



NEWSLETTER OF FPC:ENDICOTT

FIRST PRES PRESS

OCTOBER 2019 EDITION

Got questions about life?

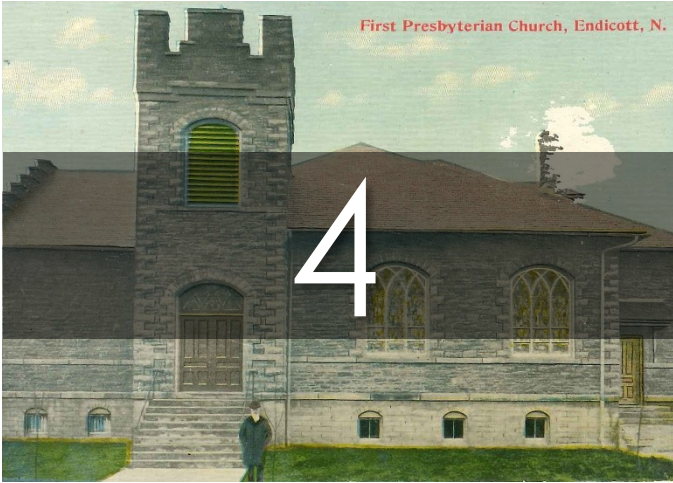
Alpha is an opportunity
to explore life and the
Christian faith in a
friendly, open, and
informal environment



Alpha

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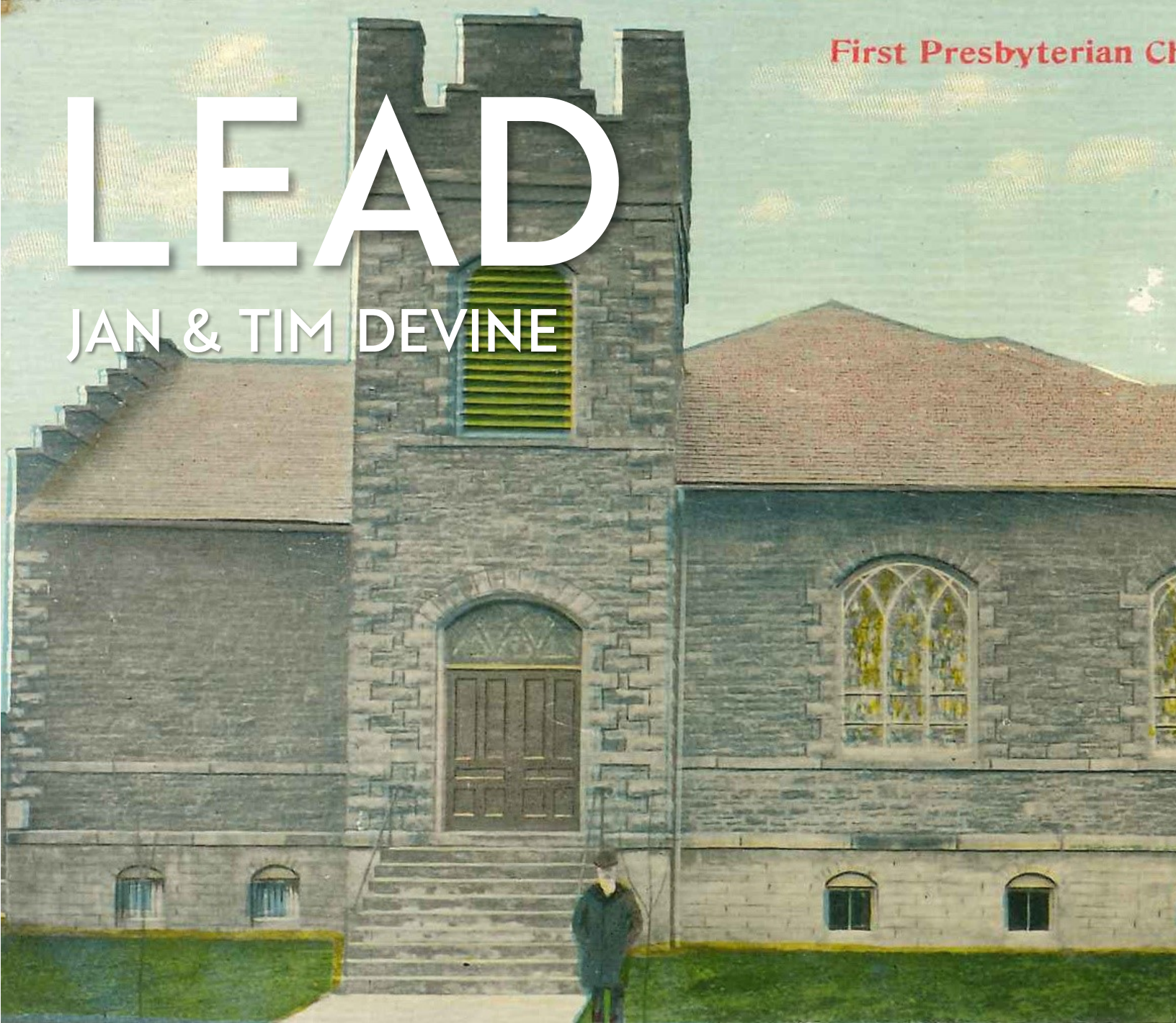
Nursery School
Ronne Sisco/Derek Waddell

