



The Messenger

April 2020

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

(734) 646-6922

pastor@gladstonechurch.org

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

Please join us for worship at 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings

Easter Resurrection will come, no matter what else may happen over these next days. It may not come comfortably. It may not come with our favorite traditions or celebrations. It may not come quite the way we want. Yet still, Easter Resurrection will come, as it always comes, through the grace of God.

As we move through Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday to Good Friday, and on to Easter, we are doing it together, and yet without much of what we have traditionally experienced. We won't gather in the sanctuary to watch children wave palm branches or to celebrate holy communion. We won't gather with the community to observe Good Friday. We won't join in the music with organ, bells, and voices on Easter morning. We've postponed a baptism and confirmations. There is so much "we won't" this year.

Here's what I hope we will do: dwell deeply in the Bible stories of Holy Week and Easter, taking time to hear God speak to us afresh in this present moment; immerse ourselves in each step along the way, from Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, through his last meal with the disciples, to the garden in prayer, enduring betrayal and arrest, mocking and torture; be present to Jesus' cruel execution, his dying, death and burial, watching and waiting through those long, grief-stricken days; discover on Easter morning the empty tomb, the conflicting, confused reports, until finally, finally, we encounter the Risen Christ with resurrection wonder. Will we do that?

I hope too that we will consider prayerfully those for whom so much of what we take to be necessary for the celebration of Easter is unimaginable extravagance and luxury in much of today's world, perhaps even more so this year. Might we, this year, ponder who else down through our history has been kept from entering the buildings or enjoying the celebrations, or who still wouldn't be welcome today? Might we, this year, consider more closely the time, the place, and the people among whom Jesus came to live and die, to rise again with a love that even death cannot defeat? Might we ask in humility what it means, this year, to follow where he leads us? Will we do that?

Easter Resurrection will come, as it always comes, through the grace of God. So, what will we do?

Holy Week Bible Reading: Matthew 21-28; Mark 11-16; Luke 19-24; John 12-21

On-line worship videos will be available on Memorial United Methodist Church of Gladstone MI facebook page and youtube channel, and on our website www.gladstonechurch.org, at 8:30 a.m. on Palm Sunday and Easter, April 5 and 12, and at 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, April 9 and 10.

Worship with Memorial UMC Online

If you would like to read scripture, provide music, share a prayer, or in some other way contribute to the online worship experience and can record yourself doing it, please contact Pastor Cathy 428-9311.

For Such A time As This ...

If you, or someone in your household, has technical know-how to help us continue to be the church on-line, we could really use your help. We're asking for someone who could step up and run a weekly Zoom Bible study, prayer group, or other get together. Someone who could help with video recording or editing for Sunday worship. Someone who knows so much more about this than we do, that you could do something we can't even imagine. Pastor Cathy is glad to provide content or participate in whatever ways are helpful, but we need more hands-on support to expand our on-line ministries. While your creative ideas and suggestions are welcome, what we really need now are volunteers to help make it happen. Are you the one being called, for such a time as this?

New Arrival

7:49 p.m. Saturday, March 14th Emily Johnson gave birth to Sophia Lynn, 9lbs., 4oz., 20 in.! Congratulations to all.

Thanks to everyone for all your prayer. Walt's stem cell transplant worked. He is now cancer-free and in remission. They will keep checking to monitor his blood every six months.

It is indeed a miracle at his age. At first they said he was too old. Dr. Dhale said he would try it because Walt looked in pretty good shape for his age. It worked. Thanks to all!

~ Walt and Lettie Houghton



We started out Lent with Hagar's name for God – “The God who sees me” and challenged each of us to see.

“Who did I see who may need to hear from me that God sees them and has a place for them? What did I do to share God's love?”

Some people's responses:

I encouraged one sick friend and one sick cousin this week that God does see them and really is helping them. I prayed for them and encouraged them to also continue to pray.

I loaned my Ipad to a friend so he could register for Annual Conference. I talked to an 85-year-old man and listened to 4 of his jokes in Brown City. I spent time with an injured friend.

I created a “Jesus Loves the Little Children” care package with diapers, wipes, ODB devos (one for adults and one for kids); attached lyrics to “Jesus Loves the Little Children” to the outside of the package, and left it at the baby changing station anonymously.

Church Audit

We thank Connie Ness and Dennis Stanek for their many hours of meticulous work on the annual church audit. Our financial records are in good order, and the audit is submitted.

We also thank Lorraine, Lisa, the Counters, and Virginia and the Finance Committee for so faithfully carrying out their duties that we have a clean audit.

A reminder that came out of the audit was that all committees need to submit minutes of their meetings to Lisa so that she can file them. These are part of the permanent record of this church. Thank you!

Hope at the Inn

“Thank you” to everyone who helped with Hope at the Inn this season. Memorial did a great job staffing the shifts, providing meals, setting up / taking down, and doing the laundry during the two weeks we hosted. Some of the volunteers from Memorial also help out with Hope at the Inn at other churches.

Hope at the Inn is remaining open through the end of its season (April 12). Many of the public places that the homeless people go to stay warm during the day are now closed due to the Coronavirus, so they stay warm at the Salvation Army on weekdays and at a local motel on weekends, thanks to funding from Community Action. Having the motel available to us on the weekends has really helped with having enough volunteers to staff the shelter – especially since some of our volunteers with pre-existing conditions are unable to help at this time.

We have two weeks left: Mar. 29 – Apr. 4 at Harbor Lights and Apr. 5 – 12 at the Covenant Church. If you are healthy and able to volunteer, please contact Lisa Myers 420-1311 or go to www.hopeattheinn.org.

