



# The Messenger

December 2019

*We live to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ!*

**Memorial United Methodist Church, 1920 Lake Shore Drive, Gladstone, Michigan 49837**

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Mon. – Thur., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Pastor Cathy Rafferty

(734) 646-6922

[pastor@gladstonechurch.org](mailto:pastor@gladstonechurch.org)

Tue. – Thur., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Please join us for worship at 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings**

*We should always endeavor to wonder at the permanent thing, not at the mere exception.*

*We should be startled by the sun, and not by the eclipse.*

*We should wonder less at the earthquake, and wonder more at the earth.*

—G.K. Chesterton

Advent arrives with its preparations and expectations, propelling us toward Christmas. The baby is on the way, due in just four weeks. Yet we may have loved ones sick and dying, jobs demanding or uncertain, families unraveling, payments due, leaders floundering, wars raging, addictions and overdoses, shootings and suicides—all manner of crisis and chaos, all crying out for our attention.

Still, the baby is on the way, due in just four weeks. How can we possibly be ready? Perhaps we cannot ever be truly ready for this birth. For certain, we alone cannot calm or cope with all the distractions and disasters. And yet, whether we are ready or not, the baby will be born. No matter what crisis or chaos churns around us, Jesus is born among us. God comes to be with us, skin and bones, flesh and blood, vulnerable infant, source of life.

God is the permanent thing, not the mere exception. God with us calls us to wonder. Jesus born in ancient Bethlehem, and in each of our lives, startles us anew. Holy Spirit breathing through us, each breath in and out a wonder. God is the permanent thing.

This year our Advent worship takes up the theme “Heaven and Nature Sing,” inviting us to wonder afresh at the ways in which heaven and nature point to the permanence of God—the encircling wreath, the evergreen boughs, the stars shining through darkness. Focused on God, we may find we can breathe our way through the contractions and distractions, giving birth to new experiences of God’s hope, love, joy and peace in our lives and for our world.

I’ve been taught when the boat is tossing and the lake is choppy to look to the steady horizon; when the night is dark and the way unclear, to look to the guiding stars; when I’m off balance and unsteady, to root my heels in the firmness of the earth. And when the baby is being born, to breathe, pant some, and breathe some more. And I have found that the permanence of God will pull us through.

May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas season,  
Pastor Cathy

## Worship Schedule

*There is a staffed nursery during 10:30 worship.*

### First Four Sundays in December

*Advent "And Heaven and Nature Sings!"*

8:30 a.m. First Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Video and discussion for youth and adults:

*The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*

10:30 a.m. Second Worship Service

Special Advent activity for K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

during the second half of 10:30 worship the first four Sundays in December.

### Christmas Eve services, Dec. 24:

4:30 *Family-oriented service*

9:00 *Communion & Candlelight service*

### Sunday Morning, Dec. 29

*No first service or Sunday School*

10:30 Worship Together: "Wonders of God's Love"

### Sunday Morning, Jan. 5

*No first service or Sunday School*

10:30 Festival of Lessons and Carols

### Sunday Morning, Jan. 12

8:30 Worship with Communion

9:30 *Watch this space for what's next in 2020*

10:30 Worship with Communion

## Dedicate a Sunday

November 24<sup>th</sup> worship was dedicated by Janet Paine in loving memory of her sister Katherine Paine, whose birthday would have been on Nov. 21. The lovely flower arrangement on the altar was also donated by Janet in memory of Katherine.

If you would like to dedicate a Sunday in honor or memory of someone, please fill out a card that is on the small black table by the bulletin board and include \$300. Pictures can be emailed or given to Lisa in advance if you wish to have them on the screen. This is a wonderful way not only to remember those who have passed but also to celebrate a special occasion such as a birthday, wedding anniversary, etc. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lisa in the office.

**newsletter deadline:  
Thursday, Dec. 26**

## Christ Tree

If you would like to help a family or two in this church have a merrier Christmas, donate to the "Christ Tree," the small tree in the narthex. Next to the tree are envelopes for you to put in a donation for a family in this church. Then hang a heart ornament on the Christ Tree. The pastor carefully selects a family (or families), and complete confidentiality is maintained. ***The deadline to donate is Dec. 22.***

## Christmas cookie & bake sale, Bazaar

**Facebook, call, and email** your local family and friends ... talk to neighbors and everyone in the beauty parlor or school events you go to ... Tell about our **Christmas cookie & bake sale and bazaar** on Sat., Dec. 7, 9:00 – Noon. The success of our sale depends on you and everyone else to spread the word.

