



# The Messenger

February 2022

*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

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

*“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens” —Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)*

The Hebrew Bible wisdom writer who authored the Book of Ecclesiastes struggled to find a sense of meaning or purpose in life. While chapter three of the book contains the passage made famous by Pete Seeger and a host of other folk musicians from the 1960s—*to everything (turn, turn, turn)/there is a season (turn, turn, turn)/and a time to every purpose, under heaven*—much of the writing builds from the phrase “all is vanity!” We’re living through a time now that may have that feeling about it. It can seem that no matter what we do, what we try to plan or accomplish, what we work toward, it just doesn’t turn out the way we’d hoped. Or, even if it does, it still leaves us feeling ... *meh*.

Maybe that’s just the end of January in northern Michigan. Maybe it’s entering what will soon be year three of life with covid. Maybe it’s the political climate, the economic climate, or just the whole climate mess that we’d rather not deal with. Whatever it is, it can have an energy-sapping effect on us. Even in the life of the Church, we’re in a sort of in-between season, Christmas and Epiphany are over and Easter is an especially long way off this year. Lent doesn’t even start until the beginning of March! So we have February to face first, that shortest month that can seem to muddle along forever.

To help get through this season together, in worship we’re starting with a celebration of Holy Communion, an experience of God’s grace and the presence of Jesus with us, snuggled under the hovering warmth of the Holy Spirit. We’ll consider how it is Jesus has taught us to stay together, overcoming the conflicts that would let the cold winds of division pull us apart. We’ll wonder about this God we call King, in a time when few, if any, of us have any experience of living under the rule of a monarchy. And we’ll finish up February with a rip-roaring Mardi Gras celebration before we head into the season of Lent. We also have opportunities to study together, learning how to share our faith through an evangelism class on Tuesday evenings and learning more about our United Methodist denomination’s views of human sexuality on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. And all of our committees are up and running, making ministry and missions happen all month long. I do hope you’ll take time to read through this entire newsletter and see where God may be nudging you to get engaged.

It’s our choice to make. We can tap into the deep roots of our faith, our worship, our connection to each other and to God that give our lives the meaning we may be missing. Or, we can muddle along lamenting the lack of purpose and the overload of activities that never seem to fill the void. In this season of so much uncertainty, may we all be certain in the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit!

*Pastor Cathy*

## Sunday Worship for February

### Feb. 6 – Celebrating Holy Communion

*Isaiah 64:1-5; Matthew 26:17-19, 26-30*

### Feb. 13 – Overcoming Conflicts

*Matthew 18:15-20*

### Feb. 20 – So You Want A King?

*1 Samuel 8.* Church Band plays

### Feb. 28 – Mardi Gras! Use It or Lose It

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-13.* Glory Ringers play

## Links to Worship

Find an up-to-date schedule for activities, links to on-line worship, and our current prayer list on the church website: [www.gladstonechurch.org](http://www.gladstonechurch.org). You're welcome to call the office with questions: 428-9311, or email: [mumc@gladstonechurch.org](mailto:mumc@gladstonechurch.org). Worship information, links, livestreaming, and videos are also on YouTube and Facebook:

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

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

## Dedicate A Sunday

The worship service on Jan. 16 was dedicated in honor of all those who made Hope at the Inn possible and in memory of Ray Young.

For \$300, you can "Dedicate A Sunday" in honor or memory of someone. Contact the office to schedule a Sunday. We'll include your dedication in the announcements, with a projected photo of the person you're celebrating (if you supply one).

## Blizzard Craft and Bake Sale

Sunday, February 20, following the worship service, there will be an all-church craft and bake sale in the narthex. Anyone wishing to donate to the sale, whether it is a craft item(s) or baked item(s), please contact Leroux Strom 399-6514 or Virginia Petersen 428-9713. All proceeds from the sale will go towards snowplowing of our parking lot. Invite your family and friends; it is open to the public. The sale will start right after the worship service and go till one o'clock.

