

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.

24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 8th, 2026 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Please rise if you are able)
Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience, we will bear with one another in love,
Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace because
There is one body and one Spirit,
and one hope
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all
and through all
and in all.

OPENING PRAYER
God of light and truth, you are beyond our grasp or conceiving. Before the brightness of your presence the angels veil their faces. With lowly reverence and adoring love we acclaim your glory and sing your praise, for you have shown us your truth and love in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HYMN PH #307 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

CALL TO CONFESSION
Let us not be darkened in our understanding and alienated from the life of God because of our ignorance and hardness of heart. Let us not lose all sensitivity and abandon ourselves to licentiousness, greed, and every kind of impure practice. Let us put away our former way of life, our old self and to be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and to clothe ourselves with the new self, like God, with true righteousness and holiness. Let us pray together,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

We confess that we fail to put away falsehood and we fail to speak the truth with our neighbor, and we forget that we belong to each other. We are angry in our sin; and we consistently make room for the devil by nurturing our hate and letting the sun go down on our anger. We steal from each other, we disdain honest labor and thus we have nothing to share with the needy. Evil talk comes pouring out of our mouths. We do not build each other up, instead we withhold the grace so desperately needed by those who hear. We have even grieved the Holy Spirit of God, with our callousness. Forgive us. Put away from us all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, and all malice. Teach us to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as You have forgiven us. Help us to be imitators of God, and as beloved children walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord and live in the Joy that God's mercy and forgiveness brings.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God in Heaven, we come to your Word today seeking the mystery of the Gospel. Speak to us in power because our struggles are against rulers, authorities and cosmic powers of this present darkness and the spiritual forces in the heavenly realms. May your Word be our light so that we can see clearly, believe courageously, and live out your Gospel faithfully. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Joshua 24:14-25

14 "Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away
the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. 15 Now
if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods
your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose
land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other
gods, 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of
Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us
along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, 18 and the
Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we
also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

19 But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a
jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord
and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having
done you good.” 21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” 22 Then
Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the
Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” 23 He said, “Then put away the
foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” 24
The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” 25 So
Joshua made a covenant with the people that day and made statutes and ordinances for them
at Shechem.

ANTHEM The Heavens Are Telling (from The Creation) Chancel Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Ephesians 5:6-21

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God
comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be associated with them, 8 for once
you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, 9 for the fruit
of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to
the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. 12 For it is
shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, 13 but everything exposed by the light
becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

15 Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, 16 making the most of the
time, because the days are evil. 17 So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the
Lord is. 18 Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19
as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making
melody to the Lord in your hearts, 20 giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for
everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 being subject to one another out of
reverence for Christ.

TABLETALK WITH GOD’S CHILDREN

SERMON Ephesians: How Then Shall We Love in Response? Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

In what ways do you see yourself as 'Walking as Children of Light'?
What step can you take today to 'find out what is pleasing to the Lord'?

HYMN PH #465 "What a Friend we have in Jesus"

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy. With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love. With hopefulness we give in commitment to God. Let us fulfill our pledges and promises to God to further the ministries of our church. 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, God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen Will the Ushers Please come forward.

OFFERTORY "This Is My Father's World" Donna Anderson

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 #450 "Be Thou My Vision"

CHARGE

Peace be to You, brothers and sisters, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Congregational Meeting on November 8 - A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8, to elect elders and deacons. All members are encouraged to participate as we prayerfully select those who will help lead and serve our church family.

Until the Dawn… Keep Your Candle Burning - Add Your Light to Our Journey!
Have you noticed the illuminated tower in our entryway? It's waiting for your words! As we continue our stewardship journey, we invite you to reflect on the question: "How is God calling you to give?" Consider the ways God may be calling you to share your time, talents, resources, and love. Take a moment to visit the tower and write a word, prayer, hope, or commitment directly on its illuminated surface using the markers provided.

Beginning November 29, the tower will turn each week of Advent, revealing a new reflection question as we continue our journey together. Every voice matters. Every light makes a difference.

