



The Messenger

March 2026

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

t1bran@hotmail.com

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

Luke 1: 37 says, “Nothing is impossible with God.”

Some two thousand years ago, Jesus walked this earth. He called 12 disciples to join him on his journey of spreading God’s love into this world. Now, years later that love that the disciples began spreading reaches every corner of our world.

Margaret Mead said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Any given Sunday we have 30-50 people worship in our sanctuary. What if these people committed themselves to spread the love of Jesus Christ through word and deed? Think of the change they could make in the world. Jesus started with only 12. We have about 3 times that already. And, like Jesus’ twelve, we have the power of our awesome God going before, with, and behind us.

Each of us live in a little section of this world. What would happen if each of us during Lent decided to spread God’s love in our part of the world? What would that look like? How would that feel for you and for your part of the world?

Forgive me for saying this, but there is too much hate and conflict in our world. People are spreading hate and dissention everywhere. What would happen if we started spreading love, joy, and hope? We could start a new revolution—not for evil but for good.

What is in your sights to do for Lent this year? I suggest we spread love, joy, and hope in our community, our church, and in our homes. With the power of God’s Holy Spirit, we can make a difference.

Shalom, 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. 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:

- 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.



UMCOR Sunday on March 8 seeks to increase awareness and support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Gifts marked “UMCOR Sunday” play a vital role in enhancing the church’s global humanitarian response because these funds cover UMCOR’s administrative costs. This support ensures that 100% of donations given to UMCOR throughout the rest of the year can be directed toward on-the-ground relief and recovery efforts, allowing UMCOR to effectively respond to crises and provide assistance where it’s needed most. By investing in UMCOR’s operations, we empower the church to mobilize resources quickly and efficiently, making a meaningful impact in communities affected by disaster and hardship around the world. Your donation helps us continue this vital ministry.

Newsletter deadline: March 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.

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Holy Week Services

- March 29 Palm Sunday – children process with palms
- April 2 Maundy Thursday & Communion 7 p.m.
- April 3 Good Friday 7 p.m.
- April 5 Easter 7 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Easter Lilies If you would like to honor or remember someone this Easter with lilies, please fill out a purple form from the long table by the front door and bring it to the office **by Wednesday, April 1**. Then bring your flowers by Easter.

The Lent-Easter offering will go to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. This fund is used to help individuals who need assistance with possibly part of a utility bill, gasoline to get to an appt. in Marquette, etc. Anything you give marked “Lent,” “Maundy Thursday,” “Good Friday,” or “Easter” will go into this fund.

Wednesday Night Lenten Speakers

- 5:30 Soup Supper and 6:00 Speaker
- Mar. 4 Matt Maskart, the Chief Executive Officer of Pathways.
- Mar. 11 Kristine Paulsen – “Take the Challenge: Healthy Media”.
- Mar. 18 Julie Mallard, the Executive Director of United Way, speaking about school readiness.
- Mar. 25 Bob Hazen, an elder of Lac Vieux Desert Chippewa Tribe and a survivor of Native American boarding schools.

Please invite everyone you know to hear these excellent speakers.

New Study: *Knowing Who We Are: The Wesleyan Way of Grace.*

The United Methodist story is a story of God’s love. In *Knowing Who We Are*, Lacey Warner invites you to a rich understanding of Wesleyan Christianity and the values, beliefs, and practices that grow from it. You’ll learn about its beginnings as a renewal movement saturated with God’s grace. You’ll learn about the United Methodist legacy of compassion, care, and active response to injustice in the world. Most of all, you’ll find a way of being Christian that fills you with joy, moves you to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, and spurs you to live with compassion and grace.

If you would like to read this book on your own or discuss it in a group with other people, please contact Lisa for a copy.

MUMC Family,

I miss y’all. I’ve been listening to the Sunday services and wish I was there to see all the smiling faces. Beautiful country out here, but there is no place like home!! Scott and I don’t miss the cold and snow, but the dogs do. ~ Brenda Balenger

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.

