



# The Messenger

*We live to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ!*

February 2026

**Memorial United Methodist Church, 1920 Lake Shore Drive, Gladstone, Michigan 49837**

Office: (906) 428-9311

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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.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18) and ends on Holy Saturday (April 4). *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring”. The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus’ temptation by Satan; the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday) describes Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. (Sundays are always little Easters.)

The Great Three Days – sometimes called the Triduum or Pasch –from sunset Holy Thursday through sunset Easter Day are the climax of Lent (and of the whole Christian year) and a bridge into the Easter season. These days proclaim the paschal mystery of Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection. During these days, the community journeys with Jesus from the upper room, to the cross, to the tomb, and to the garden.

Somber colors are used and all shiny objects are removed from the worship area. On Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the church may be stripped bare of visuals. The above explanation of Lent is found in our Book of Discipline.

This year we will be observing Good Friday with our friends from First Lutheran Church here at MUMC. In years past we have conducted a Service of Tenebrae or a Service of Darkness. It is based on a twelfth century service as an extended meditation on the passion of Christ.

But, let’s go back to the Ash Wednesday service. During the Ash Wednesday service, we will be invited to observe the Lenten Disciplines by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word. These Disciplines can be observed as a whole or in part.

There is also another observance that some do during Lent. They “give up” something that is meaningful to them. One year when my daughter Elizabeth was in Jr. High, she decided to “give up” red meat. After Lent she discovered she didn’t miss it and never returned to eating red meat. One year, instead of “giving up” something, I decided to do something different. I “gave up” my time and talents and did something special for others. This has become my common practice for Lent.

Whatever you decide to do should be meaningful to you and draw you closer to God. May this time of repentance and soul-searching be a special time in your Christian walk.

Shalom, Pastor Terri

## Links to Worship

Find an up-to-date schedule for activities, links to online 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/>

## Sunday Volunteers

Please sign up on the bulletin board to:

- Teach Sunday School
- Serve communion
- Usher & Greet
- Bring a treat
- Read scripture

To donate to Memorial U.M. Church through Tithely, focus the camera of your smartphone at the QR code below and follow the directions that appear on your phone.



**Newsletter deadline: Feb. 25**

## How do I know if worship is cancelled?

On rare occasions, worship may need to be cancelled due to weather or some other emergency. If in doubt, please check the list of closings on TV6 and Radio Results Network. You can also call Lisa's cell phone 420-1311. Lisa will also send out text messages to those she has cell numbers for.

**Jersey Sunday:** On Feb. 8, you are invited to wear your favorite Jersey to church. It can be for any sport / any team (Little League to professional).

**Game Night -- 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month.**  
Potluck at 5, followed by board games and sometimes free play time in the gym.

## February's Mission Foci

The Mission workgroup would like to share with the church family our focus for February. We have faithfully supported three local non profit organizations for many years. They are Tri-County Safe Harbor, Lakestate Industries, and Bay Cliff Health Camp. Tri-County Safe Harbor provides services and support for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The shelter is located in Delta County and has outreach offices in Menominee and Schoolcraft Counties. Their federal funding has recently been cut by \$70,000 so the need for financial help is even greater. Lakestate Industries' focus has been giving individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the rewards of working for pay while removing barriers to employment and promoting community inclusion. 100% of donations goes directly to help individuals with disabilities become independent, productive members in our community. Bay Cliff Health Camp is a year-round, nonprofit summer camp, with a goal of serving children with disabilities at its flagship program, the Children's Summer Therapy Camp. The campers work towards goals of increased independence and therapeutic skills, while participating in fun summer camp activities. Bay Cliff also provides a number of programs year-round, each serving a common mission of providing campers with therapeutic opportunities in a beautiful camp setting. Donations are always appreciated. If one, two, or all three speak to you and you wish to support, clearly mark on an envelope your wishes and include either cash or a check payable to MUMC. If donating through Tithely, please let Lisa know your wishes. The funds will be sent to the recipient(s).

**Do you knit or crochet?** If so, we need your help. The Knitting and Crocheting group was given a large donation of yarn. We need help making lap robes, shawls, lapghans, afghans, and/or hats for our yearly donation to the local schools, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities.

You can join us at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday for a time of coffee, socialization, and working on handmade items for our mission. Or, you can knit or crochet at home. We will provide the yarn. Please join our group for 2026.

**The Clothes Closet needs bags** of all kinds -- plastic or paper. If you can donate bags, please bring them to the church.

The Lenten Soup and Special Speaker series will begin on Feb. 25 with a soup supper at 5:30, followed by a Speaker of community interest at 6:00.

## Future of Camp Michigamme

There will be a Listening Session with Pastor Eric Faulker to hear ideas on what the future of Camp Michigamme should be. Please come to share your ideas on **Saturday, Feb. 14**, from **1:00 – 3:00** here at Memorial UMC. More information is on the small bulletin board.

