



FIRST PRES. PRESS

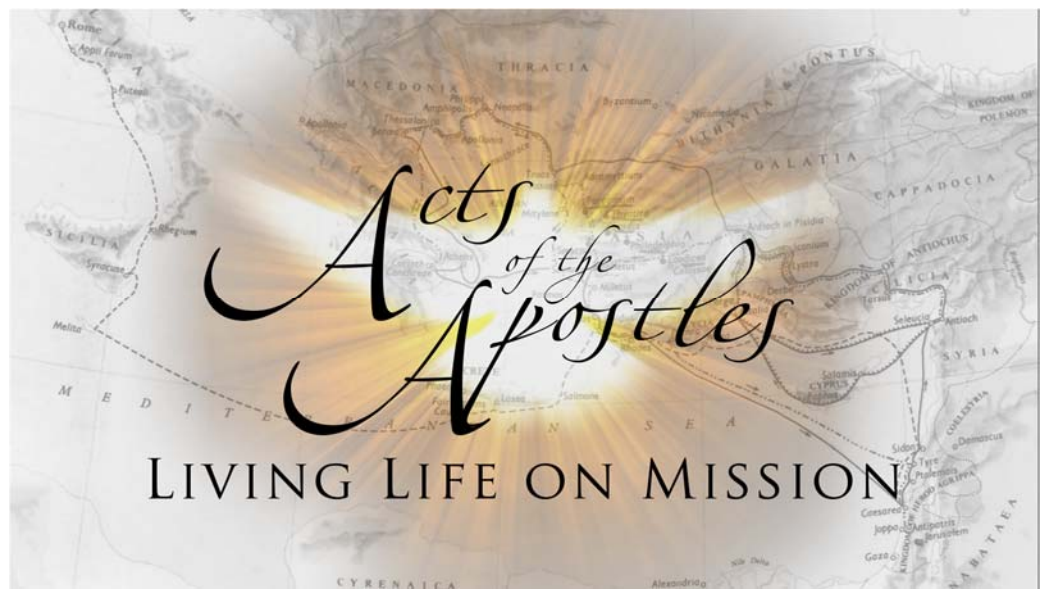
APRIL 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PASTORS' PAGES	2-3
YOUTH	4
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	5
AMONG OUR PEOPLE	6
NURSERY SCHOOL	7
SESSION	8
DISCERNMENT	9
COMMUNITY	10
APRIL CALENDAR	11

OVER 80 BIRTHDAYS

- April 2
Marion Cianciosi
- April 4
Janet Cook



We are people of the resurrection!

We know that God's story did not end with Jesus' death on the cross. Neither was it complete upon his resurrection. God's salvation story continues to unfold. The book of Acts records what happened in the early years after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension. This portion of God's continuing story spans about 30 years and covers the lands between Jerusalem (where the Church began) and Rome (the political center of the empire).

The book of Acts is Luke's sequel to his gospel. In Acts, Luke connects what Jesus "began to do and teach" (1:1) with what he continued to do and teach through the Holy Spirit, the apostles' teaching, and the birth of the Church. The theme of the book can be summarized by Jesus' last recorded words before his ascension:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

In April we will begin preaching and studying the book of Acts together. You are encouraged to prepare before each Sunday by spending time with the portions of scripture noted on the pastors' pages.

PASTORS' PAGE**- JAN AND TIM DEVINE, CO-PASTORS****THE FIVE "SOLAS"**

As we turn our eyes to the cross in this holy season, and as we discern in the life of our local congregation, we are talking a lot about what we believe. FPC is part of the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition. We are Reformed because our denomination arose out of the 16th century Reformation, which was a movement to return to the essential and original teachings of the Christian faith. We are Presbyterian, because our form of government is built upon the leadership of *presbyteros* (Greek for "elders"). John Calvin was the 16th century reformer who had the most influence upon the Presbyterian Church.

There emerged from the Reformation five Latin phrases that summarize the essential theological convictions of the Reformed tradition. The five phrases, or *Five Solas*, are:

- ***Sola Scriptura*** ("Scripture alone"): The Bible stands alone as our highest authority.

It does not mean that the Bible is the only place where truth can be found, but that Scriptures are our ultimate authority and sufficient for all matters of faith and life. Everything we know, learn, or believe should be interpreted in light of God's Word. Therefore, it is essential that Christians read and study the Word of God!

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
(2 Timothy 3:14-17)

- ***Sola Fide*** ("faith alone"): We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ.
- ***Sola Gratia*** ("grace alone"): We are saved by the grace of God alone.

