

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MARY IVANOV



Ash Wednesday worship at Central UMC was a blessing, and I'm grateful that we gather together as a community to enter into the season of Lent. Thanks to our choir ensemble for offering the ministry of music, and as you can see, it was good to see old friends and greet new ones!



I pray that you're making the time to nurture your relationship with God and others, and as Rev. Jodie Flessner reminded us, **checking our hearts and making small changes can make a big impact for these 40 days**. I encourage you to **be engaged in this season**. **Be present – show up – for worship** as we focus on *Questions Jesus Asked*, **in prayer** individually and with others, **in devotional time** with a resource like the *Upper Room*, **in study** with others, in giving of your time and resources, **in community** with people around you. See what God will do - how God will transform us – as we walk with Jesus and each other. See you on Sunday, *Pastor Mary*

Thanks to everyone who joined us for **our congregational meeting** on Sun., Feb. 18 – and for all of our staff and leaders who offered brief updates. The **narrative budget** that was shared is included in this newsletter. A numbers budget is available from the office. Pastor Mary shared briefly about **General Conference**, the worldwide gathering of United Methodists, scheduled for late April-early May this year. Look for an opportunity to gather in April to learn more. You can also learn more at <https://michiganumc.org/a-beginners-guide-to-general-conference/#gsc.tab=0>



We'll celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Baptism** on **Easter Sunday, March 31**. If you're interested in being baptized, or bringing your children for baptism, please contact Pastor Mary to set up an appointment for further conversation. **Membership class** will also be offered on **Tues., March 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lounge**. Please contact Pastor Mary if you're interested in considering membership at Lake Harbor.

Our Michigan Conference is sponsoring **Advocacy Day on Wed., March 13** - a day of prayer, public witness, and meetings with elected officials about **addressing mental health**. Learn more and register at <https://michiganumc.org/2024-advocacy-day/#gsc.tab=0>



March Worship News by Karen Booth

March 3, 2024: “Why Are You Anxious?”

Scripture: Luke 12: 22-34

Synopsis: Jesus convicts us with his questions about worry. There’s comfort in his words, but it’s complicated to simply “give up” worry because it’s a part of having free will. But there are ways that we can respond to worry so that we can move toward greater hope.

March 10, 2024: “What Do You Live For?”

Scripture: Mark 8: 34-38

Synopsis: Jesus asks a dangerous question, and our answer can change the trajectory of our lives. God created each of us with a soul that seeks God and gifts that contribute to building God’s Kingdom here and now. We’re called to nurture our relationship with God and pursue what truly matters.

March 17, 2024: “Whom Will You Love?”

Scripture: Luke 6: 27-36

Synopsis: The Golden Rule (*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*) has become a popular soundbite, but Jesus’ questions that follow push us to a deeper kind of love that includes a heavy dose of empathy and runs counter to our cultural expectations.

March 24, 2024: “What Are You Looking For?”

Scripture: John 1: 35-39; John 12: 12-19

Synopsis: At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, he asks his future disciples what they want – or perhaps what they’re seeking. He has been called the Lamb of God – the One who will redeem the world – and they follow him. As Jesus is welcomed with palms and presumed to be the Messiah who will fight and win by might, the assumptions of God’s redeeming work are up-ended by his display of sacrificial love for the world.

Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.: “Why Have You Forsaken Me?”

Scripture: Psalm 22: 1-5; Matthew 27: 45-47

Synopsis: The events of the last night of Jesus’ earthly life show the deep love and grace of God as Jesus shares a meal with his friends, and washes their feet – only to experience the deepest betrayal. Jesus’ question spoken from the cross cuts to our hearts as we feel the weight of his loneliness.

Join us for a **potluck style meal at 6:00 p.m. at the back of the sanctuary.** We will share **finger food** similar to what Jesus and his disciples shared on this night: nuts, dried and fresh fruit, bread, crackers, cheese, hard boiled eggs, olives, vegetables, etc. Bring a dish to share; nothing too messy (please) as we only have silverware for serving, not eating. Water and table service provided.

Worship will be in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome at the Communion table, and we’ll offer handwashing and foot washing.


