

MAINSRING

Keeping our congregation in sync with God and each other



Cross Roads

a sermon series on the decisions
that make all the difference

“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood.”

So begins one of my favorite poems by Robert Frost. As I understand it, Frost wrote it to tease an extremely indecisive friend.

“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and sorry I could not travel both, and be one traveler, long I stood and looked down one as far as I could to where it bent in the undergrowth.”

In our lives – indeed in each day – we, all of us, come to moments of decision: crossroads if you will. And, though many of these decisions seem small at the time, they contain in them the potential to have long-lasting outcomes. I see that on a regular basis as a pastor: one small decision leads to another and to another, and sooner or later the outcomes begin to emerge into something we had never expected. The outcomes of our choices can be positive and benign, and some can lead to disaster we could only see coming in retrospect.

The thing about most choices is we typically only get one chance at it. We take a step of faith, maybe, or of curiosity, or rebellion, or desire, and then we move in that direction, at least one more step. Two things about crossroads: First, we don't get to make that exact decision ever again. We will have opportunities to make similar decisions, but never again the same one. The players will be different. The stakes will be different. The circumstances will be different.

The problem is that most times we don't realize the potential of the often mundane-looking decisions that we make to lead us and others towards or away from God.

Second, with each choice we make in a particular direction, it becomes easier to make the same decision the next time we come to a crossroad. Steps of faith make it easier to take the next step of faith; and the same is true about steps of desire and defiance.

During Lent, Michelle and I will be preaching a series called, “CrossRoads,” where we will take us to some decision points we all must make: choices between faith and sin, between obedience to God and obedience to self, between faithfulness and rebellion.

At each CrossRoad we must make a choice that will lead us and others either towards God or away from God. The problem is that most times we don't realize the potential of the often mundane-looking decisions that we make to lead us and others towards or away from God.

We, all of us, will come to CrossRoads that force us to choose between God and self, and we will make our choices and move in one direction or another. And, it will only be in

retrospect that we will say, with Frost's friend:

“That has made all the difference.”

As always, I am proud to be...

With you on the journey!

Jeff Jagers
Lead Pastor



United Methodist
Foundation of Michigan
11 Fuller Ave. SE
P.O. Box 6247
Grand Rapids, MI 49516

Toll Free:
1.888.451.1929

Info@UMFMichigan.org

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Dear Friends:

If you are 70½ or older and own an IRA, there is something you should know. Congress passed a law that makes the IRA charitable rollover permanent retroactive to December 31, 2014.

Gifts transferred directly from your IRA to your United Methodist church and/or favorite ministry at any point during 2015 will qualify as a rollover gift. These gifts (up to \$100,000 limit) are tax-exempt and can be used to meet your required minimum distribution. Plus, this is an easy way to help further the mission of a United Methodist cause close to your heart.

You might want to "double your impact" by making a second IRA rollover gift in early 2016. Because the IRA rollover will be permanent, you can make many more IRA charitable rollover gifts in years to come. This is excellent news for philanthropy!

If you believe that such a gift may be appropriate for you, we encourage you to promptly consult with your tax advisor and IRA custodian. If we can help facilitate this gift, please contact our office.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David P. Bell".

President and Executive
Director

Helping Faithful People Live Generous Lives

Check out our website for FUSION Youth Choir and their 2016 musical,
The Bible Club, built by Bailey McPherson,
Public Relations Representative and
Youth Liaison for Fusion Youth Choir.
www.thebibleclubmusical.weebly.com

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Our Upward Basketball program has begun! We are having a great season so far, but are still looking for volunteers to help us! Ways you can get involved: be a practice night host, half-time devotions on game days, be a referee on game days, help with set-up/clean up on game days (including snow removal), and be a prayer partner for our program! If you are interested in helping in any of the above ways please email Brooke Caldwell at fumc.brooke@gmail.com for more information and to sign up!



The annual Fenton Community Expo is coming up on March 5th and 6th this year! We will once again be having a booth at this event! We need your help to “man the booth” and help let the community know all of the great things going on at FUMC! If you are interested please contact Brooke Caldwell at fumc.brooke@gmail.com for more information or to sign up!

Our Upward Basketball Celebration is on March 12th this year! We are looking for volunteers to help us run the celebrations for each team that day! In addition, we are looking for donations of cupcakes that the teams will eat at their celebration! We would like these donations to be dropped off anytime between March 9 and 11 at the church office! For more information or to sign up, please contact Brooke Caldwell at fumc.brooke@gmail.com!



