



The Messenger

August 2026

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.

Catherine Booth was a British Evangelist who lived from 1829 – 1890. She was the first woman Salvation Army General. Catherine said, “It is not how many years we live, but what we do with them.”

Few figures in the pages of Women's Christian ministry shine as brightly as Catherine Booth, the co-founder of The Salvation Army. In 1852, Catherine married William Booth, a Methodist minister with whom she shared a passion for evangelism and social reform. Together they formed the Salvation Army.

Catherine had many serious health challenges for the majority of her life, including tuberculosis, heart trouble, and scoliosis of the spine. Yet, these challenges didn't stop her from doing the work set before her by God.

We could say that Catherine had gumption. Who do you know or have known that has/had gumption? Who do you know that has overcome physical, social, racial, or economic challenges to become a positive influence on our world?

Mother Teresa, God's messenger of love was born on 26 August 1910 in Skopje, a city situated at the crossroads of Balkan history, to the parents of Albanian descent. The youngest of the five children born to Nikola and Drana Bojaxhiu, she was baptized Gonxha Agnes, received her First Communion at the age of five and a half and was confirmed in November 1916. From the day of her First Holy Communion, a love for souls was within her. Her father's sudden death when Gonxha was about eight years old left the family in financial straits. Drana raised her children firmly and lovingly, greatly influencing her daughter's character and vocation.

Knowing what it meant to be poor, Mother Teresa went on to help those who were the poorest of all in Calcutta, India. She became one of the most positive influences in Calcutta and the world. She didn't allow herself to say, “Oh poor me.” She heard God's call on her life and she answered it.

Many of us hear God calling us to do the work of God's hands and feet but find excuses not to answer the call. The call may be to teach a Sunday School class or a Bible study. It may be to help at a rummage sale, to stand up on a social issue, sing in the choir, play an instrument in the church band, help navigate the system to get approval on improvements. Maybe you are just afraid you will be called to be the voice of reason on a hot topic or (God forbid) you will receive the call to be a pastor.

Let me assure you that whatever you are called to do, God will ALWAYS be with you — helping, guiding, and encouraging you. Now, go and conquer the city, the state, the country, or the world in Jesus' name. Go in peace, love, joy, and hope. Go with God. Amen.

Shalom,

Pastor Terri

Dear Church Family,

As someone who grew up in this church and has been a member since I was born, Sunday School holds a deeply special place in my heart. I vividly remember all of the wonderful teachers who taught me God's Word with so much love, warmth, and joy. It is an absolute privilege to pass that rich tradition down to the children we have with us today!

This year, we are using Godly Play and interactive, hands-on learning so our kids don't just hear Bible stories—they experience them.

From weaving paper baskets for the Feeding of the 5,000 to crafting moving scenes and building bulletin boards, our kids will be rolling up their sleeves each week.

My biggest goal is for our children to look back and remember Sunday School as an absolute highlight of their week. With school starting back up soon, we want them to be so excited about what they are doing that they tell their classmates, invite their friends, and bring others along to share in God's love with us!

To make this year extra special—and keep our classrooms and storage room fully stocked and organized—we are reaching out to our wonderful congregation for a few supply donations.

Items We Are Looking For:

- **Everyday Supplies:** Glue sticks, markers, chalk markers, and colored paper/cardstock.
- **Specialty Craft Items:**
 - **Smooth River Rocks:** Needed for an upcoming lesson on **August 23rd** on Psalms ("The Lord is my rock"), where the kids will paint their own faith stones!
 - **Craft Hardware & Embellishments:** Sequins (for crafts throughout the year) and metal brads/paper fasteners (for interactive spinner crafts).
- **Storage & Organization:** Clear or colored plastic organizers, bins, or drawers (new or gently used!) to help us

get our Sunday School supply room neat and organized.

- **Open Donations:** Have extra art or school supplies sitting around at home? We will gladly accept any craft items you're willing to donate—I will find a creative way to incorporate them into our lesson plans!

How You Can Help:

We are **not** picky about brands at all—store brands and gently used organizers are wonderfully appreciated!

If you prefer the convenience of online shopping, you can also browse our direct Amazon wishlist.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2E2GK5WGD321P?ref=wl_share

Donations can be dropped off in the **Narthex, Sunday school classroom, or the education office.**

Thank you so much for your continuous love, prayers, and support as we invest in our kids and help them step out in faith!

