




NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

FIRST PRES PRESS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019 EDITION



Dust In the Wind

A Study of Ecclesiastes

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A Note from the Pastors



DUST IN THE WIND: A STUDY OF ECCLESIASTES

At the beginning of a new year, we take stock of our lives and make all sorts of plans and resolutions to make the coming year different.

At the end of his life, the teacher of Ecclesiastes sat back and took stock of his days. As he reflected on the mysteries, questions, and struggles in life, his conclusion was that the things we pursue are fleeting. Our own efforts are destined to be short-lived, unless we do them being mindful of God— knowing Him, fearing (revering) Him, thanking Him, and enjoying every good thing as a gift from God's hand.

As we begin 2019, do you want to find meaning in life? Are you looking for purpose? Something to fill the emptiness? Something that will give you real contentment? Then let's learn from the guy who tried it all . . . and finally found what truly satisfies.

January 6,	"Everything Seems Meaningless!"	Introduction and Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
January 13	"Is There Meaning to Life?"	Ecclesiastes 1:12 – 2:26
January 20	"The Unfairness of Life: Transience, Injustice, Oppression and Loneliness"	Ecclesiastes 3 & 4
January 27	"The Unfairness of Life: Irreverence, Inequality, and Obscurity"	Ecclesiastes 5 & 6
February 3	Heritage Sunday	10am- United Service; 11:15- Annual Cong. Meeting; 12:30- Luncheon
February 10	"Figuring Out How to Live"	Ecclesiastes 7 & 8
February 17	"Figuring Out How to Live, Part 2"	Ecclesiastes 9-11:8
February 24	"A Word to the Young"	Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8
March 3	"The Summation of the Whole Matter"	Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Please pray for:

Saima and Hemant Tandi, as they travel to India to share the gospel and undergird the ministry and mission of GPMO | **Wyatt Cady**, who had an ENT procedure to put tubes in his ears | **James Hogancamp**, who spent time in the hospital for an infection | **Dick Campbell**, who had carpal tunnel surgery on both hands | **Jon Yerger**, who was able to come home following surgery | **GJ**, a 29-year-old friend of the Melrose family, who had surgery again for an aggressive brain tumor | Praise for the opportunity to prepare gift bags, visit, carol, and pray with 30+ people/families during **Loving Hands** | **Carole Cockrell**, as she grieves the death of her son, Rick Card | **John Miller**, a friend of Gordie Pollard, who is struggling for his life | **April**, as she asks for God's help to be a godly person and mother, and for her friend, **Jeremy**, as he faces surgery | We give thanks for the **testimony of the Southern Tier Community Christian Choir** during their Christmas concert | Dawn Weber's daughter, **Heather**, who celebrated her 33rd birthday | We give thanks that the treatments **Grace King** is receiving have reduced the size of her tumor | We give thanks that **Bob King** is well enough to return to church after six months of battling illness | Virginia Ulsh's great-grandson, **Collen** (5), who was diagnosed with leukemia | **The Goetz family**, who celebrated the marriage of Missy's daughter Sue to Bill Mansfield | **Cindy Kerr**, sister-in-law of Doug and Liz, who had surgery for a lesion in her lung | **Ede Sornberger**, who spent time in the hospital to treat the beginning of

congestive heart failure | **Ann Driggs**, who was hospitalized after a fall, and then went to rehab at Binghamton General to heal | **Billy Beardsley**, who recovered at Ideal from a bout of pneumonia | **Dawn Weber**, as she grieves the death of her sister-in-law, Sheila | Jeremy Finn's father, **Gary**, who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer | **John Dowd**, a friend of the Mansfields, who had a valve replacement | **Laura Shafer**, who is recovering from a hip replacement | For the **family and friends of Chris Geiger**, who passed away last week | **Erin Schrader's father, Ray Harrison**, who is dealing with several serious health issues | **Kathryn Kerr and Jason Aleba**, who celebrate their recent engagement | **Tedd Preisendanz**, who had heart surgery and has been cleared for a heart transplant | **The family of Joan Bucek**, the grandmother of Nathan Jacobs' high school friend, as they grieve her unexpected death | **Carol and Steve Sweeney and their family**, as they grieve the death of Steve's mom, **Ann Sweeney**

A Note from the Driggs

We (Barry and Ann) appreciate all who are providing help and support during Ann's ongoing medical issues, which included recent stays at two hospitals. Many excellent meals were provided at our home, along with visits both at home and while in the hospitals, as well as telephone calls, cards, and ongoing prayers. The treatment at the hospitals has been completed and she has been released back to our home.

