

LAKE HARBOR UMC's Harbor Light

Volume 20. 8

August 2020

I grew up in the country, and when it got dark at night, it was dark! There wasn't a lot of "light pollution," and I've always loved looking at the stars on a clear night. I felt small (but not insignificant) as I looked up and saw the moon and constellations. It gave me a sense of awe and wonder. We hear it in the psalms, too:

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice²⁴ goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world. (Ps. 19: 1-4)*



These days, it's been easy to forget about the awe and wonder of "looking up" at the vastness of God's creation. We need to look around and

see where God is calling us to go and serve, but I was struck by the gift of seeing **Comet Neowise** at the beach (this picture was taken at Zuker's home). It was good to be reminded of how God created all that is – and that we're a part of it!

Amos, one of the minor prophets we're studying this summer, even used stars to remind the people of God's greatness and God's rule over all of creation – and to call the people back to God and encourage them to seek God.

*He who made the Pleiades and Orion,
who turns midnight into dawn
and darkens day into night,
who calls for the waters of the sea
and pours them out over the face of the land—
the LORD is his name. (Amos 5:8)*

I hope you're spending some time outside – enjoying the blessing of looking up in awe and wonder – or maybe even looking out at the waves in the big lake. This cartoon offers a laugh, but it also offers a challenge – to appreciate the physical world and care for it as good stewards.



We may be spending more time online for work and worship, but there's great blessing in taking time to remember God's

goodness – maybe even stepping away for a while. It's important for our spiritual health! "See" you on Sunday,

Pastor Mary

On **Sunday, August 2**, we'll livestream worship at 10:00 a.m. celebrating Holy Communion. I'll consecrate the elements during worship, and **you're invited to come and receive Communion after worship in our parking lot from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Our **Missions Team will be there to collect noisy offering and cans and bottles, too.**

Staff Parish Relations Committee is preparing for our Charge Conference in October. Part of their work is to complete an evaluation of Pastor Mary that will be shared with her. If you have feedback for them, please contact our SPRC co-chairpersons:
Rose Emmons – rmemms@yahoo.com
Betty Kinney – bettykinney@hotmail.com

August 2 at 10:00 a.m.: “Nahum: God Is Judge”

Scripture: Nahum 1:2-11

Synopsis: We pray “deliver us from evil” as part of how Jesus taught us to prayer, but it’s difficult to trust in God’s ultimate judgment. We want to do the work of revenge ourselves, and releasing that desire to judge and seek revenge can be healing and hopeful for us.

August 9 at 10:00 a.m.:

“Habakkuk: **Waiting** on God’s Time”

Scripture: Habakkuk 1: 2-4, 1: 12-2:3, 3: 1-2, 16-19

Synopsis: It is hard to wait for answer from God in prayer, especially when we feel helpless and overwhelmed by what we experience personally and the struggles around us. Offering honest prayers is a faithful act, and waiting on God’s timing is faithful too.

August 16 at 10:00 a.m.: “Joel: Change of Heart”

Rev. Kim Bos preaching

Scripture: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17, 23-32

Synopsis: Our faith is grounded in the power of a changed heart that only God can bring about. We experience God’s possibilities as God’s spirit guides us to dream and see visions of God’s Kingdom coming now and in the future.

“Old School: Party Time!”

We know there were important celebrations for the Israelite community and in Jesus’ time, and many of those celebrations are connected to the Christian calendar we keep today. This series will help us to look back at our faith ancestors so that we might look back to learn more about ourselves and look forward seeking God’s wisdom and vision for our lives and our world.

How do you disciple people to live more human lives like Jesus? You have to teach and disciple people in how to throw a good party. Are you surprised?

Somewhere along the way, the church lost the art of inviting people to celebrate, which is too bad.

We’ve forgotten that worship itself is a celebration of sorts. From the beginning of time and throughout Scripture, God’s people patterned their lives around celebrations, feasts, and social gatherings of many sorts.

During the past few months, we have become keenly aware of our need to stay connected to God and other people through celebrations. Sometimes that’s meant drive-by birthday parties, Facebook video greetings, and even Zoom weddings! In the waning days of summer, we will look at the seven feasts given to the Jewish people by God through Moses and two celebrations from the New Testament. And you and your friends, neighbors, coworkers, and relatives are invited to join us!

