



The Messenger

May 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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mumc@gladstonechurch.org

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.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. — Psalm 136 (NRSV)

There’s a catchy Sam Cooke song from the early 1960s that start’s out “Don’t know much about history. Don’t know much biology. Don’t know much about a science book. Don’t know much about the French I took ...” And then comes the chorus: “But I do know that I love you. And I know that if you love me, too, what a wonderful world this would be.”

Lately, it seems I’m reminded daily about how much I really don’t know. The uncertainty of these days for me personally, for the future of my family, our congregation, our denomination, the Christian Church in general, our community, our schools, our government, our world—it all seems to me to be more unknowable than ever before. Even some of those things I thought I had thoroughly learned like history, biology, and science seem less certain these days than they once did. (I never did take French.)

And then comes the chorus for me, the first verse of scripture that I memorized for myself because it meant so much to me: *God’s steadfast love endures forever.* Of that, I am certain. Regardless of whatever else I don’t know, can’t predict, or have forgotten, I am certain that *God’s steadfast love endures forever.* There is no “if” in this chorus from Psalm 136. I do know that I love God. And I know, without any “if” about it, that God loves me. Even when I falter, or turn away, or don’t know what will happen next, *God’s steadfast love endures forever.* And I know that God loves you with that same steadfast love that endures forever. So, no matter what actually does happen next, I am confident we’ll all be able to say, what a wonderful world this is, with God’s steadfast love to lead us through.

May you experience the steadfast love of God in Jesus Christ each day,
Pastor Cathy



Links to Worship

Find the Sunday bulletin with announcements, on-line worship links, our current prayer list, and a place to make on-line contributions 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/>

Opportunities to Sing to the Lord!

Please consider sharing your musical talent as a part of a special **Choir Anthem** on May 22. Call the office for details. We plan to occasionally pull together a vocal choir to lift our voices in praise with special anthems in the coming months. We’ll organize a couple of rehearsals around participants’ schedules, and you can join in whenever you’re available.

Special Music for Summer

Please sign up on the bulletin board or by calling the office to provide special music for worship (vocal or instrumental). We’d appreciate hearing from you, your family, or friends.

Game Night Build Your Own Taco

Saturday, April 30 5pm – 8pm

Please R.S.V.P. to the church and tell us which one of the following items you can bring to share: tomatoes, lettuce, green onions, black olives, shredded cheese, tortilla chips (for those who want to make a taco salad), sour cream, taco sauce, . . . ?

Bible Study

The Passion of Christ: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week. Offered on Sunday morning at 9:15 and Monday evening at 5:30.

Rummage Sale

Thursday, May 19 2pm – 7pm

Friday, May 20 8:30am – 2pm

Saturday, May 21 8:30am – 11am

Items can be put in room 5 now. Large items that are difficult to move can be put in the gym right up against the gym wall, far away from the pickleball court after May 3.

Scrap Metal Drive

Start saving your metal now. We will have a receptacle here May 20 – 30.

Acceptable Items Include:

- Stoves, Dryers, Appliances, etc.
Not TVs or refrigerators though.
- Lawn equipment (lawn mowers, snowblowers, tillers)
- Metal piping, sheet metal, siding
- Car parts (i.e. rotors/springs/doors)
- Filing cabinets, metal desks
- Steel doors, garage doors, & metal tracks
- Copper piping/fixtures
- Brass doorknobs/household items
- Air fittings
- Aluminum
 - o Cast
 - o Extruded
 - o Sheet
 - o Soffit & Fascia
- Bronze
- Strings of Christmas lights

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 help with the projection and livestream, please speak with Joy Jorgensen.

Fundraiser: MARSP Dinner

The Michigan Area Retired School Personnel will have their dinner & meeting here at noon on Tuesday, May 3. This is a good fundraiser for us. Please sign up in the narthex or call the office to help with this fundraiser. Help is needed **Sunday, May 1st**, at noon and throughout the day on **Tuesday, May 3rd**. We also need bakers to make the pistachio torte.

Mother's Day Music & Missions

On May 8, we'll have another "Songs and Stories Sunday" like we did in January, where you pick a song and tell us the story of why it's meaningful to you. For Mother's Day, we're looking for songs with ties to mothers or grandmothers, maybe your mom's favorite, or one you taught your children. **By May 3, please submit the song title** to the office and plan to either share your story in worship May 8, or jot it down so Pastor Cathy can read it.

May 8 is also "**Blanket Sunday**," when we contribute money to help Church World Service provide blankets and other necessities to comfort victims of disasters (natural and humanmade).

