



Fenton United Methodist Church

Mainspring

Join us for worship on Sunday morning as we seek to align our lives with God's purposes.

Traditional Worship
9:30 AM, Sanctuary

Contemporary Worship
11:05 AM, FLC

Live-streamed on
Facebook & Website

Barrier free facilities

Nursery available
9:30 & 11:05

Infant to 4 years
Lakeshore Kids
9:30

A Note from Pastor Jeff

All around us are the signs of creation making its preparation for a new season. The leaves are turning beautiful yellows, reds, and oranges. Apples are ripe to be made into cider. The produce of our gardens are ready for their final harvest. The temperature is falling. Soon snow will cover the ground, and we will sit at the tables of the feasts of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

New seasons are not just part of nature; they are also a part of life. We, each of us, move from one season to another – from childhood to adulthood there are seasons in between and part of each stage of growth. There are seasons when we are “on top of our game,” and seasons where we are not so much. There are seasons when we are passionate about one thing, and seasons when we are passionate about another.

The author of Ecclesiastes says nearly the same thing when he writes about “a time for everything.” And what he is saying is that

there is a time for this until it is the time for that; and that each is beautiful in its own way.

What is true about creation and our lives is also true about a church. Congregations go through seasons – season of growth, seasons of fruitfulness, seasons of decline, seasons of searching, and so on. Most recently, COVID was a season for every church, as was adapting to the new reality after the COVID lock-down.

My sense is that we are “getting our traction back.” That, the fruitfulness of our ministries reflects the fruitfulness of what they were prior to COVID. The use of our facilities matches their usage prior to COVID. I think we are ready for a new season.

Next year, it is my intention to lead the Leadership Board and our congregation in revisiting our mission and vision statements. Do we need to update them? Is God giving us a different vision for mission and ministry locally and globally. In addition, it is my sincere hope that God will give us a BFHAD – a Big Fat Hairy Audacious Dream; something we cannot accomplish without God's help. And I am excited about the possibilities!

As we move from one season to the next – autumn into winter, this season in our church to the next, it is vital that we pray for our congregation, and for God's clear vision for us. It is vital that we remain engaged with one another and with the process of discerning God's dream for us.

I am thrilled and humbled by what God has done this year in us, among us, and through us. I am excited by the possibilities for the future that God envisions for us.

And as always...

I am proud to be with you on the journey!

Be well and be blessed

Jeffrey L Jagers,
Pastor

ADVENT AT FENTON UMC

The season of Advent begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving this year: November 30th.

On Sunday, December 7th , we will have a **combined worship service** at 10:00 AM in Truran Hall. It will be an all-music Sunday, with all of our ensembles leading us in worship. In addition, because it is the first Sunday of the month, we will receive the sacrament of Holy Communion together! Please mark your calendar for this special date and time.

Our Advent series is entitled, Thy Kingdom Come. Through it, I want to lead us to know more about the nature of the Kingdom Jesus launched: a Kingdom of hope, peace, joy, and love. I hope that you will join us in-person or online.

This year we will be trying a different Christmas Eve schedule. Our contemporary-style service will be at 7 PM. Our traditional-style services will be at 8:30 and 10:00 PM. The traditional-style services will have both candlelight and communion services. Nursery will be provided at the 7 and 8:30 PM services. Let's try it out and see what happens. It is my hope that these times will better facilitate Christmas-eve family gatherings.

United Women In Faith

Our Samaritan's Purse project will end on November 17th. Boxes can be picked up in the Narthex through November 17th.

Our Wednesday, November 12th meeting starts with snacks at 12:30, meeting beginning at 1 PM. We will be voting for year-end donations, Christmas family names and the musical venue for December. A Response magazine article will be discussed. A sign-up sheet will be passed around for our December potluck. Eastwind's conference synopsis by Ellen, Diane and Mary.

Our December meeting we will be a potluck lunch. After possible entertainment, we will be wrapping gifts for our adopted Christmas family and receive our groups list of cards to send to the infirmed, shut-ins, etc.

REMINDER....no meetings in January and February!

Diane Panaretos, 2025 UWIF President

The Music Ministry of Chancel Choir, Wind Ensemble and Handbells **It's Never Too Late...**

To sing with the Chancel Choir! To ring with the Handbell Ensemble! To play with the Wind Ensemble! If you were thinking about it over the summer, planning to come try one (or more) of them out in September, and time got away from you, it's never too late! You'll be welcomed with warm smiles, cheerful greetings, and folks eager to get you up and running in no time!

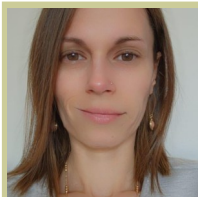
Chancel Choir rehearses Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 PM in the choir loft in the sanctuary and sings weekly for the 9:30 worship service.