8:30 p.m. Thursday-11:30 a.m. Friday: Prayer Vigil in our sanctuary

This is a powerful opportunity to offer the gift of time to God in prayer – prayers for ourselves, our church, community, and world, and especially those concerns that are gathered up for the vigil that might never be voiced aloud in worship. It is a time to be connected to the community of faith. In-person “pray-ers” and persons to keep watch during the night are needed.

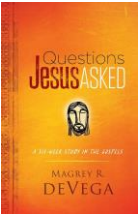
Good Friday, March 29, 2024 at Noon at Crestwood UMC We gather with friends in Christ from Muskegon to remember and reflect on God’s sacrificial love for the whole world.

Easter Sunrise Service: Greet the sunrise and celebrate the joy of resurrection at **Mona Lake Boat Club at 7:15 a.m.** before we worship in our sanctuary. We gather rain or shine!

March 31, 2024: “Who Are You Looking For?” *Scripture:* John 20: 1-18
Synopsis: Mary is questioned first by angels and then by Jesus – both wanting to know the source of her sadness and Jesus wanting to know who she’s seeking. We, like Mary, are seeking something (or someone), and Jesus invites to answer him. Who are we looking for – and why?

 **Fellowship Time** is scheduled after worship services on **Sun., March 10 and 24,** and **we’re looking for people to serve coffee and refreshments.** Please **Sign up** at the Welcome Center.

Copies of *Questions Jesus Asked* are available on the Welcome Center for \$10 each.



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, 231-557-1069 or kwbooth@comcast.net) for more details. Vicki Zucker leads the Celebration Team. Please contact Vicki (231-759-8848 or zukerr@comcast.net) for more details.

Worship Connections Calendar by Karen Booth

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Mon., March 4 | Noon | Potluck Lunch in the Lounge |
| | 12:45-3:00 pm | Worship Brainstorming |
| Mon., March 11 | 1:00 pm | Tentative Worship Connections Meeting |
| Thur., March 14 | 6:00 pm | Celebration Worship planning meeting |
| Mon., March 18 | 1:00 pm | Worship Connections Meeting |
| Mon., March 25 | 1:00 pm | Worship Work Session |
| Thur., March 28 | 7:00 pm | Holy Thursday Worship followed by the Prayer Vigil |
| Fri., March 29 | 2:00 pm | Worship Work Session |

Worship Brainstorming for a series on “Forgiveness” - Mon., March 4, 2024
12:00 noon Potluck Lunch, 12:45-3:00 pm Brainstorming for Worship
April 7-28, 2024 (4 weeks)

If you ask children what they want to be when they grow up, they are unlikely to say, “angry, bitter, and unforgiving.” We see the physical, emotional, and spiritual effects of unforgiveness in ourselves and those around us. Forgiveness doesn’t come naturally. How can we learn to ask for and receive forgiveness?

Join us at noon for a potluck lunch at church. Our host, Karen Post, is making sloppy joes and cheesy potatoes. Please bring a dish to pass.

RSVPs are helpful but not mandatory. Sign up at church or contact the church office (213-798-2181 or Office@LakeHarborUMC.org) or Karen Booth (231-798-8431 or 231-557-1069 or kwbooth@comcast.net). Please read the Scripture and message synopses and preview the videos before we gather if possible.

“God gave us music that we might pray without words.” As we worship in this Lent and Easter season, you’re invited to **add your gift to the music ministry of Lake Harbor UMC.**

- **Vocal Ensemble** rehearses on **Wed., March 6 and 20 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary.
- **Hand Bell Choir** rehearses on **Sundays at 6:00-7:30 p.m.** in the Music Room – except March 31!

Please contact Diane Thompson at 231-750-5153 or diane.sj.thompson@gmail.com for more info!

- **PRAISE TEAM** rehearses on **Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.** Contact Michael Boersma at 231-670-6467 if you’re interested in joining them.

“Lord, Hear our Prayers...” *When you can’t put your prayer into words, God hears your heart.*

Another Hand in Ours...James Michael Straley born on Feb. 3 to Bailey & Caleb Straley. He joins big brother, Oliver, and proud relatives include grandpa, Steve Umstead, and aunt, Emily Umstead. We ask God’s continued blessing on this family.

