



NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

FIRST PRES PRESS

NOVEMBER 2017 EDITION



*I Will Give
Thanks to You,*

Lord

*with all my heart;
I will tell of all your
wonderful deeds.*

-Psalm 9:1

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A Note from the Pastors

A Time to Mourn and a Time to Give Thanks

This is the month when we set aside a day at the beginning of the month to remember those who have gone before us, and a day at the end of the month to give thanks to God. For some, especially those who are feeling the raw pain of loss and grief right now, these two days do not belong close to each other. But the writer of the book of Hebrews reminds us that there are two things about death that give us courage and direction for life.

The first is the “cloud of witnesses” that surrounds us. Who is the writer talking about when he describes this cloud of witnesses? The opening word “therefore” gives us a clue that we need to look before “therefore” in order to understand what come after. The preceding chapter (11) names people who have demonstrated great faith, courage, and obedience. By their godly examples, the saints who have gone before us pave the way for us. They bear witness to the life of faith we now live. For the ancients who have gone before us, and for our loved ones who have gone before us, we give thanks that they show us the way.

Worship with us on All Saints Sunday, November 5, as we remember and give God thanks for those who have gone before us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

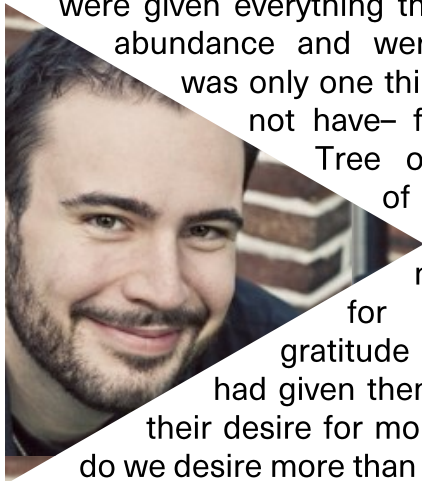
Hebrews 12:1-2

Even more, we give thanks for Jesus, who counted it joy to endure death on a cross for our sake. He is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul reminded the early Christians that when we receive the gift of grace from God, we become eager to share our gifts with others in grateful response. Paul ends the chapter by exclaiming, “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

Worship with us on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 19, as we remember and give God thanks for all his good gifts, especially the “indescribable gift” of Jesus Christ.

Jan & Tim

AMONG OUR PEOPLE



It could be argued that the first sin was the sin of ingratitude. Adam and Eve were given everything they needed in abundance and were told there was only one thing they could not have— fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. It was not enough for them. Their gratitude for what God had given them fell short of their desire for more. How often do we desire more than what we have so graciously been given? A song we recently sang in worship reminds us that it is God's breath in our lungs, granting us each moment of life, so we have no other proper response than to exhale his praise! Let us give thanks this month for all that God has provided— and let us do so with a joyful heart that knows it is enough for us.

"IT'S YOUR BREATH

IN OUR LUNGS,

SO WE POUR OUT OUR PRAISE

WE POUR OUT OUR PRAISE

TO YOU ONLY."

— GREAT ARE YOU LORD,

ALL SONS AND DAUGHTERS

— *Nate*

The Kublo family, who is grieving the death of Kenny's mother | **The victims of the Las Vegas shooting tragedy** | **The Willets family**, who celebrated the marriage of their daughter Amy on Oct. 7 | **Gloria Johnston**, who has been having eye trouble | **Alyssa Baumann**, who had surgery to remove a brain tumor and continues to battle spreading cancer | **Tina Ide's close friend, Rachel**, who lost her brother | **Olishobor Girls Rescue Center (Kenya)**, that now has a working water pump after 7 months without a water source. Praise God for his goodness and for the donors who have come forward to give the money to have the water problem fixed! | **Claudia Delafield**, who was treated in the ER | **Paul Everett**, who had kyphoplasty surgery to stabilize several fractured vertebrae | **Lindsay Baumann**, who was hospitalized for a spontaneous pneumothorax | **Carl Baumann**, who had double hernia surgery | **Katherine Wilke**, who is receiving a new form of chemotherapy | **The Early family**, who is grieving the sudden death of Bryan's uncle | **Doug and Liz Kerr's grandson, Callen**, who had an MRI and other testing for medical problems. Prayers for the whole family as they consider next steps | **Larry Hoey**, who had cataract surgery | **The Hallstead Pastor and Congregation**, as they prepare for the hard work ahead of addressing brokenness to pursue healing | The family and friends of former FPC:E member **Kevin Warwick**, as they grieve his death | **Elliott**, the 10-year-old son of Marian Loughridge's former co-worker, as he recovers from heart surgery. Praise God that it has gone even better than expected! | **GJ Gerner** (28), a family friend of Kim Melrose-Harty, who was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor | Carole Cockrell's friend, **Vincent**, who is battling stage 4 lung cancer | Sheila Beblav's friend, **Lizzie** (18), who needs to find a match for a kidney transplant | **Ava Meza**, who went to Rochester for a consultation to try to get some answers following a medical incident | **Lynn Smith**, who was briefly hospitalized to diagnose and treat atrial fibrillation | **The family of Tim McGovern**, a friend of Dave Beers, as they grieve his death | The Eiche's sister-in-law, **Brooke Eiche**, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer

