



NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

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TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO,
AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT
PROVERBS 22:6

STICKY FAITH: A FALL SERMON SERIES

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A Note from the Pastors



The Power of Investment

*"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."
(John 15:8)*

Jan's father was an electrical engineer who spent his whole life working at General Electric. He believed in GE, its products and its work. GE did good work and had a big influence on people's lives. Jan's dad invested in GE stock, and he gave some shares to his five children. From time to time we would ask him if we ought to diversify. His careful answer was, "GE is already very diversified. If GE stock tanks, it will be because the whole economy has crashed." For a long time, his evaluation was right. For over a century, GE was an original member of the elite Dow Jones Industrial Average. Fifteen years ago it was the world's most valuable public company. For decades it performed well and bore good fruit for those who invested in GE stock.

And then GE fell on hard times. Some of their divisions did not perform as expected, the demand for other businesses fell, profits were weak, and the value of GE stock plummeted. This summer, GE lost its coveted spot on the Dow. Company officials and investors alike realize that dramatic changes are needed if GE is to regain its health and profitability.

The analogy isn't perfect, but maybe we ought to look at the American church in terms of an investment as well. We believe in the Church, its work, and the God for whom we work. For years, the Church has done good work and had a big influence on people's lives. The Church, including FPC:E, had a plan that seemed to work: make the church the center of people's social life. Have good music, faithful preaching, a strong Sunday School, and an exciting youth ministry. Invest in those things, and you will raise up children, teens, and adults who become devoted Christ-followers.

In the last couple of decades, it has become clear that the American church is not performing as expected. The demand for our programs and activities has fallen; in spite of large investments, our profits (committed disciples) have been weak; and in the eyes of our culture, the value of the church has plummeted. We- the investors- are slowly realizing that something has to change if the church is to regain its health and positive influence on the world around us.

These changes are hard. They will involve loss before we will realize gain. They will cause us to grieve what used to be but no longer is. We will want to push back against changes that take away what is familiar and dear to us. Yet, it is important to remember the truth that early Christians knew- the church exists primarily for those who are not already Christ-followers, not chiefly to keep its members comfortable and happy.

So, how are we going to invest in new ways to get different results? How can we reach those who have no interest in coming to a church? How can we nurture an authentic faith within our children and teens that will become their own? How can we show our neighbors, co-workers, and classmates the heart of God? Together, let us continue to build on the investments of those who came before us so that we can invest in reaching a new generation of disciples.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Please pray for:

Ford Drake, who has started treatment for prostate cancer. | **Grace King**, who has begun treatment for a reoccurrence of cancer. | **Jordan Wilson and her family**, as they grieve the death of Jordan's maternal grandfather. | **Claudia Delafield**, who was treated for fluid buildup around her heart. | **Brian Dean's brother-in-law, Dave**, who had bypass surgery. | **Billy Beardsley**, who celebrates more than 400 days nicotine-free. | **William Wilson**, who left on September 7 to begin the Army basic officer leader course (BOLC) in Ft. Lee Virginia. | The family, friends, and students of **Cassandra Cline** who are grieving her death, and for **Val O'Neill**, who has been part of our nursery school for over a decade and is now filling Mrs. Cline's position as a kindergarten teacher. | The **Cady/Kintner family**, as they grieve the death of Meaghan's grandmother, **Dora Bimmler**. | **Carole Cockrell's brother-in-law, Jim**, who is having memory issues. | **Kailey Huff**, who spent time in the hospital due to illness. | **Doug Kerr**, who spent two weeks serving in Kenya. | The family and friends of **Florence Ludlam ("Happy")**, who passed away on September 3 at the age of 100. A witness to the resurrection was held at her home church, the UCC Church in Greene, NY. | The family and friends of **Sharon Drake**, who passed away on Sep. 21, just weeks after being diagnosed with cancer. | **Blanche Gardner**, who has moved back to the area and was able to join us for worship. | Friends of Barry and Ann Driggs, who are experiencing medical issues: **Pat**

and **Jim, Dick and Sue**. | **Lynn and Carol Smith**, who celebrated their 50th anniversary on Sep. 21. | **The Driggs and the Drakes**, who give thanks for the care of the congregation as they go through a difficult season of life. | **Meghan Farrell and John Reed**, who became engaged recently. | **The family of Susan Green**, who passed away on 9/17. A memorial service was held in the Chapel. | **Nancy Slater and family**, as they grieve the death of her nephew, **Chuck**. | **The Jephson family**, during these last days of Helen's life. | **Gloria Johnston's Aunt Joyce** and all those affected by flooding. | **Bob King**, who is making slow progress at the Cleveland Clinic, with the hope of returning home for rehab. | **Jon Yerger**, who was released from rehab. | **Paul and Adele Everett**, who have experienced flooding in their home, work place, and horse farm! | **Pam and Art Davis**, who celebrate 50 years of marriage on Oct. 6. | **Bev Conklin's daughter, Kathy**, who had surgery on both feet. | **Karen Castoro's friend, Michelle**, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. | **John, the Eiche's relative by marriage**, who has been hospitalized to diagnose a serious health issue. | **MacKenzie Huff**, who was named 2018 Youth of the Year at the Boys and Girls Club. | We received **thanks from Faith Christian Fellowship Church** in Apalachin for our support during their recent flooding.



