

Harbor Light

Volume 22 .2

February 2022



REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MARY IVANOV:

I'm grateful to offer greetings in this season of **Epiphany** – **this season when we give thanks for the coming of Christ for the whole world!** It's true what we hear – *wise ones still seek Jesus.*

As we're finishing up our series on **five essential practices of our WALK with Christ**, we've been blessed by Brad Hilleary (**WORSHIP & PRAYER**), Jim Post (**STUDY**), Jeff Verry (**SERVE**), and Mike Layman (**GIVE**) who shared messages in January and those who served as worship leaders for both services. I'll finish out the series with a focus on **SHARE** – how we invite and witness to our faith.

Thanks to our Worship Connections Team, coordinators Karen Booth and Vicki Zuker, and all those who serve on Sunday mornings – outside greeters, ushers, our music ministry staff, choir, Praise Team, those who run sound and video, and livestream hosts. I'm so thankful for strong and faithful leadership at Lake Harbor UMC!

Thanks for your support and encouragement during the past month. My applied project work went well, and my continuing education in Non Profit Church Leadership continues with a course on Vision as it relates to our congregation. I'm also starting another applied project that will be centered on church staff development. This process will help me as a pastor-leader and will help us to deepen our understanding of who we are and where we're going. I'm excited to take the journey with you!

As we're approaching the 2-year mark since the pandemic began, I also want to **thank you** for faithfulness in loving God and others, your commitment to supporting our congregation through your gift of time and resources, and your willingness to adapt and be flexible in order to nurture your faith in Jesus – and **to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.** This picture of Jan Justus and Marie Kordecki is one example of the deep and abiding love of Jesus and the Spirit-filled witness that I celebrate when I think of you, pray for you, and give thanks to God for you. This time has not been easy, but we continue to walk in God's grace. It is a gift to serve God alongside you.



See you on Sunday – both in person and on our livestream,

Pastor Mary



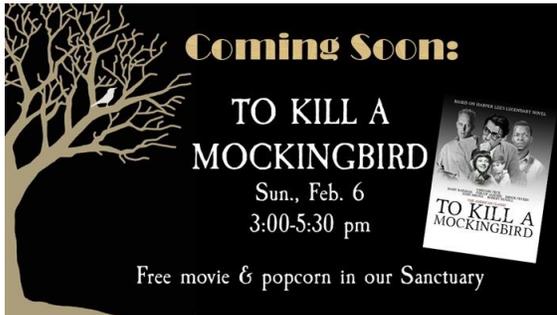
Planning ahead: Ash Wednesday is March 2. It marks **the beginning of the season of Lent**, and we'll worship together with friends in Christ at **Central UMC in downtown Muskegon at 7:00 p.m.** We're excited to welcome **Rev. Paul Perez, Director of Connectional Ministry** of our Michigan Conference as our preacher. This worship service will be **both in-person and livestream.** Plan to start the Lenten season well!

The Faith of a Mockingbird

Pastor and author Matt Rawle sees Christ all around him – in books, movies, TV shows, rock music – and wants to share what he sees. As Matt says, “God offers the raw ingredients, and ‘culture’ is whatever we cook up.”



In *The Faith of a Mockingbird*, Rawle uses Harper Lee’s beloved characters from *To Kill a Mockingbird* to explore Christian faith, theology, and ethics. Join Scout, Atticus Finch, Boo Radley, and Tom Robinson in this four-week series considering God’s world and what it all means.



Our worship team strongly encourages you to (re)read the book, watch the movie, familiarize yourself with the story, and/or read *The Faith of a Mockingbird* (available in the office for _____). We’ll show the 1962 movie on **Sunday, February 6 from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Both the movie and popcorn are free.

Our own Dave Lorenz and his PBS crew created a short video summary of the book which we have posted on our YouTube channel. Find it at <https://youtu.be/jAPO56E-5oE>.

We’ll use short clips from the 1962 movie, “To Kill a Mockingbird,” in worship and will have to livestream a “be right back” slide while they play. Pastor Mary will send out links to those clips in her “See You on Sunday” message. They are also shown below so that you can watch them before Sunday worship.

