



The Messenger

October 2021

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.

“This is the Word of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God.”

Most folks have a notion of what the Bible says yet sometimes I wonder, when was the last time any of us actually read through an entire book of the Bible or even just one chapter? Are you relying on what you may have learned as a child in Sunday School or VBS? Depending on the snippets you hear in worship? Trusting what the podcasters and pundits say the Bible says? Running on a sugar high of shared memes and posts? I’m encouraging us all to spend more time actually reading the Bible ourselves, to know for ourselves as the people of God what the Word of God has to say to us.

For worship in October, we’ll be focusing on what Jesus had to say, mostly in chapter ten of Mark’s Gospel. It’s the last chapter in Mark’s Gospel before Jesus rides into Jerusalem to confront the powers that be in ways that will get him arrested and crucified. Chapter ten includes some of Jesus’ most iconic teachings—blessing the children who his disciples were chasing away, telling the rich young man to sell everything he had, predicting his coming execution and resurrection, settling disputes among his disciples about what it means to be great, and healing a blind man. Chapter ten gets to the core of who Jesus is and who he calls his followers to be. I’d recommend you take time to read it, maybe more than once, this month. Or, be an over-achiever and read through Mark’s entire Gospel—Mark’s Gospel is the short, action-packed one; probably the first one to be written and a great first one to read through if you haven’t already read an entire gospel.

Reading chapters and books of the Bible is a good start. But my Grandpa Gorton used to tell me, and I’ve lived long enough now to agree with him, “It’s not enough to read the Bible off somewhere by yourself. We need to read the Bible with other people.” When we read and study the Bible together, we hear God speak through each other, through our shared experiences and reasoning, and through the teachings and traditions of Christians who have come before us. We create space to try out what we’re learning, to support and hold one another accountable, to experience the Holy Spirit breathing through our conversations and igniting our actions.

So here’s an opportunity for us all. Starting Oct. 6 you’re invited to join me in a six-week study called, “Making Sense of the Bible.” In his book by the same name, Adam Hamilton writes, “the book is an attempt to honestly wrestle with the difficult questions often raised by thoughtful Christians and non-Christians concerning things taught in the Bible.” We’ll meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday: Oct. 6, 13, (skip 20), 27, Nov. 3, 10, and 17, finishing up a week before Thanksgiving. Then, for the four Wednesdays of Advent (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22), we’ll read together the opening chapters of each of the four gospels, listening to God and each other as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus, God’s word made flesh to live among us.

Mark your calendars now, and join us in God’s Word. Blessings to you all!

Pastor Cathy

Worship for October

Oct. 3 – World Communion Sunday

Mark 10:13-16; Galatians 3:26-29

Jesus said, “You are all God’s children through faith in Christ Jesus.” The spirit of World Communion Sunday is to come together in Christian unity around breaking bread and sharing the cup. Today’s special offering will help to fund scholarships for ethnic-minority and international students.

Oct. 10 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 10:17-31

Jesus said, “All things are possible for God,” right after telling the rich young man to sell all he had, give the money to the poor, and come follow him. What is Jesus asking of us, and what may be possible with God if we answer?

Oct. 17 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 10:35-45

Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant.” Guest preacher Terri Branstrom will help unpack this for us and our Band will provide music. Remember our third Sunday “Noisy Offering” for Heifer Project, International, helping to provide animals, tools and training to help families around the world transform their lives.

Oct. 24 – Golden Cross Sunday

Mark 10:46-52; Psalm 68:1-5

Jesus asked Bartimaeus, who was blind, “What do you want me to do for you?” On Golden Cross Sunday we receive a special offering for six health and welfare related ministries in Michigan giving hope, healing, and care in Jesus’ name. And the Glory Ringers will be playing today.

Oct. 31 – Celebration of Ministry

Mark 12:28-34

Jesus said, “You aren’t far from God’s kingdom.” Today we’re celebrating a year of ministry and mission, including a blessing of the quilts. At 1 p.m. we’ll be having our annual charge conference to set goals, elect leaders, and budget our resources for another year of “proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ,” here at Memorial UMC.

**newsletter deadline:
Thursday, Oct. 28**

The **8:30 a.m.** service lasts under 30 minutes.

