



The Messenger

October 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.

Today I vacuumed under the dining table. Under Mom’s chair, I noticed a tiny white pill. With her poor vision, she was always dropping those tiny white pills. Later, I went grocery shopping for the first time since Mom died. I didn’t buy apple juice or fresh-baked muffins. That’s what Mom ate for breakfast. I prefer scrambled eggs and coffee. No more tiny white pills. No more apple juice or muffins.

In this year of so much loss and change, of wishing everything could be the way it was before, Mom’s death is by far the biggest loss and change for me. Many of you are also grappling with tremendous loss, the sort of loss that pokes at us in a thousand small ways throughout the day and keeps us awake at night.

At the same time, all of us are dealing with the loss and change of living through a global pandemic. We worship on-line and miss seeing each other face-to-face; miss hugs and a chance to check in each week. I see children on facebook, marveling at how fast they grow; how much we’re missing their energy and curiosity, how much they’re missing our nurture and affection. I hear from families struggling with too much together time and others separated, even isolated, from those they love.

So little is certain or predictable. I remember last year, my first year, as October introduced me to autumn traditions at Memorial—the Fall Extravaganza and the Halloween Carnival; preparing for the Pasty and Cookie sales and the Christmas Dinner. I realize how those anticipated events and the routines of Choir and Bell rehearsal, the Knitters and Quilters sharing mid-morning tea, the Men’s Breakfasts, and Pickleball drew us more deeply into one another’s lives. Each week promised reliable connections. Each month called us to work together.

But this is 2020, when it seems each day offers more loss or change, another reminder we aren’t doing that this year, we can’t connect that way for now. The road we’d grown accustomed to traveling is under construction, perhaps washed out entirely this year.

Still, we are finding a new way, we’re making the road by walking, step by step, day by day. Here’s what keeps me at it: You and God. I know we’re not alone in our loss and change. We have each other, and God has us all. And, I know it won’t always be this way. I’ve tripped over chaotic loss and change before and, in time, found my stride again. Most of you have too. So have those who came before us, all the way back to the earliest Christians. In time, we may even find this new road we’re making, and those we’re making it with will offer blessings and opportunities we’d never imagined possible when everything was the way it used to be.

For now, I take time to cry when I must, laugh when I can, be grateful for what I do have, and look for God’s goodness and grace wherever the road we’re making together takes us.

God bless you all, Pastor Cathy

Worship Themes

On-line, available any time after 8:30 a.m. Sundays

Online Worship including music, sermon, scripture, liturgies, and prayers premieres every Sunday morning at 8:30 and then continues to be available. The themes until late November are based on Brian McLaren's book *We Make the Way by Walking*. The worship video experience can be greatly enhanced by participating in a **Learning Circle**. Each week the learning circles read a short devotional and then discuss questions which begin the pondering process for the up-coming Sunday's sermon. Pastor Cathy is leading a small group on Mondays at 6pm. Alternately, you can form your own group (possibly with family members or others that you are already associating with). Books with the weekly devotional & questions are available. If you have a group but no one who feels comfortable leading, please contact the church office.

Links to worship videos

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.

"We Make the Road by Walking"

Part 1: Alive in the Story of Creation

Oct. 4 – World Communion Sunday

Gen. 12:1-9 Galatians 3:6-9 Mark 11:15-19

Oct. 11 – It's Not Too Late

Genesis 18:9-33; 22:1-14

Micah 6:6-8 Acts 18:19-34

Oct. 18 – Rivalry or Reconciliation?

Genesis 32:22 - 33:11; 50:15-21

Matthew 25:31-40 Luke 10:25-37

Oct. 25 – Freedom!

Exodus 1:1-14; 3:1-15

John 8:1-11 Galatians 5:1, 13-15

Nov. 1 – Getting Slavery Out of the People

Ex. 20:1-21 Matt. 22:34-40 Hebrews 10:1-18

Nov. 8 – From Ugliness, a Beauty Emerges

Deuteronomy 7:1-11 Psalm 137:1-9; 149:1-9

Matthew 15:21-39

Nov. 15 – Stories That Shape Us

2 Kings 2:1-15 Psalm 23 Acts 1:1-11

Nov. 22 – The Great Conversation

Is. 1:1 – 2:5 Rom. 15:1-13 Matt. 9:10-17

If you would like to be a **Reader** or do **Special Music**, contact the office 428-9311, and we will figure out the technology.

