



# The Messenger

May 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](http://www.gladstonechurch.org)

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Mon. – Thur.. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Pastor Terri Branstrom

(906) 280-2993

[tlbran@hotmail.com](mailto:tlbran@hotmail.com)

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

Luke 18:15-17

## The Little Children and Jesus

People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

Today as I write this article for the newsletter it is the day after Easter, and I am reflecting on the Easter celebration we had in worship yesterday.

I remember calling the children up to the front of the sanctuary to talk to me. It is always tricky to invite the kids to talk to me. You never know what they may say or do especially on a day when you know they have had a bit of candy. Yet, they are so willing to share all their emotions and energy. I love spending time with them. They bring me such joy. I hope they do the same for you.

Since I have been serving here as your pastor, I have regularly referred to those with a few years of experience as “older children of God.” Young children still show wonder in our world.

We can’t experience Easter without wonder. But as we grow older wonder is rare. When God touches you, you know it. You can’t explain it. You experience it. You feel it. It goes right through you.

In Chichen Soup For the Soul, Dan Millman tells the story of Sachi. When Sachi was four years old her baby brother was born. Little Sachi began to ask her parents to leave her alone with the new baby. They worried that, like most four-year-olds, she might feel jealous and want to hit him or shake him, so they said, “No.” Over time though, since she wasn’t showing signs of jealousy, they changed their minds and decided to let her have her private conference with her baby brother. Elated, Sachi went into her brother’s room and shut the door, but it opened a crack – enough for her curious parents to peek in and listen. They saw her walk quietly up to her baby brother, put her face close to his, and say, “Baby, tell me what God feels like. I’m starting to forget.”

I often wonder if we, as older children of God, have we forgotten what God feels like. Yes, we worship God and proclaim Jesus as the only Son of God and we invite the Holy Spirit to draw us closer to God, but what does God feel like?

Is God a god of rules and regulations, ready to judge us, or is God a god of loving kindness who nurtures us and cares deeply for us? What does God *really* feel like? I leave you with that question to ponder and maybe discuss with other children of God when you get together. May God bless you today and every day.

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/>

## 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.

## Spring Flowers given in memory of

*Al Jensen . . . . . from his family*

*Mary & Jay Osterberg and Joan Cook  
... from Kay Shapy*

*Walt Houghton and parents Irvin &  
Lydia MacKenzie  
... from Lettie Houghton*

*Husband Williard and daughter Cheryl  
... from Nancy Campbell*

*Josie, Eugene, and Gene Thorbahn Jr.  
... from Pam Thorbahn*

*Billie & Tony Marmalick,  
Jim Marmalick, Beth Robinson,  
Edythe Heslip, Doug & Mona Wescott  
.... from Jeanne & Dave Wescott*

**newsletter deadline:  
Wednesday, May 28**

## Sunday Volunteers

Please sign up on the bulletin board to:

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

## Fundraiser: MARSP Dinner

The Michigan Area Retired School Personnel will have their dinner & meeting here at noon on Tuesday, May 6. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help.

## Rummage Sale

Thursday, May 8 2pm – 7pm

Friday, May 9 8:30am – 2pm

Saturday, May 10 8:30am – 11am

**Please sign up on the bulletin board to help with set-up, clean-up, and the sale itself.**

## Scrap Metal Drive

Start saving your metal now. We will have a receptacle here May 2 - 11.

### 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

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> grade and up, we are discussing hosting a PreK / K class here at Memorial where our youngest children can have their own space. 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. Also let Lisa know if you might bring children, grandchildren, or neighbor children. We want to decide soon whether or not to have a PreK / K Vacation Bible School.

A sign-up to help with the elementary age VBS is already posted. We need snack providers, daily volunteers (assist on one or more days), registration, ice cream and fixings provider, and sundae bar volunteers on Thursday, June 26. Follow this link to sign up on Sign-up Genius, or call Lisa in Memorial's office 428-9311.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948A8A923A1F8C43-56470729-vacation>

To sign elementary kids up, you can use this QR



code, or call Memorial.

To sign up children going into preschool or kindergarten, please call Memorial 428-9311.

## Kitchen Reminder:

If you are using the sprayer hose in the kitchen, please turn off the 2 faucets behind it when all done. Just releasing the trigger so the water stops squirting out isn't good enough, because if the faucets are left on, the water pressure wears away at the seal all week.

Thank you!