August 23 at 10:00 a.m.: “Party Time Is Holy Time”

Scripture: Leviticus 23

Synopsis: Jesus was raised in a Jewish household, which included celebrating feast days/holy days. Holidays (holy days) offer structure to our lives and remind us of the call to celebrate God’s goodness in good times and in hard times.

August 30 at 10:00 a.m.: “Keep It Flowing”

Scripture: John 2: 1-11

Synopsis: Jesus’ first miracle happens in the context of a wedding – an important celebration for family and community. His attention to hospitality and keeping the celebration going is a challenge and reminder to us that God’s grace is shown in the context of celebration.

Livestreaming Upgrade Update

Being able to livestream worship has been a blessing. Our goal is to move away from using a smart phone to adding livestreaming video and audio capabilities with minimal changes to the existing systems and minimal amount of the new equipment. Ideally, the same three-person crew (a sound board operator, a camera operator, and

a video projectionist) will be able operate upgraded system that can also livestream.

We have submitted a proposal to AVI Systems and are waiting to hear back from them. If you would like to be part of the decision making team, please contact Pastor Mary or Karen Booth.

Worship Connections Teams

Worship Connections Calendar

Mon., Aug. 3	2:00 PM	Worship Team
Mon., Aug. 10	2:00 PM	Worship Team
Mon., Aug. 17	2:00 PM	Worship Team
Mon., Aug. 24	2:00 PM	Worship Team
Mon., Aug. 31	2:00 PM	Worship Team

Worship Connections Team meetings are open to everyone. Karen Booth leads Worship Connections Team which meets most Mondays at 2:00 pm at church. Please contact Karen (798-8431 or kwbooth@comcast.net) for more details. Vicki leads the Celebration Team. Contact Vicki (759-8848 or zukerr@comcast.net) for more details

Worship Planning Retreat by Karen Booth



At Lake Harbor, worship planning is collaborative process. For three years in a row, our planning team set aside two fall days to plan worship for a year. Though we had to deviate from our original 2020 plans due to COVID-19, we were prepared to do that because of how we plan and prepare.

Our annual worship planning retreat is scheduled for September 11 and 12, 2020 and we need your input. You can offer your sermon series ideas, questions, struggles, challenges, curiosities, desires, and interesting books or films by one of these methods:

- Jot them down on paper and leave them in the Early Worship mailbox.
- Send them via e-mail to Karen Booth (kwbooth@comcast.net).
- Submit in a Google form (preferred method): https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe2A7gpgZCJDLMYvohqFnN3a3oLrEUe3lzTF1pdvIRWd6Fwkw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Deadline: Thursday, August 13

LAKE HARBOR'S MUSIC MINISTRY



"God gave us music, that we might pray without words."

We're grateful to Mary Scott, Michael Boersma, Ana Ivanov and Brad Dean for the blessing of music in our worship services.



Radical Hospitality

Worship is a celebration, and hospitality is key to making people feel truly welcome. Even as we're connecting online, we're focused on these important things:

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is that all people may experience the love of Jesus.

Our call then, is Love: welcoming all, empowered by Christ, sent forth to serve.

We all have an opportunity to share our faith by inviting others to watch worship with us or share daily posts from our LHUMC Facebook page like daily devotionals or God moments. **Who knows how your witness might plant a seed?**

"Lord, Hear our Prayers..."

Lake Harbor's Prayer Chain can always add a few more links. You can receive prayer requests via

phone calls or E-mail. Contact LHUMC office at 231-798-2181 OR Office@LakeHarborUMC.org if you want to be included on the E-mail Prayer Chain. Contact Jean Wasserman at 231-747-9676 to join the **Phone Prayer Chain**.

FYI: Prayer requests aren't shared or published without permission. We're also not sharing

specific prayer requests during our livestream because it's public.



