



NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

FIRST PRES PRESS

SEPTEMBER 2017 EDITION

The Beatitudes



Blessed to Be a Blessing

Sermon Series Begins September 17

Contents

- 3 A NOTE FROM THE PASTORS
Flourishing Disciples- Jan & Tim Devine
- 4 AMONG OUR PEOPLE
Stay connected- Nathan Jacobs
- 5 CONNECT
Restoring Our Joy and Flourishing- Sharon Early
- 6 FALL KICKOFF
Join us on September 9-10!- Nathan Jacobs
- 7 COMMUNITY
Announcements and news about opportunities to serve- Nathan Jacobs
- 8 DON'T SETTLE
A Farewell Message- Alisha Finn
- 10 ENDICOTT PROUD UPDATE
Exciting things are happening in Endicott- Jan Devine
- 11 NURSERY SCHOOL
See what's been going on with our little ones- Ronne Sisco
- 12 ALL HANDS ON DECK!
Answering the Call to Service- Brenda Reibson
- 14 SESSION UPDATE
Ministry. Mission. Education. - Linda Willets
- 15 SEPTEMBER CALENDAR
See what we're doing and get involved



IF

FLOURISHING CHURCHES

are led by FLOURISHING LEADERS

who are themselves FLOURISHING DISCIPLES

A Note

from the Pastors

THEN

The goal for every single one of us at FPC:E should be to become flourishing disciples of Jesus Christ!

What does "flourishing" mean in our context?

And what does a flourishing disciple look like?

The Sermon on the Mount is one of the most familiar and beloved portions of the New Testament that speaks about life in both practical and poetic ways.

The Sermon on the Mount is more than a set of rules. It is a call to embody Kingdom virtues and priorities that are not easy to live by. It is a call to the good life- but not good in the way the world defines "good." It paints the profile of flourishing disciples who pursue the Kingdom values Jesus taught. And therefore, it describes those who are "blessed."

Join us this fall as we study the first section of the Sermon on the Mount- the Beatitudes- found in Matthew 5. Small groups are also encouraged to dig deeper and challenge one another to FLOURISH!

Beginning weeks:

September 17, 2017	John 15:1-11	<i>Profile of a Flourishing Disciple</i>
--------------------	--------------	--

September 24, 2017	Matthew 5:1-2, 9	<i>Profile of a Flourishing Disciple: Blessed are the Peacemakers</i>
--------------------	------------------	---

October 1, 2017	Matthew 5:3	<i>Profile of a Flourishing Disciple: Blessed are the Poor in Spirit</i>
-----------------	-------------	--

October 8, 2017	Matthew 5:5	<i>Profile of a Flourishing Disciple: Blessed are the Meek</i>
-----------------	-------------	--

Jan & Tim

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Recently, I was able to get away for a weekend with my wife's family. As we all gathered in one place to just enjoy each other's company and reconnect, it felt really good to have that community. It is easy to let time slip by and not connect like we should as "life" gets in the way.



As September hits, our church family will be coming back together again as well. Many have been away during the summer, so take this opportunity to reconnect and enjoy our community of faith! Sep. 10 will be our Fall Kickoff Weekend—we will have special events, a guest speaker, and table fellowship times (see page 6). I know that I am looking forward to seeing everyone again more regularly, sharing stories, food, and worship to our collective Father, for the many blessings He has given his family.

In the meantime, take some time to catch up on what you may have missed in the life of the congregation and pray for the people you haven't seen in a while.