Please help by bringing baked goods from home and/or baking here at the church. We have the ingredients and recipes here, we just need your helping hands. Jan Watson is working very hard on recruiting workers. Please help her by signing up at the church or calling her at 630-2560.

### Cookie Baking times (Dec. 2-6)

Monday 10:00 - 2:00

Tuesday evening 5:00 - 8:00

Wednesday evening 5:00 - 8:00

Thursday 9:00 - 12:00, 2:00 - 5:00

## Community Christmas Dinner

Do you know someone who is lonely?

Do you know someone who is good at cheering up a lonely person?

Do you know someone who could use a hot meal?

**Invite that person to the Community Christmas Dinner on Dec. 25, serving 12:00 – 1:30 right here at Memorial.**

If someone is homebound and in need of delivery, have that person call 428-4199 by Dec. 17.

## We need the following help:

- Turkey carvers on Tues., Dec. 17 at 2:30
- Set-up on Monday, Dec. 23 at 9am
- Cook on Monday, Dec. 23 at 9am
- Shifts throughout the day on Dec. 25
- Homemade pies and rolls

*Please sign up on bulletin board or call office.*

## Only Coats Needed

Thank you for all the donations of clothing for the Clothes Closet. We now have enough and are only taking coats. We need to first sort and fold/hang before asking for more. Please contact the office if you'd like to volunteer.

## Missions Committee "Thank You"

This is a well-deserved thank you to all those who helped contribute to the November food drive. Although our collection was down some from previous years, we are sincerely grateful for what we did receive. This food will be evenly divided between the Gladstone St. Vincent de Paul food pantry and the Salvation Army food pantry.

If you know of any hunter who contributed to our venison collection, please give them a well-deserved thank you as well. The ground venison will be split between food pantries at Salvation Army, St. Vincent's in Gladstone and Escanaba, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists. For all you as a congregation do for our various Mission projects, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. ~ Mission Chair Chris Jensen

## Members of MUMC,

Thank you for your cards, prayers, and thoughts on the passing of my mom, Hazel Gillis. I will always hold MUMC in my heart.

~ Jeannie Ryan

## Recipients of Northern Skies District "Mission of the Year" Offering Send Thanks

Dear Friends in Christ!

Thank you so much for your generous support for the May Foundation Project! With your help our project will be totally finished in the spring! We will continue supporting local and global ministries and we will continue to be the Body of Jesus! Thank you again and God bless you all!

~ Iron Mountain First UMC

## Service Guild & Christmas Sing-along

The Service Guild will hold a Christmas Sing-along on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30. Gail Johnivan and Susan Lagina will be the hostesses, and Debbie Hubbard will accompany the sing-along.

Women of the church -- Come and join in the fellowship!

**The Thursday Morning Bible Study** meets at 10AM on Thursdays. They are studying Ephesians. New members are always welcome.

## Sunday Morning Volunteers

*To volunteer, sign up on bulletin board or call office.*

**Acolytes:** Carter and Landon Stammer

**Altar Guild:** Roberta Johnson, Cheryl Stanek, Val Johnson

### Coffee:

Dec. 1  
Dec. 15 John Ettenhofer  
Dec. 22  
Dec. 29

### Communion Servers:

### Counters:

Dec. 1 Nancy Peterson and Allison Desotelle  
Dec. 8 Chris Morrow and Sharon Block  
Dec. 15 Nancy Peterson and Allison Desotelle  
Dec. 22 Chris Morrow and Susan Lagina  
Dec. 29 Laurie Kaufman de la Garza and Sharon Block

### Greeters (first service):

Dec. 1 Lisa Myers  
Dec. 8  
Dec. 15 Lettie Houghton and Eileen Collins  
Dec. 22 Nannette Martin

### Greeters (second service):

Dec. 1 Nault family  
Dec. 8 Wilma Vanderdonck  
Dec. 15 youth  
Dec. 22  
Dec. 29

### Muffins:

Dec. 1 Linda Lanasa  
Dec. 15 Diane Bishop  
Dec. 22  
Dec. 29

### Pianists:

Dec. 1 Deborah Hubbard  
Dec. 8 Kathy Young  
Dec. 15 Kathy Young  
Dec. 22 Kathy Young

### Readers:

Dec. 1 Leslie Nault  
Dec. 8 Joy Jorgensen  
Dec. 15 youth  
Dec. 22 Willy Mannisto  
Dec. 29 Alice Butch

**Ushers:** Dave and Peggy Lewis

## Movie Night—December 21

Our free movie night with Feature Films is at 6pm the third Saturday of every month during the school year. A children's movie plays in the gym, and a teen movie is shown in the Youth Room. There is theater-style popcorn and sometimes other snacks – all free.