Please pray for:

- Those experiencing financial stress
- Those fighting Covid-19 and those whose health is compromised
- An end to the sin of racism – both personal and systemic
- Essential workers in healthcare, public service, and other frontline areas
- Leaders in government at every level
- Those recovering from surgery and fighting cancer
- Homebound members and friends
- Families grieving losses
- Military personnel and their families
- Pastor Mary & our LHUMC staff

Congratulations to Ben & Janina Barefoot who were united in marriage on July 18, 2020. Ben is the son of Gail & Bill Barefoot and grandson of Glada Blanchette and Freda Barefoot. We ask God's blessings on their union.



Congratulations to Pastor Mary and Ivan, who celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on July 15. Everyone enjoyed getting together and having ice cream treats.

Congratulations to John Colella who retired after almost 39 years at Automatic Spring Products Corp.



INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Take time to read through the **Minor Prophets** this summer and be challenged and even surprised at how relevant their message is!

Mid-week devotional and prayer time will be offered on **Wed., August 19 & 26**. Join Pastor Mary online or in our back parking lot **at 6:00 p.m.**

Upper Room and ***Our Daily Bread*** devotionals are posted on our Facebook page every day.

You can still **complete a spiritual gifts inventory:** <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4262/finding-your-gifts-and-talents-for-service>
Share your results with Pastor Mary!

Muskegon Methodist Men's Saturday Breakfast is on summer break. Watch for info this fall!

Women's Prayer Group will meet on Saturday, August 8 at 10:00 a.m. We'll be praying the Lord's Prayer. Please RSVP to Vicki Zuker if you plan to attend at 231-759-8848.

Tuesday morning Bible Study: Pastor Mary leads this study at **10:00 a.m.**, which is meeting outside (weather permitting), but inside if needed following safety guidelines. **In August**, we'll continue our focus on the book of Revelation. **We will not meet on August 4 or 11.**

Saturday Sisters Bible Study will resume after Labor Day.



GriefShare offers help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. More information is at www.griefshare.org. We hope to begin our **next session on Monday, August 17 at 6:30 p.m.** Feel free to share this information with others.



ZOOM! ZOOM! ZOOM!

We continue to meet via Zoom.
Middle School Youth on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
High School Youth on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
With the recent increase of Covid cases, several places have stepped back and restricted outside groups from volunteering, and some have completely canceled events. In the interest of safety, we'll continue to meet via Zoom and will let you know if other opportunities arise.
PEACE AND LOVE, JIMMY



Lakeshore Human Trafficking Task Force

Three of our HS Youth (Skylar Epplert, Ana Ivanov, and Abby Kanaar) served with this organization to bring awareness to the issue of human trafficking in our community. They joined others to distribute information to businesses in Muskegon. You can learn more at <http://www.lhttf.org/>

Youth Director Jimmy Epplert's Contact Info:
Facebook = Jimmy Epplert cell # (231) 750-9707



If you're on Facebook, make sure to connect:

- *Lake Harbor United Methodist Church* page **This is where you can find the livestream and see updates.**
- Lake Harbor UMC – closed group
- Lake Harbor Youth Group - page
- LHUMC Children's Ministry – closed group **There are frequent posts for kids and families.**
- *Living UNAFRAID Virtual Bible School* group is still active and be accessed by anyone at any time!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...

Celebrating August Birthday blessings with our Sunday School friends:
Haley Chilson on the 2nd
Ethan Mosley on the 8th
Magdalene Boersma on the 23rd

Our Facebook group, LHUMC Children's Ministry, is still a good place to connect with each other. Share pictures of what you're doing this summer and watch for fun faith activities and important announcements. If you haven't joined yet, take a look! FYI: It's a private group for church families.

Our Education Team is planning a special event for kids and families. The details are still being drafted up, but it will include bikes, decorations, and chalk! Watch for more info coming soon on Facebook and snail mail! You can start now, thinking about a design theme for your bike!



Where have your Prophets been this summer?



Haley & Addison had fun with their Prophets at the playground.



Kate's Prophets like to go on long adventures with her pack.

Membership, Nurture & Outreach (M.N.O.)



News:

We welcome new members to this fun-loving group! Contact Sheryl Thompson at 231-563-6417 or Karen Post 231-733-2782.

Members on the move...