—Nate

Brendan and Anne Flanagan celebrated the birth of their daughter, **Ruth Anne** in July | **Gabby Laubisch** had medical testing done | **Alyssa Baumann** continues to battle her cancer and now kidney stones | The **Kenya Mission Team** successfully completed their trip | **The Fiaschi family** celebrated the July 15 marriage of their youngest daughter, **Hannah** | **Paul Everett** continues to recover at home from multiple medical concerns | **Dawn Davey's brother-in-law** spent time in the ICU | **Dawn Weber's children, Heather and David**, moved to Texas | **Jane Kamper's father** is recovering from a heart attack and angioplasty | **Sheila Beblavy and Connie Stanton's Uncle Chuck** passed away | **Alisha Finn and a number of our youth** went to Rock Mountain Bible Camp | **Patricia Collins**, a friend of Claudia Delafield, had successful heart surgery | **Courtney Seery** is home after being in Children's Hospital with viral meningitis | **Teri Pasquale** has been dealing with some health issues | **Gert Campbell** is home from rehab after falling and breaking her hip | **Rachel Saletta Nunn** (daughter of former members Clyde and Stacey Saletta) had premature twin daughters while visiting NY | **Janet Cook** is grieving the death of her sister, **Jessie** | **Janet Pacana** is grieving the death of her mother | **Wyatt Cady** had tubes put in his ears | **Billy Beardsley** is continuing to battle a tobacco addiction | **Janet Weber** passed away on Aug. 9 | **Brenda Reibson** is recovering from oral surgery | **Joan Preisendanz** had a very bad infection in her leg | **Vivian Tallman** is recovering from a small fracture in her back | **Hemant Tandi** and his family have had extended periods of time apart due to his work out of town | **The Kerr's sister-in-law, Cindy**, started chemo | **Rev. Brown Naik** continues to battle cancer | **Bev Conklin's cousin, David**, is battling cancer | **Claudia Delafield** celebrated 15 years with the Lord | **The Mansfield family** got to spend time with a young man serving the Lord in the DR | **Pam and Chuck Holmes' daughter, Dori**, is home and recovering from back surgery | **Helen and Jim Jephson** are transitioning to an apartment at GSV | **Jessica Johnson**, a speech pathologist in the nursery school, was diagnosed with breast cancer | **Patti Stillings** is grieving the death of her brother-in-law, **Steve Vlasak**

CONNECT



*"HAVE YOU EVER FELT DISTANT FROM GOD,
LAMENT LACKING THE JOY OF WHEN YOU
FIRST CAME TO CHRIST?"*

— REV. DR. TIM DEVINE, FPC:ENDICOTT

FROM A SERMON ON AUGUST 13

RESTORING OUR JOY AND FLOURISHING

Tim's sermon on Psalms of Community Lament resonated with me. He asked, "Have you ever felt far & distant from God, lament lacking the joy of when you first came to Christ?" I don't feel like I am lacking joy but I do feel at times that I am not as passionate and desiring to grow my faith as I should be. A recent experience has had me thinking about this: I was particularly touched when one of our newest covenant partners was so excited to be joining the church that she posted a picture of her membership certificate and the quote, "Every hour I need You," from the song *Lord, I Need You* (Matt Maher) that we sang that morning. I have to ask myself, "when was the last time I was so excited about my faith that I wanted to share with the world and recognized that 'every hour I do need You?'" In other words, am I flourishing as a disciple?

This year we will be examining what it means to be a flourishing disciple (see pastor's page this month). I ran across an article discussing an in-depth study, *The Discipleship Assessment*, done by LifeWay Research that examined the state of discipleship in the church today. They netted out "eight attributes that consistently show up in the lives of maturing disciples: bible engagement; obeying God and denying self; serving God and others; sharing Christ; exercising faith; seeking God; building relationships; and being unashamed (transparency). The study also found that certain kinds of behavior led to people growing in those attributes. Among them: confessing our sins and reading the Bible.

Why do I share this? Because I have found that for myself, I need my small group to help me keep on track with devotions (reading my Bible) and being authentic (confessing my sins). It is way too easy to get sucked into our American culture of busyness (pushing out time with God). It is also way too easy to become self-absorbed and not recognize the sin in my life.

If you are not actively in a small group, I invite you to take a step out of your comfort zone, connect with others, and pursue becoming a "flourishing" disciple with others here at FPC:Endicott! Watch for new small group opportunities this fall or speak directly with me about potentially joining a group or starting your own small group/micro-group. Together as *Flourishing Disciples* we will become a *Flourishing Church*!



"EVERY HOUR I NEED YOU"



FALL KICKOFF

SEPTEMBER 9-10

SATURDAY EVENING

On Saturday, Sep. 9 at 6pm we will have a potluck dinner with our speaker, Rev. Juan Sarmiento* at the home of Christina and Larry Pierce, 444 Anderson Rd, Vestal. Rev. Juan will share *"Can we be friends?"- Developing the Practices of Gospel Neighborliness*. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, Sep. 6.

SUNDAY MORNING

On Sunday, Sept. 10 we will have one United Worship at 10am. Rev. Juan Sarmiento* will share in worship: *"Doing our part, and much more"- Finding Your Place in Christ's Mission Right Where You Are and Beyond*.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Following worship, we will share a lunch together and hear about the work of The Outreach Foundation and ask questions about mission, church planting, cross-cultural ministry, and specific areas of the world. Again, it would be helpful for planning the meal if you let the church office know if you plan to attend.