BUSINESS

Session approved the recommendation of the elders involved in meeting with new members to welcome Joan Bice, Tina Ide, Ben Loughridge, Carol Sweeney and Steve Sweeney as Covenant Partners on Dec. 9, 2018.

New officers were examined by sitting elders on Jan. 9, and had an initial training on Jan. 13, 2019.

New officers will be ordained/installed on Jan. 20, 2019.

VISIONING

Rev. Dr. Timothy Devine led the discussion on Chapter 6, "Mission Without Fear," from *Gospel Centered Church*.

The chapter focused on Matthew 25:14-30 and the willingness of the three servants to take risks and use their gifts to honor their master. The book led us through discussion about the importance of seeking God's will, taking risks, learning from our failures, and having both risk-takers and cautious people in the process.

Program staff have been intentionally talking and praying recently about what our church could and should be doing in the community and outside the church walls. Staff members present shared their thoughts. We spent time as a group praying into "Do we, as the spiritual leaders of FPC:E, believe God is calling us to do more than we are doing for the lost?" A 24-hour visioning retreat is being planned for January at Honesdale.

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.



JOINT MEETING

The annual joint meeting of elders, deacons, and program staff was held on Dec. 5, 2018 at the old DMV Building on Washington Ave. in Endicott. We met there because the focus of the gathering was to have a time of conversation and prayer about how God might be leading FPC:E to go beyond our walls to reach the community around us with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Following a time of refreshments and fellowship, the group met the owner of the building, Dominic Fata. Together with Dominic, we talked about the history and many uses of this building across the memory span of those present, because it represents the transitions of our community as a whole.

Elder David Meza then opened with a devotion called "Adoration of God" from Timothy Keller's *Book on Prayer*. Dave began by reading Matthew 6:5-13, "Jesus teaches about prayer." He shared thoughts from Timothy Keller's book on the Lord's Prayer, emphasizing our need to "hallow" (praise) God first and foremost. Learning to praise will change us all.

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to the faithful servants who have served our church as elders and deacons and have completed their terms of active duty:
Elders: Joshua Luce
Deacons: Jane Kamper, Lorie Sholett

CONNECT



*“YET WHEN I SURVEYED ALL THAT MY HANDS
HAD DONE AND WHAT I HAD TOILED TO
ACHIEVE, EVERYTHING WAS MEANINGLESS,
A CHASING AFTER THE WIND; NOTHING WAS
GAINED UNDER THE SUN.”*
– ECCLESIASTES 2:11

To be honest, starting out the new year studying Ecclesiastes can be dangerous for me if I take it purely at face value. When I focus on the meaninglessness that the author highlights, I can quickly spiral into wondering why I do anything, since in the end it can be looked at as meaningless. I need to constantly remind myself to keep an eternal perspective: *I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it* — Ecclesiastes 3:14a.

This can be difficult unless I constantly remind myself that “I am uniquely gifted, called to a purpose: to know Him and make Him known” (from a sermon “Good News” by Eric Folkers). Eric highlighted the passage from the birth narrative regarding the shepherds from Luke 2: 8-20. It resonated with me, since the daily grind of being a shepherd could be looked at as meaningless, yet he revealed how the shepherds were prepared to see the extraordinary in the ordinary. They kept watch, believed and went expectantly, shared the news (our story matters – share it!), and then returned with praise and thanks! *“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them”* – Luke 2:20. Their response was to go back to work (go back to the mundane) with a transformed expectation of purpose. We must respond to God!

So what does that say for me in the new year?! I need to be prepared and look for where God is at work. Keep expecting and watching for God to break through the mundane with the extraordinary! How do I keep prepared and watchful? By being an active participant in my small group/micro-group. I need to keep looking expectantly for where God desires me to use my unique giftedness to bring Christ to where I am right now! By nurturing my walk with others, it helps me dig deeper into Scripture and allow it to mold and shape me. Too often on my own, I will skip the tough questions, the wrestling with what Scripture is speaking to me— especially when it is a familiar passage. My greatest growth has been studying with others and keeping each other accountable to what we discern together is being revealed to us. If you aren’t currently in a small group/micro-group, it is never too late: 1) Grab a partner and finish the “Dust in the Wind” Ecclesiastes study with someone. 2) Pray about what group you could join when Lenten groups start in March or if you are called to shepherd a group! 3) Above all else, be convicted that you are uniquely gifted and called to a purpose right here and now – To Know Him and Make Him Known!



