

Harbor Light



Volume 23.2

February 2023

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MARY IVANOV



February ushers in many special days on the calendar. Memories of making valentines for my classmates come to mind, and I loved choosing valentines and making sure I had enough for everyone. I loved getting them too! Little did I know as a kid that St. Valentine was a Christian martyr who was killed for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

It's interesting that many times, **Lent begins in February too.** For all this focus on cutout hearts and short, sweet candy messages, **God is most concerned with our hearts – our real motivation.** If we want to follow Jesus, we're always called to love – to love God and love others. In a time when love seems in short supply, I pray we'll engage in the season of Lent with our whole hearts – and invite God to keep working on us.

See you on Sunday, *Pastor Mary*

Muskegon Methodist Ministries

invites you to worship on

Ash Wednesday

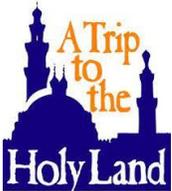
February 22, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Central United Methodist Church (1011 Second St.)



We welcome **Rev. Alice Fleming Townley** as our guest preacher. She currently serves as the Mission and Justice Coordinator for The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church. Ordained in 2000, Alice has served in a variety of ministry settings. She enjoys practicing contemplative practices, building bridges, and encouraging faith in action. She and her husband Michael live in East Lansing and have two young adult children.



HOLY LAND TOUR 2023: Bishop David Bard is leading a tour through Educational Opportunities in November 2023. Pastor Mary is planning to go, and this is open to anyone interested. Click on the link below for all the info.

<https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/hl23111323i/#.Y7yYMKROkzY>



We'll celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Baptism** on **Easter Sunday, April 9.** If you're interested in being baptized, or bringing your children for baptism, please contact Pastor Mary to an appointment for further conversation. **Membership class will also be offered this Spring.** Please contact Pastor Mary if you're interested in considering membership at Lake Harbor.

From our Midwest District Office: The Michigan Conference will decrease from 9 to 7 districts as of July 1, 2023. The Western Waters District (new name) will extend along the shores of Lake Michigan and include both the Traverse City and Grand Rapids areas. **Rev. Jodie Flessner** will be the district superintendent. Please pray for Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford as she prepares to serve on the East side.

“Mountain Stories: Where Heaven and Earth Meet”



Sometimes specific moments and places are important in our faith journey. Whether it’s a literal mountaintop or a figurative mountaintop, the spiritual “highs” where we experience God’s grace are formative. These deep spiritual encounters can offer us a new perspective, a new view we’ve never seen before, a reward at the end of a journey (or the beginning of a new one), and more. They are examples of “thin places” where the boundary between heaven and earth is blurry, and we are forever changed.

“Thin places” comes from a **Celtic tradition called *caol ait kweel awtch***. This idea can simply be looked at as mountain tops or other physical places that the air is thin or hard to come by. Thin places really reflect a spiritual thinness as well. It can also be a place where this world and the next one moved closer together, and it was as if you could go from one to the other with one small step.

February 5, 2023: “Where God Dwells”

Scripture: II Samuel 5: 1-10

Synopsis: Sometimes feeling God’s presence is a struggle. Disappointment, grief, and other losses make us wonder where God is and if we’ll ever feel God with us. Throughout Scripture, Zion is the place where God dwells. It’s a specific place, but it’s also a promise of God’s presence with us no matter what. When we come to the table, we’re renewed to open our hearts for God to dwell in us.

February 12, 2023: “Decisions, Decisions – Now!”

Scripture: I Kings 18: 20-39

Synopsis: Elijah has a lot to teach us about following God faithfully and being confident in God’s power because of his relationship with God. How do we keep choosing to follow God – maintain spiritual stamina – no matter the decisions before us?

February 19, 2023: “In the Glory of the Lord”

Scripture: Matthew 17: 1-9

Synopsis: We need mountaintop experiences to encourage us on our faith journey. When we witness the glory of God in Jesus, it’s an opportunity to be strengthened ourselves – and to strengthen others. All of us can offer our faith to other, and all of us “borrow” from the faith of others.

