



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

K-5th grade

A Note from Pastor Jeff

Impact can be a violent word. In Latin, it meant to “drive something into something else.” Over the centuries, the word impact was used to describe “packing something tightly with another,” “a collision of two things,” and “striking forcefully against something.” It was in 1935 that the word was used to mean “having a powerful influence or effect.”

More often than not, though, an impact can be less about violence and more about shaping through influence, or the power of love and compassion. I am who I am because of the people who influenced/impacted my life.

Like it or not, we, each of us, have an impact on the people around us. We influence people all the time: through our words, our attitudes, our biases, our actions, what we stand up for and what we remain silent about, and so on.

Fenton United Methodist Church has had an impact on this community in various ways and to various measures for the last

190 years! On September 19th and 20th , we will celebrate (six months early) our 190th birthday. On the 19th we will walk down memory lane with a hymn sing, a slide show, historical highlights, honoring people who have been members for fifty years or more, and refreshments. On Sunday, September 20th, we will have a combined worship service in the sanctuary at 10:30 AM, followed by a potluck in Truran Hall. The church will provide table service, ham, beverages, Fenton House breadsticks, and Uncle Ray’s Ice Cream. Please bring a dish to pass.

Together, we want to celebrate God’s faithfulness to us over nearly two centuries(!), as well as the many ways in which we have been able to impact our community.

But we won’t just look back. We will look around and see the impact we are having now! After a few years of upset through COVID and the conversations about disaffiliation, we are hitting our stride once again in ministry and outreach! More than that, our outreach has expanded beyond what we have done in the last dozen years.

We will also look ahead. What are God’s dreams for us in the next five years or so? What do we see as our calling from God in the communities where we live and work, and around the world? Who are the people, communities, and issues we believe God wants us to impact?

I am excited about the next few months and the next few years! Nothing is impossible for us because nothing is impossible for God. Let’s stand on our tiptoes to see where God is and is leading us.

And as always, I am proud to be...
With you on the journey,

Jeffrey L Jagers,
Pastor

Children's Ministry

Can you believe it? Summers almost over! Get ready to kick off Fall with the Lakeshore Kids; Sundays for K-5th graders on September 13th at the 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. services, and BFaith Kids Mid-Week fun on September 16th from 6-7:30 p.m. This summer, the kids zoomed through Candy Land, linking each sweet stop to a Bible story. I'd like to thank everyone that volunteered their time to VBS in July. All of your dedication to the children of this church, of the community, and surrounding areas is a blessing to all.

This fall, we're introducing a new curriculum: Celebrate Wonder! Cokesbury explains "This curriculum is based on spiritual practices through play, discovery, biblical exploration, faith conversations, and relationship". We are all excited to "wonder" through the bible together.

Special Events:

This year we will alternate movie and game nights in the Family Life Center.

Our first Movie Night will be Sept 18th. Please signup on our website, www.fentonumc.com to reserve 2 slices of pizza, breadsticks, and a drink. Remember, bring a friend, a blanket and a pillow!

The first game night will be Oct. 16th! Bring your friends, a board game, and enjoy a light meal.

Thank you and have a blessed year.

Kate Glasson

Children's Ministry Coordinator, fumc.kate@gmail.com, 810-632-2132 ext., 164



NURSERY NEWS

On behalf of the FUMC Nursery Team, we hope everyone has had a wonderful summer! We are looking forward to seeing all of our friends for another fun and exciting year of Sunday School.

This year, we are focusing on the stories within the Bible and learning more in-depth about the people Scripture tells us about. We are celebrating "Wonder" and encouraging curiosity while connecting Scripture to everyday life.

Sunday School kicks off on **September 13**, and at that time, we will return to the **North Building Nursery** for the **9:30 a.m. service**.

Please see the **Children's & Youth Ministries** section of the *Mainspring* for details, dates, and times of upcoming events.

As always, we can't wait to see you and welcome friends, both old and new!

Karen Eversole - FUMC Childcare Coordinator, fumc.kareneversole@gmail.com

In search of Volunteers...