Speaking of blankets . . . If you know of a child whose dolls are cold, Diane Bishop is making **doll blankets** which she would love to freely give to a doll in need. Just ask Diane or call the church office.

Prayer List

Ukraine	Betsy Anderson
Bud Baltic	Lisa Richer Barta
Dave Bell	Sarah Benson
Bob	Molly & Dave Bohlen
Tom Butch	Bud and Pat Clark
Shirley Clark	Eileen Collins
Julie DeHut	Rosemary DeHut
DeHut family	Irving and Bette DeRoek
John Fisher	Chris and Kim Diamond
Todd Green	Michele Geyer
Caroline Hart	Walt Houghton
Jeff	Al Jensen
Alice & Lloyd Jensen	Susan Lindgren
Marcy Makosky	Toni Marchese
Zach Nardi	Emily Shada Polega
Josiah Pryor	Rodney Potvin and family
Debbie Renkin	Marv Sodermark
Bill Springer	Julie Springer
Dave Wilson	The Josephson family
Mike and "Team Rubicon" in Ukraine	

Spring Tea

Women, children, and men too are invited to a spring tea on Saturday, May 21, 1pm – 3pm in the narthex. You can bring your favorite teacup if you want. Attire can be anything from very casual to your finest – whatever you’re comfortable in. There will be tea, tea sandwiches, and dessert. We’ll play croquet outside, weather permitting. Please RSVP with the number of adults and number of children.

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.

Care Packages to College Students

Memorial’s Membership Connection Committee sent care packages to our college students, and we’ve received these thank you’s:

Dear Church Members,

Thank you for the kind gifts! It is always nice to receive things from back home when I am down at school. Chocolate makes school easier. 😊

Thank you,
Grace Taylor

Dear Memorial Church,

Thank you for the care package. It’s so nice to be remembered while I am at school.

Josh Myers

Dear Memorial Congregation,

Thank you very much for the thoughtful care package. It warms my heart to think of my church family at Memorial. I think of you all fondly as I continue my college education.

With love,
Teresa Myers

Please keep all our students in your prayers as they come to the end of another academic year.

Memorial UMC’s Financial Future

For quite a number of years, even decades, the Finance Committee at Memorial UMC has been concerned about the financial future of our church, with a growing trend of “chasing our deficit,” meaning what we receive in offerings hasn’t been keeping up with our expenses. Even though those who continue to give do so very generously, our pool of regular givers has been shrinking. Other churches in our area and beyond are facing similar concerns. We’ve reached a place where we need to make some challenging decisions and explore creative ways of funding the ministry to which God calls us. The Finance Committee invited our Northern Skies UMC District Superintendent Rev. Scott Harmon to attend the May Council meeting. We have asked him to share resources that may be available to us and suggest ways of strengthening our financial viability for the long-term future. Everyone is invited to this meeting at **6:30 on Tuesday, May 17**, to hear and share ideas.



Easter Lilies given to the Glory of God in Memory of:

Husband Paul - - - - - from Wilma Vanderdonck

Son Rodney and Grandson Wane
- - - - - from Wilma Vanderdonck

Karl Warm - - - - - from Dennis and Connie Ness

Roy and Lola Ness
- - - - - from Dennis and Connie Ness

Mark and Jean Snyder
- - - - - from Dennis and Connie Ness

Gene & Cleone Oxford and Allen & Faye Barnes
- - - - - from Mike and Diane Oxford

Mary & Jay Osterberg and Joan Cook
- - - - - from Kay Shapy

Larry Kempfer - - - - - from Elizabeth Kempfer

Jack Jorgensen - - - - - from Joy Jorgensen

Steven Block - - - - - from the Block-Myers family

Franklin Block - - - - - from the Block-Myers family

**newsletter deadline:
Thursday, May 26**

Church Camp

Flyers for our Camp Michigamme and also for the United Methodist camps downstate are posted on the small bulletin board across from the name tags. There are opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Camp Michigamme employment opportunities are on the large bulletin 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	5/27 Pat Clark
Gail Schell	5/28 Ted Brainard
5/15 Susan Hampton	5/31 Easton LaVigne

Memorial UMC Provides Hospitality, Lady Donates Kidney

For several months, a lady who lives 1½ hours away has been spending 3 hours several times a week in our church. She practices piano and reads in our library while her husband has dialysis in Escanaba. Those of you who are around on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday may have noticed that since Easter she is missing. On April 19 (her birthday) she donated one of her kidneys. It wasn't to her husband because they weren't a match, but they hope to create a "chain" of matches that will ultimately match her husband. She is recovering in Madison until she is able to make the long trek back to the U.P. We will once again be able to extend hospitality to her when she is strong enough to begin driving her husband to dialysis in Escanaba ... unless a kidney match is found for him sooner.

