Lake Harbor's

Harbor Light

Volume 24.4 April 2024

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MARY IVANOV

Taking time to be challenged by Questions Jesus Asked has made for a fruitful Lent for me. Digging more deeply into those questions that Jesus invites us to answer – and really think about – has helped Scripture to become even more meaningful as we seek to follow the Jesus way together.

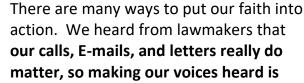


Part of following Jesus putting our prayers into action. I'm thankful that our

Michigan Conference sponsors Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. For the second year, Annette Erbes and I joined 250 people (United Methodists and friends, including Bishop David Bard) as we met with lawmakers to advocate for mental health access, support, and resources, all of which is supported by our United Methodist Social Principles. Many of these initiatives are sponsored by a bi-partisan

coalition, and it was wonderful to see lawmakers working together! We also saw Jason Colella, who is a









created semicolon butterflies, a symbol for those struggling with mental health issues. We continue to pray, act, and advocate for abundant life for all in the name of Jesus. See you on Sunday, Pastor Mary

General Conference, the worldwide gathering of United Methodists, is **April 23-May 3** in Charlotte, NC. Our Michigan Conference has a delegation that will represent us. Recently they provided a listening session to share about legislation and answer questions. The session was recorded and offers very helpful information about General Conference and the specifics items that will be discussed. Access it here: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=380376994849479

If you want to learn more and ask questions, you're invited to gather on Mon., April 22 at 7:00 p.m.

April Worship News by Karen Booth

April 7, 2024: "Forgiveness: God's Answer to Us"

Scripture: Luke 15: 1-2, 11-32

Synopsis: Jesus' parable about the lost son (or forgiving father) is powerful because it reminds us that God's nature to forgive, which challenges how we view ourselves and others.

April 14, 2024: "Forgiveness: Set Free"

Scripture: Luke 7: 36-50

Synopsis: Jesus' demonstration of forgiveness as a part of his ministry challenged the sensibilities of those closest to him. He is clear that forgiveness frees us to live in peace, but requires our willingness to turn to God in repentance.

April 21, 2024: "Forgiveness: Beyond the Count"

Scripture: Matthew 21: 18-35

Synopsis: We want forgiveness to be an easy process – even being able to keep track of it and get it right. But forgiveness is messy and hard – and calls us to remember God's willingness to forgive us so that we might be more forgiving.

April 28, 2024: "Forgiveness: A Constant Commitment"

Scripture: Matthew 6: 9-15

Synopsis: The prayer Jesus teaches (and invites us to pray) shows that forgiveness requires our constant commitment.

May 5, 2024: Children's Sunday – One service at 10:00 am & HS Youth Mission Team breakfast



<u>Fellowship Time</u> is scheduled after worship services on specific Sundays of each month. We're looking for coffee hosts in upcoming weeks. Please sign up on the Welcome Center.

<u>Worship Connections Team</u> 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 Zuker leads the Celebration Team. Please contact Vicki (231-759-8848 or zukerr@comcast.net) for more details.

All-Church Worship Brainstorming on "The Beatitudes" - Mon., April 15, 2024

Join us at Pastor Mark & Annette Erbes' house (4741 Spring Ridge Lane, Norton Shores). Please carpool if possible as parking is limited in the cul-de-sac. Parking is available in their driveway and two houses down at Bruce and Linda Eckerman's. We'll have a pizza potluck dinner at 6:00 pm. Please bring a salad, dessert, or drink to share. We'll brainstorm ideas for a 9-week series on the Beatitudes from 7:00-9:30 pm. Jesus' description of the Kingdom of God and what it means to be "blessed" turns our world upside-down. "The Jesus Way" reminds us:

If you curse me, then I will bless you

If you hurt me, I will forgive

And if you hate me, then I will love you
I choose the Jesus way

Studying the Beatitudes in Matthew 5: 1-12 helps us follow Jesus' counter-cultural way of living and loving others. More information will be available in early April. 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 (231-557-1069 or kwbooth@comcast.net). Please read the scripture and message synopses and preview the videos before we gather if at all possible.

Directions to Erbes' from church: Take HENRY ST north to EUGENE AVE (.2 miles). Turn right (east) on EUGENE (.3 miles). Turn right (south) on SPRING RIDGE LANE. Their home is the beige and stone house in the middle of the circle. Eckerman's house (4725) is two doors down.

"God gave us music that we might pray without words." As we worship in this Easter season, you're invited to add your gift to the music ministry of Lake Harbor UMC.

- Vocal Ensemble rehearses on Wed., April 10 and 24 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 April 7! 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.

