



NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

FIRST PRES PRESS

APRIL 2019 EDITION

HOLY WEEK PREVIEW

THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Worship Services:

Palm Sunday– 9:00am and 10:45am

Maundy Thursday Living Last Supper Drama– 7:30pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Worship– 7:30pm


Easter Sunday– 9:00am and 10:45am

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AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Please pray for:



Alisha Finn's mother, **Sue Pridmore**, who was hospitalized | Jeremy Finn's father, **Gary**, who is battling pancreatic cancer | **Pastor Nissi Daughtry**, who had wrist surgery on March 1 | Missy Goetz' friend, **Peg**, who had brain surgery | We give thanks that **Ford Drake** had good results from his follow-up after cancer treatments | **Jane Kamper's extended family** as they grieve the sudden death of her cousin, **Jeff** | **Jim Eckert**, who received two stents during an emergency heart catheterization | **Rob Helms's brother**, who has given his life to Christ! | Thanksgiving for the Night of Worship on Mar. 1 | YoungLife Leader **Ken Smith**, as he recovers from two heart attacks | Former FPC:E participant, **John Caveny**, who is dealing with health issues | **Claudia Delafield**, who has been ill | **Ken**, a friend of Carole Cockrell, who is experiencing back issues | **Nancy Banks Mills**, daughter of former pastor, Dr. Henry Clay Banks, upon the death of her sister, **Lois Jeanne**, on Feb. 16 | **Billy Beardsley**, as he begins radiation treatment | David Beers's sister, **Cathy**, whose liver is seriously compromised | Linda Willet's mom, **Betty Atwood**, who was hospitalized with unstable angina | The Meza's neighbor, **Jan**, who is undergoing chemotherapy | **Maria**, a neighbor of Carole Cockrell, who is having health issues | **Sreelekha Kolluru**, a friend of the Tandis, who celebrates God's

healing touch upon her following a brain injury | **Abby and Kevin Cutler**, and big sister **Bailee**, as they welcomed **Emmy and Tyler** into their family on March 13! | Bryan Early's father, **Neil Early**, who was hospitalized with pneumonia and influenza | **Pastor Nissi**, who celebrated the anniversary of her ordination and birthday | **Easton Kamper**, who will be able to be weaned off his seizure medication | The Barney's have been blessed (again) by the recent engagement of their son **Oliver** to **Rachel Boddie**! God is Good! The wedding is being planned for mid-September.

NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENT

We are beginning to shift how often the newsletter will be created and what the goal of producing it will be. April will be our last regular monthly newsletter, as we focus on the Lent/Easter season.

From that point on, we will create newsletters strategically to highlight things like the vision of the church, a large church-wide season or event, or an important communication about the church and its impact on different ministries/missions.

The congregation will continue to have access to current information through many channels such as the bulletin, emails, website, Weekend Update, Facebook, Instagram, phone, and personal conversations.

CONNECT

Red Letter Challenge: An Ongoing Way of Life

As I write, we are three weeks into the Red Letter Challenge, and we have been hearing good feedback of people going “All In.”

Below are just a few:

- + Manny and Erica Gallo literally took the plunge and had a little fun at the beginning of the challenge (video posted to Facebook and Instagram, if you haven't seen it).
- + Some families are doing the challenge together daily.
- + Individuals are practicing the Spiritual Disciplines- some for the first time, while others are working on making them a habit.
- + People are wrestling with what it means to forgive themselves and others.



None of these things will mean anything, however, if this is only a “40-Day Challenge” and afterwards we return to our old patterns of behavior. Therefore, I challenge us to continue our “Red Letter Challenge” right into Holy Week and beyond, by processing what we just learned from Jesus on **Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going**:

Palm Sunday as Jesus weeps over the city (Luke 19:28-44). Have we allowed our hearts to be shaped (**Being**) in such a way that we weep over our city? What does it mean to be **Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going** to our city?!