Blessings,

Emily Trotter

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/>

Picture Directory

Pastor Terri's daughter Elizabeth is putting together a new picture directory for us. She will be **taking pictures after church on Aug. 2.**

Also, if any of your contact information has changed, please tell Lisa. You can look at the printouts on the round tables in the narthex to verify that your information is correct.

There will be **no livestream on Aug. 16** because the worship service will be at Van Cleve Park, followed by a potluck picnic.

Game Nights are the 3rd **Saturday** of the month. The next Game Night is at 5:00 on Saturday, Aug. 15. Please bring a dish to pass and your favorite game.

To donate to Memorial U.M. Church through Tithely, focus the camera of your smartphone at the QR code.



Prayer List

Family of Tom Butch
 Family of Connie Young
 Constantino family, Johnson family, Schmidt family
 Friends and family of Borg
 Pray for all wars to stop.
 Richard Abbott Sue Alexander
 Lorna Benson Beth and Sarah Benson
 Kim Besson Lois Boydston
 Bill Buchmiller Alice Butch
 Pat Clark Dona and Jon Durham
 Richard Demeuse Jordan Geyer
 Ian Goldi Adam Haberstick
 Cheryl Harger Lettie Houghton
 Ron Houle Karen and Jerry Hubbard
 Mike Hubbard Richard Hull
 Berta Johnson Dora and Andy Leonard
 Christopher Lund Toni Marchese
 Beverly Martin Ryan Minor
 Elijah Moffitt Carolyn Morrow
 Kathy Jo Myhren Betty Nyquist
 Helen Palo Josiah Pryor
 Margaret Richard Elizabeth Peltz Richardson
 Debbie Rosen Kelly Roberts in Jordan
 Lisa Richer Barta Judy Smith
 Pam Thorbahn Mark West
 Brian Wood Dane Zahner and Bill Romo

Up-coming Rummage Sale and Scrap Metal Drive

Rummage sale times are

- Th., Sept. 24, 2 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- Fri., Sept. 25, 8:30 – 2:00
- Sat., Sept. 26 bag sale 8:30 – 11:00

The scrap metal bin will arrive on Sept. 23 and stay here until full.

Rummage Sale report

Many hands make light work. Many thanks to all who helped with our July rummage sale:

Maggie Walker	Marie Iverson
Bonnie Oshe	John Myers
Lisa Myers	Diane Oxford
Dave Borden	Jeanne Wescott
Susan Lagina	Carol Borden
Diane Oxford	Jody Harrison
Dennis Harrison	Nannette Martin
Heather Marquette	JoAnn Gudwer
Leo Marquette	Diane Bishop
Tom Marquette	Chris Jensen
Chris Morrow	Pam Thorbahn

Peggy Richter Laurie Kaufman de la Garza

We raised \$1,632. We provided free clothing to many. A good portion of our profit was donations for free clothing. 100% of profits went to the General Fund. Some leftover items were taken to God's Country Community Ministry. Other items will be put in our **Sept. 24-26 rummage sale.**



8/5 Betty Nyquist	8/15 Nancy Peterson
8/7 Adele Ostlund	8/17 Emma Jensen
8/8 Jeffrey Donovan	8/18 Jamie Doneau
8/10 Klaudia Warm	8/19 Kathy Young
Piper Stevens	8/21 Fredrick Hoehn
8/11 Dick Johnson	8/22 Sally Brainard
	8/26 Andy Fase
	8/31 Ashlee Marklin

Our **Church Conference**, which is normally at the beginning of November is Sat., **Sept. 12**, this year 10:00-12:00. We are hosting 14 churches here and could really use a hostess crew 9:30-12:30 to make beverages and set out all the treats that the various churches bring.

Newsletter deadline: Aug. 26

August 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10:30 Worship 11:30 SPRC Stay and have your picture taken for the new directory.	3 5:30 Bible study	4	5 9:30 Knit/Crochet 6:00 Band	6	7	8
9 10:30 Worship	10 5:30 Bible study	11	12 9:30 Knit/Crochet 6:00 Band	13 4:30 Church Council	14	15 5:00 Game Night
16 <i>Noisy Offering</i> 10:30 Worship at Van Cleve Park, followed by a Potluck picnic 1:30 Worship at Lakeview Assisted Living	17 5:30 Bible study	18	19 9:30 Knit/Crochet 6:00 Band	20	21	22
23 10:30 Worship	24 5:30 Bible study	25	26 Newsletter deadline 9:30 Knit/Crochet 6:00 Band	27	28	29
30 10:30 Worship	31 5:30 Bible study					<i>Sept. 12</i> 10:00 Church Conference