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



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|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3/1 Jessica Stock | 3/16 Nicole Bratonia |
| 3/7 Diane Bishop | 3/19 John Myers |
| 3/8 Madelynn Marklin | 3/20 Jason Viau |
| 3/9 Dylan Messina | 3/22 Devin Messina |
| 3/10 Alice Butch | 3/25 Chris LaMarche |
| 3/14 Sophia Trotter | Kaleb Warm |
| 3/15 Jan Goodman | 3/27 Sara Goodman |
| | 3/29 Lorna Benson |

Prayer List

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|---|------------------|
| The Argall family | Lorna Benson |
| Beth and Sarah Benson | Kim Bessonon |
| Tom and Alice Butch | Pat Clark |
| Richard Demeuse | Bette DeRoeck |
| Roger Finnegan | Baby Gemma |
| Adam Haberstitch | Ian Goldi |
| Lettie Houghton | Ron Houle |
| Mary Hubbard | Richard Hull |
| Dora and Andy Leonard | Berta Johnson |
| Christopher Lund | Toni Marchese |
| Beverly Martin | Matthew |
| Beverly McCarley | Brian Minor |
| David McCarley | Elijah Moffitt |
| Betty Nyquist | Helen Palo |
| Josiah Pryor | John Rector |
| Elizabeth Peltz Richardson | Margaret Richard |
| Lisa Richer Barta | Debbie Rosen |
| Mark West | Lynn Schmidt |
| Pam Thorbahn | Leona Williams |
| Eileen Wittenmore | Brian Wood |
| Camp Michigamme | |
| The family of Marianne Watson Milkowski | |

Spring Cleaning

While you are cleaning your house and garage this spring, please remember the church **rummage sale** (April 30 – May 2) and the **metal drive** at that same time. If you are just “itching” to get items out of your house and can’t wait until late April, 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.

Dear friends at Memorial,

This very belated note is to let you know that Tom and I have moved to the Grand Rapids area. In early November 2025 both of us became quite sick. Tom was in need of more nursing care than he could get at Lakeview and we decided he should be transferred closer to our family members who live near Grand Rapids. I followed him 2 weeks later when a room for me became available in the same building. The move was so abrupt that we didn’t have time to say goodbye to many of you. We miss you!

That said, we are doing well here. Tom’s wounds have improved and we are minutes away from hospital and medical offices. The staff here is quite helpful. Best of all, we are close to our son, daughter, and adult grandson, and 1½ hours from Tom’s sister . . . lots of support! We have not yet found a new church home but have been visiting several.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for the many words of kindness and support, as well as your prayers. You will always be a part of who we are.

We keep you all in prayer, and would love to hear from you . . . The church office has our new address, as well as our phone number.

I will probably be back in Gladstone to close up the house and make some final decisions.

May God hold each of you in the Palm of God’s hand.

Love in Christ,
Alice Butch

Life Line Screening will be offering preventive health screenings on Wednesday, March 18, in the church gym. Money-saving coupons are on the church bulletin board

For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call **1-844-591-7160** or go to <https://www.llsa.social/hsca> or text the word **circle** to **216-279-1607**.

Pre-registration is required

March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Worship	2 5:30 Bible study	3	4 9:00 Knit 5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Special Speaker 7:00 Choir	5 7:00 Band	6	7 <i>Nursery in use</i>
8 <i>UMCOR Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship	9 5:30 Bible study	10	11 9:00 Knit 5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Special Speaker 7:00 Choir	12 7:00 Band	13	14
15 <i>Noisy Offering</i> 10:30 Worship 1:30 Worship at Lakeview Assisted Living	16 5:30 Bible study	17	18 Lifeline Screening 9:00 Knit 5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Special Speaker 7:00 Choir	19 4:30 Church Council 7:00 Band	20 5:00 Game Night	21
22 10:30 Worship	23 5:30 Bible study	24	25 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 9:00 Knit 5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Special Speaker 7:00 Choir	26 7:00 Band	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 10:30 Worship	30 5:30 Bible study	31	April 1 6:00 Band 7:00 Choir	April 2 7:00 Maundy Thursday service	April 3 7:00 Good Friday service	April 4