* Rev. Juan J. Sarmiento is the Associate Director for Mission for the Outreach Foundation. Juan resources congregations in their missional renewal and builds networks for participation in God's mission. He served as Evangelism Catalyst at the Presbyterian Mission Agency and U.S. Director of PM Internacional, an organization that ministers holistically in several Muslim majority countries. Juan has been a pastor in English, Portuguese and Spanish speaking congregations and very active as a trainer and speaker in the areas of church planting, leadership development and cross cultural outreach. His formal education for ministry includes Columbia, Louisville, San Francisco and Fuller Theological Seminaries.

FPC:E COMMUNITY

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

Pat, e-mail
stccc@stny.rr.com or find
them on Facebook.

- Our **Chancel Choir Rehearsals** will begin on Thu., Sep. 7 at 7:00pm in the Choir Room. Bring a friend and join in the fun. Hope to see you there!
- The **Southern Tier Christian Community Choir**, under the direction of Pat Labzentis, will begin Wednesday rehearsals on Sept. 13 from 7-8:30 pm. This is a choir that is open to the community for singers ages 15 and older with a focus on sacred music. If you are interested in participating please speak to
- **Next FPC: Women's gathering: Dinner/Concert Night on Friday, Sep. 8**
5:30— Dinner at FPC Dining Room (\$7 at the door)
7:00— Concert by inspirational speaker/singer Sherry Anne at First Baptist Church of Endicott (free will offering)
Contact Jamie Jacobs to sign up: 607-761-6493 or jjacobs@riger.com
- **ECO has an active partnership with World Renew, who is mobilizing efforts to help the Houston region.** If you would like to donate to the relief efforts, visit worldrenew.net.
- **Samaritan Supper** begins again on Sep. 12. Volunteers are always needed to make this important ministry happen. If you are willing to help out, please contact Analise Farrell at toothdr13@aol.com
- Mark your calendars for Sunday, Sep. 17— our **Children's Ministry Kickoff**
- On Sunday, September 24, Jan Prentice (LCSW-R at the Samaritan Counseling Center) will be our guest for **Peace and Evangelism Sunday**. FPC:E supports the Samaritan Center as one of our local missions that reflects a ministry of shalom. The special offering taken on September 24 will go to support their ministry.



DON'T SETTLE

ALISHA FINN

Over the course of twelve years at First Presbyterian Church: Endicott, I've had the privilege of teaching the Bible, sharing the Gospel with kids, crying with students as they struggled in relationships praying with older students as they tried to figure out college and career plans, traveling with team members for conferences and mission trips, working alongside kids of all ages at work camps, retreats, Bible studies, and investing in training in childcare and babysitting helpers. It has brought me great joy to have built amazing relationships as God has brought young and old across my path with eagerness to be discipled.

As this new chapter of life begins in a new town, ministry will keep going! We will have new faces in front of us, but the prayer is the same. I desire for kids, students, and adults to experience God's Word, God's Love, God's Forgiveness, God's Adoption, and as a result obey God's Call on their lives.

My challenge to you also remains the same.

Don't settle.

Don't settle for knowing generalities about God.

Dig into Scripture (go verse by verse!) and learn of His majesty, power, and unending amazing attributes. Be in awe of God as He is above all things.

Don't settle for praying only when life is tough.

Pray without ceasing and pour your heart out honestly before God.

Don't settle for complacency in your sin.

Confess (agree with God) about your actions and ask the Holy Spirit to redirect your desires.

Don't settle for listening to advice from the world if it seems to have a christian twist.

Be discerning. Find wisdom for all aspects of life straight from God's Word.

Don't settle for church attendance as your expression of faith.

Let God's truth transform your mind and change you so much that you can't be mistaken for anything other than a follower of Christ 24/7.

Don't settle for finding your value in comparison to others.

Know that you are created in the image of God. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. God gave your life purpose before you were born. Live into that truth.

Don't settle for chasing the priorities our culture praises.

Money, fame, titles, promotions, and beauty are all temporary. They will fade away. Put your energy into knowing God and sharing the Gospel with others.

Don't settle for calling yourself a Christian without being a Christ-follower.