Maunder Thursday- The Last Supper Drama & Good Friday- Tenebrae – Are we like the disciples: Wondering if we will betray Jesus? Worried that our loyalty to Jesus will fade when confronted by difficulties in life? Where does that happen on a daily basis in the **5 areas** we just studied?

Easter Sunday and the Resurrection- Does our amazement and wonder that “*God so loved the world (us) that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*” (John 3:16) shape our lives in such a way that we overflow in how we **Be, Forgive, Serve, Give, and Go**?!

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and followers and continued to pour into them, speaking words of encouragement and instruction so that they might be strengthened to go out and share the good news of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Will we allow ourselves to be strengthened by his words (**BE**) and **GO**?!



FLOURISHING NEXT STEP

At the March 6, 2019 Session meeting, elders and staff were introduced to Andrea Messinger (ECO Liaison to FPC:E) via video conference from California. Andrea prayed with the elders and staff and then shared more about the Church Transformation Cohort process. She talked about how Dr. Paul Borden has successfully led hundreds of churches of various denominations through a proven transformation and revitalization process.

Andrea explained the three core elements of the Church Transformation Cohort process, which are described more by the pastors in the following pages. She then gave some examples of prescriptions that Paul often gives to churches. After a time of discussion and questions, and the acknowledgment that “it is a step of faith,” Andrea closed the video conference with prayer.

The elders and staff then stopped to pray individually before a lengthy time of discussion. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve moving forward with the Church Transformation Cohort process.

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.



CLOSING DEVOTION

JD Paff led a devotion on wisdom and discerning. He read James 1:2-6: *“My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance, and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.”* JD reflected “that times of challenge can be difficult, but wisdom comes from God.”

JD then read Philippians 1:3-11: *“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ... for the glory and praise of God”* and affirmed that “God is going to finish what He has started.”

JD ended his devotion by reading Philippians 2:1-5: *“... be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”* JD’s final thought was “as we are looking for vision and clarity, this Scripture is a reminder of hope in eternity through Jesus.”



LEADER OF THE
CHURCH
TRANSFORMATION
COHORT

**DR. PAUL
BORDEN**



A Note from the Pastors



PLEASE read about the big step FPC:E is taking to become a flourishing church.

Do you believe these statements?

- + A sign of health in living things is growth and reproduction.
- + Jesus came to defeat sin, death, and judgment. As part of his plan, he established his Church and taught that the primary purpose of his Church is to make new disciples.
- + The Gospel Message never changes, but the Church of Jesus Christ must change constantly in order to effectively take God's unchangeable message to an ever-changing world.

Those three statements have been haunting us.

If we believe those three declarations, then why are we not growing numerically as a church? What do the ways we spend our time and resources reveal about our current focus and priorities? Are we willing to change in order to refocus on the primary reason we exist as a church?

At the 2018 and 2019 ECO National Gatherings, we were exposed to several opportunities to help congregations take the next step toward becoming flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ. Following our return from the conference and Kenya, the Session and Program Staff talked and prayed about our next step. God seemed to quickly clear all the obstacles and open the door for FPC:E to join the next Church Transformation Cohort led by Dr. Paul Borden. ECO leadership believes in this process and is committed to cover half the cost for each congregation that commits to the transformation cohort.

From 1997 – 2012, Paul Borden was the Executive Minister of Growing Healthy Churches, formerly American Baptist Churches of the West. During those fifteen years, 70% of the 220 American Baptist congregations in that region were transformed from plateaued or declining churches into growing churches. They baptized 25,000 people who had become new disciples of Jesus Christ. The region continues to plant ten churches a year, many starting with 200-500 people at launch. Paul is now training, consulting, and speaking to over 40 different denominational groups in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

The Church Transformation Cohort is a two-year commitment that leads churches through a rigorous revitalization process. There are three core elements in the Church Transformation Cohort process:

Pastor Learning Community – Pastors meet over a two-year period to engage in book studies and learning around topics such as evangelism, church and staff leadership, connecting visitors, time management, worship, etc. Over the two-year period, there are a total of six face-to-face, two-day intensives (three per year).

