



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

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15b)*

I looked like a tubby green bean walking the two blocks in my Boy Scout uniform to the troop meeting on Tuesday nights at my elementary school. Clearly, I did not join the Boy Scouts because of the fashion. I mostly joined because my older brothers had all been in the Boy Scouts and had all achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. The other reason I joined was for the camping. Since I usually got home-sick when we went camping, I didn't stay in the Boy Scouts for very long.

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. That is the Scout law. It reflected what I was learning in Sunday School and was taught at home.

Be Prepared. That is the Scout motto. "Prepared for what?" I asked my scout leader once. And like a Buddhist Master he replied, "That is the question, isn't it."

For a time, I thought that I should be prepared for any and every possibility, but I found I was getting paranoid. I finally came down on the idea that I should be prepared for the next thing on my calendar. That made a lot more sense, but it also left out the possibilities of other things coming my way: things that I did not plan for or expect.

I guess that you can really only be prepared for what you think might happen. The rest you have to improvise in union with God's Spirit.

The Apostle Peter encourages his readers to be prepared to give a reason for the hope you have in Jesus Christ when someone asks.

Hope is one of those things that can be easily lost – back then as it is these days. And a person who has hope in the midst of life's difficulties is a person who is in possession of something valuable; something that has escaped or eluded others.

Be prepared to give a reason for the hope you have; because when someone who needs hope sees that you have hope, they WILL ask.

This fall, the Leadership Board, along with some other folks in our congregation, want to help prepare us to give a reason for the hope we have and is sustained by living in community with one another at Fenton United Methodist Church.

This isn't about knowing the Bible, or the "four spiritual laws," or asking people to make a commitment to Jesus Christ. No one will ask you to wear a uniform – especially one that makes you look like a green bean, an eggplant, or any other vegetable. It is about sharing what you love about Fenton United Methodist Church and inviting people to join us in worship, or in another part of the life of the church.

(continued on pg. 2)

The meetings won't take long, and I think that you will be uplifted just by attending one, even if you are never asked to share the hope you have in Jesus Christ. Though don't hold your breath – someone WILL ask you.

We are getting our traction again. New people are worshipping with us each week. People are finding God's presence, grace and love among us. People are starting to take notice of the many ways in which God is at work in us, through us and among us.

Let's be prepared to invite them to join us on the journey.

And as always, I am proud to be with you.

Be well and be blessed

*Jeffrey L Jagers*

Pastor



### Jesus Asked...

Starting **September 15th**, and running for the next three Mondays, Pastor Jeff will be leading a short-term Bible study on four crucial questions Jesus still asks us. Join us in the church library at 1:00 PM. There is no book. Materials will be passed out before the study. Please call the church office to register, 810-629-2132.

### Stephen Ministry—Receptivity to Care

Most people are much more open to giving care than to receiving it. When giving care, we feel stable and secure. When receiving care, we can feel like we're acknowledging weakness, insecurity, and vulnerability.

As a result, there are countless people today who, though they really could benefit from a fellow Christian who would listen and care for them, instead they would rather tough it out on their own. They remain the strong silent type, or wear a smile across a face that is holding back a flood of tears. Society may encourage this by making you believe that asking for help is a sign of weakness.

But God did not create us to be independent. We were created to be interdependent. God's Word is clear on this. The New Testament includes more than 50 verses that contain the words "one another" - "love one another", "encourage one another", "build up one another", and "pray for one another". That means it's reciprocal; in addition to loving, encouraging, building up, and praying for others, we are to allow other people to do the same for us!

God does not intend for us to suffer alone. Jesus promises, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). We can receive this promised rest when we turn to one another for comfort and help.

That's why we have Stephen Ministers. Many of them have been on the receiving end of care in their lives. They know how difficult it is to ask for help, but they also know the great personal and spiritual growth and healing that follow. They know how to respond in a **loving, caring**, and nonjudgmental manner. They are equipped, ready, and waiting to provide the comfort and care God very much desires you to have.

Give Stephen Ministry a try either for yourself or someone you know. Ask their permission and then call Susan Allen, Referral Coordinator/Leader for more information at 810-629-3694.

### The Music Ministry of Chancel Choir

#### MUSIC ADDS LIFE TO YOUR YEARS AND YEARS TO YOUR LIFE!

Here are just a few benefits of singing in a choir:

**Social:** a sense of community and belonging

**Mental:** reduces stress and anxiety and promotes feelings of happiness

**Cognitive:** improves memory and concentration

**Physical:** strengthens respiratory muscles, improves lung capacity and boosts immunity

**Emotional:** provides an avenue for emotional expression and creativity

That's just a few benefits! Want something more personal? Ask a choir member! Better yet, come and discover the joy for yourself! Chancel Choir rehearsal begins **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4** from **7:00-8:30 PM** in the **Sanctuary Choir Loft**.

