



The Messenger

January 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.

Happy New Year, Dear Friends,

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, "The coming of Jesus at Bethlehem brought joy to the world and to every heart. May His coming this Christmas bring to each one of us that peace and joy that He desires to give."

A new year has arrived. My wish for each of you is a year of peace and joy. We have celebrated the coming of the love, joy, peace, and hope that God sent to us so many years ago. I encourage you to embrace all that God has given us. Share the love, joy, peace and hope that God has given you with all that you meet.

Sometimes we get so caught up in our own lives that we forget that there are others who don't realize that their help has come to earth in the form of a baby who grew into a man that paid the price for our sin. I encourage each of you to share all that God has given us.

We begin a new year with great hopes of doing better and improving our lives and the lives around us. Sharing the love, peace, joy, and hope of Christ with others is our way of improving the lives of others.

At MUMC there are always ways to serve God and others. We offer Bible studies so we can learn more about Christ, Sunday School for our children to learn about God, fellowship at game night, sharing talents in both choirs and band, greeting others as they come into worship, and many other ways.

Many people make “New Year’s resolutions.” Why not make a resolution to participate in one new activity at MUMC? I believe that you may even enjoy serving God as you serve our church.

My friends, share the joy of having Christ in your lives. Share the love of God in all you do. Share the hope of a better day that God gives. Share the peace of knowing God is with you 24/7/365. God bless you in the New Year.

Shalom.

Pastor Terri

On Sunday, Jan. 11, we will recognize **Human Relations Day**, one of our denomination's six special Sundays. The special offering on this day contributes to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of building "the beloved community" by supporting ministries of advocacy and community engagement such as the Community Developers Program, United Methodist Voluntary Services, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. More information is on the large bulletin board by the round tables in the narthex.

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. 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
- Read scripture

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



Newsletter deadline: Jan. 28

Poinsettias given to the Glory of God in Memory of:

Michael Oxford - - - - - from Diane Oxford

Jan Watson - - - - from Dave and Berta Johnson

Nancy Campbell - - - - -The Reynolds family

Josie & Eugene Thorbahn - from Pam Thorbahn

Al Jensen and Molly Merlot - -
- from Chris, Pete, and June Jensen

Loved Ones - - -
- -from Gary & Beverly Quick and Tina Harkins



Game Night

Nancy Campbell always enjoyed participating in Game Night, so we are dedicating our next Game Night to her on Friday, Jan. 16, at 5 p.m. We will start with a potluck at 5:00. Chicken, potatoes, and beans will be provided. After the potluck, you can play games or just sit around a reminisce. Please sign up on the bulletin board so that we can get a head count, AND note what type of side dish or dessert you will be bringing.

Sunday School Teachers needed!

Please sign up on the bulletin board to teach for a Sunday or two or three.

Sunday School Coordinator needed

We thank Peggy French for all the work she did on Children's Christian Education. She is now stepping down, so we need someone to fill that position.

Christmas Pageant

We give a huge "thank you" to all who participated in the Christmas pageant.

Storytellers: Tracy Jensen, Susan Lagina, and Laurie Kaufman de la Garza

Readers: Mike Peach, Isaac Lagina, Diane Oxford, and Deb Hubbard

Baby Jesus: Noah Trotter

Mary: Sophia Trotter

Joseph: Grayson Reynolds

Angels: Finley Stevens, Petra Lagina, Mia Hicks, and Kaysleigh Hueneman

Shepherds: Piper Stevens, Archer Hueneman, and Rand Reynolds

Sheep: Asher Reynolds

Wisemen: Axel Hueneman, Carson Casey, and Leo Marquette

Initial inspiration from Lorna Benson.

Costuming: Breanne Hueneman, Molly Stevens, and Christiana Reynolds

Kid Control: Gary Reynolds

Kid Herder: Andie Balenger

To Susan Lagina, Brenda Balenger, Laurie Kaufman de la Garza, Denise Messina, Nannette Martin, Devin Messina, and all who donated the bars: We appreciate all the work for making our meal wonderful.

We love you all.

~ Bev Quick and Tina Harkins

The Knitters Group recently distributed 5 bags to local homebound people, 3 homemade cards to out-of-town homebound people, 17 afghans & laprobes & shawls to Transitions, 31 afghans & laprobes & shawls to Lake House in Escanaba, 2 boxes of hats & mittens/gloves & scarves to the YMCA daycare in Wells, and cancer hats to OSF Oncology and Parkview Oncology.



All this was made possible by Barb Vargo, Norma Erickson, Carol Borden, Alice Butch, Lettie Houghton, Diane Bishop, JoAnn Gudwer, Peggy Richter, Peggy Lewis, and Nannette Martin.



God's Country Community Ministry leader Randy Hildebrant was flabbergasted by how efficient MUMC's Mission Team was at packing Christmas boxes. The 4 people who went from our church to Newberry were Nannette Martin, Susan Lagina, Peggy Richter, and Laurie Kaufman de la Garza.

“Who is that young, really good tuba player?” some people have been asking. She is Chris Jensen’s granddaughter, Cecilia Jensen. The other members of the church band are Ted Brainard (baritone) and Lisa Myers and her brother David Block (trumpets). New band members are welcome, and we can work around your schedule. Please talk to Lisa Myers in the church office if interested.

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.

2025 Giving Statements are on the round table by the front entrance. Please take yours.

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 (and fond memories) on **Saturday, Feb. 14, from 1:00 – 3:00** here at Memorial UMC. More information is on the small bulletin board.



1/4 Marilee Demarse	1/15 Connie Breitzman
Clayton Numillien	Samuel Taylor
1/8 Susan Lagina	1/18 Archer Hueneman
Marvin Sodermark	1/19 Leslie Coleman
1/10 Uriah Kuhlman	Joyce Rabitoy
1/13 Lexi Johnson	1/21 JoAnn Gudwer
1/14 Bonnie Buchmiller	1/22 Pat Sodermark
Sandy St. Aubin	1/23 Kevin Warm

Prayer List

Lorna Benson	Beth and Sarah Benson
Kim Bessonien	Tom and Alice Butch
Pat Clark	Claire Burton
Patty Delveaux	Richard Demeuse
Bette DeRoeck	Adam Haberstitch
Terry Hampton	Lettie Houghton
Jim Hubbard	Berta Johnson
Christopher Lund	Toni Marchese
Beverly Martin	David McCarley
Jeanette Mineau	Betty Nyquist
Josiah Pryor	John Rector
Debbie Rosen	Elizabeth Peltz Richardson
Leona Williams	Lisa Richer Barta
Brian Wood	Mark West

January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:30 Worship	5 5:30 Bible study	6	7 9:00 Knit 6:00 Band	8	9	10
11 <i>Human Relations Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship	12 5:30 Bible study	13	14 9:00 Knit 6:00 Band	15 4:30 Church Council	16 5:00 Game Night in memory of Nancy Campbell	17
18 <i>Noisy Offering</i> 10:30 Worship 1:30 Worship at Lakeview Assisted Living	19 5:30 Bible study	20	21 9:00 Knit 6:00 Band	22	23	24
25 10:30 Worship	26 5:30 Bible study	27	28 Newsletter deadline 9:00 Knit 6:00 Band	29	30	31