In My Father’s House...John Jolman passed away on Feb. 11. He was a long time member of Lake Harbor. Our prayers and sympathy are with the Jolman family.

Our Prayer Chain is one way 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.**

WOMEN’S PRAYER GROUP meets on **Sat., Mar. 9 from 9:30-10:15 a.m.** at Rose Emmons’ home (5474 McDowell St.). We welcome all with a heart for worship through prayer and meditation. Come join us!



GriefShare offers help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. We meet on **Mondays at 6:30 p.m.** in the Lounge through April 1. More information is at www.griefshare.org.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

March/ April Upper Room devotionals (both small and large print) are available at church. **Devotional readings** are also **posted on our Facebook page** every day. This is great way to nurture your spiritual health! **You can access an audio recording of the Upper Room daily devotional at 1-877-600-7218.**

Tuesday morning Bible study meets at **10:00-11:30 a.m.** in the Lounge – and on Zoom. We’re currently studying the Gospel of John.

Men’s Bible Study meets on **Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.** in the Library. (We will not meet on March 26.) We’re studying a book called **Life Lessons from Romans** by Max Lucado.

Saturday Sisters Bible Study meets at **10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** at Rose Emmons’s home (5474 McDowell St.). We are doing an 8-week study by Sarah Young on ***Following God’s Direction***. New members welcome! It’s always a good time to study God’s word and share with others as we grow in our faith!



Social Justice Issue: Celebration Worship chooses a **prayer focus each month** to raise awareness of **how our faith connects to important social issues.** We begin with prayer, and we’re called to action. March’s focus is **Mental Health.** **Our Social Justice small group** meets on **Thurs., March 14 at 7:00 p.m.**



Dine with Nine: *Eating is more than an individual, biological act.
Human beings are made to eat together, sharing their table with family and friends.*

Want to enjoy conversation, food, and friendship with fellow church members and friends? Enjoy meeting new people and/or renewing prior acquaintances? Like extending the hospitality of Lake Harbor community in a personal way? Dine with Nine is for you!

WHAT: Dine with Nine is an informal gathering with around nine people. Groups will include some couples, singles, newer attenders, and longtime members.

WHEN: For four months, you will gather to eat one meal per month together. Each group will determine when and how dinner will take place.

HOW: Typically, these are potluck meals in group members' homes, but you can have a picnic at a park (warmer weather is coming), grill at someone's house, order take-out, pick a favorite restaurant to eat at, or any other fun way to dine with each other. Each person is expected to contribute to the meals over the four months together. You do not have to be a gourmet cook; your contribution can be store-bought.

COMMITMENT: After four months, these groups will end and new groups will be formed in the fall. Each Dine with Nine session will require you to register again.

LOGISTICS:

1. There are two ways to register. Look for a sign-up sheet on an information tower between February 25 and April 7. Online, Email kwbooth@comcast.net. Provide your name, email, phone number, number of adults in your group, and whether or not you would be willing to host the first group. For questions, you can contact Karen Booth (231-557-1069 or kwbooth@comcast.net) or Pat Yonkers (231-865-8651 or pyonkers@frontier.com). For the May-August 2024 groups, registrations are due by April 7.
2. The Dine with Nine coordinators, Karen and Pat, will divide participants into groups of around 9 and notify participants around April 15.
3. The coordinators will select an initial host for each group; this host will help facilitate how the first meal will take place.
4. The initial host will call or email to set up the first meal. Groups should rotate hosts and locations each month.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...

March birthday blessings to our Sunday School friends:

Lillian Verry 3/1 Matilda Nelund 3/4 Alexis Kever 3/6 William Adey 3/15
Will McNeranay 3/17 Addilyn Benson 3/27 Lucas Myers 3/29



We are into our Lent season, and we're excited to have given our kids and families a copy of Glenys Nellist's book *'Twas the Season of Lent*. Younger children received a copy of *Snuggle Time Easter Stories*. Please let our Education Team members know if you still need a copy. We hope this is a meaningful part of your Lenten devotional time together!



Join us for a fun Family Movie Night on Friday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come in your PJs and get comfy for a fun evening. Watch for more details!



