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 16th, 2026 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 67

[1] May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
[2] **that your way may be known upon earth,**
your saving power among all nations.
[3] Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
[4] **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,**
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
[5] **Let the peoples praise you, O God;**
let all the peoples praise you.
[6] The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
[7] **May God continue to bless us;**
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

OPENING PRAYER

We do, indeed, ask for your blessing today, Lord. We have many needs and you know them all. As we gather in your name to worship we know that the greatest blessing is to be drawn closer into your life and have our life formed like yours. Grant that we, having worshiped and prayed, will leave here transformed, in your will, to be more like you. Amen.

HYMN PH #192 "Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining"

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses: education majors, pre-med students, future engineers, counselors, athletes, artists, and those of us who don't yet know the path you have for us, God. We are people very different from one another, yet still we are called to remove everything that separates us, including the sin that so easily entangles. In faith, then, let us make our confession to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Voice 1: A scribe said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus responded bluntly: "Following me isn't easy."

Voice 2: We want to follow you, Jesus. But we, like your disciples, struggle with doubt and fear. Our doubt and fear take over, often clouding our understanding of your miraculous love.

Voice 1: You asked them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" You ask us the same thing today.

Voice 2: We confess our fear of the unknown. We confess our need to be in control. We confess our inability to trust you completely.

All:
Forgive us.
Encourage us.
Teach us to follow,

even when we don't think we can anymore. Even though faith often is not easy, replace our doubts with faithfulness, our fears with courage, and our apathy with love. All in the pursuit of Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Why do we confess our sins? Because God commands and calls us to be honest with ourselves and with each other. Because we need a reminder that we are all in the same boat. Because confession helps us to recognize our brokenness. But here is the great news that we all need to be reminded of. We mess up: God loves us anyway. We ignore our faith: Jesus invites us into relationship. We confess: and through Christ, we are forgiven. Amen!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We fail to see the needs of those surrounding us. In fact, we fail to see when you stand right before us. Open our eyes, Lord, so we may catch a glimpse of your walking in our midst: on campus, in the cafeteria, during worship. We fail to listen when you call. Be it through your Word or through someone standing right next to us. Open our ears, Lord, so we can

hear what you have to say: in class, through prayer, during conversations with friends. By your Spirit, through your Word, Help us to see and hear and know that we are loved. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 56

1 Thus says the LORD:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.
2 Happy is the mortal who does this,
the one who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it,
and refrains from doing any evil.
3 Do not let the foreigner joined to the LORD say,
"The LORD will surely separate me from his people,"
and do not let the eunuch say,
"I am just a dry tree."
4 For thus says the LORD:
To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,
5 I will give, in my house and within my walls,
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.
6 And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—
7 these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
8 Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:

I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

ANTHEM "Caritas Canon" Andy Beck Summer Choral Ensemble

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 8:12-30

`Jesus the Light of the World

12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me
will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." 13 Then the Pharisees said to
him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid." 14 Jesus
answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know
where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from
or where I am going. 15 You judge by human standards; I judge no one. 16 Yet even if I do
judge, my judgment is valid, for it is not I alone who judge but I and the Father who sent
me. 17 In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. 18 I testify on
my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf." 19 Then they said to
him, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If
you knew me, you would know my Father also." 20 He spoke these words while he was
teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not
yet come.

Jesus Foretells His Death
21 Again he said to them, "I am going away, and you will search for me, but you will die
in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." 22 Then the Jews said, "Is he going to
kill himself? Is that what he means by saying, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" 23
He said to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are from this world, I am
not from this world. 24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your
sins unless you believe that I am he." 25 They said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to
them, "Why do I speak to you at all? 26 I have much to say about you and much to
condemn, but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard
from him." 27 They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father. 28
So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am
he and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me.
29 And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is
pleasing to him." 30 As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

SERMON Light of the World Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION
What does it mean to you that Jesus is the illuminating presence of God in the world? How can you illuminate God's presence in the world?

HYMN PH #203 "God of Mercy, God of Grace"

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING
Scripture says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above." But what does that really mean? It means we can only give credit to God for things like wisdom, patience, and unfailing love. What are we to give back in response? We are asked to use these gifts for the good of the world around us. Lord, we offer these things to you now.

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

God, we realize that what we have to offer is not nearly enough. But we give anyway, as a response to all you do and have done for us. Please take what we have given, and bless it. Bless us now too, so that we can continue to give even more. Thank you for receiving this offering, just as it is, and for receiving us, just as we are. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Will the Ushers Please come forward.

