



NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

FIRST PRES PRESS

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ECO NATIONAL GATHERING

RENOVATING OUR LIVES AND MINISTRIES – LOVING BEYOND BOUNDARIES
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS CULTURAL DIVIDES – ELEVATING PRAYER
PRIORITIZING MISSION – REAPING KINGDOM FRUIT

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A Note from the Pastors



At the end of January, a team of nine elders and staff folks from FPC:E went to Houston for the annual ECO National Gathering. Now in its 6th year, ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians is a movement of 361 congregations, 25 church plants, and 22 presbyteries.

One of the things we appreciate most about being part of ECO is that the leadership is willing to look with courageous honesty at who we are and what God calls us to be. In ECO, we are part of something new and exciting, but we do not have all the answers, and we are still far from what we could/should be. In three days, we were challenged in just about every area of what it means to be the Church of Jesus Christ. Below are just a few . . . we challenge you to also spend time thinking and praying about how these truths might impact who we are as a church:

The Priority of Mission:

"The church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning." (Swiss theologian, Emil Brunner, 1889-1966)

Youth:

"Really good research indicates that almost half of young people drift from God and the church after they graduate." (Fuller Youth Institute)

Unity and Diversity:

While conflict is inevitable. . . "Healthy denominations are built on a common theology and may have conflicts because of cultural diversity. Unhealthy denominations are built on a common culture with a conflicted theology." (Ed Stetzer, pastor, church planter, and Christian missiologist)

Leadership:

A kingdom leader is wise (Proverbs 16:2), powerful in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:1-10), leads by faith not sight (2 Corinthians 5:7), and sets his/her eyes on eternity (Colossians 3:1-4).
(Kyle Strobel, Spiritual Theology and Formation)

The Importance of Prayer:

"For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." (Isaiah 56:6-8)

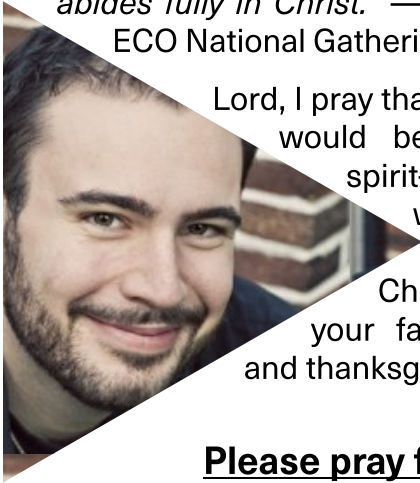
We didn't come home from Houston with easy answers. But we did come home with:

- A renewed sense of vision and purpose
- The encouragement of the larger Church as we struggle to be faithful together
- Helpful resources to address some of our challenges
- Deeper relationships among those of us who shared this experience, as we continue to do ministry/mission together

Jan & Tim

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

"The Lord weighs the spirit. The one who is weighty in soul is the one who abides fully in Christ." — Kyle Strobel, ECO National Gathering 2018



Lord, I pray that we at FPC:E would be weighty in spirit— that we would abide fully in Christ, seeking your face in prayer and thanksgiving. Amen.

Please pray for:

Dick Scroxton, who celebrated his 95th birthday on Jan. 24. He has been a member since 1959 | Praise for the safe return of **Hemant Tandi** from three weeks in India working on behalf of GPMO | **Doris Gerard**, who celebrated her 97th birthday in Jan. | **Jason Mitchell**, who marked three years clean from heroin | **Art Davis, Sharon Early, Tina Ide, Nate Jacobs, Jean Jenkins, Brenda Reibson, Derek Washburn, and Jan and Tim Devine**, who attended the ECO national conference as commissioners and attendees | **The Pierce family**, as Larry's father struggles with health issues | **The Landon family**, upon the unexpected death of Ken's brother, Christopher in Jan. | Praise that on January 3, **Devon King** marked his one-year anniversary of being drug-free as he continues his rehab in Albany | **The Lampe family**— dear friends of the Johnsons and Castoros— as they grieve the death of Karen's godmother, Gertrude in Jan. | **Tracy Adams and family**, as they grieve the sudden death of her sister, Shelly Wilson, on Jan 29 | **Sally**, a friend of Carole