February 6, 2022: “Telling Your Story – Scout Finch”

Scripture: I Corinthians 12: 4-27

Synopsis: The Christian story is one of brokenness, but the story doesn’t end there; our story is also about healing, grace, and resurrection! When we learn to do the work of God, we discover who we are and how our story, through grace, is part of God’s story. How can we – in thought, word, and deed – tell God’s story?

Video clip links:

- Series promo - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHJkAkHGnYA>
- The original 1962 movie trailer - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KR7loA_ozlY or an updated version with contemporary music and text overlay that tells more of the story - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYeGBGOJL1U>

Today’s focus is on Jean Louse Finch, better known as “Scout.”

- Scout and Jem have questions for their father, Atticus. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muZdy82zFb0>
- When a mob interrogates Atticus, the children show up and Scout’s kindness and innocence convinces them to leave. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaVuVu5KXuE&list=PLZbXA4lyCtqrLU-2Um-Oc0gzfNadC_dO&index=3
- Atticus explains to Scout what a compromise is. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bjd-8TryIsU>

February 13, 2022: “Hero or Saint? Atticus Finch”

Scripture: Matthew 5: 1-12; II Corinthians 12: 9-10

Synopsis: As followers of Jesus, we’re called to be saints, not heroes or champions, but what’s the difference? How do we seek justice, find wisdom, act with courage and selflessness, and strive for a life rooted in humility, grace, and love – modeled after Jesus?

Today’s focus is on Atticus Finch:

- Atticus talks to Scout about insults and rumors. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHScNGR82Zc>
- Atticus addresses the court and describes Mayella’s guilt for tempting a black man and the dire consequences her guilt has caused.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C841wEogE4U&list=PLZbXA4lyCtqrLU-2Um-Oc0gzfNadC_dO&index=6

February 20, 2022: “The Power of a Story – Tom Robinson”

Scripture: Galatians 3: 26-29; Colossians 1: 15-24

Synopsis: How does diversity help us understand God more fully? It’s not about being color blind; rather it’s about all colors being valued as a part of the family of God.

Today’s focus is on Tom Robinson:

- Atticus points out the obvious inequalities in the justice system and asks the jury to look at Tom’s case with a fair and just eye. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-x6njs-cGUE&list=PLZbXA4lyCtqrLU-2Um-Oc0gzfNadC_dO&index=7
- Tom Robinson testifies. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhetrQJg4IE>
- In his closing statements for the defense, Atticus, tries to convince the jury to believe Tom Robinson. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MmtVx1A8BA&list=PLZbXA4lyCtqrLU-2Um-Oc0gzfNadC_dO&index=8

February 27, 2022: “Defining a Mystery – Boo Radley”

Scripture: Acts 17: 22-28; I Corinthians 15: 50-58

Synopsis: How do we understand more fully who God is and what God is like? It’s not enough for God to be an idea; rather, God is already working within our lives. God’s kingdom is realized when we respond to God’s grace. Even though brokenness is a part of our lives, it doesn’t have the final word.

Today’s focus is on Boo Radley:

- Scout meets Boo Radley for the first time, and they are very happy to see each other. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRmlef02Ajk&list=PLZbXA4lyCtqrLU-2Um-Oc0gzfNadC_dO&index=10
- When Jem and Scout get attacked in the woods on Halloween night, Boo fights and saves them. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FROglia2cb8&list=PLZbXA4lyCtqrLU-2Um-Oc0gzfNadC_dO&index=9

Take note of our **safety protocols for in-person worship:** complete a check-in form, wear a mask when moving around the building (masks can be removed when seated), maintain distancing between households. **Please note:** the MI Symptoms app is no longer available after January 31.

Worship Connections Teams

Worship Connections Calendar by Karen Booth

Tues., Feb. 8	6:00 PM	Brainstorming Potluck
	7:00 PM	Brainstorming for Lent & Easter Worship - Psalms
Mon., Feb. 14	1:00 PM	Worship Connections Team Meeting
Mon., Feb. 21	1:00 PM	Worship Connections Team Meeting
Mon., Feb. 28	1:00 PM	Worship Work Session

Worship Connections Team meetings are open to everyone. Karen Booth leads Worship Connections Team which meets most Mondays at 1:00 p.m. at church. Please contact Karen (798-8431 or kwbooth@comcast.net) for more details. Vicki Zuker leads our Celebration worship planning team.