This will be a day of people sharing mountaintop experiences. Pastor Mary will be on vacation.

February 22, 2023: Ash Wednesday Worship at Central UMC

This is a meaningful worship opportunity as we prepare our hearts for the season of Lent.

“Living Our Baptismal Calling”

February 26, 2023: “Called to Renounce”

Scripture: Matthew 4: 11 – The Temptation of Jesus

Synopsis: We walk the way of temptation with Jesus and learn from him what it means to continue to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin.

Worship Connections Teams

Worship Connections Team meetings are open to everyone. Karen Booth leads the Worship Connections Team which meets most Mondays at 1:00 p.m. at church. Please contact Karen (231-798-8431 or kwbooth@comcast.net) for details. Niki Epplert leads the Celebration Team. Please contact Niki (231-750-2114 or jikiskycam@comcast.net) for details.

Worship Connections Calendar

Mon., Feb. 6	6:00 pm	Brainstorming dinner at Baranowski's house
	7-9:30 pm	Brainstorming for Lent & Easter worship
Mon., Feb. 13	1:00 pm	Worship Connections Team Meeting
Mon., Feb. 20	1:00 pm	Worship Work Session
Wed., Feb. 22	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship at Central UMC
Mon., Feb. 27	1:00 pm	Worship Connections Team Meeting

"Living Our Baptismal Calling" - All-Church Worship Brainstorming

Monday, February 6, 2023

The worship brainstorming will be held at Ed and Sue Baranowski's house (1982 Forest Glen, Norton Shores). We will have a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm. Please bring a dish to share. Brainstorming is from 7:00-9:30 pm.



Lent is known as a season for individual self-examination, penitance, and "giving something up" as a spiritual discipline. It seems to be primarily inwardly and negatively focused. It's commonly seen as being about what's wrong with me as an individual and what I'm willing to do to improve myself.

While self-examination and individual work are part of the work of Lent, the early church developed Lent to be primarily "other-focused." Lent was created as the final leg of intense preparation and support for people who had chosen to learn to live the way of Jesus. This year, worship each week will be an occasion to celebrate and contemplate what it means to live out one or more of these vows.

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

Directions to Baranowski's from church:

- Take HENRY ST south to HENDRICK RD. (0.2 miles)
- Turn right onto HENDRICK RD. (1.2 miles)
- Turn right onto LAKE HARBOR RD. (0.8 miles)
- Turn left onto FOREST GLEN RD. (0.3 miles)
- Their house is on the right.



Radical Hospitality We know how important hospitality is when we think about **who has welcomed us, especially in the church.** All of us have a responsibility to offer hospitality to

others – no matter our role. **Share posts** that invite others to participate in the opportunities to worship, study Scripture, and give! You can also **share our YouTube channel** (Lake Harbor UMC) where people can connect and access all of our worship service recordings.

Facebook Hosts needed! We're looking for people who would serve as online hosts during our **livestream on Facebook.** This is an important role as we "welcome all" who connect online. If you'd be interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Mary.

 **Coffee Time is offered 9:00 a.m. worship** on the 3rd Sunday of the month, and we're looking for hosts. **Please sign up** at the Welcome Center for 2023 dates.

Celebration service (11:00 a.m. worship) is offering Fellowship Time on the 3rd Sunday of each month, serving refreshments at the back of the sanctuary after worship. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Sheryl Thompson.

Thanks to Bailey Umstead-Straley – **Queen B's Bake Shop** – for providing delicious cake in January!

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



LAKE HARBOR'S MUSIC MINISTRY



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

CHOIR rehearses **Wednesdays, Feb. 1 & 15 at 6:30 p.m.** and **Sunday mornings at 8:15 a.m.** Please join us!

HAND BELLS rehearse on **Sunday evenings (Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26) from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** in the music room.