Invite your neighbors, friends, and cousins. This is a great way to invite into the church someone who would never otherwise set foot inside a church.

Licensing requirements prevent us from publicly advertising the movie titles, but they're well-known feature films. (Call the office for details.)

## Prayer List

Dylan and the girl who accidentally ran over him

Family of Tom Watson of Seattle

Warren and MaryAnn Hubbard

Jon Anderson

Bud Clark

Lorna Benson

Terry Jorgensen

Liam

Silas

Cheryl Demars

Bill Smith

Kate Johnson

Gloria Herod

Lindsey Constantino

Brian Hanson's insulation

Jeannie

Joe

Brian

Jim Johnson

Tammy Veraghen

Kevin Reese

Allie

Kristee Arndt

Julie Backlund

Bud Baltic

Barb

Donna Becker

Baby Bennett

Shelby Jean Boris

Rebecca Benson

Josiah, Sarah, David Pryor

Chloe Borish

Jim & Lois Boydston

Lori Branstrom

Tom Butch

Ginger Clairmont

Dan

Debbie Dehlin

Chris & Kim Diamond

Sylvia Dye

Alana Etko

John Gudwer

Sue Halloran

Caroline Hart

Mary Ann Heubler

Callan Hughes

Walt and Lettie Houghton

Alice Jensen

Chris Jensen

Tom Jensen

Dick Johnson

Karen Johnson

Katy and Brian

Krissy

Krista

Molly Kurtis

Susan Lindgren

Jon Lohrbach

Marcy Makosky

John Marchak

Rebecca Marchak

Larry Martin

Cheryl McIntyre

Bev Regts

Heather Lynn Plimpton

Tammy Reser

Mason Robitaille and mom

Dorothy Wagner

Marianne Watson Milkowski

Marvin Sodermark

Dennis and Doreen Summach

Wayne Waeghe

Kenny Wilson

Ethan Winling

## The Altar Guild Christmas Party

is Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30 at The Log Cabin.

**Creative Cards** have been designed by the Knitting Group for sale for \$2 each. Please check them out in the narthex, by the bulletin board. Proceeds go to the building fund.

## Memorial Report

There were no memorials received in October, and no disbursements were made. Memorials given in memory of someone are most often used for non-budgeted items. Throughout the years many items and services have been purchased, and those monies given are always greatly appreciated. Thank you.

## Report from the Finance Chair

Thank you for a successful stewardship campaign. Most pledges have been turned in, but if you have not returned your pledge card, you can still do that by dropping it off in the office. To date, we have received \$140,640 in pledges toward our 2020 operating budget. In addition, we received \$8,556 for the building fund and \$3,980 toward missions. The Finance Committee and Church Council have accepted a budget for 2020 to support our wonderful ministry and missions. It takes a lot of hands, time and monies to do the ministry of Memorial, and we are most appreciative of everyone's willingness to share their talents. Thank you!

For clarification, remember to mark your giving envelope clearly if you are giving to anything other than the general fund. If you want a portion of your monies to go to Ministry Shares (apportionments), please mark your envelope or check. Any money designated to Missions, unless clarified, goes to the undesignated mission line item — this is not apportionments/Ministry Shares.

We have sent in five of the twelve apportionments with the sixth one waiting for the check to be cut. Can we meet our obligation of all twelve? It would be a long stretch, but not impossible. If you are so moved to give additional to the Ministry Shares before the end of the year, mark your giving clearly Ministry Shares. We could still meet the criteria to be an "Engaged Church"

Again, thank you for all each of you have given during 2019. We can get ready for 2020. Thank you.

Virginia Petersen,

Chairperson of Finance Committee.

## Notes from the Trustees

The Trustees thank **Connie Ness and Lorna Benson** for cleaning out the Education storage area and thoroughly organizing the classrooms in the Education Wing. Also, a big “thank you” is owed to **Denise Messina** for cleaning & organizing the back storage room. It looks great!

Going forward, if you take something out to use it, kindly put it back where you found it. Let’s all work together to maintain the cleanliness and orderliness that Connie, Lorna, Denise and others created.

As part of our cleanliness effort, please do not leave open food anywhere in the church.

Thank you very much!

