



The Messenger

March 2022

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

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

Jesus asked his disciples, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Christ.” — Mark 8:29 (CEB)

And what about you? Who do you say that Jesus is? That’s a question we’ve been wrestling with in the *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists* class. Perhaps less directly, we’ve struggled with that same question in our *Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and the United Methodist Church* study. Who do we say that Jesus is? What is your experience of Jesus in your life? How do we connect that individual experience to our community of faith? To the larger story of the Christian tradition? To the foundational source we have of revelation through the Gospels and the whole of the Bible?

These are big questions that we’ve been considering in the little month of February. And we are living through times that require big answers of our shared faith in Jesus Christ. Some of us are living through intense personal struggles related to our health, to the loss of loved ones, to financial or family concerns. All of us are living through ongoing denominational, national, and global strife. The number of folks outside the Christian faith or barely connected to it anymore, those who reject it out of hand as unnecessary or shun it as unhelpful and unhealthy are growing. The beliefs and practices, laws and lessons to which the label “Christian” is attached is alarming to many of us. So, who do we say that Jesus is?

I say that Jesus, revealed to us by God’s Holy Spirit through a careful and prayerful study of the Bible, together as a community of faith, is our way through the big questions, difficult struggles, and alarming situations we face. It has also been my experience that Jesus is the one who will call us to dig deeper and go farther than we ever thought we could, to grow and to change under the influence of his redeeming love and sanctifying grace. Even Peter had to rethink what it meant that Jesus was the “Christ.” Even Peter struggled, failed, and tried again when it really mattered. I pray each of you will choose to join us on this journey, to move beyond how we wish life used to be, past knee-jerk reactions and too-tightly wrapped answers that ask nothing of us, to discover together the rich resources, rooted deeply in God’s love and grace, that we have in our shared identity as Christians, as those who follow Jesus the Christ.

To help us along, for the season of Lent, we’re shaping our worship around the question, “Who do you say that I am?” Each week we’ll explore an image of who Jesus is in our lives: Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Bread of Life, the Way, and the Risen Presence among us on Easter. I’ve been reading the book *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass and have her to thank for this framework. We’re also using a praise song, “Who Is This?” by Joel Payne from resoundworship.org to call us to worship through the season of Lent, with the chorus: *This is our God, working wonders and miracles, this is the Saviour, the Son who was slain and rose again in the greatest of miracles, and by this miracle we are saved!* Jesus is answer that is big enough, with a grace that is necessary and a love that is more than sufficient for us to become who God created us to be! Thanks be to God.

Pastor Cathy

Worship for Lent and Holy Week 2022

Who Is This?

March 6: This is Jesus, the Friend

Luke 4:1-13; Luke 7:34; John 15:12-14

Celebrating Holy Communion

March 13: This is Jesus, the Teacher

John 13:12-17, Luke 2:41-52

Guest Preacher: Terri Branstrom

March 20: This Is Jesus, the Savior

John 4:1-42; John 3:1-21

Celebrating Holy Baptism

Noisy Offering: Heifer Project International

March 27: This Is Jesus, the Lord

Luke 6:46-49

UMCOR Sunday

April 3: This Is Jesus, the Bread of Life

John 6:22-51

Celebrating Holy Communion

April 10: This Is Jesus, the Way

Palm Sunday Procession

Luke 19:28-40; John 14:6

April 14: This Is Jesus, the Vine

7 p.m. Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion

John 15:1-12

April 15: This Is Jesus, Crucified

7 p.m. Good Friday

Luke 22:63-23:56

April 17: This Is Jesus, Risen!

Easter Sunday Celebration

Luke 24:1-12

You can listen to the song “Who Is This?” that we’re using throughout Lent here:

https://www.resoundworship.org/song/who_is_this_miracles

You can read along in Diana Butler Bass’ book *Freeing Jesus* as we explore the different images of who Jesus is.

<https://dianabutlerbass.com/books/freeing-jesus/>

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/>

Dedicate A Sunday

The worship service on Feb. 13 was dedicated by Pastor Cathy in memory of her parents Bud and Janet Gorton, who were married on Feb. 13, 1954.