PRAISE TEAM rehearses on **Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.** Contact Michael Boersma at 231-638-0522 if you're interested in joining them.

"Lord, Hear our Prayers..."

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

In My Father's House – Polly Cryderman, January 19, 2023. We give thanks for her faithful witness and we ask for prayers for her family. A memorial service will be held in the spring.

Our **Monthly Prayer Service** won't meet as usual in February, but all are welcome to gather at Central UMC for **Ash Wednesday Worship on Feb. 22 at 7:00 p.m.**

Our Prayer Chain is a way for you to be more intentional about praying for others. Contact the office at **Office@LakeHarborUMC.org** if you want to be included on the **E-mail Prayer Chain**.

Prayer Requests are printed off each Thursday and posted on the tower by the sign-in tables.

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.

For those interested in **Confirmation class** (youth currently in 7th grade or older), watch for information coming soon! Pastor Mary is working with other local churches on a possible group opportunity.

February Upper Room devotional readings are **posted on our Facebook page** every day. This is great way to nurture your spiritual health!

Tuesday morning Bible study meets at **10:00-11:30 a.m.** in the Lounge – and on Zoom. We're studying wisdom from Proverbs and the prophet Elijah in I and II Kings, focusing on spiritual stamina in every season. **We will not meet on Feb. 21.**

Men's Bible Study meets on **Tuesdays – Feb. 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 7:00 p.m.** The subject for the next few months is "The Short Books of the Bible." If you have questions, contact Mike Layman.

Women's Bible Study meets on **Tuesdays – Feb. 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Lounge. Friends are always welcome. Bring a Bible and yourself. Questions? Contact facilitator Niki Epplert at 231-750-2114.

SATURDAY SISTERS BIBLE STUDY: We're using a John Eldredge video-based Bible study called **Get Your Life Back**. If you're feeling overwhelmed, ragged and empty, this study will help you find practices that will help you rediscover your soul and your joy! We meet every Saturday morning from 10:30a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Rose Emmons' home (5474 McDowell St.). Come find the joy of Christian sisterhood as you grow in your journey with Christ!



SATURDAY SISTERS COMMUNITY BLESSINGS: What a wonderful Christmas season we had! We received a generous memorial gift in honor of Logan Keith the son of our sister Debbie. We used those funds to bless our community in 2 ways. In December, we packed blessing bags of food, warm weather clothing and personal items to give to those in need. In January, we created over 100 blessing bags of warm hats, gloves, mittens, gloves and socks. We then placed them around our community as well! We also provided a gift basket of warm clothing to the students of Oakview School in the Muskegon school district. It was a blessing and joy to love on God's beloved children in need!

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP meets on **Sat., Feb. 11 from 9:30-10:15 a.m.** at Rose Emmons' home (5474 McDowell St.). We hope to see you then to spend some time in intentional prayer and praise! All are welcome.



Midwest District Lay Servant Classes: Registration is open for in-person Lay Servant classes on **Saturdays, March 11 and 25 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm at Fremont UMC.** Go to [Lay Servant information](#) to find the classes offered and to register. The deadline to register is **Feb. 28.**



Our Social Justice small group will meet on **Thurs., March 9.** This is an opportunity to share, reflect, hear each other's stories, and help each other do the work of seeking justice where we are.

Social Justice Issue: 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 to raise your own awareness and be involved in efforts to help.



GriefShare offers help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. We meet on **Mondays at 6:30 p.m. through March 27**. Workbooks cost \$20. More information is at www.griefshare.org. Please share this with family, friends, or neighbors.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...

February birthday blessings to our Sunday School friends:

Alexandra Erbes 2/2 Knox Bishop 2/18 Keelan Dean 2/24 Olivia Sroka 2/26

Sunday School meets at **10:15-10:45 a.m.** for kids and youth. Preschool-5th graders meet downstairs. Grades 6-12 meet upstairs.