Sola Fide and *Sola Gratia* go hand in hand. Because all of us are enslaved to sin, we cannot do enough or be good enough to earn our own salvation. We are saved only ("sola") through faith in Jesus Christ because of God's grace. To receive grace is to be given what we do not deserve. Our only hope when we stand before God is this: by God's grace, the righteousness of Jesus Christ is attributed to us because the consequence of our sin was attributed to Jesus on the cross.

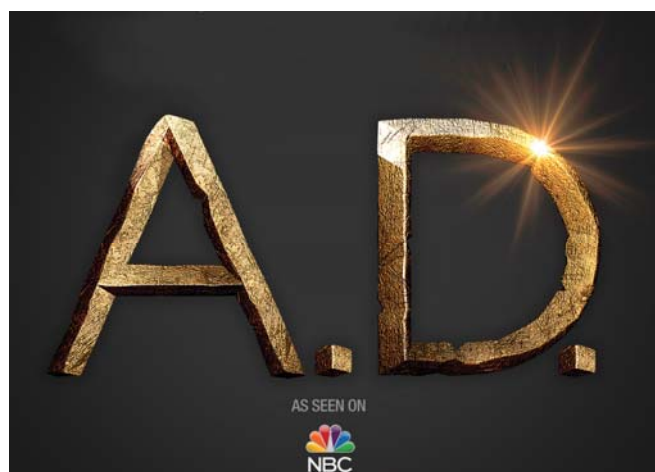
For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
(Ephesians 2:8-10)

- **Solus Christus** (“Christ alone”): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King. God’s ultimate revelation of himself is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ alone lived a perfect life, and therefore, he alone could be the perfect and final sacrifice for the sin of the world.
“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

- **Soli Deo Gloria** (“to the glory of God alone”): We live for the glory of God alone. God alone is worthy of all honor and glory: the goal of our lives is to give glory to God alone.
“Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
(1 Corinthians 10:31)
“Man’s chief end (purpose) is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.”
(First statement of the Westminster Shorter Catechism)

May the *Five Solas* be our grounding and our hope as we celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ this Easter season!

THE BOOK OF ACTS April/May Schedule	
DATE	READ AS PREPARATION
April 5, 2015	Matthew 28:1-20
April 12, 2015	John 20:1-30 John 21:1-25 Acts 1:1-26
April 19, 2015	Acts 2:1-47 Acts 3:1-26
April 26, 2015	Acts 4:1-37 Acts 5:1-16
May 3, 2015	Acts 5:17-42 Acts 6:1-15 Acts 7:1– 8:1
May 10, 2015	Acts 8:1-4 Acts 26:9-11
May 17, 2015	Acts 8:5-25
May 24, 2015	Acts 9:1-22
May 31, 2015	Acts 9:22-31



Beginning on Easter Sunday at 9pm, NBC will be airing a 12-week mini-series called *A.D: The Bible Continues*. Based on Acts, the series is advertised to portray the world-changing events that followed the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. While we hope it will be a helpful and accurate dramatic portrayal of God’s Word, don’t substitute watching a mini-series for studying scripture itself!

Individuals and small groups are encouraged to study Acts beyond Sunday morning in worship or a T.V. show. See Sharon Early if you are interested in a small group study and guidebook.

YOUTHHOUSE

OK...WE MADE IT TO SPRING EDITION



146017

JOIN THE
PROJECT IGNITE
ADVENTURE!

ADMIT ONE
FREE

PROJECT IGNITE KICKOFF:
SATURDAY, MAY 9

10:00AM - MEET
10:15AM - RIDE
12:15PM - DEVO
12:30PM - EAT!

MEET AT:
"THE WAREHOUSE"
315 SCARBOROUGH DRIVE
ENDWELL, NY 13760

BIKE AND HELMET
PROVIDED. PARTICIPANTS
ARE REQUIRED TO BRING
THE ADVENTURE!

Contact Jeremy Finn:
607.743.4511
jmfinn@firstpresendicott.org

WE SUPPORT ADVENTURE!

Project Ignite began five years ago when Specialized Bicycles, Chenango Point Cycles, and First Presbyterian Church of Endicott transformed a concept into reality. Since then, Project Ignite has launched countless adventures - from the streets and skate parks of Binghamton and Endicott, to the state forests of Apalachin and Newark Valley!

"But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

1 Timothy 1:5

FPC YOUTH NIGHT

FPC YOUTH NIGHT
Sundays, Weekly

Drop Off @ The Monroe House - 6:00pm
Pickup @ The Monroe House - 8:00pm



IGNITE BIKES
Saturdays, Weekly

Meet at The Warehouse - 10:00am
Return to The Warehouse - 12:30pm



WORK CAMP
July 2015

The Bridge Community Center,
Johnson City, NY
Stay Tuned for Details...