Participants are asked wear face masks and maintain social distancing, and there won’t be singing. This is intended as our *healthiest option* for concerned worshippers, and we ask that everyone attending respect that. The **10:30 a.m.** service has a variety of music, congregational singing, optional face coverings, and livestreaming.

Links to worship

You can find an up-to-date schedule for activities and links to on-line worship resources and 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 Facebook and YouTube:

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

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

World Communion Sunday -- Oct. 3

The United Methodist Church has a special offering every year on World Communion Sunday. Your gifts to World Communion Sunday support three programs. Ethnic In-Service Training (non-degree) and Ethnic Scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduates studying in the U.S. are related to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. World Communion Sunday scholarships – related to the General Board of Global Ministries – assist graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. Your gift marked “World Communion Sunday” empowers a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ.

All Saints Sunday -- Nov. 7

You are invited to submit names of special people in your life who have gone home to God in the past 12 months. Please submit these names **by Wednesday, Nov. 3** to be mentioned in the All Saints Service.

Prayer Ministry

The prayer of the righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve. (James 5:16)

Mondays at noon we will be gathering in the sanctuary for 30-minutes of prayer, starting Oct. 4. We'll pray for those on our congregation's prayer list, for our congregation, and for whatever other concerns we bring that day. Anyone is welcome to join us and, if you are unable to be here in person, you're invited to make time wherever you are at noon on Mondays to pray with us in spirit. I truly believe that as we pray together as a congregation, God's Spirit will be moving through us.

You can find the congregation's most up-to-date prayer list on our website: www.gladstonechurch.org.

Making Sense of the Bible

6 p.m. Wednesdays – Oct. 6, 13, (skip 20), 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17

"The world's bestselling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most confusing." This six-week study will give us an overview of what's in the Bible and how we can read it together as thoughtful people having honest conversation about the questions our reading raises and the ways we wrestle with applying what we read to our lives. We'll be using materials by Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. And, we'll be focusing on reading what's actually in the Bible, together.

- Oct. 6: Making Sense of the Old Testament
- Oct. 13: Making Sense of the New Testament
- Oct. 27: Questions about the Nature of Scripture
- Nov. 3: The Bible and Science
- Nov. 10: Violence, Suffering, and Other Troubling Issues
- Nov. 17: Wrestling with Issues of Sexuality and Relationships

I'm hoping we'll have a mix of ages, experiences, and perspectives, so please join us even if you've never read the Bible or you've been reading it all your life, whether you've been to college or didn't finish high school, and regardless of who you vote for!

If you need childcare, call the church office 428-9311.

Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple

9:30am Sundays or 5:30pm Mondays

Simon Peter was not rich or educated, but was familiar with hard work. He was quick-tempered and impetuous, but possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear.

This study is open to all people who are flawed but yet possess many positive attributes. See you there!

Youthquakes and Tremors are Memorial Church's youth groups. The Sr. Highs have named themselves "Youthquakes" because they are not a group that just sits around. They want to shake up the world. The Middle Schoolers (6th – 8th graders) are the "Tremors" (smaller, pre-Quakes that keep us all on edge).

Youthquakes and Tremors have been dormant since Covid started but are shifting toward renewed activity. They even have their own tab on our church webpage: www.gladstonechurch.org.

The Youthquakes and Tremors (6th – 12 grade) are gathering for food, fun, and to tell Mrs. S. what they would like to do this year.

Date: **Saturday, Oct. 2**

Time: 5pm

Place: Memorial UMC by the firepit (Indoors if bad weather.)

BRING A FRIEND.

Pasty Sale? – Nov. 5-6

We're hoping this yummy and ever-popular fundraiser is back! We would love to make our normal amount of pasties since they always sell out. However, if Pat does not get enough volunteers, she will be forced to cut production to half. As soon as sign-up sheets are posted, please sign up for a shift or two or three so Pat knows that she can count on you. The number of pasties that we can sell depends on you.

Creative Cards have been designed by the Knitting Group for sale for \$2 each. Please check them out in the narthex, by the bulletin board. Proceeds go to the building fund.