Handbells rehearse Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:30 PM and rings the forth Sunday of each month at the 9:30 worship service.

Wind Ensemble rehearses, Tuesdays from 7:30-9:00 PM and plays the third Sunday of each month at the 9:30 worship service.

If you'd like to know more contact Matt Packer, Chancel Choir at mpack65@yahoo.com or cell phone/text, (810) 610-3692 or Lisa Pearson, Handbells and/or Wind Ensemble (810) 569-3451, bwpianokeys@yahoo.com.

Dr. Matt Packer, Chancel Choir Director



Kate Glasson
Children's Ministry Coordinator
 fumc.kate@gmail.com
 810-629-2132 ext. 164

Movie Night

November 21st & December 19th
6:00 to 8:00 PM

Please signup on our website
www.fentonumc.com to reserve 2 slices of pizza,
 breadsticks, and a drink.
 Remember to sign up a friend!



Holiday Christmas Party December 20th
 during the 9:30 service.

Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry is buzzing with excitement. Lakeshore Kids gather every Sunday and this year so far, we wrapped up a financial peace series with a mock store event where the kids used what they learned for a fun hands-on experience. We've started the New Testament where the kids just learned about John Baptizing Jesus. B-Faith Kids is in full swing every other Wednesday from 6-7:30 p.m., where we're on an adventure learning about Bible Heroes!

Once a month, a movie night is hosted for pre-k thru 7th graders. Kids can come enjoy pizza, popcorn, a movie and friendship. We hope to see you there! Now that's its cooled down, I'm looking to finish organizing and cleaning the children's ministry storage rooms, help is needed in this final step. Children's Ministry isn't just a one-person job. There are many great opportunities for you to be involved from behind the scenes, special events, or in the classroom. We have a great bunch of children, who are eager to learn about God and all he has to offer.

NURSERY NEWS

Through God's goodness, our nursery has grown! We're excited to welcome Miss Cora and Miss Janet to our Nursery Team, along with our wonderful youth volunteers Nora and Layla.

We recently wrapped up our Financial Peace lessons—our friends had fun learning the basic concepts of how to spend, save, and donate! Next, we'll be exploring stories from the New Testament.

If you know any little friends who'd love to learn about God's love and goodness, we invite them to join us on Sundays for a morning of prayer, worship, and fun!

Karen Eversole – Childcare Coordinator
FUMC.kareneversole@gmail.com



Laughing, Learning, and Serving Together

If you walk into our youth room on a Wednesday night, you'll probably hear laughter before anything else. Our Wednesday evening group is the heartbeat of our youth ministry. We share a meal, a meaningful lesson, and games (which may or may not involve a barrage of flying ping-pong balls). Enter at your own risk!

We've wrapped up our series on The Life of Christ and begun a new one called Big Questions About Faith. It's a space where we wrestle with honest questions about God, the Bible, and what faith means today. The teens continue to amaze me with their wisdom, honesty, and curiosity.

We've also strengthened our sense of belonging and community through experiences of fun and service. In August, we spent an afternoon at Kensington Metropark boating, picnicking, and enjoying a full-scale water-gun battle. This fall, we've helped a few church congregants by raking their yards. Through laughter and service, our youth are discovering that following Christ means sharing love with others in everyday ways.

We welcome your continued prayers and encouragement as our youth grow in their faith and their walk with Jesus.

Jessica Cece
Youth/Young Adult Ministries
fumc.jessicacece@gmail.com

Fellowship, Friends & Fun

Wednesdays 6:30 PM, Youth (6th–12th)
Thursdays 6:00 PM, Young Adults (18 & up)
Sundays 9:30 AM

Follow us on Instagram: [fentonumcyouth](https://www.instagram.com/fentonumcyouth)

Empathy Tips from Your Stephen Ministry

The hustle and bustle of the holidays and the short days of winter can be especially difficult for many people. How might we better love our neighbor, clerk, server, friend, sister, boss, etc.? One thing we can do to help each other is to use empathy (active listening skills) with someone who seems sad or stressed.

The definition for Empathy found in the book, "The Gift of Empathy," is; "Empathy is looking at the world from someone else's perspective to experience what the person is feeling (listening for their feelings)—and then expressing your understanding of those feelings to that person (e.g. "That sounds painful." or "I'm sorry—it's hard to deal with that." Or "I can see why you would feel that way.")." With two simple steps the other person can feel cared for, validated, affirmed, accepted and understood.

We at Fenton UMC have Stephen Ministers and Leaders who are ready and willing to listen and support anyone who may be having a difficult moment. So please do not hesitate to approach us. Our active ministry members include; Susan Allen, Shannon Atkinson, Darryl Cafasso, Judy Dettre, Dan Neumann, Lisa Pearson, Ron Readman, Vicki Schill, Judy Smeckert and Sandy York.