Our annual Community Easter Egg Hunt is coming up on March 26th this year at 11am! We are in search of volunteers to help us run this event as well as donations of prizes to be given away at the event, we are also accepting monetary donations! For more information or to sign up please contact Brooke Caldwell at fumc.brooke@gmail.com!

Thank you Fenton United Methodist Church!

By: Brooke Caldwell

It's hard to believe, but I am already approaching my one year anniversary of when I was hired on as Community Outreach Coordinator! As we are looking forward to a new calendar year of 2016, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the members of Fenton UMC!

March of 2015 I was hired on to my dream job, literally! I first want to say thank you to all of the people who made the decision to make my job, Community Outreach Coordinator, a reality. When I was hired on, this was a brand new position that Jen Peters had been doing as a volunteer, so I want to thank all of those who were brave and bold enough to move it to a staff position and pave the way for me to live out my dreams.

Secondly, I would like to thank the church body as a whole for being so accepting of me as a new staff member and always making me feel welcome and loved in whatever I was doing. I had huge shoes to fill with Jen, and I never felt like I was being compared to her in any way so I really want to thank you all for that!

Finally, I would like to thank all of the many people that were volunteers for our Outreach programs in 2015! Without you, I could not have made any event happen! I am also thankful that many of the people who had done the events in the past with Jen continued to volunteer when I stepped in! Thank you for your faithfulness and your dedication to this church and its outreach ministry!

As I look forward to a new year of events, I am so excited to see where God will take this ministry! I am excited to do all of the events I did last year for a second time and I am also excited to bring forward new ideas and dare to try new things. Thank you all again for your support of me! Let's have a great 2016!



Ms. Mallory

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE FEB / MAR 2016



Ms. Lauren

Fenton UMC Presents:

Go to fentonumc.com to Register

Friday, Feb. 12th
6:30-9pm in the FLC

MOVIE NIGHT 2

Fenton UMC Presents:

Go to fentonumc.com

Friday, Mar. 11th
6:30-9pm in the FLC

THE MOVIE NIGHT

Youth & Kids

Help prepare, serve and clean up Dinner at Connect Night first Wednesday of each month.

Feb. 3rd & Mar. 2nd

Fenton
United Methodist Church

**FREE LUNCH, CANDY,
PRIZES & INFLATABLES**

Community EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 26th
11:00am

@THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER



Pastor Michelle

Youth Ministry Update

FEB / MAR 2016



Sr. High Mission trip

June 19 – June 25, 2016

Visit fentonumc.com for more information

In Philadelphia, PA with Youth Works

Whether it's weeding at an urban garden, packing boxes at a food distribution center, or helping load or unload food deliveries to food pantries, you'll be a part of feeding the city.

CONFIRMATION

ORIENTATION:
WED APRIL 6TH @
6:00PM

BEGINS SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH
DIRECTLY AFTER CHURCH
AND WILL LAST 5 WEEKS

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
IS MAY 15TH



Feb. 12th
6:15-Midnight

Directly following Kid's Movie Night.
Come earn some money @
Movie Night for YMAC Trips
and then enjoy the informal
formal fun!

VICTORY IN CHRIST

BY: MICHELLE FORSYTH,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

When I was a junior in high school, I desperately wanted to enlist in the Air Force. My senior year, an Air Force recruiter contacted me, and we had a lengthy conversation. Afterward, I met with the recruiter a couple of times and started my paperwork to enlist. Meanwhile, I tried to convince my father that it would be good for me to join the ranks of the U.S. Air Force. I had this insatiable desire to stand up for what's right. I felt that it was my moral, social responsibility, and the honorable thing to do. I wanted to attack the oppressive forces that kept so many women and children in bondage. I wanted to be the advocate that brought peace and justice to people around the world, even if it meant that I could die in the process. I wanted to make a difference in the lives of others. However, my father adamantly said NO to my dream. I was furious and contemplated enlisting anyway, but I obeyed him and enrolled in college instead. I didn't understand until I had children of my own that he was frightened for my wellbeing.

I believe that one of the main obstacles in our life's journey is fear. Fear keeps us from doing the right thing. God tells us in Isaiah 41:10 "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Also, in Psalm 56:11 the psalmist writes, "In God I trust;

I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

I will confess I was naïve in my younger years. Besides, I didn't know then that one day I would have the opportunity to be an advocate for peace and justice in the world; to defend the oppressed; to stand up for what is right, to sacrifice my life for a more righteous honorable cause, for Jesus Christ.

I have the amazing opportunity to serve the Lord with all my heart, all my soul, with all my mind and with all my strength. I am surely blessed! Anyhow, the war has already been won. We have victory through Jesus Christ.

