



The Messenger

June 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

www.gladstonechurch.org

mumc@gladstonechurch.org

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

Worship videos are available on Memorial United Methodist Church of Gladstone MI Facebook page and YouTube channel, and on our website www.gladstonechurch.org, each Sunday. Videos remain available to view any time after that. Occasional short “Check-Ins with the Pastor” videos are also posted.

Welcome to “Ordinary Time,” that long liturgical season after Pentecost stretching on through summer and autumn until Advent. *Ask the UMC*, a ministry of United Methodist Communications, says, “The purpose of this season is to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts and callings discerned during the Easter Season and commissioned on the Day of Pentecost.” Appropriately enough, the liturgical color for this season is green, the color of growth and abundant life.

Yet for many of us, this continues to be a season of uncertainty. Making plans for worship and ministry, like so many other aspects of our lives, challenges us to wonder will what we are planning be safe and healthy? Will it be allowed? Will we have to figure out new ways to do it, learn new techniques, use new tools? Will the situation change between now and when what we are planning is set to happen? Would it be better to wait or to forge ahead? Working with our Leadership, Committees, and Health Response Task Force; and trusting in God’s presence, guidance, and timing in our planning, we are moving forward.

We are moving forward in forming our faith through worship, exploring putting four spiritual practices drawn from *Active Faith*, a book by Wesleyan historian and theologian, Paul W. Chilcote (copyright 2019 by Abingdon Press). I invite you to order a copy for yourself, hoping we’ll find ways to read and discuss it together, beyond our engagement with the book in our Sunday worship.

We are moving forward with live-streaming worship from the sanctuary on Sunday, June 7 at 10:30 a.m. We’ll have a few folks here to help with music and tech support, and to walk through what worship will be like with social distancing, face masks, cleaning and disinfecting, and what all it takes to be together, as safely as possible, in this space. This will give you an opportunity, after watching, to make informed decisions as to whether you will continue to worship from home or choose to attend in person in the coming weeks.

We are moving forward, embracing new ways to connect with one another in caring ministries and mission outreach, supported by your generous giving of your time, talents, and treasure. Look for those stories throughout this newsletter. In this season of uncertainty, as we long for what seems ordinary, may we continue to grow together into the extraordinary and abundant life to which God calls us through Jesus Christ.

Pastor Cathy

Our High School Graduates

We celebrate the graduation of **Andie Balenger** from Gladstone High School and **Ally St. Aubin**, **Amy St. Aubin**, and **Grace Taylor** from Escanaba High School. Congratulations, Graduates! May God be with you in your future endeavors!

Thank you to our **quilting group** for providing a handmade quilt to each graduate.



Memorial's Youth Group has done two service projects this month. The first week of May, the following youth and adults **cleaned up the church grounds**: Jan Johnson (project leader), Denise Messina, Devin Messina, Dylan Messina, Lisa Myers, Sarah Myers, Teresa Myers, Abigail Skjolaas, Carter Stammer, Landon Stammer, and Paige Stammer. The hardest part was social distancing because they were all so excited to see each other again, but they did it. Great job!

A few weeks later they helped with the **can & bottle sorting for local homeless ministries including Hope at the Inn**. This is the project started by Mark Marenger of Mr. Bike & Ski. Hardworking youth from Memorial were Ethan Jensen, Allie Livingston, Devin Messina, Dylan Messina, Nathan Moore, Sarah Myers, Teresa Myers, and Ryan Becotte. Most of these youth also returned on other evenings and worked more! Adults from Memorial who worked on this project that evening and/or other evenings were Sharon Block, Carol & Dave Borden, Alice Butch, Susan Lagina, Denise Messina, Mary Moore, Lisa Myers, and Pastor Cathy. If you worked on this project and were inadvertently left off this list, please remind Lisa. Thank you!

We have now sorted through 3 out of 4 large storage units. We are working most evenings from 6 – 9. If you would like to be a part of this amazing project, call Lisa at 428-9311 or 420-1311.

Feeding America Truck

Memorial will be hosting a Feeding America food distribution truck along with Salvation Army in Memorial's parking lot on Wednesday, July 8. In order to better acquaint ourselves with the process, we asked for people from Memorial to volunteer at Salvation Army's Feeding America distribution in May. Fourteen people responded! They were Carol Borden, Sue Cole, Laurie Kaufman de la Garza, Barb Hess, Jan Johnson, Denise Messina, Devin Messina, Dylan Messina, Christina Myers, Lisa Myers, Sarah Myers, Teresa Myers, Ryan Becotte, Diane Oxford, and Pastor Cathy.