Hanging of the Greens - Sunday, November 22
Help us prepare our church home for Advent! Join us on Sunday, November 22, as we decorate for the season and enjoy food and fellowship together. Whether you enjoy arranging decorations or simply lending a helping hand, there's a place for you. Come help make our church warm and welcoming as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth!

Annual Turkey Dinner – Gather around the table with us for one of our favorite traditions!
Our Annual Community Turkey Dinner returns on Saturday, November 14th. Enjoy a delicious traditional turkey dinner and a wonderful evening of fellowship with friends, family, and neighbors throughout our community.

> **November 14th, 2026, Doors open at 5:30 PM, with grace at 5:45 PM. Tickets are $18 for adults and $7 for children 10 and under. To-go dinners will also be available!**
>
> **Volunteers Needed!** Many helping hands make this special community tradition possible! Whether you can help with preparation, serving, or cleanup, we would love your support. Please sign up to volunteer in Fellowship Hall. Every helping hand makes a difference! **For tickets or additional information,** please contact the church office at 810-629-7801. Come hungry, bring a friend, and help us share the warmth of community!

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!

Men's Study - 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6 pm. Come join a group of men of all ages from our church and community, including some of our newest attendees, for a discussion on faith, philosophy, the bible, and personal testimony. The topic is freeform and may follow the book "Casket Empty." This group will meet at the fellowship hall to walk to a nearby establishment, weather permitting, or order food in when weather is inclement. Please contact jonwenzel@gmail.com for more details.

Tuesday Adult Bible Study Tuesdays 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 are 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. 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!

Sunday Evening Adult Study - Exploring the Ten Commandments
05:00 PM (Most Sundays) Conference Room at 4Square Tax & Accounting - 205 Lincoln St., Fenton, MI. We are taking a closer look at the **Ten Commandments**—their history, meaning, and how they apply to our lives today. **Everyone is welcome!**

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.

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.

🎶 **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: 7:30–9:00 PM

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays
Sunday, November 22 • 11:30 AM • Youth Room
The holidays can be especially difficult when you're grieving the loss of someone you love. Join us for GriefShare's *Surviving the Holidays*, a time of encouragement, support, and practical guidance for navigating the season. Wherever you are in your grief journey, you are welcome. You don't have to face the holidays alone. **Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.**

As part of our annual Giving Tree collection, Bookbinders will be collecting new and gently used books, along with socks, hats, scarves, underwear, pajamas, and clothing in infant sizes through size 16. The Giving Tree will be up in the new narthex beginning November 22. Thank you for sharing warmth and love with children in need! ❤️

2027 Lay Reader sign-up - We are seeking Lay Readers for next year, please consider. The sign-up is in Fellowship Hall, on the information table. If you have questions, contact Debera Bard or Ceil Ladd.

ATTENTION ALL USHERS - As you line up to come forward for the collection, PLEASE lower your voices. You can be heard from the back rows in the Sanctuary, also the people on the balcony can hear you. Thank you, Worship Committee

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event
Sunday, November 15, 2026 • 4:00 PM
Hosted by Fenton Ministerial Group
St Jude's Episcopal Church, 106 E Elizabeth St., Fenton, MI

Grab a hairnet, find your station, and get ready to make an impact! Join neighbors from area churches for a fun, fast-moving experience as we package nutritious meals for communities around the world. Register to volunteer and help us turn compassion into action!

https://tinyurl.com/mryb9by7

Jinglefest 2026! Join us for a festive Christmas celebration! December 5th from 3-5pm. Enjoy holiday crafts for all ages, coffee, hot cocoa, cookies, and snacks! Experience the wonder of Christmas with a **live nativity in our outdoor courtyard**. Bring your family, invite your friends, and celebrate the joy of the season with us. **Everyone is welcome! Volunteers are needed, sign-ups will be posted soon.**

Financials through 11-4-26

Offerings	$7,863.00	Fiscal	$210,122.76
Expenses	$1,386.32	Fiscal	$203,646.08