



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.

18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27th, 2026 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 78

¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

² **I will open my mouth in a parable;**
I will utter dark sayings from of old,

³ things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

⁴ **We will not hide them from their children;**
we will tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the LORD and his might
and the wonders that he has done.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, we joyously come together to worship, realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are here. We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts, for you are there. We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you; our ears to be unstopped, that we may hear you; our minds to be sensitive, that we may know you; our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you. Grant each one a blessing, O Lord, as each has need, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN PH #435

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

CALL TO CONFESSION

It is in our nature to hide our faults. We want to cover up our wrongdoings to those around us so that they will only see the best, the smartest and the nicest parts of us. It's embarrassing that others know our shortcomings! As humiliating as it may be, we are assured that: "Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy." Together, we make known our faults so we may find mercy as we confess.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God of compassion, you created the world through your communion of love, but we prefer to be lonely gods, living for ourselves. Our sin has misshapen the life you intend for us. We damage creation. We hurt one another. We ignore the ache of others. We beg you: free us from sin's grip with your prevailing love, that we might be your witnesses, testifying to your eternal love in all we do. God of justice and mercy, forgive us. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

This is what good news means: There is nothing you can do to make God love you any more . . . and there is nothing you can do to make God love you any less. You are beloved. You are forgiven.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, fill our hearts and minds with your abiding peace. Quiet the busyness and anxieties that race in our minds. By the power of your Holy Spirit, speak as your Word is proclaimed. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Ezekiel 18:25-32

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your

transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

ANTHEM Give Me Jesus arr. Diane Dykgraaf The Chancel Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith, as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

SERMON The Great Commission: Reformed distinctives of Evangelism or Why we don't like the E word and what to do about it.

Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you right now?

What are you going to do about it?

HYMN PH #462 "I Love to Tell the Story"

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Psalm 116 says, What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? I will give what I have promised in the presence of all God's people. Let us give what we have promised to give and how God is calling us to give.

(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: Dear God, receive our offering. Guide those who use it, that it may help to bring fullness of life to those who live in need and long for our care. 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 #610

“For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

CHARGE

Now go: walk out these doors knowing that the God who became flesh and blood for you rules the world in righteousness and does not reject you. May the Holy Spirit lead you as you work in this community, as you develop relationships, and as you walk about your neighborhoods. Remember that you do not walk alone; God's faithful love goes with you regardless of circumstance.

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.

Missing Kitchen Dishcloths and Aprons - A few dishcloths and aprons are missing from the church kitchen. If you took any home to wash or borrowed them for an event, please check and return them to the kitchen when you can. Thank you for helping us keep the kitchen ready for everyone who uses it!

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>

 **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!

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

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.

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.

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

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!**

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🎵 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

Financials through 9-23-26

Offerings	\$5,543.74	Fiscal	\$231,090.33
Expenses	\$795.20	Fiscal	\$ 182,682.00