Cross-bearers live for Jesus by living for others. Let it be so here at FPC:E. Amen.

“What is true for  
all of us, however,  
is that being a  
Christian is not  
for spectators”

Jan & Tim

# AMONG OUR PEOPLE



I've been thinking a lot lately about the faithfulness of God. It is amazing that we worship a God who is forever faithful to his promises to us; that no Word He speaks will ever come back void ( Isaiah 55:11). God keeps his promises, even when we have been faithless in return (2 Timothy 2:13). This is evident to us in the act of the cross- that God would sacrifice so much in order to be faithful to his promises set out by the prophets, even as humanity continually rejected Him.

We may not know when or how God will keep his promises to us, but we can be confident in the truth that He will keep them - I would encourage you to read the story of Joseph (Genesis 37 -50) and how the promise made to him was fulfilled many years after his death (Joshua 24:32). I will leave you with lyrics to the bridge of a song I can't get out of my head, *Yes and Amen*, by Housefires:

***I will rest  
in your promises  
My confidence  
is your faithfulness  
All your promises are  
Yes and Amen  
(Ref. 2 Cor. 1:20)***

— *Nate*

**Claudia Delafield** has been experiencing dizzy spells | **June Hayes and family** grieve the death of her sister | **Paul Everett** had surgery to repair a fractured vertebrae in his upper back | **Isaac Everett** was ordained as an Episcopal priest | **The Davey's daughter-in-law, Lisa Babcock**, was in an accident while horse riding in Florida and has suffered several broken bones | **We welcomed Brenda Reibson**, who began a six-month internship here in preparation for her ordination to Word and Sacrament | **Janet Weber** was able to return to Good Shepherd Village following rehab | **Devon King** asked for prayer as he entered long term rehab at Hope House in Albany | **Eric Eiche** retired from 32 years working for NYS (and will now be transitioning to a new job) | **Jon Beatty's brother, Dave**, completed treatments for his cancer | **Carole Cockrell's brother-in-law** is beginning to experience memory issues | **Alyssa Baumann** has been having seizures and had additional testing/continued treatments | **The Goetz family** celebrated the birth of Missy's newest granddaughter, **Charlotte Anne**, on Wednesday, April 12 | **Christy Williams** left on April 20 to serve at orphanages in Monterrey, Mexico for a year through Back2Back ministries | **Rachel Cosimano**, a friend of many in the congregation who works at BAE, is struggling with a difficult pregnancy | **Deb Eiche's teenage cousin, Nathan**, is very ill with a recurrence of Leukemia | **Sierra Davis and other UE students** went on a school trip to France | **Gloria Johnston's son, Kevin**, moved back to this area | **Adele Everett's mother** has been diagnosed with breast cancer | **Avery Quick**, grandson of Winona Norris, is dealing with chronic pain as a result of a repetitive motion injury at work | **Jane Kamper's aunt, Becky**, has been diagnosed with leukemia | **Sheila Beblavy and Connie Stanton's brother-in-law** was in a serious car accident | **Deb Eiche** had eye surgery | **Nancy Slater** was hospitalized for a week over Easter | **Grace and John King** welcomed a new grandson, **Hendrik William Shope**, on Saturday, 4/15, to Kayla & Casey Shope | 16 men were able to serve on the mission trip to Honesdale

# CONNECT



“ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING THINGS ABOUT FOLLOWING JESUS AND LIVING A LIFE OF FAITH IS CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN WHAT WE CLAIM TO BELIEVE AND THE WAY WE ACTUALLY LIVE.”  
– MARK CRUMPLER, FPC:BETHLEHEM

During Lent we studied the Last Words Jesus spoke from the Cross.

## SO NOW WHAT?

Will the time we spent studying God’s Word bring only a little bit more head knowledge, a fond memory of worshiping together Easter morning, and a thought in the back of our heads that we should be different? Or will we refuse to let the busyness of life crowd what we learned out of our consciousness, so there might be a lasting impact on our lives?

During our Lenten study, we were asked to name our greatest spiritual thirst right now. Mine was a deeper prayer life. Rather than allow it to remain an unfulfilled desire, I used Holy Week and the prayer room in the chapel to act on this desire. Each day became a different experience as I prayed through Scripture in solitude, prayed with a sister in Christ for each member of our small group, prayed through life lived and connecting with spiritually thirsty people, prayed intentionally with someone in need, and prayed once again through each word spoken from the cross on Good Friday. All I can say is **WOW!** When I gave God room to show up in my life, He did- **Big Time!**

Jesus told a parable in Luke 16:10 that ends with: “whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.” I read a devotion based on this parable that went in a different direction than I have heard in the past. Rather than focus on our material wealth, the devotion used the parable to think about our faith and trust in God. When we are faithful with a “little” faith, we will be led to situations that require even greater faith (trust) in God. Jesus spoke with a rich young man who struggled with trust (Matthew 19:21-22). When he was told to sell his possessions and follow Christ, he went away sorrowful because he wasn’t willing to place his trust in Christ instead of his wealth. I was challenged during Holy Week to trust God to give up some of my time in a busy week to focus on prayer, and it was amazing how God showed up!

