



# The Messenger

September 2024

*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 Terri Branstrom

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Mon. and Thur., 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

How many of you remember this refrain from a long-ago poem?

*School days, school days, dear old golden rule days,  
Readin' and 'ritin' and 'rithmetic, Taught to the tune of a hick'ry stick,  
You were my queen in calico, I was your bashful barefoot beau,  
You wrote on my slate, I love you Joe, when we were a couple of kids.*

If you recall this poem, you may remember that it talks about how school was for each of you. Oh my, life has changed since those simplistic days.

School has begun again for our children. When I was in school I remember that each fall when school started back up, I was a bit apprehensive. Who was going to be my teacher? Who would be in my class or classes? Who would I sit by? How hard were my classes going to be? Would I be able to receive good grades? These were the questions for elementary school, middle school, and high school. Then came the nursing program at Bay College and I remained apprehensive but achieved my nursing certificate.

Then came changes in my life and I was a bit apprehensive for my kids as they returned each fall to school. Who would be their teacher? Who would be in their class? Who would they sit by? Would they make new friends? Would they be able to earn good grades?

Then came other changes in my life when I returned to college. The same questions caused a bit of apprehension. But I also added the question: will I be able to earn good grades and have my husband and kids proud of me?

I did receive good grades and earned my Associates Degree from Bay College and then my BSW from NMU. This was followed by earning my Course of Study certificate from Methodist Theological School of Ohio (MTSO).

We forget how nervous and apprehensive each school year can be for students. We buy them new clothes and all the gear they will need in the classroom but do we pray for them? The greatest gift we can give our children is the gift of prayer. We can't be with them all the time and we can't protect them from stress, self-doubt, or poor self-images, but we can pray for them. God can be with them 24/7/365.

As we send our children to pre-school, elementary school, middle school, high school, and college let's give them the greatest gift of all—our love and prayers.

**PS.** I dare say that our teachers and the entire education staff could use our prayers as well.

Shalom,  
Pastor Terri

## 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](http://www.gladstonechurch.org). You're welcome to call the office with questions: 428-9311, or email: [mumc@gladstonechurch.org](mailto: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/>

## Peace with Justice Sunday – Sept. 8



**Bells & Vocal Choir** are starting up for the fall. Jubilee Choir will begin practice at 7:00 Wednesday, Sept. 4. The Glory Ringers bell choir will practice Sundays after worship, beginning Sept. 8. Now is a perfect time to try either or both. Please speak with Kathy Young 450-1878.

## Sunday Morning Help

We need Ushers, Readers, Muffins Bakers, Coffee Hosts, Communion Servers, and Sunday School Teachers. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

## Somewhere Far Away by Angela DiPrima

*At our outdoor worship service on July 28, Barb Schutzenhofer played guitar and sang a beautiful, meaningful song. The words are below.*

Somewhere far away a prayer is being said  
In that quiet place a heart is being led  
Led to mention me by name to Him who bore my guilt  
and shame  
I've been remembered by someone far away.

Someone far away is standing in my place  
Asking that the Lord of Love would smother me with  
grace  
That I'd be deaf to Satan's lies  
That I'd run the race and claim my prize  
I've been remembered by someone far away.

And my heart sings with the knowledge that I do not  
stand alone  
We are truly connected not by post or fax or phone  
With a humble heart and bended knee  
They ask the Lord to carry me through battles I dare  
not face alone.  
Someone far away  
Someone far away

My heart sings  
I've been remembered by someone far away.

And my heart sings with the knowledge that I do not  
stand alone  
We are truly connected not by post or fax or phone  
With a humble heart and bended knee  
They ask the Lord to carry me through battles I dare  
not face alone  
Someone far away  
Someone far away

My heart sings  
I've been remembered  
I've been remembered  
Oh, I've been remembered, yeah, by someone far  
away.

## Can You Help?

We are looking for someone to take two boxes of flannel shirts and the remaining items from the July rummage sale to God's Country Cooperative Ministry in Newberry. The space needed would be the back of an **SUV with the seats down**. If you can help out to transport these items, please call the church office 428-9311. If you happen to have access to a pick-up truck, that might even be better because we could haul some additional donations.



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|--|---|
| 9/1 Luis de la Garza<br>Claire Marlett | 9/16 Gerald Branstrom<br>9/17 Deborah Hubbard |
| 9/4 Becky Leonoff                      | 9/20 Maycee Kuhlman                           |
| 9/7 Marc Viau                          | 9/21 Karen Donovan<br>Kevin Sodermark         |
| 9/8 Dennis Johnivan<br>Bruce St. Aubin | 9/25 Bette DeRoeck                            |
| 9/10 Peggy Carlyon<br>David Palo       | 9/28 Melissa Casey<br>Helen Palo              |
| 9/11 Peggy Lewis                       | 9/30 David Jensen<br>Diane Oxford             |
| 9/14 Patrick Morrow                    |   |

## Financial Report

Our giving for the general fund for August has totaled \$13,619. This month's goal is \$13,616. Please give regularly so that all commitments can be met that we are responsible for. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Wescott.

## Game Night and Bonfire

We will have a bonfire and roast hot dogs and s'mores at **5:00 on Saturday, Sept. 21**. If it is raining, we will meet inside. Please sign up on the bulletin board for the food you will bring. Games can be either indoor or outdoor games.

## Phil Lynch to Present an Evening of "Songs to Bring Us Together," Sept. 19th

Need a little musical joy in your life? Well, come on out to the Besse Theater at Bay College on Sept 19th at 7:00 pm for "Songs to Bring Us Together." Phil Lynch and his special guests will present an evening of his thoughtful and life-affirming original songs like "Listen First" and "Here Is the Love." Plus, he'll perform a number of cover songs from the '60s and '70s about unity and human connection like "Lean On Me," "You've Got a Friend," "This Land Is Your Land," and "Turn, Turn, Turn" (with audience participation *highly* encouraged). Tickets are just \$6 K-Bay and \$12 for adults, available in advance or at the door. Don't miss out on joining with other local music lovers and being a part of what promises to be a special evening of music and love!

**newsletter deadline:  
Wednesday, September 25**

## Prayer List

- Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine
- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Mindy A.          | Lorna and Ken Benson     |
| Tom Butch         | Beth and Sarah Benson    |
| Bette DeRoeck     | Bud and Pat Clark        |
| Ian Goldi         | Nancy Grondine           |
| Nancy Harger      | Caroline Hart            |
| Walt Houghton     | Jim Hubbard              |
| Hueneman family   | Gail Johnivan            |
| Lois Johnson      | Liz Kempher              |
| Dorell Kirschner  | Christopher Lund         |
| Toni Marchese     | Rebecca Marchak          |
| Jeanette Mineau   | Helen Palo               |
| Josiah Pryor      | Rodney Potvin and family |
| Bev Quick         | Kris R.                  |
| Jordan R.         | Debbie Rosen             |
| Cameron Seckinger | Pam Thorbahn             |

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Did you know there's a prayer called the "I don't know" prayer?  
 You just go somewhere quiet, and you sit at the feet of God, and you say, "I don't know."  
 I don't know where to go from here.  
 I don't know what is happening.  
 I don't know how to process this.  
 I don't know what to do with these emotions.  
 I don't know how to handle this situation.  
 And then with whatever little grain of faith you have, you say, "but you know." And you leave it there. God most certainly hears your prayer.  
 Amen if you trust God.