PROGRAM STAFF

Co-Pastors:	Jan and Tim Devine
Children & Youth:	Tina Ide
Prod/Tech/Comm:	Nathan Jacobs
Connecting Ministries:	Sharon Early
Worship Team Leader:	Jamie Jacobs
NS Education Director:	Ronne Sisco
NS Business Director:	Derek Waddell

CONTACT

jantimdevine@fpcendicott.org
tina@fpcendicott.org
office@fpcendicott.org
sharon@fpcendicott.org
jjacobs@riger.com
nurseryschool@firstpresendicott.org
derek@firstpresendicott.org



LEAD

JAN & TIM DEVINE

First Presbyterian Church

Last week we found a handwritten note and postcard in our church mailbox. The message said:

Hi! I was looking at old postcards & saw this one of your lovely church. From my kitchen window I can see your stain glass windows, especially in the winter. I live on the alley between Grant and McKinley. Your entrance to your parking lot road is across from our road.

Anyway. . . I enjoy your church being my neighbor. I pray you like this postcard & it is sent with prayers for all that is best for your lovely church!
Sincerely,
Kathleen
SMILES

We had so many reactions to this note:

What a lovely thing for Kathleen to take the time to share a piece

of our history and her blessing for our church!

- Have we as a church ever taken the time to get to know Kathleen and others as our neighbors?
- Does we as a church bless our neighbors in the community?
- How could we share the light of Christ with Kathleen, not

Church, Endicott, N. Y.



just the light of our windows
as she looks from the outside
in?

- What made the leadership decide in the 1950's to gut and completely renovate the sanctuary, take down the bell tower, move and add windows, and change the external structure and entrances?
- How did the congregation respond?
- How did those changes help the church flourish?

Kathleen's prayer is "for all that is best for your lovely church!"

- How could our prayers and our actions reflect a renewed commitment to work for all that is best for the people who live in our community?

Join us on October 6 for our Day of Repentance (see page 6) and then on October 13, as we begin our pilot "Alpha" course on Sunday mornings (see front cover).

Our interactive study of "Reimagining Evangelism" and "Evangelism Without Additives" on Monday evenings (6:30-8pm) continues through the beginning of November.

Looking at the postcard, we realized that the picture shows the original sanctuary, when the entrances were on Monroe Street, a bell tower rose above the main entrance, the sanctuary was decorated in dark wood, and the pews were rounded and facing a different direction.

“

*HOLY SPIRIT,
CREATE WITHIN
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ABOUT LIVING
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LOVES.*

”

DAY OF REPENTANCE | OCTOBER 6, 2019

People may be right in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their heart. — Proverbs 21:2

It happens so subtly. Passion and purpose are gradually replaced by patterns and preferences.