'You've been Egged!' Our students will be making and bringing home an Easter surprise so they can bless another family. Bags will be made with a dozen Easter eggs in them - 6 filled with toys, 5 filled with candy, and one left empty to represent the empty tomb. Students will bring home a bag with directions for blessing another family in their neighborhood with this Easter Surprise! **The bags will be ready for pickup on Sun., March 24.** If you'd like to donate small, wrapped candy to fill the eggs, there will be a tub in the sanctuary to collect items by Sun., March 10.

On Easter Sunday, March 31, our Sunday School classes will meet together in Fellowship Hall for fun activities as we celebrate!



**GRACE
OUTSIDE**

There is still time to make your summer plans – including Christian camping! Follow these links to find great options for everyone, including family camping: www.graceoutside.org and www.lakelouisecommunity.org **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



5th-8th grade meets at 6:00-7:00 p.m. **9th-12th grade** meets at 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Youth will meet on **Wednesdays: March 6, 13, 20, and 27**

Wicked Sweet Winter Retreat is March 1, 2, and 3. We will be at the **Retreat Center at Lake Michigan Camp** in Pentwater for a weekend of reflection, self-discovery, hiking, crafting, faith, fellowship, food, and fun. Please be in prayer for our students during this important time in their faith journeys.

March 10 is Winter Jam Tour Spectacular! We'll travel as a group to Van Andel Arena for this awesome Christian event. Christian artists of all genres, stunt and comedy performances, as well as a tour speaker will be on stage interacting with us. Tickets are \$15 each and details can be found at jamtour.com.

A huge thanks to all our Chili and Soup Cooks! What a great night of fellowship and food! Thanks to all our "tasters" and supporters as well! All proceeds go towards our summer mission trip...

Mission trip 2024: We'll be staying close to home this year at Lake Michigan Camp in Pentwater. We'll be doing projects at camp as well as working on projects in the surrounding area on July 28-August 3.

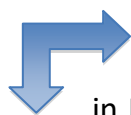
Looking ahead - Spring Break is March 29 -April 7, so there will be no Youth Group April 3. Please pray for students and families for travel mercies and for good decisions during the break.
PEACE AND LOVE, JIMMY

Youth Director Jimmy Epplert's Contact Info: cell # (231) 750-9707, peaceandlovejimmy@gmail.com,
Facebook = Jimmy Epplert **Jimmy is available** for meetings, hangouts, or small group gatherings.

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 ○ Lake Harbor Youth Group – page
- LHUMC Children's Ministry – closed group





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. If you have questions or ideas, please contact the office or Jill McMahon at 231-343-5749 or jdcmmcmahon23@gmail.com.



Thank you for generous giving that transforms our community and the world! **February Noisy Offering** to support MAP's Food Pantry is **\$669.53 + 144 cans of soup!**



Our March Noisy Offering will support **UMCOR Sunday**, (aka *One Great Hour of Sharing* in your envelope pack) which is officially **March 10**, though you can make an offering anytime. When disasters occur, the United Methodist Committee on Relief

(UMCOR) is there to help people recover from the catastrophe and put their lives back together.

Donations UMCOR receives through this Special Sunday Offering cover their costs of doing business. Gifts like yours make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects our donors specify, instead of on administrative costs.

This is especially relevant as **UMCOR is responding to needs all over the world**, including the conflict in the Middle East, Gaza, and Hurricane Otis in Mexico. You can get the latest information about UMCOR's work on their Facebook page and at <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-international-latest-responses/>

Supper House: We serve on **Tues., March 5 at 3:15-5:00 p.m.** with a team of 6 people to serve guests. If you're planning on serving, call Sheryl Thompson at 231-286-7680 so we can plan accordingly.



March MAP Food Pantry items: Peanut Butter and Body Wash



Meijer Simply Give Campaign runs until April 2 benefiting **Mission for Area People's Food Pantry**. Your \$10 donation at Norton Ave. Meijer store at checkout is matched by Meijer. **Double Match day is Sat., March 2.** Your \$10 gift **becomes a \$30 gift!**

MAP Clothes Closet always needs **Men's clothes, housewares, and plastic shopping** bags. They can be left in the MAP box by the main doors in the sanctuary. We serve again on **Tues., April 9 and Thurs., April 11**. If you're willing to help, call the Office at 231-798-2181



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

We're serving – providing food items and delivering meals to the Day Center – **on Sun., Feb. 25 through Sat., March 2.** Please **sign up** at this link: [Family Promise Sign-up](#).