If you would like to dedicate a Sunday in honor or memory of someone, please give the information to Lisa and include a \$300 check made out to Memorial United Methodist Church. Pictures can be emailed or given to Lisa if you wish to have them on the screen.

Seven Passages Film

Along with the “Living Faithfully” study, Pastor Cathy is recommending we view the film “Seven Passages: The Stories of Gay Christians” It will be shown at church on Ash Wednesday, Mar. 2, at 7:30 p.m., (runs approx. 90 minutes) after the 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship service. You may also view it on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VylkyEoxacE>

Created as a stage play in 2007 by a team of actors and theatre artists led by then Calvin College drama professor Stephanie Sandberg, the show is based on interviews with more than 100 West Michigan residents about what life is like for them as gay Christians. The title refers to the seven biblical passages related to homosexuality. Dialogue includes only the biblical quotes and actual scripts from Sandberg’s interviews. Pastor Cathy will lead a discussion of the film on Sunday, March 6, at 9:15 a.m. for anyone who has seen the film.

**newsletter deadline:
Thursday, Mar. 31**

Prayer List

Betsy Anderson	Bud Baltic
Sarah Benson	Lorna Benson
Mark Bishop	Lois Boydston
Tom Butch	Lois Cady
Nancy Campbell	Ginger Clairmont
Shirley Clark	Bud & Pat Clark
Eileen Collins	Sharon Davis
Debbie Dew	Irving & Bette DeRoeck
Bernie Erickson	Chris and Kim Diamond
Lennel Fife	Family of Mike Esler
John Fisher	Gracie
Todd Green	Nancy Harger
Caroline Hart	Barb Ingram
Al Jensen	Alice Jensen
Kammy	Jeff Lancour
Susan Lingren	Marcy Makosky
Rebecca Marchak	Toni Marchese
Tammy Martin	Chad Mileski
Zach Nardi	Lincoln Noel
Mary Ott	Josiah and David Pryor
Jon Rabbitoy	Jordan Rabbitoy
Bev Regts	Debbie Renkin
Margaret Richard	Emily Shada
Marvin Sodermark	Bill Springer
Julie Springer	Cheryl Stanek
Todd	Al Waeghe
Eileen Wangarin	Jerry Wery
Donna Wilken	Rick Wilson
Mary Willis	Bill Young
Marianne Watson Milkowski	

Prayer Ministry – we maintain an up-to-date prayer list on our website: www.gladstonechurch.org and include the current list in Sunday's worship bulletin. If you would like to receive email updates each time a prayer request is added, please contact Lisa in the office: mumc@gladstonechurch.org. And thank you for your ongoing prayer support.

I encourage you, as United Methodists, to subscribe to and read the weekly MIconnect e-newsletter that comes from our Michigan Conference and includes articles from Michigan and across the denomination. Go to: <https://michiganumc.org/subscribe/> At this site, you'll have the option to subscribe to a variety of other informative resources.

Blessings,
Pastor Cathy

Lenten Soup Suppers and Speakers

After being canceled mid-season in 2020 and not happening at all in 2021, the ever-popular Lenten Soup Suppers and Speakers series is back! Supper is at 5:30, and the speaker is at 6:00 on Wednesdays.

Laurie Kaufman de la Garza has lined up a fabulous list of speakers. (See below.) Now all we need are **SOUP-ER Cooks**. Please sign up in the narthex to make your favorite recipe for about 30 servings, and turn your receipts in to the office. Others will do the set up and clean up.

Speakers are:

Mar. 9 The League of Women Voters

Mar. 16 Samantha Frizzell

– Delta Co. Families Against Narcotics

Mar. 23 Erik Paad – Caregiver Incentive Program

Mar. 30 Dave Lewis and the Electric Car he built

Apr. 6 Randy Hildebrant

– God's Country Cooperative Parish



Kaden Cole Possi was born on Feb. 23 at 10:32pm, weighing 7 lbs., 10 oz., to Lauren and Cole Possi. Kaden joins big sister Kaylee at home in Rock. Proud grandparents are Earl and Jodi Possi. Joy Jorgensen now has 3 great-grandchildren.

Leslie and Jake Coleman are the proud parents of a baby boy born one month early on February 10. **Benjamin Allen Coleman** weighed 5 pounds 9 ounces and is 17 1/2 inches long. The proud grandparents are Jerry and Kay Shapy. Welcome to the world, little Benjamin, after a very dramatic entrance! All praise and thanks to the Lord.