All-Church Worship Brainstorming - “Selah: Life in a Minor Key”

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 in Fellowship Hall

We will have a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share. Brainstorming from 7:00-9:30 p.m. The theme for this Lenten series comes from an obscure, but often repeated word in various Psalms: **Selah** (sēlā, sĕlā). There’s much debate as to what the word means, whether it’s instruction, description, or a punctuation of some kind. This Lent you are invited to pause and reflect on living life in a minor key.

More information about each week’s Scripture reading(s) and message will become available at church and on our website. RSVP to Karen Booth at kwbooth@comcast.net or 231-798-8431 or 231-557-1069, call the church office at 231-798-2181, or sign up at church.



LAKE HARBOR’S MUSIC MINISTRY

“God gave us music that we might pray without words.”



PRAISE TEAM rehearses weekly on **Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.** Please contact Michael Boersma if you’re interested in joining them.

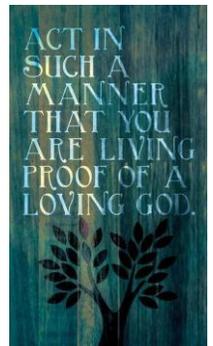
Choir: Rehearsals are on the **first and third Wednesdays** of each month. We meet on **February 2 and 16 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. New voices are always welcome. Come and join your voice in song!



Hand Bell Choir: We rehearse on **Sundays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. upstairs** in the Music Room. We’d love to have you join us! Contact Diane Thompson for more information at diane.sj.thompson@gmail.com or 231-750-5153.



Radical Hospitality: We share a lot of our lives with others, especially on social media, but do we share our faith as much as we could? This month, as we celebrate Valentine’s Day, make a point to post something that reflects the love of God in your life – and helps others know that God loves them, too. If you watch our livestream on Sunday mornings, let others know you’re worshipping. You can also **share our YouTube channel** (Lake Harbor UMC) information where people can connect.



“Lord, Hear our Prayers...”

When you can't put your prayer into words, God hears your heart.

Our next Prayer Service is **Wednesday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. This is intentional time to lift up our prayers to God and to pray for our congregation, community, and world – and to remember the words of Jesus: *where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with them.*

Lake Harbor's Prayer Chain is always open to add a few more links. You can receive prayer requests via phone calls or E-mail. Contact the office at 231-798-2181 OR Office@LakeHarborUMC.org if you want to be included on the **E-mail Prayer Chain**. Contact the office if you don't have Internet and want to receive prayer requests. **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.**

In My Father's House – We give thanks for the faithful witness of longtime members who passed away recently and pray for their families:

Darlene Hronek on January 2, 2022

Mary Hubbell on January 12, 2022

Shirley Ploughman on January 20, 2022 - Shirley was a Charter Member of Lake Harbor UMC.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT



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.

Upper Room devotionals (both small and large print) are available at church. **Devotional readings** are also **posted on our Facebook page** every day.



Tuesday morning Bible Study meets at **10:00 a.m.** in the Lounge, and a Zoom link is also available for those who want to join virtually.

It's been a blessing to gather together – however it works! One day, we had a group in-person, some on Zoom, and one person on the phone! We start with a psalm each week and go into deeper Scripture study. All are welcome to join us!

Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays from **6:30-7:30 p.m. on Zoom**. We're using a devotional guide titled "Questions God Asks." We'd love to have you join us! For more information, please contact Niki Epplett at (231) 750-2114 or E-mail at jiskiskycam@comcast.net.

Men's Bible Study meets on **Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.** in the Lounge.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP meets every 2nd Saturday of the month. Our next meeting is **February 12** from **9:30-10:15 a.m. using Zoom**. Contact Rose Emmons or the office for the Zoom link. All are welcome to spend time in collective prayer and reflection!