Jan and Tim participated in the first intensive on March 12-13. There are 9 ECO churches from across the country involved in this cohort.

Local Weekend Consultation – The church consultant comes on site for four days to conduct interviews with the pastors, staff, select lay leaders, and a focus group. The congregation submits extensive self-study materials in preparation for this consultation process. At the end of the weekend, the consultant gives a report to the congregation. The report lists strengths of the church, as well as several prescriptions and a timeline to complete the prescriptions. The Session ultimately determines if they will adopt the prescriptions after receiving input from the congregation.

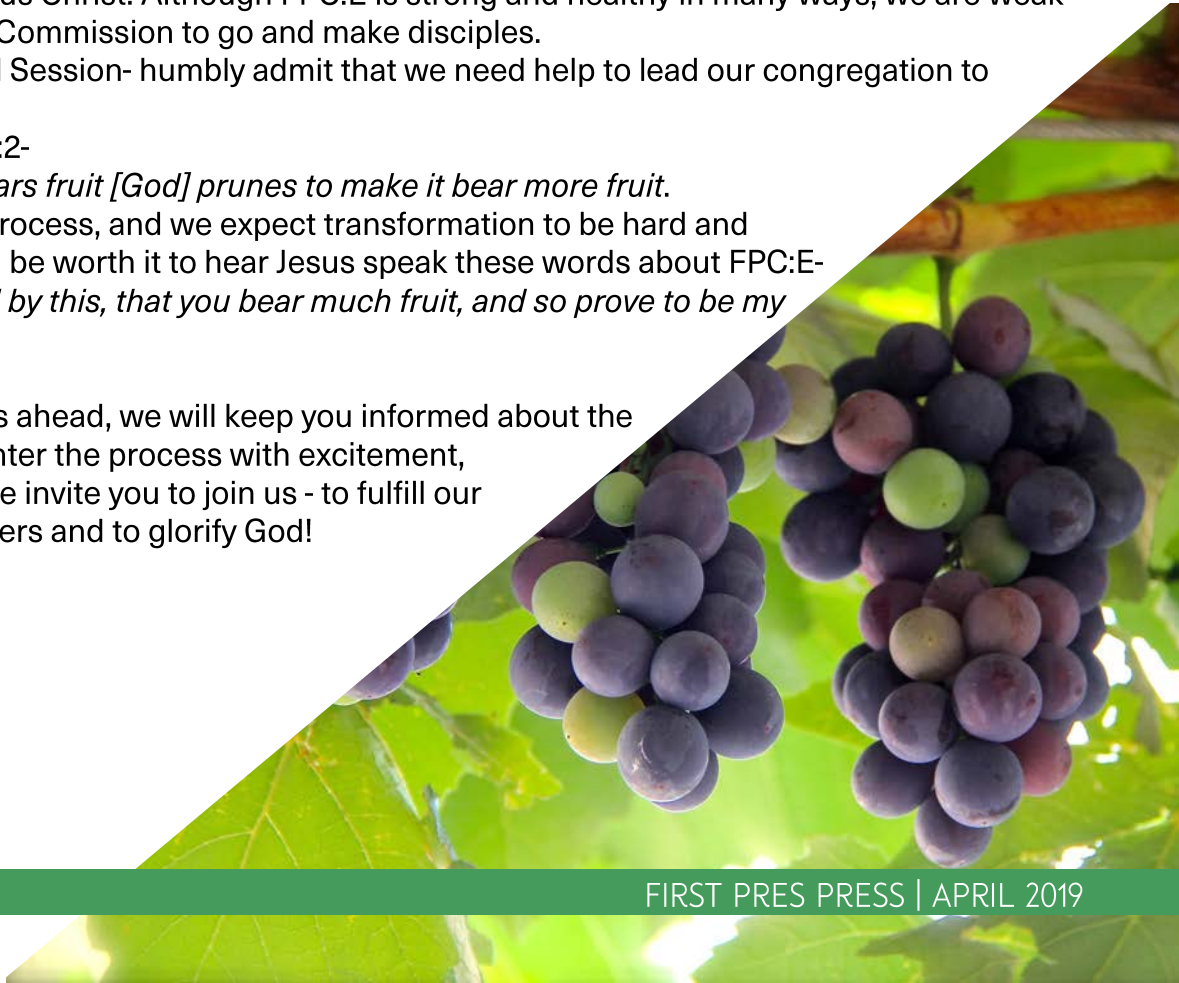
Our weekend consultation has been scheduled for June 13-16, 2019. Please make every effort to participate in worship and the consultation on Sunday morning, June 16.