FPC:E COMMUNITY

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

- Save the date- Friday December 15 at 12 noon for our **annual Christmas dinner** at Good Shepherd Village in Endwell.
- During the month of November our Deacons will be recognizing the Hebrew tradition of the **Festival of Sukkot or Festival of the Booths**, that marked the end of the harvest season when the Israelites would sleep and eat in a temporary building called a sukkah (booth). Working together with First Baptist Church, as we did last year,

FPC:E will have a common sukkah booth set up in the back of our sanctuary to “gather a harvest of food” which will be distributed among our respective church and nursery school families for Thanksgiving. Please bring to church non-perishable foods to donate to our booth (in non-breakable packaging or containers) such as: canned peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, cranberry sauce, fruit juices, etc.; canned corn, green beans, peas, etc.; soups, pasta sauce, turkey gravy, etc.; peanut butter, Nutella, jelly (plastic jars), etc.; rice, instant mashed potatoes, dry stuffing, dry cereal, uncooked pasta, etc.;

other similar foods you might think of. Donations will be collected from Sunday Nov.5 until Sunday Nov.19.

- **The position of Sunday morning custodian will be opening soon** as Derek Buffington transitions to a weekend job that gives him more hours. If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about this employment opportunity, please download the application and job description on the church website (fpcendicott.org/job-opportunities).



THANKFULNESS

*ISN'T IT REALLY ABOUT
OUR PERSPECTIVE AND
OUR UNDERSTANDING OF
WHAT BEING BLESSED
REALLY IS?*

CONNECT

As we have been studying the Beatitudes, I really have resonated with the Amplified translation of them. Each one gives a different perspective on what that individual blessing actually is:

Blessed [spiritually prosperous, happy, to be admired] . . .

Blessed [forgiven, refreshed by God's grace] . . .

Blessed [inwardly peaceful, spiritually secure, worthy of respect] . . .

Blessed [joyful, nourished by God's goodness] . . .

Blessed [content, sheltered by God's promises] . . .

Blessed [anticipating God's presence, spiritually mature] . . .

Blessed [spiritually calm with life-joy in God's favor] . . .

Blessed [comforted by inner peace and God's love] . . .

Blessed [morally courageous and spiritually alive with life-joy in God's goodness] . . .

There are so many different ways of being blessed that we may not always think of as a blessing. But in reality, who wouldn't want to be spiritually alive with life and have an inner peace and joy? I am truly thankful for this community of faith, which continues to nurture my spiritual walk and has enabled me to experience many of the above blessings! Having an expectation that we are not passive, but active, in the disciplines of our faith has kept me from drifting to becoming a complacent Christian. We have to actively choose to change habits when we see our behaviors are not giving the desired result.

This summer I experienced this first hand with my health. I would let schedules and almost anything derail my desire to exercise (well....maybe it wasn't a true desire, but an understanding that I needed to exercise!). We rescued a Siberian husky knowing it would require a lot of exercise. Every day now I have to intentionally find time to take him out for a 4-mile walk (with some significant hills) or he is relentless about not letting me get anything else done around the house.

