



# The Messenger

May 2020

*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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[mumc@gladstonechurch.org](mailto:mumc@gladstonechurch.org)

Mon. – Thur., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Pastor Cathy Rafferty

(734) 646-6922

[pastor@gladstonechurch.org](mailto: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**

*Worship videos are available on Memorial United Methodist Church of Gladstone MI Facebook page and YouTube channel, and on our website [www.gladstonechurch.org](http://www.gladstonechurch.org), at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. Videos remain available to view any time after that. Occasional short “Check-Ins with the Pastor” videos are also posted.*

As the days of “Stay Home, Stay Safe” are extending into May, time seems strange in its passing. Perhaps you’ve seen the joke: 2020 is a unique leap year. It had 29 days in February, 300 days in March, and 10 years in April. Now, here we are in May.

It’s not just time that seems warped. As the days go by, I’m also feeling distance amplified. The sterile sound of “social distancing” has become profoundly personal and sometimes painful. Friends comment on Facebook, sharing recipes and rants, memories and moments. I’m grateful for the connections. I’d rather be taking a long walk with them, sharing a meal, talking face-to-face. My son calls and, while I welcome the sound of his voice, what I really want to do is wrap my arms around him. Former co-workers and residents, dear friends I’ve left behind from my chaplaincy days are literally sick and dying, and a part of me longs to be there. Yet I am here. What seemed, in February, an easy day’s drive downstate has become an insurmountable expanse. I’ve heard from you, as well, how the distances are difficult, and deepening day by day. Even with perhaps only a few blocks or miles between us, we can’t hold hands and pray.

It is in these moments, these spaces, that I need something so much larger than myself to mark the time and span the distance. The Easter season stories of resurrection are helping me with that, as are the increasingly-present, predictable signs of winter giving way to spring. “Christ is risen” and “spring is coming” are those larger litanies upon which I have come to rely, tangible reminders that ground me in deeper truths. The Risen Christ who tells his disciples, “I am with you always,” reminds me that neither I, nor those I love, are ever alone. The last gravelly pile of snow giving way to blades of green whisper, it won’t always be this way. The cowering disciples to whom Jesus speaks “Peace” and on whom he breathes the Holy Spirit, reassure me that there is a peace and a power that passes all understanding, embraces all time, and bridges all distance. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Cathy

## **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.

## **Stay Home, Stay Safe**

In keeping with the Governor's orders and the Conference recommendations, the church building will remain closed until at least May 15. It has also become clear that opening the doors to activities will be a phased-in process. The Health Response Task Force is hard at work on a plan that will maximize our ability to be in ministry while minimizing the risk to vulnerable people. The Health Task Force was formed in March and includes Linda Lanasa, Virginia Petersen, Ted Brainard, Jan Johnson, Joy Jorgensen, Laurie Kaufman de la Garza, Susan Lagina, and Pastor Cathy to broadly represent our committee leadership.

Dear MUMC family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, get-well cards, phone calls, and all the many kindnesses we've received over these last few weeks. Your love and thoughtfulness to us, especially these last few weeks, have lifted our spirits and made it feel like you're not very far away at all. We miss you and look forward to seeing you face-to-face and sharing the love God has so generously poured out on us all through Jesus. God bless you all.

Grace and peace to you,  
Dave and Mary Hagen

## **Hope at the Inn**

Thank you for helping us complete the 2019-2020 season! With your help, we sheltered 48 people this season, for a total of 931 bednights this season. That makes 5,932 bednights since we first started this program in 2013.

## **Upper Room Devotionals Available**

The May/June Upper Room Devotionals are available at the church. Call ahead, and we can put one in the mailbox for you – either large print or regular size.

“As I see it, the coronavirus offers a single invitation to every human being: Will you allow this hardship to change you—and us—for the better? How we each respond bears the stamp of our circumstances, personalities, and roles, but the invitation is universal.”

Author Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew in her article “How to Write During a Pandemic”, April 27, 2020 posted at Bearings Online, Collegeville Institute.

## **How Can I Help During This Time?**

Several church members have found ways to help. **Lettie Houghton, Liz Kempher, Leroux Strom** and **Nancy Campbell** have been making masks to give away. **Denise Messina** is helping pack hundreds of lunches at Cameron School. If you are interested in helping with this, Laurie Kaufman de la Garza has information 428-4623.

Here's another great suggestion from someone in the congregation: If you are sitting bored at home, come to the church and do a little yard clean-up. Pile sticks by the fire pit. If you need big bags for the leaves, let Lisa know ahead of time, and she will set some out for you. Please bring your own rakes.