On-going Coaching – If the Session agrees to the prescriptions laid out during the weekend consultation, a congregational coach is assigned. This coach works with the pastor and other lay leadership as needed throughout the consultation process.

Why have we joined the Cohort?

- † We know that the primary reason our church, and every church, exists is to share the Gospel and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Although FPC:E is strong and healthy in many ways, we are weak in fulfilling the Great Commission to go and make disciples.
- † We- your pastors and Session- humbly admit that we need help to lead our congregation to flourish.
- † Jesus said in John 15:2-
Every branch that bears fruit [God] prunes to make it bear more fruit.
Pruning is a painful process, and we expect transformation to be hard and humbling work. It will be worth it to hear Jesus speak these words about FPC:E-
My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples (John 15:8).

In the weeks and months ahead, we will keep you informed about the process. Honestly, we enter the process with excitement, trepidation, and hope. We invite you to join us - to fulfill our purpose as Christ-followers and to glorify God!



EASTER FLOWERS

2019 EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Please PRINT clearly! This information will be used in the bulletin. The deadline for orders is *Friday, April 12*, and must be accompanied by payment. No phone orders please! The flowers this year will be a mixture of tulips and daffodils.

This flower is donated by:

(Check one) in honor of in memory of

(Check one) cash check

Amount enclosed: _____

Price per plant is \$14.00. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Endicott. The flowers will be delivered on Easter Sunday to members of our church who are homebound or over 80.

FPC:E COMMUNITY

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

- The Endicott First Presbyterian Nursery School (EFPNS) is seeking a qualified candidate to **fill the role of part-time Director of Business** (18-20 hours/week), beginning in June, 2019. EFPNS is a nationally accredited nursery school serving approximately 150 students ranging from 3-5 years old. More information and an application can be found on the website: fpcendicott.org/jobs.

- More than 1.2 million people waited and watched the birth of

Tajiri, the baby giraffe born in 2017 to April at Animal Adventure Park in Harpursville, NY. If the birth of a giraffe captured the attention and wonder of so many people, what would it be like to follow the process leading to the birth of a human child? **Presbyterians Protecting Life is partnering with a growing coalition of other national pro-life organizations to take America on a journey of the development of a baby in the womb, from March 25 through Christmas Day.** You are invited to witness the miraculous nine-month journey of a developing pre-born human. *“For You created my inmost being. You knit*

me together in my mother’s womb – I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made!” — Psalm 139:13-14 To join this amazing journey:
- Go to the Apple or Android app store and download the “See Baby” app;
- Check Presbyterians Protecting Life (<https://www.ppl.org/blog/>) weekly to learn more about each week’s developmental milestones;
- Be on the lookout for #BabyChris updates on social media;
- Get started with this week’s video, “Fertilization the Epic Story of All of Us.”

ENDICOTT PROUD

SHARON EARLY

When they were in exile, God told the Israelites to be productive and invested citizens of Babylon, praying to God and working for the welfare of the people there. God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah, saying:

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. . . Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." (Jeremiah 29:4-7)

Build houses and settle down . . .

