



We are a gospel-centered community
seeking to glorify God by making,
maturing, and multiplying disciples

The Lord's Day Service
September 13, 2026

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

*We are a gospel-centered community seeking to glorify God
by making, maturing, and multiplying disciples.*

First Presbyterian is a granddaughter church of the First Protestant Church of Detroit, later to be known as First Presbyterian Detroit, which was organized and planted by John Monteith in 1818.

On February 24, 1903, Pastor F.G. Ellet of First Presbyterian Church of Wyandotte (the Wyandotte church started in 1856 and reorganized in 1866) met with a few members who wished to start a mission to Trenton. Mr. A. W. Ford, who initiated the meeting, acted as a secretary. By June 1st of that same year, a petition was signed by 72 individuals and was presented to the Detroit Presbytery requesting that a Trenton Church be organized. The Original Petition read...

“We, the undersigned members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church, respectively petition the Presbytery of Detroit to organize a church in our midst. The town of Trenton has 1,200 inhabitants and is in the midst of a good farming community; has every prospect of growth as a manufacturing town, being already a delight and much sought summer resort on the bank of the Detroit River. There is only one other Protestant church, except a small Episcopal body. There is every indication of a successful work by our church and a much needed organization.”

On July 2, 1903, First Presbyterian Church of Trenton was organized with 39 charter members. The infant congregation began by meeting at the schoolhouse on the corner of Elm and Washington (now West Jefferson.) The first installed Pastor was George B. Crawford who served from 1903-1905.

Over 120 years later, First Presbyterian continues the faithful legacy of doctrinal integrity and evangelical mission.

Thank you for choosing to worship with us. We pray that the service and ministries may be a blessing to you.

In Christ,
Pastor Aaron Carr

~ ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD ~

Our liturgy of worship is built around a dialogue between God and His people.
God speaks through His word and His people respond.

YOU WILL NOTICE OUR LITURGY IS BUILT AROUND 4 G'S

GOD'S GREATNESS

OUR GUILT

GOD'S GRACE

OUR GRATITUDE

WHY WE DO THAT:

4 G's - You may have noticed that our Sunday morning liturgy contains headings which can be summarized as: Greatness, Guilt, Grace, & Gratitude. The Bible tells us which elements must be present in our worship (i.e. preaching, singing, prayer, etc.), yet it does not prescribe a specific order in which these must be done. We are, however, given principles such as, "all things should be done decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14:40). When we gather to worship as God's people, it should be done in a way that makes sense and in which the form and order of worship helps make the message clear. One may call this "gospel-formed worship" and that is our goal at First Pres.

The "4 G's" idea comes from the Heidelberg catechism question which tells us three general things which Christians must know: our sinfulness (guilt), how we are set free from that sin (grace), and how we are to thank God for that freedom (gratitude). We believe that a fourth "G" is also appropriate because it is when we recognize how great God is, we truly understand our own guilt. As you worship with us today and in the coming weeks, watch and listen for these movements in our services as we acknowledge and praise God for His greatness and might, confess our sins before the holy and awesome God, hear of the grace that is provided for us in the Lord Jesus Christ, and respond in gratitude to that grace which is so abundantly given.

REFLECTION BEFORE WORSHIP:

"Without the heart it's not worship, it's a stage play." ~ Stephen Charnock

SUNDAY MORNING

Order of Worship

~RECOGNITION OF GOD'S GREATNESS~

*Call to Worship

Psalm 89:1-2,5

¹ I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. ² For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness." ⁵ Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

*Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn

Psalm 8

*Song

How Majestic Is Your Name (Psalm 8)

Declaring our Faith

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic † and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn (CH 813)

Gloria Patri

~ADMISSION OF OUR GUILT~

Prayer of Confession

Judges 21:25

²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 103:10-12

¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

CH = Celebration Hymnal

SH= Sing Hymnal

TPH = Trinity Psalter Hymnal

* The congregation is requested to stand, if able.

† catholic meaning the "whole or universal church"

There will be a volunteer in the hallway to direct the kids to their classes.

The children are welcome to worship with us for the remainder of the service if parents so desire.

~ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE~

***Hymn (CH 309)**

I Will Sing Of My Redeemer

Old Testament Reading (Sermon Text)

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

New Testament Reading

2 Timothy 1:1-5

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³ I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

Reader: This is the word of the LORD.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Illumination

Preaching of God's Word

2 Timothy 1:1-5

~RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE~

***Hymn (CH 408) (9am & 11am)**

How Firm A Foundation

***Song (11am)**

Jesus!

***Benediction**

Isaiah 41:10

¹⁰ Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

***Doxology**

EVENING SERVICE

Conclude the Lord's Day with us this evening at 6pm

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 89:1-2,5

¹ I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. ² For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness." ⁵ Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

***Song**

Rejoice

Confessing our Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC) is a tool that helps us learn and commit to memory what the Bible teaches in question and answer form.

Q41. Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?

A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the ten commandments.

***Song**

Speak, O Lord

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 6:15

¹⁵ ...and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

Reader: This is the word of the LORD.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Illumination

Exhortation of God's Word

Ephesians 6:14b

***Song**

Grace Alone

The Lord's Supper

***Benediction**

Isaiah 41:10

¹⁰ Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHOIR PRACTICE begins Sunday, September 13 at 7:15pm, in the sanctuary. The choir will be preparing weekly music for the 9am Sunday services and will also begin to prepare for the annual Christmas Cantata. No experience necessary! Go to fpchurch.com for more information.

