The Messenger

November 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
tlbran@hotmail.com
Mon. and Thur, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The hymn "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" (also known as "The Solid Rock") was written in 1834 by Edward Mote, a British cabinetmaker who later became a strict Baptist minister.

While walking to work in 1836 through London to his woodworking shop in Holborn, Mote began meditating on the unshakeable nature of a Christian's faith. The phrase “On Christ the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand” came to his mind, and he quickly jotted down the verses. A few days later while comforting a friend’s ailing wife, they were praying and singing when they realized they didn't have a hymnal. Mote reached into his pocket and pulled out the newly written verses. The words provided deep comfort to the sick woman, which moved Mote so much that he expanded the song to six stanzas and had 1,000 copies printed.

The publication originally titled "The Immutable Basis for a Sinner's Hope," was published anonymously at first before being included in Mote's 1836/1837 collection, Hymns of Praise.

The tune: the famous, upbeat musical tune recognized today, was composed much later in 1863 by William B. Bradbury, who paired Mote's lyrics with the chorus.

Hope – a confident expectation or a feeling of desire that a desired event or positive outcome will happen. Hope is like having your fingers crossed as you wait for a positive outcome.

Hope is similar to faith. Faith is defined as: complete trust, confidence, or belief in a person, concept, or system. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as: the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Biblical faith is viewed as an active, obedient trust in God’s character and promises.

Recently I was given a plaque with the verse from Luke 1:37 which says, “Faith doesn’t make things easy. It makes them possible.”

Many times in our lives, our faith is shaken and we feel disappointed in ourselves for allowing ourselves to have our faith shaken. Let me remind you of 9 who had their faith shaken. Job suffered loss of his family, wealth, and health, leading him to openly question God’s justice and why he was allowed to be born. Thomas (The Apostle) doubted the accounts of Jesus’ resurrection, stating he would not believe until he physically touched Jesus’ wounds. Simon Peter denied knowing Jesus three times out of fear when Jesus was arrested, and briefly sank in the water when his faith wavered while walking toward Jesus. Elijah felt completely overwhelmed, terrified of Queen Jezebel, and prayed for his own life to end. John the Baptist sent messengers to Jesus asking if He was truly the Messiah while he was sitting in a prison cell. Moses hesitated and resisted God’s call, citing a lack of public speaking skills and later crying out in frustration during the wilderness journey. Abraham and Sarah

laughed or doubted God's promise that they would have a child in their old age. David questioned God's presence and fairness during years of running from King Saul and facing personal failure.

So, you see, those we may think were steadfast and solid in their faith of God, had some times of questioning and doubt. It is not surprising that we have similar times of questioning and doubt.

We have hope and faith in Jesus and God, but we also have times where we need others to assure us that God is on our side, giving us what we need to continue on.

It is my hope that if you see a friend struggling along the way, you will share your faith with them and lift them up into the arms of God. Amen.

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/

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

United Methodist Student Day -- Nov. 29

United Methodist Student Day is a mission that deepens the connection between the local church and ministries on a global scale. The day is observed to emphasize the value of education. Our contributions support scholarships for United Methodist students pursing undergraduate and graduate degrees. You can donate by mailing or bringing your gift to Memorial UMC (clearly marked in the memo section "UM Student Day"), or you can donate through the QR code, making sure to tell Lisa 428-9311 that it is for Student Day. Every dollar collected goes directly toward these scholarships.
~ Peggy Richter

All Saints Day -- Nov. 1

Naming Our Saints Who Are Members
Nancy Campbell
Bette DeRoeck
Tom Butch

And Others Who Are Dear to Us
Jim Tochterman
Gary Quick
Leona Williams
Marianne Watson Milkowski
William "Bill" McCloud
Charles Lundquist
Thomas Vitito

Giving to the **Memorial Fund** is a wonderful way to remember someone and to help our church purchase items that are not included in our regular budget. Memorials have been received in the past 12 months in memory of Janice Watson, Terry Alexander, Jim Tochterman, Nancy Campbell, Leona Williams, Bette & Irv DeRoeck, and Tom Butch. We thank all who so generously gave.

The cost of replacing 6 windows is being covered by memorials given in memory of Jane Empson and Nancy Campbell.

Scrubbies lovingly made by Nancy Campbell are on the pasty sign-up table in the narthex. Please help yourself --and sign up to help with pasties.