OFFERTORY

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 #209 "My Song is Love Unknown"

CHARGE

Jesus said, "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." We are called to go out and be followers of Christ— no matter the cost. Consider what you need to give up or gain in order to follow Jesus more closely. Go from here, blessed to do the Lord's work, boldly carry the cross of Christ, and faithfully follow him.

BLESSING

Seize God's strength and power. Pay attention to how Christ dwells among us. Grasp onto the width, length, height, and depth of Christ's love. Let that love surpass your knowledge. Let that love fill you to the brim. Let that love unite you with all of God's people. And remember, the Lord is able to do far, far more than what we could ask or even imagine. God is at work in you. May Christ Jesus be at work in all of us forever. Amen.

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.

Plant Sale – Sunday, August 23

Mark your calendars! Sunday, August 23, Rita Vadasz will have homegrown flowers and plants available for donation. All donations will support our Refugee Welcome Ministry.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! - We are looking for people willing to help run the technology parts of our weekly worship service. We need people to run the slides, operate the audio system, and help with the online streaming. Training is available, all that is required is a willingness to serve. Please contact Kelly Sunman-Davis or Pastor Robbie and we will schedule training.

Help Others Find a Church Home

Has First Presbyterian Church of Fenton been a blessing in your life? Consider leaving a Google review! Your words can help someone searching for a church home feel welcomed before they ever walk through our doors. Scan the QR code or use the link to share your experience. Thank you for helping us extend Christ's welcome to our community. https://g.page/r/CQnBYwpLGho5EBM/review

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Women's Bible Study – *Angels* by Melissa Spoelstra

What does the Bible really say about angels? Join us for this inspiring 8-session Bible study as we journey through Scripture from Genesis to Revelation, discovering who angels are, what they do, and how their work always points to the power and purpose of God. Together we'll find hope, grow in our understanding of God's presence, and gain confidence that He reigns over both the seen and unseen world.

Choose the session that works best for you:

- **Wednesday Mornings: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. beginning September 9**
- **Thursday Evenings (Zoom): 6:30–8:00 p.m. beginning September 10**

Book Cost: $22

To register, call the church office or sign up in Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome!

Tuesday Adult Bible Study Returns September 15!

Tuesday Adult Bible Study will resume Tuesday, September 15, 2026, from 11:00 AM–12:15 PM in the Conference Room.

Our study topic is still to be determined, but one thing is certain—everyone is welcome! Whether you've attended before or are thinking about joining us for the first time, we'd love to have you.

The coffee is always hot, and the conversation is always fruitful! Come grow in faith, ask questions, share insights, and enjoy fellowship together.

GriefShare Support Group - You don't have to walk through grief alone.

GriefShare is a caring, welcoming support group for anyone who has experienced the loss of a family member, friend, or loved one. Each weekly session offers encouragement, practical insights, and the opportunity to connect with others who understand the journey of grief.

Beginning Sunday, September 6
11:30 a.m. following worship

After worship, grab a cup of coffee or tea, enjoy a few treats, and join us downstairs in the Youth Room. Whether your loss is recent or happened years ago, you'll find a compassionate, Christ-centered community where you can share, listen, and begin to heal at your own pace.

Facilitated by Hannah Hall. Books and materials are provided.
For more information, contact the church office or sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Growing Personally & Spiritually (GPS)

Are you longing to grow deeper in your faith while finding greater emotional and spiritual health? Join us as we begin our new study, ***Journey of the Soul: A Practical Guide to Emotional and Spiritual Growth*** by Bill and Kristi Gaultiere.

Together we'll discover how God meets us in every season of life, helping us move beyond feeling stuck and continue growing in grace, hope, and Christ-centered living.

Mondays • 4:00–5:00 p.m.
Beginning September 14th in the Conference Room

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact the church office so we can order your copy of the book. Participants are also welcome to purchase their own copy if they prefer.

Wherever you are on your journey, you'll find a place to belong. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday Evening Adult Study - Exploring the Ten Commandments

For the first **5–7 weeks**, we'll take a closer look at the **Ten Commandments**—their history, meaning, and how they apply to our lives today. The Ten Commandments appear in both **Exodus 20** and **Deuteronomy 5**, but the two versions are not identical. There are also differences in their wording, numbering, and interpretation among Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox traditions.