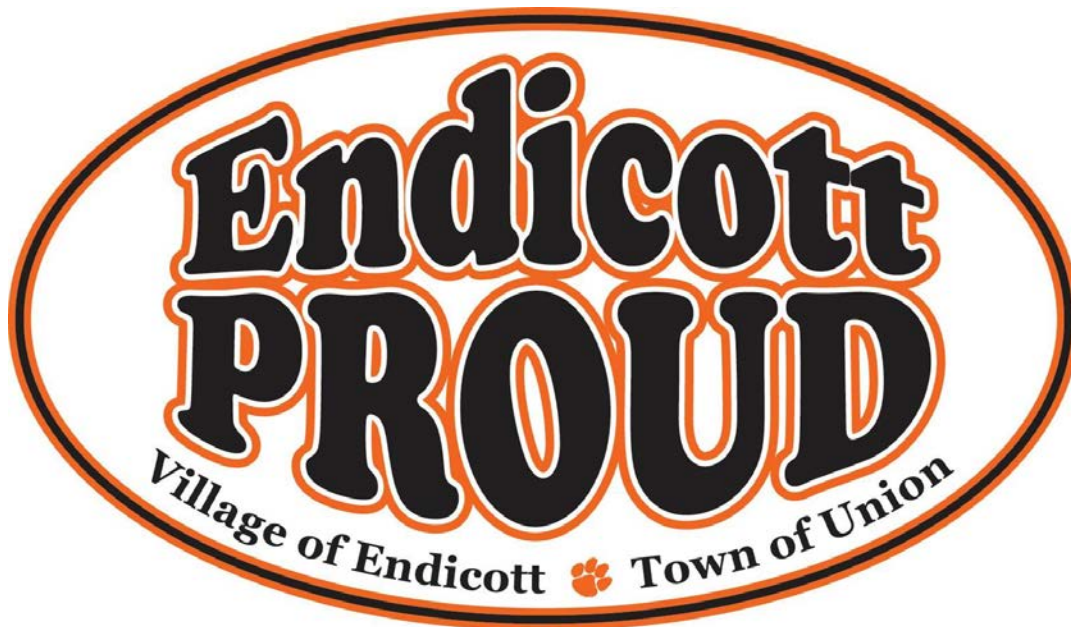
A title is empty unless you are living into it. Live into the amazing truth that Jesus has paid for your sin and has called you to unashamedly follow Him.

Don't settle for calling kids "future leaders" or the "church of tomorrow."

Kids are leaders right now. Invest in them. Raise them up in the knowledge of God. Memorize Scripture with them. Read the Bible with them. Teach them with eternity at the forefront of your mind. Give them opportunity to lead. Don't let them grow up thinking that their relationship with God is second to anything else.

It is so easy to settle into routine and let months and years slip by while letting your relationship with God grow stagnant. DON'T SETTLE! Pursue God with all that you are, all that you have, and all that will be. And praise Him as He directs your paths.

Many Blessings,
Alisha Finn



Exciting things are happening as Endicott leaders and residents pour time, energy, and resources into revitalizing our community!

Governor Cuomo awarded the URI (Upstate Revitalization Initiative) funding of 20 million dollars to be shared among the three iDistricts: Endicott, Johnson City, and Binghamton.

Laurene Jobs, widow of the late Steve Jobs (co-founder and CEO of Apple, Inc.) came to Endicott this spring to announce to U-E officials that the HQ Institute would present a 2.5 million dollar grant to support the "Tiger Ventures" Initiative housed at the Linneaus W. West School. The community celebrated in July when the school received the grant for this alternative high school and business incubator project, which combines elements of a traditional high school with a technology-infused curriculum.

Note: In the early 2000's, the graduation rate at U-E was about 65%. Today it has grown to 90%. The Tiger Venture Initiative is part of an innovative plan to continue to improve this statistic.

The Downtown Endicott Business Association (DEBA) organized outdoor concerts on the Ave. this summer.

The Endicott Police Department purchased four surveillance cameras and software, and has begun using the equipment to improve safety and security in our community. This technology was made possible by a \$33,000 gift from FPC:E.

Endicott was one of two communities in the finals for a \$10 million dollar grant to revitalize downtown Endicott. The proposal included improving the facades on the Ave., a hotel, green space, etc. Although Endicott did not win this year, there are already plans for an updated submission for next year's contest.

A grant is being sought to expand the Chugnut Trail, which currently runs along the river behind the H.S. and Boys & Girls Club.

The Huron Campus is doing renovations and welcoming start-up businesses.

The Beautification Committee is developing plans to create a Storybook Garden in Endicott for children and families.



REVVIN' OUR ENGINES!

New little faces will soon be adorning our school as we kick off 2017-18!

Our polished facility will be ready with new paint and carpeting in parts of our school!
Our nursery school staff family welcomes a new Pre-K Giraffe Class Teacher this year - please look for her introduction in next month's FPP!