Do you like to talk on the phone? Give some people a call and see how they are doing. Several members are sending cards, making calls, and checking on neighbors, but more is better.

If you know of people doing helpful things or if you know of something that needs doing, let us know, and we will try to spread the word.

## **Christmas Card**

We received a Christmas card in April! It said:  
**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!**

Thank you for the Christmas dinner. Please also thank the couple who delivered our Christmas meals. We really appreciated it. **Everything was delicious!**

Thank you again,

Dave, Estelle, Brayden, Katara, and JR

## **Long-range Planning**

Vacation Bible School: Aug. 3 - 7

Fall Extravaganza: Oct. 10

Pasty Sale: Nov. 6-7

General Conference postponed to 2021

## From the Finance Chair

A huge “thank you” goes out to everyone who continues to support the mission of Memorial Church during these trying times. The work of the church is continuing; all expenses are up to date including winter utilities, snow plowing, and Ministry Shares (apportionments). We have also continued to pay our entire staff so that we can retain them all.

In early April, the Finance Committee recommended to the Church Council, to allow the Church to apply for the Payroll Protection Loan. In a special email vote the recommendation was approved by Council. The application was completed and turned in to our local BayBank; the loan was then approved and received in the amount of \$24,400.

For those that are not familiar with the Payroll Protection Loan, it is a loan directed by the federal government through the Small Business Administration because of Coronavirus to be spent in an eight-week period starting from the Church’s approved loan date, which was April 16. The loan can be used for the Church’s payroll, utilities, and rent. All employees must continue to work their usual number of hours. At the end of the eight weeks the church will turn in the receipts and documentation to BayBank to be reviewed and, if all procedures were followed, the loan will be forgiven. The only fee will be a one percent application fee paid to BayBank.

What a blessing to receive these additional monies. The Finance Committee feels with this sum of money, your continued generous giving, and the grace of God, Memorial will be well-positioned to meet the ministry and missional needs of our congregation, country, and hurting world.

## Offerings Received in April

Thank you for faithfully supporting Memorial Church during this difficult, but ministry-filled time. Due to so many dedicated individuals, giving has remained strong. Below is what was received in April. We are on-track for our operational budget. Our Mission giving is less than usual because we have not been together for Backpack Buddies, Noisy Offerings, and other special Sundays.

General Fund	\$14,085
Building Maintenance	424
Quilters (for supplies)	100
Missions:	
Hope at the Inn	72
UMCOR Sunday	300
Noisy Offering (Heifer Project)	20
Undesignated Missions	140

## Tax Benefits of Giving in the CARES Act

Anyone who does not itemize (takes the standard deduction) will be able to deduct up to \$300 single/\$600 married couple in charitable giving from their income on their 2020 income tax return.

For people who itemize, the limit on the % of your income that you can deduct as charitable contributions has been lifted for 2020. For more information, please speak with your tax consultant.

## Stimulus Check

By now many of us have received the stimulus check which, for many, comes as a lifeline. For others among us, it is a bonus. Pastor Cathy is committing 10% of her stimulus check to undesignated missions and challenges those of you whose income and financial security have not been threatened to prayerfully consider the same. Our Missions Committee is discussing the best ways we can reach the emerging needs through your mission giving.

## Extra Help from the Conference

The Michigan United Methodist Conference wanted to find a way to help local U.M. churches across Michigan through this difficult time. The Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits have reduced costs to local churches for a 6-month period, which will save Memorial UMC a total of \$3,500. We thank Dennis Stanek for his leadership and service on this conference board.



5/2 Carson Casey	5/16 Denise Gauthier
Jason Johnivan	Justin Johnivan
5/3 Cassandra Tines	Ashlee LaPlant
5/4 Gary Johnson	Michael LaVigne
Jeffrey Robinson	Linda Viau
5/6 Kathi Hoehn	5/20 Bernard Erickson
5/7 Katelyn Demarse	Heather Hoehn
Tina Doucette	Lloyd Lessard
Carolyn Morrow	5/21 Lois Boydston
5/9 Camryn Buckley	5/23 Elijah Balenger
Matthew Casey	Michael Keeker
5/11 Scarlett Kuhlman	Cassandra LaMarche
5/13 James Moore	5/26 William Gilbert
Gail Schell	5/27 Pat Clark
5/15 Susan Hampton	5/28 Ted Brainard
	5/31 Easton LaVigne