Each week, we'll explore **one or two commandments**, consider these different perspectives, and discuss what these ancient teachings mean for us today. Videos from **The Bible Project** will also be included. **Everyone is welcome!**

Sundays at 5:00 PM (Most Sundays
Conference Room at 4Square Tax & Accounting
205 Lincoln St., Fenton, MI

Women's Lunch Gathering
All women are invited! Join us for our next Women's Lunch on Thursday, August 20, at 1:00 PM at Brick Street of Grand Blanc.Come enjoy a delicious lunch, great conversation, and an afternoon of friendship and fellowship. Bring a friend, neighbor, or family member—all are welcome!

Thursday, August 20 | 1:00 PM
Brick Street of Grand Blanc

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall so we know you're joining us!

🍦 **Ice Cream Social – Sunday, August 23**
Join us for a sweet time of fellowship during **Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 23**! We'll be serving delicious ice cream with a variety of toppings for everyone to enjoy. To help make the event extra special, **please consider signing up to bring an ice cream topping.** A sign-up sheet is available in **Fellowship Hall** with a variety of topping suggestions. Stay after worship, visit with friends, meet someone new, and enjoy a fun summer treat together. **Everyone is welcome—we hope you'll join us for this fun summer fellowship event!**

🍎 **Apple & Pumpkin Celebration** 🎃
Sunday, September 20 • During Coffee Hour
Celebrate the flavors of fall with us! Bring your favorite apple or pumpkin dish or dessert to share and join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship. We'll also have games, prizes, and plenty of delicious fall treats! Please sign up in Fellowship Hall and let us know what you plan to bring. Everyone is welcome—come hungry and ready for some fall fun!

Tuesday Knitting Group - Weekly at 1pm in the church library. Come join us for a cozy and creative time at our Tuesday Knitting Group! Whether you're an experienced knitter or just getting started, all are welcome. Bring your current project—or simply come to learn, share ideas, and enjoy friendly conversation together. It's a wonderful way to relax, connect, and create something meaningful. We'd love to have you join us!

First Presbyterian Saturday Grounds Beautifying Work Group -
Volunteers are needed to help keep our flower gardens clean, attractive, and weed-free.
When: 3rd Saturday of each month, May–September
Time: 9:00 AM
If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office at **810-629-7801**,
or see **Deb Bard** or **Mary Zimbler** for more information.

Help Us Tell Our Story! Do you have photos from worship, fellowship events, mission projects, youth activities, picnics, or other church gatherings? We're collecting photos that capture the life and ministry of Fenton First Presbyterian Church. Your photos may be featured on our website, social media, newsletters, and other church publications. Email them to office@ffpc.org

Flowers for Worship - We greatly value having fresh flowers on the communion table each Sunday and would like to continue this meaningful tradition. If you would like to provide flowers for worship, we invite you to bring flowers from your garden or purchase a bouquet from a grocery store or florist of your choice. If you plan to provide flowers, please contact Heidi Roberts in advance. This helps us: Acknowledge your contribution in the bulletin and Coordinate flower donations so that multiple arrangements are not scheduled for the same Sunday.

FFPC Book Binders Book Group
"Get lost in a good book…and find great friends along the way!"
Join us on the **second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 PM** as we gather to discuss a new book and enjoy great conversation with fellow book lovers! Expect thoughtful discussion, a few laughs, and plenty of book-loving fun. Contact Mary Zimbler for more information. Happy Reading!📚

Deacons' Back-to-School Project - Help Refugee Students Start the School Year Strong! Through August 16, the Deacons of Fenton First Presbyterian Church are focusing on monetary donations to provide school supplies for the refugee families our church supports. This year, we are serving 11 families, including 6 elementary students, 10 middle school students, and 7 high school students. Your financial gift allows us to purchase the specific school supplies each student needs, ensuring every student begins the school year prepared, confident, and ready to learn.

How to Give
Please make checks payable to Fenton First Presbyterian Church and write "Back-to-School Project" in the memo line.
Monetary donations may be placed in the offering, dropped off at the church office, or given directly to one of the Deacons.

Help Others Find a Church Home
Has First Presbyterian Church of Fenton been a blessing in your life? Consider leaving a Google review! Your words can help someone searching for a church home feel welcomed before they ever walk through our doors. Scan the QR code or use the link to share your experience. Thank you for helping us extend Christ's welcome to our community. https://g.page/r/CQnBYwpLGho5EBM/review

Financials as of 8/12/26
Offerings $5,636.00 Fiscal $207,705.25
Expenses $4,933.20 Fiscal $163,373.38