New members are welcome at any time! Can't read music? No problem! Can't make rehearsal every week? No problem! Can't sing every Sunday? No problem! Come give the Chancel Choir a try and discover the worthwhile benefits for yourself! Reach out to Matt Packer at [mpack65@yahoo.com](mailto:mpack65@yahoo.com) or cell phone/text, (810) 610-3692.

Dr. Matt Packer, Chancel Choir Director





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

### Movie Night

**September 19th & October 17th**  
**6:00 to 8:00 PM**

Please signup on our website  
[www.fentonumc.com](http://www.fentonumc.com) to reserve 2 slices of pizza,  
 breadsticks, and a drink.  
 Remember to sign up a friend!

### Fall Welcome Back!

- September 7th 9:30 a.m. Sunday Lakeshore Kids, Financial Peace Kids and Move through the Bible: The New Testament
- September 10th Midweek BFaith Kids— 6:00—7:30 p.m., Bible Heroes (meets every other week)

### SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

Our Children's Ministry, catering to grades K-5, is in need of adult volunteers. If you are interested in dedicating a Sunday or more to nurture the faith of our youth, this is a wonderful opportunity for you! We have openings available during both services, 9:30 and 11:05 a.m.

## NURSERY NEWS

Welcome Back!

We invite all children Birth–5 years old to join us in the FUMC Nursery for another fun and exciting school year. Please share with family and friends!

### • Fall Kickoff

Sunday, September 7 during the 9:30 service in the FLC with Ms. Kate's Group  
 We'll be celebrating the start of a new school year together. Occasionally throughout the school year opportunities will present and we will be joining our older friends for special times of learning and fellowship.

### • Schedule Update

9:30 Service - Nursery returns to the North Building starting September 14 (Birth-5 yrs old)  
 11:05 Service - Nursery remains in the FLC (Mixed Ages: Birth–5th Grade)

### • What We're Learning

Financial Peace for Kids — learning Give, Save, Spend (5 weeks)  
 Next Up: Exploring the New Testament — always a joy to see how much our little ones know!

### • Nursery Assistant Position

We're hiring a part-time Nursery Assistant to step into Mrs. Jessica Cece's role as she begins Youth Ministries. If you love children and sharing God's love, we'd love to have you join our team!

### • Volunteers Needed

We're also seeking a few adult and youth volunteers to help on Sundays.  
 Contact: FUMC Office: (810) 629-2132 / [fentonumc.office@gmail.com](mailto:fentonumc.office@gmail.com) Karen Eversole, Childcare Coordinator: [fumc.kareneversole@gmail.com](mailto:fumc.kareneversole@gmail.com). If you, or a friend, have a love for children and are passionate about sharing the love of God with our youngest friends, we would LOVE to have you on our team!



## Growing Together in Christ

As the new youth director, I am honored and excited to join the youth of this church and carry on the legacy of Stacey Highfield. Stacey created an environment where every child felt loved and accepted, and I hope to do the same.

On Wednesday nights we've been studying the life of Christ, beginning with His birth and now learning the Beatitudes. It has been a joy to see newcomers—some who have never attended church before—immediately welcomed and introduced to Jesus' life and teachings. The regular attendees would make Stacey proud in the way they embrace new friends and create a warm, accepting community.

Looking ahead, Sunday School will begin again on September 7 at 9:30am, with a new course on financial literacy that incorporates biblical insights about using our resources generously and wisely.

Our **NEW Young Adult Ministries group** will also launch on **Thursday, September 11, from 6:00-7:30pm**, beginning with Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton. **Anyone 18 and older** who considers themselves a young adult is welcome to join us.

**Jessica Cece**  
**Youth/Young Adult Ministries**  
[fumc.jessicacece@gmail.com](mailto: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)



## United Women In Faith

Our September Board Meeting is Wednesday, the 3rd at 1:00 PM in the church conference room.

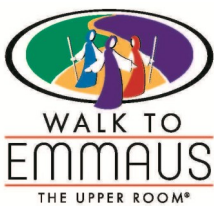
Women in Faith general meeting, September 10th in Room 117 at 12:30, come early and enjoy snacks prior to meeting. The agenda includes Firemen from the Fenton Fire Department speaking on home safety, then we will participate in a White Elephant Auction. Monies generated will go toward Missions. Please bring an item you have been hoping to pass on, it could be another person's treasure!

We will hold the Women In Faith Board Meeting Wednesday, October 1st, at 1:00 PM in the church conference room.