As a disciple, I need to continually be asking myself how to be as intentional with changing a Spiritual Habit as I was with my health. Recently, Session and now the entire congregation, has been encouraged to create a plan to flourish as a disciple. Like my experience with my exercise, I have to understand what is lacking in my life, evaluate what I need to change, and be willing to let someone hold me accountable to following through. I am thankful and definitely feel blessed that our church continues to encourage me to walk the talk by being part of a small group and encouraging me to find my "Siberian husky" accountability partner to help me be as persistent in my spiritual walk as I am with my health. If you have not experienced this as part of your faith here at FPC:E, please reach out to me to help you connect with a group so you can be as blessed as I have been here at FPC:E!

CM

CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY

NOVEMBER THEME: GOD JUDGES HIS PEOPLE

Throughout the book of Judges, we read about how God's people turned from Him to worship idols. Because of this, God's people needed someone to rescue them from their sin and their enemies. God called and used people called judges to lead and rescue His people.

NOVEMBER LESSON SCHEDULE

DIGGING DEEPER

Consider these questions with your kids:

How does God accomplish His plans?

In what ways did God use these judges?

How does God use people for His glory and good in order to accomplish those plans?

How is God using you to accomplish His plans?

NOV. 5

DEBORAH AND BARAK

(JUDGES 4-5)

God used Deborah, Barak, and Jael to defeat Canaan.

While God was really at work, He used people to complete His plan.

NOV. 12

GIDEON

(JUDGES 6-8)

God sent Gideon, an unlikely judge, to rescue his people.

God was with Gideon and fought for His people.

NOV. 19

SAMSON

(JUDGES 13-16)

God gave Samson great strength, but Samson was weak when it came to being faithful to God.

Samson's sin led to his death, but God used Samson's death to deliver Israel from the Philistines.

NOV. 26

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

No Children's Ministry

MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

OCTOBER– PSALM 56:3-4A

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise - in God I trust and am not afraid."

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 89:1

"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations."

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE GOSPEL PROJECT HAS AN APP FOR KIDS AND STUDENTS?

These free apps, available for iPhone, iPad and Android, provide videos, music, coloring pages, devotions and so much to help your whole family engage in our weekly lessons throughout the entire week.



A NOTE OF THANKS

TINA IDE, ASSOCIATE TO THE PASTORS IN CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY

In my first few weeks, I am continually impressed and thankful for the ways in which so many of you have made me feel welcomed. From the many hands that helped move my furniture into storage to volunteers who have taken on leadership roles and are helping to show me the ropes, thank you! I am equally thankful for the time I've had to begin building relationships and getting to know who each of you are. I remain excited to be with you and among you!

NOV. 5

THE PIERCE'S

2:45pm - Carpool @ FPC:E

6:00pm - Pick-Up @ FPC:E

YOUTH



NOV. 12

MONROE HOUSE

3:30pm- 5:00pm

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



NOV. 26

THANKSGIVING WEEK

No Youth Group

Enjoy the time with family and friends!

NOV. 19

FAMILY SCAVENGER HUNT

3:30pm - Meet @ Monroe House

Bring your parents/guardians, a friend, a snack to share and a friend!

We are asking parents to please join us for this afternoon of fun!





GOT SMIDGENS?

It's time for Parent Council's Annual Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Fundraiser! Order forms are available on the Information Desk. Please consider helping Parent Council raise funds to support the nursery school's year-round programming as well as the Scholarship Program. Order forms and money are due Nov. 17. Simply drop your envelope in the nursery school office door slot on the 2nd floor. Delivery will be the week of Dec. 4!



From our sweet tooth to yours, thank you!

PUMPKIN FARM



Our three-year-old students were all smiles as they rolled through Jackson's Pumpkin Farm!



HOMECOMING

Union-Endicott's Homecoming parade was the perfect opportunity to highlight our First Pres. school spirit!

ART LESSONS




Nursery School intern Miss Amy Burke facilitated a leaf art lesson with the Safari Suite!





Donations



HONOR THE LORD
FROM YOUR WEALTH
AND FROM THE FIRST OF
ALL YOUR PRODUCE.

PROVERBS 3:9

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

DOUG KERR, CHAIR OF MISSION & STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Sunday is November 19, 2017.

For some, this is the dreaded Sunday when they feel pressured or “guilted” into making a financial commitment.

For others, it is an opportunity to practice obedience in one of the spiritual disciplines that help us grow as flourishing disciples.

And for some, it is a joyful opportunity to set aside a portion of the blessings they have received from God and commit it toward the building of his Kingdom.

