



The Messenger

February 2023

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 Terri Branstrom

(906) 280-2993

pastor@gladstonechurch.org

Mon. and Thur., 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The United Methodist Church “is founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace, anchored in Scripture, and based in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit” (#BeUMC on umc.org).

Well, here we are racing into the month in which we celebrate love. We celebrate by taking our sweetie out to dinner, giving and receiving gifts, taking a trip, or a number of other thoughtful gestures. We are also rushing, or so it seems, into the season of Lent. Both events while we still are living our “normal” lives.

I have often wondered why there is only one day a year that we celebrate love. Isn't love an emotion that needs to be celebrated each and every day? Why can't I take my sweetie out to dinner for no other reason than I want to show him I appreciate him or take my mom her favorite ice cream or make my kids and/or grandkids their favorite meal? Is there a rule somewhere that says I can't show people I appreciate what they add to my life? Enough about that. On to my next rant.

For many years I “gave up” something for Lent. Then I decided that instead of giving up something like my beloved chocolate or drinking pop, I would **do** something special. One year when I was doing an internship at the ISD in the Teen Parenting program, I made the students a lunch of homemade soup once a week and I had my dad help out by making homemade bread. I was doing something special by giving up my time to show others they mattered.

How do you celebrate the love you have in your life? What do you do to observe Lent? I would love to hear what you are doing for both occasions.

Years ago God sent Jesus to live and walk among us to show us how much we are loved. It did not end well for Jesus, but thank God for the example Jesus was. Jesus was the epitome of love—healing the sick, teaching and preaching about love, and dying to save us from our sin. This gift, this gift of love, is not like any other we have ever received. Too often we throw it back in the face of God and follow Satan.

As we enter into this solemn season, let's think about the love that we have been given by God. For God so loved the world (you and me) that God gave the only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16—of course.) What are you willing to give to your sweetie God to show how much you appreciate all that has been done for you?

Shalom, Pastor Terri

Links to Worship

Find the Sunday bulletin with announcements, on-line worship links, our current prayer list, and a place to make on-line contributions 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/>

Mardi Gras Celebration Sunday

Mark your calendar now to join us on Sunday, Feb. 19, to celebrate! It's the last Sunday before we begin the season of Lent. We're planning a lively worship service at 10:30 followed by a salad potluck.

Special Worship Services

Sunday, Feb. 12 Boy Scout Sunday
Sunday, Feb. 19 Mardi Gras and Salad Potluck
Wed., Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm
Sunday, Mar. 5 Guest Musician Phil Lynch
Sunday, Mar. 12 Girl Scout Sunday

Mardi Gras decorating: On Sat., Feb. 18, noon – 2pm we will be decorating for Mardi Gras. If you can help, please call Lorna 428-2261.

Sunday Morning Volunteers

We need Ushers, Readers, Muffins Bakers, Coffee Hosts, and Communion Servers. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. We also need more people to learn how to do projection and livestream.

Bay Area Campus Ministry Meal

Once each semester (twice a year) we provide a meal for the Bay Area Campus Ministry. We need someone to coordinate one meal this semester. (You get to pick the Monday that would work for you.) Please step forward soon so we can select our date for this vital, ecumenical ministry. Please speak with Missions Chairperson Susan Lagina if interested.

Lenten Study on the Gospel of Luke

Offered 2 different times:

Sunday after worship (Feb. 26 – Apr. 2)

Monday 5:30pm (Feb. 27 – Apr. 3)

If neither of these times work for you, please speak with either Lisa in the office or Laurie Kaufman.

Sign up on beige paper in the narthex -- the sooner, the better --- because we need to order books.

Lenten Soup Suppers will be at 5:00 the five Wednesdays in March. They will include soup & bread and discussion questions from *Easter from the Back Side* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the lavender sheet on the small bulletin board.

Confirmation Classes will be on Wednesdays at 6pm, beginning Feb. 15, for youth ages 13 and up who have not yet been confirmed. Please speak with Pastor Terri or Lisa if interested.

The Mission Committee is encouraging our congregation to support scholarships for children in Liberia and Michigan Conference Freedom Schools. If each church in Michigan supports this campaign, we could help 100 Liberian students attend school from kindergarten through graduation and provide 100 children to attend multiple years of Freedom Schools. **Goal: \$600 by May 1, 2023**

Birthdays

2/1 Cheryl Stanek	2/20 Jeffrey Donovan, Jr.
2/3 Bud Clark	2/21 Paula Maskart
Kim Branstrom	2/22 Carol Borden
2/8 David Johnson	Patsy Waeghe
2/9 Gina Buchmiller	2/23 Kaden Possi
Megann Hubbard	2/24 David Webber
Ethan Jensen	2/25 Dennis Carlyon
Roberta Johnson	Adam Konrad
2/10 Benjamin Coleman	2/26 Betsy Anderson
2/12 Justyn Doucette	Wayne Large
2/14 Kelsey DeMarse	Sandra St. John
2/16 Kaylee Possi	Pamela Thorbahn
Rebecca Worth	2/27 Dennis Harrison
2/17 Earl Possi	Christine Jensen
2/19 Andrew Jensen	



Un-used (like new) cards wanted for our card ministry: get well, sympathy, and thinking of you.