SUMMER CAMP!



PICK UP your information packet for Rock Mountain Bible Camp MINI-CAMP (Ages 6-10 with a guardian - June 26-28) and JR. CAMP (Ages 8-12 - July 12-17) at the Registration Station today. You can also register online and get additional information such as packing lists and tentative schedules by visiting the camp website: www.rockmountainbiblecamp.org or by calling the camp at (570) 756-2200. There has been a waiting list the last two summers, so register today! Don't Miss Out!

IN APRIL AND MAY, WE WANT TO LEARN BIBLE VERSES!
WORK ON THESE WITH YOUR KIDS...

MARK 12:30

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and will all your mind and with all your strength."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:12

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old is passed away, behold the new has come."

UPCOMING SPECIAL SUNDAYS

Sunday, April 5

NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAM - Happy Easter!

Sunday, May 24

NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAM - Memorial Day Weekend

Sunday, June 7

FAMILY DAY WRAP-UP CELEBRATION!

WHAT'S NEW AMONG OUR PEOPLE?

– NATHAN JACOBS

As we come upon the culmination of Lent and reflect on Christ's substitutionary sacrifice on our behalf, I would encourage you to really focus on your prayer life. We have a God who is relational, one who wants to speak with you and wants you to hear him. Our God has promised to hear us when we call out to Him, and he is ever faithful in his promises. As you pray, please keep these particular people who have been brought to our attention in your prayers:

- The family of Walter Foertsch, who passed away. Walter and his wife, Elfriede, served on staff at FPC for many years cleaning and maintaining the church facility.
- Bev Conklin's granddaughter, who suffered a concussion.
- Rich Thomas's mother, who is dealing with chronic pain.
- Carole Cockrell, who is recovering from a knee replacement
- Margerry Berriman, who has come home from rehab.
- Billy Beardsley, who is recovering from a hand injury due to a fall.
- Jeff Thomas, as he continues to recover. Cards of support may be sent to : 784 House Wren Circle, Palm Harbor, FL, 34683.
- The Stanko family, upon the death of Lillian on March 1. A memorial service was held on March 17.
- Emily Preisendanz, who travelled to Nicaragua to lead a mission trip from Virginia Tech to serve orphans.
- WinterWeekend2015, as the students and leaders process the Scripture they studied.
- Jim Santacrose, who received the Sertoma Service to Mankind Award and was able to bring honor to God as he shared his story.
- Kim Talley's father, as he continues to deal with health issues following surgery.
- The family of Dorothy Brundage, as they celebrated her 100 years of life. Dorothy passed away on Feb. 28. A memorial service will be held for her on June 6 at Harford Congregational Church. Contact the office if you wish more details about the service.
- Bev Conklin's nephew, Dave, who has been diagnosed with cancer in his liver and small intestine.
- Lois Wadman, who had eye surgery twice this month.
- Ellie Taylor, as she transitions to long-term care in the skilled nursing at Hilltop.
- Lans and Bev Jones, in this season when Lans has made the decision to stop dialysis after shattering his wrist.
- Bruce Barney, who had hernia surgery.
- The Nursery School family of Caleb, who had surgery for biliary artesia. Following that surgery, he needed two additional surgeries and is now fighting an infection.
- Jeff Shafer, who is recovering from knee surgery.

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.

–Psalm 145:18-19

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

–Colossians 4:2-4

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

–James 5:16

BY RONNE SISCO, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The 7th Annual Art Show!



Violinists Miranda and Sophie Werner delighted families as they browsed and bid at our Silent Auction—oh, and enjoyed some pie and refreshments to keep their energy up!

The evening of Friday February 27th found our hallways splashed with the creative works of our three, four and five year olds. Families “purchased” their children’s pieces with a donation to our Arts & Music Program. Alisha Finn, Allyn & Aaron Pridmore, and Shawn Szymanski set the musical mood for plenty of dancing!



Cartoonist and writer Ed VanDeMark donated some of his talent for the show and even took time to visit his grandson Aiden and his friends in the Safari Suite. The students enjoyed watching Ed create some characters out of simple shapes and letters!



Pastor Tim took the stage with an entertaining, interactive reading of a Pete the Cat favorite!



Calling all three to nine year olds...“Outdoor Adventures” await during this year’s 1st Pres. Summer Program, taking place 6/29-7/3 or 7/6-7/10.

