



## 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.

13th Sunday after Pentecost, Communion  
September 7th, 2025 10:00 a.m.

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**PRELUDE** Prelude on “Evan”

Arr. Gordon Young

### WELCOME

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 1 (from The Message) (Please rise if you are able)

How well God must like you—  
you don't walk in the ruts of those blind-as-bats,  
you don't stand with the good-for-nothings,  
you don't take your seat among the know-it-alls.

**Instead you thrill to God's Word,  
you chew on Scripture day and night.**

**You're a tree replanted in Eden,  
bearing fresh fruit every month,  
Never dropping a leaf,  
always in blossom.**

You're not at all like the wicked,  
who are mere windblown dust—  
Without defense in court,  
unfit company for innocent people.

**God charts the road you take.  
The road *they* take leads to nowhere.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Find us now, Searching of our Hearts, as the dust of our lives settle into the moment of peace. Touch our hearts and free us from the chains of grief and pain. Heal us, Loving Spirit, and hold the sum total of us in the flowing ease of Your being. Amen.

**\*LAY READER (Hymn Introduction)** This hymn is a declaration of praise, but it's also much more than that. The words both declare the majesty of Christ and task us with making that majesty known to all. The fourth stanza of this great hymn declares, “We'll join the everlasting song....” Everlasting means that we are a part of that song

right now – are we willing to lift our voices together to sing more than a hymn, and truly crown our God Lord of all?

**HYMN PH #263 BH #142** “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name!”

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Father, our Father in heaven, compel us all simply to take you at your Word. Touch us with the Holy Spirit, we pray, and do not let us get away from your Word without being caught by its promises and powerful joy. We pray this for our sake, Father, and for those whom we love, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

15 “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16 If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Philippians 2:9-11

**9** Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, **10** so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### SERMON

Philippians: The Endgame

Pastor Lindsey

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What does it mean to you that Jesus is Lord?  
How does the way you live your life reveal this?

## OFFERING —from Psalm 116:12, 14

What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? I will give what I have promised in the presence of all God's people.

*(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,

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus, we bring our gifts to you, O God. Help us to give with them a ready mind, a willing spirit, and a joyful heart. Amen.

*Will the Ushers please come forward.*

**OFFERTORY**      "Simple Gifts"

by Richard Elliott

## 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.*

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Hear the words of our Savior:

"Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Come, then, for all is ready.

**We come not because we ought, but because we may, not because we are righteous, but because we are penitent, not because we are strong, but because we are weak, not because we are whole, but because we are broken.**

## 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.*

**CALL TO CONFESSION:**

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others. In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

**God of steadfast love and purpose, You know how we rush to serve You and stand by YOU in the glow of success and popularity. You know also that we live our lives seeking the safety of achievement and good times. Yet when the tide turns, O God, and there is suffering and oppression in our path, we turn in fear and despair, believing that we have no power to heal; no love to give. We run, hoping to shed the weight of our responsibility as people of faith, as members of the human family. Forgive us, God. Heave mercy on us for our unwillingness to risk in the act of living and loving. Forgive us for our willingness to trust in most anything but the power of Your Creative Love. Teach us the joy of this day, we pray, and grant that we may stride alongside Your Child, willing and able to follow Him, wherever His love may take us. Amen.**

**ACCLAMATION OF PARDON:**           **Nothing to fear**

In the depths of your sorrow, I wept beside you.

When you walked through the shadow, I drew you near.

Yesterday, today, tomorrow, always the same,

I am the Lord, I am the Lord

**And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear,  
there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear, for I am with you always.**

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,  
and the depths of the rivers, shall not overwhelm.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned:

I am the Lord, I am the Lord.

**And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear,  
there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear, for I am with you always.**

What can separate you from My perfect love?

What can separate you from My perfect love?

What can separate you from My perfect love?

Do not fear. Do not fear. Do not fear.

**COMMUNION****PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Is not the bread that we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

**We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.**

Is not the cup for which we give thanks a sharing in the blood of Christ?

**The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

**Holy Father, in thanks for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, in the joy of his resurrection, in the hope of his coming again, we present ourselves a living sacrifice and come to the table of our Lord.**

## SHARING THE FEAST

Come, then, for all is ready.

Christ was raised to life,

death is swallowed up,

victory is won. Alleluia!

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

## COMMUNION PRAYER:

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

### TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

#### **\*LAY READER (Hymn Introduction)**

We sing in the knowledge that the Kingdom of God is not yet fully realized. We proclaim Christ's victory as a declaration of hope that we will see Christ reign over all. We stand with the voiceless, the lame, the prisoner, and the sorrowing, and lift our song of expectation.

#### **HYMN PH #610** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

#### **CHARGE**

God be in your head and in your understanding.

God be in your eyes and in your looking.

God be in your mouth and in your speaking.

God be in your heart and in your thinking.

God be at your end and at your departing.

**BENEDICTION PH #443** “There is a Redeemer”

**POSTLUDE** “How Firm a Foundation” by Carolyn Hamlin

**May the Peace of Christ be with you...**  
**...And also with you!**

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**SAVE THE DATE! Senior Luncheon October 11th**

**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

**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! Come learn, connect, and share in meaningful conversation.

**When:** 6:30 PM start time

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Upcoming Topics:** September 25 – Donating Your Body to Science - Presented by Roger Zollars

**In one year's time we collected 27 pounds of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house!** I will turn them in and we will continue to collect them. Thank you to all that helped. **Mary Zimbler.**

**Please join us for the CROP Hunger Walk after church on September 21st @ 12:30pm.** CROP raises money globally to fight hunger with 25% going to local programs including:

**St. Jude's School Lunch**  
**Fenton UMC Food Pantry**  
**F.I.S.H. of Linden**

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 using the following link [bit.ly/FFPC](http://bit.ly/FFPC)

**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 prophesies of Daniel. While unneeded, workbooks are available for about \$14 (<https://joyofliving.org/product/prophecy-in-the-book-of-daniel-adult-study-english/>)

## **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](mailto: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.