CATCHIN' SNOWFLAKES



Nursery School registration & tours for the 2019-20 school year are in full swing!

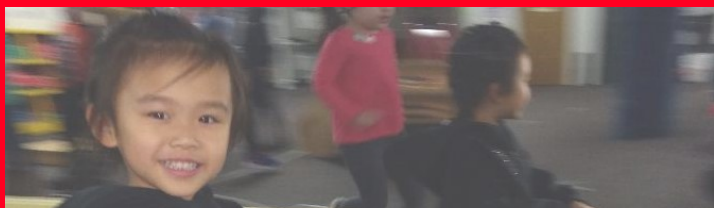
Download a registration form off our website at:
nurseryschool.firstpresendicott.org
or call the nursery school office at 607.748.1744.

Calling all three, four, and five-year-olds to come join our fun!



ART SHOW

Calling all FPC:E families! Would you like to donate one of your creations for our Silent Art Auction on Friday February 22? The nursery school would love to highlight your talent and would appreciate your donation. An Artist Donation Form may be picked up at the Information Desk. All proceeds benefit the nursery school's Arts Program.



Dramatic play at its best during our field trips to the Discovery Center..."Do you have any coupons, Miss?"

TRY THIS AT HOME!

Quick! In the next 30 seconds, say all the words that come to mind when I say "Valentine's Day." As more and more emphasis gets placed upon the romantic aspect of this holiday, we can often forget what is truly at the heart of it: selfless love. While the specific origin of this holiday is a bit of a mystery, what we do know is the day celebrates Valentine, a priest who selflessly helped his fellow man. That, right there, is something we can all embrace, especially because this type of love reflects our God and Creator who selflessly gave his whole self to save you and me.

So let's celebrate and demonstrate this love:

1. Have a family challenge seeing who can find the most Bible passages that talk about love.
2. Read the Easter story and/or 1 Corinthians 13 to be reminded of God's selfless love.
3. Throughout the week or month, write each other notes of love, affirmation and encouragement, posting them on each person's bedroom door.
4. Write notes/valentines to people in your church, your school or your community whom you appreciate (teachers, pastors, policemen, librarians, etc.).
5. Serve your neighbors by shoveling their snow, bringing them a meal or something sweet.
6. Get creative! Who needs to know about God's love and how can you bring that love to them?

JANUARY LESSON THEME

Judah continued in sin and was removed from the land. Even during the captivity, God used Ezekiel to foretell the coming of Jesus, in whom people can find new life.

FEBRUARY LESSON THEME

Jesus demonstrated from a young age that He understood His role as God's Son. When Jesus was baptized, God confirmed his sonship. Jesus was subsequently tempted by Satan, but He did not sin.

FEBRUARY MEMORY VERSE

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13
(NIV)

"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."



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 working through chapters 3-5 of
the Gospel of John

YOUNG LIFE CLUB

January 19

February 2

February 16

6:30pm-8:00pm; Locations TBA

For more details about Club nights, see
Meg Mansfield or connect with
Binghamton YoungLife on Instagram
(greaterbinghamtonyl).

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, February 9 – Youth Ski Trip. Details coming soon!

March 8-10– THAW Retreat: Middle and High School students are headed to Rock Mountain Bible Camp for a weekend of faith and fun.

Subsidized Cost: \$40.

For registration forms, see Tina.





FPC:E COMMUNITY

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

• **Do you have skeins of yarn that you are not using?**

A number of people in our congregation use their gift of needlework to make prayer shawls, baby blankets and hats for the preemies in Wilson's NICU, and lap robes for senior citizens. Your donations would be appreciated!

• **SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 3, 2019- HERITAGE SUNDAY**

On February 3, we will gather for a shared worship service, our annual congregational meeting, and a time for table fellowship.

