



NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

# FIRST PRES PRESS

NOVEMBER 2018 EDITION

# HE'S COMING AGAIN!

## A STUDY OF 1 THESSALONIANS

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# A Note from the Pastors



## Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

— 1 Chronicles 16:34

### We Give Thanks For:

The MANY people who have volunteered countless hours working on the renovations and maintenance of our facilities.

### We Give Thanks For:

The lives and witness of those we have loved and lost this past year.

### We Give Thanks For:

Powerful examples of covenantal marriage in our congregation.

### We Give Thanks For:

Our Sticky Faith Gatherings, where generations are joining together to build formational relationships.

### We Give Thanks For:

The overwhelming support of the congregation as Ben and Kristen commit their lives to one another as husband and wife.

### We Give Thanks For:

The opportunity to “do life” together with others in authentic community.

### We Give Thanks For:

The gifted and competent staff we work with.

### We Give Thanks For:

A “holy discontent” that keeps FPC:E leadership asking, “What should we be doing next, or differently, for the sake of the Gospel?”

### We Give Thanks For:

The many opportunities we have to minister within and beyond our church walls because of the faithful service of people in this congregation.

### We Give Thanks For:

The legacy we are able to build upon from 100+ years of faith, leadership, and stewardship at FPC:E.

### We Give Thanks For:

Students who have recently made faith commitments, and those who have poured into their lives.

### We Give Thanks For:

The blessing of being part of Cornerstone Presbytery and ECO.

### We Give Thanks For:

A Session that desires to lead and empower others to lead.

# AMONG OUR PEOPLE

## Please pray for:

**Lynn and Greg Barsigian**, who celebrated their 35th anniversary on 10/1 | **Dawn Weber**, who celebrated her 66th birthday | **Billy Beardsley's aunt**, who is recovering from pneumonia | **Janet Cook**, who spent time in Wilson Hospital to regulate her heart | **Linda's Glajch's father**, who dislocated his shoulder during a fall | The families of 3 victims of a **helicopter crash in Alaska**. David King, one of the victims, is the son of former Vestal residents and aviation missionaries, Dwayne and Carolyn King | Four-year old **Jeremiah Finn**, who required testing and treatment for an extended illness | Bev Conklin's granddaughter, **Alexa**, who had surgery for a shattered bone in her upper arm | **The Davey's daughter's mother-in-law**, who fell and was in the neuro unit with a brain bleed | The Christian witness of **Samaritan's Purse and the Mennonite disaster team** who helped the Kerr's friend after her home was flooded | **Margaret**, who is the daughter of Bill and Janet Bittner, and the sister of Beth Dean. Margaret had surgery to remove a tumor in her brain | **Bob King**, who came home from Cleveland and is finishing his rehab at Good Shepherd Fairview! | **Dulcie Malizia**, one of our childcare providers, who is suffering from serious back issues | Children and parents who were part of the **fall weekend at Rock Mountain** | **Janet Cook's sister-in-law**, who is going to the Mayo Clinic for further treatment | **Kristen Devine and Ben Loughridge**, who were married on 10/20. Blessings as they begin their marriage! | Thanks to those who

supported the **Fall Dinner of The MCC Climbing Ministry**. Approximately 40 climbers competed, enjoyed fellowship and braved the cold! They were very appreciative of the meal that was provided | **Adele Everett**, who had surgery for a shoulder replacement on October 31 in Syracuse | **Carole Cockrell**, who fell and injured her foot | **Ronne Sisco** (our Nursery School director) and her family, as they grieve the death of Ronne's uncle, **John O'Neill** | **Collin Seaman**, the great-grandson of Virginia Ulsh, who was just diagnosed with leukemia. The Lyons and Seaman families would appreciate your prayers | **Brenda Reibson**, who was ordained to serve at Mountain Presbyterian Church in Sunbury, PA | **Marion Cinciosi**, who spent time in the hospital this past week | Praise is given for **Paul Everett's** very encouraging report from Paul's oncologist at Dana-Farber in Boston. Paul and Adele are very grateful for everyone's prayers during this health battle | **The Jephson family**, as they grieve the death of Helen on 9/16 | **The Preisendanz family**, as they welcomed baby **Ellington (Ellie) Claire Preisendanz** into the world