Cockrell, who spent time in the hospital recovering from pneumonia | **Kenneth Lane**, a friend of Carole Cockrell, who underwent medical testing | **Paul Everett**, who had kyphoplasty surgery | **Bob Johnson**, who spent time in the hospital | **Ellen Hall**, as she grieves the death of her father, Raymond Nezelek | **Carole Ippinger and Bob King**, who are celebrating their engagement | **Cathy Landon**, who had surgery | **Jesse Galli's father**, who fell and had surgery for a dislocated hip | **Carol and Jack Mansfield**, who spent the month of February in the Dominican Republic serving children and families | **Doug Kerr**, who went to Philadelphia for further testing for ongoing heart issues | **Jim Santacrose**, who is experiencing health issues from his work | **Larry Hoey**, who had eye surgery | **Christy Williams**, who celebrated her birthday as she continues to serve children in Monterrey, Mexico, through Back2Back | Former member, **Shirley Spillman**, who fell and underwent surgery to repair a broken hip | Saima Tandi's friend, **Satwinder Kaur**, who visited FPC:E and gave thanks for securing a full-time job with benefits | Carol Cockrell's friend, **Faye**, who has been ill | Nathan and Jamie Jacobs' friend, **Megan Hoag**, as she deals with pain associated with a herniated disc | **Gerald Garcia**, a friend and mentor of Derek/Erin Washburn, who was just diagnosed with a brain tumor | **Jackie Mansfield, and her three boys**, who moved back to Miami | Former members, **Marilyn and Craig Jennings**, as Craig moves into hospice care in Austin, TX | **Bev Conklin**, as she grieves the death of her cousin | **Pastor Nissi's niece, Maria**, as she prepares to take her medical boards | **Pastor Nissi**, who has been having some health problems and spent time in the ER | **Wendy Buffington's mom**, as she continues to receive treatment for a wound that will not heal | For **our world** as hearts grow cold and the sacred is defiled. God has overcome sin and evil to offer life in the face of death (a member's testimony as we respond to the recent school shooting in Fla.) | **Jason Mitchell**, who had a 5-hour operation on his ear | **Walter Plante and family**, upon the death of former member Bernie Rae Plante | Vivian Tallman's daughter, **Patti**, that her body will tolerate chemotherapy and that she will have peace in her heart

ANNUAL MEETING 2018

Tim opened the meeting with prayer. In light of his recent health issues, Tim expressed his gratitude to Jan and the church for holding him up and also expressed what a blessing it is to be part of this ministry. He then prayed for God's direction into 2018 and blessed the meeting.

The three 2017 Goals were reviewed with information about our success in meeting the goals.

People took time to review and reflect upon areas of ministry and leadership: Brenda Reibson's work as our pastoral intern; the revitalization of Compassion Builders; Tina Ide's new leadership role in Christian Education and Youth; Eric Eiche, who volunteered to be the temporary Sunday morning custodian and is now willing to continue as a church employee; the value and growth of small groups; unpaid staff (Art Davis and Sharon Early); the positive interaction of the church-wide Advent Study and Facebook discussion; the musical leadership and gifts at both services; the new Christian Community Choir; ministry developments at the Samaritan Supper (Worship Team, Jesse Galli); Development of Cornerstone Presbytery; the young adult Climbing Ministry. All of this is made possible by a committed staff and the many people at FPC:E who invest in ministry and mission through FPC:E.

The congregation approved the Terms of Call for the Pastors and the use of up to \$55,000 from the Wagner Fund to support the 2018 General/Local Budget.

The 2018 Goal, and the reason for it, was highlighted: To make sharing the gospel an intentional part of every ministry and mission of FPC:E.

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

Session approved Personnel Committee's recommendation to hire Eric Eiche as the Sunday Custodian.

Session approved the 2018 Communion Dates as recommended by the Worship Ministry Team.

VISIONING

Sharon Early, Jean Jenkins, Rev. Jan Devine, and Rev. Dr. Tim Devine briefly shared what had impacted them from their experience at the 2018 ECO National Gathering. The other participants sent Session their thoughts in writing.

