



The Messenger

October 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.

When a couple comes to me to be married, I require them to talk with me several times. One of the subjects we talk about is the difference between promise, contract, and vow. The three are similar, yet, each is a bit different. The same can be said about community, congregation, and family.

A community is defined as: 1.) Geographic area: People living in a specific neighborhood, town, or city. 2.) Shared interests: Groups connected by a common religion, profession, hobby, or identity (such as the scientific or online community). 3.) Sense of belonging: A feeling of trust, safety, and mutual support among members.

A congregation is defined as: 1.) Religious Assembly: A body of believers who regularly attend a specific place of worship, such as a church, synagogue, mosque, or temple. 2.) The Act of Gathering:: The physical process of bringing people, things, or animals together into a group.

A family is defined as: 1.) Nuclear Family: Two adults and their offspring living together in a private dwelling. 2.) Extended Family: Parents, children, and other relatives like grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins living together or closely linked. 3.) Modern & Functional Definitions: Broadened to include single parents, same-gender couples, stepfamilies, and close friends who share long-term emotional commitment and mutual support.

As you can see, some of the definitions sometimes cross the lines from one to the other. But you will notice that they don't define a family as those who worship together, care for one another, pray for one another, and have a close relationship with those in their membership.

Looking at all the definitions, where would you place the people of Memorial United Methodist as a whole? Can you place them within a couple of the groups? Where do you place yourself within Memorial United Methodist Church?

As you contemplate those questions also think about the inner workings of a family? Who does the housecleaning, pays the bills, provides money to pay the bills, teaches the children, repairs the broken items in the "house", turns off the lights, opens the doors, provides meals, plans fun events and outings, and so on? Another question for you: are you "pulling your weight" within the family? If not, what can you do to help?

I do not feel that MUMC is truly a congregation. It is a family—a family created by God. I am blessed to be part of this family and I am blessed to be one of God's precious children, just like you.

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.



Prayer List

Pray for all wars to stop.
Lorna and Ken Benson
Beth and Sarah Benson
Joe & Tammy Braswell
The Butch family
Family of Jon Cronkite
Dona and Jon Durham
Tracy Fulton
The Fulton family
Adam Haberstick
Terra Hampton
Judy Hinch
Ron Houle
Richard Hull
Dora and Andy Leonard
Todd Lush
James Lush
Beverly Martin
Elijah Moffitt
Kathy Jo Myhren
Chuck and Bernice Paulson
Josiah Pryor
Elizabeth Peltz Richardson
Lisa Richer Barta
Adam Syers
Mark West

Richard Abbott
Kim Bessonon
Kade Botsford
Wesley Bumpus
Pat Clark
Richard Demeuse
Family of Eli
Jay Fulton
Ian Goldi
Sarah Hampton
Cheryl Harger
Lettie Houghton
Mike Hubbard
Carol Johns
Christopher Lund
Norma Lusk
Toni Marchese
Ryan Minor
Carolyn Morrow
Betty Nyquist
Helen Palo
Margaret Richard
Debbie Rosen
Judy Smith
Pam Thorbahn
Brian Wood

World Communion Sunday -- Oct. 4

The United Methodist Church has a special offering every year on World Communion Sunday. Your gift marked "World Communion Sunday" empowers a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ.

All Saints Day -- Nov. 1

You are invited to submit names of special people in your life who have gone home to God in the past 12 months. Please submit these names **by Wednesday, Oct. 28** to be mentioned in the All Saints Service.

New Members

If you are interested in becoming a member of Memorial Church, please speak with Pastor Terri or Lisa.

Music Ministry is gearing up for this year. If you would like to be in the choir, bell choir, or band, please speak with Kathy Young or Lisa. We would love praising God with you.



10/2 Laura LaMarche	10/19 Wilma Vanderdonck
10/4 Dave Lewis	10/22 Andie Balenger
10/6 Grayson Reynolds	10/24 Terri Branstrom
10/7 Sharon Block	10/28 Karl Warm
10/18 Tracy Jensen	10/30 Trudy Broman

Newsletter deadline: Oct. 28

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.

Flannel Shirt Drive



Our **Flannel Shirt Drive** this year collected 117 flannel shirts for God's Country Community Ministry. Thank you so much!

The **rummage sale** brought in \$1,367. THANK YOU to the many people who worked on it. This saved a lot of "stuff" from the landfill and put it into the hands of people who could use it.

Community Action's **Walk for Warmth** will be Saturday, October 24. Registration is at 9:30 at Bay College's 900 Joseph Heirman University Center, and the walk starts at 10:00. This walk raises funds to help Delta County residents with heating costs.

Color Tour – Oct. 11

Enjoy the fall colors, fellowship, and a scrumptious supper at Pastor Terri's daughter Elizabeth's home. Meet at church 3:00 on Oct. 11 to carpool. Please R.S.V.P. on the bulletin board so that Elizabeth knows how many to cook for.

Game Nights are the 3rd *Saturday* of the month. The next Game Night is at 5:00 on Saturday, Oct. 17. Please bring a dish to pass and your favorite game.

Rod Snow, the chalk artist, will be here at Memorial Church on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at noon. We are possibly thinking about a potluck at noon, with the chalk artist show to follow.

Trunk or Treat Halloween 5:00 – 7:00

If you are interested in handing out candy from the trunk of your vehicle in Memorial's parking lot, please sign up on the bulletin board. If you cannot help but are willing to donate extra candy, please put it on the small desk in Lisa's office, not on the floor, as we have in-floor heating.

Dear Gladstone UMC friends,

Thank you for graciously hosting our district's first ever Zone Church Conference. Your hospitality and care for those who came make it a joyful time of gathering, sharing, and fellowship. May God's grace be with you as you continue forward in ministry at Gladstone Memorial.

Gratefully,

Kristi Hintz,

Northern Skies District Superintendent

Sue Lagina and Sandy St. Aubin were the hostesses who made this possible.

October 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 "Ministry Mechanics" workshop at Central UMC in Escanaba 10:00am – noon
4 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship	5 5:30 Bible Study	6	7 9:00 Knit/Crochet 6:00 Band 6:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	8	9	10
11 10:30 Worship 3:00 Color Tour	12 5:30 Bible Study	13	14 9:00 Knit/Crochet 6:00 Band 6:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	15 4:30 Church Council	16	17 5:00 Game night
18 <i>Noisy Offering</i> 10:30 Worship 1:30 Worship at Lakeview	19 5:30 Bible Study	20	21 9:00 Knit/Crochet 6:00 Band 6:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	22	23	24
25 10:30 Worship	26 5:30 Bible Study	27 12:00 Rod Snow, chalk artist	28 9:00 Knit/Crochet Newsletter 6:00 Band 6:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	29	30	31 Trunk or Treat