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All Saints Day -- Sunday, Nov. 1

You are invited to submit names of special people in your life who have gone home to God in the past 12 months. Please submit these names by Wednesday, Oct. 28th to be mentioned in the All Saints Service.

World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday of October is World Communion Sunday, celebrated by many denominations across the world. This Sunday, Memorial UMC will have in-person communion at our 10:30 prayer service and also virtually with the on-line Worship Experience which premieres every Sunday morning at 8:30 and can be viewed any time after that. If you are participating virtually, don't forget to pick up bread and grape juice at the store.

The United Methodist Church also has a special offering every year on World Communion Sunday. Your gifts to World Communion Sunday support three programs. Ethnic In-Service Training (non-degree) and Ethnic Scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduates studying in the U.S. are related to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. World Communion Sunday scholarships – related to the General Board of Global Ministries – assist graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. Your gift marked “World Communion Sunday” empowers a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ.

Prayer Services every Sunday at 10:30AM.

Each week we pray for those on our prayer list, share concerns, and focus on a different prayer theme.

- Oct. 4 World Communion Sunday,
Prayers for Immigrants and Refugees
- Oct. 11 Indigenous People
- Oct. 18 Forgiveness and Reconciliation
- Oct. 25 Reformation Sunday:
Courage to Speak and Act for Reform

Venison Project

Please spread the word to all hunters that if they are interested in donating their deer to help feed hungry people, they can take their field dressed deer to Steve Soderman's on Days River Road, Viau's in Escanaba, or the Garden Mini Mart. All three of these will process the meat for free, although if you are taking the deer to Garden Mini Mart, you must first skin the deer.

Pictorial Directory – Last Chance

Did you miss getting your picture taken for the directory? You can still submit a picture **by Oct. 7**. The best way is to send it via email to the church. However, you can also bring in an actual picture, and we will do our best to scan it here. The company does charge us \$10 per picture that we submit, so we will ask for a \$10 donation from you to have your picture put in the directory unless you live far away or were homebound and completely unable to come in.

If you are not 100% certain that the church has your correct address, phone number, and email address, please call the church Monday – Thursday 9-2 at 428-9311, or you can email that information to mumc@gladstonechurch.org
Please submit picture and all edits by Oct. 7.

Prayer List

Family of Jace Botsford (Joanne Gudwer's grandson)	
Family of Ray Young	Eric Anderson
Family of Mikki Petersen	Bud Baltic
Frank and Marilyn Bastian	Sarah Benson
Mark and Julie Bishop	Karen Branstrom
Terri Branstrom's Aunt June	DJ Burns
Nancy Campbell	Ginger Clairmont
Chris and Kim Diamond	Bud & Pat Clark
Debbie Dew	Bernie Erickson
Stephen Gruber	Caroline Hart
Dave and Mary Hagen	Alice Jensen
Jon Lohrbach	Marcy Makosky
Rebecca Marchak	Tammy Martin
Josiah, Sarah, David Pryor	Kim Rahmlow
Bev Regts	Debbie Renkin
Marvin Sodermark	Leroux Strom
Todd	Al Waeghe
Marianne Watson Milkowski	Rebecca Worth
Beverly Bunno	Donna Petrusky

Thank you so much for the many prayers, cards, and gifts that you offered as I grieved the loss of my mom. Your love continues to comfort and support me.

The Nominations Committee is filling out the committees for 2021. If you or someone you know would like to serve on a particular committee or would like more information about the committees, please contact one of the following people: Pastor Cathy, Laurie Kaufman de la Garza, Lorna Benson, or Virginia Petersen.

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. Extra packets will be available on the long table by the front door.