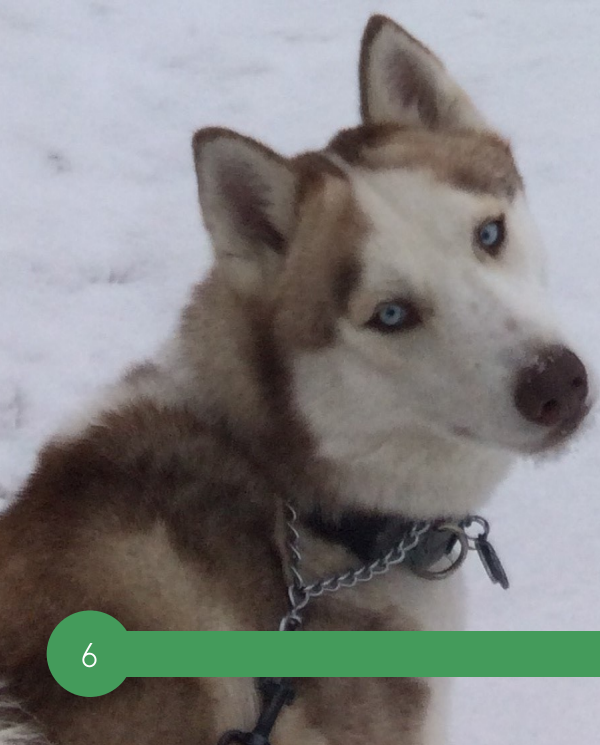
Session reviewed and discussed Session's S.M.A.R.T. Objectives for 2018 Goals and the ministry recommendations from Brenda Reibson.

WORSHIP/PRAYER/ SCRIPTURE/TEACHING

Elders spent time in prayer for individuals and ministries, including the Children's & Youth Ministry, Compassion Builders, Servant-Making Ministry, Small Group Ministry, leader training, and mentoring of new people.



SOMETIMES WE THINK WE NEED TO BRING OUR
BEST, BUT GOD CAN DEAL WITH THE MESS!
WE BRING OUR MESS AND GOD FILLS IN
THE REST. – CESAR CASTILLEJOS FROM
ECO NATIONAL GATHERING BREAKOUT
“LOVING BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES”



CONNECT

SHARON EARLY

I recently posted a picture called *Call us crazy, but Copper and I much prefer a snowy day walk to the hot, humid days of summer!!* Whenever I say I enjoy the cold over the hot days of summer, the majority of people look at me like I have two heads. It is hard to justify to others this preference, when in their experience, cold is just plain uncomfortable. They do not buy my catch phrase, “There is no bad weather, just bad clothing choices!”

Why do I share this? Because I have to imagine that sometimes when we try to love beyond our boundaries, we share Christ in such a way that others can’t fathom, from their perspective, how He is the solution to what they are looking for. Cesar Castillejos (ECO National Gathering’s breakout “Loving Beyond the Boundaries”) had us look at boundaries we might be setting in place which prohibit us from connecting with others.

We need to understand unintentional boundaries we might have from our own: cultural context; family background; personality; hobbies; perceived safety; and how our own faith journey shapes how we think “ministry” should be done.

We need to understand the current cultural climate (what the culture wants), so we can share how Jesus provides.

Today’s culture is all about convenience, control, and a culture of cravings. People today want to be noticed, have questions, have a desire to belong, and have a desire to be connected (yet feel very isolated). People today also desire greatness, want to make a difference, and want to know their voice matters. People are searching for an identity. We know our true identity is in Christ, yet that is a foreign concept to those whose god is “self.”

Jesus requires us to move beyond ourselves and to cast a new culture of inconvenience, interruption, and inclusion (creating space to bring all of who you are). This can cause insecurity since it is in direct opposition of today’s culture. To many it may seem like we are telling them they need to enjoy the cold weather without proper attire and that is not appealing at all! Educating people about proper cold weather clothing helps them to find joy in the cold. In the same way, when we understand cultural boundaries, we can help people discover that although they may lose their individual identity, when they find their identity in Christ, they are actually freed and able to find joy in life.

Cesar closed by saying “Sometimes we think we need to bring our best, but God can deal with the mess! We bring our mess and God fills in the rest.” He reminded us that we don’t know who will be stepping up to serve in 10 years. The “mess” we see now might be the next future leader of our congregation. We need to be willing to disciple and walk alongside people— wherever they are— and allow them to grow and change into who God desires them to be!

So what boundary do you have that might be limiting your ability to connect to and reach someone for Christ?

CM

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

MARCH THEME:

God's plan for redemption, which began before creation, is fulfilled with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

MARCH 4

FAMILY DAY!

MEET IN TREEHOUSE
ROOM @ 10:30AM

Our children have been following the story of the Israelites from the time of the judges through the first few kings. Mark your calendars and plan to join us on March 4 for FAMILY DAY and see what we've been learning.