- The Civic Responsibility Committee is pursuing ways to collaborate with agencies and organizations in our community to address poverty and inadequate housing.
- Endicott Proud and the Village of Endicott are revising and enforcing codes dealing with absentee landlords, property maintenance, and restrictions on large vehicles that cause damage to village roads.

Plant gardens and eat what they produce . . .

- Endicott Proud is making plans to start a local community garden through VINES (Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments). Garden beds are rented to community members for a nominal fee. VINES offers free education to learn to grow, care for, and harvest produce, and improve food security.
- The Beautification Committee is sponsoring a Spring Garden Brush/Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 4, and a Spring Planting Day on June 1.

Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you . . .

- Endicott Proud honored the second person to graduate with a high school equivalency degree through the new LaunchPad Adult Education program staffed by volunteer tutors at the Endicott Library.
- Endicott has received grant money to hire two additional police officers and two additional fire fighters.
- The Endicott Police have instituted a Camera Watch program, which allows citizens and businesses to register surveillance cameras on their homes or place of business to assist police officers to conduct criminal investigations. Please note: Although this helps our police investigate/solve crimes, they will not have access to view your cameras without your permission.
- Visit the new Endicott Police website: <https://www.endicottpolice.com>. Of special interest:
 - ♦ The use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, NextDoor) to receive crime alerts/updates and to share news/emergency notifications.
 - ♦ General Information, including the Sex Offender Registry, information about drug dropbox collection, accident form requests, and winter parking rules.
 - ♦ #9pmroutine on social media - a friendly daily reminder to remove valuables & lock your car and house doors to prevent crime.



the triumphal entry

PALM SUNDAY



MAUNDY THURSDAY

the last supper



GOOD FRIDAY

the crucifixion



EASTER SUNDAY

the resurrection

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday is April 14. Join us as we celebrate the triumphal entry of our king into Jerusalem, fulfilling prophecies of a coming messiah.

The children will be singing and processing with palms during the 10:45 service. The bell choir will also be playing.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday is April 18. Come and join us for a powerful time of worship at 7:30pm as we share the story of Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper and the surrounding events. We will hear from each of the disciples as they ponder their time with Jesus and wonder if they will be the one to betray Him.

GOOD FRIDAY

The story will continue the following night (Good Friday) with a Tenebrae worship service. The Tenebrae service is an ancient form dating from the 8th century. It is a service of worship that moves from light to darkness, with the fading light symbolizing the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus. It will also be at 7:30pm.

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday is April 21!
Join us as we celebrate the victory of our Risen King!

*We will not be moved, when the earth gives way
For the Risen One has overcome!
And for every fear, there's an empty grave
For the Risen One has overcome!*

We will also have a photo booth set up again this year, so don't forget to get your picture taken and we will get you the photo shortly after Easter! A Touch of Brass will be playing during the 10:45 service.



STOP ON BY!

EFPNS WILL HAVE AN ACTIVITY BOOTH AT THIS YEAR'S SUNY BROOME CHILDREN'S FAIR! SAT, MAY 4 | 10AM-2PM | UPPER FRONT ST.



The Art Show was a great success this year with many generous donations. We will be able to net over \$1000 towards the art and music programs!



Join Ronne Sisco for an informal "Conscious Discipline" gathering on Thursday evening, April 4, at 6:30pm. We will add child management strategies to our caregiving toolboxes. Dr. Becky Bailey will focus our efforts on "Choices" and "Positive Intent." Free childcare will be available - simply reserve your spot on one of the pink registrations throughout the nursery school. Join us in the Lounge!



Endicott First Pres. Nursery School's 7th Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament will soon be here! Gather your Captain & Crew for a 12:30 shotgun tee-off @ Traditions at the Glen, Thursday, June 6! Not a golfer? Then join us later @ 5:30 for dinner, a silent auction, & fellowship. All proceeds benefit our Janet Cook Scholarship Fund helping area children attend our school. Contact Derek Washburn to register your team and/or donate an item for our Silent Auction! On behalf of the numerous families we help each year, thank you!

