



The Messenger

August 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.

Worship online is available on Memorial United Methodist Church of Gladstone MI Facebook page and YouTube channel, and on our website www.gladstonechurch.org, at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday.

“The Heart of Christian Ministry—The heart of Christian ministry is Christ’s ministry of outreaching love.”
The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, ¶126

Here at Memorial United Methodist Church we say it this way: “We live to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ.” That’s why we are here, why we exist as a church. It’s what we do and how we live, guided and powered by God’s grace. The Book of Discipline goes on to say: “Christian ministry is the expression of the mind and mission of Christ by a community of Christians that demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship. All Christians are called through their baptism to this ministry of servanthood in the world to the glory of God and for human fulfillment.” As Christians, this is who we are called by Jesus Christ to be. At our best, this is who we actually are.

I’ll confess, in some ways, this has been a tough year for us to be at our best. Yet, in other ways, the challenge to focus on the “essentials” in some innovative ways is bringing out the best in many of you. You’ve found creative ways to connect, to care for each other and for those most in need in our community. We’ve stayed ahead of the curve with our finances, continuing to meet our operational expenses, pay our denominational ministry shares, and give generously to local and world-wide missions. And we’ve kept on worshipping, sometimes on-line, sometimes in-person, sometimes outside, and always with a willing spirit of grace and devotion. I am so grateful to in ministry with this congregation as we work together to offer our best and to bring out the best in each other.

With the rising spread of COVID-19 in our area in July, we switched again to on-line worship for August, no longer gathering for worship inside our building. We also continue to mail resources to those without internet access. Our Health Response Task Force and I are considering remaining with this form of on-line worship for the rest of this year. After five months of hoping for some quick-fix, it seems that a return to pre-pandemic normal is not a realistic expectation for any time soon.

Shifting from one format to another, one set of technological tools to another, one venue to another, from week to week, often with a few days’ notice, draws our attention time away from other essential ministries. Rather than requiring week-to-week discussions and decisions, I would prefer continuity in our worship over the next few months. This will allow for longer-range planning and free up time and energy for discovering the best ways to engage with one another in witness, service, spiritual formation, discipleship and ministry—in being the church of Jesus Christ in our current circumstances. Our goal is “to live to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ,” in all its fullness. I trust, with God’s grace and our participation, it will be so.

God bless you all, Pastor Cathy

Calendaring

Wednesdays 9am – Knitting group
1:30 Psalms study -- Gary Shiplett

Oct. 20 6:30 pm Staff-Parish Relations Committee
7:30 pm Charge Conference

Nov. 6-7 Pasty Sale (tentative)

Dec. 5 Lifeline Screening (preventative health tests)

Diaper Drive plus toiletries such as:

- Bars of soap
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste

for Mission of Hope.

If you would like to donate money instead of dragging diapers to church, just mark your gift "diapers."

Deadline for donations is Aug. 16. Thank you!



To: MUMC Family,

We hope everyone has an enjoyable summer. Stay safe.

~ Larry & Dorell Kirschner

Pictorial Directory

We thank Susan Lagina for doing a great job laying the ground work for the Pictorial Directory and getting such a great turn-out on picture days. We also thank all of you who made the effort to come in and get your pictures taken. The directories should be ready in a couple of months.

Northern Skies District's Mission of the Year

Every year our district selects one project within the district that we all then support. By working together, small churches that maybe could not otherwise afford a much-needed project are able to do so. This is part of how we, as United Methodists, are involved in connectional ministry.

This year's mission is **Menominee First U.M.C.** Daylight is visible through part of the exterior wall, and water leaks in. This has made the stairs to the balcony unsafe, creating a loss of 25% of their seating capacity. Cost to repair: \$25,000. If you would like to give to this district mission, please mark your check or online donation "Mission of the Year."

Deadline for donations is Aug. 30. Thank you!

Feeding America Truck

We thank **Denise Messina** for using her excellent coordinating skills in organizing the Feeding America Food Distribution that was in Memorial's parking lot on July 8th. The whole project was very efficient, processing through 168 households in 1½ hours. Other people who assisted with this were Carol Borden, Barb Hess, Laurie Kaufman de la Garza, Susan Lagina, Joy Large, Wayne Large, Devin Messina, Dylan Messina, Chris Morrow, Lisa Myers, Diane Oxford, Pastor Cathy Rafferty, and Wilma Vanderdonck.

Feeding America Truck on Aug. 12

There will be another Feeding America food distribution on Aug. 12 **at Salvation Army**. If you would like to help with that, please contact Lisa as soon as possible at 428-9311.

Two new books are available on the table in the church library.

- *Working Class Rage: A Field Guide to White Anger and Pain* by Tex Sample
- *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo



8/5 Betty Nyquist	8/17 Emma Jensen
8/6 Baylie LaVigne	Joy Jorgensen
8/7 Adele Ostlund	Leslie Nault
8/8 Jeffrey Donovan	8/18 Jamie Doneau
8/10 Jim Boydston	8/19 Kathy Young
Piper Stevens	8/20 Brienne LaVigne
8/11 Ricky Campbell	8/21 Fredrick Hoehn
David Campbell	Michael Oxford
Dylan Campbell	8/22 Sally Brainard
Dick Johnson	8/25 Wyatt Jorgensen
8/14 Samuel Jensen	8/26 Andy Fase
Julie Springer	8/27 Megan Skjolaas
8/15 Nancy Peterson	8/31 Ashlee Johnson