UPCOMING LESSON SCHEDULE

STUDYING THROUGH THE GOSPELS

MARCH 11

MATTHEW 21:1-17: MARK 11:1-11:
LUKE 19:28-44: JOHN 12:12-19

At the triumphal entry, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey while the people welcomed Him as King. One day Jesus will return to Earth as King over all.

APRIL 1

HAPPY EASTER!
NO CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY

MARCH 25

MATTHEW 28:1-10:
JOHN 20-21

Jesus' resurrection is a time of great rejoicing for those who choose to believe in, follow, and serve Him!

MARCH 18

MATTHEW 26:36-28:10

Jesus was crucified, died and was buried. On the third day, He rose again defeating death and giving life to His own.

RENOVATE

NEHEMIAH 2:18

TINA IDE

This year's E.C.O. gathering called us to consider ways we might renovate our churches. That's a powerful word to use because it's not about starting over or starting from scratch. Instead, it's about using who and what we are to create a better church now and develop hope for the future.

As I reflected on that, the question then became, *"what tools do we have that can help us renovate and improve not just our children and youth programs, but the whole life of the younger ones in our midst?"* The answer to this isn't new or radical. In fact, it's one I believe in deeply but needed to be reminded of again, and, thankfully, it was repeated over and over again throughout my workshops. The most basic and most valuable tool we have is relationships. They are the glue which holds people together— providing support, comfort, encouragement, and community. Moreover, they are statistically proven to influence the longevity of a young person's faith as well as commitment to the church.

Beginning to form these relationships is simple. It begins by saying hi, learning names and interests. Then, in time and with commitment, these blossom into sharing faith stories, enjoying meals, showing up for games and concerts, and the list goes on.

If we want to develop in our children a life-long faith, we must purposefully walk alongside them, demonstrating their importance by investing in relationships with them.

-Tina





YOUTH

MARCH 4

HOMEBOUND VISITS

3:00– 5:00pm

Meet at church. Join us as we spend the afternoon bringing love and joy to those in our congregation who are homebound.

HIGH SCHOOL

High School Ministry continues to meet on Sunday mornings from 10:30am-11:50am in the Monroe House. Join them as they continue their study of the Gospel of Luke.

MARCH 9-11

THAW WINTER RETREAT

@ ROCK MOUNTAIN

MARCH 18

PIERCE FAMILY HOME

3:00pm-4:30pm

633 Anderson Road, Vestal
Bring a snack, your Bible and friends! If you need a ride, please contact Tina.

MARCH 25

IRON CHEF!

3:15– 5:00pm

Meet in church dining room.
Come test your creativity by seeing what you can make with just a few provided ingredients.



APRIL 1

HAPPY EASTER!
NO YOUTH GROUP





YOU'RE INVITED!



You are invited to browse and bid at the nursery school's **10th Annual Art Silent Auction** after services Sunday, March 4, until Tuesday, March 6, at noon. Art expressions from our families and friends in the community have donated their talent - all proceeds benefit our Arts Programming. Winners will be notified by phone.



Join our effort to help offset preschool tuition costs for area children by rounding up your team for our **6th Annual Janet Cook Scholarship Golf Tournament!**

Thursday June 7 @ Traditions at the Glen
1pm shotgun start with dinner & prizes to follow!

Contact Derek Washburn to register your team:
Derek@FirstPresEndicott.org or 748-1744



OPEN HOUSE

YOU OR A FRIEND RESEARCHING
PRESCHOOLS?

Come to our Open House on Friday, Mar. 23 from 6:00-7:30pm to see what we're about! Set out on our treasure hunt to explore all of the unique programming here at First Pres. - celebrating 55 years of excellence!

REGISTRATION

IS UNDERWAY FOR 2018-2019!

Download a form from our website at NurserySchool.FirstPresEndicott.org or pick one up at the front desk. We'd love to discuss our school with you, arrange a tour, and answer any of your questions: 607.748-1744



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 2018 IF: Endicott Local Gathering is Friday evening, March 23, and Saturday, March 24! Our gathering is a safe place to gather with women to worship God, to dig into the Scriptures for guidance, and to encourage one another. If you would like to register, please go to www.fpcendicott.org/events/if-endicott-2018 and follow the instructions there. We look forward to seeing you! Questions? Call Kristy Mansfield at (607)349-0099.

