



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FENTON

To be a loving community of faith dedicated to helping people know Jesus Christ and grow, share and serve as his disciples.

5th Sunday after Pentecost

June 27th, 2021 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

DRESSING THE TABLE The Meditations of My Heart

WELCOME

A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 24

1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

2 for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

3 Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

4 Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

5 They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

6 Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

7 Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

8 Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

10 Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of Hosts, you are indeed strong and mighty. Nothing is beyond your grasp or outside your view. May your glory fall in this place today and upon the hearts of all those who worship together. May you be the King in this place and in our hearts. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

The grace God overflows for us through Christ Jesus who came in the world to save sinners. Let's quiet our hearts and listen to the voice of our father in heaven who loves us.

ENCOUNTER (A time for silent and personal prayer...)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God of all joy, you have invited us to enter your presence boldly; yet we have turned away from you. You have opened the way for us to celebrate our relationship with you joyously, but we have held back in fear. We confess that we have resisted your summons to intimacy.

Forgive us from turning from you; by your gentle and firm Spirit, bend us from our stubborn resistance. Warm our hearts to welcome your embrace; quicken our voices to sing your praise, and our feet to dance with joy, in bold assurance and glad celebration, that we are indeed beloved by you, and that through Christ you reign over all.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone, a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our eyes so that we may see your truth as we hear your scripture today, Lord. Grant to us willing hearts to do what you speak to us, strong hands to accomplish what you intend and enduring legs to go where you send us. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 40:27-31

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”?

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

30 Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

31 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

SPECIAL MUSIC Bob Chappelle

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 15:1-8

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it

will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON Resting Well

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

How do you best rest?

Are there things in your life that need pruning so that you can be more fruitful?

ANTHEM In The Father's Hands Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE based on a prayer from the Church of England

God in Heaven, we are grateful that we can speak and that you hear our prayers. Our concerns, our suffering and our joy are readily shared and understood and we praise your name for caring for us all so well.

Saviour of the world, be present in all places of suffering, violence and pain, and bring hope even in the darkest night. Bring clarity to confusion and relief from oppression. Inspire us to continue your work of reconciliation today.

Lord of the Church, empower by your Spirit all Christian people to be effective agents of your Kingdom, doing the work of your Church in every land. Give us grace to proclaim the gospel joyfully in word and deed. Help us to know the depth of your grace to us and joyfully share it.

Shepherd and Guardian of our souls, guide and enable all who lead and serve this community and those on whom we depend for our daily needs. We pray for our political leaders, those in the medical profession, police officers, fire fighters and those who are dedicated to serving others. Grant that we may seek the peace and welfare of our neighborhoods and our world.

Great Physician, stretch out your hand to bring comfort, wholeness and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Fill us with compassion, that we may be channels of your healing love. Nurture in us the capacity to recognize and respond in love to people in pain whom you connect us with.

Conqueror of death, remember for good those whom we love but see no longer. Comfort us in our grief. Help us to live this day in the sure and certain hope of your eternal victory.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. And we pray as your Son taught his disciples to pray saying...

LORD'S PRAYER

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Let us greet the goodness of the One who made us and loves us with gifts that reflect our gratitude and an act of worship.

(Financial Offerings can be placed in dropbox located in the New Narthex)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May these gifts and these dedicated hearts go forth from this place in your will to bring your name glory and further your mission in the world. May your love to us be present in these gifts so that others might know of your love for them. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

HYMN #840 It Is Well With My Soul

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen

POSTLUDE God is so Good and Bach

What's Happening at FFPC

Your Donations are Most Welcome

We had such a good experience with our Kids Enrichment Program last summer as we distributed books, games, puzzles, and art and craft supplies-- that we are planning to have four Saturday distributions July 3, 17, and 31, and August 14 this summer.

We are grateful that our sister congregation, St. Jude's Church, so graciously welcomes us to use their North lawn along Leroy street at the same 10 am to noon time slot, when they distribute free food to more than 30 families. This cooperative church outreach enhances family traffic to our display.

Our big emphasis this summer is to encourage reading, math skills, creative imagination, and family togetherness. We are gathering books for adults also, sensing that parents who value reading will inspire their children to read.

To meet our goals, we welcome your donations of books for all ages, games, puzzles, and art and craft supplies (all in good condition). The large collection container just outside our East entrance welcomes your contributions.

Then, you are most welcome to bring children you know Saturdays July 3, 17, 31, and August 4 to choose among the freebies to make their summer a time of learning and imagination.

Gratefully,
David Eshleman

Summer Sunday School for children ages kindergarten and up: Join Miss Tina at 10am in Fellowship Hall

We are excited to offer Sunday school during the beginning of worship in the fun and relaxed atmosphere of Fellowship Hall. Our focus is a weekly Bible story, worship music skills, and activities. As classes grow we will transition to downstairs classrooms.

Children will move to worship after the sermon where they will either sit with their parents or with Miss Tina in a designated spot. ALL children are asked to wear a mask when being dropped off for class; they may take their mask off once seated in worship at their parent's discretion. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tina Ritchie, Rebekah Ratza or Pastor Robbie.

Currently, there is no childcare available for nursery and preschool children. The Christian Education Committee is looking to hire 2 people to provide childcare on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and during other programming as needed. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Kate Kirkey or Deb Bard for qualifications and other information.

