



NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

# FIRST PRES PRESS

JULY/AUGUST 2017 EDITION



## *Psalms*

THE SONGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

# Contents

- 3 A NOTE FROM THE PASTORS  
What is a Covenant Partner?– Jan & Tim Devine
- 4 AMONG OUR PEOPLE  
Stay connected– Nathan Jacobs
- 5 CONNECT  
Practicing your serve– Sharon Early
- 6 NEW MEMBERS  
Welcome to the family!– Nathan Jacobs
- 7 COMMUNITY  
Announcements and news about opportunities to serve– Nathan Jacobs
- 8 INTRODUCING MIKE KNOWLES  
Our Summer Intern– Jan Devine
- 9 SESSION UPDATE  
Ministry. Mission. Education. – Linda Willets
- 10 NURSERY SCHOOL  
See what's been going on with our little ones– Ronne Sisco
- 12 WHY SERVE?  
Service like Christ– Brenda Reibson
- 14 JULY CALENDAR  
See what we're doing and get involved
- 15 AUGUST CALENDAR  
See what we're doing and get involved





## *A Note from the Pastors*

On July 9, we have the blessing of welcoming four people into the active membership of FPC:E (see page 6). We used to call people “members”- that is the term that comes most readily to our minds and lips. But more and more, we are trying to consistently use the term now used by ECO congregations- “Covenant Partners.”

Hopefully, this term designates a deeper spiritual connection and commitment than simply joining an organization. When we say “yes” to belonging to a local congregation, we are committing to grow in Christian community together to become more Christ-like, and covenanting with one another to participate in God’s redemptive mission in, through, and beyond our congregation. Below you will find our Covenant of Membership:

I profess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior; I have been baptized; I support FPC:E’s vision, mission and structure. I choose to unite with this congregation in a covenant relationship as a Covenant Partner (member). In so doing, I commit to the following:

### **I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH**

- ...By attending faithfully
- ...By studying God’s Word and praying regularly
- ...By living a godly life
- ...By sharing the Good News of the Gospel with others
- ...By giving obediently

### **I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH**

- ...By praying for its health, growth, and faithfulness
- ...By inviting the unchurched to attend
- ...By warmly welcoming those who visit

### **I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH**

- ...By discovering and using my gifts and talents
- ...By being equipped to serve within and beyond the church
- ...By developing a servant’s heart

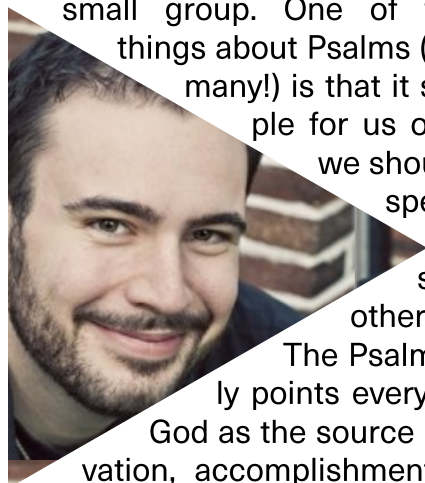
### **I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH**

- ...By acting with grace and truth toward other members
- ...By refusing to gossip
- ...By respecting and praying for the leadership of the church

*Jan & Tim*

# AMONG OUR PEOPLE

This past month we began studying the Psalms both on Sundays and in small group. One of the beautiful things about Psalms (and there are many!) is that it sets an example for us of the posture



we should take when speaking to God or when speaking to others about life. The Psalmist continually points everything back to God as the source of victory, salvation, accomplishment, and worth.

When he is praising, he is thankful. When he is lamenting, he is trusting. When he is accepting chastisement, he is grateful for mercy. The Psalmist teaches us how to acknowledge God in all aspects of our lives. As we go to God in prayer this summer, keeping in mind all those in our community of faith and beyond, let us do so in the posture of David, giving “thanks to the Lord, for He is good; his steadfast love endures forever!” (Psalm 107:1)