**Helen Jephson**

Sep 16, 1932

—  
Sep 29, 2018



## DEVOTION

**E**lder, Chris Loughridge, began by quoting lyrics from the praise song “Reckless Love” – “I couldn’t earn it, I don’t deserve it, still You give Yourself away.” He then read Isaiah 46:3-4 “Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, even when you turn gray I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.” and vs. 8-10 “Remember this and consider, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no one like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, “My purpose shall stand, and I will fulfill my intention.” This speaks to God’s gracious work in the past, present and future.

Chris explored how we deal with challenges and suffering in light of our faith as he read Romans 8:18-19: “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us, For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” and Romans 8:37-39: “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

He ended his devotion by reminding the Elders that it is given that we will all experience suffering, but nothing will ever be able to separate us from that love.

## 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

**S**ession approved a church-sponsored mission trip to Kenya through The Outreach Foundation on Feb. 10-23, 2019.

Session approved the proposed 2019 budget as presented by Art Davis.

Session approved \$18,500 of the Robert Thomas bequest to be used for mission projects and/or scholarships, in recognition of Bob’s faithful support of mission trips during his life. Up to \$1,800 of this fund will be made available each year; the Mission and Stewardship Committee will handle the distribution.

## VISIONING

**E**The 2019 ECO National Gathering – “Locally Grown” – will be held on Tuesday, January 29 - Thursday, January 31, 2019 in Colorado Springs. Rev. Dr. Tim Devine and Rev. Jan Devine encouraged the Elders to participate. There is \$4,000 available from Session-Approved Causes to subsidize ECO national and presbytery meetings. Session approved allowing program staff to attend to equip and encourage the staff.

Rev. Dr. Tim Devine led the discussion on Chapter 5, “Mission Without Compromise,” from the Gospel Centered Church. Elders took turns reading parts of this chapter along with the reading of Phi.1:12-30 (Honor Christ by life or death). Session then brainstormed about different ways to do ministry and mission to reach the community around us for Christ.

# CONNECT



*"IF THERE IS AMONG YOU ANYONE IN NEED, A MEMBER OF YOUR COMMUNITY IN ANY OF YOUR TOWNS WITHIN THE LAND THAT THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GIVING YOU, DO NOT BE HARD-HEARTED OR TIGHT-FISTED TOWARD YOUR NEEDY NEIGHBOR." -DEUTERONOMY 15:7*

We continue to discern what God desires of FPC:E – specifically as we are planted here in Endicott. How can we reach a community that is hurting – both physically and spiritually? In the fall of 2016, FPC:E did the study “To Transform a City,” and at the same time, we became aware of the group “Endicott Proud.” This grassroots organization desires to ‘transform’ Endicott once again into a place where people want to live, work, and play. From the study, it was recommended to partner with existing organizations, and to that end, we have been walking alongside this group. In case you aren’t aware, here are some exciting things that have occurred recently and ways you can plug in:

- The group celebrated the first TASC graduate (formerly GED or high school equivalency exam). Tuesday night tutoring for Adult Education is being made available at the Endicott Library to work toward taking the test. If this is an area you would like to plug into, let us know.
- The Greater Binghamton Fund announced many projects being funded across Endicott: 8 Commercial/Mixed Use Property Revitalization projects, 1 Housing Rehabilitation, and 3 Streetscape Improvement Projects specific to Endicott plus 2 across all three iDistricts (Binghamton, Johnson City and Endicott).
- Endicott Proud had a presentation from National Pipe and Plastics, Inc. about their business and upcoming plans for West Endicott, specifically the former EJ building. Tentatively, the morning of Nov 5, they will begin knocking down the building across from West Endicott Park with viewing and food to celebrate!
- Truth Pharm (an Opioid addiction awareness program) is presenting a program on Nov. 26 and 27 at 6pm in the UE auditorium. Choose the night that fits your schedule (the program is the same both nights) and plan to be educated on this troubling society issue that cuts across all ages and demographics. One of the most disturbing facts they shared previously is that the average age of an addict is in their 40s and typically began with narcotic pain-killers due to surgery.
- This year the Beautification Committee had 4 garden areas adopted, 9 adopt-a-pot locations, and 2 garden areas cleaned-up and ready for adoption next year. To prepare for winter and to plant bulbs for a ‘pop of color’ next spring, the committee is planning a bulb-planting/garden area clean-up on Saturday, Nov. 3. Meet at the UE district office at 9:30am to help around the village or at FPC:E at 10am to work on our garden area and plant ~200 bulbs.