Following Easter, small groups and our Sunday messages will focus on a new series, *Bearing the Cross*. We all have choices to make each day. I know I need to ask myself if I am willing to trust a little more each day and willing to bear whatever cross I have been given for Christ? This can be difficult if we are walking alone. So I am going to challenge myself – even as spring commences with additional pulls on my time- to trust that setting aside time to meet with a group of fellow believers will result in a greater intimacy with Christ that is worth far more than any possession or time I may have. Will you take the challenge with me?

# CM

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### MAY 7

WORSHIP ONLY GOD

Deuteronomy 1; 3:23-4:40

*Volume 2, Unit 6  
Session 4*

### MAY 14

GOD REMINDS US OF  
HIS COVENANT

Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25;  
8:1-11:1, 26-28

*Volume 2, Unit 6  
Session 5*

## CELEBRATE!

KIDS LEAD WORSHIP  
SUNDAY, MAY 21

Join us @ 10:00am  
as we walk through  
Genesis and Exodus



*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. — 1 Timothy 4:12*

Even children are called to set an example in the Body of Christ! This starts with digging into God's Word and seeing that those around them are doing the same. As students grow spiritually, we want to celebrate and encourage them. Students are eager to explain and share God's Rescue Plan as it begins in Genesis and continues through the first five books of the Old Testament. You'll hear the music and verses they've been learning in Jungle Jam, listen to the re-telling of incredible Bible stories, and share in encouraging our youngsters to fully engage God's Word.

CHURCH FAMILY CELEBRATION & REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW @ 11:30AM



### JUNE 4

FAMILY DAY

Wrap Up  
Celebration!

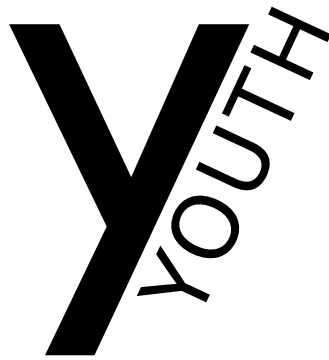
### MAY 28

MEMORIAL DAY  
WEEKEND

No Sunday morning  
Children's Ministry

# THE PIERCE BARN

The middle school youth group regularly meets at the Pierce's barn, learning about Scripture, horses, and big machines!



## MAY 7

5:00PM-6:30PM  
Monroe House

## MAY 14

NO YOUTH GROUP  
Spend some time as a family on Mother's Day!



## MAY 21

5:00PM-6:30PM  
At Meza's House  
7 Sunset Court, Apalachin

## MAY 28

NO YOUTH GROUP  
Enjoy the holiday weekend with your family!

# VIRTUAL REALITY VS. IRL

Chris and Derek spent some time experiencing Virtual Reality at the arcade in Vestal. But every Sunday morning, high school students spend time with Megan and Chris talking about IRL ("in real life") reality found in the Scriptures!

## JUNE 4

FOREST LAKE!  
Meet at the church at 3pm to carpool. Return to church at 6pm.



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!

To connect, contact Megan at [megmansfield22@gmail.com](mailto:megmansfield22@gmail.com) or Chris at [ccampbe77@gmail.com](mailto:ccampbe77@gmail.com).

# MISSION FOCUS

## KENYA

On Monday, June 26, our Kenya Team will be starting out on their two-week mission trip. Much of the time will be spent working with Christians there to finish building a church and a two-room school.

How can the congregation support this mission work?



# GIVE FINANCIALLY

You can contribute financially toward the cost of the church and school we will be building. The Kenyan congregation is responsible for purchasing the land and paying for the foundation of the church and/or school. The U.S. congregation pays for the frame, corrugated steel sides, and the furniture. Our share of the cost is \$7,500 for each building.



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

You can donate school supplies for the school.

