



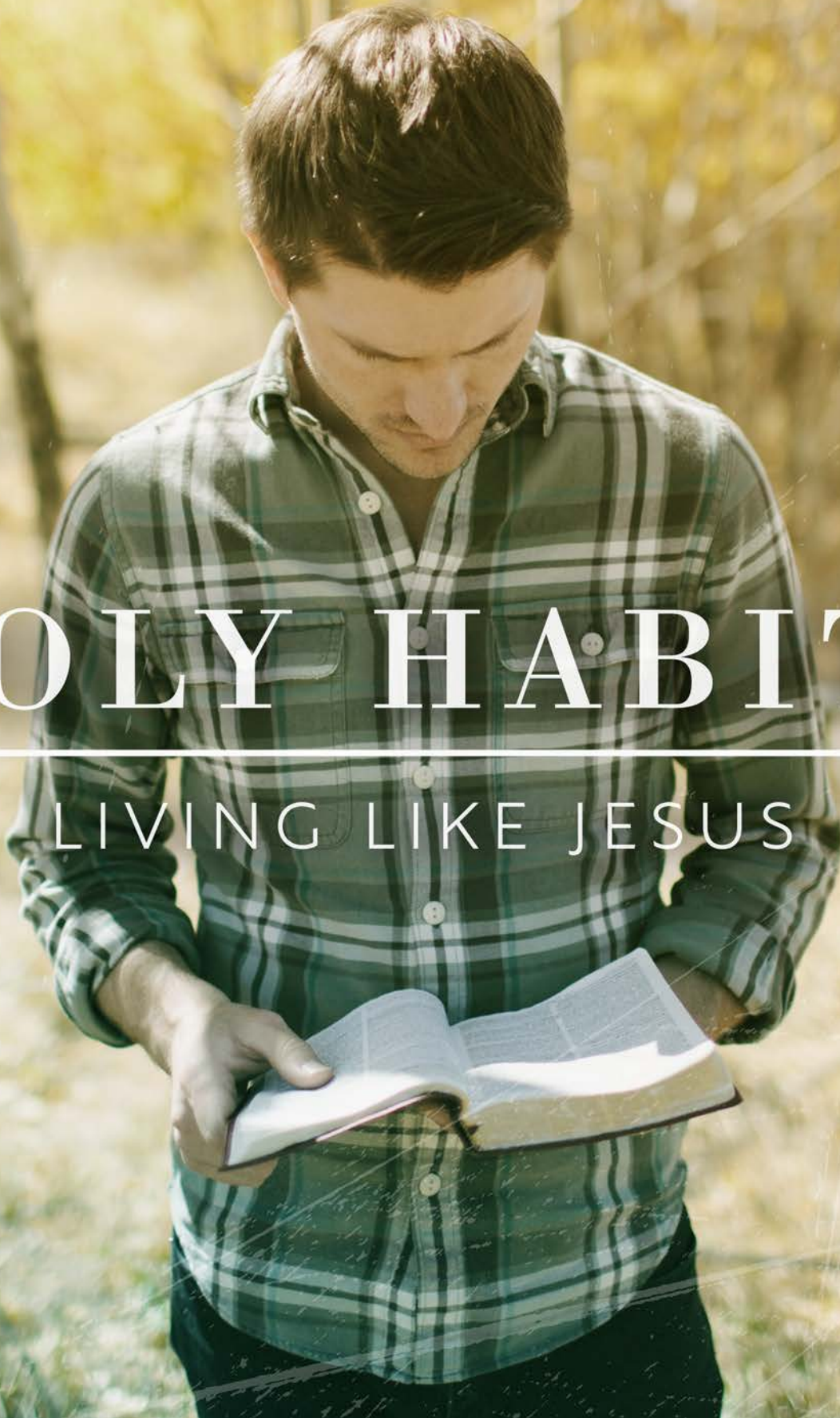
NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

FIRST PRES PRESS

APRIL 2018 EDITION

HOLY HABITS

LIVING LIKE JESUS



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A Note from the Pastors



In recent months, we have been studying the early chapters of the gospel of Matthew, in order to discover what a flourishing disciple looks and acts like.

We began with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), where Jesus described the attitudes and character qualities that are reflected in the lives of flourishing disciples: poor in spirit, meek, merciful, pure in heart, etc.

In the next section of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:17-48), Jesus challenged us to go deeper than mere obedience to God's Law in order to discover God's heart within his Law. . . so that our lives might reflect God's heart.