John 13:34 "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

Connect Groups

I have been a member of a Connect Group for the last few years and the blessings I have received have been amazing. Some of our Connect Groups meet in person and some of our meetings are online via Zoom, either way Connect Groups look forward to welcoming new members and making new and deeper friendships. Meetings begin and end in prayer and no matter where you are in your spiritual journey, all questions are welcomed and life experiences shared. After each of our meetings I feel like I have been to the mountain top, I feel so blessed to be part of this group of believers growing in our faith.

I want to extend the invitation to you to prayerfully consider stepping forward to give a Connect Group a try as a leader or participant. I believe the blessing that you will receive will be amazing. Please see me or talk with Pastor Jeff. We are happy to share with you the next steps. Thank you. Dan Neumann

Food Pantry

Are you a little short at the end of the month after paying bills, or do you have a friend or family member who is? Did you know our food pantry can help? We can be a one-time help during a trying month, or a consistent help during job loss or any other difficult financial situation. We can set an appointment for you or a loved one to work with a volunteer, or you can drop in on Tuesdays 10am-4pm when FARR volunteers staff a walk-in pantry. Clients do NOT have to be screened or go through a financial review to get food. If you have a food need...we have food!!!

All with a food need in Fenton, Lake Fenton, Linden, Holly areas are currently welcome. We provide pantry type food, frozen meats and fresh produce (when available). We also have a personal care closet with shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, and cleaning products. The Pantry also provides items for community food basket giveaways at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

We are funded in several ways; church member donations, partnership with FARR, other civic organizations, and community members who have excess!! We also partner with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan for reduced pricing on our staples.

The pantry also provides many volunteer opportunities! Our volunteers assist clients via appointment, and also help FARR staff the walk-in days when needed. We have a group that travels to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in Flint where we work in the warehouse to earn credits that we use to purchase food for our pantry!!

Our next large event is the Thanksgiving basket/box giveaway. The week of Thanksgiving, we partner with FARR and provide food for Thanksgiving dinner to over 150 local families. This is a community wide event and a special time. We will need volunteers Monday, November 24th and Tuesday November 25th to assist with the Thanksgiving food basket giveaway.

If you'd like more information on the Food Pantry ministry, or to volunteer, please see, call or text Diane Panaretos 517-404-5906 or Kelley Readman 810-399-2437.

Versiti Blood Drive Thursday, November 6 (2:30-7 PM) in Family Life Center

To schedule your appointment, please scan our QR code, contact Versiti Blood Center of Michigan at 1-866-642-5663, or reach out to our local volunteer, Ellen Pease, at 810-265-4224. She will be at both services on October 26th and November 2nd with information. If you cannot donate, please consider volunteering a couple of hours at the blood drive registration table, or share our blood drive information with your friends and family.



Kids Hope USA

One Child, One Hour, One Church, One School

Praise the Lord...Kids Hope is off to a wonderful start for the school year!

Thank you to our 16 mentors and 16 prayer partners, who have said yes to God's call to be a part of this amazing ministry!

We started back to Tomek Elementary the first week of October with the kids, whose parents have returned permission slips. By the time you read this, we hopefully will have received all of them.

The prayers and support of our church family is so important and appreciated!

In His Joy,

Laurie Isenberg & Noreen Wood



Seeds Project

Jesus said "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men". It has also been said that bringing people to God is often like planting seeds. When we talk to someone about our faith or when we are the hands and feet of Christ for someone, we are planters of seeds. We plant seeds, and give God opportunities to work in people's lives to bring them closer to him. The Seeds project applies these principles to inviting people to our church. The Leadership Board has been working to turn this planting seeds concept into an invitation culture in our church.

The Leadership Board would like to invite the entire church to be planters of seeds. We may have the best kept secret in Fenton. We are part of a church that is like no other. We live the methodist way of always growing closer to God. Each of us are on our own journey but with the rest of our church family. Come and plant the seeds of invitation so that all can find wholeness in Jesus Christ.

What are the seeds?

Our "seeds" are a thoughtfully designed system with words (Elevator Pitch), tools (gifts, yard signs, and an updated website). There is training designed to help each of us create our own personal elevator pitch.

Elevator Pitch

A seed is an elevator pitch. It starts out with a hook. Something that will get a person's attention. It has a body that supports the hook. The pitch ends with an invitation. It should take between 30 and 60 seconds to say. It is a conversation starter or sometimes just thought provoking. Talking to people and inviting them to our church takes a certain amount of boldness. Being bold is helped by being prepared. Below is our church elevator pitch.

Hook: A church with Heart in the Heart of Fenton.

