



The Messenger

July 2020

We live to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ!

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

Office: (906) 428-9311

www.gladstonechurch.org

mumc@gladstonechurch.org

Mon. – Thur., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Pastor Cathy Rafferty

(734) 646-6922

pastor@gladstonechurch.org

Mon., Wed., Thur., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Please join us for worship in-person at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings or online at
www.gladstonechurch.org.**

It's been a year! It has been a year since I timidly wrote my first column for the front page of Memorial Church's newsletter. I was so full of gratitude. Grateful for the ways in which you had already been at work welcoming me before I'd even arrived. Grateful for the opportunity to move to the Upper Peninsula, to serve a church with a long history of remarkable ministry. Grateful to begin a congregational ministry after years of chaplaincy in retirement communities. I'll confess I was apprehensive too, uncertain about moving so far from family and long-time friends; unsure what it would be like to be the pastor, rather than a chaplain; wondering what surprises and challenges the first year would offer.

It's been a year, and what a year it has been, complete with surprises and challenges I would never, ever have anticipated, circumstances neither seminary, nor 20 years of chaplaincy, nor even being a mom taught me how to handle. And yet, here we are, come through this first year together, by the grace and guidance of God.

In Matthew's Gospel, chapter 12, when Jesus is preparing to send his disciples out into ministries much more hostile than anything we've faced, he tells them, "do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." Again, in John's Gospel, chapter 14, when Jesus is preparing his disciples, the night before Jesus will be executed, he tells them, "the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you." And the Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, "the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

As we have leaned into the grace and guidance of God, listened to the teaching of Jesus, and been inspired by the energy of the Holy Spirit, together we have embraced the surprises and faced the challenges. We have gotten to know each other working side by side, texting, talking, and zooming. In our worship, conversation, ministries, meals, prayers and even play we have forged relationships I treasure. A year later, I am more grateful than ever to be serving as pastor at Memorial United Methodist Church. Thank you all so very much!

And, I am looking forward to ministering through this next year together with you, and with God's grace and guidance, continuing to be surprised and challenged, as we keep right on proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ, no matter what.

*God bless you all,
Pastor Cathy*

Calendaring

Sundays 10:30am In-Person worship (following guidelines for healthy gathering)

July 5 Outside (inside if raining)

Communion elements will be provided, but if you prefer to bring your own that is fine, and they will be blessed.

July 12, 19, 26 Worship in the sanctuary

Wednesdays at 9am – Knitting group

July 8 Feeding America truck in our parking lot

July 26-29 Michigan Annual Conference online

Weblink: 2020.michiganumc.org

Lay delegates: Laurie de la Garza and Susan Lagina

July 27-28 Pictures taken for new pictorial directory

Aug. 3-7 Vacation Bible School (tentative)

Oct. 20 6:30 pm SPRC/7:30 pm Charge Conference

Nov. 6-7 Pasty Sale (tentative)



7/1 Mason Florenski	7/18 Mary Bastian
Eric Leonoff	Sierra Possi
Denise Messina	7/19 Emily Johnson
7/2 Jon Creten	7/21 Allie Livingston
7/3 Philip Clark	7/23 Isaac Campbell
Payton Nault	Jody Harrison
Chad Polfus	Michael Viau
7/7 Lettie Houghton	7/25 Karah Webber
7/8 Jon Ettenhofer	7/26 James Hubbard
James Klotz	David LaCosse
Sharon Gilbert	Marcella Makosky
7/9 Emily Marlett	7/27 Jodi Possi
7/11 Brenda Balenger	7/28 Kingston Johnson
7/15 Daniel Johnson	Gordon Peterson
Nadine Waeghe	7/29 Alex Leonoff
7/16 Nathan Moore	7/30 L.J. Chouinard
Patricia Thomas	
7/17 Laurie de la Garza	

Pastor Cathy and the Quilt Group,

Thank you for the card and for the quilt! The quilt is beautiful and will keep me warm when the dorms get cold!

~ Grace Taylor

Feeding America Truck

Memorial will be hosting a Feeding America food distribution truck along with Salvation Army in Memorial's parking lot on Wednesday, July 8. Volunteers needed to help outside with distribution starting at 11:30. Please call the church office if interested.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$500. Your support is greatly appreciated. This donation will be used in providing food for residents of Delta and Schoolcraft Counties, as well as serving a hot meal in our Friendship Kitchen.

Sincerely,

Major Aimee Norton, Salvation Army

Trustees Report

During the time when no one was in the building, we had new flooring installed in the men's and women's bathrooms, had the safe in the office repaired, and had the parking lot cleaned.

This is all made possible by your generous donations to the Building Maintenance Fund. Thank you!

~ Jan Johnson

Pastor Cathy Rafferty and the Memorial United Methodist Church,

Wow! I was stunned when I received my quilt the other day. It is gorgeous, and I am extremely thankful to have so many wonderful people thinking about me and my graduation.

I hope to see you all soon. I will be going to Northern Michigan University in the fall. I will be studying Political Science (Pre-Law). I am hoping that I will be able to bring peace and love through my future profession.

Thank you again!

~ Andie Michelle Balenger

Upper Room Devotionals Available

The July/August Upper Room Devotionals are available at the church. Call ahead, and we can put one in the mailbox for you – either large print or regular size. The Upper Room is also available as a free download at <https://www.upperroom.org/covid-19> along with other resources.

Church Picture Directory

We are creating a new church pictorial directory. Photography dates will be July 27 and 28. You can sign up for a time slot on the sign-up sheet at church on Sunday, by calling 1-888-742-5823, or by following these online directions:

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on schedule your photography session on the right side, enter mi1482 in the Church Code field and enter photos in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday.