Julie Brott

519 Savage St. Apt. B
Spring Lake, MI 49456

(Phone is the same as in directory)

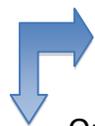
If you have E-mail access, please make sure that we have your current E-mail address. Send it to Office@LakeHarborUMC.org. **Please keep the**

office informed when you're moving or changing phone numbers or E-mail.



It's almost Apple Season...and our Ross Park teachers need us more now than ever before! Please pray for our school staff and consider how you might support them throughout the

year. There will be **an apple tree available at church beginning on Sun., Aug. 2.** We will have apples for every budget from \$1-\$100. If all our apples are picked and returned, we'll raise over \$5,000 to help our Ross Park staff going into this new school year. Thanks for your prayerful support!



Missions Corner

Our next Missions Team meeting is **Tues., August 18 at 7:00 p.m.** If you're interested in being more involved in Missions, please join us!



Can & Bottle Returns since May total \$598. Thanks to all those who shared with us, and a huge thank you to John and Gayle Decker for returning them!

We'll continue the collection through August, and all funds support local Missions needs!



We had 15 participants in Michigan Conference Virtual 5K Walk/Run/Ride and raised \$435 to support flood recovery and relief in Michigan. It was a beautiful night to put our prayers to the pavement!

Supper House serves meals every weekday and is allowing people to sit at tables for a short time using physical distancing while also offering take-out meals. **We serve on Tues., August 4 and need**

6 helpers. Everyone is required to wear a mask when they serve and when they pick up or eat in for meals. If you have questions or are willing to serve, please call Sheryl Thompson at 231-563-6417.



August MAP Items of the Month:

Hearty Soups (with pull top lids)
and **Small Laundry Soap**



MAP Clothing Pantry Facebook

Post:

"If you don't use it, you lose it," says Madonna

Borgerding, a high-energy volunteer that runs the Clothing Pantry at Mission for Area People.

Madonna has been working at MAP since 1996 after retiring from her job at Sealed Power of 41 years. In 1997, the clothing pantry began giving out free clothes to those in need. The space was moved and expanded on the 3rd floor of Temple UMC in Muskegon Hts. To read the whole article and watch the video:

https://missionforareapeople.org/2020/07/09/1595/?fbclid=IwAR2W_sYbCE7e_a7D-kVlpicHk0UVu7nrl7elGDg2b0b4A3mVZnQ9_8Q8hPw

MAP Clothing Pantry is open Mondays &

Wednesdays from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Everyone is required to wear a mask. If you'd like to help,

contact Madonna Borgerding at 231-780-2998.



Such sweet babies! Pat Fielstra made adorable dolls for the young guests

currently in **Family Promise.** She also made a stack of comfort blankets.

Our next week to host is **September 20-27.** Please save these days on your calendar!



If you want to donate, you can drop

decorated bags or items at church, and we'll deliver them!

Here's the current wish list:

- Fruit cups or applesauce
- Pudding cups
- Slim Jims (or similar meat sticks)
- Decorated bags (8lb. extra-large or jumbo)

Thank you for your continued love and support for our mission!



Change the World!



Our July Noisy Offering was for **AgeWell Services/Meals on Wheels**. We'll continue to accept gifts on August 2 at our drive-up Communion & Missions in Action after worship.

Our August Noisy Offering will support **MAP Medical Fund**, which helps patients without insurance or when insurance falls short.



Thank you so much for the book for graduation. I'm going to start reading it as soon as possible. This fall, I plan on go into Nursing and am going through the Nursing Program at Muskegon Community College. Thank you so much once again.

Samantha Sroka

Thank you for your cards and kindness in celebration of our 20th anniversary. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and are grateful for your support.

Love from Pastor Mary and Ivan



From our FINANCE Team:

Your faithfulness continues to bless many as we live out our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. **At the end of June**, our total income for General Fund for 2020 was \$179,915.46. Our total General Fund expenses were \$150,443.01. Thank you for sending in your tithes and offerings, which makes it possible for us to fund ministry!

January-June 2020 Financial Giving statements

were E-mailed out in mid-July or sent by regular mail if we don't have your E-mail address on file. If you have any questions, contact Gail Barefoot at FinSec@LakeHarborUMC.org or 231-798-2181.



Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit card or debit card. Electronic giving offers convenience for you and much needed consistency in giving. You can set up your donations on our website or if you'd rather, stop by the church office for assistance.

To set up your electronic donation on our www.lakeharborumc.org:

- 1) Click on "Give" button
- 2) Click on "Create Profile" button
- 3) Follow onscreen instructions.

It's easy and stress free!



From our Trustees

Here are some updates to celebrate!

Sanctuary:

- Stained-glass window area fully repaired (inside and outside)



Lightbulbs replaced (Thanks to Bruce Eckerman on the lift – and helpers Ivan Ivanov, Ron Zuker, and Glenn Chilson)

Walls painted in "gray screen," which will make a difference in our projection quality (Thanks to our painter, Tim)



Downstairs bathrooms: Renovation project is completed, including flooring outside of the bathroom area.

Your faithful giving and support makes it possible for us to maintain, repair, and upgrade our physical space, and we are grateful!

Bruce Eckerman & Marilyn Forton, co-chairs

Memorial Garden update: Summer is blooming in the garden, and the fish are in the pond! The Garden is a great place to pray and rest in God's presence. **An important note:** PLEASE don't plant anything in the Garden. If

there's a plant you want to donate, please make a monetary gift to our Memorial Garden fund.

Sunday Servants

We continue to livestream worship with a small crew from the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. Any changes will be communicated through our E-mail and Facebook pages – and through regular mail for those without Internet access.

Serving August 2:

Computer: Fred Yonkers
Camera: Pat Yonkers
Sound: Deb Moon
Livestream: Ivan Ivanov
Worship leader: Jim Post

Serving August 9:

Computer: Glenn Chilson
Camera: Dena Chilson
Sound: Steve Umstead
Livestream: Ivan Ivanov
Worship leader: Jeff Verry

Serving August 16:

Guest Preacher: Rev. Kim Bos
Computer: Angela Thompson
Camera: Lisa Kasmauski
Sound: Pete Thompson
Livestream: Ron Zuker
Worship leader: Dirk Fuller

Serving August 23:

Computer: Jim Grace
Camera: Karen Booth or Lisa Kasmauski
Sound: Karen Grace
Livestream: Ivan Ivanov
Worship leader: Dave Lorenz

Serving August 30:

Computer: Fred Yonkers
Camera: Pat Yonkers
Sound: Deb Moon
Livestream: Ivan Ivanov
Worship leader: Rose Emmons

Staying connected:

These websites continue to **offer the most accurate information** on what's happening in the larger UMC:

United Methodist Church: www.umc.org

Michigan Area UMC: <http://michiganumc.org>

For opportunities in our Muskegon and Grand Rapids area:

Midwest District: <https://midwest.michiganumc.org/>

You can access sermons and other information through our church website at:

Lake Harbor UMC: <http://lakeharborumc.org>

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday 9:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m. now-August 31. **We are closed Friday and Saturday.** LHUMC Office phone is **231-798-2181**. If you leave a message on the answering machine on the weekend, **it will NOT be received until Monday morning.**

Lake Harbor's Staff

Rev. Mary Ivanov, Pastor

Pastor@LakeHarborUMC.org

Jimmy Epplett, Youth Director

Kate Robbins, Children's Christian Ed. Director

Jeff Verry, Congregational Care Coordinator

CongCare@LakeHarborUMC.org

Gail Barefoot, Financial Secretary

FinSec@LakeHarborUMC.org

Smeeta Thompson, Treasurer

Treasurer@LakeHarborUMC.org

Myke Bos, Admin. Asst. Office@LakeHarborUMC.org

Diane Thompson, Choir Director & Bells Director

Mary Scott, Organist & Choir Accompanist

Michael Boersma, Celebration Music Director

Karen Booth & Vicki Zuker, Worship Coordinators

KANA Cleaning Service, Custodian

Leslie Kordecki, Nicole Austin, Emily Umstead, &

Janie Bultema, Nursery Attendants

Dan Malseed, Wedding & Funeral Custodian

Pastor Mary will be on vacation beginning after worship on Aug. 2 until Aug. 8 and then after worship on Aug. 9 until Aug. 12. Please call the office if you have a pastoral emergency.