All men, women, and children are invited to the **Men's Breakfast** on **Oct. 3** right after the second service. This breakfast is prepared by the men of Memorial UMC. The freewill offering supports projects that the men are working on. Past projects funded by the Men's Breakfast include re-wiring the kitchen and purchasing kitchen equipment



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/2 Laura LaMarche | |
| Ken Schell | 10/16 Eric Nault |
| 10/4 Ruth Anne Harmes | 10/18 Rylee Doucette |
| Dave Lewis | Tracy Jensen |
| 10/6 Timothy Worth | 10/19 WilmaVanderdonck |
| 10/7 Sharon Block | 10/21 Bobbie Haase |
| Brooke Buckley | 10/22 Andie Balenger |
| 10/12 Elizabeth Kempfer | 10/24 Terri Branstrom |
| James Stammer | Patti Multerer |
| 10/13 Ty Waeghe | 10/28 Mary Clark |
| 10/14 Sarah Mattonen | Karl Warm |
| 10/15 Walter Houghton | 10/30 Trudy Broman |

Prayer List

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Betsy Anderson | Bud Baltic |
| Sarah Benson | Lorna Benson |
| Mark Bishop | MaryAnn Brayak |
| Tom Butch | Nancy Campbell |
| Janelle Castillo | Ginger Clairmont |
| Bud & Pat Clark | Eileen Collins |
| Jax de la Garza | Debbie Dew |
| Chris and Kim Diamond | Eric |
| Bernie Erickson | Andy Fase |
| John Fisher | Justin Gaarnat |
| Georgia | Caroline Hart |
| Barb Ingram | Al Jensen |
| Alice Jensen | Jeff Lancour |
| Jon Lohrbach | Marcy Makosky |
| Maria | Rebecca Marchak |
| Toni Marchese | Tammy Martin |
| Chad Mileski | Zach Nardi |
| Lincoln Noel | Edwin Peacock |
| Bob and Keri Polasek | Bev Regts |
| Josiah and David Pryor | Debbie Renkin |
| Marvin Sodermark | Julie Springer |
| Marianne Watson Milkowski | Angie Sturgill |
| Family of Vivian Ray | Todd |
| Family of Bert Peterson | Jerry Wery |
| Family of Kambria Grenfel | |

Join Our Music Ministries

The **Glory Ringers** handbell ensemble rehearses at **6:00 p.m. Wednesdays**, directed by Kathy Young. The Glory Ringers play in worship one Sunday each month and for Christmas Eve and Easter worship. New ringers are needed.

Our **Praise Team** rehearses **after 10:30 worship**. We're especially looking for guitar, bass, and drum players to join and welcome additional singers too. A sound/tech person to help at rehearsals would be great, and if you have the passion and skills to direct the team, we need you. The Praise Team generally leads worship three Sundays each month. Please contact Pastor Cathy if you have questions or would like to direct this team.

Our **Band** rehearses at **7 p.m. Thursdays**, directed by Mary Bastian. The Band plays in worship one Sunday each month and may play for other special occasions. New members are welcome—contact Lisa Myers with questions.

We hope to resume our **Jubilee Singers** vocal choir, but are **in need of a director**. If you have the passion and skills to fill that spot, we need you. The Jubilee Singers sing in worship one Sunday each month and for other special occasions. Please contact Pastor Cathy if you have questions or would like to direct this choir.

If you or someone you know would like to provide special music for one Sunday, please contact Pastor Cathy.

Volunteers to provide music at the beginning and end of the 8:30 worship service are also appreciated. Please contact Lisa Myers in the office to schedule Sundays.

Friendship Guild

At its August meeting, the Service Guild, with its long and cherished place in the life of Memorial UMC, voted to change its name to the "Friendship Guild," to better reflect its current ministry of care and fellowship. Friendship Guild is meeting the second Tuesday each month at 1 p.m., Sept. – Dec. for devotions, fellowship and refreshments. All ladies are warmly invited to attend.

The next meeting is Oct. 12.

What do the disagreements in The UMC mean for you? The Connectional Table is hosting podcasts, starting October 5 at 11 a.m. that will help you think through some important personal decisions.

