



The Messenger

April 2023

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.



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

I would like to share with you a devotion written by Elaine Puckett that she had published in the 2009 Upper Room Disciplines. Before going any further, please read John 15: 12-17.

Love one another. On the surface it sounds simple, but it is difficult to do. We know about the deep feelings of love that connect us to family and special friends. We even know the pain of losing a love. But when love becomes a verb, a command requiring action, the challenging aspects of loving one another come sharply into focus.

What does it mean to respond to God's human family in ways that bear witness to God's love for us? John suggests it has something to do with dying. And in John's Gospel this is the model. Jesus demonstrates his love for the world by offering his life. His response leaves us with a task to accomplish and a question to ponder, "How shall I love my neighbor when love cannot be limited by death?"

Life is so much more than simply drawing a breath. It's the way we spend our time, use our resources, measure our words, do our work, and tend our relationships. Like the branches on the vine, our lives are intimately connected to Christ and delicately entwined with one another. Every day is filled with opportunities to have a positive impact on someone we meet along the way.

When we think about laying down a life for another we usually think in terms of a singular event. However, we can also lay down our lives over the course of a lifetime, minute by minute and day by day. It is the work of the Spirit to empower us as we seek to lose ourselves in acts of lovingkindness and sacrificial living.

My friends, this devotion is very thought-provoking. Whom do we show love to? When do we show love to others? Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, came to show us a love that was more than any of us could comprehend.

We are toward the end of the Lenten season when we celebrate love made incarnate by Jesus. There are many times to experience and celebrate within our congregation over the next couple weeks. I hope you will experience as many of these opportunities as possible.

May the risen Lord bless you today, this Lenten season, and all your days with a love that is infinite. God Bless, my friends.

~ Pastor Terri

Holy Week Worship



Seder Meal On Maundy Thursday (Apr. 6) at 5:30pm, Leah Belanger will be serving a Seder (Passover) meal that she is preparing. If you plan on attending, please R.S.V.P. on the small bulletin board, or call the office so that Leah knows how many to prepare for.

- Apr. 6 5:30 Seder Meal (Please RSVP)
7pm Maundy Thursday service with communion
- Apr. 7 7pm Good Friday ecumenical service at First Lutheran in Gladstone
- Apr. 9 7am Easter Sunrise service
10:30 Easter service and Confirmation
Cinnamon Rolls will be sold after both services to raise money for "Readers to Leaders."

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. You're welcome to call the office with questions: 428-9311, or email: 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/>

Sunday Morning Help

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, or if you would like to help set up communion and fill candles, please speak with Lisa Myers.

"The Vote"

A Charge Conference of Memorial UMC has been specially called for the purpose of voting on whether we wish Memorial United Methodist Church to remain United Methodist or enter into the Conference's Disaffiliation Agreement. This meeting will be on **Sunday, May 21**, following the worship service. Only church members are allowed to vote, and they must be *physically present* to vote. Mail-in ballots are not allowed. If you would like to verify your membership status, call the church office or check the membership list on the trapezoid table in front of the display cabinet.

What this vote is about: The current *Book of Discipline* (bylaws of the United Methodist Denomination) prohibits homosexuals from being ordained pastors and prohibits homosexual marriages from being performed in United Methodist churches. A gathering of UM delegates from all over the world will be voting on these prohibitions in 2024. In anticipation of this wording being removed from *The Book of Discipline*, some congregations who do not favor homosexual pastors or homosexual unions being sanctioned by the church are disaffiliating from the United Methodist denomination now. For example, in the U.P., Pickford UMC has voted to do this.

Resources: Over the past 1½ years, we have occasionally put articles in the newsletter and have put links to informative articles under the "Resources" tab on our webpage www.gladstonechurch.org. One of these is the "Blessing One Another" article listed under the "resources" tab: <..\Downloads\Blessing-One-Another-V01222.pdf>

Spring Flowers

If you would like to honor or remember someone this Easter with spring flowers, please fill out a pink form from the table by the front door and turn it in to the office **by Apr. 5**.

Traveling Communion Servers are needed to help take communion to homebound people from our congregation. Please speak to Susan Lagina or Lorna Benson.

**newsletter deadline:
Thursday, Apr. 27**

Cinnamon Rolls will be for sale on Easter following both services to raise money for the "Readers to Leaders" mission project.



"Readers to Leaders" is a conference-wide appeal that is encouraging each local UM congregation to support scholarships for children in Liberia and also Michigan Conference Freedom Schools.

Lisa Batten, Coordinator of Young Adult Initiatives for The Michigan Conference, says, "The CDF Freedom Schools enhance children's motivation to read and help connect their families with resources in the community." Freedom Schools offer cultural learning as well as reading and tutoring, two meals a day, and a book for each student to take home every week. Batten says, "Many children actually make gains in learning over the summer, rather than summer learning loss." Ashnee Young adds, "The Freedom Schools offer a community-centered program which cultivates esteem and encourages diverse representation in learning and literature to help the children discover their best learning potential." **Please purchase some cinnamon rolls on Easter or donate to this mission by marking on your envelope or check "Readers to Leaders".**

Thank you for all the support during my Eagle Journey. I appreciate the church allowing us to use the facility for our Eagle Scout Honor Court.

Love,
Ethan Jensen

I just wanted to say Thank you! for having me over to make some music with you in early April. I really appreciate it.

All my best and Be well!
Phil Lynch

Fundraiser: MARSP Dinner

The Michigan Area Retired School Personnel will have their dinner & meeting here at noon on Tuesday, May 2. This is a good fundraiser for us. Many hands are needed in the kitchen on the evening of May 1 and in the morning & afternoon of May 2. Please mark your calendar if you can help for some of those times.