Prayer List

Terri Branstrom's Uncle Alan
 Rachel Pryor Darrison and her husband Seth
 Frank and Marilyn Bastian
 Marianne Watson Milkowski
 James Magoon Lendri Marks
 Tammy Butch Eric Anderson
 Donna Schmieder Tammy Lewis
 Irv DeRoeck Gary Quick
 Lucy Bud Baltic
 Sarah Benson Mark and Julie Bishop
 DJ Burns Nancy Campbell
 Ginger Clairmont Bud & Pat Clark
 Chris and Kim Diamond Bernie Erickson
 Dave and Mary Hagen Caroline Hart
 Alice Jensen Jon Lohrbach
 Marcy Makosky Rebecca Marchak
 Bev Regts Josiah, Sarah, David Pryor
 Marvin Sodermark Leroux Strom
 Todd Al Waeghe
 Ray Young Stephen Gruber
 Debbie Larson Renken

PSALMS STUDY GROUP

A study group on the topic “Praying the Psalms” will be offered **Wednesdays at 1:30 PM** beginning Aug. 12. It will meet weekly outside at the church for 7 sessions. Led by a former pastor Dr. Gary Shiplett, the study will be based on his yet to be published book entitled *A Lenten Guide to Praying the Psalms*. The objective of the study is to gain a general knowledge of the Book of Psalms that will assist us in praying the Psalms.

The topics for each session are:

1. Introduction
2. The types of Psalms
3. Psalms in Temple Festivals and Liturgies
4. Psalms and Musical Instruments
in Temple Worship
5. The Psalms as Torah
6. A Few Troubling Terms
7. Praying the Psalms

Please call the church office to register so that resource materials will be provided at no cost. We will need a minimum of 6 to 8 group members registered since Dr. Shiplett will be driving from south of Escanaba.

Gary Shiplett

Tel.# 553-5566

Adoption

We celebrate the adoption of Melissa Ettenhofer's daughter Allie (formerly Livingston) by her new dad John Ettenhofer. Blessings on the family!

Birth Announcement and Prayer Request

Hi MUMC Family!

We (the Worth's) welcomed a beautiful baby girl on June 24th. Abigail Grace was 20" long and 5lbs 13oz. She and I are doing very well and her big brother Benny is very confused by what she is and her noises. Tim is still working for Immanuel Lutheran Church and was appointed to be their music director hence the fact we haven't been able to come visit. We think of you often and hope you are all doing well, I will be returning to U of M in September to ensure my kidney cancer has not returned so prayers would be appreciated as Tim and I are both apprehensive to go into a place with so many COVID-19 cases.

With love,
Rebecca Worth

Charge Conference Tuesday, October 20

6:30 Staff-Parish with District Superintendent

7:30 Charge Conference

Usually we have a **Church** Conference where we encourage all Church members to attend. However, in the interest of limiting crowd size, the District Superintendent is calling instead a **Charge** Conference at 7:30, which involves the District Superintendent, Pastor, Church Council members, and any retired UM clergy at Memorial UMC. The Charge Conference will cover just required agenda items: pastoral compensation, membership report, election of leadership, and recommendation of candidates for ministry. The plan is to meet in-person but, should a ZOOM meeting be necessary, that will be easier with a smaller group of people.

Painting Figurines

If you like art projects, we have some ceramic figurines that need painting. We even have some paint to go with them. They are free for the taking. Come in the church office to see a sample.

Michigan Virtual Annual Conference

Michigan United Methodists, led by Bishop David Bard, met through Zoom technology, July 26-27, with clergy session July 28. The annual gathering of nearly 1,500 clergy and laity worshipped together and conducted the required business. Lay members from Memorial UMC included Susan Lagina and Laurie de la Garza. Ted Brainard participated as a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Through Memorial's mission giving, our Mission Committee designated \$1,000 to the annual conference offering in support of Haitian Artisans for Peace's "Start Right" program for maternal and newborn health in Haiti (45%), Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village in Liberia (45%), and Michigan Disaster Response and Recovery (10%).

Pastor Cathy joined the virtual 5K this year. We raised \$300, so she ran 2 more miles for the \$200 above our first \$100, a total of 5.1 rainy miles on July 26. Her pace 12 miles/minute pace was one mile per minute slower than her goal, so she contributed another \$10. As of July 27, over 200 runners, walkers and bicyclists had participated in the virtual event, raising \$7,500 so far.

You can watch the opening worship and check out all the proceedings through the Michigan UMC website: michiganumc.org.

Life Line Screening will be doing preventive health screenings here at Memorial Church on Saturday, December 5. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include **Carotid Artery** (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), **Peripheral Arterial Disease** (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a **Heart Rhythm Screening** (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an **Osteoporosis Risk Assessment** for men and women. Register online at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or call 1-866-229-0469 to receive your discount and preferred appointment time.

Worship for the Month of August
On-line, available any time after 8:30 a.m. Sundays

“We Do It This Way Now”
Consider Five Ways Jesus Calls Us to Do Things Different

August 2 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Matthew 14:13-21 “We Give Them Something to Eat”

August 9 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 15:21-28 “We Draw A Better Circle”

August 16 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Matthew 14:22-33 “We Aren’t Afraid of the Water”

August 23 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 16:13-20 “We Know Who We Are”

August 30 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 16:21-28 “We’re Following Jesus”

You can 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 be a **Reader** or do **Special Music**,
contact the office, and we will figure out the technology.