The world has changed and is changing. The global coronavirus pandemic and disagreements within our denomination are just two of many events that continue to affect United Methodists around the world.

As the church confronts these new realities, it is important for the people called United Methodist to explore and understand who we are, what we believe, and how we live as people of God today and into the future.

To help us think through these issues, the Connectional Table, in cooperation with our general agencies, is hosting a series of discussions with United Methodist theologians and leaders that will help us better understand our faith, our church, ourselves.

Beginning October 5, come to the [UMC Facebook page](#) every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time. Join a 20-30 minute conversation about who we are as the people of The United Methodist Church.

Our guests will be responding to your questions in that chat for approximately 30 minutes following the presentation.

If you do not have internet and wish to participate, contact Lisa in the church office, and she can set it up in the narthex or Grapevine Room.

What's Up with the United Methodist Denomination?

If you're interested in reading more about the upcoming General Conference (Fall 2022) and current denominational issues, check our website under the "resources" tab. There is an Aug. 24 article from UM News and an information sheet from Pastor Cathy. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact Pastor Cathy.

Below is the link to the August 24th article.

<https://michiganumc.org/general-conference-plans-move-ahead/>

Moment in Missions

The Missions Committee would like to share the celebrations of our congregation's giving of time, talent, and offerings for September.

- Special Offering: 1 offering divided equally for 3 ministries (MI Conf. Christian Ed, United Methodist Student Scholarships, Africa University Fund): \$308
- Pastor Cathy shared that she received a message from her friends downstate, and they have just sent 4,375 books to Malawi, Africa which included the many books Memorial UMC collected. Many thanks to all who helped with this ministry.

We have several opportunities to support our community, state, nation, and world during October:

- Ongoing collection for school supplies and supplies for the Great Start Readiness Program at Mid Peninsula School. Items that are needed can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/MPSWolverines> and [https://p11cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_8273746/File/supply%20list%2021-22%20\(1\).pdf](https://p11cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_8273746/File/supply%20list%2021-22%20(1).pdf)
- **Month of October:** Collection of mittens, gloves, hats for the students at Mid Pen School. Any donations may be placed in the crate located on the bench at the entrance to the church.
- **Oct. 3:** World Day Communion Sunday special offering-As we come together to receive Holy Communion along with Christians around the world, we recognize our unity and shared commitment to building God's kingdom on earth. Together, we help raise up new leaders around the world, equipping them to be agents of change.
- **Oct. 17:** Noisy Offering supports Heifer International
- **Oct 24:** Golden Cross special offering supports life-changing care for children, seniors who have outlived their savings, and those unable to pay the cost of hospitalization here in Michigan.
- **Clothes Closet:** A big shout out to Peggy Ritcher, the Wednesday morning knit and

quilt groups, especially Lettie Houghton and Liz Kempler, for all the work they have and are doing with the clothes closet. Peggy recently took a load of jeans to the Dunlap Ministry at God's Country Cooperative Parish which was greatly appreciated.

- **Elmer's Community Cares Program:** Due to the generous donations from the Elmer's Rewards Card customers, Memorial United Methodist Church has earned a \$100 Elmer's Gift Card. Thank you so much for your generous donations. You may continue to donate points to MUMC and we will use it towards getting a new \$100 gift card. This can be used to help offset grocery costs for projects like Bay Area Campus Ministry meals and Hope at the Inn meals.
- **Volunteer in Mission trip to Puerto Rico:** Jody Pratt, Conference Volunteer in Mission coordinator, is looking for two more members for a mission trip to Puerto Rico. Scholarships may be available. She may be contacted at prattgji09@gmail.com or 616.292.4908 if interested. The mission committee discussed the possibility of assisting with a scholarship also if there is an interest.

November 7-14 we will be the host church for Hope at the Inn. Please be watching for the many hands that will be needed to make this successful.

On **November 8** we will be preparing a meal for Bay Area Campus Ministry to serve to 40 Bay students. We will prepare a home cooked meal at the church that will be boxed up into individual containers to be picked up by Pastor Tony, the organizer of the ministry. He will distribute the meals to the students. Updates will be passed along as we get closer to the date as to the type of help that will be needed.