Hand2Hand helps ensure kids have a weekend pack of food. We're collecting **canned pasta** to assist Temple UMC as they provide meals for the 64 students of Edgewood Elementary School. There is a box for your donations in the sanctuary by the Hand2Hand banner.



Kids' Food Basket currently serves over **1,600 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**.



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.

Valentine's Day Outreach: 34 bags were delivered to our homebound members, and we mailed six valentines envelopes to our out-of-town members. Thanks to all our bakers, givers, and drivers!



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 11** with snacks and treats. Do you have a cookie, candy, muffin, or cupcake you're famous for or one you know is a winner? Please sign up on the Welcome Center if you can help. Please individually wrap your treats and bring them to church by 11:00 a.m. on March 11. Contact Sheryl Thompson or Myke in the office, 231-798-2181. 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!

Lunch Bunch meets on **Tues., March 12 at 12:30 p.m.** at **Driftwood Café at Tanglewood**. Everyone is invited! Sign up on the Welcome Center. It's a great way to see friends and meet new people!

Care Team: Years ago when I was first entering pastoral ministry, I came across these words by the great spiritual writer and teacher Henri Nouwen. Ever since, they have been foundational to my understanding of ministry, especially in the areas of pastoral and congregational care: *"Ministry happens when you participate in the mystery of being-with. The whole incarnation, God-with-us, Emmanuel, is first of all being with people...You can't solve the world's problems, but you can be with people."*

Those words remind us that when we spend time with those who are sick, lonely, or just in need of a kind word, we are doing the incarnational work of Jesus. They also hopefully help us to realize that there are all kinds of ways to be with people, even if we aren't in their actual presence - through our prayers, phone calls, text messages, etc., we can be "God with them" in bringing hope and peace. Particularly during this season of Lent, I would encourage all of us to look around to see those who need God's presence in and through us in their lives for whatever reason. For as Henri Nouwen says, *"in this conflicted world, we probably can't solve all of the big problems, but we can certainly walk with others through theirs!"*

Thank you to all of those who provided goodies for the Valentine bags that were delivered to our homebound members and those in care facilities. They were greatly appreciated as signs of love for those we don't often see in person at church!

Blessings, *Pastor Mark Erbes*



College Student and Young Adult Care Cards: We're thinking of our college students as Finals week quickly approaches and our young adults who are working in the world. We'd like to show them some LHUMC love by sending a \$10.00 gift card from either Subway or Starbucks. You can purchase **\$10.00** cards or donate money towards the cards. Please bring the card(s) or donation to church **by Sun., April 7**. Please **mark your gift for "Young Adult care cards."**



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.**



Thank you so much for your thoughtful goodie bag gift. We enjoyed reading all of the sweet Valentines made by the children. The treats were wonderful; my husband has a huge sweet tooth. Thanks again, with love, *Nolan and Sandy Throne*



I want to thank everyone for the Valentines cards and delicious cookies, candy and miscellaneous items in my goodie bag. They were very good. Love & Prayers, *Corinne All*



Thank you for the Valentine's bag; we enjoyed all the treats. Also thanks to the kids for the Valentine cards. God bless all of you. *Barb & Bill Hazelbrook*



Thank you so much for all the goodies in the Valentine bag. It was so nice of the church to remember the shut ins. Thanks to my Special Delivery person. You certainly know how to make a person feel special. *June Hilton*



Thank you for my Valentines bag. Everything in it was wonderful. Blessings to you all, *Donna Boersma*



Thank you to all who prepared and delivered the lovely Valentine gift bags. Also to the children who made the beautiful Valentines for us. It is always fun to see what a nice variety of goodies are included. I haven't eaten a Twinkie since I was a teenager. What a treat! It is so nice to be remembered. Love, *Eleanor Daniels*



From our FINANCE Team: We're so thankful to report that we're in a healthy place to support ministry and mission for another year! **At the end of January 2024,** our total income for General Fund was \$44,953. Our total General Fund expenses were \$32,608. All bills are paid in full, and we're on track with Ministry Shares. We're also grateful to have funds to fix needed repairs (like the boiler that heats the sanctuary)! **Look for a special opportunity to give to our Easter offering,** which will support a local mission – Kids Belong First Place – and a global mission – UMCOR's international disaster relief response.