It happened to the church in Ephesus. They worked hard and endured hardships without growing weary. But they no longer loved God or others as they first had. So, Jesus told them through the vision He gave the Apostle John, *"Repent. Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches."* (Revelation 2:2-5, 7)

It happened to the church in Laodicea. They had become lukewarm in their passion, neither hot nor cold. Their tepid indifference was intolerable to Jesus. He told them through the vision He gave the Apostle John, *"Repent. Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches."* (Revelation 3:15-16, 22)

It has happened in FPC: Endicott. We also have lost our first love and have become lukewarm about fulfilling our primary purpose. God is using the voice of Paul Borden to help us recognize that, individually and as a congregation collectively, we have failed to make disciples for Jesus Christ on a regular and consistent basis.

Therefore, one of the prescriptions we have been given is to join together in a Day of Repentance:



“On a Sunday in the Fall of 2019, the pastors will call the congregation to a united worship service to allow the congregation to seek forgiveness for failing to make new disciples for Jesus Christ. The pastors, staff, and elders will offer prayers that day, asking God to forgive them individually and as a congregation collectively for failing to make disciples for Jesus Christ on a regular and consistent basis. The leaders will pray that God will give this congregation a passion for people apart from God and a compelling vision to do all they can to rectify this situation. Following this service of prayer, the congregation will be divided into groups to prayer walk and prayer drive in our communities to pray for those apart from God. Then, everyone will return to the church for a common meal, to share what God taught them as they prayed, and to celebrate the sacrament of communion together.

Sunday, October 6, is our Day of Repentance. May we have the integrity to look at where we have fallen short, the humility to confess our disobedience, and the courage to move forward in greater obedience to the Great Commission.

Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.
Matthew 3:8, NLT

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 9:30am | Worship |
| 10:45am | Prayer Walk/Drive/Stations in the Sanctuary |
| 11:30am | The Sacrament of Communion |
| 12:00pm | Table Fellowship/Lunch |



WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS...

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO DOT MELROSE FOR THE QUIET WAY SHE SERVED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS BY SCHEDULING FLOWERS FOR EACH SUNDAY MORNING. THE FLOWERS ADDED TO THE BEAUTY OF OUR WORSHIP SPACE, THEY PROVIDED A WAY FOR PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE LOVED ONES AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS, AND THEY BROUGHT A SMILE TO PEOPLE EACH WEEK AS THE DEACONS VISITED AND GAVE THEM TO THOSE WHO WERE STRUGGLING OR CELEBRATING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY, DOT.

WE ARE GLAD TO WELCOME EDE SORNBERGER INTO THIS MINISTRY, AS HE TAKES OVER FOR DOT TO CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE FLOWERS FOR A SPECIFIC DATE OF THE YEAR, TO REMEMBER SOMEONE OR CELEBRATE A SPECIAL OCCASION, PLEASE CONTACT EDE TO SCHEDULE THINGS.



STAY CONNECTED

OUR WEBSITE IS A ONE-STOP SHOP FOR ALL THINGS FPC:E RELATED:

- LIVESTREAMED SERVICES
- PAST SERMONS
- MUSIC
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- VIDEO TESTIMONIES
- DIGITAL GIVING
- MINISTRY INFORMATION
- NEWS AND MORE!



FPCENDICOTT.ORG

VISION

LINDA WILLETS



Leadership Community

Elders spent a long time at the July Session meeting discussing the CTC process, the prescriptions we were given, the impact on the congregation, the commitment that will be required from each elder and each staff member, and our ultimate desire to follow Christ. Elders prayed together and approved going forward with the CTC Process/Prescriptions. They dealt with the

recommendations that program staff offered regarding next steps in fulfilling the prescriptions.

At the August Session meeting, Tom Parker, CTC Coach, from Phoenix, Arizona was introduced, via phone call, to the elders. A “holy coincidence” - Tom was born and baptized at FPC:E as a small child. His parents (Charles and Phyllis Parker) attended our church

before relocating when Tom was 10. He has been trained by ECO and assigned as our “coach.” Tom will interact with the pastors every 2-4 weeks in the beginning and then monthly for one year. Tom emphasized the importance of the elders working on being healthy disciples and be constant in prayer. He led the Session in prayer for our church and our leaders.

Elders committed to pray Romans 1:16 at 1:16pm each day: *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile"*

Elders hosted CTC Gatherings during the summer to maintain communication with the congregation.

Elders are reading the book "Deep & Wide" by Andy Stanley and discussing the content at their meetings.