Florence Ludlam

Mar 7, 1918

—
Sep 3, 2018



Sharon Drake

Oct 17, 1948

—
Sep 21, 2018

DEVOTION

Elder Jean Jenkins led our opening devotion on prayer. She stated that “prayer needs to be the steering wheel of the church, not the spare tire,” followed with the reading of John 14:13. She continued her devotion with “Jesus’ Teaching on Prayer” which included the following readings:

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. (John 14:12-14)

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (John 15:4-5, 7)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. (John 15:16)

Jean then asked the Elders the following questions:

Does our experience with prayer match Jesus’ teaching?

What does it mean to pray in Jesus’ name?

What needs to change so that our experience with prayer conforms to Jesus’ teaching?

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

Session approved the hosting of the May 18, 2019 Cornerstone Presbytery meeting at FPC:E.
— Session approved David Meza as the commissioner for the October 5-6 Presbytery Meeting at Cohoes PC, with

Jean Jenkins as the back-up.

— Session approved the Chancel Choir and Music Ministry recommendation to donate unused choir robes to church we will help build in Kenya in February.

— Session approved Mission and Stewardship Committee’s recommended allocation of undesignated SA causes funds for a total of \$11,000.

— Session approved the purchase of new ceiling tiles for the lounge and new dining room chairs. Also, they approved the purchase of new end tables and lamps for the lounge area. These purchases will be covered using funds from the renovation donations.

— Session approved additional funds for remote access of our security system and another outdoor camera. FPC:E and the Nursery School have shared the cost of these two projects.

VISIONING

Elders read parts of chapter 4, *Gospel Centered Church*. They discussed the following question: Are there communities in our area that are not being reached with the gospel because we are fearful of leaving our comfort zone?

CONNECT



DISCIPLESHIP IS GOD'S MEANS OF CHANGING THE WORLD. WE CALL IT MENTORING, THE BIBLE CALLS IT DISCIPLING, AND IT'S STILL HOW GOD IS ASKING US TO SPEND OUR LIVES. – FROM IF:GATHERING

We have heard from some younger members of our congregation that they are looking to be mentored. This may go against what you expect from that generation since the media portrays them as self-centered and the “Me Generation.” But when Christ gets ahold of you, there is a desire to be transformed into a new creation. This can be very difficult for most to go against society, your existing friends/family, and even your world view to become that new creation. This is why I believe one of the reasons God created a community of faithful followers is for us to come alongside others and be an encouragement when the going gets tough along that transformation process.

Last month I used the image of a caterpillar which in some ways can be that image of being self-centered (all it does all day is eat, eat, eat and is typically hidden from the world.) This month, I am using the image of the monarch butterfly. It has become transformed and now is a creation that is not hidden amongst the leaves but is free to fly about. It also has a mission to fly from where it emerged to a new mission field. That



transformation and mission is instinctual and an amazing example of our God's creativity. Unfortunately for humans, while we are given the incredible gift of the Holy Spirit when we become Christians, many of us struggle to remain in tune to His leadings and promptings for our life's mission. For me, having others who have invested in me has helped me continue to listen to where He is leading me and has been invaluable for the direction my life has taken.



So my question this month is who are you investing in? Small Groups are one way to intentionally set aside time to connect and walk alongside others. Micro-groups can be an even more purposeful discipling experience with a set of common goals and intimacy that may not be found within a small group. One-on-one mentoring takes intentionality even further with a commitment by both to spend time working toward a common Spiritual goal. In numerous places in Scripture the mentoring relationship is encouraged to bring about life change that benefits the Kingdom:

“Likewise, tell the older women to be reverent in behavior, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be self-controlled, chaste, good managers of the household, kind, being submissive to their husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited.” — Titus 2:3-5

“Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.” — Proverbs 27:17

“Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.” — Proverbs 22:6

All of us need mentorship along with being a mentor to someone else. My prayer for FPC:E is that we are serious about our discipling to such an extent we invest in a generation behind us and continually learn from a generation ahead of us!