The Trustees are looking for people to help with:

- Painting the outside door by the Grapevine Room
- Doing an inventory of our equipment, furniture, etc.

Videos, Books, and Puzzles

Bored at home? There are some Disney and other family-friendly videos in the youth room by the TV. Feel free to borrow a few. Also, don't forget to borrow a few great books from the church library and a puzzle or two on top of the cabinet in the church library.

Dear Memorial United Methodist Church,
 Thank you for your generous monetary gift toward Mission of Hope. We were able to serve over 1,200 Delta County residents on the day of the event. The remaining products were distributed to:

- Tri-County Safe Harbor
- U.P. Foster Closet
- Pregnancy Services
- Escanaba Recreation Department
- Salvation Army

God bless you!

~ Immanuel Lutheran Church



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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/2 Laura LaMarche | 10/16 Eric Nault |
| Ken Schell | 10/18 Rylee Doucette |
| 10/4 Ruth Anne Harmes | Tracy Jensen |
| Dave Lewis | 10/19 WilmaVanderdonck |
| 10/6 Timothy Worth | 10/21 Bobbie Haase |
| 10/7 Sharon Block | 10/22 Andie Balenger |
| Brooke Buckley | 10/24 Terri Branstrom |
| 10/12 Elizabeth Kempfer | Patti Multerer |
| James Stammer | 10/28 Mary Clark |
| 10/13 Ty Waeghe | Karl Warm |
| 10/14 Sarah Mattonen | 10/30 Trudy Broman |
| 10/15 Walter Houghton | |

Dear Gladstone Memorial UMC,
 Thank you for your generosity poured out in the Michigan Annual Conference Offering for "Start Right," a maternal and newborn health initiative through Haitian Assets for Peace International.

Start Right continues to attract more women from greater distances as moms invite their friends to experience the skilled, compassionate nursing staff who treat them with dignity and respect.

- Valerie Mossman-Celestin,
- United Methodist Deaconess
- U.S. Executive Director,
- Haitian Assets for Peace International

Contacting Pastor Cathy

Open Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

I'm be at the church and generally available to meet with whomever drops by. (I'm glad to meet with you at other times and places by appointment.)

Email: pastor@gladstonechurch.org

Email is best for sending information, asking non-urgent questions, and conducting church business. I will generally respond to email within 24 hours, if not sooner, Sunday through Thursday; Fridays and Saturdays I may not be checking as often.

Office Phone: (906) 428-9311

The Office is open 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday – Thursday, staffed by Lisa Myers. She will generally know where I am if I'm not in the office. You can always leave a message on the office answering machine, and either Lisa or I will respond as soon as possible. I will check messages on Sunday morning before and after worship services. Messages left on Friday or Saturday might not be heard until Sunday.

Cell Phone: (734) 646-6922

Call or text if you have a more urgent need to contact me. Between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m., I'd prefer it be a serious need that cannot wait. If you call, please leave a voice message if I don't answer. I will listen to the message and return the call as soon as possible, usually within a few minutes and seldom longer than an hour.

If I am away, the office answering machine will have the phone number of who to contact for pastoral concerns.

Facebook/Messenger –

I only use Facebook when I'm at the office, so I may not see posts or messages right away.

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.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, visit

www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word "circle" to 797979 or **call 1-888-653-6441**.

The League of Women Voters encourages you to vote on or before Nov. 3. There is a flyer hanging on the church bulletin board with information on everything from how to track your absentee ballot to various statewide proposals that are on the ballot. You can also visit Michigan.gov/vote to:

- View a sample ballot,
- Find out if you're registered to vote,
- Find your voting location,
- Track your absentee ballot,
- And much more!

Fall Family Fun Day

Oct. 3 11am-3pm Outside at the fairgrounds.
Entrance fee: a new unwrapped toy or cash donation.

Free pumpkin for every child while supplies last.
Costumes encouraged.

"Touch a Trunk" – motorcycles, tractors, RRN Boom Box, Guardian Flight Helicopter on display

Education and awareness on vehicles used in Upper Michigan.