Pasties sell for $8 each on Nov. 7. Order on the tripod in the narthex.

Help with pasties: Please sign up in the narthex to help with pasties on Nov. 4-7. We truly need everyone's help! Sit down jobs are available.

Nov. 4 10:00 – 2:00 ? Clean kitchen
Nov. 5 10:00 – 1:00 ? Clean equipment
1:00 – 2:30 ? Set up kitchen and gym
Nov. 6 Cut Veggies: shifts available 8 – 2
Make dough 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Nov. 7 Make pasties 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Wrapping and Selling in cold gym 9 – 6

A New Earthkeeper

In addition to everything else Denise Messina does, she just completed the United Methodist's Earthkeepers Training. Global Ministries will commission the new EarthKeepers in an online service on Tuesday, November 10 at 8 p.m. Please join us via livestream at EK 2026 Commissioning.

The 2027 pledge drive is underway. If you have not yet received a pledge card, please get one from Lisa. Prayerfully consider what you will pledge, fill out your card, and return it on or before Nov. 22. We will have a dedication of the pledge cards on Sunday, November 22 for God's blessing.

We will also have a **dessert buffet** after worship that day. Please sign up to bring a dessert for that day.

I loved seeing the children and hearing their responses! That littlest one dancing around made me laugh and I wanted to dance with her! Such Joy, she expressed! I'm so glad we welcome the children in such loving and open ways and never make them feel like they should be quiet and sit still. Has to put a smile on God's face too!

~ Lorna

Food Drive Throughout the month of November, we are collecting food for the Bay College Food Pantry. Peggy Richter volunteers there and has created this list of items that are often sought-after.

- Ramen – any kind
- canned fruit
- canned vegetables
- soups
- spaghetti
- spaghetti sauce
- Knorr noodles
- instant potatoes
- Rice a Ronni
- cereal
- baked beans
- pancake mix & syrup
- crackers
- tuna, chicken, or spam
- ketchup, mustard, mayo
- deodorant
- tooth paste
- tooth brushes
- shampoo
- conditioner
- lotions
- bar soaps
- shower gel
- wipes
- finger nail clipper
- Kleenex
- toilet paper
- paper towels

You can also write checks to MUMC, earmarked for the food drive, and Peggy will purchase the supplies that the pantry needs the most.

Prayer List

Pray for all wars to stop.
Lorna and Ken Benson
Beth and Sarah Benson
Wesley Bumpus
Pat Clark
Karen Doubblestein
Dona and Jon Durham
Sarah Hampton
Terra Hampton
Lettie Houghton
Mike Hubbard
Gail Peters Hutchings
Dora and Andy Leonard
Beverly Martin
Elijah Moffitt
Kathy Jo Myhren
Helen Palo
Elizabeth Peltz Richardson
Debbie Rosen
Adam Syers
Family of Charles Lundquist
Family of Thomas Vitito
Richard Abbott
Kim Bessonen
Kade Botsford
The Butch family
Richard Demeuse
Ian Goldi
Adam Haberstitch
Cheryl Harger
Jan Hess Wahl
Ron Houle
Richard Hull
Christopher Lund
Toni Marchese
Ryan Minor
Carolyn Morrow
Betty Nyquist
Josiah Pryor
Margaret Richard
Lisa Richer Barta
Pam Thorbahn
Brian Wood

Lois Boydston's new address
1211 East Caroline St., Apt 130
Tavares, FL 32778

New Member Class: Sunday, Nov. 8, 11:30

Our new Kitchen Manager

Luis de la Garza has completed Michigan's kitchen certification training and is now Memorial UMC's new Kitchen Manager. Please follow proper state protocol when using the church kitchen.



11/2 Shepard Gaudino
11/3 Katherine Juhola
11/5 Jax de la Garza
Terry Hampton
11/6 Lisa Lancour
11/9 Meredith Marlett
11/13 Gary LaMarche
11/14 Valerie Johnson
Ryan Oshe
11/15 Joanne Hill
11/21 Reese Gaudino
11/23 Stashia Wery
11/26 Ethan Juhola
Grace Taylor
11/29 Marlene Maulding
11/30 William Morrow
Asher Reynolds

Do you love to knit or crochet?