Before her trip to Madison, she left a very sweet thank you note and generous monetary gift in our "gift box," located on the round table by the offices. If there is someone you would like to recognize or something you would like to celebrate with the church, please place a check (any amount) written out to Memorial UMC or cash in the gift box on the round table. Then, you may fill out an acknowledgment card from the gift box and send it to the person and/or leave the acknowledgment card next to the gift box. Thank you.

Caregiver Incentive Program

The last speaker in our Lenten Speaker series was Erik Paad. Through his struggles to find qualified caregivers for his disabled daughter, he discovered the national shortage of qualified in-home caregivers. He began the Caregiver Incentive Program to educate the public regarding this crisis, provide financial incentives in the way of scholarships and/or stipends, and provide training for new caregivers. More information about his program can be found by the bulletin board in our narthex and on his webpage: www.the-cip.com.

A copy of his daughter Dorothy's book *Dance Your Dance, Sing Your Song*, gifted to our MUMC Library by Dorothy, is on display there as well.

Thank you to Laurie Kaufman de la Garza for organizing this year's Lenten Soup and Speaker series, to all the wonderful cooks, and to our guest speakers.

Summer Worship Schedule

At its April meeting, Memorial's Church Council voted to have one Sunday morning worship service begin at 10am starting June 12 and running through Labor Day. This will help accommodate people's summer plans of maybe getting an earlier start to daytrips or summer outdoor activities. The Council felt it better to keep everyone together instead of have two services because we have been so separated for so long.

Thanks For Sharing Time & Talents!

We thank Diane Oxford for sorting and organizing all the music in the choir room and in Lisa's office.

We appreciate Dave Lewis teaching Lisa Myers how to do the annual changing of the water filter to the large, self-filling coffee pots.

Also, we want to share how grateful we are to Jan Johnson and the Trustees for seeing the office carpeting project through from planning to installation to completion. We give a very large "THANK YOU" to Jim and Carter Stammer for moving the largest pieces of furniture out on Sunday and to the Staff Parish Committee for moving them back in on Tuesday.



Hope at the Inn Brat Sale
Friday, May 20 10 am — 4pm



Moment in Missions

2022 Michigan Annual Conference:

- Annual Conference will once again be an in-person gathering in Traverse City. June 2-June 4. MUMC annually gives \$1,000 out of our operating budget to the Michigan Annual Conference offering, allocated 45% to Haitian Assets for Peace International (HAPI), 45% to Bishop Judith Craig's Children's Village in Liberia, and 10% to humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people through UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery.
- There will be a **5K for Child Hunger Relief**. The money raised will be used to address food insecurities in Michigan. If you are interested in walking, running, riding, or wagging please check out the website for further details. <https://2022.michiganumc.org/5kchildhunger/>

Pastor Cathy and Ted Brainard are planning on participating in the 5K event in Traverse City. Donations to sponsor them **must be submitted by May 22 to the church office.**

- **Collection of Relief Supplies:** [The Midwest Distribution Center](#) truck returns to the Annual Conference parking lot, and the MUMC mission committee will be collecting items to fill the [Flood Bucket Cleaning Kit](#). See list below. A table is set up in the Narthex to receive the items along with the list posted there. Pastor Cathy and our Lay Delegates will make sure the items are transported to the truck at Annual Conference. **The Donation deadline is May 22.**

- **Cleaning Kits Midwest Mission Distribution Center Specifications**

- One - five-gallon round bucket with re-sealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)
- No screw lids
- May be used, but must be free from all residual product
- Advertisements on the outside acceptable
- One - Liquid laundry detergent 32-64 oz. bottle
- One - Liquid concentrate household cleaner 16-40 oz. bottle
- No spray cleaners
- One - Liquid Dish Soap 16-34 oz. bottle
- One - Insect repellent 6-14 oz. pump spray (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)
- Pump spray bottles must have protective covers
- One - Scrub brush with or without handle
- One - Air freshener 4-8oz. pump spray
- 18 - Re-useable cleaning wipes
- No terrycloth, microfiber, or paper towels
- Remove from packaging
- 5 - Scouring pads
- No stainless-steel with soap in them
- Remove from packaging
- 36-50 – Clothespins
- One - 50-100ft, clothesline (cotton or plastic)
- 24 count roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes)
- Five - N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3mm thickness)
- Two pairs kitchen gloves
- Durable for multipole uses
- Remove from packaging
- One pair work gloves
- Cotton with leather palm or all leather

DO NOT ASSEMBLE – Place all items in a cardboard box; for example: U-Haul Small Box (16 3/8" x 12 5/8" x 12 5/8") U-Haul Bundle of 25 boxes sells for \$24.75

Celebrations!