We spent Lent immersed in the temptations of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11), where we saw how his time in the wilderness clarified the nature of the mission He came to accomplish for our sake. We also learned how Jesus faced and resisted temptations in his life, so we might be able to do the same.

This spring, we are going to continue in the Sermon on the Mount to look at the spiritual practices or holy habits Jesus calls us to nurture, so that we might be conformed to Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual practices are a means to an end; they are not the end itself. Even though they are things we do, the goal is more about *being* than *doing*. We practice these disciplines because they help us be with Jesus, and they help us be more like Jesus. As Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 4, we pursue these holy habits to the end of godliness.

Our Essential Tenets describe it like this:

"In Jesus Christ we see the perfect expression of God's holy will for human beings offered to God in our place. His holy life must now become our holy life. In Christ, God's will is now written on our hearts, and we look forward to the day when we will be so confirmed in holiness that we will no longer be able to sin. As the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, Jesus leads us along the path of life toward that goal, bringing us into ever deeper intimacy with the Triune God, in whose presence is fullness of joy."

— ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

**Train yourself in godliness,
for, while physical training is
of some value, godliness is
valuable in every way,
holding promise for both the
present life and the life to
come.**

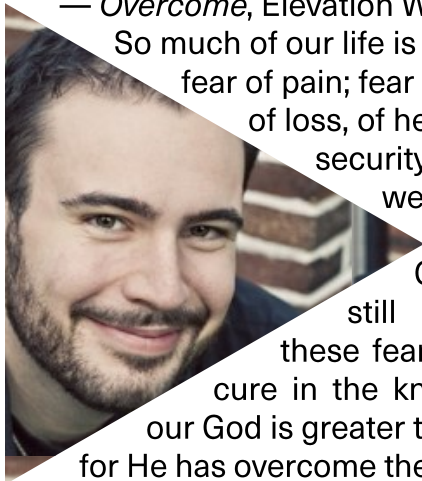
— 1 Timothy 4:7b-8

Jan & Tim

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

"For every fear, there's an empty grave; for the Risen One has overcome."

— *Overcome*, Elevation Worship



So much of our life is spent in fear—fear of pain; fear of failure; fear of loss, of health, of life, of security. And while we as believers in Jesus Christ may still experience these fears, we are secure in the knowledge that our God is greater than our fears, for He has overcome the world. As we celebrate Easter, let us rest in that strong assurance!

Please pray for:

Becky Sutliff and her newborn son, Marco, delivered on February 23 | **Dawn Weber's sister, Norma**, who had surgery | **Dawn Weber**, who is having some health issues | **The family and friends of one of Cody Beblav's employees**, who died suddenly in March | **100+ girls and their families**, following a second wave of school kidnappings by Boko Haram militants in Nigeria | **John King**, who was hospitalized and had to have surgery after a routine procedure | **Harry and Janet Frederick**, as they anticipate Harry undergoing bypass surgery | **Florence ("Happy") Ludlam**, who turned 100 years old on March 7! | **Bob Johnson**, who is recovering from pneumonia, and their son, **Eric**, who was hospitalized in Buffalo with pneumonia | **Linda Fiaschi's father, Bert Sturdevan**, who is recovering from foot surgery at Susquehanna Nursing Home | **Barb Wilcox**, who celebrated her 80th birthday on Mar. 4 | **The Fiaschi family**, as they grieve

the death of Linda's sister-in-law, **Nancy Sturdevan**, on Mar 8 | **Pastor Nissi Daughtry**, who is seeking new medical care and God's healing touch | **Ede Sornberger**, who is recovering from pneumonia | **Shirley Wennegal**, who was taken back to Wilson Hospital for breathing issues | **The family and friends of Haley Anderson**, as they deal with the death of their friend and fellow nursing student at BU | **Jason Mitchell**, who had to return to Syracuse with complications from his ear surgery | **Nathan and Jamie Jacobs's friend, Terra**, who has just been diagnosed with Bell's Palsy late in her pregnancy | **Hemant Tandi**, who is asking for prayers about his work, which takes him away from family and home for weeks at a time | **Linda Glajch's friend, Nancy**, who is dealing with significant losses and was also just diagnosed with breast cancer | **The Devine's next door neighbor, Turina**, who is recovering from a medical emergency | **Sheila Beblav and Connie Stanton's father**, who had surgery in Syracuse | **Neighbors of the Buffington's and Claudia Delafield**, who lost their home and possessions in a house fire. Deacons Missy Goetz and Jeff Willets will accept monetary donations to purchase gift cards. Donations of men's clothing (M-L shirts, 34x30 pants, and 10.5 shoes) may be given to Wendy Buffington | **Doug Kerr**, who praised God for blessed and rare time with his three brothers | **Pastor Nissi**, who praised God for precious time with family and friends as she celebrated her birthday and the anniversary of her ordination | **Jane Sprague**, who gave thanks for the technology that allows her to still be part of this worshiping community when she cannot be physically present in the sanctuary

