



# The Messenger

January 2024

*We live to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ!*

**Memorial United Methodist Church, 1920 Lake Shore Drive, Gladstone, Michigan 49837**

Office: (906) 428-9311

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Mon. – Thur., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Pastor Terri Branstrom

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Mon. and Thur., 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As we begin a new year, I was hoping to share with you some profound words of wisdom. But not being a really wise person, I decided to share with you words written by Rev. Stephen Chapman, an instructor at Duke Divinity School. I hope his words bless you as they did me.

As one year turns to the next, we naturally reflect on the passage of time. The seconds tick away and are gone. Each moment of our lives is finally temporary. The space between the future and the past is so thin that sometimes it threatens to disappear. So what is the point of another day, of today, of this new year?

Time is God's gift to us in two ways. Time's persistent prodding prevents us from fruitless nostalgia, from getting stuck in the past. With God's help, we check our watches, calendars, and phones and then say to ourselves and each other, "What's next?" The passage of time gives us a farther horizon and keeps our focus ahead of ourselves. Time also presents us with constant opportunities for a fresh start, a do-over, a chance to amend our ways and reconcile ourselves with those we may have hurt or offended. Time *does* heal wounds. Time reminds us how the mercies of the Lord "are new every morning." (Lam. 3:23)

But there is still more. The Bible portrays for us how God encompasses even time. God is "the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and end." At the origin of all things, God was there, active and alert. (See Genesis 1:1) At the end of time, God will still be there. God's creation will be renewed and transformed, and death and sorrow will be gone for good. The ending to the Bible's story of time is strikingly not about how we will finally go up to God, but how God will come down to us, to dwell (or "tabernacle," as the Greek put it) among us. And every second that passes brings us nearer to that glorious day.

My friends, a new day dawns, a new week comes, and a new year is given to us. What we do with it has yet to be seen. May we, in this new day, new week, new year, be a blessing to others as God has been a blessing to us. Happy New year, Dear friends.

Shalom, Pastor Terri

## 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/>

## Human Relations Day – Jan. 14

The United Methodist denomination has six Special Sunday offerings each year to highlight our shared commitment to ministry. The first Special Sunday offering of the year is for Human Relations Day. Your gift helps to overcome injustice and empowers those struggling to survive through the following ministries:

- U.M. Community Development Program
- U.M. Voluntary Services Program
- Young Offender Rehabilitation Program

**newsletter deadline:  
Thursday, Jan. 25**

**Poinsettias given to the Glory of God in Memory of:**

Alan Lee Jensen - -  
- - -from his wife Chris and sons Pete and Tom

Loved Ones - -  
- - -from Tina Harkins and Gary & Beverly Quick

Parents Earl & Lillian Johnson and Ron & Eunice Watson and also Aunt Genevieve Watson - -  
- - - from Dave and Berta Johnson

Billie & Tony Marmalick, Mona & Doug Wescott, Beth Robinson, Jim Marmalick, and Edyth Heslip  
- - - from Dave & Jeanne Wescott

**Memorial Fund**

The battery-operated candles that were used by the congregation for the Christmas Eve candlelight service were purchased with money donated to the Memorial Fund in memory of loved ones. We had a beautiful and safe worship service . . . and there was no wax to clean off the floor and pews!  
Anytime you would like to make a gift to Memorial in memory of someone, there are cards on the table by the front door.

**Church Finances**

If you would like to make a pledge for 2024, pledge cards are on the table by the front door.  
When you give your offering, you are invited to use a pew envelope or, if you wish to have your own boxed set, please sign one out from the black table by the bulletin board.  
**2023 Giving statements** will be available in the narthex starting Jan. 2. Please pick yours up.

**Birthdays**

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1/4 Marilee Demarse    | 1/18 Archer Hueneman    |
| Clayton Numillien      | 1/19 Preston Adydan     |
| 1/8 Susan Lagina       | Leslie Coleman          |
| Dave Landenberger      | Joyce Rabitoy           |
| Marvin Sodermark       | 1/20 Al Waeghe          |
| 1/9 Kamryn LaVigne     | 1/21 JoAnn Gudwer       |
| 1/10 Uriah Kuhlman     | 1/22 Pat Sodermark      |
| 1/11 Dominic Joslin    | 1/23 Kevin Warm         |
| 1/13 Lexi Johnson      | 1/25 Becky Landenberger |
| 1/14 Bonnie Buchmiller | Devyn Waeghe            |
| Sandy St. Aubin        | 1/27 Dennis Ness        |
| 1/15 Connie Breitzman  |                         |
| Samuel Taylor          |                         |

**Original Art for Sale**

Lorna Benson has created and donated the artwork that is on display just before the coatroom. Proceeds will be split between bell choir music and children’s ministries such as Vacation Bible School.

**Simplified Accountable Structure**

After several years of thinking about going to a more stream-lined committee structure, we are finally “taking the plunge.” Instead of having multiple committees meeting monthly and making motions and decisions which are then ultimately brought to Church Council for vote, we are just bringing everything directly to Church Council. You may occasionally see other groups or task forces meeting to plan, but Church Council is the only committee that has to meet.

Everyone is welcome to attend and have voice at Church Council meetings. The voting members are:

- Laurie Kaufman de la Garza (chair)
- Susan Lagina (lay representative to Annual Conf.)
- Ted Brainard (Staff-Parish)
- Bill Buchmiller (Trustees)
- Jeanne Wescott (Finance)
- Peggy French (Missions)
- Kathy Young (Worship)
- Dennis Harrison
- Andie Balenger
- Sally Brainard
- Nannette Martin
- Gail Johnivan
- Sarah Myers
- Lorna Benson
- Brenda Balenger
- Leah Belanger
- Denise Messina
- Cassie Tines

**Pasty Report**

Profit=\$3,173.71.  
10% for missions = \$317.37  
Gladstone Cabin = \$500.00  
General Fund=\$2,356.34.

