



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.

17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20th, 2026 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 145

¹ I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴ **One generation shall extol your works to another
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

⁵ They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works I will meditate.

⁶ **They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.**

⁷ They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful find comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN PH #336 "We Gather Together"

CALL TO CONFESSION

All too often we hide the ragged edges of our shattered lives— our guilt, our shame, our failures. But the Bible reminds us: “If your heart is broken, you’ll find God right there; if you’re kicked in the gut, he’ll help you catch your breath.” We bring our brokenness to God as we confess now.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Searcher of hearts, you have known us from the beginning. You see in us more good and beauty than we have dared to believe. Forever you call us by name. But we have filled our lives with the sounds of the world. We have not loved and sought you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy and forgive us. Gracious God, searcher of hearts, help us to know and to live in your forgiving light. Empower and embolden us to live in such a way that people in every corner of our world would experience the joy and passion of your love through what we say and do. We ask in the name that is above all names, Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

You have confessed your sins. Now, close your eyes and take a moment to picture the empty tomb.

(Pause for reflection.)

As you reflect, remember: Jesus was taken to the tomb. His body was laid there. The grave sealed shut. Yet the stone was rolled away. The burial cloth was left inside. The angels said, “He is risen.” For us. For the world.

(Pause for reflection.)

The empty tomb. It is the symbol of divine love. It is the reminder of God’s grace and unending forgiveness. We are free. We are reclaimed. We are forgiven. Amen!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, our souls thirst for living water. Open our hearts and minds to your Word this day, so that we might have a grace-filled encounter with you, the Living God. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 29:4-7

⁴ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there,

and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

ANTHEM “Take It To The Lord”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 14:21-28

²¹ After they had proclaimed the good news to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, then on to Iconium and Antioch. ²² There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, “It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.” ²³ And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

²⁴ Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. ²⁵ When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. ²⁶ From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had completed. ²⁷ When they arrived, they called the church together and related all that God had done with them and how he had opened a door of faith for the gentiles. ²⁸ And they stayed there with the disciples for some time.

TABLETALK WITH GOD’S CHILDREN

SERMON The Great Commission: The Importance of Church Planting

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Is the church a place or a people?

How can church planting also benefit the established church community?

HYMN PH #840 “When Peace Like a River”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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

Let us pray, Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care. As we

contribute to the needs of your people, we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Through Christ, our Lord. 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 #239 "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!"

CHARGE

With the grace of God uplifting you, with the life of Jesus Christ motivating you, and with the power of the Holy Spirit equipping you, go from this place, willing and ready to give, to serve, and to love. 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.

LET'S FIGHT HUNGER! Join Us for the CROP Walk

Sunday, October 4 • Bush Park, Fenton

Registration: 1:30 PM | Walk Begins: 2:00 PM



CROP Hunger Walk - Please join us at 1:30pm on October 4th in Fenton's Bush Park for the CROP Hunger Walk. This year they'll be donuts, apples, and cider, and Uncle Ray's ice cream as always. They'll be fun, educational activities as we walk the park, so bring your children and grandchildren! Rocking chairs will be available if you're unable to walk. Pastor Robbie has agreed to take a pie in the face if 30 of us register at the Walk.

Sign up in the fellowship hall so we can track this. You can donate to the office, to anyone who signs up, at the Walk, or online here:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/fenton-first-presbyterian-church>

🍏 AppleUmpkin 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!

🌻 Senior Fiesta Luncheon 🦋 Members and friends 70+ years of age are invited to join us for a Senior Fiesta Luncheon on Saturday, October 10 at 11:00 AM! Come enjoy a festive afternoon filled with Mexican-inspired food, colorful fun, and wonderful fellowship with friends. Guests will have a choice of entrée and dessert, along with sides and beverages.

Please RSVP to the Church Office by October 5th. Come hungry and ready for a fiesta—we look forward to celebrating with you!

🍁 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 Zimble. Be sure your name is securely attached so we can make sure it is returned to you.

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 22nd, 2026, from 11:00 AM–12:15 PM in the Conference Room. Based on the book, “The Good Shepherd, A Thousand-Year Journey from Psalm 23 to the New Testament” by Dr. Kenneth E. Bailey, we will be exploring the theme of the Good Shepherd through the Old and New Testaments striving to learn more about the character of God and the actions of Jesus in our world. We will be using videos of Kenneth Bailey speaking on the matter as well as examining scripture ourselves. 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
Facilitated by Hannah Hall. Books and materials are provided.

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.

Growing Personally & Spiritually (GPS) - **Mondays • 4:00–5:00 p.m.**

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. 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.

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.

Sunday Evening Adult Study - Exploring the Ten Commandments

05:00 PM (Most Sundays) Conference Room at 4Square Tax & Accounting - 205 Lincoln St., Fenton, MI. Starting September 13th, 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!**

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

🎵 Come Make a Joyful Noise!

Our Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir are back, and there's always room for more! Join us on Wednesday evenings for music, fellowship, and the joy of making music together. Whether you're a longtime musician or simply looking for a new way to get involved, we'd love to have you join us!



Handbell Choir: 6:30–7:15 PM



Chancel Choir: 7:30–9:30 PM

Pop Tab Collection Update - 22 pounds of pop tabs collected this year! Thank you to everyone who saved and donated pop tabs. Your contributions will be delivered to the **Ronald McDonald House** to help support the families they serve. And we're not stopping here! **Keep collecting your pop tabs**, and let's see how many pounds we can gather over the next year. Every little tab adds up—thank you for helping!

Financials through 9-16-26

Offerings \$3,438.47 Fiscal \$225,546.59

Expenses \$2000.28 Fiscal \$181,886.80