We would like you to prayerfully consider sharing your time as a *funeral luncheon coordinator*. Noreen Wood has been coordinating funeral luncheons for many years and will continue to do so however we would like to have others to call on in this time of need. Noreen is happy to train any and all that are interested. She will guide through the process and share all of her tips. Please call the church office if you are interested.

If you have a strong attention to detail, a talent for orderly processes and handling money please consider signing up to be in the rotation as one of our *counters*. They meet on Monday morning at 9:30AM in the conference room to process Sunday's offerings. If you would like more details or are interested please call the church office.

Children's ministry and the joyful souls who attend are truly meant to be celebrated! The thrill of witnessing kids dig deep into the Bible, share stories of their week, or see their faces light up with joy as they connect the Bible stories to their own experiences is a treasure. Our ability to show up Sundays and Wednesdays matters as we are called to create disciples of Jesus Christ. Children's ministry is not a one man or woman show, every volunteer is more than just a volunteer. To move forward with our fall programs for children, we need you, a disciple of Jesus sharing God's truth and love with the next generations of disciples. Please reach out to Kate Glasson through email, text, or a phone call for ways to get involved.

You helped make this happen!

We want to thank everyone who supported our youth by donating to our fundraising efforts for July's Adventure Trip! The trip included camping, kayaking, and rollercoasters at Michigan's Adventure, and everyone had a great time.

For many, kayaking was a brand-new experience. I was proud of their courage in trying something new and their perseverance when they got tired. One of our teenage boys even had to problem-solve in the middle of the night when the sound of a mouse, wanting a midnight snack of potato chips, woke him up. Unable to wake anyone else, his sleepy ingenuity led him to throw the entire bag, mouse included, out the cabin door!

When you support our youth, you're not simply funding fun activities. You're providing opportunities for them to build relationships, experience community, grow their faith, serve others, and know they have a place here.

Can you believe summer is already over and school is beginning?! We're wrapping up summer with an Ice Cream Social, and in September our youth will head to Detroit for a day of service with Cass Community Social Services, supporting their work with people experiencing significant needs for food, clothing, and housing.

Please continue to keep our youth and young adults in your prayers. If you'd like to be part of supporting and encouraging them, come talk to me!

Many blessings of peace and joy be yours,
Jessica

Jessica Cece,
Youth & Young Adult Ministries
fumc.jessicacece@gmail.com
Wednesdays 6:30 PM, Youth (6th—12th)
Thursdays 6:00 PM, Young Adults (18 & up)
Sundays 9:30 AM
Follow us on Instagram: fentonumcyouth

United Women In Faith (UWIF)

The September Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2nd at 1:00 PM in the church Conference Room.

Our next UWIF member meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 9th. We will have snacks and fellowship at 12:30, the meeting begins promptly at 1:00 PM. Please bring a new, wrapped gift (no more than \$20) to be bid on for our auction with all proceeds benefitting Missions.

October kicks off for our main fundraiser for 2026 which will be Rada. Stay tuned for more information and details!

Remind your family, friends and neighbors that we are collecting sewing machines that would like a new home. The machines will be sent to Midwest Missions for those around the world to use.

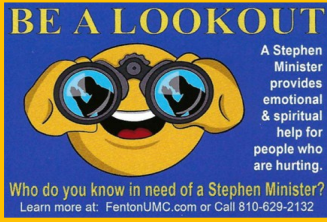
Diane Panaretos,
UWIF President

Stephen Ministry

Summer is a time we tend to focus more on vacations, family, friend get-togethers and carefree living. As we enter into the Fall and Winter seasons it's time to turn our thoughts and plans to remember and care about those who are going through difficult times. As you learn of people who are struggling, that is the perfect time to tell them how having a Stephen Minister could be a wonderful support for them.

Our church is so fortunate to have Stephen Ministers available who are trained in empathetic listening to those struggling with issues in their lives. No one should worry or struggle with their problems alone. A Christian Friend would be so comforting while they listen to, pray for, and just walk along side that person as they consider how to move forward!