Let’s continue to invest in the needs of the village of Endicott, where FPC:E is planted, in order to love and care for our neighbors and share with them the hope of the good news of Christ!





# CHECK IT OUT!

Our thanks to Pediatric Physical Therapist Colleen Williams for presenting  
 “The Brain-Body Connection for Preschool: Improving Abilities through  
 Movement, Play and Mindfulness.”

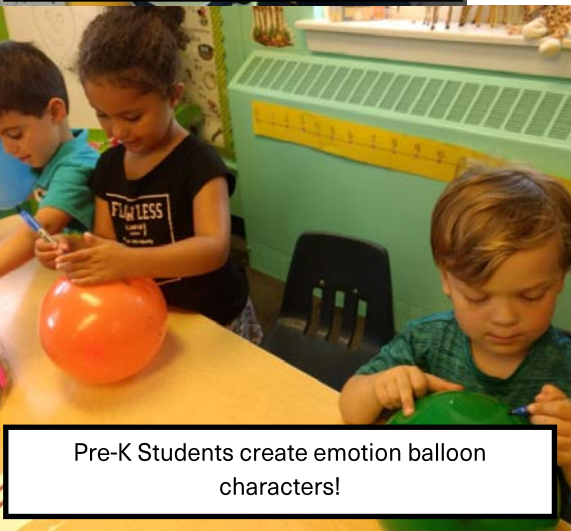
Staff from Northminster Preschool and the Maine-Endwell UPK team were  
 able to join our First Pres. family on October 5. It was an enriching and  
 educational day for us all!



Vertical Surfaces=  
 Stronger Muscle Control!



Pumpkin Farm Fun!



Pre-K Students create emotion balloon  
 characters!



After a walking trip to GFJ Library, Mrs. Sisco and “Lola”  
 introduced students to OUR Library!



Autumn beauty at Jackson’s  
 Pumpkin Farm!

# CM CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## TRY THIS AT HOME

If you're looking to hear more about your kid's day other than "good," try having a conversation using these simple yet powerful questions. To help your kids in this, be sure to share your own answers to these questions. "What was the best part of your day?" and "what was the hardest part of your day?" are open-ended questions that encourage your child to thoughtfully reflect upon their day. Follow those questions up with "where did you see God at work?" and "where did you need God's help today?"

These questions remind them that no matter what happened during the day, God was with them. The last two questions I would suggest certainly require you and your kids to be humble and honest about the choices you made during the day. Consider "How did you show Christ to others?" and "Was there something you could have done better today?" Follow these last two questions up by praying with your child, praising Him for the good, confessing the wrongs, and seeking his guidance.

### NOV. 4

HOSEA, PROPHET TO  
ISRAEL (HOSEA 1-4)

Hosea's relationship with Gomer reminds us that even though God's people are unfaithful and love other things more than they love God, God still loves them.

### NOV. 11

JONAH, PROPHET TO  
NINEVAH (JONAH 1-4)

Jonah's story centers around the compassion of God, not only for the people of Israel, but for people throughout the earth.

### OCT. 21

JOEL, PROPHET TO  
JUDAH (JOEL 1-3)

Joel warned God's people about the Day of the Lord—a day when God will judge His enemies, free His people, and make the world right again.

### NOV. 25

NO CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRY

Happy Thanksgiving!

