



The Messenger

November 2020

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

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.

“Certainly the faithful love of the Lord hasn’t ended; certainly God’s compassion isn’t through! They are renewed every morning. Great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23 (CEB)

Those words from the Old Testament book of Lamentations are the basis for the hymn, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness,” 140 in our United Methodist Hymnal. The lyrics were written by Thomas Chisholm and then set to music by William Runyan in 1923. It was made popular in the 1950s and 60s by George Beverly Shea, who sang with the Billy Graham Crusades, and it’s a favorite of mine, especially this time of year.

The second verse reminds me how God’s faithfulness is visible in the changing seasons and cosmic cycles: *Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.* This year when so many of our routines and traditions, even our day to day habits, are all out of whack, this hymn to God’s faithfulness gives me a better perspective and a wider vision from which to appreciate God’s dependability. *Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

In this season of Thanksgiving, of expressing our gratitude to God and to each other, this hymn puts me in the frame of mind to be much more appreciative of the many blessings God has provided this year, despite the ongoing lamentations and disappointments. That brings us to the third verse: *Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is thy faithfulness!*

It is my hope and prayer that as we move through November, we will do so from a God-sized perspective, honestly lamenting our losses and graciously appreciating our blessings; humbly asking for what we need from God and each other; joyously celebrating all that we have accomplished together; and committing each day to live generously and justly out of God’s faithfulness.

God bless you all, Pastor Cathy

Please watch for a Thanksgiving Offering and Commitment Letter from Pastor Cathy and the Finance Committee for an update on our 2020 finances and how you can help us plan for 2021.

November Worship

11/1—Celebrating All Saints Sunday with Holy Communion; John 6:35-40 and Psalm 42
11/8—Who Could We Be? The story of “The Mask;” Habakkuk and Romans 12:1-2.
11/15—Giving Good Gifts; Matt. 7:7-12 and Ps. 96
11/22—Receiving God’s Gifts; Deut. 26 and Ps. 100
11/29 – First Sunday of Advent begins our journey toward Christmas with Marcia McFee’s worship series: “I Believe Even When ...”

Our on-line worship experiences premiere Sunday mornings at 8:30 on Facebook and YouTube, and continue to be available any time after.

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

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

Look for an up-to-date schedule and links to on-line worship resources including worship guides, a current prayer list, and on-line contribution links on the church website: www.gladstonechurch.org. If you prefer to receive a print copy of our worship guide and sermon, please contact the office.

As COVID remains prevalent in our area, we continue to refrain from worshipping in person in our building. Please continue to pray for the health and wellbeing of our community and country, and to give your offering online or by sending a check.

Sunday Prayer Services are temporarily suspended, hoping to resume for Advent. There is no in-person gathering on Sunday at this time.

United Methodist Student Day –Nov. 24

This special offering dates all the way back to 1866 when it was decided to set up something for the education of both children and those preparing for the ministry or missionary work. The fund now provides scholarships and loans from UM churches to students who are attending either UM-related schools or other colleges and universities. In a given year, there may be around 3,000 scholarships awarded (about \$1,500 each) as well as 500 or more student loans (about \$2,500 each). Students who receive loans are very responsible about repaying them, and this helps the whole system keep going. Adrian and Albion are two UM-related colleges in Michigan.

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.

Wednesday Knitters Continue Mission Outreach

Lettie Houghton and the knitters packed up five bags of coats from the Clothes Closet to take to Salvation Army to give away. The knitters are also busy with the Warmth for Warriors project, knitting hats that go under military helmets for warmth and comfort.

Hope at the Inn

Hope at the Inn, Delta County’s rotating homeless shelter, is due to open on Nov. 29. Volunteers are greatly needed to help staff the three nightly shifts: 5:30pm-10:30pm, 10:30pm-3am, and 3am-8am. We have new policies and procedures in place to keep us all Covid-safe. There will be a **volunteer training on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 5:30, at Salvation Army, 3001 Fifth Ave. South, Escanaba.** Training takes a little over an hour.