Marina Bates, as she begins her residential program in Rochester to treat an eating disorder. Cards of encouragement may be sent to:

Marina Bates
Floor 8 Room 26
Golisano Children's Hospital
601 Elmwood Ave
Rochester, NY 14642
Attn: Patient Mail

BUSINESS

Session approved a Communion date change from May 20, 2018 to May 13, 2018.

Session approved an addition to the 2015 Wedding Policies and Procedures dealing with “Modesty and Reverence” – standards for what is considered appropriate attire for the wedding party.

Session approved adding a short meeting to the MAG Spring Gathering on April 21 for Session to address any necessary business for the month of April. The MAG gathering and short business meeting will replace the April 11 scheduled Session meeting.

Session approved advertising to FPC:E teens the “Lifebreath” summer mission trip, an outreach ministry of Grace Ridge Church (formerly FPC:Honesdale), July 8-13, 2018, at The Vineyard Center in Honesdale, PA.

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.



VISIONING

Discussion continued following an initial conversation with youth leaders held on February 25, 2018. The Session is exploring ways to re-think youth ministry in today’s context, including the implementation of the concepts of Sticky Faith (Fuller Youth Institute), the possibility of partnering with a para-church organization, building strong, inter-generational relationships between the youth and adults in the congregation, and finding ways to place youth in significant roles within the life and ministry of FPC:E.

Bruce Barney, House Committee Chair, discussed several possible building updates. They include work in the dining room and lounge, paint/carpet in the pastors’ office, and improvements in the sanctuary.

FPC:E will be hosting the Spring Mission Affinity Group (MAG) Gathering on Saturday, April 21, 2018.

WORSHIP/PRAYER/SCRIPTURE/TEACHING

Elders discussed the three temptations in Matthew 4:1-11 (Power, Prestige, Possessions), focusing on the ways they might be temptations for us as leaders of the church, especially in light of 1 Peter 5:2.

Elders prayed together for individuals and for other areas such as Children’s & Youth Ministry, wisdom as we determine priorities on House Committee, a leader for the Servant-Making Ministry, specific ministries where volunteers are needed, and Holy Week services.



*SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS INTENTIONAL— IT IS NOT
AUTOMATIC, IT IS A CHOICE BY INTENTIONALLY
MAKING COMMITMENTS, BY MAKING A
COVENANT, BY MAKING PRIORITY FOR IT—
YOU ARE AS CLOSE TO GOD AS YOU INTEND
TO BE.— RICK WARREN*

CONNECT

SHARON EARLY

Each Lent when we do a congregation-wide study and encourage people to consider joining a small group, we post our current groups- both those with openings and those at capacity. I typically get questions about why I post the groups that are at capacity. My desire is to show the larger picture— we are a congregation **of** small groups, not just a congregation **with** small groups.

Here at FPC:E, we are serious about developing flourishing disciples, and small groups are an important part of that process. So, it seems like a contradiction that we want flourishing disciples, yet we have groups that are not able to incorporate new members. Why is this?! It is because we value spiritual growth, and we realize from many years of experience that when groups get too big, leaders struggle to keep focus on this value as they work to keep members connected and lead their groups.

So where does that leave us? How do new people plug in? To be honest, this is an area where we struggle, but as I share with small group leaders, by being aware of our challenges, we are better able to proactively overcome them. On our website we have listed “Characteristics of Healthy Small Groups.” We encourage leaders to regularly assess the health of their group and be proactive about addressing any area that is challenging, including group size. It can be more detrimental for a person to join a group that is too large to focus on the spiritual growth of individuals than to wait for the right opportunity.

Generally, we have found that new groups are most successful when people who desire to be in a group come together to form one. We have also had some success when someone feels a call to step away from their existing group to help lead a new group. You might ask, what about groups splitting to be able to incorporate new people? Honestly, that has been by far the least successful, and many times these new groups have not been able to overcome the challenges that crop up.