Needed items include:

- ◆ Pens
- ◆ Pencils
- ◆ Hand-held pencil sharpeners
- ◆ Loose-leaf lined paper and notebooks
- ◆ Soccer balls
- ◆ Hand pumps
- ◆ Frisbees

# DONATE BOOKS

You can donate children's Bibles, easy-to-read classics (e.g. Treasure Island, Huck Finn), or adventure books (e.g. Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, Box Car Children) to the Linda Ross Memorial Library. (There will be a limit of how many books we can take because of weight restrictions.)



## CREATE BANNERS

You can help create banners to be hung in the church we are building. We have patterns that have been used other years, but need fabric cutters and sewers to put the banners together! Please contact Pam Davis if you are willing to help.

# EFPNS



Students and staff boogied the night away during our Parent Council's 1st Ever Family Dance held at the Endwell Fire Station!

If your child will be ready to enter Kindergarten this fall, then join us for

## "Let's Talk Kindergarten"

here at EFPNS- Monday May 15 from 6 – 6:45 pm in the church dining room. Free childcare will be provided. This informal gathering is always helpful especially for parents and caregivers experiencing this transition for the first time.

**SUNY Broome Children's Fair**  
**Saturday, May 6**  
**10am-2pm**  
**SUNY Broome– Front St.**  
 EFPNS will host one of the many activity booths in the gymnasium. Come play, enjoy exhibits in the cafeteria, and try your luck at the fantastic raffles!

**5th Annual Janet Cook Scholarship Golf Tournament**  
 Registration going on now! A fun competition for a wonderful cause - providing tuition support for many area preschoolers.  
**Thursday, June 8**  
**Traditions at the Glen**  
 More details at the FPC:E Information Desk.

# FPC:E COMMUNITY

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

- Thank you to all those who helped in the **purchase and delivery of flowers for Easter Sunday.** The flowers were distributed to members of the church who are no longer able to attend services, members over 80 and several people that have been in our prayers here at FPC. This is such a great opportunity to share the good news: He has risen!

- **New Member Classes-** If you are able to profess Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and are

ready to commit to this particular community of faith, please let us know! While you can certainly be active at FPC:E without being a member, membership gives people the opportunity to have a voice and vote in directions that are set and decisions that are made. After attending, you will be able to decide without pressure if this is the right time and place to commit to doing life and ministry with others here at FPC:E. If you are interested, please speak to Jan Devine.

**Endicott Proud Clean-Up Day Saturday, May 20, 9AM Location TBD**

- FPC:Endicott will be partici-

pating in the **Endicott Proud Clean-up Day on May 20 at 9am.** Location TBD, so mark your calendar and watch the bulletin/weekend update for additional details!

- The **American Cancer Society Relay for Life** is June 3 at 11am. Contact Bonnie Moyer or Barb Wilcox for more details and/or to sign up for the survivor lunch. Or to join a team. Or to volunteer. Or to donate to fight cancer. 11am- Opening ceremony 12pm- Survivor/guest lunch 10pm- Luminaria ceremony 11pm- Closing ceremony



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# IF:ENDICOTT

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To our FPC:Endicott ladies,  
It was an honor and blessing to share the 2017 IF:Endicott gathering with all of you.  
There was no mistaking the way the Lord moved in and through our moments of  
worship, learning, praying, and proclaiming His Word together.

We hope that you were encouraged by the speakers' teaching on the early church of  
Acts, that you connected with a new gal or two from either our or a neighboring church,  
and that you continue to think about the name(s) you wrote on your tile during our  
closing session.

We look forward to our next gathering, and won't stop praying for you all in the  
meantime!

In Christ,  
*Kristy Mansfield, Linda Willets, and Jamie Jacobs*

Also, a special thank you to those  
who helped enrich our 2017  
IF: Endicott gathering:  
*Wendy Buffington*  
*Pam Davis*  
*Lou and Theresa Pasquale*  
*Marian Loughridge*  
*Patti Dowd*  
*Karli Campbell*  
*Sharon and Bryan Early*  
*Jeff Willets*  
*Nathan Jacobs*  
*Jim Apicella*  
*Jan and Tim Devine*

# SPIRITUAL GIFTS & THE BODY OF CHRIST

BRENDA REIBSON

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Many people are familiar with the “love passage” in the Bible, I Corinthians 13: *“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal...love is patient, love is kind...faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love.”* But do you know what the preceding chapter is about? (Go ahead, look it up). That’s right, I Corinthians 12 is about spiritual gifts. When we exercise the spiritual gifts that God gives to each and every believer, we help to fulfill the “embodiment” of love that will endure long after spiritual gifts are gone.

Ephesians 4:16 sums it up this way: *“From Christ the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”*

So what’s all this talk about the body? You may have heard of the idea that together believers in Jesus form the “body of Christ.” I Corinthians 12 explains this idea along with describing spiritual gifts. This chapter of Scripture tells us 3 things about this “body” and spiritual gifts.