## Prayer List

Equipment & protective gear for medical personnel.  
Jon & Betsy Anderson's cousin Kay and daughter  
Kim  
Bud Baltic  
Mark and Julie Bishop  
Jace Botsford  
Kade Botsford  
Christine Branstrom and her family and co workers  
Nancy Campbell  
Ginger Clairmont  
Bud & Pat Clark  
Rachel, Amara, and Seth Darrison  
Chris and Kim Diamond  
Sylvia Dye  
Margaret Erdoty and caregivers  
Family of John Erdoty, Sr.  
Bernie Erickson  
Susan Johnson Fisher  
Dave and Mary Hagen  
Jerry Hampton  
Caroline Hart  
Family of Lois Hart  
Jenny (Joy J's daughter)  
Alice Jensen  
Jon Lohrbach  
Marcy Makosky  
Keri and Bob Polasek  
Josiah, Sarah, David Pryor  
Dr. Tom Quarnstrom and his wife Glenda  
Bev Regts  
Sandy Snieder (Joy J.'s cousin)  
Marvin Sodermark  
Todd  
Marianne Watson Milkowski  
John Watson

## Worship for the Month of May

Even though April gives way to May, and winter to spring, it is *still* the season of Easter on the Church worship calendar. Christ is *still* risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

### May 3 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

*John 20:19-30* – The Risen Christ appears to the disciples and then to Thomas.

Music by Organist Kathy Young and Pianist Debbie Hubbard

A Children's Message from Joy Jorgensen

### May 10 – Fifth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

*Luke 24:13-35* – The Risen Christ is recognized in the breaking of bread by two travelers who meet him on the road to Emmaus.

Special celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion for these strange times

### May 17 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

*John 21:1-14* – The Risen Christ helps the disciples fish and serves them breakfast.

Music by Pianist Debbie Hubbard

### May 24 – Ascension Sunday (Memorial Day weekend)

*Acts 1:1-11* – The Risen Christ ascends to heaven after talking with the disciples.

Music by Organist Kathy Young

### May 31 – Pentecost Sunday

*Acts 2:1-13* – The Holy Spirit fills the followers of Jesus, birthing the church.

Each Sunday a worship video is available at 8:30 a.m. as a "Premiere" we can watch together on Facebook or YouTube. The videos remain available any time after that on our website: [www.gladstonechurch.org](http://www.gladstonechurch.org), Facebook, and YouTube.

<https://www.facebook.com/Memorial-United-Methodist-Church-of-Gladstone-MI-117593394926699/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBY-ZTh99gQBtHG3n2kbyuQ>

At-home worship guides, including the song lyrics, prayers, and Bible readings; a current prayer list; and a children's activity or coloring page are also available each week on the church website.

Please contact the office if you would like to be included on the mailing list or need additional information for accessing the on-line resources. If you would like to participate as a reader, musician, or in some other way, please let us know that too.



# Northern Skies District

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The Michigan Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church

Rev. Scott A. Harmon, District Superintendent  
Diana Byar, Administrative Assistant

## Camp Michigamme Announcement

*April 17, 2020*

Northern Skies District,

In light of the uncertainties surrounding the extended impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, and following the resignation of our director earlier this spring, **the Trustees of Camp Michigamme announce that all youth programming at Camp Michigamme will be suspended for the 2020 season.** This difficult, yet unanimous, decision was made following prolonged and prayerful discernment of the options available. While deeply disappointing, the inability to assure the safety and wellbeing of our campers in the ever changing dynamics of COVID-19 has made this step necessary.

Camp Michigamme's priority has always been the safety of our campers and staff. In addition to concerns surrounding the outbreak, the inability to identify a qualified interim director meant that oversight of appropriate child-protection procedures as required by state law and Conference policy could not be assured. To attempt to operate in this way would be unacceptable.

With the many uncertainties surrounding response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and subsequent challenge of summer staff recruitment, the decision to curtail camping activities until August 1<sup>st</sup> was determined to be the most responsible course of action. Early camping registrations which have been received will be refunded in the coming weeks. Adult activities planned for August and September are anticipated to continue as scheduled.

Sadly, this is the first summer in its 98 year history that Camp Michigamme will not hold a summer camping program. I hope you will join me in anticipation of the 2021 season with continued prayers for our camp and the work that lies before the Trustees. We look forward to seeing Camp Michigamme reopened for children and youth next summer, and the ways in which God will shine the light of Christ's love throughout the district and beyond. Be watching for further information as it becomes available.

Faithfully in Christ,

  
Rev. Scott Harmon