



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.

4th Sunday of Lent

March 15th, 2026 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

On our worst days,

God is good.

On our best days,

God is good.

When life is consistent,

God is good.

And when life turns on its head,

God is good.

Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

God is good. God is here. God is love.

Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER from George Herbert

Come, our Way, our Truth, our Life;

Such a Way as gives us breath:

Such a Truth as ends all strife:

Such a Life as killeth death.

Come, our Light, our Feast, our Strength:

Such a Light, as shows a feast:

Such a Feast, as mends in length:

Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, our Joy, our Love, our Heart:

Such a Joy, as none can move:

Such a Love, as none can part:

Such a Heart, as joys in love. Amen.

HYMN PH #440 BH #303 “Jesus Lover of My Soul”

CALL TO CONFESSION

There’s a moment in our scripture today when Jesus turns to Peter, named “the rock” of the church, and says, “Get behind me, Satan!” I don’t know about you all, but that’s a pretty bad day for Peter. It’s a pretty bad day when Jesus calls you Satan! Fortunately, this absurd moment comforts me with the knowledge that even Peter made mistakes. Peter, who was given the keys to Heaven. Peter, Jesus’ right-hand man, made mistakes just like me. And still, Jesus chose him. Knowing that, let us speak honestly with God. For even on our worst days, we belong to God, and that will never change. Join me in prayer—

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Holy God, We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, “This should not happen!” We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God, no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change— we worship a God of grace. Nothing can separate us from God’s love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

[Pour water into the baptismal font as you speak the following lines.]

God’s love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine. We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven. Now follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Listening God, If we could attach ourselves to you, we would. We would scribble your scripture onto our tender hearts. We would weave your good news into the fiber of our being. We would bind ourselves to you, but instead, we wander. Instead of attaching ourselves to you, we find ourselves swept up in the business of the day. Like a seesaw of faithfulness, we move back and forth, up and down, constantly trying to find you in the midst of it all. So speak clearly to us now. Quiet the distractions long enough for us to affix ourselves to your good news. We are listening. We are hungry. We are hopeful. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 107:1-3; 17-22

- 1** O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- 2** Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble
- 3** and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

-
- 17** Some were sick through their sinful ways
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;
- 18** they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.
- 19** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;
- 20** he sent out his word and healed them
and delivered them from destruction.
- 21** Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.
- 22** And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Still, My Soul Be Still
Nancy Casteel, Soprano

Getty and Townsend

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 16:21-23

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. **22** And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." **23** But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN**SERMON**

I'm Fixed Upon It

Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in a God of second chances,

a God who sees through my stubbornness and holds my fear with tenderness.

I believe that this God of second chances uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.

Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.

This change is holy and important work, although challenging.

When fear and scarcity plague me, or when the impossible feels out of reach, I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Amen.

HYMN PH #819 “Still My Soul”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 states: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver". Let us give as God has called 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:

Receive, O Lord, these offerings of your people. Remember in you love those who give them and those for whom they have been given, and by your Holy Spirit embody them with power for your purpose. Amen.

Will the Ushers Please come forward.

OFFERTORY The Heavens Are Telling Haydn, Hopson The Chancel Choir

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 #726 “Will You Come and Follow Me”

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”

POSTLUDE

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

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.

Church Potato Bake After Worship- Sunday, March 15th

Join us right after worship for a delicious Baked Potato Bar Fellowship! We’ll have hot baked potatoes ready and plenty of tasty toppings to enjoy. Bring your favorite topping to share if you’d like — and invite your family and friends!

This event is open to the public, and everyone is welcome. Come for worship, stay for food, fellowship, and fun! Please sign up in the fellowship hall to bring toppings. We can't wait to see you there!

Lenten Simple Meals at St. Jude's Episcopal Church- Join us Thursdays through Lent at 5:45 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! Sign-up in Fellowship Hall

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.

The FFPC Session invites the congregation to join them in praying 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.

Easter Lily Orders - Help decorate the sanctuary for Easter by ordering an Easter Lily. Order forms are available in the church office and in Fellowship Hall. All orders and payments must be submitted to the church office by March 29, 2026.

You may dedicate a lily in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The names of those honored and remembered will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Please plan to pick up your lily after Easter Sunday Worship on April 5, 2026. Thank you for helping make our sanctuary beautiful as we celebrate the joy of Easter!

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

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

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?

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 – Youth Room

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!

Sunday Evening Study - Led by Larry Zimblar, this group, meets from 5:00PM – 6:15PM in the Conference room of 4square Tax, 205 Lincoln St, Fenton.

February 29—May 17th We will explore the gift of hymns. Hymns, like the Psalms, are prayers meant to be sung. Though much of the original music of the Psalms has been lost, the tradition of singing our prayers continues through the hymns of the Church. Every hymn carries a story. Behind each one is a heart speaking to God—often shaped by joy, sorrow, struggle, or deep faith. When we sing a hymn, we step into that prayer and make it our own.

Each Sunday through May 17, we'll look at four to six hymns selected by members of our group, many of them beloved favorites. In our time together, we will:

- Listen to a beautiful performance
- Learn the story behind the hymn
- Reflect on what the hymn is praying
- Sing it together

We'll pause for the summer and return on September 13 to begin studying the New Testament book of Hebrews. We hope you'll join us as we sing, learn, and grow together.

Deacon's Easter Project! Help our local refugee families enjoy a blessed Easter!

You can make a difference by donating Easter basket items for the children and/or making a monetary donation toward grocery gift cards for each family. Your generosity will help bring joy, celebration, and practical support to families in our community this Easter season.

If you'd like to contribute or learn more about what items are needed, please reach out to an available Deacon. Thank you for helping us share hope and kindness this Easter! **Donations are due by March 29th, 2026. Drop off bin is located in the entryway**

Kitchen Deep Clean-Up 🧼

Help us freshen up the church kitchen! Join us for a Kitchen Deep Clean-Up on Friday, April 18th from

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We will be cleaning appliances, wiping down surfaces, organizing cupboards, and making sure our kitchen is ready for all the wonderful meals and events held at the church.

If you are able to lend a hand for any part of the time, it would be greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work! Sign-up in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for helping care for our church home. ✨

Mother's Day Fellowship Tea 🌸

In celebration of **Mother's Day**, please join us for a **Modified Tea on Sunday, May 10th**. We will gather for a sweet time of fellowship while enjoying **scones, fruit, and tea** as we give thanks for the mothers, grandmothers, and special women who have been such a blessing in our lives.

All are warmly invited to come and share in this special time of gratitude and community. Sign-up to help in Fellowship Hall ☕🌸

Father's Day Pie Fellowship 🥧

Join us as we celebrate **Father's Day** with **Pie Day** on **Saturday, June 21st!** After worship, we will enjoy a sweet time of fellowship while sharing a variety of delicious pies.

If you would be willing to bring a pie to share, look for a **sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall beginning in April**.

Come help us celebrate the fathers and father figures in our church family with good food and great fellowship!