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Each year on All Saints' Sunday (this year it's Nov. 4) we remember and honor the members of First Presbyterian Church: Endicott who have died in the past year. We also offer the opportunity for “friends and family of the congregation” to be remembered as well. This year we are again offering the option of showing a photograph of the deceased during a special “Time of Remembrance” in each service. To submit the name of a loved one who has died since All Saints' Sunday 2017 (Nov. 5), please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by Thursday, November 1.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 2018

Name: _____

Date of death: _____

Submitted by: _____

Relationship to deceased: _____

Photograph included

CM CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

TRY THIS

One way we can help to ensure a sticky faith in young people is to celebrate their faith journey and, as we do so, share our own faith story. Whether your kids are still little or are soon to leave the nest, why not try creating a Faith Journey journal or memory book with them. In it, record both those exciting moments and steps where their faith was impacted and blossomed as well as those moments where they asked big questions or faced struggles and the ways you worked through them.

As you do this together over the years, I pray there will be opportunity for you to share your own story. I'd also encourage you to list the people who poured into your kids and helped to shape their faith. Seek out intentional times for these people to share their stories with your kids. These honest stories of joys and challenges demonstrate how faith is alive; always changing, always growing. Furthermore, it gives young people a safe space to develop their faith, a sticky faith that lasts. When they have established that sticky faith, they can then, in time, pass that sticky faith along to another generation of believers.

OCT. 7

ELISHA AND NAAMAN
2 Kings 5

OCT. 14

GOD CALLED ISAIAH
Isaiah 6

OCT. 21

ISAIAH PREACHED
ABOUT THE MESSIAH
Isaiah 53

OCT. 28

HEZEKIAH, JUDAH'S
FAITHFUL KING
2 Kings 18-19

OCTOBER MEMORY VERSE

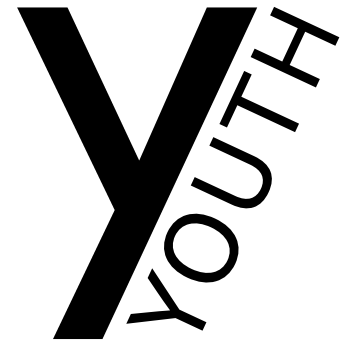
DEUTERONOMY 7:9

"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments."

ROCK MOUNTAIN FALL OVERNIGHTER

OCT. 19-20

Open for anyone in grades 3-6. Cost: \$20/child.
To sign up, see Tina Ide for registration forms.



SUNDAY MORNINGS

10:30am— Middle and High School Gathering

11:00am— Middle School | Jr. High Room |
Lessons will follow the Children's Ministry
schedule

11:00am— High School | Monroe House |
Students are digging deep into the Gospel of
John this year

YOUNG LIFE

Young Life Club: Sat, Oct. 13 6:30-8:00pm
High School Students, Location TBD

Young Life Retreat: Fri.-Sun., Nov. 16-18
High School Students. Details to come.

STICKY FAITH GATHERINGS

Come one, come all to our next Sticky Gathering on Saturday, October 27. Meet at the Jacobs's home in Binghamton. This is a great time for everyone in our church to gather together and enjoy fellowship together. See page 10 for more info.



FPC:E COMMUNITY

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

- **10/28, 3pm- Ordination of Brenda Riebson @ Mountain Presby. Church, Sunbury.** To car-pool, please speak with Jan or Nathan. We will be leaving from FPC:E about 11:00.
- **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.
- **Sticky Faith Gathering- Oct. 27, 4pm, The Jacobs's home** 97 Lathrop Rd., Binghamton, NY 13903. This time around we will be doing some fun fall activities- carving pumpkins, doing hayrides for the kids, having a chili cookoff, and capping the time with a campfire. Each of our gatherings has been a blast, so

mark the date on your calendar and come on out to build our community! More details and directions will be coming in bulletins later this month.

OCTOBER

01

12:00pm House Comm.
7:30pm AA Meeting

02

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

03

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

04

5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting

05

Presbytery Meeting

06

Presbytery Meeting

07

Worldwide Communion

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

08

7:30pm AA Meeting

09

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

10

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

11

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

14

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

15

4:00pm Endicott Proud
7:30pm AA Meeting

16

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

17

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

18

5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting

19

Rock Mountain Fall Overnighter

20

7:00pm Devine-Loughridge Wedding

21

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

22

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

23

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:00pm NS Board Meeting
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting

24

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

25

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

27

4:00pm Sticky Faith Gathering @ The Jacobs's House

28

ATOB Playing @ 10:45 Service

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
3:00pm Brenda Reibson Ordination @ Mountain Pres.

29

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

30

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

31

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