- More than 10 years ago, a small circle of knitters gathered in the lounge once a week and knit (or crocheted) shawls. It may sound old fashioned, but it was the beginning of the Prayer Shawl Ministry at FPC:E. The weekly gathering has passed, but there is renewed interest in starting up the group again and gathering more shawls for those who need a bit of encouragement. The storage cupboard is located in the lounge, to the right of the conference table, and is labeled "Prayer Shawls." If you are planning a visit to someone who is shut in, sick, or in need of our prayers, why not take them a prayer shawl? We have a

beautiful selection of shawls; all wrapped and tied with yarn the color of the shawl. Choose one from the cupboard; all we ask is that you sign the clipboard hanging on the door. Your friend will be receiving the dedication, love, prayers, and blessings of our Prayer Shawl Ministry. Are you interested in being a part of this revival of shawl creation? Anyone who knits or crochets or sews (or would like to learn), please contact Missy Goetz @ 607-341-2466. Come and join this ministry and enjoy working on a project you love, fellowship with wonderful people, and gain fulfillment in giving back to people in crisis.

EASTER FLOWERS

2018 EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Please PRINT clearly! This information will be used in the bulletin. The deadline for orders is *Friday, March 23*, 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.

COMPASSION BUILDERS

DEREK WASHBURN

With the McKinley House in our rear view mirror and the thoughts of Spring popping in our heads, we are focusing on getting organized for our push forward. We have been contacted for 3 different projects and are in the planning phase for the first that we will get started on in the next week or so. Please be praying for Moira and the time that we will be able to spend with her as we work at her house.

Going to the ECO conference was rewarding for a few different reasons. One was the time spent with staff and the encouragement that being together at a conference can create. Another was the encouragement to push forward through the hard months of winter. I was able to go to a couple of sessions that focused on reaching out to your surrounding community and building relationships across racial and cultural boundaries. While in Houston, some of us were able to go and visit a community building group called Rebuilding Together: Houston. It's a national organization that does exactly what we would like to do. While it is quite large and works on 20+ homes a month, it was quite an informative meeting and I was able to take away some ideas that will be useful for us. Nate, Art, Tina, and I were able to spend most of Thursday working for RT: Houston on a home that was flooded in Hurricane Harvey.

As we begin our next steps I am focusing on these main goals: 1) While working on our next project, keep spreading the word of our ministry and praying for God to lead us to the people who need us most. 2) Working with Endicott Proud and other community organizations to see how we can fit into each other's goals for reaching out and bettering our community. 3) Building a volunteer base that is made up of our members, other churches, and other groups in the community. We want to stay away from burning volunteers out by rotating jobs with as many people possible. 4) Spend time taking inventory and organizing our equipment and other supplies. 5) Spend time cleaning the Monroe House in hopes to host groups on short trips like the ones we go on down to Honesdale. 6) Focus on creating and seeking short term storage place that is useful for the mission with the hope of someday being able to have a garage that we can share with other needs of the church. This would be much more efficient to work from than hauling heavy equipment up and down the Monroe House basement stairs.

Please help me with prayer for all of these things, especially for the community relationship part. The more involved in the community we become, the more people we can share Christ's Kingdom with.



MARCH

01

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

02

6:00pm Nursery School
Art Show

04 **3rd Sunday of Lent**

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's
Ministry Family
Day
10:45am Worship Service
3:00pm FPC:Youth

05

6:00pm NS Board
Meeting
7:30pm AA Meeting

06

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

07

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

08

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

09 **THAW Retreat**

10 **THAW Retreat**

11 **4th Sunday of Lent**

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

12

7:30pm AA Meeting

13

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

14

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

15

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

18 **5th Sunday of Lent**

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's
Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
3:00pm FPC:Youth

19

6:30pm NS Parent
Council
7:30pm AA Meeting

20

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

21

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

22

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

23

5:00pm IF Gathering
6:00pm NS Open House

24

9:00am IF Gathering

25 **Palm Sunday**

9:00am Worship Service
10:30am Children's
Ministry
10:45am Worship Service
3:15pm FPC:Youth

26

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

27

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

28

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

29 **Maundy Thursday**

7:30pm Living Last
Supper Worship
Service

30 **Good Friday**

7:30pm Tenebrae
Worship Service

A dark, misty forest with bare trees and a bright light source in the background. The scene is atmospheric and somber, with the light creating a strong contrast and highlighting the silhouettes of the trees.

DELIVER US FROM EVIL

A STUDY OF JESUS' TEMPTATION
IN THE WILDERNESS