Movie Time was fun, and the popcorn was delicious! Top Gun Maverick was our best attended movie. We so appreciate all the people who made the movies possible for us to enjoy. The Worship Design Team did another awesome job!

Readers to Leaders Advent Read-A-Thon update: We are super excited with the success of the Advent Read-a-thon! Our original goal was \$600. **With**



the amazing support of our Lake Harbor family, we surpassed that goal, earning \$1200 for the Readers to Leaders program. This money, together with money collected from other UMC churches, will go a long way ensuring that many kids will have access to books and other things needed to be successful readers!



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, first come first served, so don't wait!** If you have any questions, please contact Niki Epplert 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 will meet on Wednesdays: February **1, 8, 15, and 22**.



Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser: It's that time of year - time to eat warm food and be indoors - so we're going to take care of dinner for you! Join us on **Fri., Feb. 17 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. There is no cost for this event, but you vote with \$\$\$\$. The chili with the most dollars at the end of the night will be crowned this year's Champion - complete with a prize and bragging rights. All are welcome to compete! Think your recipe has what it takes? Sign up on the back tower so we can have a spot ready for you! Make plans to be there, and bring your friends! Make a night of it!



Mission trip 2023: Plans are underway, we recently had an informational meeting. We'll be going to **Harrisburg, PA** from **July 22-29** with Youthworks. The trip is open to students who are currently in 8th-12th grade. If you were unable to attend the meeting and are interested, please contact Jimmy Epplett ASAP, so we can get you the information. **Deadline to sign up is Sun., Feb. 5.**

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

College Scholarships for United Methodist Students: Applications are now open for scholarships from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. Every year, UMHEF awards \$2+ million to students planning to attend one of the 100+ UM-related colleges, universities, and seminaries across the country. **Apply by March 1 <https://umhef.org/scholarships/apply/>**



Membership, Nurture & Outreach (M.N.O.): 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 **Thurs., Feb. 9 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 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, Mon., March 13** with desserts and some healthy snacks. Watch for more about how you can help, and 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 in a time of transition. We're inviting anyone who would like to support this ministry to make soup that could be put in containers, frozen in our church freezer, and available as needed. If you know someone who could use some meals, call the Office at 231-798-2181.



Ross Park Readers continue to make a difference in the classroom for both staff and students. We're always **looking for new readers – one hour, one day a week!**



Lunch Bunch meets on **Tues., Feb. 14 at 12:30 p.m.** at Driftwood Café at Tanglewood. Everyone is invited! Sign up on the Welcome Center. We had fun at the January Lunch Bunch get together. It's a great way to gather with friends and meet new people!

Photo Directories: It's never too late to submit a photo! We're always able to add them in. If you find anything in your information that needs to be changed, please contact Myke in the office. An updated version will be Emailed quarterly, so look for it toward the end of March.

 **Members on the move...Please keep the office informed** to any changes.

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!

Missions Corner

Missions Team meets every other month, and we're looking for passionate people to join us! Thank you for helping us serve others in Jesus' name. Our next meeting is **Mon., Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m.** If you have questions or ideas, please contact the office or Jill McMahon at 231-343-5749 or jdcmmahon23@gmail.com.



Thank you for giving generously in January that transforms our community and the world!

- **Human Relations Sunday** offering was \$277.00.
- **January Noisy Offering** to support **Lakeshore Human Trafficking task force** was \$248.35.



2023 Souper Bowl of Caring is Super Bowl Sunday, **Feb. 12**. Watch for sales and pick up cans of soup or make a monetary gift to Lake Harbor to support **MAP's Food Pantry**.

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** who is dancing this year, and we have others who work tirelessly behind the scenes as part of Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce. Thanks for your support as we "Can Hunger."



February MAP Items of the Month: Tuna and Laundry Soap (Dollar Store size)

Servants are needed at **MAP Clothes Closet** on **Tues., Feb. 28** and **Thurs., March 1** from **12:30-3:00 p.m.** If you're willing to help, call Madonna Borgerding at 231-780-2998. Men's clothes are always needed!

