



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.

1st Sunday of Lent

February 22nd, 2026 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come in. Feel your feet on the floor. Settle your worries. Take a deep breath. Dust the cobwebs from your ears. Relax the tension in your jaw,

for Christ is here. God never stops seeking us.

We have been found.

Let us find God in return.

Let us worship the God of deep waters.

Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy and loving God, as we worship you today, we long for your Spirit to both comfort and challenge us, to help us become more holy and more loving. In a world that does not understand repentance, we pray for new understanding, humility, patience, and discipline that will help us die to sin and live for Jesus. Amen.

HYMN PH #726 “Will You Come and Follow Me”

CALL TO CONFESSION

In our scripture passage for today, we will read about Jesus calling Peter to be a disciple. In the story, Peter is in the presence of the Divine for quite some time before he realizes it. Jesus crawls into Peter’s boat. He tells him to head toward deep water. Together, they let the nets down. And it is only when the boat threatens to sink, due to the extreme abundance of fish, that Peter turns to Jesus and truly sees who’s in his boat.

Sometimes we miss what’s right in front of us. Fortunately, Christ keeps crawling into our boats anyhow. So join me in the prayer of confession, not out of fear, but out of a desire to finally see who’s right in front of us. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Loving God, You call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow you, and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter. Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised to find you in our midst. Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own. Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves. Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat. Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Friends, Peter didn't exactly make a good first impression when Jesus got into his boat. He questioned dropping his nets, as they hadn't caught any fish all night. He was oblivious to who Christ was for quite some time, and once he realized the Divinity standing in his boat, he quickly deemed himself unworthy.

And even still, Jesus called Peter a disciple and a friend. Church family, hear and believe this good news:

You can make a thousand bad impressions. You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes, and assume you know better. And even still, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart. That is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in that. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**PROCLAIMING THE WORD****PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Creator God, You hear everything. You hear the rush of the wind through the trees. You hear a baby's first cry. You hear the crickets chirping, our silent prayers, and laughter around tables. You hear it all! We don't need that same capacity, but we do need to hear your Word, O God, for we cannot live on bread alone. So today we pray: give us the ability to truly listen. Give us the ability to listen with our hearts, and may the truths revealed in your scripture today change us. With hearts full of gratitude we pray, Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 25:1-10

- 1** To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- 2** O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
- 3** Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

- 4** Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
- 5** Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
- 6** Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
- 7** Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
- 8** Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- 9** He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.
- 10** All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Come Thou Fount” ~Julie Hussar, Harp; Robbie Carnes, French Horn

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 5:1-11

5 Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, **2** he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. **3** He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. **4** When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” **5** Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” **6** When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. **7** So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. **8** But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’s knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” **9** For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, **10** and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” **11** When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

TABLETALK WITH GOD’S CHILDREN

SERMON

Jesus Sought Me

Pastor Lindsey Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in a God of abundance-

**a God who sees possibilities where I cannot,
and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.**

I believe in a God who comforts—

**a God who says, “Do not be afraid;”
a God who joins me in life’s deep waters.**

I believe in a God who invites—

**a God who says, “Follow me,”
and, “You will be fishers of people.”**

I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—

**a God of second chances and boundless mercy;
a God who calls us by name.**

We believe.

Help our unbelief.

In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

HYMN PH #721 BH #377 “Lord You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Let us offer the work of our hands, the produce of our property and the devotion of our hearts to the God who has made us, sustains us, and seeks to be with us and for us.

(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

Mighty God and Father, you overwhelm us with your great mercy. At the time of our greatest need you surprised us with your wondrous love. Jesus offered his life for us to remove our dreadful curse. As you draw us into this renewing relationship of love, may we respond with gratitude as we offer the substance of our souls to continue the ministry of Christ. For his name and glory we pray and present our gifts. Amen!

Will the Ushers Please come forward.

OFFERTORY “In the Garden”

~Julie Hussar Harp

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.

HYMN PH #475 BH #356 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

CHARGE

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news. Amen.

BENEDICTION "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

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

Flowers on the Communion Table In celebration of Herman Paul's baptism, given by Great Grandma Bard

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 McOmbler 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.

Announcements

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, Jason Allen 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.

Thursday Evening Griefshare has been discontinued. A new group will be forming after Easter

Keep an eye out for your next “Invite a Presbyterian” opportunity! In a season when resources feel stretched, community becomes even more precious. Consider extending a friendly invitation to someone new or someone different—whether it’s lunch with friends, a movie, a museum visit, or a concert outing. When one of us shows up, it may be the gentle nudge someone else needs to feel included and encouraged. Small invitations can build strong fellowship.

Tuesday Adult Bible Study - Join us on Tuesday Mornings at 11am, we will be watching and discussing season 5 of The Chosen

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

Spring Women’s Bible Study - *James: What You Do Matters* by Margaret Feinberg

Wednesdays, April 8 – May 6 from 10am – noon in person facilitated by Jenn Wenzel & Peggy Fulcher
OR

Thursdays, April 9 – May 7 from 6:30 – 8pm via zoom only facilitated by Dee Dee Ainsworth

If you take the Sermon on the Mount and overlay it with the book of James, you’ll find oodles of connections. Penned by the beloved half-brother of Jesus, James sounds more like Jesus than any other New Testament writer. The short letter is packed with doable and down-to-earth teaching, golden treasures of wisdom, and a timely call for believers everywhere to grow into maturity.

Join beloved Bible teacher Margaret Feinberg, in a rich, fresh study of James that will uncover the genuine markers of real faith, equip you to break free from old patterns by developing new practices, and discover how the Father of heavenly lights treasures you.

Participant book is \$13 – Register by March 29

For more information, see Jenn Wenzel or contact the church office.

Growing Personally & Spiritually - A faith-based journey toward peace, balance, & joy

Are your relationships—personal or spiritual—feeling a little off course? Do you long for more joy, clarity, or calm in your daily life? Are you wondering where your path is leading?

If your heart is asking these questions, you're not alone—and this group is for you.

GPS offers a compassionate, faith-centered space to pause, reflect, and reconnect with what truly matters. Together, we'll explore life's challenges, celebrate its blessings, and support one another as we grow in confidence, grace, and peace.

Where: Fenton First Presbyterian Church

When: Mondays, ongoing from 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Why: To nurture our spiritual and personal growth, learning to navigate life with steadiness and joy.

How: By reading thoughtful texts, sharing personal experiences, and walking alongside one another in faith and friendship. Come as you are! Bring your questions, your hopes, and your heart!

Lenten Simple Meals at St. Jude's Episcopal Church- Join us Thursdays through Lent at 5:30 PM, beginning February 26th, for a simple meal of soup, salad, and bread, followed by thought-provoking study and discussion. This Lent, we will be watching and reflecting on Season 5 of The Chosen. All are welcome!

Men's Lunch - Fenton Winery, Friday, March 6, time TBD

Potato Bake - Sunday, March 15 after Worship

The FFPC Session invites the congregation to join them in pray about the following: Peace and Unity for our country. Wisdom and Understanding for our leadership. The many life transitions that our church and our members are experiencing. Come, Lord Jesus, Come.