PARENT COUNCIL

Our 2017-18 Parent Council is gearing up for an enriching line-up of family events! We always welcome new ideas and helping hands. If you would like to help plan and/or facilitate a nursery school event, please contact one of this year's officers:

2017-18 Parent Council Officers:

Tracy Adams - Co-President

adams.tracy@gmail.com

Annie Dotson - Co-President

adotson623@gmail.com

Steffanie Williams - Secretary

steffidubs@gmail.com

Stephanie Bender - Treasurer

stephbender@gmail.com

Judy Gleason - Newsletter

jjblainer@yahoo.com



SAYING GOODBYE

The nursery school wishes Alisha, Jeremy, Malachi, and Jeremiah Finn a wonderful future as their path takes them from us. Alisha has been of incredible support to us as a board member, colleague, and giving parent. Her time and talent blessed us in numerous ways and we will always be thankful for her friendship and that of all of the Finns.



ALL HANDS ON DECK!

BRENDA REIBSON

All hands on deck! This call, for all members of a ship's crew to report immediately for work, is a fitting expression for the church today. We've previously focused on the differences that believers have in gifts and the service God has wired and prepared them to do. Here we consider the need for everyone "on board the ship" to answer the call to service.

In 2 Corinthians 3:18, we read of the transformation into the image of God that he works in all believers:

"And *all of us*, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the *same image* from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit."

I Corinthians 12, we see the unity from which spiritual gifts originate:

Verse 6b "the *same* God works all of them in *all men*."

Verses 24b-26 "God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be *no division* in the body, but that its

parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

Verse 27 "Now you are the body of Christ, and *each one of you* is a part of it."

What's the point? Just as a sports team needs every player to be in top shape in order to perform well, we need to ensure that no one is "left out of the game" in our church. We are transforming into God's image at different rates, but we are all in it together! As we discover and develop our giftedness in God's timing as He grows us to look more like Jesus, let's support and encourage each other along the way. Our "team" will then "perform well" as we reflect the unity of the Spirit that God intends for his people.



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.

ECO

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

MINISTRY

Kevin Luo was approved to work with Michael Knowles in the Summer Youth Ministry.

Nathan Jacobs and Derek Washburn joined the Elders for the Visioning portion of our July meeting. Derek shared his spiritual journey and where he feels God is leading him at this time in his life. Nathan, Derek, and Session had some preliminary conversation about how to reengage the ministry/mission of the "Compassion Builders."

The Session accepted Alisha Finn's formal letter of resignation with gratitude for her 12 years of faithful service and prayers for the Finn family as they begin a new chapter of their lives in Pennsylvania. The Personnel Committee was given oversight as Alisha finishes at the end of August and we search for a new staff member in children/youth ministry.

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

Communion was changed from September 3 to September 10, 2017, so that the congregation can celebrate the Sacrament together at the united service which begins our fall season.

SESSION TRAINING

Elders viewed Session #3 of *Becoming a Flourishing Church*, which focuses on flourishing as individual disciples. The Session then broke into small group for discussion and to continue to encourage each other in our commitments toward deeper discipleship through our personal designs for discipleship.

SEPTEMBER

03 Brenda Reibson
Preaching
10:00am Worship
(Both Services)

04 Labor Day
Office Closed
7:30pm AA Meeting

05
12:30pm Staff Meeting
6:30pm AA Meeting
7:00pm Deacons

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

07 Nursery School
Begins
7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting

08
5:30pm FPC: Women

09
6:00pm Dinner with Juan
Sarmiento

10 Communion
Fall Kickoff
10:00am United Worship
(Juan Sarmiento)
11:15am Lunch with Juan
Sarmiento

11
7:30pm AA Meeting

12
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan
Supper
6:00pm Worship Team
Rehearsal
6:30pm AA Meeting

13
6:00am Men's Group
7:00pm STCCC Meeting
7:30pm AA Meeting

14
7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting

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

18
12:00pm Women's Club
Board Meeting
6:00pm Parent Council
7:30pm AA Meeting

19
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan
Supper
6:00pm Worship Team
Rehearsal
6:30pm AA Meeting

20
6:00am Men's Group
1:00pm Women's Circle
7:00pm STCCC Meeting
7:30pm AA Meeting

21
7:00pm Chancel Choir
7:00pm AA Meeting

23 MAG Gathering
in Honesdale

24 Peace & Evan-
gelism Sunday
9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's
Ministry
10:45am Worship Service

25
1:00pm Women's Club
7:30pm AA Meeting

26
12:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Samaritan
Supper
6:00pm Worship Team
Rehearsal
6:30pm AA Meeting

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

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

30
10:00am UE
Homecoming
Parade



FPC:ENDICOTT

29 GRANT AVE.

ENDICOTT, NY 13760

P: (607) 748-1544

F: (607) 748-1744

WWW.FPCENDICOTT.ORG

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FPCENDICOTT