



The Messenger

March 2025

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 Terri Branstrom

(906) 280-2993

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

Greetings!!

The season of Lent is fast approaching. In January when we started the sermon series using Dr. Seuss, Lent seemed quite a distance away, but now it is upon us.

We will begin Lent as usual with the imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday evening. At that time, you will be invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, self-denial and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Here at MUMC we offer a midweek supper followed by a speaker from our community who shares information about their specific agency. This year we also offer you a chance for a prayer walk. You are invited to walk around the sanctuary and pray for those whose name tags are on the pew where they normally sit. We will also include those who can't attend regularly by placing their name tags along the front pews. As you walk around the sanctuary, you pray *and* get a few steps in for your daily goal. You can come into the church during normal hours to do your walk and praying.

Let me offer this prayer for all of us as we observe a Holy Lent.

Everlasting God,

Because of your tender mercy toward all people, you sent your Son, our Savior. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of his patience and his great humility and also be made partakers of his resurrection, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Shalom, Pastor Terri

If you are interested in studying the scripture for each Sunday during Lent, they are:

3-5-35 Ash Wednesday - Psalm 51: 1-17 and Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

3-9-25 Romans 10: 8b-13 and Luke 4: 1-13

3-16-25 Philippians 3: 17-4:1 and Luke 13: 31-35

3-23-25 Psalm 63:1-8 and Isaiah 55: 1-9

3-30-25 Psalm 32 and 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

4-6-25 Isaiah 43: 16-21 and John 12: 1-8

4-13-25 Psalm Sunday Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 and Luke 19: 28-40

4-17-25 Maundy Thursday Exodus 12: 1-14 and John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

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/>

Sunday Volunteers

Please sign up on the bulletin board to:

- Serve communion
- Usher & Greet
- Bring a treat
- Host coffee hour
- Read scripture
- Projection

Dylan and Denise Messina will be gone extensively in March and April. If you could help with projection, please sign up on the bulletin board.

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We wish to say a big thank you to all those who give their time and talents to help with the Livestream programs for the church. My mom and I cannot get out to church especially in the winter, and it is such a valuable asset to be able to watch your Live-streaming programs each week. Also, it really helps us to participate and follow along by having the projections on the screen. We know these are not easy jobs, so we want to be sure to thank all of you who help in this vital ministry for your church. You never know who you will be a blessing to. Thank you.

~ Leona and Dana Williams

**newsletter deadline:
Wednesday, March 26**

UMCOR Sunday is March 9. Join us in supporting the incredible work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Your gifts marked “**UMCOR Sunday**” cover UMCOR’s operational costs, ensuring 100% of UMCOR donations throughout the rest of the year go directly to relief efforts. Together, we can bring hope to those in need worldwide. Please clearly mark on your envelope or check that your donation is for “UMCOR Sunday.”

Girl Scout Sunday is March 9. If you know any Girl Scouts who would like to participate in worship that Sunday, please tell Lisa in the office.

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Holy Week Services

- April 13 Palm Sunday
- April 17 Maundy Thursday & Communion 7 p.m.
- April 18 Good Friday 7 p.m. at First Lutheran
- April 20 Easter 6:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Spring Flowers

If you would like to honor or remember someone this Easter with spring flowers, please fill out a pink form by the front door and give it to the office **by Wed., Apr. 16.** Then bring your flowers to the church by Easter.



Prayer List

- Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine
- Flooding in Pike County, KY
- Mindy A.
- Lorna Benson
- Tom Butch
- Bud and Pat Clark
- Bette DeRoeck
- Nancy Grondine
- Matt Hampton
- Jim Hubbard
- Gail Johnivan
- Dorell Kirschner
- Toni Marchese
- Louis Martin
- Brandon Nelson
- Josiah Pryor
- Jordan R.
- Mary Stevens
- Lisa Richer Barta
- Beth and Sarah Benson
- Nancy Campbell
- Kristin Cutcher
- Ian Goldi
- Shannon Hagen
- Nancy Harger
- Hueneman family
- Family of John King
- Christopher Lund
- Rebecca Marchak
- Jeanette Mineau
- Rodney Potvin & family
- Kris R.
- Debbie Rosen
- Mrs. Craig Seckinger

Our Soup and Speaker Series begins March 12. Every Wednesday there will be a simple soup supper at 5:30 followed by a speaker at 6:00. Please see the speaker list on the enclosed Lenten letter.

Soup-er Cooks are needed to make the soup. Please sign up on the board in the narthex to cook for one Wednesday.

Game Night -- 5 p.m. Saturday, Mar. 15
Nannette is bringing hot dogs, buns, and condiments. Please bring a side dish, a dessert, or maybe even another main dish if you wish . . . and bring your favorite game.

Spring Cleaning

While you are cleaning your house and garage this spring, please remember the church **rummage sale** (May 8-10) and the **metal drive** (May 2-11). If you are just “itching” to get items out of your house and can’t wait until May, you can bring them to the church now. Put clean indoor things in room 5. Outdoor items will have to go in the church shed. There is limited room in there, so talk to Lisa about where we can put it.

Vacation Bible School

June 23-26 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

First Lutheran Church just down the street on Minneapolis Ave. has invited us to do V.B.S. together again. Their Fortune Lake Camp Staff will lead V.B.S. while volunteers from both of our churches assist. Since the Fortune Lake Staff is only prepared for children going into 1st grade and up, we will be hosting a PreK / K class here at Memorial where our youngest children can have their own space. We will be using many of the themes from the elementary age VBS but specially scaled down to a preK / K level. We are in need of a coordinator and leaders and helpers for this preK / K Vacation Bible School. We are open for suggestions from leaders and parents alike for how many hours our “little” VBS should run – probably not the full 6 hours like the elementary age VBS. If you are available to lead or help with our preK / K Vacation Bible School, please speak with Lisa in the office as soon as possible.