## Vacation Bible School

**June 29 – July 2 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.



## Birthdays

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2/3 Kim Branstrom     | 2/20 Courtney Lagina |
| 2/8 David Johnson     | 2/22 Carol Borden    |
| 2/9 Gina Buchmiller   | 2/25 Dennis Carlyon  |
| Megann Hubbard        | 2/26 Wayne Large     |
| Ethan Jensen          | Sandra St. John      |
| Berta Johnson         | Pamela Thorbahn      |
| 2/10 Benjamin Coleman | 2/27 Dennis Harrison |
| 2/14 Kelsey DeMarse   | Christine Jensen     |

**2026 Offering envelopes** If you would like a box of offering envelopes, please take a box from the small black cabinet in the narthex and print your name next to your box's number on the sign-up sheet. You do not need a box of envelopes to receive a giving statement at year's end. All that is needed for that is **identifiable** offerings, i.e. checks, electronic giving, or cash in an envelope with your name.

## Prayer List

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Elijah Moffitt and his parents Ted & Rebecca      |                            |
| Lorna Benson                                      | Beth and Sarah Benson      |
| Kim Bessonnen                                     | Mike Boudreau              |
| Claire Burton                                     | Tom and Alice Butch        |
| Pat Clark   | Family of Patty Delveau    |
| Richard Demeuse                                   | Bette DeRoeck              |
| Ian Goldi   | Adam Haberstitch           |
| Terry Hampton                                     | Lettie Houghton            |
| Ron Houle   | Richard Hull               |
| Berta Johnson                                     | Barb & Jack Lehman         |
| Christopher Lund                                  | Toni Marchese              |
| Beverly Martin                                    | David McCarley             |
| Jeanette Mineau                                   | Ryan Minor                 |
| Betty Nyquist                                     | Helen Palo                 |
| Bernice Paulson                                   | Josiah Pryor               |
| John Rector                                       | Margaret Richard           |
| Debbie Rosen                                      | Elizabeth Peltz Richardson |
| Lisa Richer Barta                                 | Judy Tjepkema              |
| Mark West   | Leona Williams             |
| Brian Wood  | Mary Hubbard               |
| Families of Alex Pretti and Renee Good            |                            |
| Minneapolis and the entire state of Minnesota     |                            |
| All people being illegally detained and deported. |                            |

## Album Launch Concert and Community Benefit

Singer-songwriter Phil Lynch will debut his new album, *Growing, Older: Songs for the Second Act*, with a free concert on **Friday, Feb. 20 at 7:00 PM** at First Presbyterian Church, Escanaba.

While admission is free, a free-will offering will be collected to benefit **Tri-County Safe Harbor**, the local domestic abuse shelter serving Delta, Menominee, and Schoolcraft Counties.

The evening will feature piano-driven, storytelling songs that reflect on life, faith, time, and the experience of growing older with gratitude and hope. All are welcome and heartily invited.

**The Early Childhood Program / Head Start** is accepting applications for the 2026-27 school year. If you have a child who will be 3 or 4 years old by December 1, 2026, and you are interested in receiving free preschool services, please contact your local Early Childhood Center, or the administrative office at 786-7080 or 800-562-9131. We also serve pregnant moms and children up to age 3 in our Early Head Start program.

# February 2026



| Sun  | Mon                           | Tue       | Wed   | Thu                              | Fri   | Sat  |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------|---|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <i>1</i><br>10:30 Worship                    | 2<br>5:30 Bible study         | 3         | <i>4</i><br>9:00 Knit<br>10:00 Clergy District Gathering<br>6:00 Band<br>7:00 Choir             | 5                                | 6   | 7  |
| <i>8</i><br>“Jersey Sunday”<br>10:30 Worship | 9<br>5:30 Bible study         | 10        | <i>11</i><br>9:00 Knit<br>7:00 Choir  | <i>12</i>                        | <i>13</i>   | <i>14</i><br>1:00 — 3:00 Listening Session about the future of Camp Michigamme |
| <i>15</i><br>Noisy Offering<br>10:30 Worship | <i>16</i><br>5:30 Bible study | <i>17</i> | <i>18</i><br>9:00 Knit<br>7:00 Ash Wed. service   | <i>19</i><br>4:30 Church Council | <i>20</i><br>5:00 Game Night<br>7:00 Phil Lynch concert at First Presbyterian | <i>21</i>  |
| <i>22</i><br>10:30 Worship                   | <i>23</i><br>5:30 Bible study | <i>24</i> | <i>25</i><br>Newsletter Deadline<br>9:00 Knit<br>5:30 Soup Supper<br>6:00 Speaker<br>7:00 Choir | <i>26</i>                        | <i>27</i>   | <i>28</i>  |
|  |                               |           |   |                                  |   |  |