Supper House: Our next date to serve is **Tues., Feb. 7** from **3:45-5:30 p.m.** **We now use a team of 6 people to serve guests.** If you're planning on serving, call **Sheryl Thompson** at **231-563-6417** so we can plan accordingly.



Hand2Hand helps kids with a weekend pack of food. We're collecting **boxed Macaroni and Cheese** to assist Temple UMC to provide meals for students at Edgewood Elementary School. There is a box for your gifts in the sanctuary by the Hand2Hand banner.

Kids' Food Basket currently serves at least **1,650 students in Muskegon daily**. Fill the **wish list:** Fruit cups or pouches, Pudding cups, and Meat sticks (like Slim Jims). Items can be put in the KFB tote in the sanctuary. They also need **sandwich and snack size Ziplock bags** and **decorated bags**.



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

Our next time to serve – delivering meals to the Day Center - is Sun., Feb. 26 through Sat., March 4. Please sign up to deliver a dinner or help out with the snacks at this link: [Family Promise Sign up](#)



The Meijer Simply Give Campaign kicked off Jan. 1 and will run until April 2 benefiting **Mission for Area People’s food pantry**. Last year’s campaign donated \$11,000 to our healthy food pantry. Your \$10 donation at the local Meijer’s store on **Norton Avenue** at checkout is matched \$10 by Meijer.

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.

Stay connected! **United Methodist Church:** www.umc.org **Michigan Area UMC:** <http://michiganumc.org>
Midwest District: <https://midwest.michiganumc.org/> **Lake Harbor UMC:** <http://lakeharborumc.org>



Thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas bag of goodies. The bag was heavy with Christmas Cheer. I am so pleased to be remembered like this, and I shared some with the people who help me here. We all say blessings to you, thank you and Merry Christmas. *Irene Bailey*



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 this church family. *Myke Bos, Administrative Assistant*



Thank you for your generous gift to MAP Medical Fund in memory of your members: Darlene Hronek, Mary Hubbell, Shirley Ploughman, Leora Williamson, Jerome Novotny, Marcia Woodworth and Mary Swartz. Your support of Mission for Area People is greatly needed and appreciated.

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year! *Diana Wright Stubbs, Executive Director*



We appreciate the gift cards and you thinking of us during this time in our schooling and we will definitely be using our gift cards. Thank you for all you do for us and thinking of ways to go out of your way for everyone. Thank you, *Ashtyn and Jordan Vilneff*



I would like to thank my Lake Harbor family for the generous Christmas gift. I am very thankful to be a part of a supportive and giving church community. I hope that your New Year is hopeful and healthy. Thanks again, *Gail Barefoot, Financial Secretary*



Thank you for your donations that made Muskegon County’s “Christmas at the Jail” a success!
Chaplain Danny Peeples, Reach the Forgotten



Once again, thank you for the generous gift given to me this Holiday season. What a blessing it is to be recognized each year at this time. I have had the privilege to be a part of this congregation for many years, and I appreciate all of you and what you do for the congregation and community. Offering hope for a productive and peaceful 2023. *Mary Scott*



Thank you Lake Harbor faith community for your prayers, cards, emails and calls during my recent health issue. It is great to be surrounded by Christian brothers and sisters in the scary times in life. *John Thompson*



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I am so blessed to be a part of this church and to be loved by you all! Thank you so much for your generous gifts this Christmas! My family and I are so grateful for your love and support! PEACE AND LOVE, *JIMMY Epplert*



A huge thank you to my Lake Harbor family, for the Christmas gift. There are so many ways that I feel valued, and affirmed by my church family, and this extra gift at Christmas was incredibly generous. I appreciate you all more than words can say! *Kate Robbins*



Thank you for the wonderful Christmas Gift. I am so very appreciative for the opportunity to be involved with the music ministry at Lake Harbor and the people who share it with you. Thank you, again. Blessings, *Diane Thompson*



From our FINANCE Team

We’re so thankful to report that we’ve been to support ministry and mission for another year! **At the end of December and the end of 2022**, our total income for General Fund was \$362,770. Our total General Fund expenses were \$350,542. All bills and Ministry Shares were paid in full. God is good and faithful!