GriefShare offers help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. Our current session on meets on **Mondays at 6:30 p.m. through early April**. More information is at www.griefshare.org. Please share this with family, friends, or neighbors.

Saturday Sisters Bible Study: We are currently **meeting via ZOOM**. Join us for a study from Life Guide Bible Studies entitled *QUESTIONS JESUS ASKS*. This 9-week study explores the questions Jesus asked people in His time here on earth, and they are questions He still asks us today. These questions have the power to move and inspire us to grow closer in our walk with Him. Join us on **Saturdays from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** for prayer, study and fellowship. Contact Rose Emmons or the office for the Zoom invite. New members are always welcome!



Our small group focusing on Social Justice meets on **Thursday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. This is an opportunity to share, reflect, hear each other's stories, and hold one another accountable to do the work of seeking justice where we are.

Social Justice Issue: Our Celebration Worship chooses a **prayer focus each month** related to social justice – **how our faith connects to important social issues**. We begin with prayer, and we're called to action. In February, our focus is **Literacy**. Watch for more information about how you can be more involved in community efforts.



If you're on Facebook, make sure to CONNECT and SHARE what's going on:

- Lake Harbor United Methodist Church page (**livestream Sunday worship**)
- Lake Harbor UMC – closed group
- LHUMC Children's Ministry – closed group
- Lake Harbor Youth Group - page

Snowbirds: Please let the office know your contact information before you leave (or if you are already gone for the season). Email your info to Office@LakeHarborUMC.org or call us at 231-798-2181. This helps us to stay connected and saves us paying for return postage. Thanks!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...

February birthday blessings to our Sunday School friends:

Addyson Matz	on the 3 rd	MacKenzie Bohland	on the 22 nd
Keelan Dean	on the 24 th	Olivia Sroka	on the 26 th

Scenes from Sunday morning: ***Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...***



Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m.** We'll get together and watch a movie together in the sanctuary! The title is TBA, so watch for more details!

Hand2Hand: Our Sunday School classes continue to bring in chicken soup to help stock the cupboards at Hand2Hand. The soup is definitely needed! If you're able to contribute, chicken soup with easy-pull tabs is our regular item to provide. This is a tangible way to include your kids in providing for others in need! We have soup pots downstairs near our Sunday School rooms to collect your donations! Thanks for your help to serve our community!



hand2hand.



Even the middle of winter is the perfect time to be thinking about your plans for the summer, and it's great to include Christian camping! We're so fortunate to live in Michigan because we have such great opportunities to camp – specifically United Methodist and other Christian camps!

Follow these links to find options: www.umcamping.org and www.lakelouisecommunity.org

There are many great options for everyone, including family camping. :) Scholarships are available too, so don't wait! If you have any questions, please contact Niki Epplett or the office.

Lake Harbor Youth Groups

Youth Group meetings: Middle School (5th-8th grade) at 6:00-7:00 p.m. and High School at 7:00-8:00 p.m. Youth meet on Wednesdays- **February 2, 9, 16, and 23.**



Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser: Join us on **Fri., Feb. 11 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** We'd love for you to enter your favorite chili recipe in the contest. Everyone is invited to come and eat! You vote for your favorite chili by putting your monetary donations into the basket(s) of the chili you like best. All proceeds support our 2022 summer mission trip to Henderson Settlement.

If you are interested in entering a chili, please let Jimmy know so we make sure we have room for you!

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



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.

It's almost Valentine's Day, and we're getting together on **Thursday, February 10 at 11:00 a.m.** for a work bee. We'll be filling goodie bags with homemade cookies, valentines, and candy for our homebound friends. Volunteers are needed to help deliver these. They will be ready by 1:00 p.m. if you can help. This is a wonderful way to show our love! You will be uplifted by their beautiful smiles.



 **Ross Park Elementary outreach opportunity:** March can be a very stressful month for school staff. "STRESSED" spelled backwards is "DESSERTS." So we're **reaching out on Records Day, Monday, March 14** with desserts. Watch for more information about how you can help! As always, please **pray for school staff** – and **send those you know a note of encouragement** as they continue to do such important work in our community!