Moment in Missions

Celebrations!

- \$300 was sent to the Salvation Army for help with transportation costs of guests to and from Gladstone when host churches are located in Gladstone for Hope at the Inn.
- \$290 was sent to the Salvation Army to help with the noon lunches served at the Salvation Army.
- 40 meals were prepared and delivered for students at Bay College which is part of the Bay College Campus Ministry. Thank you to JoAnn Gudwer and Jeanne Wescott for the preparation of the food.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

- We received two thank you notes from the United Methodist Council on Relief for \$100 and \$40 respectively to be used where needed most that were given from members in our congregation.
- A thank you note was received from God's Country Cooperative Parish for the installation of heat in Dunlap Ministry that we made last November.
- A thank you note was received from Justice for Our Neighbors for the donation sent last November for legal assistance for immigrants & Afghan refugees in Michigan.
All thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.
- Thank you to all who have contributed to the school supply collection for Mid Peninsula School. February 27 was the last day to receive donations. The collected supplies were sent with Willy Mannisto who is the liaison for distributing our donations. A special thank you to Willy for his service!

Opportunities to serve and give:

- The *Love Beyond Borders* campaign aims to raise funds for the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines

around the world. The initiative has emerged from First United Methodist Church, Boise, ID and seeks to engage The United Methodist Church in supporting COVAX alongside UNICEF, the key vaccine delivery partner.

All funds raised will be sent to UNICEF for this project. A donation of \$37 will provide 10 people with two doses of the vaccine. If interested in donating, make your check payable to the church and mark in the memo *Love Beyond Borders*. Or you can go to the link and donate there. <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/unicef>

- March 20: Noisy Offering
- March 27: UMCOR Sunday
- Elmer's Community Cares Program: Donate points to MUMC and we can use it towards getting a \$100 gift card. This can be used to help for projects like Bay College Campus Ministry meals and Hope at the Inn. We currently have 93,266 points.
- GFS points- Donate your points to MUMC and this can be used to help with the purchase of items for Bay College Campus Ministry meals and Hope at the Inn.

Hands-On Mission Trip

Updates about the trip will be shared once the group decides when and where it will happen.

Keep Up the Gospel Work!

Check out the Mission bulletin board located at the entrance to the education wing. Follow our outreach monthly as we live to serve through our gifts, acts, and prayers.

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.

Vacation Bible School

There will be a special table at the Men's Breakfast on **Mar. 6** to begin discussing Vacation Bible School.

Hope at the Inn is at Memorial Feb. 27 – Mar. 6. We are not officially hosting this week, but if you are interested in volunteering, Lisa will welcome the help.

“The Gift Box”

Want to recognize someone or share a celebration with the church? Place a check (any amount) written out to Memorial UMC in the gift box in the narthex. Then, if you want, send an acknowledgment card from next to the gift box to the person and/or pin an acknowledgment card up on the bulletin board. Thank you.

We will have a **Rummage Sale** May 19-21. Please start saving items for it now. There may very possibly be a **Scrap Metal Drive** as well.

Sign up for 2022

We need Ushers, Readers, Muffins Bakers, Coffee Hosts, and Communion Servers. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Also, if you would be interested in learning how to run the projection and livestream, please speak with Joy Jorgensen.



3/1 Jessica Stock	3/16 Nicole Bratonia
3/2 John Gudwer	Lois Johnson
Beverly Plowman	3/17 Dorothy McIntyre
3/3 Kristine Jensen	3/20 Jason Viau
3/7 Diane Bishop	3/21 David Maskart
3/8 Jonathan Mattonen	3/22 Devin Messina
Justin Mattonen	3/25 Chris LaMarche
3/9 Dylan Messina	Teresa Myers
Ashley Thomas	Kaleb Warm
3/10 Alice Butch	3/26 Frank Landenberger
3/11 Sadie LaLonde	3/27 Sara Goodman
3/12 Maggie Buckley	3/29 Lorna Benson
3/14 Sophia Trotter	3/30 Cheryl LaCarte
3/15 Jan Goodman	3/31 Alex Chenier, Jr.
Tyler LaFond	Michael Keeker, Jr.