**2020 Offering Envelopes** are now available by the ushers’ table. If you like to use offering envelopes, take a box and *write the number of the box next to your name*. You do not need to take a box in order to receive a giving statement at the end of the year. The Financial Secretary keeps track of all donations that are identifiable, i.e. a check, an electronic donation through Vanco or the Square Reader, or cash in any envelope marked with your name or your official box number.

**THANK YOU** to VanAire and Jodi Possi for printing the covers of our Advent bulletins *in color*. What a festive touch!

**Poinsettia Order forms** If you wish to honor or memorialize a loved one with your RED poinsettia, complete the pink form on the table by the front door, and turn it in to the church office by Dec. 18. Then order your red poinsettia from whichever florist you choose and have it to church by noon on Sat., Dec. 21.

**Cards needed** If you have un-used thinking of you, sympathy, or get well cards, please give them to Nancy Campbell. This will help supplement the ones she makes and sends out to our church family.

**Puzzles:** If you enjoy working jigsaw puzzles, there are puzzles in the church library. Take one home, enjoy working it and return when finished. There will be new ones added on a regular basis. Our winters are long — hope you enjoy working them as much as we do.

Dear Pastor Cathy and Friends at MUMC,

Thank you for your loving words and support during the passing of our Mom. We truly appreciate the beautiful music and all who contributed to making the service so memorable. A special thank you to all who helped in the kitchen in order for us to enjoy fellowship with family and friends following Mom’s funeral. Your kindness and love are what make the difference in the healing process.

Love,

The family of Billie Marmalick

The **Bay de Noc Choral Society** presents “Joy to the World,” a celebration of this carol’s 300<sup>th</sup> birthday, on Sunday, **Dec. 1**, at 1:30 at Bethany Lutheran, Escanaba. A freewill offering will be taken. (*Wow, this ties in well with our Advent-Christmas worship series, “And Heaven and Nature Sings!”*)

Thank you so much for supporting the Remnants Chorus! We stay busy all year long, singing to entertain area people.

The 2019 Harvest of Harmony Barbershop show was a huge success, and we want to take a minute to thank you for your financial support. Your help allows us to perform for many service groups, senior homes, fund raiser groups, veterans’ hospitals, nursing homes, memorial services, and community events throughout the year.

Marc Tall

President of Remnants Chorus



12/2 Tom Gilbert	12/17 Justin Johnson
Regina Stock	Nannette Martin
12/3 Tom Butch	12/18 Christian Creten
12/4 Abbigail Skjolaas	12/20 Caiden Mattonen
12/5 Kole Desotelle	Judy Tochterman
12/6 Bill Buchmiller	12/21 Isabel Campbell
Howie Landenberger	Christina Casey
12/8 Mary Moore	Isaac Lagina
ReAnne Polfus	Sarah Myers
12/9 Jane Peterson	12/22 John Leonoff
12/10 Gail Johnivan	Steve Maulding
12/11 Jan Johnson	12/25 Mary Hagen
Addy St. Aubin	12/26 Lindsey Taylor
12/13 Kiera Donovan	12/28 Melissa Johnson
Ally St. Aubin	12/29 Susan Bratonia
Amy St. Aubin	12/30 Marta LaPlant
Carter Stammer	

## Longest Night Worship Service: Elusive Joy

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22

While many folks are singing “Joy to the World,” to celebrate the Christmas holidays, some folks find this a difficult time of year. If you or someone you love is struggling this year, finding joy to be elusive, please consider joining us for a gentler time of worship. We’ll take time to acknowledge our grief, losses, and difficulties in the sacred space of our sanctuary, surrounded by the evergreens and wreaths that symbolize renewed life and encircling love. We’ll share quieter Christmas songs and hear from the gospel. And we’ll pray together for each other and all those who are hurting in our world today.

This smaller, quieter service may also be just the thing if you have loved ones experiencing dementia or other circumstances that make being in crowds a challenge. It’s an opportunity to worship in our decorated sanctuary, which is fully accessible, with less commotion than you’d have on a Sunday morning.

Joy may be elusive this year, but please know there is a place for you at Memorial United Methodist Church to experience the love, compassion, and peace that we celebrate in Jesus Christ.

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### Grief Groups

**OSF Hospice** offers two types of opportunities to grieving families:

- a Grief Group which meets the second Tuesday of every month from 1 to 3 at Central UMC in Escanaba
- a Grief Luncheon at Drifter’s Restaurant at 11:30 on Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Dec. 18.

**The UP Health System Hospice** offers a bereavement support group on the last Thursday of every month from 4 to 5:30 at St. Thomas Church.