## Mardi Gras Celebration Sunday

Mark your calendar now to join us on Sunday, Feb. 27, to celebrate! It's the last Sunday before we begin the season of Lent. We're planning a lively, family-friendly worship service at 10:30 followed by fun and fellowship. Masks aren't mandatory, but we hope you'll all be wearing one for Mardi Gras. We'll have a prize for the most creative homemade mask. If you can't or don't want to make one at home, we'll have materials for you to make one before worship. (Arrive at least 15 minutes early.) Those of you with culinary skills are invited to make your best Mardi Gras appetizer to share and we'll provide the "King Cake," with a prize for whoever gets the piece of cake harboring the "King".

Watch for your personal invitation to arrive in the U.S. mail in the next couple of weeks, and then be sure to RSVP. We're using your RSVP cards as your ticket to enter a drawing for fabulous prizes. This event is being organized by our Membership Connections Committee, led by its new chairperson, Lorna Benson.

## Evangelism for Non-Evangelists

### *Starts Tuesday, Feb. 8, 7-8:30 p.m.*

One of our 2022 Memorial Church goals is learning and practicing the skills we need to share our faith with others. You can participate along with Pastor Cathy in Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary's six-week webinar for churches Feb. 8 – March 15, live Tuesdays 7-8:30 p.m. at church in the youth room. This evangelism course for non-evangelists will introduce us to a practice that helps you grow in your faith at the same time you develop the skills to share your faith with others. At the end of this course, we will be able to:

- Explain what you have authentically experienced as the goodness of God in your life
- Reflect on how you participate in the Christian Tradition
- Listen to your context so you know what matters most to those who are part of it
- Develop creative practices for sharing your faith
- Assess the evangelistic effectiveness of congregational ministries

The textbook for the course is: *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists: Sharing the Gospel Authentically* by Rev. Dr. Mark R. Teasdale, available on Amazon or from InterVarsity Press.

***Please let Pastor Cathy know by Feb. 6 if you will be participating.***

## **Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church**

In February, Pastor Cathy will be leading a four-week study using the book *Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church* published in 2019 as a resource for United Methodist congregations. You can join on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27 or on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23.

There is deep disagreement about what The United Methodist Church should teach and practice concerning homosexuality, same-gender marriage, and ordination of LGBTQ persons. We have been trying to resolve this for many years. A General Conference, postponed due to Covid in 2020, is scheduled for the end of August this year, although as an international gathering of thousands, it may need to be postponed yet again as the global pandemic persists. Meanwhile, United Methodists continue to struggle with their churches, families, and even within their own individual selves. This study is meant to help us have honest, well-informed, and grace-filled conversations with one another about how to live faithfully together as we discern where God is leading.

### ***Seven Passages Film***

Along with the “Living Faithfully” study, Pastor Cathy is recommending we view the film “Seven Passages: The Stories of Gay Christians” It will be shown at church on Ash Wednesday, Mar. 2, at 7:30 p.m., (runs approx. 90 minutes) after the 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship service. You may also view it on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VylkyEoxacE>

Created as a stage play in 2007 by a team of actors and theatre artists led by then Calvin College drama professor Stephanie Sandberg, the show is based on interviews with more than 100 West Michigan residents about what life is like for them as gay Christians. The title refers to the seven biblical passages related to homosexuality. Dialogue includes only the biblical quotes and actual scripts from Sandberg’s interviews. Pastor Cathy will lead a discussion of the film on Sunday, March 6, at 9:30 a.m. for anyone who has seen the film.

### **Sign up for 2022**

We need Ushers, Readers, Muffins Bakers, Coffee Hosts, and Communion Servers. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Also, if you would be interested in learning how to run the projection and livestream, please speak with Joy Jorgensen.

## **“The Gift Box”**

This ongoing fundraiser has an extra something special starting the first of February. There will be “Valentine” acknowledgement cards to share with the person you are donating for. Memorial has many great ministries; by donating to the church you are sharing your gifts in multiple ways, reaching out to many people. It is easy to do ... drop your donation into the “Gift Box” by the narthex bulletin board and select the appropriate acknowledgement card.

As of the end of January, the “Gift Box” has generated \$40 towards Memorial’s general fund. Let’s challenge ourselves to reach an awesome amount by the end of the year. Thank you.