Soup Pot Ministry is available to those who are in need of a meal during difficult times. If you know someone who could use some help with meals, please call Marie Kordecki at 231-740-5458 for information on how we can help. **New cooks are always welcome!** Even if you aren't a "cook," feel free to bring in takeout (Lee's, Fazoli's or pizza). Contact Marie, if you can help out.



Ross Park Readers is always **looking for new readers – one hour, one day a week!** If you're interested in serving, please contact Pastor Mary to learn more.



Bailey Umstead-Straley & Caleb Straley
922 S. Quarterline Rd.
Muskegon, MI 49442

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



Missions Corner

Missions in our own community - and nationally and globally - is a huge part of who we are here at Lake Harbor UMC. Our Missions Team meets every other month, and we're grateful for your faithful giving. If you have an interest in Missions, join us for our **next meeting on February 7 at 7:00 p.m.** Please contact the office or Jill McMahon at 231-343-5749 or jdcmcmahon23@gmail.com.



Change the World!



Our January Noisy Offering was \$398.40 to support **Lakeshore Human Trafficking task force.** Learn more at www.hopeprojectusa.org/LHTTF

Our February Noisy Offering will support **Dancing with the Local Stars** in their efforts to raise funds for **local food pantries.** We're excited for **Lisa Jirikovic** and **Brian Mosley** who are dancing this year, and we have others who work behind the scenes as part of Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce. Thanks for your support as we "Can Hunger."



2022 Souper Bowl of Caring is Super Bowl **Sunday, February 13.** Watch for sales and pick up cans of soup or you can make a monetary gift to Lake Harbor to support **MAP's Food Pantry** and **Hand2Hand.**

Supper House: Our next date to serve is **Tuesday, February 1.** Please plan to be there at 3:45 p.m. and stay until 5:30 p.m. **If you're planning on serving, call Sheryl Thompson at 231-563-6417** so we can plan accordingly. Supper House is still serving meals each day Monday through Friday and has added a meal on Saturdays. They are serving approx. 40-50 each day. **At this time we need 3 volunteers** to serve the meal and clean up. We hope to serve more people as the weather warms and illnesses decline. Thanks to all who have served and will be back to serve in the future! God is good - all the time!



February MAP Items:

Canned Kidney Beans and Deodorant



Volunteers Needed! We serve at **MAP Clothes Closet** on **Tuesday, February 15** and **Thursday, February 17** from **12:15-3:00 p.m.** If you're willing to help, call Madonna Borgerding at 231-780-2998.



Kids Belong supports families and children in the Foster Care system. You can find more information on Facebook.



Kids' Food Basket of Muskegon currently serves 1,650 students daily. They need volunteers during the week. Contact them at 231-747-8575 if you're interested in serving.



Be not forgetful to entertaining strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. - Hebrews 13:2

We've been committed to Family Promise for more than 10 years. We believe in their mission to provide housing for entire families that are currently without homes. The families travel between 10-12 local host churches each year, where they receive meals and basic necessities, have a safe space to sleep, and experience God's love in a "homelike" atmosphere. We're thankful for the funds from a generous gift to the Community Foundation of Muskegon that allowed us to bless Family Promise with new mattresses for the cots that families use. A quality mattress demonstrates the importance and respect we feel each individual deserves.

We're also grateful for your help in hosting during Christmastime. They love the showers, and we were able to replace and update some of the more used items in their rooms and common area.

Our next Hosting Week is February 27-March 5. Please sign up at this link below to supply a meal, donate items or funds, or help with hosting:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PHZqN_oESDSYbFVcrDhaPj27G8VHYZpEqBCKil3PEJ4/edit

There is now Family Promise staff who cover overnights. This is a much needed mission in our community, and your help is greatly appreciated! Please contact Jill McMahan 231-343-5749 or Ruth Pyman 231-855-8825 if you have any questions or concerns. Sign up as soon as possible:

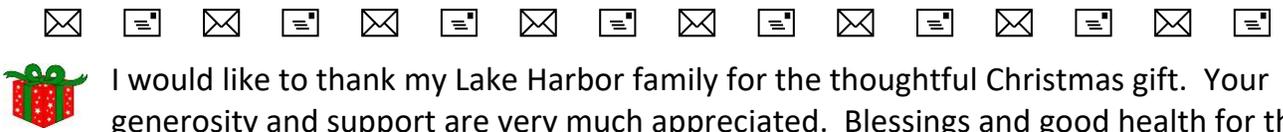
With thanks from our Missions Team by Jill McMahan

We're so grateful for your support of our holiday giving. In addition to hosting Family Promise, giving MAP Angel Tree items for teens, and providing items for jail ministry, we adopted four families through United Way and provided winter coats, hats, boots, socks, underwear, blankets, food and gas cards. We were also to give some fun gifts that offered much needed joy. A cashier noticed the many items I was purchasing, and I was able to share that our church had been blessed with this amazing gift and that we were joyfully spreading God's love to our community. These funds were used to help families in need right now.

Community Opportunities

Many local organizations are looking for people with a heart to serve – whether short-term or long-term.

Meals on Wheels and Red Cross need drivers. There are opportunities to **mentor.** If you're looking for a new way to serve, call Pastor Mary. We can help make the connection.



I would like to thank my Lake Harbor family for the thoughtful Christmas gift. Your generosity and support are very much appreciated. Blessings and good health for the New Year. Gail Barefoot, Financial Secretary



Thank you for the very generous Staff Christmas gift. Lake Harbor is a wonderful place to work, and I am so grateful to be a part of the Lake Harbor church family.
Myke Bos, Administrative Assistant



Thank you so much to the LHUMC congregation for the Christmas Gift. It's a pleasure being of service to you all. With love, Smeeta Thompson, Treasurer



Thank you so much to our congregation for the financial gift at Christmas. Your gifts and cards, as well as affirmation I receive from many make me feel valued, supported, and loved.
Love, Kate Robbins, Children’s Christian Education Director



We so admire your commitment to aging adults. Your generous support makes it possible for area seniors to redefine aging and live at home with dignity as long as possible. Thank you for your gift. We are grateful you care! Agewell Services

Thank you for being a blessing to the inmates at Muskegon County Jail during Christmas!
Chaplain Danny Peeples, Reach the Forgotten



 **From our Trustees** 

We’re excited to welcome Paul Powers and John Colella to our committee and look forward to working with them. We purchased a new battery operated snow blower, so it will be so much easier to keep the snow cleared away from our entrances and keep a path open to the Memorial Garden.

We’re starting to plan projects for this upcoming year. One is to remodel the restroom in the office hallways, possibly creating a unisex restroom. Watch for more information as we work out the details! We’re also starting to gather bids for a major project – redoing the whole parking lot, which will include dealing with drainage issues and possibly adding an outdoor gathering area. The windows at the parsonage are scheduled to be replaced this spring, and we’re looking at other projects there, too.

We also want to give thanks for funds given to our Preservation Fund from the Hanna family. Bill and Lee Hanna were charter members and active in our congregation for many years. They set up an annual gift directed to our Preservation Fund, which helps us to complete needed projects. These gifts are always appreciated – whether planned or given anytime!

From our FINANCE Team:

How awesome to be able to support ministry and mission for another year! **At the end of December and the end of 2021**, our total income for General Fund was \$365,400. Our total General Fund expenses were \$328,127. All bills and Ministry Shares were paid in full. What a blessing to celebrate God’s faithfulness!

Our 2022 budget is \$362,769, which is a slight increase from 2021. We are confident that we can support this budget because of God’s faithfulness and generosity through our giving – and because of your Faith Commitments. It’s never too late to write yours down and send it in! This is one way that we are accountable to God and to our congregation together.

If you’d like a detailed copy of the numbers budget, please call the office. You’ll find a copy of the **narrative budget in this newsletter**. If you have any questions, please contact Brad Hilleary, Finance Chairperson, or Pastor Mary. Again, thank you for your generosity in so many ways.

2022 Giving Envelopes are available for pick up in the office. If you need them mailed to you, please contact the office.