Camping-themed arts and crafts, games, science and literature will enrich your li'l camper during these five-day sessions. A registration form may be picked up at FPC’s Info. Desk, the Nursery School Office, or by

downloading from our website www.NurserySchool.FirstPresEndicott.org. The program fee is \$100/child with a 10% discount for siblings. Simply check off which session best fits your summer schedule and get ready for s’more summer fun here at 1st Pres.!

SESSION AND PRESBYTERY UPDATE

-JANET FREDERICK, CLERK OF SESSION

Session Update

On March 4 we again started our evening by breaking fast with the Presbytery Discernment Team and continued our discussions on what has taken place and what still needs to be done. During our business meeting, we took the following actions:

- The Mission and Stewardship Committee submitted their recommendation for the 2015 General Mission budget, which was approved as presented.
- We approved the proposed list of communion dates for the remainder of the year.
- We voted to reschedule the Women in Leadership informational session until April 19.
- In an effort to ensure that all active members of the congregation have an opportunity to voice their opinions and to ask any questions that remain regarding the discernment process, we approved a plan for individual elders to contact members on the active membership roll who live locally, would be able to attend a congregational meeting if one is called, and who are currently active in the life of the church.

Presbytery Update

On February 28, the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery held an assembly of their members at a quarterly meeting. The major items that were acted upon included the following:

A vote on the Amendments from 221st General Assembly

- Confession of Belhar - This amendment failed the last time it was proposed, but was approved this time; it addresses the issue of inclusivity. [passed 44 to 15]
- Child Protection Policy - The amendment requires all churches to adopt a policy for the protection of children and volunteers. [passed 52 to 7]
- Marriage - The proposed amendment changes the definition of marriage from “between a man and a woman” to “between two people, traditionally a man and a woman.” [passed 39-20]

A vote on the Gracious Discernment/Dismissal Guidelines

The document passed included:

- a. $\frac{1}{3}$ quorum for congregational meeting, $\frac{2}{3}$ vote required by congregation to approve dismissal, and simple majority vote required by Presbytery.
- b. Additional Changes from first reading:
 - i. “Guidelines” changed to “Policy.”
 - ii. Made congregational vote a requirement (wording changed from “may” to “will”).
 - iii. Clarified that absentee ballots are counted separately and not included in the $\frac{2}{3}$ congregational vote.

A vote to commission ruling elders to administer communion at specific churches without pastoral coverage

The proposal passed.

DISCERNMENT PROCESS UPDATE

– JANET FREDERICK

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR FPC IN 2015?

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

As we come closer to the end of the discernment process, please note the issues we have tried to address through informational sessions and the one remaining topic we plan to cover. We hope you have found these sessions helpful in providing you with the information you need to make a decision, if a vote is taken – probably in mid-May or mid-June.

Completed Discernment Sessions:

- ◇ **November 16:** *ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians*
- ◇ **December 14:** *Hermeneutics: Why we believe what we believe about Scripture*
- ◇ **January 18:** *Listening Session*
- ◇ **January 25:** *Annual Meeting and Discernment Overview*
- ◇ **February 1:** *Informal Q&A with Elders*
- ◇ **February 8:** *FPC's perspective on the biblical practice of our sexuality*
- ◇ **February 15:** *Informal Q&A with Elders*
- ◇ **March 8:** *The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley/Gracious Dismissal Policy*
- ◇ **March 15:** *Informal Q&A with Elders*

For access to written and video recorded materials from the congregational presentations to date, contact Nathan in the church office (748-1544 or office @firstpresendicott.org).

Upcoming Discernment Sessions:

- ⇒ **April 19:** *Why we believe what we believe about women in leadership*
Ruling Elders and Co-pastors Jan and Tim Devine will examine Scripture with us on this topic.

This session will be presented twice on April 19: Session 1 from 10:50 – 11:45 and Session 2 from 12:10 – 1:00. Light refreshments will be served prior to Session 2.

As one of the final steps in the Discernment Process, during the month of March, Session members were in touch with those on the current membership roll who are able to attend a congregational meeting, live locally and are now active in the life of FPC. Individuals were contacted, unless elders had already had a chance to speak with them individually, to arrange for a time for an elder to visit or make a phone call to talk with them. The survey taken was used to determine if there were any unanswered questions on the discernment process, whether there was more information needed to make a decision, whether you, as an individual, had made up your mind yet as to how you would vote if a congregational vote takes place, and if you plan to attend a congregational meeting if it is scheduled. If you were not contacted by an elder but want the opportunity to speak with someone, please contact:

Jennifer Hunt at 786-0161 or jennifer.hunt@gmail.com or Janet Frederick at 754-0587 or janfrederickfpc@gmail.com.