## NOVEMBER MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 145:8 (NLT)

*"The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love."*





## SUNDAY MORNINGS

10:30am— Middle and High School Gathering

11:00am— Middle School | Jr. High Room |  
Lessons will follow the Children's Ministry  
schedule

11:00am— High School | Monroe House |  
Students are digging deep into the Gospel of  
John this year

## YOUNG LIFE

**Young Life Retreat:** Fri.-Sun., Nov. 16-18  
High School Students. Lake Champion  
(Glen Spey, NY). Cost: \$140. Scholarship  
assistance available – talk to Tina.  
To sign up, visit: [binghamton.younglife.org](http://binghamton.younglife.org)

**Young Life Club:** For details, See Meg  
Mansfield or connect with YoungLife on  
Instagram ([greaterbinghamtonyl](https://www.instagram.com/greaterbinghamtonyl/)).

## LOVING HANDS– SUNDAY, DEC. 2, 4PM

Loving Hands is a Sticky Faith Event for all ages. We will gather together at the church to sign cards, fill baskets, and make crafts. After eating a light meal, intergenerational groups will head out to deliver the baskets and sing carols to those in our church and nursery school family who are in need of some extra love, prayer and cheer this holiday season.

If you would like to provide some of the goodies for these baskets, either use the sign-up sheets in the gathering area OR visit [www.perfectpotluck.com](http://www.perfectpotluck.com). Coordinator Last Name: Ide, Password: Dec02.





# 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 annual Christmas** luncheon/ dinner will be held Friday December 14, at 12pm at Good Shepherd Village. For reservations, please call Charlie and Maxine Waughtel (607 -625-4693). If you have any dietary issues, please let the Waughtels know.
- During the month of November our Deacons will be recognizing the Hebrew tradition of the Festival of Sukkot or Festival of the Booths. This festival marked the end of the harvest season

when the Israelites would sleep and eat in a temporary building called a sukkah (booth). FPC:E will have a sukkah booth set up in the back of our sanctuary to “gather a harvest of food” which will be distributed among our church and nursery school families for Thanksgiving. Please bring to church non-perishable foods to donate to our booth (in non-breakable packaging or containers) such as: canned peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, cranberry sauce, fruit juices, etc.; canned corn, green beans, peas, etc.; soups, pasta sauce, turkey gravy, etc.; peanut butter, Nutella, jelly (plastic jars), etc.; rice, instant mashed potatoes, dry

stuffing, dry cereal, uncooked pasta, etc.; other similar foods you might think of. Donations will be collected from Sunday, Nov.4 until Sunday, Nov.18.



# NOVEMBER

**01** **Compassion Builders Work**  
5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00pm Chancel Choir  
7:00pm AA Meeting

**02** **Compassion Builders Work**

**03** **Compassion Builders Work**  
9:30am Endicott Proud Landscaping

**04** **All Saints Day**  
9:00am Worship Service  
10:30am Children's Min.  
10:45am Worship Service

**05**  
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 Chancel Choir  
7:00pm AA Meeting

**11** **Stewardship Dedication Communion**  
9:00am Worship Service  
10:30am Children's Min.  
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

**14**  
6:00am Men's Group  
6:00pm Chancel Choir  
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal  
7:30pm AA Meeting

**15** **No Choir**  
5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00pm AA Meeting

**18**  
9:00am Worship Service  
10:15am Congregational Meeting  
10:30am Children's Ministry  
10:45am Worship Service

**19**  
4:00pm Endicott Proud  
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** **No Choir Thanksgiving Office Closed**  
7:00pm AA Meeting

**23** **Office Closed**

**25**  
9:00am Worship Service  
10:30am Children's Ministry  
10:45am Worship Service

**26**  
1:00pm Women's Club  
6:00pm Truth Pharm  
7:30pm AA Meeting

**27**  
12:30pm Staff Meeting  
5:30pm Samaritan Supper  
6:15pm Worship Team  
6:00pm Truth Pharm  
6:30pm AA Meeting

**28**  
6:00am Men's Group  
7:00pm STCCC Rehearsal  
7:30pm AA Meeting

**29**  
5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00pm Chancel Choir  
7:00pm AA Meeting



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