## **Prayer List**

Leslie Shapy Coleman and her unborn baby boy	
Betsy Anderson	Bud Baltic
Sarah Benson	Lorna Benson
Mark Bishop	Lois Boydston
Tom Butch	Lois Cady
Nancy Campbell	Ginger Clairmont
Shirley Clark	Bud & Pat Clark
Eileen Collins	Sharon Davis
Irving & Bette DeRoeck	Debbie Dew
Chris and Kim Diamond	Bernie Erickson
John Fisher	Nancy Harger
Caroline Hart	Barb Ingram
Al Jensen	Alice Jensen
Jeff Lancour	Susan Lingren
Marcy Makosky	Rebecca Marchak
Toni Marchese	Tammy Martin
Chad Mileski	Zach Nardi
Josiah and David Pryor	Lincoln Noel
Bev Regts	Debbie Renkin
Bob Rexford	Margaret Richard
Mary Robinson	Marvin Sodermark
Bill Springer	Julie Springer
Todd	Al Waeghe
Marianne Watson Milkowski	Charlene Waeghe
Jerry Wery	Donna Wilken
Family of Dwayne Bero	Rick Wilson
Family of Janet Stiles	

**Prayer Ministry** – we maintain an up-to-date prayer list on our website: [www.gladstonechurch.org](http://www.gladstonechurch.org) and include the current list in Sunday’s worship bulletin. If you would like to receive email updates each time a prayer request is added, please contact Lisa in the office: [mumc@gladstonechurch.org](mailto:mumc@gladstonechurch.org). And thank you for your ongoing prayer support.

## Finance Committee

Our congregation at Memorial is known for the “church that can get things done.” We are strong in Missions and have received recognition as a “Spotlight Church,” now called an “EngageMI congregation.” We are community-minded, and our beautiful facility is shared for many different events. Our church has strong leadership and people who really find it in their hearts to be great stewards of their resources.

This New Year, 2022, pledges are lower than the past, and because of COVID many people have chosen not to attend church in person. The ability of people to gather in groups is reduced; fundraisers are at a minimum, and with COVID starting its third year, many people are not connected to each other.

Cash flow, especially during the first quarter and late in the summer months is a challenge. Everyone who supports Memorial can help by doing any of the following suggestions. Give on a regular basis. We have several ways to give: in person, mailed in checks, credit card used on the webpage or the square reader at church. If you need assistance to use the website or square reader, please contact Virginia or ask for help in the office. If you are able, please add a little more to your offering to help with the expenses of the church. Do you want to pay for a month of snow plowing? This past month’s bill was \$1,560. How about one month of Ministry Shares? That would be \$2,002. You can celebrate your special person or event with a donation to the Gift Box. Maybe your committee or group of people from within the church would like to see a fundraiser happen – please share those ideas at a Church Council meeting, get the approval needed, and get the event scheduled on the church calendar. It is always a good thing to get new, fresh ideas.

This year will be a challenge, but you and every person involved in Memorial can be assured the Finance Committee will be the best stewards of your monies. The Finance Committee will do its best to help committees find the financial resources needed to accomplish their tasks. It is important that each committee is represented at our monthly Finance meeting held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30, either by the chairperson or a person designated by the committee. Having a committee’s presence at the meeting keeps the communications flowing not only with the Finance Committee but also with other committee chairs/members. Everyone can stay informed on what is happening in the life of Memorial’s finances.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of the Finance Committee at any time. Any suggestions are always welcomed.

## Attend Annual Conference

The Northern Skies District needs applicants to be Lay Equalization Members to Annual Conference for 2022, which is scheduled to be held in Traverse City at the Grand Traverse Resort from June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. Applicants are needed for all categories: Adult, Young Adult (ages 18-30), and Youth (ages 12-17).