In My Father's House...

Martha "Marty" Wolf passed away on Feb. 24. She was a long time member of Lake Harbor. Bill Barton passed away on March 25. He was a longtime member of Lake Harbor.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the Wolf and Barton families.

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., April 13 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!

Our next Prayer Service is Wednesday, April 24 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.



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. Thank you for your prayerful support of this ministry that blesses our congregation and community. A new session will begin in mid-August **2023.** More information is at www.griefshare.org.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

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 will not meet on April 2.) We're currently studying the Gospel of John. New members are always welcome. Nancy Robertson became a member of Lake Harbor UMC on March 26 as she took membership vows during class! Nancy lives in Missouri and joins us online. Praise God!

Men's Bible Study meets on **Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.** in the Library. 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're currently studying the book of Proverbs. Join us as we explore God's wisdom on living life in our chaotic world. New members are welcome!



Lay Servant Ministries Spring Retreat: April 19-20 at Cadillac UMC

The cost is \$30 and includes two meals and snacks. Deadline to register is April 6.

For more details: Lay Ministries Spring Retreat Flyer Registration Form: <u>lay-servant-spring-retreat registration</u>



day.

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. In April, our focus is **Creation Care** (Earth Day is April 22). We're called to care for creation every



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!

The last day to register for the May to August session of Dine with Nine is April 7 by one of three methods:

- 1. There is sign-up sheet on an information tower.
- 2. Registration forms are on the check in tables in the sanctuary. Return completed forms to the office.
- 3. 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.

Karen Booth (231-557-1069 or kwbooth@comcast.net) and Pat Yonkers (231-670-0370 or pyonkers@frontier.com) will select an initial host for each group; this host will help facilitate how the first meal will take place. Participants will hear which group they are in after April 15.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...

April birthday blessings to our Sunday School friends: Sophie Aamodt 4/08 Atlas Bos 4/14

"You've been Egged!" Thanks to all those who helped us "egg" our neighbors, and thanks to those who bought candy for stuffing, and the gang who stuffed our eggs.

Sunday School will not meet on April 7. April 28 is our last day of Sunday School. We'll celebrate Children's Sunday on May 5 with one worship service at 10:00 a.m.





and give thanks for all of the blessings of ministry with our kids and youth!

VBC (not VBS this year), it's VBC! Camp Fireflight Vacation Bible **Camp** will be here before we know it, and we're still setting up camp and looking for volunteers. Mark your calendars for **June 24-27 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** If you'd like to have s'more fun and adventure this summer, please sign up on the clipboard at the Welcome Center or get in touch with Kate Robbins (231-638-3138) or Sandy Colella (231-571-2478). Beat the rush and sign your campers up today! **VBC Registration Form**



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 Epplett or the office.

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: April 10, 17, and 24. We will not meet during Spring Break (April 3).



We recently had a retreat to Lake Michigan Camp in beautiful Pentwater. We had a great group, amazing weather, and a great time of diving deeper in our faith! If you get the chance, ask a student about the weekend and all that transpired. Thank you for your prayers during our retreat and always!





Chili/Soup Cook-off Update: Thank you so much to everyone who made chili, soup, or came and ate with us, and the helpers who cleaned it all up! It was a full house, and there were so many different choices! Congratulations to Wendy Johnson for winning the best Chili, and to the Epplett family for creating the winning Creamy Tortellini Tomato soup! The real winners

are the students, who will have such a rewarding Mission Trip this summer! We raised over \$1,100. Again, thanks to all for all the support you've given!



Ross Youth Fund offers financial support to youth and young adults who are participating in mission opportunities, including our HS Youth Mission trip. The application is available as a Google form at this link: https://forms.gle/5KQoHCyTZf7vVCjM6

Looking ahead...

• Children's Sunday is May 5 - and we're making breakfast after our combined 10:00 a.m. service. Students who are going on the summer mission trip are cooking and serving. We'll receive a free-will offering to support our trip. Please plan on joining us!



- Dinner and Basket Auction on Fri., May 17
- Graduation Sunday is May 19: We'll celebrate with all those who have finished high school, college, and educational and training programs. Please let the office know by May 15 if you have a graduate to be added to our list, including a small picture, degree or certificate information, and future plans. We're celebrating Dec. 2023 grads, too!



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

Missions Corner: Missions Team meets every other month, and we're looking for passionate people to join us! Our next meeting is Mon., April 8 at 6:00 p.m. 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 jdcmcmahon23@gmail.com.





<u>Our March Noisy Offering for UMCOR</u> Sunday is **\$810.25** so far. Thank you for your generous gifts!