— *Nate*

Carole Cockrell’s neighbor, **Maria**, was hospitalized | **Paul Everett** is experiencing continuing difficulties as his vertebrae deteriorate | **Lois Engel** had a knee replacement | **Nancy Slater** is dealing with serious health issues | **Gloria Johnston and her son, Mark**, are both having health problems. Also, her other son, **Kevin**, continues to look for work | **Gloria Johnston’s friend, Roxanne**, is dealing with the aftermath of her home flooding | **Helen and Jim Jephson** are continuing to deal with Helen’s cancer | **Phyllis Camp** had a 7-8 hour back surgery and is facing a long recovery | **Jon Yerger** spent time in Wilson Hospital with bronchitis | **Wayne Hunsinger and family**, who are grieving the death of Roberta on June 21. The witness to the resurrection was celebrated on June 26 | **Patti Stillings** retired from the choir and we give thanks and praise for her 54 years of service in the worship ministry here at FPC: E. We thank God for her, for her talent and love of music and singing, and for her faithful and generous use of her gifts to build up the body of Christ | **Kristen Talley and Josh Bennett** were married on June 10 | **Bob Dealaman** received the “Silver Buffalo” award, the highest recognition for volunteers in Boy Scouts. Bob has served for 66 years | June 17 was Gabby Laubisch’s “re-birthday”! That means it was the 1- year anniversary of her bone marrow transplant which is a HUGE milestone and blessing!! | **The Kenya Mission Team– Jan, Tim, Chris, Marian, Pam, Art, and Bob–** began their trip on June 26 and started the work that God has prepared for them to do in Kenya



# CONNECT



*"WE MUST PUT OUR SELF-INTERESTS ASIDE  
DAILY— NOT ONCE IN A WHILE, MONTHLY,  
OR WHEN IT'S CONVENIENT FOR US—  
BUT DAILY."*

— REV. DR. TIM DEVINE, FPC:ENDICOTT  
FROM A SERMON ON MAY 7

## PRACTICING YOUR SERVE

This spring we looked at what it would mean to follow Christ to the Cross and what it would mean in our lives to take up and "Bear the Cross" daily. Tim challenged us in his May 7 message, *The Cost of Discipleship*, to practice our "serve," saying *"we must put our self-interests aside daily - not once in a while, monthly or when convenient to us - but daily."* This may seem overwhelming, but for myself, the more I serve others, the more I realize what a blessed life I do have because of Jesus! I cannot even imagine how one gets through the challenges life presents without the comfort of walking daily with Christ.

This spring we challenged our small groups to practice their "serve" and come up with a service project to reach out to our community. Groups were challenged by this and also discovered that to serve well does not always mean "quick and easy." To spread the Gospel means spending time getting to know others, investing ourselves in them and their lives, and becoming involved with organizations that serve their needs . . . none of which can be done in the span of a 5-minute service project! That said, some groups were able to complete their "mission," while others have discovered that it will take some additional time to accomplish what they feel God has tasked their group to do to reach others for Christ.

If you were not in Sunday's service on June 18, during which some groups shared testimonies from their service, I encourage you to watch the recorded service. It was powerful to once again witness how much we are encouraged, our faith is strengthened, and how truly blessed we are personally when we reach out with the intention to serve others!

We concluded our time of testimonies with a prayer that we will continue to:

- Find ways to stay connected with each other throughout the summer months.
- Serve our neighborhoods and be a witness to those around us.
- And most importantly, LISTEN to people's stories as a way to engage with them and hopefully point them to a God of Love who cares deeply enough for them that He sent His only Son for them.

*"IF ANYONE WOULD COME AFTER ME, HE MUST DENY HIMSELF AND  
TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW ME." —LUKE 9:23B*

# WELCOME!

ON SUNDAY JULY 9, WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME FOUR NEW COVENANT PARTNERS TO OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH.



**TREVOR BARNEY**

Trevor is already an active part of our community– he serves regularly on the tech team, is part of a small group, and has attended both Honesdale mission trips. He works for the video company SouthSixty.

**MEAGHAN CADY**

Meaghan has attended FPC:E since she was born and is now making a personal commitment to this community. Meaghan enjoys sewing and gardening. She and her husband Eric have two young children, Brooke and Wyatt.



**JENNIFER LUCE**

Jen began attending services about 3 years ago after her family (Josh Luce, Nate and Jamie Jacobs, Joe Kocak) began playing on the worship team. She has two young boys, Brendan and Aaren, whom she is raising full-time.



**BRENDA RIPLEY**

Brenda is a retired elementary educator who comes to us from Conklin. She has been attending services here since Lent this year and has already felt the pull to commit here. Brenda has two adult daughters and enjoys music.







# 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 Nominating Committee has begun the work of determining the names to be brought before the Session, and eventually the Congregation, for the offices of Elder and Deacon. Part of discerning the Lord's will in this, as stated in the Church's Bylaws, is to encourage Covenant Partners (members) to submit names of those members whose lives and gifts are consistent with being considered for nomination to the office of Elder or Deacon. If you would

like to submit names for the committee's discernment, please furnish them in writing to Chris Loughridge, Chair of the Nominating Committee, by Tuesday, July 18, 2017. These can be left at the office to Chris' attention, or sent by email to [cbloughridge@gmail.com](mailto:cbloughridge@gmail.com). Thank you for your prayerful consideration of potential nominees and for your prayers as the Committee's work proceeds.