The Knitters group is looking for people to knit hats, shawls, lap robes, etc. for their December give-away. You can knit/crochet at home or along with the group at 9:30 Wednesday mornings.
They have plenty of yarn that you can use. Please speak with Peggy Richter for more information.

Game Nights are the 3rd ***Saturday*** of the month. The next Game Night is at 5:00 on Saturday, Nov. 21. Please bring a dish to pass and your favorite game.

Newsletter deadline: Nov. 24



The following article about Laurie was in the district newsletter.

Grounded in love, one muffin at a time

Posted on October 13, 2026



~ image by Sara from Pexels

Laurie Kaufman de la Garza, Northern Skies District Lay Leader, recalls how her parents' quiet generosity shaped her faith.

I was born the middle child of five, with two older brothers and two younger. There was a seven-year gap between my next-older brother and me. I never thought much of that difference, but when I took my mother to a doctor's appointment at 95, I filled out the update form for her because her arthritic hands refused to hold a pen.

I came to the question "Have you ever had a miscarriage?" and was about to check "NO" when I decided that, since it was her information, I should ask the question. Well, I learned that she had a miscarriage during that gap. I had never heard her speak of it, and none of my siblings were aware of it. My older brothers did not recall it.

My family was not wealthy. My father was a milkman who delivered milk to homes. If one of his customers lost a job or otherwise struggled to pay him, he never stopped delivering milk. "Those kids still need their milk," he would say. I learned this when I was older. When someone in the community learned I was Bill Kaufman's kid, they would tell me about my dad's generosity.

My mother was a talented seamstress, taught by her mother the handicrafts of sewing, crocheting, and quilting. I met an older woman during the course of my work, and after the usual "getting to know you conversation," she paused and told me that she had been a classmate of my mother's. In her sewing class, she wanted to make a garment from fabric her family couldn't afford. She told me that one day, my mother came to school and gave her that piece of fabric. My mother's mother owned a small five-and-dime, and I suppose the fabric came from her store. The woman and my mother weren't particularly close, but 50-some years later, she recalled my mother's kindness.

My mother was also a good baker who enjoyed making muffins; visitors never left without a couple. Often, I would come home to find a baggie of muffins hanging from the mailbox, waiting for the mailman. New neighbors also received a welcoming plate of muffins.
I miss my parents and am thankful for having learned the gift of generosity from them, not from their words but from the recipients of their kindness and from the memories of those bagged muffins hanging from the mailbox.

Life Line Screening will be at Memorial on Monday, December 7, and is offering a special screening package for members. Learn more and schedule your appointment by:
* calling 1-800-324-9458,
* texting the word circle to 216-279-1607, or
*visit Life Line's website at LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC.
Life Line Screening provides health screenings to detect the risk of stroke and cardiovascular disease.
There are a couple of money-saving coupons on the bulletin board.

The Bay de Noc Choral Society will present their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 6, at 1:30 at First Presbyterian Church in Escanaba.

November 2026

1 ***All Saints Day*** **10:30 Worship**	**2** **4:30 Bible Study**	**3**	**4** **9:30 Knit** **10 - 2 Clean Kitchen** **6:00 Band** **7:00 Choir**	**5** **10 - 1 Clean equipment** **1:00-2:30 Set up**	**6** **8am – 1pm Veggie cut up** **2 – 5 Dough**	**7** **7am – 6pm Pasty Bake & Sale**
8 **10:30 Worship** **11:30 New Member class**	**9** **4:30 Bible Study**	**10**	**11** **9:30 Knit** **6:00 Band** **6:30 Bells** **7:00 Choir**	**12**	**13**	**14**
15*Noisy Offering* **10:30 Worship** **1:30 Worship at Lakeview Assisted Living**	**16** **4:30 Bible Study**	**17** **God's Country Community Ministry Thanksgiving Box packing**	**18** **9:30 Knit** **6:00 Band** **7:00 Choir**	**19** **4:30 Church Council**	**20**	**21** **5:00 Game Night**
22 ***Stewardship Sunday*** **10:30 Worship, Dessert buffet.**	**23** **4:30 Bible Study**	**24**	**25** **9:30 Knit**	**26**	**27**	**28**
29 ***First Sunday of Advent*** ***UM Student Day*** **10:30 Worship**	**30** **4:30 Bible Study**					