## Financial Quarterly Report (Jan.-Mar.)

General Fund money received: \$21,979.30

General Designated Funds to be used as needed for monthly expenses: \$43,672.54

General Fund money disbursed: \$46,234.66

All monthly bills and ministry shares have been paid for the 1st quarter.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Wescott.

## Prayer List

Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine

Freedom for people wrongfully incarcerated

Safety for peaceful protesters

Amish family that was hit by truck

Andy Nelson and daughter Julie Landwehr

Family of Marion Parks

Rodney Potvin and family

Terri's brother Stephen Williams

Mindy A.

Lisa Richer Barta

Lorna Benson

Beth and Sarah Benson

Tom Butch

Nancy Campbell

Bud and Pat Clark

Kristin Cutcher

Bette DeRoek

Baby Gemma and family

Ian Goldi

Nancy Grondine

Shannon Hagen

Nancy Harger

Jim Hubbard

Hueneman family

Gail Johnivan

Margaret Johns

Dorell Kirschner

Christopher Lund

Toni Marchese

Rebecca Marchak

Louis Martin

David McCarley

Jeanette Mineau

Odin and Nix

Josiah Pryor

Kris R.

Jordan R.

Debbie Rosen

Brynlee Scott

Mrs. Craig Seckinger

Lesley Stewart

William



5/2 Jason Johnivan

5/3 Cassandra Tines

5/4 Kaysleigh Hueneman

5/6 Kathi Hoehn

5/7 Katelyn Demarse  
Carolyn Morrow

5/11 Scarlett Kuhlman

5/13 James Moore

5/15 Susan Hampton

5/16 Denise Gauthier

Justin Johnivan

Ashlee LaPlant

Linda Viau

5/20 Ashton Casey

Heather Hoehn

5/21 Lois Boydston

5/23 Elijah Balenger

Michael Keeker

Cassandra LaMarche

5/27 Pat Clark

5/28 Ted Brainard

# May 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 8:30-3:00 Gym  5:30-7:30 Gym	<b>2</b> 8-4 Gym in use  <b>Scrap Metal Drive starts</b>  Boy Scout lock-in	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>10:30 Worship at First Lutheran</b>  <b>11:30 Potluck at First Lutheran</b>  <b>Bell practice ?</b>  12-4 Gym in use	<b>5</b>  10-7 Gym in use ?  <b>Set up for MARSP.</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>MARSP dinner</b>  <b>Set up for rummage sale</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>Set up for rummage sale</b>  <b>6:00 Band</b>  <b>7:00 Choir</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>Set up for rummage sale</b>  <b>Rummage Sale 2:00—7:00</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>Rummage Sale 8:30—2:00</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>Rummage Sale 8:30—11:00</b>
<b>11</b> <i>Education Sunday.</i> <b>10:30 Worship. Graduate Recognition Sunday.</b> <b>11:30 Bells.</b> <b>Clean up from rummage sale.</b> <b>Scrap Metal Drive ends.</b>	<b>12</b>  10-7 Gym in use  <b>5:30 Bible Study</b>	<b>13</b>  8:30-7:30 Gym	<b>14</b> <b>9:00 Knit/Crochet</b>  10-4 Gym in use  <b>6:00 Band</b>	<b>15</b>  8:30-3:00 Gym  5:30-7:30 Gym  <b>6:00 Band</b>  <b>4:30 Church Council</b>	<b>16</b>  8-4 Gym in use	<b>17</b>  <b>5:00 Game Night</b>
<b>18</b>  <i>Noisy Offering</i>  <b>10:30 Worship</b> 12-4 Gym in use 1:30 Girl Scouts	<b>19</b>  10-7 Gym in use  4:00 Girl Scouts  <b>5:30 Bible Study</b>	<b>20</b>  8:30-7:30 Gym	<b>21</b> <b>9:00 Knit/Crochet</b>  10-4 Gym in use  <b>6:00 Band</b>	<b>22</b>  8:30-3:00 Gym  5:30-7:30 Gym	<b>23</b>  8-4 Gym in use	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>  <b>10:30 Worship</b>  Gym in use 1:00 - 5:00	<b>26</b>  10-7 Gym in use	<b>27</b>  8:30-7:30 Gym	<b>28</b> <i>Newsletter deadline</i> <b>9:00 Knit/Crochet</b>  10-4 Gym in use  <b>6:00 Band</b>	<b>29</b>  8:30-3:00 Gym  5:30-7:30 Gym	<b>30</b>  8-4 Gym in use	<b>31</b>