



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.

12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 31st, 2025 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE "Psalm 93" Regina Ederveen
Julie Hussar -Harp, Bonnie Griffith - Organ

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 112

1 Praise the LORD!

How joyful are those who fear the LORD
and delight in obeying his commands.

**2 Their children will be successful everywhere;
an entire generation of godly people will be blessed.**

3 They themselves will be wealthy,
and their good deeds will last forever.

**4 Light shines in the darkness for the godly.
They are generous, compassionate, and righteous.**

5 Good comes to those who lend money generously
and conduct their business fairly.

**6 Such people will not be overcome by evil.
Those who are righteous will be long remembered.**

7 They do not fear bad news;
they confidently trust the LORD to care for them.

**8 They are confident and fearless
and can face their foes triumphantly.**

9 They share freely and give generously to those in need.
Their good deeds will be remembered forever.
They will have influence and honor.

**10 The wicked will see this and be infuriated.
They will grind their teeth in anger;
they will slink away, their hopes thwarted.**

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, in the rush and confusion that so often marks our lives, we find ourselves longing for something which seems to move and dance away as we strain to watch and listen. The strain has wearied us, and we are tired. In this hour, Gracious One, our hope is for a calming of our hearts and the freeing of our spirits so that we may receive the Call; the yearning You have for our lives. Help us, God, so that we may hear You. Amen.

*LAY READER (Hymn Introduction)

As we sing this hymn, we join with Christians throughout the ages and with all of Creation to sing our praises to God the Creator. Psalm 145 says, "My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever." This is our call and our invitation, and now, using the words God has given us through the voice of a Saint, we answer that invitation with a joyful "Alleluia!"

HYMN PH #15 BH #455 "All Creatures of Our God and King"

CALL TO CONFESSION: —1 John 1:5-7, NIV

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Loving God, we come this day as a community committed to the gift of ministry You have given us. We claim the power of Your love and forgiveness and long to move forward with one heart into the holy work of healing, love and liberation. But even as our hearts stir, O God, we feel the tugging strings of fear and doubt. Even as we plan and strategize, we sense the power of a world that will not welcome our work. We admit these fears and doubts, Holy Spirit, and open our hearts before You in prayer. Bind us up. Open our arms to the support and love we have in each other. Take away our selfish needs and wants and teach us the simple creating beauty of Your self giving love. Diminish our egos and fill us with the wholeness that is our being in You. We ask this in hope and in joy, Amen.

ACCLAMATION OF PARDON

**1 Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!**

**Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured—
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.**

Refrain:

**Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin!**

**2 Sin and despair, like the sea-waves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater— yes, grace untold—
Points to the Refuge, the mighty Cross.**

Refrain:

**Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin!**

**3 Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe!
All who are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment His grace receive?**

Refrain:

**Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin!**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this your Word, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life. Through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Proverbs 11:25

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

ANTHEM “If God is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us?”

(From the Messiah, G.F. Handel)

Soprano, Nancy Casteel

(Slide) *If God is for us, who can be against us? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's Elect? It is God that justifieth, who is he that condemned?*

It is Christ that died, yea, rather, that is risen again, who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Philippians 2:1-8

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, **2** make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. **5** Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

7 but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

SERMON Philippians: Any Encouragement, and comfort, any fellowship, and affection
Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Has anyone ever sat you down and told you who you are in Christ? Were you encouraged?

Have you ever sat anyone down and told them who they were in Christ? How can you be encouraging?

***LAY READER (Hymn Introduction)**

In the Old Testament, Gilead was the name of the mountainous region east of the Jordan River. This region was known for having skillful physicians and an ointment made from the gum of a tree particular to that area. Many believed that this balm had miraculous powers to heal the body. In the book of Jeremiah, God tells the people of Israel that though many believe in the mysterious healing power of this balm, they can't trust in those powers for spiritual healing or as a relief of their oppression. He reminds them that He is ultimately in control, and only He can relieve their suffering. In the New Testament, God answers the suffering of His people by sending His own son to take our place. Jesus becomes our "balm in Gilead." It is Him we are called to turn to in our times of trial for healing and comfort. We sing this song with that assurance: no matter our hardships or supposed shortcomings, Jesus loves us enough to take our suffering upon Himself.

HYMN PH #792 BH #394 "There is a Balm in Gilead"

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING —based on Psalm 111:1

Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our being. In the company of the upright, let us honor God for the blessings and goodness we have received.

(If you would like a written prayer request included in our prayers today, please indicate that and an usher will collect them)

Let us pray: Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us— our selves, our time, and our possessions—signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us— Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Will the Ushers Please come forward.

OFFERTORY "Be Now My Vision" Rhett Barnwell
Julie Hussar -Harp, Bonnie Griffith - Organ

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive

us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

HYMN PH #465 BH #403 “What a Friend We have in Jesus”

CHARGE—based on 1 John 3:23, NRSV

Go forth in the name of the Lord. This is God's charge: We should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us.