## Birthdays

2/1 Cheryl Stanek	2/20 Jeffrey Donovan, Jr.
2/3 Bud Clark	2/21 Paula Maskart
Kimberlee Rahmlow	Beverly VanDeVusse
2/8 David Johnson	2/22 Carol Borden
2/9 Gina Buchmiller	Patsy Waeghe
Megann Hubbard	2/24 David Webber
Ethan Jensen	2/25 Dennis Carlyon
Roberta Johnson	Adam Konrad
2/12 Justyn Doucette	2/26 Betsy Anderson
2/14 Kelsey DeMarse	Wayne Large
2/16 Kaylee Possi	Sandra St. John
Rebecca Worth	Pamela Thorbahn
2/17 Earl Possi	2/27 Dennis Harrison
2/19 Andrew Jensen	Christine Jensen



**Bay Cliff Health Camp** in Big Bay is now hiring for all positions for summer 2022. We are seeking camp counselors, activities instructors, leadership staff, and professional and support staff. For more information, or to apply online, go to [www.baycliff.org](http://www.baycliff.org). Dates of employment for most roles are June 12-August 7, 2022.

## Participate in a Study

UPCAP Mediation Services is seeking participants from Delta or Marquette Counties for a study which will be held on Feb. 9 via ZOOM. The study is aimed at increasing awareness, knowledge, and skills to prevent elders with cognitive impairment from financial abuse and fraud. Participants can be either an older person with mild cognitive decline or a family member providing care for a relative with dementia or cognitive impairment. Individuals who complete the study will receive a \$100 gift card as a token for their time and efforts. More information is on the bulletin board.

**newsletter deadline:  
Thursday, Feb. 24**

## Moment in Missions

### Celebrations!

- Thank you notes were received from MDS Community Action and St. Vincent de Paul for the \$643.13 and \$643.12 respectively sent for their heating assistance fund. This money was given from the Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas offering.
- The Venison project was a huge success. Special thank you to Teresa Myers and Cole Desotelle for serving as the coordinators this year. One hundred ten pounds of venison was given to Gladstone St. Vincent; two hundred seventy pounds to Escanaba St. Vincent; one hundred sixteen pounds to Seventh Day Adventist; and the Salvation Army is waiting for their delivery due to a processing supply shortage being experienced by the meat processor.
- The Human Relations Day offering: \$51 will be split between the UM Community Development Program, the UM Voluntary Services Program, and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.
- Another successful week with providing shelter to the guests at Hope at the Inn. A special thank you to Susan Lagina for her continued service as coordinator for MUMC and to Lisa Myers for her continued service on the HATI committee. Also a big thank you to all the volunteers for their support of time and/or food.

### Opportunities to serve and give:

- Feb. 20: Noisy Offering
- Feb. 28: Bay College Campus Meal preparation in the church kitchen for a meal delivered to the campus.
- The *Love Beyond Borders* campaign aims to raise funds for the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines around the world. The initiative has emerged from First United Methodist Church, Boise, ID and seeks to engage The United Methodist Church in supporting COVAX alongside UNICEF, the key vaccine delivery partner. All funds raised will be sent to UNICEF for this project. A donation of \$37 will provide 10 people with two doses of the vaccine. If interested in donating, make your check payable to the church and mark in the memo *Love Beyond Borders*. Or you can go to the link and donate there. <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/unicef/>

- Ongoing collection for school supplies at Mid Peninsula School. With the start of the 2nd semester in January, many school supplies are needed to replace the ones that have been worn down over the 1st semester. Items that are needed can be found at [https://p11cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_8273746/File/supply%20list%2021-22%20\(1\).pdf](https://p11cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_8273746/File/supply%20list%2021-22%20(1).pdf)
- Elmer's Community Cares Program: Donate points to MUMC and we can use it towards getting a \$100 gift card. This can be used to help offset grocery costs for projects like Bay College Campus Ministry meals and Hope at the Inn meals. We currently have 84,220 points.

### Hands-On Mission Trip

Updates about the trip will be shared once the group decides when and where it will happen.

### Keep Up the Gospel Work!

Check out the Mission bulletin board located at the entrance to the education wing. Follow our outreach monthly as we live to serve through our gifts, acts, and prayers.

Our church is alive and active in our community, our state, our nation, and our world. If God is speaking to you about learning more about missions at MUMC and you would like to be an active member of the mission committee, please contact the church office.

### Faith-based Fertility Support Group

Did you know that 1 in 6 women go through infertility? My name is Marci Chouinard. I'm a new group leader for Moms in the Making, a faith-based fertility support group.