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Bible Study: 11:15 –noon Led by Pastor Robbie Carnes: Join Pastor Robbie following worship *No class on communion Sundays (1st Sunday of each month). Join via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81586041549?pwd=dXdsSUR3cUdocGJCRDRR_eEhPUnd3UT09 Meeting ID: 815 8604 1549 Passcode: 229105

Christmas in July! It's time to record and prepare for our Advent Lunchbox Concert Series!

Who: If you're a part of our church life and are interested in sharing Christmas music, please sign up for this fun event! You do NOT need to be in the Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, or Youth programs to participate. All music levels are welcome!

What: Lunchbox concerts are informal and smaller/shorter concerts that are performed during the lunch hour. Look it up; it's a thing! Thanks to technology, ours will be fully-virtual.

When/where: Though these recordings will take place in mid-July, they will actually broadcast (via Zoom and Facebook Live) each Wednesday at 1PM in December.

Why: Because there's too much Christmas music to squeeze into our Advent worship services! The goal of this endeavor is to create fun, festive music without rushing through the Christmas season; all too often we become too hurried to keep our focus on the true reason for the season. This will allow us to sit back and enjoy extra music, "gather" via Facebook Live or Zoom every Wednesday in December, and share our gifts and talents. Additionally, recording now ensures that we can host this while we're in a mask-free, low COVID-count time.

How: If you'd like to provide music, sign-up through the link provided.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094CADAE2AA3FA7-Christmas>. Sign-up deadline is July 5. All recordings will take place during this one week time frame as we will have the Christmas tree down for a limited time. Independent submissions are more than welcome and accepted up until July 31st. Plenty of time is needed to put the recordings and everything together. Not available during this particular week? Let's talk and figure something out!

Did you know our church will have a table at the Fenton Farmer's Market this summer?

The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a table at the Farmer's Market for 8 weeks – July 8 through August 26, from 5-9pm. Our purpose is to minister to and serve the community by listening to needs and sharing community resources, and not about promoting our programs or church. We seek to be the hands of feet of Christ – demonstrating His love by serving, assisting, and providing hospitality to others.

Each week will have a different area of focus:

- July 8 - Family activities
- July 15 – Children's activities
- July 22 – Music activities
- July 29 – Mission activities
- Aug 5 – Family activities
- Aug 12 – Children's activities
- Aug 19 – Music activities
- Aug 26 – Mission activities

If you'd like to help, please see the signup sheet located in the church main entryway, or contact the church office. Spots are available for those wishing to be a welcome host, explain activities, pray with others, or assist with set up and clean up. We look forward to serving with you!

Prayer requests and updates can be sent to Debbie Hoeglund by phone at 810-252-0410 or by email at pardeb18@hotmail.com.

Sunday Evening Small Group from 5 – 6:15PM: Beginning June 13, this group will meet through the summer

(June-July-August) and discuss women in the bible (both heroes and villains), one or two a week, BUT because people travel etc., we don't have a set schedule. The plan is to decide each meeting when to meet and which characters to study during the next meeting. Contact Larry Zimble for more information. Join us in person at 4square Tax AND also on Zoom.

Join via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82961241969?pwd=M0lPMmxYU001SnQ0Z3cwV3h5Z1phdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 6124 1969 Passcode: 017303

FPC Shepherd Program - As we found when a group from our church made COVID-calls last January, it is very important for our Spiritual Family to have a sense of connection, especially in this season of COVID. The FFPC Shepherd program is dedicated to do just that on a continuing basis. FFPC Shepherds are those who commit to call FFPC members and friends two times a year so that a loving connection can be maintained. If you are interested in being part of this fulfilling ministry, please let Nikki Black know. Call Nikki's home phone at 810-750-4189, or text her at 586-917-0774, or email her at nikkiwestberg@yahoo.com.

GriefShare Thursdays beginning June 3rd from 10:30am-12:00pm: Have you experienced a loss? Whether recently or many years ago, it is healing to gather with people who share a sense of loss to talk things through and receive love and support. GriefShare groups to provide a space for just that. Classes are limited, so please contact Hannah Hall at (517)881-4732 to reserve your spot.

Deacons Helping Hands: Do you need help with simple household chores? Do you need someone to pick up groceries or prescriptions? Do you need a ride to a doctor's appointment? We have HELPING HANDS for you. If you have a request or question, please contact Nancy Berger, 810-701-6556, Rick Bard, 810-629-8729 or the church office 810-629-7801.

World of Wonder Mission Opportunities: World of Wonder is located in downtown Fenton (404 W. Ellen St - the original High School location) and is an essential part of developing community. They offer an amazing variety of ways to support educating our young children as well as supporting families. If you are interested in making a difference, please contact their office manager, Amber Brown, for more specific information and referral to the best person for your interest. The office phone number is 810-591-8349.

For more general information about their programs, visit their Facebook page.

- Read to children – during the pandemic, this would be via a computer link to the classroom.
- Be a pen pal to a class of children in their program. The teacher of that class will then assist the children in writing a response to you. They have 10 classes.
- Make donations to their programs (Community Share, Helping Hands Food Program, Delivering Hope)