



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.

14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 30th, 2026 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 105

¹ O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

² **Sing to him, sing praises to him;**
tell of all his wonderful works.

³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴ **Seek the LORD and his strength;**
seek his presence continually.

⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Jesus, your response to suffering is constant and steady. You never shy away from our hurts or our harmful environments. You are present in our pain, help us to see you there. Help us to know your presence in our trials. Remind us also, Lord, of your response to evil. While we pray for vindication, you reach out to love the unbearable. While we cry out for self-satisfied justice, you respond to oppression with love. Help us to understand this. Help us to trust that your love will transform the world and uphold our hearts. Amen.

HYMN PH #394

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”

CALL TO CONFESSION

There are days and nights when we feel like we're drowning, and we can't come up for air. And sometimes, to be honest, what weighs us down is our own faithlessness or lack of belief. Our faults do not simply evaporate like water; we are drenched by their waves. Yet still God calls to us, beckoning us forth, directing paths, and calming storms. Together, we name those things which cause us to sink so we may walk freely towards God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Lord, it's plain and simple: our thoughts are not your thoughts, and our ways are different from your ways. Try as we may, we are unable to walk in perfect step with you. We put other things first: our social lives, our to-do lists, our addictions, our arrogance. And yet, you give us chance after chance to shape our thoughts and ways around you. Forgive us our misplaced priorities, O God. Shape our behavior and our lifestyles by the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus Christ, that we might better follow you. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

We have taken time to admit some things that we want or need to change - a mistake, some guilt, a lie, the brokenness of it all. Something somehow has made us feel distant from God. But in Jesus Christ, we can be assured: We are not distant. We have been heard. We are loved. And we are forgiven!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jesus, unexpected guest, you come like a thief in the night, encountering us in ways we could never anticipate. Wake us up. Make keen our senses. Arouse our suspicions of your presence among us. For we know that heaven and earth will pass away, the new heaven and new earth are coming. Yet your words—the very words we hear this day—endure forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,

and your words became to me a joy
 and the delight of my heart,
 for I am called by your name,
 O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
 nor did I rejoice;
 under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
 for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
 my wound incurable,
 refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
 like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
 and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
 you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
 not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
 a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you,
 but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you
 to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
 and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Amazing Grace”

Julie Hussar, Harp

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 9:1-11

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the

world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

TABLETALK WITH GOD’S CHILDREN

SERMON “Jesus and the Man Born Blind”

Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN PH #314 “Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness” (verses 1-4)

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

What does it mean to offer something? To sacrifice a belonging you would rather keep? To freely give a gift?

When we, as followers of Christ, talk about offering, we have to consider that God is actually asking us to offer ourselves, not just things we own. In this time of offering, take your mind off of material things to give away. Instead, think about how you can offer your time, your imagination, your education, your compassion, your plans for the future. Willingly give from your heart. God will receive it.

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

Will the Ushers Please come forward.

OFFERTORY “Be Thou My Vision”

Bonnie Griffith, Organ & 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 #649 “Amazing Grace”

CHARGE

We are called and commanded to live a life that demonstrates goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, compassion, and, above all, love. What does that mean? It means in all of our lives, wherever we go, whatever we do, we are to embody those aspects of our faith. Go and answer the call.

BLESSING

In the peaks and valleys, in the wonderland and wilderness of life, go in the confidence of God's love and care for you; go in the assurance of God's presence and permanence. Receive now this blessing: “God bless you and keep you, God smile on you and gift you, God look you full in the face and make you prosper.”

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.

 **Fall Quilts Wanted!**  Help us bring the warmth and beauty of fall into our church! We are looking for fall-themed quilts to display throughout the church during the autumn season. Quilts featuring fall colors, leaves, pumpkins, harvest designs, or other seasonal patterns would be wonderful additions. If you have a quilt you would be willing to loan us for the season, please bring it to the church office or contact Mary Zimbler. Be sure your name is securely attached so we can make sure it is returned to you.

 **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!

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.

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!

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.

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 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.

SAVE THE DATE - Members and friends 70+ years of age. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our Church Senior Luncheon on Saturday, October 10, 2026! We're looking forward to a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and fun together. More details will be coming soon!

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

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

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 - 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.

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! 

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 8/26/26

Offerings \$1,610.00 Fiscal \$213,951.38

Expenses \$5,627.86 Fiscal \$173,643.28