



The Messenger

January 2021

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.

Philippians 3:12-15 (The Message translation): *I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us.*

New Year Blessings Dear Friends,

Whew! Thank God we made it to 2021. And thanks to you all who have hung in here together, adapting to our changing situation, figuring out new ways to worship and live out our faith, to be the church, without being in the church building in the old familiar ways. Thank you for how you've generously supported ministry and missions through giving of your time and treasures, your prayers and presence, in safe, responsible ways, to carry us through 2020, into this new year. And thank God, we're here, with our eye on the goal, still going.

Our worship team and staff—Lisa Myers, Kathy Young, and Dave Hagen—have been remarkable, along with some unsung heroes keeping us up to speed with the tech stuff, streaming, zooming, and all manner of activities barely in my vocabulary this time last year. Our finance folks, especially Lorraine Gregg, went above and beyond, securing a Payroll Protection Plan loan while we were still trying to grasp just what we were facing last spring, and following up throughout the year to make sure the loan was entirely forgiven.

With your generous giving, we met our commitment to pay the Ministry Shares in full, 100%! Paying our share to support connectional ministry is part of what makes us United Methodists—funding our district, conference, and denominational structure, supporting seminary and local pastor education, creating new resources to help us adapt to being on-line, and witnessing to the love of Jesus around the world. We also met all the requirements for the EngageMI program, participating in and supporting mission and ministry here at home and across the globe. (EngageMI replaced the Spotlight Church program when the Detroit and West Michigan conferences merged.) Again, through your financial support and some outstanding volunteers, we've continued to operate smoothly and kept up our building and grounds, making sure everything will be in tip-top shape when it's time for us all to return in person.

I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But together, we are well on our way ... So let's keep focused on that goal—reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for us. 2021, here we come!

Blessings, *Pastor Cathy*

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, Jan. 3, we celebrate the Epiphany and share in Holy Communion. Epiphany, which falls mid-week on January 6, twelve days after Christmas, is connected to the story of the wise men, the “magi” from Matthew, chapter 2.

An “epiphany” is an “ah-ha!” moment, when we get a glimpse of something in a deeper more meaningful way than normal. Like the wise men noticing the star, we notice something unusual and decide to have a closer look.

The Epiphany of the Lord is our opportunity to encounter Jesus more deeply, to see our Lord and Savior in a more meaningful light, to experience His presence with us in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

In our United Methodist tradition, everyone is invited to share in Holy Communion. You may want a bit of bread and juice or wine ready to be consecrated where you are during worship.

Back to the Basics:

Baptism, Confirmation and Membership

Sunday, Jan. 10, we’ll celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, and renew our own baptismal vows as we kick off a six-week exploration of our faith, right along with our 2021 confirmation students.

You may want a bowl of water ready, perhaps with a candle, to fully participate. Even if you haven’t been baptized, you’re welcome to come and see what it’s all about.

If you’re interested in being baptized or confirmed, becoming a member, or having your child baptized, please let us know here at the church office.

Here are the worship topics and Bible readings for our six-week exploration on our way to confirming, renewing, or exploring our commitment to Jesus:

1/10 – Baptized! Mark 1:4-11

1/17 – Called! 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

1/24 – Sent! Jonah (it’s short, read it all)

1/31 – Consider Others! I Corinthians 8:1-13

2/07 – Don’t Get Comfy! Mark 1:29-39

2/14 – Keep Going! Mark 9:2-9

We’ll also have a “Can Confirm!” tab on our church website with additional resources.

“We Make the Road by Walking”

This study, which we began in the fall, will resume under the leadership of Laurie Kaufman de la Garza on Mondays at 6pm on ZOOM. Please let Lisa know if you plan on participating so that she can send a link to you. A couple copies of the book are available. If you do not have internet, you are welcome so come to the church and use our equipment.

Human Relations Day – Jan. 17

The United Methodist Church has 6 Special Sundays every year to focus on a certain cause and invite people to give to that cause. The first Special Sunday of the year is Human Relations Day. Your gift helps to overcome injustice and empowers those struggling to survive.

U.M. Community Development Program 57%

U.M. Voluntary Services Program 33%

Young Offender Rehabilitation Program 10%

Thank You!

Thanks again to each of you who helped to make this Advent and Christmas season a meaningful preparation for and celebration of the birth of Jesus!

And thanks for your many gifts, cards and prayers, especially this first Christmas without my mom to celebrate with me. I am so very blessed to serve among you and grateful for your gracious appreciation and affirmation.

I’m blessed to be part of this family of God!

Pastor Cathy

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 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>

Moment in Missions

The Missions Committee allocated undesignated missions giving to the following:

Tri County Safe Harbor-\$300

Heifer International-\$200

Three local adult nursing homes-\$250 each, for staff appreciation

Your generous donations are making a difference in the lives of others within our community and globally. Thank you for your financial and spiritual support.

Hope at the Inn

Memorial will be hosting the homeless shelter **Hope at the Inn** for a second week Jan. 17-24. Volunteers are greatly needed to fill the 3 nightly shifts: 5:30pm-10:30pm, 10:30pm-3am, 3am-8am. To sign up, speak to Susan Lagina or Lisa in the office, or go to www.hopeattheinn.org and click on “volunteer for a shift.”

If you have not yet attended a training, the next one is on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 5:30 at Salvation Army.

Thanks to all who helped make our first week, Dec. 20-27, a success!