Body: At Fenton United Methodist Church, we know that faith can be complicated and questions are welcome. In the Methodist tradition, we do our best to: do no harm; do good; and stay connected with God. Our pastor's messages explore God's love and teachings (from the gospel), challenging us to be more like Christ. We believe God's love is so expansive it is indescribable.

We are inclusive, so all are welcome. On Sundays, we have traditional worship at 9:30 AM and contemporary worship at 11:05 AM. The worship services are available both in-person and online. Reaching inward, we offer small groups, Bible studies, Stephen Ministry, Children's Ministry, infant and toddler care during both styles of worship, Youth Group, and Young Adults. Reaching outward, we have our food pantry, the elementary school mentoring program, a community garden, local community events, and so much more.

Wrap-up: Come as you are—there's no pressure, just an open invitation to grow and connect.

Seed Gift

A seed is a gift that you give someone. Once planted, it is present in their life and may remind them of the FUMC and the time you talked to them about our church. It can also be something that you might be seen with like a shopping bag with our seed gift logo or a pen with our tag line. Seeing the item may prompt someone to talk to you about your faith and our church. There are a number of seed gifts and we also have yard signs. Below is a list of the seed gifts, an image of the seed logo, and our tag line. They will be available in a tote each Sunday morning at each service. Please drop by the tote, Take what will work best for you as a seed to plant.



Seed Gifts: Reusable shopping bag, small/book bag, magnet, pen, and a business card. The business card has a place for a guest to fill out their name and contact information. When this is given to the church at a Sunday service, a \$5 donation will be made to our food pantry.

Updated Website

A seed is also an updated "I'm new here" website page. That has some examples of pastor messages or message series. An interested person can listen to experience how we are encouraged to grow closer to God.

How do I get involved?

Stop by one of the Seed Gift Totes located in the Narthex or Truran Hall and pick up some seed gifts that you see working for you either as a conversation starter or as a gift to give to someone else.

Create your own elevator pitch!

Create an elevator pitch that resonates with you. Our church pitch resonates with the Leadership Board. Elevator pitches are best if they are from your heart. We will be offering elevator pitch workshops over the next few weeks. The workshop is about 45 minutes long. During the workshop we will lead you through the process of creating your own elevator pitch.

All classes are held in the room 156 of the Family Life Center. To sign up for a workshop, please contact Hal Bennett at 810-845-3586 or email, hal.f.bennett@gmail.com.

Workshop Schedule:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sunday	11/2	After the 11:05 Service
Tuesday	11/4	7:00 PM
Sunday	11/9	After the 9:30 Service
Sunday	11/9	After the 11:05 Service
Thursday	11/13	7:00 PM
Sunday	11/16	After the 9:30 Service
Sunday	11/16	After the 11:05 Service
Tuesday	11/18	7:00 PM

Let's plant some seeds!

For more information or to make suggestions, please contact Hal Bennett, at 810-845-3586 or email at hal.f.bennett@gmail.com.

Caring Ministry

In 2017 CARING MINISTRY was implemented as an "Inward Reach" to members in our church when they were homebound or living alone and very much in need of socialization and feeling connected to their church family. It was very successful ministry until Covid hit and those activities were not permitted. We have not been able to regain traction and provide social visitation to members in need, due to lack of volunteers.

Please consider volunteering for this ministry. It only requires a short 30 minute social visit one or two times a month with dates and times that are convenient for you. The visits mean SO much to the person who is disconnected socially. History showed us YOU might find how good it makes you feel too!

Please contact me to be a part of this team or if you need more information.

Thank you! Susan Allen 810-629-3694

Troop 212 Annual Wreath Sale For 2025

Scout Troop 212 is holding its annual Wreath sale now until November 10th. Wreaths are available in three sizes, small approx. 20 inches for \$28.00, medium is 24 inches for \$32.00, and the large is 28 inches for \$45.00.

They are also selling Cedar roping in 15' lengths at a cost of \$22.00.

Please contact Greg Fleck (517-404-8035) or Ron West (810-845-2611) to place an order.





"Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."
 Reaching upward to God
 Reaching inward to each other
 Reaching outward to our neighbors
 So that all can find wholeness in Jesus Christ.

New issues of the Mainspring are released every other month. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month prior to a new issue. If you would like to include an article into our newsletter, please send your request to Kris at fumc.kris@gmail.com.

Find us on Facebook!

Our pastor would like to reach out to the members of our congregation who are sick, in the hospital or whose lives are otherwise in upset. Most of the time, hospitals and family members let us know about illness or surgery, but not always. If you know of a member who needs pastoral care, please call the church office. It is better to hear about a need from twenty people than from no one.

Fenton United Methodist Church
 119 S. Leroy St.
 Fenton, MI 48430