Our general meeting on Wednesday October 8th, will be a soup, salad and dessert potluck lunch, so no snacks needed. It will be in Fellowship Hall, at 1 pm. After the luncheon we will be assembling the boxes for Samaritan's Purse and addressing end-of-year giving options.

The Women of Faith will be having a Soles-for-Souls "gently used" shoe drive, Sept. 7 to Oct. 5. Bins will be in the Narthex and the FLC for collection. Please use the large bands to help keep the shoes together (single shoes are also being collected). Look for updates in the bulletins in Sept. and Oct..

Diane Panaretos, 2025 UWIF President



I want to share with you a terrific opportunity to experience the love and grace of God in powerful and meaningful ways, and to receive some helpful tools for faithfully following Jesus Christ. The *Walk to Emmaus* is a three-day experience of nurturing our soul, and our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is a highly-structured week-end event designed to strengthen and renew our faith, and through us to renew our families, our congregations and our communities.

Luke's gospel relates the story of two disciples who were traveling on the road between Jerusalem and Emmaus. As these two disciples together, they shared their heart's deepest troubles about the death of Jesus. An unknown person - Who was, in fact, the risen Christ - joined them and explained the scriptures as they talked: how it was ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter His glory. Toward the end of that journey, the disciples urged the stranger to eat supper with them. The climax of the story is when Jesus took bread and gave it to them; the two recognized that the stranger who had walked with them was the risen Christ. They rushed back to Jerusalem with the good news of Christ's resurrection. (Luke 24:13-35)

Here at Fenton UMC, we have dozens of people who have attended and found a re-energizing of their faith through the *Walk to Emmaus*. The next opportunities to attend a *Walk* are October 2-5 for men, and October 16-19 for women. The *Walks* will be at Plymouth First United Methodist Church. Cost for the week-end is about \$90, but we at Fenton UMC have funds available to cover the cost if it is an obstacle.

If you have questions regarding the *Walk to Emmaus*, what happens during the week-end, or would like to attend a future *Walk*, please feel free to contact me, or one of the many members of FUMC you know that has been on a *Walk to Emmaus*.

With you on the journey,

Pastor Jeff Jagers



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

Blood and plasma donors needed plus volunteers! Contact Ellen Pease at 810-265-4224.

**Hope. It's in our blood.** We (Fenton UMC) and our area communities have an opportunity of providing hospitals in Michigan with blood products for their patients' treatments and emergencies.

### At our Versiti of Michigan blood drive, donors will:

- answer health questions.
- go over your medications.
- get a free mini physical including blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and hemoglobin (iron).

If all levels are good, then you can donate blood/plasma for our patients in Michigan hospitals and know that you are saving patients' lives in Michigan.



**To make your appointment, scan our QR code**, contact Versiti Blood Center of Michigan at 1-866-642-5663, or contact our local volunteer, Ellen Pease at 810-265-4224.

**Also, volunteers at the drive needed** for set up, registration during the drive, and clean up.

Please share our blood drive information with your friends and family!

**BLOOD  
DRIVE**





45th Annual Fenton Area

## CROP Hunger WALK Sunday, September 21st

12:15 PM

Picnic Potluck Kick Off

At Elizabeth at S. Leroy Streets  
between St. Jude's & First Presb. churches

25% of the funds  
raised stay in our  
neighborhood !

Over \$1,000 annually  
has been raised for  
the FUMC Food Pan-  
try for the past cou-  
ple of decades !

### Volunteer Opportunities:

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



Interested? call or text:  
Don 810-240-0863

## CROP HUNGER WALK



### 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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!*

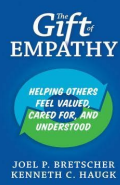
If you would like more info about KHUSA go to [www.kidshopeusa.org](http://www.kidshopeusa.org)

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

**Helpers needed...**We will be pulling out and cutting back plants on Monday, Oct. 27th, at 8:30 am as part of the Fall Clean-up around our church building. Bring your work gloves and snippers. I will have lawn/leaf bags to put the plants in. Last year we had enough people that it only took 1 hr. to get done!

The more, the merrier! Thank you!

Diane Panaretos



**Mark your calendar** - Stephen Ministry will be offering a three-week study of award-winning book "The Gift of Empathy; Helping Others Feel Valued, Cared For, and Understood." The book takes an in-depth yet down-to-earth look at empathy, showing readers how to use it in a wide range of situations and relationships. The Thursday evening sessions will be held from 6:30 - 8:00PM on October 30<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup>, and November 20<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more details to come about registration, purchasing the book and the meeting room.



*"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](mailto: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.