- Love Beyond Borders campaign has received an additional \$37 for a total of \$74 sent to this advance. That provided COVID vaccines for 20 people!
- Donations continue to be received towards humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people. An additional \$245 has been raised for a total of \$1596 given to this advance.
- Another \$50 was received that was designated to the Salvation Army noon lunch program.
- Lenten offering that was sent to UMCOR was \$582.50
- We sent \$500 from undesignated missions giving to Baycliff Summer Therapy Camp 2022 to be used where needed most in the services provided for children with disabilities attending the camp.
- We sent \$250 from undesignated missions giving to Lakestate Industries to be used where needed most in helping people in our community with barriers to employment.
- We sent \$250 from undesignated missions giving to Tri-County Safe Harbor to be used where needed most for services provided for individuals and families striving to rebuild their lives.
- Clothes Closet: During the mission's meeting, a family came in to shop at the clothes closet. They were so appreciative of the items they were able to select. They shared with us that as they consolidate households, they will be bringing items for the rummage sale to help others. Thank you to Peggy Richter for coordinating the clothes closet, and thank you to the many others who help her keep it neat and organized for easy shopping. The closet is open Monday-Thursday 9-2 or by appointment.

Opportunities to serve:

- May 1: **Volunteers in Mission.** This informational meeting is to begin the process for filling out the paperwork for our **mission trip scheduled for June 22-24, 2022, to God's Country Cooperative Parish.** We will meet after 10:30 worship while enjoying breakfast prepared for the congregation by the men. Anyone wishing to find out more information is welcome to attend.

Opportunities to give:

- May 1: **Native American Ministries:** Your gifts will help equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to authentically worship and serve Jesus with the fullness of their culture and heritage.
- May 8: **Mother's Day Blanket Sunday:** In 2021, congregational gifts across America provided over 191,000 CWS blankets and kits to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and other crises globally. Blankets provide warmth, shelter, and comfort and are tangible symbols of the love that God provides. Some examples of what a donation can do are: \$10 provides a blanket to a person in need, \$50 blankets an entire family, and \$250 stocks shelters in preparation for freezing weather.
- May 15: **Noisy Offering:** supports the purchase of livestock through Heifer International
- **Elmer's Community Cares Program & GFS:** Donate points to MUMC, and we can use it towards getting a \$100 gift card from Elmer's or money off purchases made at GFS. This can be used to help defray costs for meals to serve at Bay Area Campus Ministry and Hope at the Inn. We currently have 102,766 points at Elmer's.

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.

May 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Native American Ministries Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Men's Breakfast	2	3 MARSP dinner 6:00 TKD 8:00 N.A.	4 9:00 Knit/Crochet 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball	5 9:00 Pickleball 6:00 TKD	6 10:00 Pickleball	7 9:00 — noon Church Open for people to bring rummage sale items and/or look through the clothes closet
8 <i>Blanket Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship (Songs & Stories)	9 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball	10 9:00 Pickleball Cotarie 6:00 TKD 8:00 N.A.	11 9:00 Knit/Crochet 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball 6:00 Bells	12 9:00 Pickleball 6:00 TKD 6:00 Finance 7:00 Trustees 7:00 Band	13 10:00 Pickleball	14
15 <i>Noisy Offering and Youth Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship <i>Dedicate new banner</i>	16 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball	17 9:00 Pickleball 2:00 Missions 6:00 TKD 6:30 Church Council 8:00 N.A.	18 9:00 Knit/Crochet 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball Set up for rummage sale	19 Rummage Sale 2:00—7:00	20 Rummage Sale 8:30—2:00 Scrap Metal Drive begins	21 Rummage Sale 8:30—11:00 Spring Tea 1:00—3:00
22 <i>Heritage Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship	23 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball	24 9:00 Pickleball 1:00 Membership Connection 6:00 TKD 8:00 N.A.	25 9:00 Knit/Crochet 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball	26 9:00 Pickleball <i>Newsletter deadline</i> 6:00 TKD	27 10:00 Pickleball	28
29 <i>Ascension Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship	30 10:00 Pickleball 12:00 Pickleball Last day of Scrap Metal Drive	31 9:00 Pickleball 6:00 TKD 8:00 N.A.				