Prayer List

Ukraine	Mindy A.
Betsy Anderson	Bud Baltic
Lisa Richer Barta	Dave Bell
Kathleen Bennett	Lorna Benson
Sarah Benson	David Bohlen
Sally Brainard	Jerry Brunette and family
Jeff Bratonia	Tom Butch
Nancy Campbell	Family of Dan Chouinard
Mary Clark	Bud and Pat Clark
Shirley Clark	Eileen Collins
Bernie Erickson	Chris and Kim Diamond
Michele Geyer	John Gudwer
Caroline Hart	Lettie Houghton
Jim Hubbard	Al Jensen
Alice and Lloyd Jensen	
Val Johnson	Liz Kempher
Susan Lindgren	David & Cheryl LaCarte
Marcy Makosky	Toni Marchese
Rebecca Marchak	Dean Messina
Rhonda Mulligan	Zach Nardi
Vickie Ottensman	Dave Palo
Emily Shada Polega	Rodney Potvin & family
Josiah Pryor	Jordan Rabitoy
Marv Sodermark	David and Kathy Siefer
Aaron Stewart	Bill Springer and family
Mike Wickman	Donna Wilken
Family of Tara & Jerry Weaver	

There are two **\$70 coupons** on the bulletin board for **Lifeline Screening** on March 16.

**newsletter deadline:
Thursday, Feb. 23**

What I am thankful for . . .

Remember way back in November Pastor Terri asked us to write down things that you are thankful for? Here are some of those responses:

- My loving family
- Belonging to this church with its many caring members
- Having our church fully open and also online
- God watches over me and protects me and loves me.
- Life
- My home that is warm and has plenty of food
- Music
- Good Friends
- No virus spreading in our church
- Being able to pay the bills
- People who dig deep in search of truth
- Doctors and health care providers
- Church
- Having had a successful job
- Good health for my family
- My mom is still able to live in her own home
- Thankful that we are able to financially support our church and keep the door open.
- Pets
- Living in a free country
- A legal system that, while not perfect, strives to be impartial
- Church
- Living in a small community that cares for others
- People who stand up against bullies
- My husband, sons, and grandchild
- No war going on in our country
- Many groups and activities in our church
- God watches over my family and puts his healing hands upon them

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You are invited to the annual
Lenten Breakfast and Musical Program
At Immanuel Lutheran Church
 600 South Lincoln Rd., Escanaba
Saturday, Feb. 18
 Breakfast: 9:15, Program: 10am
 We will have the Remnants and guest soloists.
 A portion of the freewill offering will go toward
 Hope at the Inn.

February 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p><i>1</i> 9:00 Knit 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir</p>	<p><i>2</i> 9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Pickleball</p> <p>5:45 Unity Prayer 7:00 Band</p>	<p><i>3</i> 10:00 Pickleball</p>	<p><i>4</i></p>
<p><i>5</i> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Men's Breakfast 2:00 Girl Scouts</p>	<p><i>6</i> 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts 5:30 Bible study</p>	<p><i>7</i> 9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Line Dance</p>	<p><i>8</i> 9:00 Knit 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir</p>	<p><i>9</i> 9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Pickleball</p> <p>5:45 Unity Prayer 6:00 Finance 7:00 Band</p>	<p><i>10</i> 10:00 Pickleball</p>	<p><i>11</i></p>
<p><i>12</i> <i>Boy Scout Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship 2:00 Girl Scouts</p>	<p><i>13</i> 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts 5:30 Bible study</p>	<p><i>14</i> 9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Line Dance</p>	<p><i>15</i> 9:00 Knit 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 Confirmation 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir</p>	<p><i>16</i> 9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Pickleball</p> <p>5:30 Band 5:45 Unity Prayer 6:30 Church Council</p>	<p><i>17</i> 10:00 Pickleball</p>	<p><i>18</i> 12:00—2:00 Decorate, set up for Mardi Gras</p>
<p><i>19</i> <i>Noisy Offering</i> 10:30 Worship 11:30 MardiGras salad potluck 2:00 Girl Scouts</p>	<p><i>20</i> 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts 5:30 Bible study</p>	<p><i>21</i> 9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Line Dance</p> <p>2:00 Missions</p>	<p><i>22</i> 9:00 Knit 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>5:30 Confirmation 6:00 Bells 7:00 Ash Wed.</p>	<p><i>23</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Pickleball</p> <p>5:45 Unity Prayer 7:00 Band</p>	<p><i>24</i> 10:00 Pickleball</p>	<p><i>25</i></p>
<p><i>26</i> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Luke study 2:00 Girl Scouts</p>	<p><i>27</i> 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball</p> <p>BACM meal 4:00 Girl Scouts 5:30 Luke study</p>	<p><i>28</i> 9:00 Pickleball 11:00 Line Dance</p>				