All it takes is a phone call to Susan Allen, Referral Coordinator, 810-629-3694, to get the care started. God instructs us to "Love Thy Neighbor". This is one way we can do that!





46th Annual Fenton Area CROP Hunger WALK Sunday, October 4th

Location: Bush Park in Fenton

Time: Registration 1:30PM

Walk starts 2:00PM

Walk Route: Bush Park ONLY

25% of the funds
raised stay in our
neighborhood!
Over \$1,000 annually
has been raised for
the FUMC Food
Pantry for the past
couple of decades !

Volunteer Opportunities:

Set-Up / Take-Down
Registration Table
Lunch-Area Organizing
General Helper



Interested?
Call or text:
Don 810-240-863
OR
Nicole 248-245-3443



Kids Hope USA

One Child, One Hour, One Church, One School

A Child Needs You!

What is Kids Hope? A mentor from our church is matched up with a child who is considered at risk, for many different reasons. It builds caring relationships that can make a lasting impact on a child to know that someone cares enough to spend a half hour to one hour a week with just them. Every mentor/child team has a prayer partner.

Prayer is the backbone of Kids Hope!

Why do we need Kids Hope in our schools? Every child needs to know they are loved and valuable and that someone cares about them. The teachers and staff care and love their students, but there is not enough time in the day for them to spend extra, one on one time with those who need extra attention and help.

Fenton UMC/Tomek Eastern Elementary: Our church became a Kids Hope church in 2011 in partnership with TEE, under the direction of Judy Leek (Director) and Laurie Isenberg (school liaison/student-mentor match maker). The first year we had 25 students, 25 mentors and 25 prayer partners. We are beginning our 15th year with Tomek and look forward to another great year of building relationships with our students and the school staff. **Laurie and teachers are already praying about the kids who will benefit from having a KIDS HOPE mentor.**

Will you pray about becoming a KIDS HOPE MENTOR or a PRAYER PARTNER?

A Mentor training is being planned for you!

If you would like more info about KHUSA go to www.kidshopeusa.org

Please feel free to contact me, Noreen Wood 810-701-4046

Friends,

We want to thank you for your continued support of the ministries and missions of Fenton UMC. Through your giving you have made an impact on the lives of many people through: our worship, our Food Pantry, Kids Hope, Stephen Ministry, our Children's Ministry, Vacation Bible School, our Youth and Young Adults Ministries, our community outreach, and much, much more! Thank you!

However, as you may have noticed, we are in a challenging spot financially. Our spending is below our budget, but our income is about \$46,000 below our expenses. Much of this has been repair and maintenance for our campus buildings/property and our parsonage. Our staff has kept spending well below their budgets.

We are blessed to have an endowment fund that has been growing from both designated giving as well as market gains. Unfortunately, the endowment monies cannot be used to pay for bills that would normally be budgeted.

The Board and staff are making choices not to spend on non-critical items, and working hard to be faithful and wise stewards of our financial resources.

But that is only half of the equation. We are asking you to prayerfully consider how you might increase our income through your giving – especially to the general/operating budget. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact on our communities, grow our ministries, and spread the love and kingdom of God to people around the block and around the world. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and your giving.

In Christ's love,

The Fenton United Methodist Church Board

Katie Kool-Wray	Michael Mueller	Stacey Tyckoski
Amy O'Brian	Hal Bennett	Mike Palmer
Mark Warner	Megan Presland	Dan Neumann

Calling all singers!!

If you enjoy singing in a welcoming community and as an act of praise, we'd love for you to join us!

The Chancel Choir will resume fall rehearsals Thursday, September 10th.

Rehearsals are every Thursday from 7:00-8:30 PM in the sanctuary choir loft. We also rehearse in the choir room in the lower level of the church at 9:00AM before singing for the 9:30AM worship service.

Our first Sunday to sing will be September 13th.

For more information, reach out to Matt Packer, at mpack65@yahoo.com.





"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.