First Aid for Mental Health is a live, virtual training that Memorial will be participating in on March 10 and 24 from 3 – 4pm in our Youth Room. Each year, 1 in 5 Americans experience a mental health problem. Learn how to recognize the signs and how to help.

Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay is now hiring for all positions for summer 2022. We are seeking camp counselors, activities instructors, leadership staff, and professional and support staff. For more information, or to apply online, go to www.baycliff.org. Dates of employment for most roles are June 12-August 7, 2022.

Two New Support Groups

Journey of Hope is a new support group in our area **for parents experiencing pregnancy and early infant loss**. It uniquely addresses individual family needs through a monthly support group run by trained staff; it is operated by Pregnancy Services of Delta County. For more information or to sign up for the group, please contact Jamie at jl.fisher1983@gmail.com or (906) 241-9344 (cell) or (906) 786-7474 ext. 105 (work).

Faith-based Fertility Support Group

Did you know that 1 in 6 women go through infertility? My name is Marci Chouinard. I'm a new group leader for Moms in the Making, a faith-based fertility support group.

I found Moms in the Making last year while living in Green Bay, and I became passionate about the ministry and mission. After relocating back to my hometown of Escanaba this past spring, I decided to become a leader of a group here.

Every time a new woman finds out about our group, they are so thankful to find not just a group that is about infertility, but a group that focuses on seeking hope and encouragement in the wait by pursuing Jesus. Not only do we have a group now in Gladstone, but we have an online support group, virtual support, as well as 60+ other groups nationwide.

Marci Chouinard

Moms in the Making Leader, Gladstone, MI

Marcichouinard@momsinthemaking.com

www.MomsintheMaking.com

Cell: 906-241-2480

March 2022



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<p>1 9:00 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 TKD 7:00 Evangelism class</p> <p>8:00 N.A.</p>	<p>2 9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball</p> <p>7:00 Ash Wed. Service</p> <p>7:30 Film "Seven Passages"</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 Praise Team</p> <p>7:00 Band</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 9:15 Discussion on the film "7 Passages" 10:30 Worship 11:30 Men's Breakfast 11:30 VBS planning 2:00 Daisy Scouts</p>	<p>7 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts</p> <p>5:30 Peter study</p>	<p>8 9:00 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 TKD</p> <p>6:00 Finance</p> <p>7:00 Evangelism class</p> <p>8:00 N.A.</p>	<p>9 9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball</p> <p>5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Speaker</p> <p>7:00 Bells</p>	<p>10</p> <p>3:00 webinar: Mental Health</p> <p>6:00 Praise Team</p> <p>7:00 Band</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 9:30 Peter study 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>14 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts</p> <p>5:30 Peter study</p>	<p>15 9:00 Pickleball 2:00 Missions</p> <p>6:00 TKD 6:00 Church Council</p> <p>7:00 Evangelism class</p> <p>8:00 N.A.</p>	<p>16 9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball</p> <p>5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Speaker</p> <p>7:00 Bells</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00 Praise Team</p> <p>7:00 Band</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 6pm—9pm Games Night. Build-your-own pizza. All ages.</p>
<p>20 <i>Youth Sunday & Noisy Offering</i></p> <p>9:30 Peter study 10:30 Worship with baptism</p>	<p>21 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts</p> <p>5:30 Peter study</p>	<p>22 9:00 Pickleball</p> <p>1:00 Membership Connection</p> <p>6:00 TKD</p> <p>8:00 N.A.</p>	<p>23 9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball</p> <p>5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Speaker</p> <p>7:00 Bells</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:00 webinar: Mental Health</p> <p>6:00 Praise Team</p> <p>7:00 Band</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9:30 Peter study 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>28 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts</p> <p>5:30 Peter study</p>	<p>29 9:00 Pickleball</p> <p>6:00 TKD</p> <p>8:00 N.A.</p>	<p>30 9:00 Knit & Quilt 10:00 Pickleball 1:00 Pickleball</p> <p>5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Speaker</p> <p>7:00 Bells</p>	<p>31 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p> <p>6:00 Praise Team</p> <p>7:00 Band</p>		