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP will begin Monday, September 14 at 9:30am, in room 305. Fran Webster will lead this study on the book of Hebrews. For more information go to fpchurch.com.

MEN'S TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY will begin Tuesday, September 15 at 6pm, in room 305. Neil McKinnie will lead this study based on the book *Respectable Sins* by Jerry Bridges. For more information go to fpchurch.com.

PRAYER MEETING will begin Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30pm in room 305.

KINGDOM EXPLORERS registration is now open. This club is for girls and boys going into 1st - 5th grade. Club begins Wednesday, September 16 at 7pm. Register at fpchurch.com. For more information see Jon Blosser or Vicky Seitz.

MEN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY will begin Wednesday, September 16 at 7pm in the Virtual Classroom. Matt Solomon and Mark Prim will lead this study based on the promises of God. For more information go to fpchurch.com.

COMMUNICANT'S CLASS is a class dedicated to children which explores declaring one's faith and the importance of the Lord's table. The class is provided for youth whose parents believe they are ready to become full communing members. This class begins Wednesday, September 23 at 5:00pm and will meet in room 305. Register at fpchurch.com.

WOMEN'S SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY will begin Saturday, September 26 at 10:15am in room 306. They will be studying the book of Luke. For more information go to fpchurch.com.

MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about our events or ministries, please visit our website at **fpchurch.com** or download the **Church Center App** on your phone. You can also call us at (734) 676-1510 or email the office at **office@fpchurch.com**.

THE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday

Morning Worship - 9:00am & 11:00am - Sanctuary

Sunday School - 10:00am

Evening Service - 6:00pm

Jr. High Youth Group - 7:00pm

Sr. High Youth Group - 7:00pm

Choir Practice - 7:30pm - Sanctuary

Monday

Faith and Fellowship - 9:30am - Room 305

Ministry Minded - 5:00pm - Virtual Classroom

Tuesday

Men's Bible Study - 6:00pm - Room 305

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting - 6:00pm - Room 305

Jr. & Sr. High Small Groups - 7:00pm - Room 301

Kingdom Kids - 7:00pm - Room 101,102 & Fellowship Hall

Women's Bible Study - 7:00pm - Room 302

Men's Bible Study - 7:00pm - Virtual Classroom

Young Adult Ministry - 9:00pm - The Merkey's Home

Thursday

Worship Team Rehearsal - 7:00pm - Sanctuary

Saturday

Goal Sports - 10:00am - Elizabeth Park

Nerf War (Jr. High) - 7:00pm - Room 304

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



COMMUNICANT'S CLASS is a class dedicated to children which explores declaring one's faith and the importance of the Lord's table. The class is provided for youth whose parents believe they are ready to become full communing members. This class begins Wednesday, September 23 at 5:00pm and will meet in room 305. Register at fpchurch.com.



As we prepare to kick off our fall church ministries, there are many opportunities for our members to serve. We are currently seeking individuals who have a heart for children and a desire to help them learn and grow in their faith.

Our 10:00 a.m. Sunday school hour is especially in need of both teachers and assistants to serve children from age 2 through 5th grade.

If you feel the Lord may be calling you to serve in this ministry, please contact Karen Rozanski more information. We would love to have you join our children's ministry team!

GIVING

Giving is an important part of worshipping God as we obediently and joyfully give from what has been generously provided to us. The faithful stewardship of God's people enables us to sustain our church-based ministries and programs, assist in the planting of new churches, and the sending of missionaries around the world. Options for giving:

- **Online giving** is available at fpchurch.com
- **Text giving** is available at (734) 672-3675
- **The Black Box** near the sanctuary exit is available for contributions by check or cash

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, typical of notebook paper. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.



If your children will be with us for the sermon, we hope they can use these prompts to help them listen and learn.

What is the BIG idea (main point of the sermon)?

Verses the preacher mentioned:

Draw a picture of something the preacher talked about.

What I learned today:

Words I didn't understand:

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

Elders oversee the spiritual care of the church through shepherding as well as oversight of various committees within the church.

Aaron Carr - Senior Pastor

Jerry Barwikowski- Administration

Jerry Bringard- Administration

Mark Merkey- Missions

Tom Montie- Family Life

Mark Prim- Missions

Mike Rozanski- Shepherding

Jim Scullion- Worship & Administration

Gary Westerbeek - Stated Clerk & C.P.
Residency

DEACONS

Deacons help steward the needs of the congregation by overseeing a variety of committees within the church.

Matt Berk- Welcome & Frontline Greeters

Eric Keel- Communion

Mike Overwater- Facilities/Security

Alex Piasecki- Congregational Care

Gary Siemers- Compassionate Care

Lee Shirley- Meal Ministry

Joe Strozeski- Mercy Ministry & Physical
Needs

Mike Thisse- Congregational Care

Our Elders & Deacons are assisted by Care Team Members in caring for our families.

Please direct your questions related to ministry times and rooms to:

Administrative Assistant - Desiree Merkey - dmerkey@fpchurch.com

Please direct your questions related to financial giving to:

Financial Administrator - Tracey Riley - triley@fpchurch.com



Worship Times: 9am, 11am, & 6pm

Sunday School: 10am

Website: fpchurch.com

**Facebook: First Presbyterian
Church of Trenton**

**A congregation of the
Presbyterian Church in America
First Presbyterian Church
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(734)676-1510**