BENEDICTION Instrument of Peace

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.**

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is darkness, let me sow light.
For in the giving, we shall re-ceive,
and in the dying, we're given life.**

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.**

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.**

**Where there is sorrow, let me sow hope.
Where there is doubt, let me sow faith.
Where there is inju-ry, your pardon give,
Your conso-la-tion to those in pain.**

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.**

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.**

A - men, a - men.

POSTLUDE “Come Christians, Joy to Sing”

Robert James

Peace be with you!...and also with you!

Be sure to visit the sign-up table before you leave on Sunday mornings! There are many opportunities to volunteer and serve.

Closed Captions during worship are available on the TV located in the Sanctuary Annex. Please see Mike Cupp or Kelly Sunman-Davis with questions.

Do you use the T Coil hearing loop? If you are having trouble with the system, please info Mike Cupp.

Children's Sunday School and Worship Information

Class begins at 10AM and children return to worship after the sermon where they are welcome to either sit with their parents or with Miss Tina. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tina Ritchie

There will be no Sunday School or child care on Sunday August 31st due to the holiday weekend.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday September 1st in recognition of Labor Day.

Kitchen Training - Two dates for the kitchen training are after church on Sunday, September 14 or September 28. Sign-up in Fellowship Hall.

Save the Date! Congregational Life Lecture & Information Series

Join us for an engaging series of talks on important life topics.
Desserts and coffee provided!

When: 6:30 PM start time

Where: Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Topics:

September 25 – Donating Your Body to Science

November 20 – End of Life

January 29 – Leaving a Legacy

Come learn, connect, and share in meaningful conversation.

Sunday Evening Study - Beginning September 7 from 5PM – 6:15PM in the Conference room of 4square Tax, 205 Lincoln St, Fenton. Led by Larry Zimbler, this group will study the book “Desire of the Everlasting Hills” by Thomas Cahill

Amazon comment: “In his subtle and engaging investigation into the life and times of Jesus, Thomas Cahill shows us Jesus from his birth to his execution through the eyes of those who knew him and in the context of his time—a time when the Jews were struggling to maintain their beliefs under overlords who imposed their worldview on their subjects. Here is Jesus the loving friend, itinerate preacher, and quiet revolutionary, whose words and actions inspired his followers to journey throughout the Roman world and speak the truth he instilled—in the face of the greatest defeat: Jesus' crucifixion as a common criminal. Daring, provocative, and stunningly original, Cahill's interpretation will both delight and surprise.”

From the introduction: “And what is the “desire of the everlasting hills?” What could be the meaning of this phrase, taken from the blessing of Jacob on his son Joseph [Gen 49:26], the last of the patriarchs? Is not the desire of the everlasting hills that they be saved from their everlastingness, that something new happen, that the everlasting cycle of human cruelty, of man’s inhumanity to man, be brought to an end?”

The book has 7 chapters and 320 pages. We finish when we finish; we recess for special holidays and Larry’s travel schedule. ALL ARE WELCOME

Tuesday Adult Bible Study

Join us on Tuesday Mornings at 11am as we study the prophecies in the Book of Daniel. Written by Ray C. Stedman and Kathy Rowland we will be spending 9 weeks looking at the strange, marvelous and sometimes scary prophecies of Daniel. While unneeded, workbooks are available for about \$14 (<https://joyofliving.org/product/prophecy-in-the-book-of-daniel-adult-study-english/>)

Please join us for the CROP Hunger Walk after church on September 21st @ 12:30pm. We will start with a potluck lunch on Elizabeth Street with the walk following at 1:15pm, and free Uncle Ray’s ice cream after the walk. Sign up in fellowship hall to bring a salad to the potluck, and please join the FFPC team at the link below:

<https://bit.ly/CROPTeam>

Fall 2025 Women's Bible Study - Sermon on the Mount

We're starting fresh this fall with transformed hearts and a solid Bible study from Jen Wilkin. Friends are welcome! Come and learn from Jesus, just as His disciples did.

Most of us have only encountered the Sermon on the Mount in fragments, considering its subdivisions as complete teachings in their own right—a study on

blessedness; a reflection on the Lord's Prayer; a discussion of religious devotion, money, ambition, and relationships.

What if we navigated these three chapters in Matthew as they were originally heard? What if we read them as one cohesive, well-ordered message, intended to challenge us to think differently about what it means to be a follower of Jesus?

This study invites you to do just that.

Wednesday Mornings | Sept 10 - Nov 5 | 10am - 12pm | Conference Room
Facilitated by Tina Ritchie

OR

Thursday Evenings | Sept 11 - Nov 6 | 6:30 - 8pm | ZOOM only
Facilitated by Dee Dee Ainsworth

Participant guide \$25 payable to FFPC. Register to tina@ffpc.org or in Fellowship Hall by August 24

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a yearly gathering. It's a movement that's 55 years strong, made up of compassionate people in more than 500 communities across the U.S.

The steps we take – and the funds we raise together – will provide life-saving support including emergency food and resources, along with the seeds, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves in the future.

First Friday Movie Night

All are invited to a Church Family Movie Night on September 5th at 7pm. We will be watching a thoughtful movie together and enjoying good company. Please ask Pastor Robbie if you have any questions.