Elders have committed to meet in the Chapel each Sunday, starting September 8, from 8:45-9:05am to pray for the worship, teaching, children's ministry, etc. Everyone is welcome!

Business

Session approved Wendy Howard to work up to 10 hours/week in the front office during the summer construction.

Session approved Sharon Early and JD Paff as our Commissioners to the 2020 ECO National Gathering.

Session approved Jean Jenkins as Elder Commissioner at the 9/27/19 Cornerstone Presbyterian meeting.

Session responded to two Covenant Partners who have decided to find other places to worship. Both people were placed on the inactive list until they are ready to ask for a Letter of Transfer. The Session prayed for these people and blessed them in their decisions.

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FOR I AM NOT
ASHAMED OF
THE GOSPEL,
BECAUSE IT IS
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OF GOD THAT
BRINGS
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FIRST TO THE
JEW, THEN TO
THE GENTILE
-ROMANS 1:16

”

Session approved moving the Sunday School Nursery to the former Robe Room on the top floor for safety and security reasons.

Discipleship

June 5 Meeting – In light of celebrating two weddings this summer in their family, Elder Bruce Barney led a devotion from the book "God's Little Devotion Book for Couples." He read three readings- one for a newer couple, one for a middle-age couple, and one for an older couple. Bruce included Ephesians 5:31, Ecclesiastes 9:9, and Hosea 2:19 in his exhortation for us to live out this important commitment.

July 10 Meeting – Elder Chris Galli led a devotion titled "Don't Follow Your Emotions, Follow God!" He read Jeremiah 17:9 *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it."* Modern media encourages us to "follow your heart, and it is hard to ignore the power of our feelings, but we DO have control over them. God advises us to be mindful of what our heart tells us. No one can MAKE you angry; no one can MAKE you love them; no one can MAKE you worry, and no one can MAKE you happy. Chris encouraged us to guard our hearts and submit our feelings to the truth of God's Word.

September 4 Meeting – Elder Jean Jenkins read an excerpt from Brother Andrew's book, *And God Changed His Mind*, which exhorts us to pray for the salvation of others.



GROW

TINA IDE

There are two basic ways to reach a destination.

One is slightly haphazard and spontaneous. You know the destination but there's no plan or preparation involved. It's up to luck and good direction to get where you're going.

The other involves looking at maps, planning a route, considering how long you can drive each day and so on. While the first option can certainly be enjoyable, it can make the journey challenging.

As a church, we have a destination in mind: spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the unchurched and the unbelievers and by so doing, grow our church. Specific to Children's

Ministry, part of this destination includes growing Children's Ministry. Neither of these destinations can be reached without purpose and intention in preparing for the journey. And that is the work we about this fall.

In preparing for our journey of making disciples, youth will be learning alongside the adults in service to ask the questions, *"Who is my neighbor?"* and *"How do we share the Gospel with our neighbors?"* The focus of Children's Ministry this fall is on the parables of Jesus which not only teach us about who Jesus is but what it means to follow Him, and what it means to spread God's Word in how we live and how we treat others.

So join us as we move closer to our destination of being a church that works daily towards being and spreading the Good News of the Gospel.



TEACH

RONNE SISCO & DEREK WADDELL



Please join us in welcoming our nursery school's new Director of Business...

"Hello First Pres. families,
My name is Derek Waddell. I am
a husband and father of two
school aged children. My family

lives right across the river in
Vestal. I'm excited for this
opportunity to serve EFPNS in
the capacity of Business
Director. I am excited to see
what we can do for our families
within the community and assist
all children getting the early

education that they need. With
my wife being a teacher, it is a
blessing to have a schedule that
will closely mirror my family.

We are a very active family, we
love our two dogs, we love to
travel, and you can usually find
my wife and me on the sidelines
rooting on our kids and their
friends. When we aren't
watching sports, we are usually
traveling to visit friends and
family. We also have a passion
for serving and volunteering in
our community. I look forward to
meeting with you and being part
of the FPC mission."







29 GRANT AVE.
ENDICOTT, NY 13760
P: (607) 748-1544
F: (607) 748-1744
WWW.FPCENDICOTT.ORG
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FPCENDICOTT
WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/FPCENDICOTT