**FACEBOOK - SHARE THE NEWS**

If you are a social media user, hopefully you have noticed that MUMC is now posting more about who we are and what we are doing. BUT to make this work to the best of our ability we need you to LIKE, COMMENT and SHARE!! The more you do the more who see our page and the more people learn about who we are!

## Prayer List

Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine

Mindy A.	Lorna Benson
Tom Butch	Beth and Sarah Benson
Nancy Campbell	Family of Karen Caswell
Bud and Pat Clark	Eileen Collins
Bette DeRoeck	Family of John Gudwer
Nancy Harger	Caroline Hart
Walt Houghton	Jim Hubbard
Hueneman family	My friend JT
Jackie	Emma Jensen
Liz Kempfer	Cheryl LaCarte
Kate Luss	Timothy Lehtikangas
Marcy Makosky	Toni Marchese
Rebecca Marchak	Helen Palo
Josiah Pryor	Rodney Potvin and family
Jordan R.	Marv and Pat Sodermark

## MISSION COMMITTEE

### Welcome 2024

What a wonderful year the Mission Committee has had!! Continuing the existing projects, we added a new event, Alternative Giving Bazaar. With donations during the Bazaar, our regular Third Sunday Noisy Offering and a 4X match, the \$400.00 MUMC sent to Heifer International was boosted to \$2000.00!! The Alternative Giving Bazaar met our first-year expectations, and we are looking forward to increased participation by local non-profits in 2024.

Look for our 2024 Calendar to be posted on the mission bulletin board in the Narthex. The calendar highlights the monthly giving Sundays. Also, note the thank you letters we have received this year from all our giving partners! In 2024, MUMC will be hosting the Ecumenical Community Christmas Dinner with the participation of other local congregations. Mission Committee is looking forward to a wonderful and active new year!!

Current Partners: Heifer International, UMCOR (Human Relations, Native American, Blankets and Tools, UMC District, Peace with Justice, World Communion and Education), Bay Community College Meals, Backpack Buddies, Northern Skies District, God's Country Cooperative, Area Food Pantries, Community Clothes Closet, Camp Michigamme, Walk for Warmth, Christ Tree and Pastors Discretionary Fund.

*Thank you so much to Susan Lagina and her funeral committee for putting on a lovely funeral dinner. We also thank all those who donated side dishes & desserts and those who attended the visitation/funeral and/or sent cards. The love we felt from so many of you eased our loss.*

*With gratitude,  
The John Gudwer family*

## Knitters' Ministry



Here are pictures of our shut-in baskets and our blanket ministry. We served 8 shut-ins and delivered 35 laprobes, shawls, lapghans, and afghans to Lake House (formerly Northwood) residents. We also gave 70 hats to the first graders at Cameron Elementary School. Thank you to everyone who assisted us in this MUMC mission ministry.



# January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 10-6 Gym in use  4:00 Girl Scouts <b>5:30 Bible study</b>	<b>2</b> 8:30-7:30 Gym	<b>3</b> 9:00 Knit 10-4 Gym in use  <b>6:15 Band</b> <b>7:00 Choir</b>	<b>4</b> 8:30-7:30 Gym	<b>5</b> 8-6 Gym in use	<b>6</b> 1-3 Music Co-op
<b>7</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b> <b>11:30 Bells</b>  1:30 Girl Scouts	<b>8</b> 10-6 Gym in use  4:00 Girl Scouts <b>5:30 Bible study</b> <b>6:30 Worship Committee</b>	<b>9</b> 8:30-7:30 Gym	<b>10</b> 9:00 Knit 10-4 Gym in use  <b>6:15 Band</b> <b>7:00 Choir</b>	<b>11</b> 8:30-7:30 Gym	<b>12</b> 8-6 Gym in use	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <i>Human Relations Day</i> <b>10:30 Worship</b> <b>11:30 Bells</b>  1:30 Girl Scouts	<b>15</b> 10-6 Gym in use  4:00 Girl Scouts <b>5:30 Bible study</b>	<b>16</b> 8:30-7:30 Gym  <b>2:00 Missions</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00 Knit 10-4 Gym in use  <b>6:15 Band</b> <b>7:00 Choir</b>	<b>18</b> 8:30-7:30 Gym  <b>6:30 Church Council</b>	<b>19</b> 8-6 Gym in use	<b>20</b> 1-3 Music Co-op
<b>21</b> <i>Noisy Offering</i> <b>10:30 Worship</b> <b>11:30 Bells</b>  1:30 Girl Scouts	<b>22</b> 10-6 Gym in use  4:00 Girl Scouts <b>5:30 Bible study</b>	<b>23</b> 8:30-7:30 Gym	<b>24</b> 9:00 Knit 10-4 Gym in use  <b>6:15 Band</b> <b>7:00 Choir</b>	<b>25</b> 8:30-7:30 Gym  <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	<b>26</b> 8-6 Gym in use	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b> <b>11:30 Bells</b>  1:30 Girl Scouts	<b>29</b> 10-6 Gym in use  4:00 Girl Scouts <b>5:30 Bible study</b>	<b>30</b> 8:30-7:30 Gym	<b>31</b> 9:00 Knit 10-4 Gym in use  <b>6:15 Band</b> <b>7:00 Choir</b>			

