



The Messenger

December 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.



Pastor Terri Branstrom

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

For many of us, Advent is too short because we can't fit in all the Christmas carols that we love to hear and sing. One of the all-time favorites is "Joy to the World." What is rather surprising is that it omits the usual references to shepherds, angelic choruses, and wise men.

"Joy to the World" was written by Isaac Watts. It is one of the hymns from his collection of hymns in his 1719 hymnal called *Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament*. It was his intention to give the Psalms a New Testament meaning and style. "Joy to the World" is a paraphrase of the last half of Psalm 98:

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise ... Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth; with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Psalm 98 is a Jewish song of rejoicing at the marvelous ways which God has protected and restored His chosen people. The psalm anticipates the time when Jehovah will be the God of the whole earth.

The music for this beloved carol is thought to have been adapted by Lowell Mason, an American church musician and educator, probably from some of the phrases from Handel's oratorio, the *Messiah*.

This beloved carol was brought together by the combined efforts of an English literary genius of the eighteenth century, a German-born musical giant from the same period, and a nineteenth century American choir director and educator.

Some may say it is a coincidence that these men were able to bring to us this beloved carol. I don't believe it was a coincidence. I believe it was a God thing—a blessing from God to us.

May God bless each of you this Advent season. May the Joy of the World be in your hearts. Amen.

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. 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/>

Christmas Eve Service

With Dec. 24 being on a Sunday this year, we will incorporate our "Family Oriented" Christmas Eve service into our regular **10:30 morning service**. We will have one Christmas Eve service at **9 p.m.** It will be our traditional candlelight service.

Children and Youth who are interested in participating in the Dec. 24 Sunday morning worship service, please speak with Lisa or Christina Myers. We welcome special music, scripture readers, children who are willing to dress up in costume, ushers, greeters, etc.

All Saints Sunday

On Nov. 5, we remembered the following loved ones who passed away in the last 12 months:

Dorothy McIntyre, Cole Possi, Bernard Erickson, William Springer, Gordon Peterson, Cheryl McIntyre Lee Higgins, June Martinchek, Wayne Harrison, Tommy McCarley,

Dedicate a Sunday

The worship service on Nov. 19 was dedicated by Janet Paine in memory of her sister **Katherine Paine**. Katherine was born on Nov. 21, 1923.

If you would like to dedicate a Sunday in honor or memory of someone, please fill out a card that is on the small black table by the bulletin board and include \$300. Pictures can be emailed or given to Lisa in advance if you wish to have them on the screen. This is a wonderful way not only to remember those who have passed but also to celebrate a special occasion such as a birthday, wedding anniversary, etc.

Poinsettia Order forms If you wish to honor or memorialize a loved one with your WHITE poinsettia, complete the pink form on the table by the front door, and turn it in to the church office by Dec. 20. Then order your white poinsettia from whichever florist you choose and have it to church by Sat., Dec. 23.

Why White? We alternate colors just for variety. On even years, we use multi-colored lights and ornaments. On odd years (like this year), we decorate our sanctuary in white & gold. The white Styrofoam ornaments trimmed in gold are Chrismons; each one is a symbol for Christ or Christmas. They were handmade years ago by one of our ladies' circles.

The Advent / Christmas Special Offering will be split between the general fund (75%) and Walk for Warmth (25%). Please designate on your check/envelope "Christmas".

Offering Envelope Boxes

Due to the rising costs of boxed sets of offering envelopes, we have decided not to purchase boxed sets anymore. You can use the envelopes in the pew racks and write your name on the envelope, or if you wish to have a boxed set, there are some left over from previous years on the black table by the bulletin board.

Someone missing?

If you notice someone missing from worship or other church activities, please give that person a call. S/he may really need to hear from you.

Baskets for Homebound People

The Knitters Group will be making 9 baskets to take to people who are homebound or are in nursing homes. If you would like to donate 9 items for these baskets, please give these items to Peggy Richter or place them in the Grapevine Room **by Dec. 10**.

Chanukah dinner and game night

Friday, Dec. 15, 5:30-8:00.

R.S.V.P. on the bulletin board so that Leah knows how much to make.

Winter Coats needed in our clothes closet. Put donations in room 9.



Christ Tree



Donations to the Christ Tree help make Christmas a little brighter for a family or families in our midst. Donations may be made until December 17. If you are in need of help or know of someone or a family in need, please contact the church office or Pastor Terri. This is available for anyone from birth to senior citizen whether a church member or not. Directions on how to donate to the Christ Tree are on the table in front of the display cabinet.

Thank you, Christina Myers, for all your time and dedication to the Sunday School program. You have done an awesome job with preparing lessons and cleaning up the supplies in the Sunday School office and classroom. You are a blessing.

~ Jeanne Wescott

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!

Resubmit Names for Prayer List

Every year or so, we wipe the on-going prayer list clean and start over. If there is someone that you want on the on-going prayer list in 2024, please submit that name and note that it is for the on-going list.