We give and are blessed by God as we pledge to give the first fruits of our time and money back to Him. From a practical point of view, our financial commitment to FPC:E helps us to “Reach more people and together grow in Christ” as we commit to support the life and purpose of this church.

Giving should not be done apart from prayer—both for guidance in our giving and for good fruit to be born from the use of our gifts.

The Mission and Stewardship Committee asks that you start to pray now as you consider your part in supporting our mission and programs. We also ask that you join the rest of the congregation in a 24-hour prayer vigil prior to Stewardship Sunday on

November 19. There will be slips of paper in each bulletin on November 12 asking you to pray for a specific ½-hour within that 24-hour period. If that ½ hour doesn’t work, don’t choose not to pray. Pick another time that does work- God isn’t limited by our clock! If you aren’t in church on November 12, please find time during that 24-hour period to set aside for prayer.

Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce.
— Proverbs 3:9

MAG MEETING

Elders and some staff members from FPC:E met with elders and staff members from FPC: Honesdale for our bi-annual Mission Affinity Group (MAG) gathering. It was a productive day as we got to know each other and our ministry contexts better, studied God's Word and prayed together, and encouraged each Session to set a goal that would help our respective congregations flourish. FPC Honesdale committed to develop a small group ministry in the next year. FPC:Endicott committed to ensure that sharing the Gospel becomes an intentional part of every ministry and mission of FPC:E, based on Romans 1:16- *"I am not ashamed of the Gospel..."* We will use the combined Elder-Deacon-Staff meeting in December to begin to flesh out how this can happen. Other ministry leaders will be invited.

ECO NATIONAL GATHERING

Sharon Early and Jean Jenkins will represent FPC:E as our elder commissioners. Jan, Tim, and several other elders/members of program staff are hoping to attend. The Session set aside funds to help subsidize the trip for participants. ECO is trying to arrange opportunities for people to extend their time in Houston to help with relief efforts following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

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

The Session spent time evaluating our Fall Kick-Off this past September. Rev. Juan Sarmiento blessed, encouraged, and challenged the congregation through worship, two arranged opportunities for interaction, and informal conversations.

The Session reviewed and approved a proposed budget for 2018, which will be sent out to the congregation at the end of October. Many thanks to Art Davis for his tireless work as our church treasurer!

Dave Beers volunteered to serve as the liaison from the Mission and Stewardship Committee to the Samaritan Supper. Session reviewed what is happening at the Samaritan Supper to make it a more intentional ministry to meet spiritual, as well as physical, needs.

The Session discussed how to support the Devine's during Tim's recovery, while at the same time minimizing the impact on the ministry, mission, and life of the congregation.

Brenda Reibson has agreed to extend her time at FPC:E for another month and work 10 hours/week to help Jan with pastoral responsibilities.

Time was set aside at the Session meeting to pray for ministries of the church, future direction, and individuals and specific situations that were on the hearts/minds of the elders.

NOVEMBER

01

6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehear.
7:00pm Session
7:30pm AA Meeting

02

6:15pm Worship Team Rehearsal
7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting

05 **All Saints Day**

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
2:45pm FPC: Youth

06

7:30pm AA Meeting

07

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team Rehearsal
6:30pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Deacons

08

6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehear.
7:30pm AA Meeting

09

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

12 **Congregational Meeting**

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
3:30pm FPC: Youth

13

7:30pm AA Meeting

14

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team Rehearsal
6:30pm AA Meeting

15

6:00am Men's Group
1:00pm Women's Circle
7:00pm STCCC Rehear.
7:30pm AA Meeting

16

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

18 **24-Hour Stewardship Vigil**

19 **Communion Stewardship Dedication**

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
3:30pm FPC: Youth

20

6:30pm NS Parent Council Meeting
7:30pm AA Meeting

21

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team Rehearsal
6:30pm AA Meeting

22

6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehear.
7:30pm AA Meeting

23 **Thanksgiving Office Closed**

7:00pm AA Meeting

24 **Office Closed**

26 **No FPC: Youth**

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

27

1:00pm Women's Club
6:00pm NS Board Meeting
7:30pm AA Meeting

28

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team Rehearsal
6:30pm AA Meeting

29

6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehear.
7:30pm AA Meeting

30

1:00pm Connecting Ministries Team Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting



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