Remember: **it's never too late to offer your Faith Commitment for 2024.** As we journey in the season of Lent, paying closer attention to our personal stewardship and making a commitment to give consistently helps us to grow as disciples of the One who gave everything.

2024 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the office. If you need them mailed to you, please contact the office.



Electronic Giving

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 were grateful to have funds available for the needed repair on the boiler on the north end of our building. We are in the process of updating the upstairs bathroom at the parsonage. Materials have been purchased and work will start in mid-March. We're also looking ahead at some needed projects including replacing windows in the old sanctuary and updating our parking lot. Once we know the cost, then we will work with Finance Committee. We're also getting information on what's involved with upgrading to solar panels to replace our electrical needs. More info will come as we research this.

Gifts to our Preservation Fund are always appreciated – whether planned or given anytime!

OFFICE HOURS are Monday – Thursday from 9:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m. The office is closed Friday and Saturday. The office phone is **231-798-2181**. If you leave a message on the weekend, it will **NOT** be received until Monday.

Help us stay connected!

Please update the office if you're moving or changing your contact information.

If you have an E-mail address, please share it with the office so we can include you in our weekly mailing!

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES



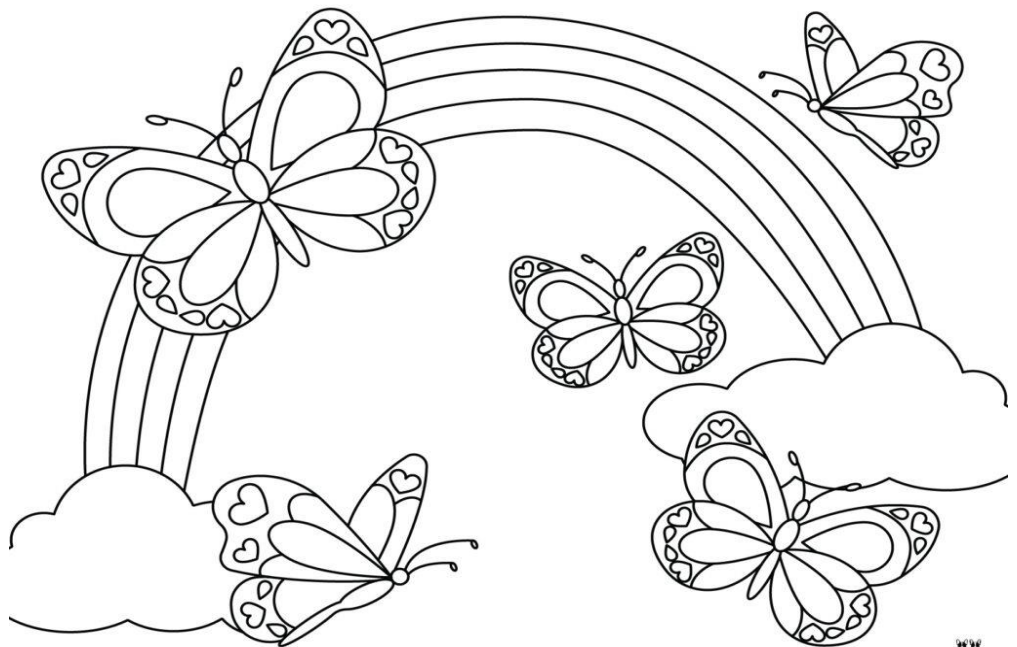
La Leche League, the breastfeeding group for parents, meets in the LHUMC nursery on **Tues., March 19 at 11:00 a.m.** Questions? Contact Mary Swisher at 231-777-3238 or text 231-215-

4145.

We're grateful to offer meeting space to **Girl Scouts, Pioneer Resources, LARC, and other groups too!**

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>

*Please
remember to be
in prayer for
Advocacy Day
on March 13.
May God's
blessing be
upon all the
participants.*



Sunday Servants:

Thanks for making our worship services meaningful, memorable, and accessible!