Monday – Thursday from **9:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m.** LHUMC Office phone is **231-798-2181**. If you leave a message on the weekend, **it may not be received until Monday morning**.

LAKE HARBOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FINANCE COMMITTEE - 2022 NARRATIVE BUDGET

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ! Information described here is available as a line item budget to anyone seeking additional details. Our purpose as Finance Committee is two-fold. First, we seek to ensure that all of the church's short-term financial obligations are met including paying our pastor's salary and benefits, keeping lights on and heating the building, covering the cost of church and parsonage maintenance, funding staff positions and ministry areas, and meeting our connectional obligations such as Ministry Shares. Secondly, we are charged with securing the long-term financial stability of the church. You'll see elements of both of these responsibilities.

The 2022 budget is very similar to our 2021 budget with a slight increase of 3.8%. We continue to be grateful for your continued prayerful and financial support of mission and ministry - ***to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*** Even as we continue to adapt, we are the church – worshiping and praying in-person and online, studying Scripture and learning together, serving and supporting our congregation and community, giving generously out of God's abundance, and sharing Christ locally and globally through our connections.

We anticipate similar income and expenditures for 2022, and we've prepared a balanced budget, knowing that it's always a faith budget until gifts are given. Our financial picture is stable, and we celebrate God's faithfulness and generosity. We rely on you - our members and regular attenders - to faithfully contribute financially and to be engaged in mission and ministry that the funds support.

2021 brought a new blessing – the first gift from a fund set up by an anonymous donor through the Community Foundation of Muskegon County. We received \$47,629, which has made it possible for us to further mission and ministry. We've created a policy to ensure that the annual distribution will not be used for operational expenses, but will allow us to support new ministries and enhance our work together. We are thankful for consistent financial giving that supports our budgeted needs, and we're aware of giving that goes beyond this budget like noisy offerings, special appeals, and "soft giving" that can never be counted.

We celebrate that we met all of our financial obligations in 2021, including paying 100% of Ministry Shares to both the Michigan Conference and Midwest District. We supported many mission projects – from UMCOR's disaster response work to refugee resettlement to Tansen United Hospital in Nepal to Family Promise and Hope Project. We're excited to be a part of God's working in the world!

INCOME: Though we create a budget based on pledges and some projection, it is always a "faith" budget. The 2022 general fund budget predicts income from pledges, other regular giving, and additional income to be \$363,000.

EXPENSES are expected to be \$362,769 with requests collected from all ministry areas. Dollar figures are totals within that budget category. Figures in parentheses represent percentage of the total budget projected for 2022.

Ministerial Support: \$93,763 (25.8%) This includes our pastor's salary, retirement, and health insurance, as well as mileage and professional expense reimbursement. Pastor Mary's health insurance is covered largely under her spouse's policy. This number also includes a discretionary fund that the pastor uses to help our church family and community members when there are special needs.

Staff Salary and Support: \$137,586 (37.9%) This is the total for salary and wages for our Youth Director, Financial Secretary, Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, Organist, Celebration Music Director, Choir Director, Choir Accompanist, Nursery staff, Children’s Christian Education Director, Congregational Care Coordinator, and a stipend for our Worship Coordinators, Bell Choir Director, Website Manager, and additional maintenance needs. Our custodial needs are now contracted, and this expense is also included.

Administration and Communications: \$13,700 (3.7%) The office equipment maintenance costs, office supplies, postage, website hosting and domain, as well as financial ministry costs (giving envelopes and online giving fees) are included in this amount.

Church Building and Maintenance: \$57,500 (15.8%) In this category are projected costs for heat, electricity, water, snowplowing and lawn care. Costs for maintaining and repairing equipment, maintenance supplies, parsonage maintenance and insurance costs are included here as well. There is a line for special projects that need to be completed in order to keep our physical space safe and welcoming and a line for the cost of hiring a “handyman” to do small repairs and maintenance, as well as a line to support Memorial Garden upkeep.