So now that you hopefully understand some of our background, would you be willing to work with me to be part of the solution to this challenge? If you desire to make group life a priority, this spring would be a great time to “test” being part of a group. There have been a number of thoughts for some potential new groups: from continuing the Sunday morning “No Excuses” group; to some topical groups on marriage or financial stewardship; to intergenerational groups aimed at supporting people of all ages, and in particular, to help our youth develop a “sticky faith” that will remain with them as they grow into new seasons of their life. If any of these group ideas interest you, or if you have another idea, please take time to send me an e-mail (sharon@fpcendicott.org) or call (748-8196), and we can arrange a time to discuss further and see where God leads us this spring!

“...And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives are gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.” — 2 Cor. 3:18 (Message)

CM

CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY

APRIL THEME:

Wisdom comes from God and through his Word.

APRIL 1

HAPPY EASTER!
NO CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY

UPCOMING LESSON SCHEDULE

LESSONS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

APRIL 8

1 KINGS 2:1-4, 10-12,
3:1-15

Solomon asked God for
wisdom to lead God's
people.

APRIL 15

PROVERBS 1:1-7, 3:1-12,
4:10-19

Wisdom is fearing the Lord
and obeying His Word.

APRIL 29

1 KINGS 11-12

God divided Israel into two
kingdoms (the Northern
Kingdom of Israel and the
Southern Kingdom of
Judah) because Solomon
sinned.

APRIL 22

1 KINGS 6-8

God chose Solomon to build
a temple where He would
dwell with His people.



lifebreath missions



- Biblically grounded teachings and worship
- Led by experienced staff with a heart for missions
- Any size group welcome
- Affordably priced at \$239
- Accommodations @ The Vineyard Center, our state-of-the-art ministry facility

Lifebreath Missions, an outreach ministry of [grace ridge church](#), is excited to offer your teens the opportunity to join fellow youth for a weeklong, action-packed mission experience in Wayne County, PA. It's called **alive** and we can't wait to introduce it this summer! We're looking for 75 kids, entering grades 9-12, who are ready to serve, study God's Word and are willing to accept a challenge. Leaders must accompany their teens for the week. Register @[lifebreathmissions.com](#) or call George Maxson @ 570-575-6204 (lifebreathmissions@gmail.com).

Adult mission teams and retreat groups are also welcome year round at our nearby Woodside facility. Contact us to custom build an experience for your team!

[graceridgechurch.com](#) | [lifebreathmissions.com](#)



FELLOWSHIP



SERVICE



WORSHIP

I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. Ezekiel 37:5



YOUTH

APRIL 1

HAPPY EASTER!
NO YOUTH GROUP

HIGH SCHOOL

High School Ministry continues to meet on Sunday mornings from 10:30am-11:50am in the Monroe House. Join them as they continue their study of the Gospel of Luke.

APRIL 8

PIERCE FAMILY HOME
3:00pm-4:30pm

633 Anderson Road, Vestal
Bring a snack, your Bible and friends! If you need a ride, please contact Tina.

APRIL 15

ACTS OF KINDNESS
3:15pm-5:00pm

633 Anderson Road, Vestal
Meet at the church for an afternoon of serving and blessing others.

APRIL 21

NEWSBOYS CONCERT!
4:30pm @ FPC:E

Families and friends are welcome to join us! To help us purchase the correct number of tickets, please let Tina know ASAP if you are coming.



APRIL 29

DUCT TAPE ROUNDUP
3:30pm-5:00pm
At Church

You'll be amazed at just how much we can do and what lessons we can learn from duct tape!

APRIL 22

NO YOUTH GROUP



HUGE SUCCESS!



The 10th Annual Art Show was a huge success! We raised \$1,926.86 for Nursery School Arts Programming. Thank you!



Dental Hygienists Suzanne Manley and Erin Messina discussed oral health with our Threes and Fours classes recently...



SOME PICTURES FROM OUR ART SHOW!



GOLF TOURNEY

Join our effort to help offset preschool tuition costs for area children by rounding up your team for our **6th Annual Janet Cook Scholarship Golf Tournament!**

Thursday June 7 @ Traditions at the Glen 1pm shotgun start with dinner & prizes to follow!