607.748.1744 | Derek@FirstPresEndicott.org



APRIL

01

7:30pm AA Meeting

02

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

03

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

04

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

07 5th Sunday of Lent

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
12:00pm Living Last Supper Rehearsal
12:30pm Children and Youth Ministry Meeting

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

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

14 Palm Sunday

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's Ministry
10:45am Worship Service (Bells Playing)
12:00pm Living Last Supper Rehearsal

15

7:30pm AA Meeting

16

12:30pm Staff Meeting
6:15pm Worship Team
6:30pm AA Meeting

17

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

18 Maundy Thursday

7:00pm AA Meeting
7:30pm Living Last Supper Worship

19 Good Friday

7:30pm Tenebrae Worship

21 Easter Sunday

9:00am Worship Service
10:45am Worship Service (ATO B Playing)

22 Office Closed

7:30pm AA Meeting

23

12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan Supper
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 AA Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

27

7:00pm STCCC Concert

28 Steve Devine Preaching

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

29

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

30

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



LET'S CELEBRATE!

It has been yet another wonderful year in Children's and Youth Ministry...and it's not even over yet! As I prepared for this ministry year, the word faithfulness kept resonating with me. I heard the word in songs, read it in my Bible, and saw the theme emerge in our lesson plans. While I didn't intentionally build our year upon this characteristic, God did. Time and time again, He demonstrated his faithfulness to me, to our young ones, to our teachers, and to our church.

Join us on May 12 @ 10am to hear more about how God has been at work in Children's and Youth Ministry, what we have learned, the ways God has grown us and how God's faithfulness shapes our lives.

If you simply can't wait until May to hear these stories, start celebrating now by asking one of our kids what faithfulness means and how God is faithful.

Be prepared to share your answers as well!

MUSIC PRACTICE

April 28
Immediately following
Children's and Youth
Ministry/2nd service
(about 12 noon)

Light lunch will be
provided.

PROGRAM PRACTICE

May 5
During Children's and Youth
Ministry
(10:30-11:50am)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH- LED SERVICE

May 12
Please arrive by 9am for
final run through.

10am service



SUMMER CAMP

I am a huge fan of camp. In fact, the first time I went to overnight camp, I ended up going for a whole month. So, I'm totally sold on encouraging kids to give it a try. The memories and the experiences you take home from camp making a lasting impression. When it's a faith-based camp, it's not just a lasting impression that's made but a life-changing experience.

Christian camps demonstrate to our young ones that life as a Christian can be FUN and ADVENTURE-FILLED. They also TEACH holy habits like being in community, Bible-reading, prayer, reflection and introspection. Finally, it CHALLENGES young people to go home changed and to live for God.

Why not give camp a try this summer?

Here's the quick list of camps we are encouraging your children and youth to participate in this year:

ROCK MOUNTAIN BIBLE CAMP
Susquehanna, PA
<https://rockmountainbiblecamp.org/>

JOSHUA TREK (FATHER/SON BACKPACKING)
May 31-June 1
Cost: \$218/pair

MINI-CAMP
June 21-23
Ages 6-10, accompanied by adult
Cost: \$109 per person

JUNIOR CAMP
July 14-19 OR July 21-26
Ages 8-12
Cost: \$305

TEEN CAMP
Ages 12-17
July 7-12
Cost: \$305

SARANAC VILLAGE YOUNGLIFE CAMP
Saranac Lake, NY

YOUNGLIFE CAMP
<https://binghamton.younglife.org/Pages/YL-Summer-Camp-2019.aspx>
High School Students
July 21-27
Cost: \$700

WYLDLIFE CAMP
<https://binghamton.younglife.org/Pages/WL-Summer-Camp-2019.aspx>
Middle School Students
August 10-14
Cost: \$550

Scholarships are available for all of these camps. Forms are available from: church website, church office, Children's and Youth Ministry Happenings Bulletin Board, or directly from Tina.



FPC:ENDICOTT

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