Music and Worship: \$4,768 (1.3%) Offering meaningful worship services carries some cost, including basics like supplying music, maintaining instruments, purchasing licenses to play music and media and project lyrics, and buying images, media, and Communion supplies. We also pay a fee to livestream worship. Our Worship Connections Team has other costs to offer meaningful worship services, including take-away items and a portion of the cost of a planning retreat, which has been a great addition to our ministry and mission to make disciples.

Education, Youth Ministries, and Outreach: \$15,820 (4.4%) We are deeply grateful for paid staff and many faithful servants who teach and mentor all ages in our church, and we are excited to be able to support them with curriculum and teaching aids. This includes ministry for infants through adults, Vacation Bible School, devotional materials, luncheons for our 80+ members and friends, and hospitality costs. Having resources to support nurture and outreach is an incredible blessing.

Missions: \$2,500 (0.7%) Much of our “second mile” giving comes through noisy offerings and special appeals, but these funds are available to meet needs in our community and beyond, including special requests for needy families from community partners.

Ministry Shares: \$37,132 (10.2%) John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, provides the rationale for Ministry Shares: *“Do all the good you can, by all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”* Connectional giving that supports our Midwest District, Michigan Conference, and larger UMC is a vital part of our life together because we can do much more together than we can apart. Ministry Shares are calculated based on a percentage of a church’s expenses, and ours represent just over a tithe (10%). We strive to pay a portion of these each month so we meet the obligation before year’s end.

Thank you for your generosity and faithful giving ***to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Mary Ivanov or Brad Hilleary, Finance Committee Chairperson.



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:

- Click on "Give" button
- Click on "Create Profile" button
- Follow onscreen instructions.

It's easy and stress free!



Sunday Servants

Serving February 6 at 9:00 am:

Worship Leader: Dave Lorenz

Ushers: Jim Post, Karen Post, Peggy Tully

Computer: Lisa Kasmauski *Camera:* Larry Kasmauski

Sound: Gary Cooper *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

Counters: Bev Layman, Mudgi Cavender

Serving February 6 at 11:00 am:

Worship Leader: Brad Hilleary

Greeters: Sheryl Thompson & GL Bates

Computer: Angela Thompson *Camera:* Colin T.

Sound: Pete Thompson *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

Tear down: Jimmy & Niki Epplert

Serving February 13 at 9:00 am:

Worship Leader: Ken Lockett

Ushers: Fred Yonkers, Pat Yonkers, Rod Moon, Kathy Mertz

Computer: Glenn Chilson *Camera:* Dena Chilson

Sound: Deb Moon *FB Host:* Ivan Ivanov

Counters: Cyndi Barefoot, Mike Layman

Serving February 13 at 11:00 am:

Worship Leader: TBA

Greeters: John Thompson & John Colella

Computer: Jim Grace *Camera:* Ivan Ivanov

Sound: Karen Grace *FB Host:* Niki Epplert

Tear down: Laura Dean & Kelsey June

Serving February 20 at 9:00 am:

Worship Leader: Ken Lockett

Ushers: John Decker, Gayle Decker, Mark Rousell

Computer: Karen Booth *Camera:* Luka Ivanov

Sound: David Booth *FB Host:* Ivan Ivanov

Counters: Madonna Borgerding, Al Winslow

Serving February 20 at 11:00 am:

Worship Leader and Tear down: Chris Beaudoin

Greeters: Jill Warren & Jill McMahon

Computer: Julie Fuller *Camera:* Jay McMahon

Sound: Arianna Davros *FB Host:* Jeff Verry

Serving February 27 at 9:00 am:

Worship leader: Ken Lockett

Ushers: Dave Stamy, Adam Pyman, Ruth Pyman

Computer: Fred Yonkers *Camera:* Pat Yonkers

Sound: Rob Mertz *FB Host:* Ivan Ivanov

Counters: Bev Layman, Jim Cavender

Serving February 27 at 11:00 am:

Worship leader: Rose Emmons

Greeters: Jan Pascavis & Jean Kelly

Computer: Brian Mosley *Camera:* Jason Colella

Sound: Bob Bosch *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

Tear down: Rose Emmons, G.L. Bates

Thanks to everyone who shares their gifts and serves to make our worship services meaningful and memorable – and accessible online!