



# The Mainspring

-- a spiral spring that provides the power source in a timepiece --

-a bi-monthly publication of Fenton United Methodist Church-

119 South Leroy St., Fenton, Michigan 48430

---

Volume 110, Issue 224

June 15, 2010

---

## The Pastor's Paragraphs.

Have you heard that tale about the rabbi who one day, while wandering through a wooded wilderness, discovered he was lost? For three days and nights he was unable to find the way out. Exhausted, he ran into another man and said to him, "My friend, I'm really lost. I have searched and searched for a way out -- but all I find are paths leading deeper in. Can you show me the way out?" The second man sighs, "Well, I confess I too am lost. But look, why don't you come with me? Perhaps we can find out way out of this *wilderness* -- together."

*Wilderness* stories grow out of real life. *Wilderness* echoes the common human experience of living with things as they are -- while waiting for things as they ought to be. Wilderness stories can be told around campfires and Conferences anywhere and be understood. That is because the human story is a wilderness story.

Wilderness is usually defined as geographical, thought of as the place touched, known, charted by few, if any. Once it was the forbiddingly deep places of the earth, today it is the forbiddingly deep places of space. But wilderness is more than place. Wilderness is also found in thought and feeling, in the inner experience of being human -- a state of existence. The wilderness I describe is located in the beautiful, yet bleak, ambiguities of having/not having, of knowing/not knowing, of living/dying. Sub-consciously we admit familiarity with this inner wilderness each time we say, "I don't know" or "I wish" or "I wonder if". Each time we sense distance between what is and what ought to be we are experiencing the wilderness.

And yet, why is it that in matters of Church (faith) we are reluctant to admit familiarity with wilderness. Is it because we think we can tame it? Being *People of The Book* we ought to know the wilderness story of The Exodus -- about a group of wandering Semite tribes, in search of food, caravanning down the eastern Mediterranean coast into Egypt, where they find not only food but slavery. They get freed. They are on their way to a Promised Land. But first there is a very long wait in the wilderness.

We are so quick at softening and perfuming the truth about the wilderness that we seldom get a clear sense of the way things really are. There is that within us which knows that life is wilderness -- but there is also that within us which tampers with that truth. There is an indistinctive denial of both death and wilderness. We would very much like the wilderness to go away. Do you know how we try to get rid of it? We try to deny it exists. But wilderness is a condition of life characterized by such ambiguities as: knowing/not knowing, having/not having, being there/yet waiting, sensing/not sensing.

So how can we live amid the wilderness of our lives? It is with imagination! Imagination -- that is what stimulates the human spirit and can lead to fullness of life in the wilderness. It is evoked by a Promise that there is a time and place which has not yet come to be, but which will. The Promiser is God -- the "I Am Who I Am", Emmanuel -- God with us. Imaginative people live in the wilderness on Promise. The Promise is not an escape or denial of the wilderness. I remind you that *The Promiser* (Jesus) is born in the wilderness, lives and dies in the wilderness, and is resurrected in the wilderness!

Imaginative people, like John, on Patmos, know what a new future looks like. It takes the shape of a "...calf and a young lion growing up together, and a little child leading them." It is a future in which "...the cow and the bear shall be friends, and their young shall lie down together." The imaginative ones, nurtured by Promise, can see light in darkness, and life in death.

Imagination evoked is free to picture a new creation -- a new heaven and a new earth. It is free to employ both fact and fantasy, and to do so without fear of either. Imaginators can see the inner, invisible meanings in facts. Imagination is neither an escape route, nor another wilderness denial in disguise. In fact, imagination is even an element of the wilderness itself! Imagination reaches into future and brings its possibilities into the present for the imaginative life and faith go hand-in-hand.

As Christian believers are called to remember the entire human story and, in response to Promise and Promiser, imagine every human possibility. Imagination -- that is what delights in every story and song, probes every fact, listens and speaks in every language, skillfully using every tool -- every gift the Spirit adjures us to use. Imagination calls us to look up and see how near the Promise and the Promiser are. They are/can be, whatever their lot in life, even in the face of death, fully alive. Those who can imagine -- they can hear the call into the wild which is a call even more wild than the wilderness itself.

See you Sunday.

E. Taveirne

**C.A.L.M.**

**Mon., June 21**  
C.A.L.M. Ministry and The Central Michigan Alzheimer's Association Presents... *"Keeping the Faith: Understanding Memory Loss & Ways To Provide Support"* a symposium on Monday, June 21 @ 7 PM in the Activity Room of the Family Life Center. This is an opportunity for those in the community to learn more about Alzheimer's Disease and the warning signs, myths, and support options associated with it. Contact Kelly Sizemore @810-373-6131 with questions.

**FUMC Career Transition Ministry**

Are you or someone you know struggling through a career/job transition? The Career Transition Ministry of the FUMC has two workshops planned to assist people working through a career changes.

**June 17@ 7PM Seminar on Starting a Business**

Have you been thinking about starting a business?

Have you recently started a new business? Thursday, June 17 from 7—9 PM, a "Fundamentals of Starting a Business" seminar will be offered in the Family Life Center. Online registration available at: [http://](http://www.fentonumc.com/calendar/event/registration_for_career_transition_workshop/)

[www.fentonumc.com/calendar/event/registration\\_for\\_career\\_transition\\_workshop/](http://www.fentonumc.com/calendar/event/registration_for_career_transition_workshop/)

**July 15@ 7PM Resume Writing & Interviewing**

During this practice based hands-on session we will discuss critical tips and tricks to consider prior, during, and in follow up to an interview. In addition we will explore various types of resumes and identify which format may be most appropriate based on your experience and/or profession. Questions: Contact the Career Transition Ministry Team at [CTM@fentonumc.com](mailto:CTM@fentonumc.com) or call the Church Office at 629-2132.