1) Each “body part” (believer exercising his or her gifts) has a unique role.

2) All “body parts” are needed. The body is incomplete without all its parts.

3) “Weaker” parts are to receive more honor than seemingly more important or visible parts. All the body parts are to work together to support each other.

What about you? Do you know what “body part” you are, what your unique role is in the body? Are you functioning in the body as you are designed, working together with all the other parts to build each other up in love? If you are unsure about the answers to these questions, you can ask the Holy Spirit to show you what gifts He has given you and where they are meant to be used.



*Brenda is our pastoral intern from April to early fall. In addition to gaining skills and experience for pastoral leadership, Brenda will be helping us discover and implement our spiritual gifts and build our ministry and mission teams.*

## MISSION

**T**he Endicott police force and community verbally expressed their gratitude to FPC:E for the gift that has allowed the police to purchase several surveillance cameras. There will be an official press release at a future date.

The Session approved Mission and Stewardship Committee's recommendations for the disbursement of \$50,900 to support local, national, and global mission causes in 2017.

## MINISTRY

**T**he ministry of the deacons is expanding, as eight more deacons completed their training and were approved by Session to bring communion to the homebound and hospitalized. An elder also participated and was approved to officiate in worship settings.

As we approach the 2-year mark since moving to ECO, a letter will be going out soon to people who chose to go off the active membership roll of FPC:E to have more time to discern but have remained active in the life of our congregation. These folks will have the opportunity to request that they be restored to the active roll as Covenant Partners (members) of FPC:E. As always, elders will be available to talk with anyone who wishes to have conversation about this decision.

## 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.



## BUSINESS

**J**ean Jenkins and Sharon Early were appointed as our congregation's commissioners to the May 5-6 Presbytery meeting at Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church in New Jersey. This will be the final meeting of the Presbytery of the Northeast, because on July 1, we will officially multiply into three smaller presbyteries. FPC:E will be a member of Cornerstone Presbytery which generally includes upstate NY and the northern part of PA.

House Committee is helping the Nursery School complete the exciting addition of a Sensory Room.

70 feet of gutters and down spouts on the south side of the sanctuary were replaced due to ice jams.

The retaining wall in the backyard of the manse is being replaced after it collapsed.

## SESSION TRAINING

**S**ession has completed a several month study of the Confessions and sent their responses in, as ECO prepares to determine what confessions will be part of the ECO Book of Confessions. The discussion each month at Session meetings was rich and formative. Session is now determining how and when we will participate in *Becoming a Flourishing Church*, a six-session DVD series prepared by ECO leaders to help churches refocus their energy, health, and vitality.

MAY

01

5:00pm Endicott Proud  
Beautification  
Committee  
7:30pm AA Meeting

02

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

03

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

04

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

05

**Presbytery  
Meeting**

06

**Presbytery  
Meeting**

07

**3rd Sunday  
after Easter  
Communion**

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

08

7:30pm AA Meeting

09

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

10

6:00am Men's Group  
12:00pm Kenya Team  
Meeting  
7:00pm Worship Team  
Rehearsal  
7:30pm AA Meeting

11

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

14

**4th Sunday  
after Easter  
Mother's Day  
No FPC:Youth**

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

15

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

16

12:30pm Staff Meeting  
5:30pm Samaritan  
Supper  
6:30pm AA Meeting  
7:00pm M&S Committee

17

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

18

7:00pm Chancel Choir  
7:30pm AA Meeting

20

**Endicott Proud  
Cleanup Day**

21

**5th Sunday  
after Easter**

10:00am United  
Worship  
(Kid's Service)  
5:00pm FPC:Youth

22

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

23

12:30pm Staff Meeting  
5:30pm Last Samaritan  
Supper Till Fall  
6:30pm AA Meeting

24

6:00am Men's Group  
11:30am NS Teacher  
Apprec. Lunch  
7:00pm Worship Team  
7:30pm AA Meeting

25

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

28

**6th Sunday  
after Easter  
No Children's  
Ministry  
No FPC:Youth**

*Brenda Reibson  
Preaching*  
9:00am Worship  
10:45am Worship

29

**Memorial Day  
Office Closed**

7:30pm AA Meeting

30

12:30pm Staff Meeting  
6:30pm AA Meeting

31

6:00am Men's Group  
12:00pm Kenya Team  
Meeting  
7:00pm Worship Team  
7:30pm AA Meeting

**FPC:ENDICOTT**

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