In November we will be doing a flannel shirt drive. We will ask you to wear a flannel shirt to church on November 14 and then donate a new or gently used flannel shirt to be sent to God's Country Cooperative Parish. Watch for more details on our Facebook page, website, and November newsletter.

Month of November: We will be doing a food drive for the local food pantries. Watch for more details on

our Facebook page, website, and November newsletter.

Check out the Mission bulletin board located at the entrance to the education wing. As 2021 draws to an end, we have reflected on the many areas our congregation has been active in and continues to be active in missions. We are promoting a community of caring in our experience to learn, give, and act for needs locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally.

At our September mission's meeting we discussed the direction of missions and what our vision is for our congregation. The conversation included transitional housing for those who are homeless and low income housing, youth involvement in mission projects, a mission project within the UP for our church to participate in, and a community garden. We are looking for input from the congregation and what you may see us doing as a congregation in missions. Please contact Jeanne Wescott at 906.399.2727 or wescottjeanne@gmail.com if you have a vision for missions you would like to share.

Our church is alive and active in our community, our state, our nation, and our world. If God is speaking to you about learning more about missions at MUMC and you would like to be an active member of the mission committee, please contact the church office.

The **Clothes Closet** needs hangers, preferably the wire kind like from the drycleaners (no plastic please). We have lots of infant and toddler clothing but can use more kids' clothes and coats (all sizes), and kids' shoes. Our clothes closet also helps God's Country Cooperative Parish. Peggy Richter took a load of jeans up there, and now we are looking for adult flannel shirts for GCCP. Our clothes closet is open 9-2 M-Th, Sunday mornings, and by appointment.

Venison Project

Please spread the word to all hunters that if they are interested in donating their deer to help feed hungry people, they can take their field dressed deer to Steve Soderman's on Days River Road, Viau's in Escanaba, or the Garden Mini Mart. All three of these will process the meat for free, although if you are taking the deer to Garden Mini Mart, you must first skin the deer.

October 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00 Pickleball	2 5:00 Youthquakes and Tremors
3 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Simon Peter 10:30 Worship 11:30 Praise Team 11:30 Men's Breakfast 4:00 Hike and a Hallelujah	4 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Prayer in the sanctuary 5:30 Simon Peter	5 9:00 Pickleball 1:00 Nominations 6:00 TKD 8:00 N.A.	6 9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 6:00 Making Sense of the Bible 6:00 Bells	7 9:00 Pickleball 6:00 SPRC 6:00 TKD 7:00 Band	8 10:00 Pickleball	9
10 8:30 Worship 9:30 Simon Peter 10:30 Worship 11:30 Praise Team	11 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Prayer in the sanctuary 5:30 Simon Peter 6:30 Church Council	12 9:00 Pickleball 1:00 Friendship Guild 6:00 TKD 6:30 Finance 8:00 N.A.	13 10:00 Pickleball 9:00 Knit & Quilt 6:00 Making Sense of the Bible 6:00 Bells 7:00 Worship Design Team	14 9:00 Pickleball 6:00 TKD 7:00 Band	15 10:00 Pickleball	16
17 8:30 Worship 9:30 Simon Peter 10:30 Worship 11:30 Praise Team 4:00 Hike and a Hallelujah	18 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Prayer in the sanctuary 5:30 Simon Peter	19 9:00 Pickleball 9:30 Memb. Care 2:00 Missions 6:00 TKD 8:00 N.A.	20 9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 6:00 Bells	21 9:00 Pickleball 6:00 TKD 7:00 Band	22 10:00 Pickleball	23 Baby shower in gym 1:00—3:00
24 8:30 Worship 9:30 Simon Peter 10:30 Worship 31 8:30 Worship 9:30 Simon Peter 10:30 Worship 1:00 Memorial's Church Conf.	25 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Prayer in the sanctuary 5:30 Simon Peter 6:30 SPRC	26 9:00 Pickleball 6:00 TKD 8:00 N.A.	27 9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 6:00 Making Sense of the Bible 6:00 Bells	28 Newsletter deadline 9:00 Pickleball 6:00 TKD 7:00 Band	29 10:00 Pickleball	30 10am—7pm District Church Conferences here all day