Also, MUMC is looking for a volunteer coordinator to work with Susan Lagina. The Missions Committee and Church Council will be discussing MUMC’s involvement for this season.

Missions Money Donated

Every year our Northern Skies District chooses one project to support in our district. Often it is a large repair project, too big for a small church to handle on their own. This year’s project was badly needed repairs at Menominee UMC. Together, we at Memorial gave \$615. Thank you! This is one way that United Methodists are a connectional church. In addition, \$60 was donated to the World Communion Sunday special offering. Thank you for continuing to support missions in our district and around the world!

Mission Giving

Our Mission Committee will meet in December to disperse money from the Mission Fund in support of a variety of programs and organizations on behalf of our congregation. You may make a contribution on-line or designate on your check or envelope: Mission Fund.

All Saints Sunday – November 1

On All Saints Sunday we remembered members and loved ones who have gone to their eternal home in these past 12 months:

Billie Marmalick	Janet Gorton
Lois Hart	Carol Clark
Gerald Hampton	Marcia Lindsay
Kay Alko	John Rudenberg
Ray Young	Jace Botsford
Mikki Petersen	Lola Ness
Doris Lessard	Wayne Kaufman

We also remember those in whose names the following items were purchased with memorial funds.

Choir Folders - - - - -	Anna Vanderwal
UMCOR - - - - -	Jerry Hampton
Supplies for Quilters - -	Mikki Petersen

Memorial Fund contributions were received in memory of:

Billie Marmalick	Anna Vanderwal
Jerry Hampton	Wayne Kaufman
Janet Gorton	Marcia Lindsay
Mikki Petersen	Ray Young
Doris Lessard	

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, Leroux Strom, Laurie Kaufman de la Garza, Lorna Benson, or Virginia Petersen.

The Trustees are looking for volunteers for:

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

Thank you from the Trustees

A special thank you to Carol Borden for all her hard work keeping our Memorial Garden beautiful (again) this year. Also thanks to Dave Borden and Ted Brainard for installing security cameras outside our building. Also we thank Dave Borden for replacing the faulty ground fault outlet in the men's bathroom. A heartfelt thanks to Al Jensen for all his years of lawn care! This will be his last year. A huge thank you to all our amazing volunteers!

Highlights from Charge Conference October 20, 2020

The Leadership List for 2021 was affirmed. The Membership Report was also affirmed. We now have 257 members. People at the meeting thought our worship attendance numbers were a misprint because they were so high. No mistake. We have been averaging 223 people every Sunday participating online or at our in-person prayer service. Wow! District Superintendent Scott Harmon encouraged us to keep doing a great job tracking the number in attendance. Even though 2020 is going to be a complete outlier in terms of records, it will still be interesting in years to come to compare attendance in person to attendance online. The Clergy Compensation was affirmed at \$53,294 for cash salary, \$1,200 professional reimbursement, \$1,000 travel, \$1,000 continuing ed., and \$1,000 annual conference expense. We affirmed a \$100 household furnishings allowance from the salary. We affirmed Laurie Kaufman de la Garza as a Certified Lay Servant again this year. District Superintendent Scott Harmon thanked Memorial for paying 100% of their 2019 District Ministry Shares and 100% of their 2019 Benefit Ministry Shares. He also thanked Memorial for intentionally giving to Conference Ministry Shares. We are currently further ahead this year than we were at the end of last year. In fact, we are completely on track to reach 100% in all categories by the end of 2020. If you would like to see the full Charge Conference report, copies are available on the long table by the front door. We thank our staff and volunteer leaders who put together reports and continue to make ministry happen.