Watch for more information regarding an opportunity for those who are not able to be at a congregational meeting in May or June or those who are active non-members to also have a voice in the process using what will be called an “opinion ballot.”

COMMUNITY

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated mugs and bowls to the mission. They were really appreciated and we were able to serve our God and to share the wealth He has provided for us. –Pam Davis

Spring New Member Class

If you have been attending worship at FPC, are ready to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and are interested in investing in this particular community of faith, let us know! Each spring and fall, we provide an opportunity for people to meet and talk about their faith journey, who we are as a congregation, what we believe, and the values we pursue because we believe they have great worth. Increasingly, the desire to formally belong to institutions and organizations is waning. While you can certainly be active at FPC 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. Please contact Jan Devine or the church office to let us know of your interest so we can coordinate dates to gather. 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.

Homebound? Traveling? Missed a Sunday?

Just a reminder that we livestream our services on Sunday morning. If you would like to view our services, contact Nathan at office@firstpresendicott.org to get set up. Also, if you missed a Sunday or would just like to view past sermons, they can be found online at: www.vimeo.com/channels/fpcendicottsermons



For more information, please contact:

Bonnie Moyer– (607) 321-3726 or
Barb Wilcox– (607) 754-3300

Relay for Life of Western Broome

May 16-17, 2015

2:00pm-6:00am

Sammon Field, Vestal Central Schools

What is Relay for Life?

As the signature event of the American Cancer Society, Relay For Life is a unique overnight nationwide fundraising movement that includes all types of participants, including patients, medical support staff, corporations, civic organizations, churches, synagogues, and community members joining together to fight cancer. Relay For Life participants of all ages come to the event to honor and celebrate those who have survived cancer, to remember those who are no longer with us, and to fight back against this horrible disease. Teams join together in the fight, raising money and awareness for the American Cancer Society's lifesaving efforts.

FPC Calendar

April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00 am Men's Group 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	2 Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm Worship Service	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter No Children's Ministry 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional)	6 Office Closed 2:30 pm Homework Café	7 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Deacons	8 6:00 am Men's Group 2:30 pm Homework Café 7:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	9 2:30 pm Homework Café 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:30 pm BASICS	10	11
12 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 6:00 pm FPC Youth	13 2:30 pm Homework Café 6:30 pm Parent Council Meeting	14 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Personnel Meeting 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	15 6:00 am Men's Group 1:00 pm Women's Circle III 2:30 pm Homework Café 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	16 2:30 pm Homework Café 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:30 pm BASICS	17 5:00 pm Nursery School Cuddle Up & Read	18
19 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 10:50 am Discernment Session Women in Leadership 12:10 pm Discernment Session Women in Leadership 6:00 pm FPC Youth	20 1:00 pm Women's Club Board Meeting 2:30 pm Homework Café	21 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper	22 6:00 am Men's Group 2:30 pm Homework Café 7:00 pm House Meeting 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	23 2:30 pm Homework Café 5:30 pm NS Board Meeting 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:30 pm BASICS	24	25
26 9:09 am Worship Service (Contemporary) 10:45 am Worship Service (Traditional) 6:00 pm FPC Youth	27 1:00 pm Women's Club 2:30 pm Homework Café	28 5:30 pm Samaritan Supper 7:00 pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting	29 6:00 am Men's Group 2:30 pm Homework Café 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	30 2:30 pm Homework Café 6:00 pm Mary-El Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:30 pm BASICS		

VISION STATEMENT

(What God wants to do)

We believe God wants to transform our community through the saving love of Jesus Christ and calls us to share that hope with the world. To be an agent of hope, our congregation must work together and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to follow Christ, whatever the cost.¹ This commitment, which is grounded in a deep love of God and neighbor,² sends us out to share the Good News of Christ through our words³ and our actions.⁴

¹ *The Great Commitment*, Matthew 16:24-26

² *The Great Commandment*, Luke 10:27

³ *The Great Commission*, Matthew 28:18-20

⁴ *The Great Compassion*, Matthew 25:31-40

MISSION STATEMENT

(What God wants us to do)

We believe God wants us to share the life-changing power and love of Jesus Christ in such compelling ways that more people become fully devoted followers of Christ.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

(The reason we exist)

To reach more people and together grow in Christ.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

29 Grant Avenue

Endicott, NY 13760

Phone: (607) 748-1544

Fax: (607) 748-1744

www.firstpresendicott.org

www.facebook.com/FPCEndicott

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 36

Endicott, NY