Daylight Savings Time

Please remember to set your clocks *ahead* one hour on the night of March 8. We will have extra coffee on hand Sunday, March 9, to make up for losing an hour of sleep. You don’t want to miss worship on **March 9** because it will be **Girl Scout Sunday!**

Renting Space in the Church Building

Peggy French is diligently working on putting together a rental brochure for the various rooms in our building. If you would be willing to help with deciding on reasonable rates and policies, please speak with Peggy.

TO: The Kitchen Crew

Thank you for all you did and your thoughtfulness. The people from Lansing were impressed with all the food and wonderful service that you Yoopers did. Lots of comments on the soup. Thanks for everything.

~ All the flannel shirt people and Lettie



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|---------------------|----------------------|
| 3/1 Jessica Stock | 3/16 Nicole Bratonia |
| 3/7 Diane Bishop | 3/20 Jason Viau |
| 3/9 Dylan Messina | 3/22 Devin Messina |
| 3/10 Alice Butch | 3/25 Chris LaMarche |
| 3/12 Maggie Buckley | Teresa Myers |
| 3/14 Sophia Trotter | Kaleb Warm |
| 3/15 Jan Goodman | 3/27 Sara Goodman |
| | 3/29 Lorna Benson |

Life Line Screening will be here at Memorial on Tuesday, March 18, offering painless preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. An informational flyer and two **coupons are on the bulletin board** in the narthex.

Three ways to register:

- Call toll-free: 1-888-814-0466 promo code HSCA001
- Online: <https://www.ilsa.social/hzca>
- Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607

Greetings from Memorial United Methodist Church!

We are quickly approaching Lent. Lent is a season of introspection, deepening one's relationship with God, and seeing how that relationship is lived out in our communities. We have a great variety of opportunities for you to do just that throughout the season of Lent, which runs from Ash Wednesday (March 5) through Easter (April 20).

Sanctuary Walk: During regular office hours (Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.), we invite you to come and walk in the sanctuary. Everyone's name tags will be on the pews so that you can pray for individuals by name as you walk.

The Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, marks the beginning of Lent. This quiet service helps us reflect on our spiritual lives and includes ashes being placed on our forehead as a symbol of humility and somber soul-searching.

Wednesday Soup and Speaker: You are invited to a simple soup supper at 5:30, followed by a special speaker from the community.

March 12 Lori Wells from the Gladstone Public Library

March 19 Mary Jenerou and Kelly Tovar from the Intergenerational Implicit Bias Workgroup

March 26 Melissa Blume (Peggy Richter's daughter), speaking on the Facts About Vaping

April 2 Delta County Animal Shelter

April 9 Michael Peach, newly published author

Alms boxes will be in the back of the sanctuary during Lent. One way to use them is every time you are tempted to buy a treat for yourself, put the money in the alms box instead. Then present it on the altar on Easter, and it will go toward Memorial's Discretionary Fund, which is used to help people in need.

Palm Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m. on April 13. The children will process into the sanctuary with palm branches. This is the beginning of the most sacred week on the church calendar.

Maundy Thursday worship at 7 p.m. on April 17 will include the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The ecumenical Good Friday service at 7 p.m. on April 18 is at First Lutheran, 1212 Minneapolis Ave., Gladstone. The somber music and scripture readings will guide you through Christ's trial and crucifixion.

Celebrate Christ's Resurrection with us on Easter (April 20) at either the sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. or the Easter Celebration service at 10:30 a.m.

We hope you can join us for some or all these activities as we journey through Lent.

Shalom,
Pastor Terri

March 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells 12-4 Gym in use 1:30 Girl Scouts	3 10-7 Gym in use 5:30 Bible study	4 8:30-7:30 Gym 6:00 Thriving in Uncertain Times	5 9:00 Knit 10-6 Gym in use 6:00 Band 7:00 Ash Wed service	6 8:30-7:30 Gym	7 8-6 Gym in use	8
9 <i>UMCOR Sunday & Girl Scout Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells 12-4 Gym in use 1:30 Girl Scouts	10 10-7 Gym in use 5:30 Bible study	11 8:30-7:30 Gym 6:00 Thriving in Uncertain Times	12 9:00 Knit 10-6 Gym in use 5:30 Soup Supper Special Speaker 7:00 Choir	13 8:30-7:30 Gym 6:00 Band	14 8-6 Gym in use	15 5:00 Game Night
16 <i>Noisy Offering</i> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells 12-4 Gym in use 1:30 Girl Scouts	17 10-7 Gym in use 5:30 Bible study	18 Lifeline Screening 2:00 Missions 6:00 Thriving in Uncertain Times	19 9:00 Knit 10-6 Gym in use 5:30 Soup Supper Special Speaker 7:00 Choir	20 8:30-7:30 Gym 4:30 Church Council 6:00 Band	21 8-6 Gym in use	22
23 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells 12-4 Gym in use 1:30 Girl Scouts	24 10-7 Gym in use 5:30 Bible study	25 8:30-7:30 Gym 6:00 Thriving in Uncertain Times	26 9:00 Knit 10-6 Gym in use 5:30 Soup Supper Special Speaker 7:00 Choir	27 8:30-7:30 Gym 6:00 Band	28 8-6 Gym in use	29
30 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells 12-4 Gym in use 1:30 Girl Scouts	31 10-7 Gym in use 5:30 Bible study					