Our 2023 budget is \$387,224, which is an increase from 2022. We’re 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.

2023 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the office. If you need them mailed to you, please contact the office.



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.

Use this QR code to connect to online giving.



It’s easy and stress free – and can help us to be more consistent in our giving, which blesses our church.

From our Trustees: We’re excited to welcome Dave Beachum to our committee and look forward to working with him. We’re getting ready to start planning the work to update the parsonage kitchen. We also want to give thanks for funds given to our Preservation Fund from the Hanna Family Trust. 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. **Gifts to our Preservation Fund are always appreciated** – whether planned or given anytime!

❄️Lake Harbor UMC Weather Policy: If you have a meeting, class, or activity scheduled in the evening, and the weather looks bad, call the church office (231-798-2181). A decision will be made by 3:00 p.m. and a message left on the machine if events are cancelled. **ONLY Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will automatically be cancelled if Mona Shores Schools are closed.

LAKE HARBOR UMC FINANCE COMMITTEE - 2023 NARRATIVE BUDGET

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ! Finance Committee's purpose is two-fold.

1. 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.
2. We are charged with **securing the long-term financial stability of the church**. You'll see elements of both of these responsibilities in this narrative budget. Information described here is available as a line item budget to anyone seeking additional details.

Our 2023 budget reflects an increase from 2022 largely due to an increase in pastor and staff salary support to fall in line with current inflation rates. Our financial picture is stable, and we celebrate God's faithfulness and generosity. We've seen an increase in pledges for 2023, and we feel confident that we've prepared a realistic budget while knowing that it's a faith budget until gifts are given. We rely on you - our members and regular attenders - to faithfully contribute financially and to be engaged in mission and ministry that these funds support.

2022 offered the blessing of a gift from a fund set up by an anonymous donor through the Community Foundation of Muskegon County. We received \$52,202, which made it possible for us to further mission and ministry. We have a policy to ensure that this annual distribution is not used for operational expenses, but allows us to support new ministries and enhance our work together. In 2022, funds supported items including a new soundboard for our sanctuary and funds to train our volunteers, additional funds to support food trucks during Vacation Bible School, and CPR/AED training for Christian Education staff and volunteers.

We are thankful for consistent financial giving that supports our general budget 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 2022, including paying 100% of Ministry Shares to both the Michigan Conference and Midwest District. We supported many mission projects – from UMCOR's relief work in Ukraine and other areas, help for the community of Gaylord after a tornado, Mission for Area People, and Kids Belong. 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 2023 general fund budget is based on anticipated income from pledges, other regular giving, and additional income.

EXPENSES are expected to be \$387,224 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 2023.

Ministerial Support: \$100,000 (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: \$148,184 (38.2%) 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, and Website Manager. Our custodial needs are contracted, and this expense is also included.

Administration and Communications: \$13,200 (3.4%) 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: \$63,150 (16.3%) 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 small repairs and maintenance, as well as a line to support Memorial Garden upkeep.

Music and Worship: \$5,298 (1.4%) 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.

Christian Education, Youth Ministries, and Outreach: \$18,020 (4.7%) 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 (0.6%) 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: \$36,872 (9.5%) 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 under 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.

Lake Harbor UMC's Regular Office Hours are Monday – Thursday from **9:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m.** 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.



PLEASE NOTE: Our Administrative Assistant, Myke Bos, will be on vacation from Feb. 8-19. Please call before you come in to the church to make sure someone is in the building. **Pastor Mary** will be on vacation from Feb. 18-22.