We will have a **Rummage Sale** May 11-13. Please start saving items for it now.

Prayer List

- Protection for those on the outskirts of society
- Families affected by Blasto Pneumonia
- Ukraine
- Turkey & Syria
- Nashville Chr. Elem. School families and survivors
- Family of Cole Possi
- Family of Carol Wolfe
- Mindy A.
- Bud Baltic
- Gabe Benson
- Sarah Benson
- Misty Boudreau de la Garza
- Tom Butch
- Nancy Campbell
- Bud and Pat Clark
- Cathy Sue Clintworth
- Chris and Kim Diamond
- Brian Galvin
- Ian Goldi
- Mike Hicks and family
- Elizabeth Hill
- Alice and Lloyd Jensen
- David & Cheryl LaCarte
- Marcy Makosky
- Rebecca Marchak
- Zach Nardi
- Dave Palo
- Rodney Potvin and family
- Jordan Rabitoy
- David and Kathy Siefer
- Donna Wilken
- Betsy Anderson
- Lisa Richer Barta
- Lorna Benson
- David Bohlen
- Sally Brainard
- Lois Cady
- Mary Clark
- Shirley Clark
- Eileen Collins
- Bernie Erickson
- Michele Geyer
- John Gudwer
- Caroline Hart
- Al Jensen
- Liz Kempher
- Susan Lindgren
- Toni Marchese
- Rhonda Mulligan
- Vickie Ottensman
- Emily Shada Polega
- Josiah Pryor
- Bill Springer
- Marv Sodermark



- 4/1 Angela Brunette
- 4/3 Jason Jorgensen
- Christine Morrow
- Thomas Viau
- 4/5 Laura Doneau
- Melvin Marlett
- Emma Wyman
- 4/7 Dorell Kirschner
- Bill Springer
- 4/8 Daytona Johnivan
- Jack Thomas III
- 4/10 Peter Jensen
- Emily Klotz
- 4/11 Russell Casey
- 4/12 Owen Mattonen
- Benjamin Worth
- 4/13 Breanne Johnson
- Jeff Moore
- 4/14 Alexandra Jorgensen
- 4/15 Carolyn Taylor
- 4/17 Gabriel Gaudino
- 4/18 Ryan Juhola
- Kyra Keeker
- 4/19 Matthew Hampton
- 4/20 Kallie Donovan
- Lillian Wery
- 4/25 Jack Thomas IV
- 4/27 Tim King
- 4/28 Jamie Hoehn
- Rachel Johnson
- Janice Watson
- 4/30 Joseph Ostlund

April 2023



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p><i>2 Palm Sunday</i></p> <p>10:30 Worship 11:30 Luke study</p> <p>2:00 Girl Scouts</p> | <p><i>3</i></p> <p>10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts</p> <p>5:30 Luke study</p> | <p><i>4</i></p> <p>9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Line Dance 12:30 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 SPRC</p> | <p><i>5</i></p> <p>9:00 Knit/Crochet 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>5:00 Confirm. 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir</p> | <p><i>6</i></p> <p>9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Pickleball</p> <p>5:30 Seder Meal</p> <p>7:00 Maundy Th. Service including communion</p> | <p><i>7</i></p> <p>10:00 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 Choir</p> <p>7:00 Ecumenical Good Friday Service at First Lutheran</p> | <p><i>8</i></p> <p>Dough rising for cinnamon rolls</p> |
| <p><i>9 Easter</i></p> <p>7:00 Sunrise Service</p> <p>Cinnamon Roll sale all morning</p> <p>10:30 Worship & Confirmation</p> | <p><i>10</i></p> <p>10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts</p> <p>5:30 Luke study</p> | <p><i>11</i></p> <p>9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Line Dance 12:30 Pickleball</p> | <p><i>12</i></p> <p>9:00 Knit/Crochet 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir</p> | <p><i>13</i></p> <p>9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 Finance</p> <p>7:00 Band</p> | <p><i>14</i></p> <p>10:00 Pickleball</p> | <p><i>15</i></p> |
| <p><i>16</i></p> <p><i>Noisy Offering</i></p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>2:00 Girl Scouts</p> | <p><i>17</i></p> <p>10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts</p> | <p><i>18</i></p> <p>9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Line Dance 12:30 Pickleball</p> <p>2:00 Missions</p> | <p><i>19</i></p> <p>9:00 Knit/Crochet 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir</p> | <p><i>20</i></p> <p>9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Pickleball</p> <p>5:30 Band</p> <p>6:30 Church Council</p> | <p><i>21</i></p> <p>10:00 Pickleball</p> | <p><i>22</i></p> |
| <p><i>23</i></p> <p><i>Native American Ministry Sunday</i></p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>2:00 Girl Scouts</p> | <p><i>24</i></p> <p>10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts</p> <p>BACM meal</p> | <p><i>25</i></p> <p>9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Line Dance 12:30 Pickleball</p> | <p><i>26</i></p> <p>9:00 Knit/Crochet 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir</p> | <p><i>27</i></p> <p>9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Pickleball</p> <p><i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p>7:00 Band</p> | <p><i>28</i></p> <p>10:00 Pickleball</p> | <p><i>29</i></p> |
| <p><i>30</i></p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>2:00 Girl Scouts</p> | <p><i>May 1</i></p> <p>10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts</p> | <p><i>May 2</i></p> <p>MARSP</p> | <p><i>May 3</i></p> <p>9:00 Knit/Crochet 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir</p> | <p><i>May 4</i></p> <p>9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Pickleball</p> <p>7:00 Band</p> | <p><i>May 5</i></p> <p>10:00 Pickleball</p> | <p><i>May 6</i></p> <p>Spring Tea 2:00 - 4:00</p> |