Note from a couple who stayed at Memorial during Hope at the Inn

Thank you to everybody that helped out this week. We are grateful for it.



4/1 Angela Brunette Mikki Petersen	4/13 Breanne Johnson Jeff Moore
4/3 Kathleen Gilbert Jason Jorgensen Christine Morrow Thomas Viau	4/14 Alexandra Jorgensen 4/15 Carolyn Taylor 4/17 David Florenski Gabriel Gaudino
4/5 Laura Doneau Melvin Marlett Emma Wyman	4/18 Ryan Juhola Kyra Keeker
4/7 Dorell Kirschner Bill Springer	4/19 Matthew Hampton 4/20 Kallie Donovan
4/8 Daytona Johnivan Jack Thomas III	Lillian Wery 4/25 Jack Thomas IV
4/9 Pam Blixt	4/27 Tim King
4/10 Peter Jensen Emily Klotz	4/28 Jamie Hoehn Rachel Johnson
4/11 Russell Casey	Janice Watson
4/12 Owen Mattonen Benjamin Worth	4/29 Bill VanDeVusse 4/30 Joseph Ostlund

Mission Focus

Throughout the year, various kind-hearted individuals donate money to “undesignated missions.” The Missions Committee uses this money for local, state, and worldwide missions. The glass display case currently focuses on some local missions that we financially support throughout the year. On the top shelf you will notice financial and needed supply donations to our local spousal abuse center. We have occasionally given monetary help to a local radio ministry. As all are already aware through our monthly collections, we support the local "backpack" program in our schools. The bottom row features the Pastor's discretionary fund. This allows the pastor to help individuals or families who may be facing an emergency crisis and need some financial support immediately. Just wanted to keep the congregation updated on how we spend some of our funds. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Chris Jensen,
Mission Chair

Saturday Lunch

Hungry folks still got fed, despite the challenging times, through our ministry with Salvation Army's Saturday Lunch program. Alice Butch organized and served 23 sack lunches, including a hot pasty with each, on March 22. Memorial UMC provides food and volunteers to serve the on-going Salvation Army Saturday lunches four times each year. Our Mission Committee coordinates this effort. Thank you Alice and all who give generously to support the mission outreach of our church.

Tile Floors Stripped & Waxed

During this time when no one is in the building, we have had the floors in the gym, narthex, back hall, and back bathrooms stripped & waxed. This is all made possible by your generous donations to the building maintenance fund. Thank you!

Starting Over with the Prayer List

Every year or two, I like to wipe the prayer list clean and start over because sometimes names are submitted but never taken off after the need has passed. I ask you to look over the prayer list and **re-submit names that should be on there.** Prayer requests are generally left on for 2 – 3 weeks unless you tell me to leave them on longer. Thank you!

Prayer List

Necessary equipment and protective gear for medical personnel.

Camp Michigamme and its Board

Family of Sherry McFarlane

Family of Jim Johnson

Family of Henrietta Miller

Family of Gerald Sherwood

Mike Oxford Dennis & Doreen Summach

Mark Bishop Dorell Kirschner

Peter Jensen Alanah

Jerry Hampton Mike and Lynn Williams

Rose Garvin Terri Branstrom

Allie Julie Backlund

Bud Baltic Barb

Baby Bennett Lorna Benson

Rebecca Benson Shelby Jean Boris

Chloe Borish Kade Botsford

Jim & Lois Boydston Tom Butch

Nancy Campbell Ginger Clairmont

Bud & Pat Clark Dan

Debbie Dehlin Chris & Kim Diamond

Sylvia Dye Bernie Erickson

Alana Etko Bernie Fackety

Robin Grabowski John Gudwer

Sue Halloran Terry Hampton

Caroline Hart Mary Ann Heubler

Callan Hughes Alice Jensen

Chris Jensen Tom Jensen

Dick Johnson Karen Johnson

Katy and Brian Krissy

Krista Molly Kurtis

Susan Lindgren Jon Lohrbach

Marcy Makosky John Marchak

Rebecca Marchak Larry Martin

Cheryl McIntyre Heather Lynn Plimpton

Bev Regts Josiah, Sarah, David Pryor

Tammy Reser Dorothy Wagner

Marvin Sodermark Scott Vallier

Wayne Waeghe Kenny Wilson

Ethan Winling Keri and Bob Polasek

Mason Robitaille and mom Bailey

Marianne Watson Milkowski

Long-range Planning

Movie Nights: April 25 and May 16

Rummage Sale: Apr. 30 – May 2

Spring Tea: May 2

MARSP dinner: May 5

Michigamme Day: June 13

Vacation Bible School: Aug. 3 - 7

Fall Extravaganza: Oct. 10

Pasty Sale: Nov. 6-7

General Conference postponed to 2021

From God's Country Cooperative Parish, written when there was still a lot of snow on the ground but no coronavirus

Dear Gladstone United Methodist Church,

Thank you, thank you for your generous gift to God's Country Cooperative Parish through ENGAGE (Project Giving). We sure appreciate your support, and so do all the people we help in this 7-church area.

Once our snow is melted (245" so far) and it warms up, we can get back to full-throttle on the Dunlap Ministry Center and home repair projects. Believe me, we are certainly looking forward to that.

If you are in the Newberry area this summer, please feel free to visit the Dunlap Ministry Center (M123 by the water tower).

God has blessed us with people like you, and we are so thankful.

Sincerely,

Everyone at GCCP

The Delta County Animal Shelter is functioning as minimally staffed as possible during this time. There is a great need for **Foster Humans** right now. If you would be willing to foster a cat or dog ... or two ... or three, please call the shelter. 789-0230