Nonetheless, after victory comes hard work. Serving the Lord means abandoning worldly things for godly things. It entails putting your whole trust in God, knowing that God is your greatest ally. Yes, being a servant of Christ can be frightening at times but the reward is priceless. I can't think of anything more rewarding than bringing people to Christ and serving together with each of you. Thank you all for everything you do and for your continued service of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Love and Blessings,
Michelle

*Being a servant of
Christ can be
frightening at times
but the reward is
priceless.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

LENT SERVICE SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday (Feb 10) - Worship at 7p
 Palm Sunday (Mar 20) - Worship at 9:30a, 11a, 11:05a
 Maundy Thursday (Mar 24) - Worship at 7p
 Good Friday (Mar 25) Ecumenical Service - 12n
 Good Friday (Mar 25) Evening Service - 7p
 Easter Egg Hunt (Mar 26) - Family Life Center 11a
 Easter Sunday (Mar 27) - Worship at 9:30a, 11a, 11:05a

LOVE CIRCLE

Are you looking for an excellent broom? Love circle is selling an old fashioned 100% corn broom. The cost of the brooms are only \$12.00. The brooms are not only good for cleaning in the house, but it works well in the basement or the garage. You may want several of these brooms to keep on hand. We do have a customer who purchases at least six every Christmas for all children and grandchildren. They look forward to this gift every year. If you are interested, please call Esther Alderman at 810-629-8862. I will see that you receive any number of brooms which you desire. Thank you for your purchase! The profits are for missions in either the Fenton United Methodist Church, or the mission field in the USA.

FAMILY PROMISE GALA

Family Promise of Genesee County announces their Fabulous 50's 2016 Winter Gala & Silent Auction
Saturday, February 20, 2016 6:00pm
Riverfront Banquet Center Flint, MI

Prepare your hearts for an evening of fun and excitement with friends as Family Promise of Genesee County presents its annual charity Winter Gala & Silent Auction with a Fabulous 50's theme.

All proceeds will benefit the mission of Family Promise. To order tickets or become an event sponsor, please complete the form on their website:
<http://www.familypromiseofgc.org/>

UMM BREAKFAST

Please mark your calendars with the upcoming Fenton United Methodist Men's Breakfast Dates:
 Feb 6, Mar 5

NOTES FROM GOD ON STEWARDSHIP



Faithful Stewardship reflects faith in God's providence.

"But seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness and all these other things will be given to you as well."
 Matthew 6:33

BECAUSE YOU GIVE BY JEFF JAGGERS

Human Relations Offering

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone." 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, NRSV

Paul told the church at Corinth they should rejoice in the different gifts each of them brought to the community.

Human Relations Day is a time to celebrate spiritual gifts nurtured around the world. The special offering today helps people find and share their gifts. The offerings have matched adults with children whose parents are in prison. This happens through a program called "Amachi," a Nigerian Ibo word that means, "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child?"

Bill West, an Amachi volunteer in Denver, said he became big brother to A.J. as a way to change a trend in which 70 percent of children of incarcerated parents later go to prison.

"A.J. is bright; he excels in school studies and has a supportive family," said West. "I quickly learned that my first challenge would be to help A.J. develop goals for his future. To work on this challenge, I knew I had to gain A.J.'s respect and confidence."

In January 2012, West and A.J. started going on two-hour outings once a week.

The Human Relations Day offering introduced Amachi into 17 urban areas. It would be difficult to measure how many potentially troubled youth have refused to follow their parents to prison because of the program.

"We must do something to help. Amachi is an excellent opportunity for people of faith to get involved," West said.

Through our giving, we are changing the world through ministries like Amachi that express the love and care of God to children who may have no real frame of reference for the love of God. Thank you!



If you would like to include an ad into our Fenton UMC Mainspring, please note the new email address for our newsletter editor, Lisa Okoniewski
fumc.mainspring@gmail.com
Submissions are due by the 15th of Mar.

Find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/FentonUMC

“MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE
WORLD.”

Beginning February 14th, the first Sunday of Lent, we will be trying something new during the worship services at FUMC from now until the end of the summer. In order to have a continuity of messages, the same pastor will preach all three services on Sunday mornings. For the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services that means the message will be earlier in the service. For the 11:05 worship service that means the pastor will not be in the service for the first half of the service. As we move forward with this, we will make adjustments as necessary in order to have a smooth-flowing and meaningful worship experience. At the end of August, we will evaluate the success of this new model and decide whether or not to continue it. Thank you for your patience and prayers.

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