The company we are working with is named "Universal." If you do not sign up for a spot with Universal, they will be calling you.

Prayer List

Family of Jerry Hampton	Bud Baltic
Family of Scott Vallier	Sarah Benson
Mark and Julie Bishop	Shelby Jean Boris
DJ Burns	Nancy Campbell
Ginger Clairmont	Bud & Pat Clark
Chris and Kim Diamond	Bernie Erickson
Susan Johnson Fisher	Caroline Hart
Dave and Mary Hagen	Alice Jensen
Jon Lohrbach	Morgan Maki
Josiah, Sarah, David Pryor	Marcy Makosky
Bev Regts	Kammy Roberts
Marvin Sodermark	Leroux Strom
Family of Stuart Friebert	Todd
Marianne Watson Milkowski	Ray Young

UPCAP is seeking older adults to participate

in a survey to help determine what kind of classes, workshops or educational presentations Upper Peninsula seniors are interested in, as well as the technology available to access the programming. Older adults are asked to complete a survey which can be found under "Updates" on our website at www.upcap.org and click "here" next to "Health, Wellness and Technology Survey."

If assistance is needed in completing the survey, please dial 2-1-1 from 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday. All information will be confidential and used only to help us determine future programming. The survey will be available through July 17, 2020.

Finance Committee Report

Summer is officially here; the church is just about ready to open for people who feel comfortable to attend service. With all that has been going on around us, our church finances are doing fine. We are up to date with all expenses including the Mission Shares (what we called apportionments in the past). A huge thank you goes out to those who have continued to support the church with their regular giving. The Finance Committee encourages you to continue mailing your check, using the electronic giving on the church's website, or dropping your check off at church. Even though our doors have been closed, many things continue to be supported by Memorial. Memorial reaches out to many areas besides our own, and it is because of YOU! Thank you; it is much appreciated. Blessings to you all.

Michigan United Methodist Virtual 5-K Run

Pastor Cathy will be participating in the Michigan United Methodist Virtual 5-K Run during Annual Conference, July 26-28. The 5-K Run is held each year to raise funds for UMCOR. This year 100% of received donations will go to the Michigan Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund, assisting those affected by the collapsed dams and flooding in mid-Michigan. Pastor Cathy will be running Sunday afternoon, July 26, before the start of Annual Conference that evening. You can contribute by mailing or dropping off a check at the office, payable to MUMC with "Disaster Relief" in the memo line. Pastor Cathy will run an additional mile for every \$100 we raise, so 3 miles (5-K) for the first \$100, 4 miles if we raise \$200, 5 miles if we raise \$300, etc. Pastor Cathy will also contribute an additional \$10 for every minute she runs slower than an 11-minute mile pace (34-minutes for 5K).

You don't have to be a member of Annual Conference to participate as a walker, runner, or biker. Registration details are at: <https://2020.michiganumc.org/5k-walk-run-or-eliptigo-bike-for-haiti-relief/> If you decide to participate, please let us know in the office, and thank you!



Worship for the Month of July

“Listening to Jesus”

Following the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings for July and August.

July 5 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – 10:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship

Sacrament of Holy Communion (8:30 a.m. video worship alternative)

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 “Come to me, all you that are weary ...”

July 12 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – 10:30 a.m. (with livestream)

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 “Listen! A sower went out to sow ...”

July 19 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – 10:30 a.m. (with livestream)

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 “The one who sows the good seed ...”

July 26 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – 10:30 a.m. (with livestream)

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 “The kingdom of heaven is like ...”

Plans for July begin with outdoor worship and a celebration of Holy Communion. On July 12, we hope to move into the building for in-person worship, following guidelines for healthy gathering. We’ll provide an on-line option for folks by livestreaming those worship services at 10:30 a.m. As we’ve learned, these plans depend on many variables and could change as the month unfolds.

You can always find an up-to-date schedule for activities and links to on-line worship resources including worship guides and a current prayer list on the church website: www.gladstonechurch.org, You’re welcome to call the office with any questions: (906) 428-9311, or email: mumc@gladstonechurch.org.

Worship information, links, and videos will also be on Facebook and YouTube:

<https://www.facebook.com/Memorial-United-Methodist-Church-of-Gladstone-MI-117593394926699/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBY-ZTh99gQBtHG3n2kbyuQ>

Thank you for your ongoing flexibility and faithfulness as we seek the well-being of our congregation and community while working to offer accessible, authentic worship.

*If you would like to provide **music**, be an **usher**, be a **greeter** this summer, or contribute in some other way to worship, please call the church office 428-9311.*

Dear Church Family, It's time for a New Directory!

Celebrating faith. Connecting families. Sharing hope.



New Safety Procedures

Universal is committed to the health and safety of your church families & our employees.

We want you to know that we are taking the necessary precautions to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

- Following 6 ft. Social Distancing rules throughout the photography process
- Germ guard plexiglass between customers & photographers at the viewing station
- All equipment will be disinfected between sittings
- Utilizing larger lobby rooms for safe social distancing
- Staff will be utilizing hand sanitizer between sittings

Join us for this "Family Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at your church!



Family Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Please join us and help celebrate faith and family with our new church family directory.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below.
If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at your church!
You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Directory Committee

Set your appointment with Universal today!

1-888-742-5823



New Safety Glass at Viewing Station

Online Scheduling Available!

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on schedule your photography session on the right side, enter **mi1482** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday.

Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.