If you're in the hospital or care facility, because of the privacy laws, we may not know that you are there. **Please have a family member or friend notify the office at (231) 798-2181.**

Sunday Servants

Serving February 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Larry Jorgenson
Ushers: Jim Post, Karen Post, Peggy Tully
Computer: Luka Ivanov *Camera:* Derek Mertz
Sound: Rob Mertz *FB Host:* Jill McMahan
Counters: Bev Layman, Jim Cavender

Serving February 5 at 11:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Brad Hilleary
Greeters: Sheryl Thompson, GL Bates
Computer: Skylar Bosch *Camera:* Aiden Bosch
Sound: Bob Bosch *FB Host:* Jill McMahan
Teardown: Niki & Jimmy Epplert

Serving February 12 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Larry Jorgenson
Ushers: Fred Yonkers, Pat Yonkers, Rod Moon, Kathy Mertz
Computer: Karen Booth *Camera:* Jean Kelly
Sound: Dave Booth *FB Live Host:* Ivan Ivanov
Counters: Cyndi Barefoot, Peggy Miller

Serving February 12 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Dirk Fuller
Greeters: John Thompson & John Colella
Computer: Jim Grace *Camera:* Jeff Verry
Sound: Karen Grace *FB Host:* Niki Epplert
Tear down: Laura Dean, Kelsey Boss

Serving February 19 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Larry Jorgenson
Ushers: John Decker, Gayle Decker, Mark Rousell
Computer: Fred Yonkers *Camera:* Pat Yonkers
Sound: TBD *FB Host:* TBD
Counters: Madonna Borgerding, Allen Winslow

Serving February 19 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader and Tear down: Chris Beaudoin
Greeters: Jill Warren & Jill McMahan
Computer: Julie Fuller *Camera:* Jay McMahan
Sound: Arianna Davros *FB Host:* Jeff Verry

Serving February 26 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Larry Jorgenson
Ushers: Dave Stamy, Adam Pyman, Ruth Pyman
Computer: Larry Kasmauski *Camera:* Lisa Kasmauski
Sound: Gary Cooper *FB Host:* Jen Cooper
Counters: Bev Layman, Mudgi Cavender

Serving February 26 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Rose Emmons
Greeters: Jan Pascavis & Jean Kelly
Computer: Brian Mosley *Camera:* Jason Colella
Sound: Pete Thompson *FB Host:* Jill McMahan
Tear down: GL Bates, Rose Emmons

Thanks to everyone who serves to make our worship services meaningful, memorable, and accessible!

Check out the **lighting in Memorial Garden!** It looks beautiful at night and offers an opportunity for loved ones to visit anytime.

Lake Harbor United Methodist Church

4861 S. Henry St.
Norton Shores, MI 49441



2023

www.lakeharborumc.org

(231) 798-2181

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Free Suicide Prevention Skills Training, open to **EVERYONE**, on **Monday, Feb. 6** from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Mahali Center (2780 Peck St in Muskegon Hts.). For more information, call 231-343-1726.



La Leche League, the breastfeeding support group for parents, meets on **third Tues. of each month at 10:00 a.m.** in the LHUMC nursery – **Feb. 21**. Anyone interested in breastfeeding is welcome. The ideal time for parents to begin attending is before arrival of the baby, but many wait until after baby is born. If you know anyone who would benefit from attending, please let them know. Questions? Contact Mary Swisher at 231-777-3238 or text 231-215-4145.

Muskegon Museum of Art: THROUGH OUR LENS: HANDS **Now - March 12, 2023**



A community is a group of people living in a specific place and our region on the beautiful lake shore of West Michigan is no different. This exhibition is a celebration of our diverse community, sharing the unique stories of people that grow it every day. We invite you to meet these members of our community through art and the art of storytelling. The striking black and white photography of Jennifer Green and the storytelling of local journalist Susan Harrison-Wolffis combine to showcase and celebrate our community.

The Muskegon Museum of Art is proud to present *Through Our Lens: HANDS*. Our staff organized this exhibition in partnership with a community committee to tell our collective lakeshore story. **Thursdays are Free Admission Days.**