Serving March 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Ken Lockett

Ushers: Jim & Karen Post, Peggy Tully

Computer: Fred Yonkers *Camera:* Pat Yonkers

Sound: Ruth Pyman *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

Counters: Cyndi Barefoot, Mike Layman

Serving March 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Brad Hilleary

Greeters: Sheryl Thompson & GL Bates

Computer: Skyler Bosch *Camera:* Jason Colella

Sound: Bob Bosch *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

Tear down: Jimmy & Niki Epplett

Serving March 10 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Ken Lockett

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

Computer: Larry Kasmauski *Camera:* Lisa Kasmauski

Sound: Gary Cooper *FB Host:* Ivan Ivanov

Counters: Bev Layman, Mudgi Cavender

Serving March 10 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Dirk Fuller

Greeters: John Colella & John Thompson

Computer: Jim Grace *Camera:* Julie Fuller

Sound: Karen Grace *FB Host:* Niki Epplett

Tear down: Laura Dean, Kelsey Boss

Serving March 17 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Ken Lockett

Ushers: Mark Rousell, Bob Keim

Computer: Luka Ivanov *Camera:* Derek Mertz

Sound: Rob Mertz *FB Host:* Ivan Ivanov

Counters: Ed Baranowski, Jim Cavender

Serving March 17 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader & Tear Down: Chris Beaudoin

Greeters: Jill Warren & Jill McMahon

Computer: Julie Fuller *Camera:* Jay McMahon

Sound: Arianna Davros *FB Host:* Ruth McPhail Ubaldo

PALM SUNDAY

Serving March 24 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Dave Lorenz

Ushers: Dave Stamy, Adam & Ruth Pyman

Computer: Karen Booth *Camera:* Jean Kelly

Sound: David Booth *FB Host:* Jen Cooper

Counters: Madonna Borgerding, Cyndi Barefoot

Serving March 24 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Rose Emmons

Greeters: Jan Pascavis & Ruth McPhail Ubaldo

Computer: Brian Mosley *Camera:* Jason Colella

Sound: Pete Thompson *FB Host:* Michelle Frazier

Tear Down: Rose Emmons, GL Bates

EASTER SUNDAY

Serving March 31 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Dave Lorenz

Ushers: Jim & Karen Post, Peggy Tully

Computer: Karen Booth *Camera:* Jean Kelly

Sound: Ruth Pyman *FB Host:* Jen Cooper

Counters: Cyndi Barefoot, Bev Layman

Serving March 31 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader & Tear Down: Chris Beaudoin

Greeters: Jan Pascavis & Sheryl Thompson

Computer: TBD *Camera:* Vicki Zuker

Sound: TBD *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

Lake Harbor
United Methodist Church
4861 S. Henry St.
Norton Shores, MI 49441



2024

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DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?
In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



**DAYLIGHT
SAVING TIME**
SPRING FORWARD
March 10, 2024

LAKE HARBOR UMC FINANCE COMMITTEE - 2024 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 2024 budget reflects a small increase from 2023. Our financial picture is stable, and we celebrate God's faithfulness and generosity. We've seen an increase in pledges for 2024, 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.

2023 offered the blessing of a gift from a fund set up by an anonymous donor through the Community Foundation of Muskegon County. We received \$52,445, 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 2023, funds supported monthly commitment to Supper House, a food truck during Vacation Bible School, updated GriefShare materials, meals for our Worship Planning Retreat, and 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 2023, including paying 100% of Ministry Shares to both the Michigan Conference and our newly-formed Western Waters District. We supported many mission projects – both local and global - from Family Promise of the Lakeshore to missionary Dr. Temba Nkomozepi to UMCOR's response to natural disasters to Mission for Area People, Kids Belong First Place, and Reach the Forgotten jail ministry. 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 2024 general fund budget is based on anticipated income from pledges, other regular giving, and additional income.

EXPENSES are expected to be \$395,453 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 2024.

Ministerial Support: \$103,752 (26.2%) 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: \$154,263 (39.0%) 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: \$14,550 (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: \$62,900 (15.9%) 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: \$5,629 (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 software to create images, 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: \$17,400 (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, Bibles for kids and youth, 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: \$34,459 (8.7%) 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 Muskegon Methodist Ministries, our Western Waters 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. 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.