Covid-19 Vaccines are soon going to be available to homeless shelter volunteers (one of the priority groups). If you are a Hope at the Inn volunteer and would like a Covid vaccine, please contact Lisa in the office or Merry Esp, the Social Worker at Salvation Army, as soon as possible so that your name will be on the waiting list.

Noisy Offering for Heifer Project, International

Here's how we did for Heifer International in 2020 with the Nativity Set walk-through Noisy Offering, an allocation of undesignated mission giving by our Mission Committee, and what we'd received earlier this year in the Noisy Offering:

\$500 Heifer

\$50 package of rabbits and chicks

\$100 for five more flocks of chicks

Heifer International had a grant to match all of our gifts, doubling the impact of our giving. Thanks!

Venison Project

Thank you to everyone who donated a deer or helped spread the word about this annual project. About 800 pounds of venison were donated to 4 local food pantries.

The Gladstone Rapid River Kiwanis Club would like to thank you for all the assistance you have provided us with our Backpack program. Your monetary donation goes a long way in aiding the children.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ken Benson, Secretary

Scrap Metal Drive

The price of scrap metal has gone up, so Jim Stammer is organizing a scrap metal drive in spring like we did 2 years ago. Start saving your metal now. They even take **strings of Christmas lights** that don't work!

Finance Committee end of year report

It's been a year of many disappointments, loneliness, unexpected situations and more. Memorial's financial year is ending this year with all expenses paid, including all of the Ministry Shares and District commitments. Our treasurer, Lorraine and Finance Chair, Virginia applied in early summer for the Small Business Administration's Payroll Protection Care Act, and we were awarded \$24,400 to cover our payroll expenses, rent and utilities. After several months our documentation of expenses was reviewed and the loan was forgiven. What a blessing to compensate all personnel with their regular hours! Besides the payroll expenses, receiving this money allowed us to continue doing many of Memorial's missions.

It took more than the PPC to keep us going—it was ALL who contributed this year! The committee realizes it was everyone's commitment to make the effort to give; it was not always easy. We appreciate each and every one of you! THANK YOU!

The pledge cards returned were less than last year, but we suspect it was the inconvenience of returning pledges to the office. Our hopes are to continue on this “high” path as we come to an end of this pandemic and return to something called “normal”. The Finance Committee and Church Council accepted the budget for 2021; we anticipate a good financial situation in 2021.

Thank you again for your continued support of our church. Memorial's mission will continue because of each and every one of you. God is good.
~ Virginia Petersen



	1/15 Connie Breitzman Samuel Taylor
1/4 Marilee Demarse Willy Mannisto	1/16 Mark Demarse 1/19 Preston Adydan
1/8 Susan Lagina Dave Landenberger Marvin Sodermark	Leslie Coleman Joyce Rabito 1/20 Al Waeghe
1/9 Kamryn LaVigne 1/10 Uriah Kuhlman 1/11 Dominic Joslin	1/21 JoAnn Gudwer 1/22 Pat Sodermark 1/23 Kevin Warm
1/13 Lexi Johnson 1/14 Bonnie Buchmiller Cole Possi Sandy St. Aubin	1/25 Becky Landenberger Devyn Waeghe 1/27 Dennis Ness 1/31 Aeden Creten

2021 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.

Prayer List

Bud Baltic	Frank Bastian
Family of Marilyn Bastian	Sarah Benson
Mark and Julie Bishop	MaryAnn Brayak
DJ Burns	Nancy Campbell
Family of Paul Caswell	Ginger Clairmont
Bud & Pat Clark	Dan Crowas
Rachel, Seth and Amara Darrison	
Kambria Grenfell & her family	Debbie Dew
Chris and Kim Diamond	Bernie Erickson
Dave and Mary Hagen	Stephen Gruber
Caroline Hart	Alice Jensen
Jon Lohrbach	Marcy Makosky
Rebecca Marchak	James Marohnic
Tammy Martin	Chad Mileski
Josiah, Sarah, David Pryor	Bev Regts
Victor Schneider and family	Debbie Renkin
Mary Lu Schneider and family	Todd
Family of Alda Shapy	Al Waeghe
William Stubbe and family	
Marianne Watson Milkowski	
The residents at Pinecrest Nursing Home	

From Pastor Caroline Hart

There is a Christmas card and letter from Pastor Caroline and Jim Hart on the bulletin board. It was also sent out via all-church email on Dec. 31. If you would like a hard copy, contact the church office.

Calendar

Mondays at 6pm "We Make the Road by Walking" study via ZOOM led by Laurie Kaufman

Sunday, Jan. 10 Confirmation re-begins

Monday, Jan. 11, at 7pm Finance Committee

Thursday, Jan. 14, at 2pm Missions Committee

Jan. 17 – 24 Hope at the Inn here

Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 7pm Church Council

Covid-19 Scams

As the country begins to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, there's no doubt scammers are already scheming.

Medicare covers the COVID-19 vaccine, so there will be no cost to you. If anyone asks you to share your Medicare Number or pay for access to the vaccine, you can bet it's a scam.

Here's what to know:

- You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.
- You can't pay to get early access to a vaccine.
- Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to the vaccine for a fee.

If you come across a COVID-19 vaccine scam, **report it to the Federal Trade Commission or call us at 1-800-MEDICARE.** And check out **CDC.gov** for trustworthy information on the COVID-19 vaccine.