Contact Derek Washburn to register your team: Derek@FirstPresEndicott.org or 748-1744

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 Walter Plante: Along with deep thanks at the time of Bernie Rae's death, Walt wrote: "Please let the congregation know how thankful I am that we had the HONOR and PRIVILEGE of being active members of First Presbyterian Church of Endicott."
- More than 10 years ago, a small circle of knitters gathered in the lounge once a week and knit (or crocheted) shawls. It may sound old fashioned, but it was the beginning of the Prayer

Shawl Ministry at FPC:E. The weekly gathering has passed, but there is renewed interest in starting up the group again and gathering more shawls for those who need a bit of encouragement. The storage cupboard is located in the lounge, to the right of the conference table, and is labeled "Prayer Shawls." If you are planning a visit to someone who is shut in, sick, or in need of our prayers, why not take them a prayer shawl? We have a beautiful selection of shawls; all wrapped and tied with yarn the color of the shawl. Choose one from the cupboard; all we ask is that you sign the clipboard hanging on the door.



*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION SURVEY

*WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF EVALUATING THE BEST WAY(S) TO
DISTRIBUTE THE FPC:E MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO MEET THE NEEDS
OF RECIPIENTS AND AT THE SAME TIME BE GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR
PEOPLE/FINANCIAL RESOURCES.*

*PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW. YOU
MAY EMAIL YOUR RESPONSE TO DEB EICHE (EICHED@STNY.RR.COM),
PUT THIS FORM IN THE OFFERING PLATE/BOX, OR RETURN IT TO THE
CHURCH OFFICE.*

I (We) wish to continue receiving the FPC:E newsletter.

Yes No

If you checked "yes" above, please indicate how you would prefer to receive the newsletter:

I (we) would be glad to pick up my black/white paper copy of the newsletter from the church on a Sunday.

I (we) would like to continue receiving the black/white paper copy of the newsletter in the mail.

I (we) would prefer to be notified by email when the full-color digital newsletter is posted and read it on the church website.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

ENDICOTT PROUD

SHARON EARLY

In the fall of 2016, we did the study “To Transform a City” and began to plug into the group called Endicott Proud. This grassroots organization desires to “transform” Endicott once again into a place where people would desire to live, work, and play. Somehow, I ended up on the beautification committee. I am convinced this is evidence of God’s sense of humor, as He uses us in ways that can only point to God, since I definitely do not have a green thumb!

Last summer, as we experimented with a few events and projects, it became apparent to me that the community does need some respite areas that point back to God and his beauty! You may have noticed that we placed some planters on the corner of McKinley and Monroe. As I would water the plants, I was often surprised that people actually took the time to stop while walking or driving by to say something positive. Why would they even notice? I guess when I started really looking around, there are not a lot of garden areas that “pop” with color in Endicott.

For me, I have always felt closer to God in nature and always wonder how people connect in the city with all the concrete and man-made structures. Maybe this is why I ended up on the beautification committee – to help bring a sense of God’s beauty and care to this city where our church is planted.

That said, we have a few ways that others from our congregation can help out this spring. On May 5, the beautification committee is hosting a winter brush clean-up day to get various garden areas around the village tidied up and ready for spring growth (which will also include working on our church properties). Prior to May 5, **we could use some people who love gardening/landscaping** to help design some areas around the church. We would love to have a colorful garden area on the corner of McKinley and Monroe, since it is a major intersection where people enter the village coming off the highway. I know as I have been traveling recently, I really do notice when a community has made the extra effort to place colorful flowers and plants around, along with areas of respite where people can just sit or wander and feel some peace in the midst of their busy lives.

So, whether you are a master gardener or someone like me who needs to be reminded to water the plants, please consider helping us make our corner of the village a mini-God Garden as a reminder that we care about this community!



APRIL

01 Easter Sunday
No Children's
Ministry
No FPC:Youth
9:00am Worship Service
10:45am Worship Service

02 Office Closed
7:30pm AA Meeting

03
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting

04
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

05
7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

08
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
3:00pm FPC:Youth

09
7:30pm AA Meeting

10
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Deacons

11
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

12
7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

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

16
7:30pm AA Meeting

17
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm CM & Youth Leaders' Meeting
6:30pm AA Meeting

18
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

19
7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

21
9:00am MAG Gathering
1:30pm Session Meeting
4:30pm FPC:Youth @ Newsboys Concert

22 No FPC:Youth
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

23
6:00pm NS Board Meeting
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

24
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting

25
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

26
6:00pm NS Conscious Discipline
7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

28
7:00pm STCCC Spring Concert

29
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
3:30pm FPC:Youth

30
7:30pm AA Meeting



FPC:ENDICOTT

29 GRANT AVE.

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