Prayer List

All the innocent people in Israel and Palestine
Peace in the Middle East

Ukraine	Mindy A.
Betsy Anderson	Bud Baltic
Lisa Richer Barta	Lorna Benson
Sarah Benson	David Bohlen
Tom Butch	Nancy Campbell
Karen Caswell	Mary Clark
Bud and Pat Clark	Shirley Clark
Chris and Kim Diamond	Eileen Collins
Scott Eckert	Brian Galvin
Michele Geyer	Ian Goldi
John Gudwer	Nancy Harger
Caroline Hart	Walt Houghton
Jim Hubbard	Family of Al Jensen
Liz Kempfer	Cheryl LaCarte
Susan Lindgren	Marcy Makosky
Toni Marchese	Rebecca Marchak
Rhonda Mulligan	Zach Nardi
Vickie Ottensman	Helen Palo
Emily Shada Polega	Josiah Pryor
Rodney Potvin and family	Jordan Rabbitoy
Marv and Pat Sodermark	Joyce Schrock
Krista Warm	

Readers to Leaders Appeal

A life changing campaign to support children in our community, across Michigan, and in Liberia. Half of the funds will benefit the Liberia Scholarship Program of the Michigan Conference's Liberia Ministry Partners. The other half will benefit the Michigan Conference's Children Defense Fund Freedom Schools Program.



Camp Michigamme 25% Discount

Give your camper the gift of camp this Christmas. When you register for a camp before January 1st, you will receive a 25% discount. Information is on the small bulletin board in the narthex. Camps for children through adult.

Birthdays

12/2 Regina Stock	
12/3 Tom Butch	12/20 Caiden Mattonen
12/4 Abigail Skjolaas	Judy Tochterman
12/5 Kole Desotelle	12/21 Isabel Campbell
12/6 Bill Buchmiller	Christina Casey
Howie Landenberger	Isaac Lagina
12/8 Mary Moore	Sarah Myers
ReAnne Polfus	12/22 John Leonoff
12/10 Gail Johnivan	Steve Maulding
12/11 Addy St. Aubin	12/25 Mary Hagen
12/13 Kiera Donovan	12/26 Lindsey Taylor
Ally St. Aubin	12/27 Brantlee Marklin
Amy St. Aubin	12/28 Melissa Johnson
12/17 Justin Johnson	12/29 Susan Bratonia
Nannette Martin	12/30 Marta LaPlant

Community Christmas Concerts

Bay de Noc Choral Society

Sunday, December 3, at 1:30
at Bethany Lutheran Church in Escanaba.
Pastor Terri, Kathy Young, and David Block will be singing in the choir.
A freewill offering will be taken.

Festival of Choirs is Friday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.
at St. Joe's/St. Pat's. Freewill offering.

Marquette Choral Society

in Kaufman Auditorium in Marquette.

- 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 16
- 3 p.m., Sunday, December 17

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students
and may be purchased at nmu.edu/tickets.

Life Line Screening will be doing preventive health screenings here at Memorial Church on Wednesday, December 13. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include **Carotid Artery** (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), **Peripheral Arterial Disease** (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a **Heart Rhythm Screening** (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an **Osteoporosis Risk Assessment** for men and women.

In order to register for this event and to receive a discount, visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC or call **1-800-640-6307**.

There are 2 coupons hanging on the bulletin board for \$85 off your screening.

December 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 8-6 Gym in use	2 1-3 Music Co-op
3 10:30 Worship 12-4 Gym in use 1:30 Bay de Noc Choral Society at Bethany Luth. 1:30 Girl Scouts	4 10-6 Gym in use 4:00 Girl Scouts 5:30 Advent Conspiracy	5 8:30-7:30 Gym	6 9:00 Knit 10-4 Gym in use 6:15 Band 7:00 Choir	7 8:30-7:30 Gym	8 8-6 Gym in use	9
10 10:30 Worship. 11:30 Bells 12-2 Gym in use 1:30 Girl Scouts	11 10-6 Gym in use 4:00 Girl Scouts 5:30 Advent Conspiracy	12 8:30-7:30 Gym	13 9:00 Knit Lifeline Screening 8:30—5:30 6:15 Band 7:00 Choir	14 8:30-7:30 Gym	15 8-6 Gym in use 5:30—8:00 Chanukah dinner and game night 7:00 Festival of Choirs at St. Joe's	16 1-3 Music Co-op
17 Noisy Offering 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells 12-2 Gym in use 1:30 Girl Scouts	18 10-6 Gym in use 4:00 Girl Scouts 5:30 Advent Conspiracy	19 8:30-7:30 Gym	20 9:00 Knit 10-4 Gym in use 6:15 Band 7:00 Choir	21 8:30-7:30 Gym	22 8-6 Gym in use	23
24 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells 9:00 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25	26 8:30-7:30 Gym in use during some of this time	27 9:00 Knit 10-4 Gym in use 6:15 Band 7:00 Choir	28 8:30-7:30 Gym in use during some of this time Newsletter deadline	29 8-4 Gym in use	30