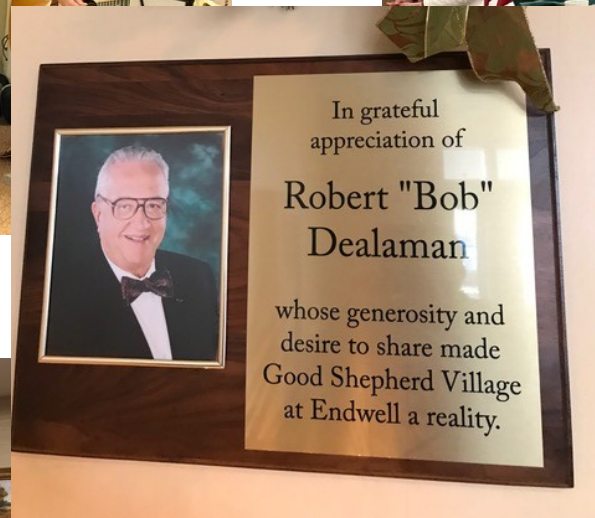
This year, we are going to take time to reflect upon and celebrate our long and rich history, because we build upon that foundation as we move into the future and respond to the continuing call of God.

- **SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 1, 2019- NIGHT OF WORSHIP** Looking for another connecting point to invite your friends outside of our Sunday morning worship services?! Join us here at FPC:E on Friday, Mar. 1, at 7:00pm for a night of praise and worship! All are welcome as we spend time in intentional prayer, reading Scripture, and extended music. Invite your friends, especially those you have been looking for an opportunity to

invite sometime other than Sunday morning.

- We mark the beginning of Lent with our **Agape Supper on Mar. 6**. What better way to celebrate human love than by celebrating God's "agape" (unconditional) love for us? *We love because He first loved us.* – 1 John 4:19. The Body of Christ- singles, couples, families, friends and guests- will gather in the dining room at 6pm for a simple meal, short service, and fellowship. Childcare will be available after the meal. More information will come in February.

FUN FROM THE FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



MISSION FOCUS

KENYA

On Sunday, February 10, 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 school.



A QUICK NOTE

Dear church family,

A team of 11 will be traveling to Kenya in February 2019, and as in past visits, the team would love to spread some love and joy to the Kenyan children they will have the pleasure of spending time with. You are invited to help by donating any of the following items: pens, pencils, hand-held pencil sharpeners, loose-leaf lined binder paper and binders, Bible story books, books for the Linda Ross Memorial Library at a girls' boarding high school, deflatable soccer balls (easy for travel) and manual air pumps, Frisbees, Christian posters or banners, inflatable world globes, new or gently used shoes, and last but not least, new or gently used boys clothes; ages 4-17. Anything you are able to donate to this very special mission would be greatly appreciated and put to good use. Tangible donations can be dropped off in the copier room by Friday, February 1 at the latest. Monetary gifts can be given to the church with "2019 Kenya Trip" in the memo.

God's blessings to all,
Erica Gallo

JANUARY

01 **New Year's Day**
Office Closed

6:30pm AA Meeting

02

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

03

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

06 **Communion**

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

07

7:30pm AA Meeting

08

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

09

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

10

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

11

6:30pm Youth Nerf War Night

13

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

14

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

15

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

16

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

17

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

20 **Ordination/ Installation**

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
12:15pm Kenya Meeting

21

7:30pm AA Meeting

22

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

23 **Staff/Elder Visioning**

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

24 **Staff/Elder Visioning**

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

27

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

28 **ECO National Gathering**

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

29 **ECO National Gathering**

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

30 **ECO National Gathering**

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

31 **ECO National Gathering**

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

FEBRUARY

C A L E N D A R

02 **Kenya Packing Day**

03 **Heritage Sunday Communion**
10:00am United Worship Service
11:15am Annual Meeting
12:30pm Luncheon

04
7:30pm AA Meeting

05
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Deacons

06
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm Session
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

07
7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

09 **Youth Ski Day**

10 **Kenya Team Commissioned**
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

11 **Kenya Trip**
7:30pm AA Meeting

12 **Kenya Trip**
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting

13 **Kenya Trip**
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

14 **Kenya Trip**
7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

15 **Kenya Trip**

16 **Kenya Trip**

17 **Kenya Trip JD Paff Preaching**
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

18 **Kenya Trip Presidents' Day**
7:30pm AA Meeting

19 **Kenya Trip**
4:00pm Endicott Proud
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting

20 **Kenya Trip**
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

21 **Kenya Trip**
7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

22 **Kenya Trip**
6:00pm NS Art Show

23 **Kenya Trip**

24
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

25
12:00pm Women's Club
7:30pm AA Meeting

26
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
6:00pm NS Board Meeting
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting

27
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal
7:30pm AA Meeting

28
7:00pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

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