

# 40

## Year Members

Phyllis Cmejrek	Feb 14 1954	Sara Wrage	Sep 21 1978
Joyce Guilbault	Feb 14 1954	John Wrage	Sep 21 1978
Judy Brown	Apr 14 1957	Lori Murray	Dec 20 1979
Pam Andersen	Mar 30 1958	Carolyn Post	Dec 18 1980
Julie Hussar	Mar 26 1961	Bev Welch	Mar 13 1980
Gloria Butts	Dec 11 1966	Jerry Welch	Mar 13 1980
Barbara Hungerford	Dec 20 1970	Nancy Berger	Apr 13 1980
George Hameline	Dec 26 1971	Donna Anderson	Apr 13 1980
Bob Browder	May 16 1971	Chris Anderson	Apr 13 1980
Peggy Fowler	Nov 25 1973	JoAnn Beardslee	Apr 18 1982
Melissa Erwin	May 20 1973	Dennis Beardslee	Apr 18 1982
Vera Thornton	Jun 02 1974	Toadie Middleton	Dec 05 1982
Lynne Watters	Mar 20 1975	Harold Skinner	Apr 18 1982
Mitzi Uebel	Mar 20 1975	Bonnie Griffith	Mar 17 1983
Denise Morris	May 18 1975	Peggy Blough	May 22 1983
Debera Bard	May 20 1976	Roberta O'Hara	Apr 19 1984
Shari Foguth	May 18 1978	Bev Tippet	Apr 29 1984

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## A Brief History First Presbyterian Church of Fenton

Our story began a few years before Michigan became a state. In 1834, about the time the first non-native American settlers came to the area surrounding Fenton, Mr. Clark Dibble established a settlement on the banks of the Shiawassee River called Dibbleville. One year later a log cabin on the north side of the river became home to the first Sabbath School. By 1837, Col. William Fenton had built a large building on the corner of South Leroy and Elizabeth Streets to house community and religious meetings. A variety of ministers from different denominations preached in that structure.

Finally, on February 28, 1840 the First Presbyterian Church of Fentonville was established. With The Reverend Mr. Gray of Utica serving as Moderator, seventeen members signed on as charter members. Those members were: Mr. and Mrs. Silas Newell, George Newell, Sophia Hadley, John Hadley, Mr. and Mrs. John Fenwick, Mr. and Mrs. James Wortman, Mr and Mrs. Benjamin Rockwell, Mr. and Mrs. John Gallup, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel LeRoy, Eliza McOmer and Lucy LeRoy. From this group John Hadley, John Gallup and Benjamin Rockwell were elected Ruling Elders and Silas Newell was elected Deacon. A few days later seven additional individuals were added to the membership of the church.

The first church building was erected in 1848 and was located at the corner of Adelaide and Rockwell Streets. Unfortunately, that structure was destroyed by fire in 1861, about the time the congregation had finished paying for it. The current site for the church was secured in 1862. The original sanctuary was a board and batten structure which has been modified several times. The side alcoves, a choir loft and the exterior paving brick were added in 1899. Sabbath School space, remodeling to the parlors, dining room and kitchen took place in 1930. In the 1960's an education wing was added. In the early 1990's the Chancel was remodeled.

On January 8, 2012 the congregation rededicated the building after an extensive renovation. Every part of the building was renovated in some way. Highlights of the renovation included a new entrance, expanded fellowship hall and narthex, new bathrooms and a brand new kitchen.

Today, every inch of this space is being used throughout the week by scout groups, Bible Studies, Community groups, service organizations, and more. FFPC is a beacon of welcome, ministry and service in our neighborhood. Thanks be to God.

The people in the pews have made this Church historic. We honor all of our members, but today we will especially recognize members of 40 years or more.

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