- The Deacons will be collecting school supplies once again the last two weeks of August to donate to the UE District's CFJ Elementary School in Endicott. They'll

be collecting items such as crayons, pencils, folders, loose-leaf paper, notebooks, glue-sticks, blunt scissors, back packs, etc. A complete list of what teachers are requesting for their students in the Fall can be found on the UE District website at <http://www.uek12.org/protected/articleView.aspx?iid=5YBPU2&dasi=2YI>. There will be boxes in the copier room from Sunday August 20 through Friday September 1 for you to place your donations into. If you have questions please see or contact Missy Goetz.



# YOUTH

## PSALM 78:2-4

*"I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter hidden sayings of old,  
Which we have heard and known,  
And our fathers have told us.*

*We will not conceal them from their  
children,*

*But tell to the generation to come  
the praises of the LORD,*

*And His strength and His wondrous  
works that He has done."*

Parents,

Our prayer is that you'd take this open summer schedule as an opportunity to teach your kids about the wondrous works of the Lord! Pray with them, read the Bible to them, and share what God is doing in the world with them.

Let your praise to God ring loudly in your children's ears.

Mike Knowles will become a familiar face around FPC:E this summer. He has been hired to help with a tennis program for U-E varsity and middle school students, and he will also spend about 10 hours/week with FPC:E students and their friends.

Mike is a volunteer leader with Young Life who cares about students- their lives, their relationships, their interests, and their growing faith. In his own words . . .

"Hey, I'm Mike (or Michael)! I am a transfer student at Binghamton University, going into my senior year of Industrial Systems Engineering. One of my passions is building solid relationships with youth, with the intent to develop enough trust to openly discuss and explore the Gospel. I am looking forward to meeting new people and having some fun!"



## MEMBERSHIP

**F**our new members will be joining as Covenant Partners on July 9, 2017- Trevor Barney, Brenda Ripley, Meaghan Cady, and Jennifer Luce.

At their request, Joe and Sandy Cook were restored from active non-member status to active membership as Covenant Partners of FPC:E.

## MINISTRY

**T**he Session approved a plan to hire Michael Knowles as our part-time Summer Youth Ministry Intern and Tennis Outreach Coordinator (see page 13). John Miller, another college student, was hired by the B&GC through funds given by an anonymous donor from FPC:E to also work with the U-E Tennis Outreach.

## BUSINESS

**S**ession approved the date for Peace and Evangelism Sunday- September 24, 2017- and the recommendation from the Mission & Stewardship Committee to choose the Samaritan Counseling Center as the recipient of the offering taken that day.

## 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.



## SESSION FORMAT

**A**t the May presbytery meeting and at the national gathering of presbytery moderators, ECO leadership encouraged Sessions and Presbyteries to try a different model for meetings, in order to shift our work from the “boardroom” to the “upper room.” At its June meeting, Session used the new model. By getting reports out earlier and using a consent agenda (one vote to approve all routine or non-controversial items for action), the business portion of the meeting took only 30 minutes. That left the remaining time to focus on two essential parts of being the spiritual leaders of this congregation:

- Worship, Scripture, Message/Teaching, Prayer
- Visioning, Training/Equipping, Mission

For the Visioning and Equipping portion of the meeting, the Session worked through the 2nd session of *Becoming a Flourishing Church*. This requires each of us to make a 2-4 month plan to work on an area of personal spiritual growth, because “flourishing disciples become flourishing leaders who build a flourishing church.”

Our local Mission Affinity Group (MAG) Gathering will be held September 23, 2017 at the Honesdale Church.



# SUMMER TIME!

**For nursery school information and tours over the summer,  
contact Ronne Sisco at 607.748.1744.**

**The 2017-18 school year kicks off Thursday, Sept. 7!**



# MUSIC WEEK

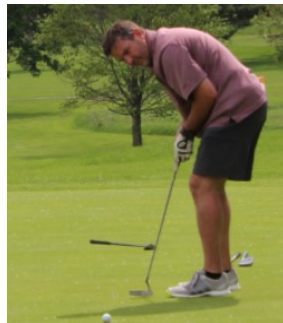


Mrs. Alisha Finn enriched the three-year-olds' Music Week by sharing and playing a collection of instruments.



## GOLF TOURNEY

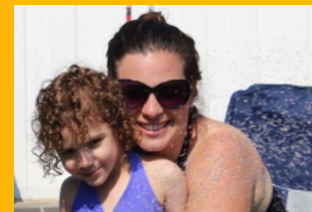
The 5th Annual Janet Cook Scholarship fundraiser was another hole-in-one, bringing in \$6000 for 2017-18's tuition assistance. Our sincere thanks for all the hands that played a part in its success!



