



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.

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13th, 2026 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 103

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—**

³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴ **who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶ **The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

OPENING PRAYER

We greet you Lord! And we relish the sense of your presence as we gather together to worship and pray. May our words reflect your Word and may your Word penetrate our hearts; warming what is cold, moving what is still, and resurrecting what is dead. We pray this all in Jesus' powerful name, Amen.

HYMN PH #298 "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Just like sheep wander away from their shepherd, we wander away from God. The paths we walk down and the decisions we make lead us further away. Yet still, God calls us: We are called back into the fold, that we may learn the ways of the Lord. Together, we name how we, like sheep, have strayed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Merciful God, forgive us for hoarding your blessings and not sharing them with others. We keep silent when a word is needed, and we speak when silence is the right course. Our hands remain idle and clean when they should be busy working with your people. Our hearts remain distant from your call to love one another.

Forgive us, bless us, encourage us, empower us. Make us bold disciples who graciously and authentically share the good news of Jesus Christ with others in our words and our actions—in our neighborhood and throughout the world. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! Not because of anything we have done, but in spite of what we have done. By grace, we are redeemed: in spite of our selfishness, in spite of scores we have to settle, in spite of our stubbornness and arrogance, in spite of ourselves! Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, we long to experience the world as you created it to be. In our world and in our lives—we see your reign having already begun but not yet fully realized. By the power of your Holy Spirit, open your Word to us so we can experience a new world of possibility opened before us. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 19:4-9

⁴ ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶ but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

⁷ So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸ The people all answered as one, “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.” Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after.”

ANTHEM

Bless the Lord

Chancel Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN**SERMON**

The Great Commission

Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

In what way have you been living out the Great Commission?

How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about going to 'all nations'?

HYMN PH #456 "Listen, God is Calling"**BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD****OFFERING**

Giving requires us to place something in the hands of someone else. When we give an offering, we place what we have into God's loving hands. Knowing this, we are asked to give freely, out of love, just as God did when we were given Jesus Christ. God gave out of love. So shall we.

(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:

Father of Lights, we know that every generous act of giving, every perfect gift, comes from you. And that your generosity is forever. May we give out of your generosity and may our gifts be used in your perfect will. 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 #295 “Go to the World!”

CHARGE

God has told us time and time again what we are required to do as believers and followers: Act justly, love mercifully, and walk humbly with our God. In order to live this way, we have to shift our thinking— to focus less on ourselves and more on others. Pray for this to happen. Hold each other accountable. And actually do what God requires. Then, wait and see how God will work through us to impact the world. Amen!

BLESSED

We are blessed by God who knows us by name. We are blessed by God whose giving knows no bounds.

We are blessed by God whose grace extends to every part of our lives.

We are blessed by God whose love never flees or runs out on us.

We are blessed by God who never leaves us alone. So go out into the world confident in God, full of grace and hope and love. Go out—blessed.

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

Join us as we walk together to help fight hunger in our community and around the world. Every step—and every participant—helps make a difference!



A LITTLE EXTRA INCENTIVE...

If we get 30 or more FFPC members and friends registered, Pastor Robbie has agreed to take a pie in the face! Grab your walking shoes, invite your family and friends, and help us reach 30! Let's walk together. Let's make a difference. Let's fight hunger!



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!



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

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.

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 Zimble for more information.

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.

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.



Handbell Choir: 6:30–7:15 PM



Chancel Choir: 7:30–9:30 PM

Whether you're a longtime musician or simply looking for a new way to get involved, we'd love to have you join us!