I found Moms in the Making last year while living in Green Bay, and I became passionate about the ministry and mission. After relocating back to my hometown of Escanaba this past spring, I decided to become a leader of a group here.

Every time a new woman finds out about our group, they are so thankful to find not just a group that is about infertility, but a group that focuses on seeking hope and encouragement in the wait by pursuing Jesus. Not only do we have a group now in Gladstone, but we have an online support group, virtual support, as well as 60+ other groups nationwide.

**Marci Chouinard**

**Moms in the Making Leader, Gladstone, MI**

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# February 2022



Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat

		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
		9:00 Pickleball  6:00 TKD 7:00 Praise Team 8:00 N.A.	9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball  6:00 Bells 7:00 Living Faithfully	6:00 TKD 7:00 Band	10:00 Pickleball	
<i>6</i> 9:30 Living Faithfully 10:30 Worship 11:30 Men's Breakfast  2:00 Daisy Scouts 3:00 Hike with a Hallelujah	<i>7</i> 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball  4:00 Girl Scouts	<i>8</i> 9:00 Pickleball  6:00 TKD 6:30 Finance 7:00 Praise Team 7:00 Evangelism class 8:00 N.A.	<i>9</i> 9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball  6:00 Bells 7:00 Living Faithfully	<i>10</i>   6:00 TKD 7:00 Band	<i>11</i> 10:00 Pickleball	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> 9:30 Living Faithfully 10:30 Worship  2:00 Daisy Scouts	<i>14</i> 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball  4:00 Girl Scouts	<i>15</i> 9:00 Pickleball 2:00 Missions 6:00 TKD 6:30 Church Council 7:00 Praise Team 7:00 Evangelism class 8:00 N.A.	<i>16</i> 9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball  6:00 Bells 7:00 Living Faithfully	<i>17</i>   6:00 TKD 7:00 Band	<i>18</i> 10:00 Pickleball	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> Youth Sunday & Noisy Offering 9:30 Living Faithfully 10:30 Worship 11:30 Craft and Bake Sale 2:00 Daisy Scouts 3:00 Hike with a Hallelujah	<i>21</i> 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball  4:00 Girl Scouts	<i>22</i> 9:00 Pickleball 1:00 Membership Connection  6:00 TKD 7:00 Praise Team 7:00 Evangelism class 8:00 N.A.	<i>23</i> 9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball  6:00 Bells 7:00 Living Faithfully	<i>24</i> Newsletter Deadline  6:00 TKD 7:00 Band	<i>25</i> 10:00 Pickleball	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 9:30 Living Faithfully 10:30 Worship with Mardi Gras celebration  2:00 Daisy Scouts	<i>28</i> 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball  4:00 Girl Scouts  BACM meal	<i>Mar. 1</i> 9:00 Pickleball  6:00 TKD 7:00 Praise Team 7:00 Evangelism class 8:00 N.A.	<i>Mar. 2</i> 9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball  7:00 Ash Wed. Service 7:30 Movie: "Seven Passages"			

### **Three Winter Resources**

**Read!** We've recently cleaned up and reorganized our Church Library. In it, you'll find everything from scholarly resources for Bible study (including Greek and Hebrew lexicons) to inspirational fiction, a few classics, and recent bestsellers. We have personal devotionals for all ages and a couple of shelves of children's books. Try J. Edgar Hoover's book on Communism (how'd that get in there!?), or maybe a DVD and study book from Adam Hamilton. Please, to help us stay organized, if you are returning or donating books, put them in the plastic tote marked for "Returns" and we'll get them reshelfed.

**Puzzle!** We've set up a jigsaw puzzle exchange table in the Narthex. You're welcome to take a puzzle home to work on or drop off any that you're done with. We've also got a puzzle in progress on one of the round tables. Drop in during office hours, schedule a time to meet up with friends, or add a few pieces during Sunday coffee time.

**Walk!** If you'd like to get a bit of exercise but would rather not risk the icy sidewalks, you're welcome to drop in during office hours and walk around the church. We've got lots of heated hallways for you to get those steps in.