## WATER DAY FUN



Our three year old students sliding into summer...



## UNITY STABLES

Unity Stables of Bing. treated us to "Tiger" the Quarter Horse. Our students learned some interesting facts about horses including proper care and diet. Thank you, Jenn Joines, for sharing him with us!

## "BLUE" THE BIRD



Mrs. Suzanne Tuch and "Blue" added extra flavor to our end-of-the-year Water Days!









# WHY SERVE?

BRENDA REIBSON

---

I once read a book on raising children that referred to “God's upside down world.” It suggested asking your kids, “Who wants to be last?” to help them understand God's reversal of individualistic values.

Whatever you think of that approach, let's look back for a minute to Jesus' time here on earth. When Jesus began teaching the disciples about God's kingdom, they were shocked at what they heard because it was the opposite of what they were expecting. They thought Jesus was going to be a conquering hero who would rescue them from religious and political oppression. Instead, Jesus said things like “the last shall be first and the first shall be last” and that whoever wanted to become great must be a servant. It was all reversed!

A memorable event took place not long before Jesus was taken away to be crucified. He gave the disciples an object lesson by wrapping a towel around his waist and kneeling down to wash their feet. Then, He told them, “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.” (John 13:14-15)

Jesus told them, and us, point blank, that we are to serve. But look at that last phrase, “as I have done for you.” The disciples didn't fully understand all that Jesus was about to do for them. Even with hindsight, we struggle to grasp the incredible fact that Jesus' sacrifice covers all our sin. We can never do as Jesus has done for us!

But here's an amazing part of the reversal that Jesus lived out in his life, death, and resurrection: even though our human efforts can never begin to compare to what Jesus has done, He values our humble service to others. Not only is our service valued, but God cares enough about us to give us meaningful service to perform.

Ponder these truths as you continue to determine your unique S.H.A.P.E. for ministry and to seek your fit in the body of Christ.



*Brenda is our pastoral intern from April to early fall. In addition to gaining skills and experience for pastoral leadership, Brenda will be helping us discover and implement our spiritual gifts and build our ministry and mission teams.*

# JULY

**02** Brenda Reibson Preaching

10:00am Worship (Two Services)  
5:00pm FPC:Youth

**03**

7:30pm AA Meeting

**04** Office Closed

6:30pm AA Meeting

**05**

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

**06**

7:00pm AA Meeting

**08** Kenya Mission Team Returns

**09** New Members Joining

10:00am Worship (Two Services)  
5:00pm FPC:Youth

**10**

7:30pm AA Meeting

**11**

12:30pm Staff Meeting  
6:30pm AA Meeting  
7:00pm Deacons

**12**

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

**13**

7:00pm AA Meeting

**16**

10:00am Worship (Two Services)  
5:00pm FPC:Youth

**17**

7:30pm AA Meeting

**18**

12:30pm Staff Meeting  
4:30pm Nominating Committee  
6:30pm AA Meeting

**19**

6:00am Men's Group  
1:00pm Women's Circle  
7:00pm Worship Team Rehearsal  
7:30pm AA Meeting

**20**

7:00pm AA Meeting

**23** Communion

10:00am Worship (Two Services)  
5:00pm FPC:Youth

**24**

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

**25**

12:30pm Staff Meeting  
6:30pm AA Meeting

**26**

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

**27**

7:00pm AA Meeting

**30** Brenda Reibson Preaching

10:00am Worship (Two Services)  
5:00pm FPC:Youth

**31**

7:30pm AA Meeting

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# AUGUST

01

12:30pm Staff Meeting  
6:30pm AA Meeting  
7:00pm Deacons

02

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

03

7:00pm AA Meeting

**06 Ed Fiaschi  
Preaching**

10:00am Worship  
(Two Services)  
5:00pm FPC:Youth

07

7:30pm AA Meeting

08

12:30pm Staff Meeting  
6:30pm AA Meeting

09

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

10

7:00pm AA Meeting

**13**

10:00am Worship  
(Two Services)  
5:00pm FPC:Youth

14

7:30pm AA Meeting

15

12:30pm Staff Meeting  
6:30pm AA Meeting

16

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

17

7:00pm AA Meeting

**20**

10:00am Worship  
(Two Services)  
5:00pm FPC:Youth

21

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

22

12:30pm Staff Meeting  
6:30pm AA Meeting

23

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

24

7:00pm AA Meeting

**27**

10:00am Worship  
(Two Services)  
5:00pm FPC:Youth

28

7:30pm AA Meeting

29

12:30pm Staff Meeting  
6:30pm AA Meeting  
7:00pm M&S Meeting

30

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

31

5:00pm NS Parent  
Orientation  
7:00pm AA Meeting



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