Long-range Planning

Michigan Annual Conference online July 26-29

Weblink: 2020.michiganumc.org

Lay delegates: Laurie de la Garza and Susan Lagina

Vacation Bible School: Aug. 3 – 7

Pasty Sale: Nov. 6-7

General Conference: Aug. 29 – Sept. 7, 2021

Leroux Strom is sadly announcing now that the **2020 Fall Extravaganza** is cancelled due to the uncertainty caused by Covid-19. The Extravaganza has been successful in the past because of many excited customers crowding in around table after table of vendors. There is doubt as to whether we could safely do such an event this fall. In fairness to artisans & vendors who would put in countless hours of work in preparation for the Extravaganza, we need to announce now that the event is cancelled for 2020. We thank Leroux and all those who had already begun planning work for this event.



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| 6/3 Bonnie Oshe | |
| 6/4 Paige Stammer | |
| 6/6 Barbara Hess | |
| 6/7 Petra Lagina | 6/19 Thomas Jensen |
| 6/9 Landon Stammer | 6/23 William Morrow |
| 6/10 Kay Shapy | 6/24 Emma Bowden |
| 6/12 Jeanne Johnson | 6/26 Connie Ness |
| 6/13 Eileen Collins | Krista Warm |
| 6/17 Joy Large | 6/29 Jon Anderson |
| 6/18 Emily Jensen | Abbygail de la Garza |

Missions Committee

Because of your generous giving to our undesignated missions, at the end of May our Mission Committee was able to allocated \$450 to the Bishop Judith Craig Children’s Village in Liberia to provide for the basic needs, education, counseling, and healthcare of orphaned children; \$450 to Haitian Artisans for Peace to support expectant mothers in HAPI’s “Start Right” program for maternal and newborn health in Haiti; \$600 to the Bishop’s Appeal for Michigan Disaster Response fund to help with the recent flooding in and around Midland; \$500 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief’s UMCOR Sunday offering; \$500 in support of Randy Hildebrandt, church and community worker serving God’s Country Cooperative Parish here in the U.P.; and \$500 to support the Salvation Army weekday lunch program in Escanaba. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Thank you all so much for your prayers, inspiring and uplifting cards, and phone calls during these last months that we’ve both had health problems. Bud has healed well from his surgeries, and I have finally accepted the fact that I can’t walk. I now have a powerchair so I can get around the house.

We’ve been blessed to be a part of such a caring and thoughtful church family. May God bless each and every one of you.

Pat and Bud Clark

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. The Upper Room is also available as a free download at <https://www.upperroom.org/covid-19> along with other resources.

Prayer List

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| Bud Baltic | Sarah Benson |
| Mark and Julie Bishop | Bresser family |
| DJ Burns | Nancy Campbell |
| Ginger Clairmont | Bud & Pat Clark |
| Irving DeRoeck | Chris and Kim Diamond |
| Jeff Dinner | Bernie Erickson |
| Susan Johnson Fisher | Dave and Mary Hagen |
| Jerry Hampton | Caroline Hart |
| Bob Jasmund | Alice Jensen |
| Jon Lohrbach | Marcy Makosky |
| Jared Marchak | Josiah, Sarah, David Pryor |
| Bev Regts | Marvin Sodermark |
| Todd | John Watson |
| Marianne Watson Milkowski | |
| Equipment and protective gear for medical staff | |

Sandy Boutilier's 80th birthday

Judy Tochterman said that many people in this congregation know Sandy Boutilier. If you know her, Judy would like you to send her a birthday card for her 80th birthday on June 4th. Sandy’s address is

Bishop Noa
 Room 136
 2900 3rd Ave S
 Escanaba, 49829

Thank you for your kindness.

Worship for the Month of June

Four week series: Practicing the Way Forward, drawn from the work of Paul W. Chilcote in his book Active Faith: Resisting 4 Dangerous Ideologies with the Wesleyan Way, (copyright 2019 by Abingdon Press).

June 7 – Trinity Sunday (livestreaming at 10:30 a.m., then available as video)

Matthew 16:13-23; Philippians 2:1-11

“Truth and the Practice of Humility”

Sacrament of Holy Communion (please provide your own bread and juice)

June 14 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 25:34-40; Psalm 146

“Joy and the Practice of Hospitality”

June 21 – Third Sunday after Pentecost (Father’s Day)

Isaiah 11:6-9; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

“Peace and the Practice of Healing”

June 28 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (John Wesley’s Birthday, b. 1703)

Luke 15:11-24; 1 John 4:19-21

“Love and the Practice of Holiness”

We anticipate June will be month of trial and transition for our worship as we continue to respond to the impact of COVID-19. Following the live-stream at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 7, we will be making decisions about how best to proceed. Please contact us if you have concerns or are able to help in some way.

Each week you will find on-line worship resources including at-home worship guide, current prayer list, children’s activity or coloring page, and a link to the worship experience on the church website:

www.gladstonechurch.org,

Worship information, links, and videos will also be on Facebook and YouTube:

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

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

Thank you for your ongoing flexibility and faithfulness as we seek the well-being of our congregation and community while working to offer accessible, authentic worship in uncertain and changing times.