**Oasis Society Outing scheduled for Friday, July 16... Fun for the Whole Family**

Seats are still available for the Oasis outing/day trip to Bay City for the Tall Ship Celebration. (For additional information on the Tall Ships Celebration see [tallshipcelebration.com](http://tallshipcelebration.com).) There will be interactive deck tours, musical entertainment and hands-on crafts & educational experiences for the kids and adults. The cost of the trip is \$40 per person which includes the day pass and coach transportation. Make checks payable to Fenton United Methodist Church/Oasis Outing in the memo line. Contact Mary Wermuth (629-6540) or look for her in the Church Narthex on June 20th to add your name to the sign-up sheet.

**FUMC Quilt Show**

**August 27 & 28**  
Over 200 quilts will be on display at the Family Life Center on Friday, August 27 from 10 AM to 5 PM and Saturday, August 28 from 10 AM to 5 PM. Included in the quilt show are: Baltimore Album Quilts, quilts for sale, a

vendor mall, daily demonstrations, and a quilt raffle. Admission is \$5 and lunch is available. Question? Call Pat Shepard @ 629-4452

**UMW Picnic**

**July 21**  
Marilyn Wykes, a missionary serving in Indonesia and supported by the FUMC United Methodist Women, will be speaking at the Annual UMW Picnic on Wednesday, July 21 at 12 PM in the Family Life Center. Please bring a dish to pass for the potluck picnic lunch. The paper plates and drinks will be provided.

**Acting Out For God**

**June 30**  
Tammy Robison, FUMC Children & Youth Music Coordinator and amateur performer herself, will lead a new group focusing on bringing glory and honor to God through the dramatic arts. Rehearsals will officially begin in conjunction with Summer Nights on June 30th at 6:30 pm, in the Family Life Center. All youth 7th through 12th grade with an interest in the dramatic arts please contact Tammy at [Tammy.Robison@fentonumc.com](mailto:Tammy.Robison@fentonumc.com) or call 629-7383.

**Update From the Prayer Blanket Ministry By Carol Burger**

Prayer Blankets have been given to a total of 47 people from September 2009 through June 2010. The breakdown is as follows: 15 -Church Family; High School Graduates—20; Youth Mission Trip Kids—8; and Charities & Community—4. Thanks goes to the following people for making this ministry possible: Judy Bell, Mary Burton, Carol Burger, Cindy Commons, Carol DeLong, Carolyn Ellis, Kathy Mason, Ginny Raby, Virginia Smith and Faye Tagmeyer. This ministry is an ongoing endeavor, so please contact Carol Burger at 629-5127 to become a supporter and use your talent.

**FUMC College Scholarship Fund Update**

The FUMC Christian Education Committee awarded 12-\$280 college scholarships to graduating seniors and college students who attend Worship, Sunday School and/or youth group activities on a regular basis here at the Fenton United Methodist Church. All recipients submitted a letter of intent explaining what this church has meant to them and how they would use the scholarship money. The amount of scholarship money awarded to applicants is based directly on donations made to the college scholarship fund. In addition, the "Good Samaritan Scholarship", a scholarship available to any Fenton High School senior, was awarded to senior Chris Meeks. The Christian Education Committee selected this recipient based on the 53 essays that were submitted describing what it means to be a "Good Samaritan". This scholarship of \$400 is a budgeted church item. Thanks to all who made contributions to the college scholarship fund.





The Mainspring  
 Fenton United Methodist Church  
 119 South Leroy Street  
 Fenton, Michigan 48430  
 810-629-2132  
 fentonumc.com

NON-PROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION  
 BULK RATE  
 POSTAGE PAID  
 PERMIT NO. 50

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**F  
U  
M  
C  
M  
U  
S  
I  
C  
C  
A  
M  
P**

# 100% Chance of Rain

100% Chance of Rain the musical will be pouring into the FUMC Family Life Center this August 16-20, 2010. Our Music Camp will be filled with splashes of fun and creativity. Our days sprinkled with practicing songs, choreography, and drama--plus building sets and getting wet.

**Who?** Kids Grades 1st-8th

**When?** Aug. 16th—20, Daily 9 AM—4 PM  
 Aug. 20—7:30 PM Performance

The fee is \$30.00

**How?** Registration forms are available online at [www.fentonumc.com](http://www.fentonumc.com), in the Church Office, and inside this edition of the Mainspring.

Campers bring a sack lunch on Wednesday, August 18th as they will be spending the afternoon at Myers Lake Campground where campers can swim, play games and enjoy camp activities.

**Question? Call Tammy Robison @ 810-629-7383**

## Sunday Morning Worship : 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 AM

**Church  
Staff**

E. Taveirne	Senior Pastor	Lisa Pearson	Handbells Coordinator
Jeremy Peters	Associate Pastor	Noreen Wood	Education Director
Kathy Butts	Office Administrator	Lila Baumler	Education Assistant
Kim Chase	Administrative Assistant	Esther Alderman	Treasurer
Sue Miller	Music Coordinator	Toni Knott	Custodian
Gary Horton	Organist	Keith June	Custodian
Tammy Robison	Children & Youth Music	Todd Canty	Custodian