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| 11/2 Shepard Gaudino | 11/18 Sylvia Nault |
| 11/3 Katherine Juhola | 11/19 Reese Buckley |
| 11/5 Jax de la Garza | 11/23 Stashia Wery |
| Connor Florenski | 11/24 Larry Kirschner |
| Samantha Frizzell | Dennis Stanek |
| Terry Hampton | 11/26 Al Jensen |
| 11/6 David Hagen | Ethan Juhola |
| Lisa Lancour | Virginia Petersen |
| 11/9 Meredith Marlett | Angela Stone |
| 11/13 Gary LaMarche | Grace Taylor |
| 11/14 Valerie Johnson | 11/29 Mike Esler |
| Ryan Oshe | Sandra Keecker |
| Laura Webber | Marlene Maulding |
| 11/15 Joanne Hill | 11/30 William Morrow |
| 11/16 Nancy Campbell | |

Prayer List

Chad Mileski	Marianne Watson Milkowski
Tom Butch	Family of Robert Ohlson
Bud Baltic	Frank and Marilyn Bastian
Sarah Benson	Mark and Julie Bishop
DJ Burns	Nancy Campbell
Ginger Clairmont	Bud & Pat Clark
Debbie Dew	Chris and Kim Diamond
Bernie Erickson	Stephen Gruber
Caroline Hart	Dave and Mary Hagen
Alice Jensen	Jan and Neil Leonard
Jon Lohrbach	Marcy Makosky
Rebecca Marchak	Tammy Martin
Bev Regts	Josiah, Sarah, David Pryor
Debbie Renkin	Marvin Sodermark
Todd	Al Waeghe

Thanks from Church World Services

On Mother's Day we received our offering to benefit Church World Service Blankets program. They responded with their thanks and a certificate of recognition: "Dear Friends, your generous donation ... tells people in crisis, 'You are not alone. Someone cares.' We are deeply grateful for your support." The CWS Blankets program helps families who have lost their homes to natural disasters, people struggling against poverty and harsh climates, and vulnerable children. Along with blankets, they also provide emergency food and shelter, support for sustainable farming practices, and access to clean, safe water and nutritional food.

Thank You All for your thoughts and prayers around the death of Ray Young. It did my heart good to see how much Ray meant to everyone and to our church. Special thanks to Pastor Cathy, to Terri Branstrom and Debbie Hubbard for their music, to Dylan and Devin Messina for making the livestreaming work, to Pat Waeghe for the beautiful altar, and to Lisa Myers, Denise Messina, and Laurie de la Garza for greeting, ushering and helping maintain a Covid-safe environment for the memorial service. And thanks to anyone else who pitched in, who I'm forgetting to name just now. I appreciate you all!

Kathy Young

Calendar – No In-Person Events until at least November 12.

Wednesdays at 9am Knitting, resuming Nov. 18
Thursday, Nov. 5 Missions at 2:00pm (Zoom)
Monday, Nov. 9 Church Council at 7:00pm (Zoom)
Tuesday, Nov. 10 Hope at the Inn training 5:30pm
at Salvation Army
Nov. 22: Thanksgiving and Commitment Sunday
Sunday, Nov. 29 Advent Begins
Monday, Nov. 30 Finance at 6:30pm
The Community Christmas Dinner is cancelled.

2020 Charitable Giving and Taxes

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act includes some changes regarding charitable contributions you may want to consider:

New Deduction Available: Up to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 for a married couple) in annual charitable contributions. This is available only to people who take the standard deduction and who do not itemize their deductions. It is an "above the line" adjustment to income that will reduce a donor's adjusted gross income, and thereby reduce taxable income. A donation to MUMC qualifies for this deduction.

New Charitable Deduction Limits: Individuals and corporations that itemize can deduct much greater amounts of their contributions. Individuals can elect to deduct donations up to 100% of their 2020 adjusted gross income (up from 60% previously).

This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.

Life Line Screening will be doing preventive health screenings at Memorial Church on Saturday, Dec. 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. To register and receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word "circle" to 797979 or call 1-888-653-6441.