<u>Our April Noisy Offering</u> will support Hope Project, a collaboration of law enforcement, social services, faith communities, elected officials, people who've experienced and overcome human trafficking, and other community advocates dedicated to working together to prevent human trafficking and support survivors of trafficking. For more information visit: https://www.hopeprojectusa.org



Native American Ministries Sunday special offering will be received on April 14. Your donation provided development, implementation, and assessment of a higher education recruitment/retention for Native American clergy. This offering supports Native American seminary students and church leaders.

<u>Supper House:</u> We serve on Tues., April 2 at <u>3:15-5:00 p.m.</u> 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.



April MAP Food Pantry items:

Bagged or boxed Rice and Feminine Hygiene Products

<u>MAP Clothes Closet</u> always needs <u>Men's clothes, housewares, and plastic shopping</u> 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

Our next time to serve is May 12-18 – providing food items and delivering meals to the Day Center. Look for a sign up coming later this month!



<u>Hand2Hand</u> 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.



<u>Kids' Food Basket</u> 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**.

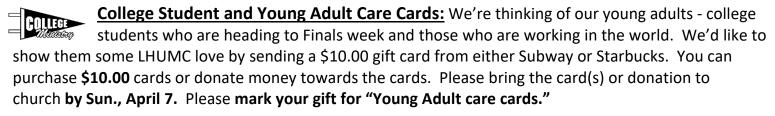


Membership, Nurture & Outreach (M.N.O.) News We welcome new members to this fun-loving group! Our next meeting is Thurs., April 11 at 11:00 a.m. Contact Sheryl Thompson at (231)563-6417 or Karen Post (231)733-2782.

Ross Park Elementary outreach opportunity: Thanks to all who help with baked goods for our friends at Ross Park Elementary. 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!



<u>Lunch Bunch</u> meets on Tues., April 9 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!





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.

Members on the move... Please update the office if you're moving or changing contact information.

- Linda Herbert Day Spring, 572 Lake Forest Ln., Arborwood 10A, Norton Shores, MI 49441
- Sherry Smith 3629 Brentwood, Norton Shores, MI 49441
- Julie Brott
 9267 US Hwy 98, Lot 149, Dade City, FL 33525

80+ Friends: Save The Date! Our **Spring Luncheon is Wed., June 5.** Invites will be sent out in May.

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





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

<u>Muskegon Methodist Ministries</u> invites you to their quarterly meeting on **Tues.**, **April 30 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at Temple UMC. Dinner is provided. Please contact Pastor Mary if you'd like to attend.



The Valentines and the gift cards were much appreciated for Robin and Jared. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Blessings to you, *Renée Hoadley*

We want to thank you for sharing your church facilities with us for our quartet rehearsals. It was wonderful to have a regular space with a keyboard to learn new music and refresh "old" music. Our time with you was much appreciated. Our quartet is now "retired." Again thank you for the opportunity. God's blessings, *All-In-A-Chord (Diane Thompson's quartet)*



Thank you so much for all of your support through our recent struggles with our granddaughter, Tinley. We so appreciated your prayers, kind words, and financial support. You are the best! God is Great! Love, Sue & Ed Baranowski



Thank you so much for allowing us to use your trailer for our recent Spring Break Mission Trip to Big Creek, KY. We took 18 people on the trip and while there we learned a lot about the struggles of people living in Appalachia and dealing with rural poverty. We also got to meet a bunch of people who have made it their life's work and passion to help and support their neighbors. Our students came back with a bunch of questions about the rural communities they're from and a ton of ideas about how they could better "do justice" in their

neck of the woods. They had an absolute blast and having the trailer meant we could take one less vehicle, needed to find one less insurable driver, didn't have to make strict packing laws, and made this trip less stressful and less expensive for everyone on it. We appreciate you so much!

Thanks again! Rev. Kim Bos and the FSU Wesley House

From our FINANCE Team: Thank you for supporting mission and ministry through faithful, consistent giving of time, talent, and treasure. All of our giving helps to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and giving reminds us of our 2024 theme – Following the Jesus Way. As we've just experienced Holy Week and the reminder of God's gift of eternal life, we're grateful to be able to give. **At the end of February 2024,** our total income for General Fund was \$78,453. Our total General Fund expenses were \$63,531. All bills are paid in full, and we're on track with Ministry Shares.

Please support our Easter offering, which supports Kids Belong First Place, a ministry that is serving young adults who have aged out of foster care and has just welcomed their first resident, and UMCOR's international disaster relief response, which continues to support refugees, those experiencing food insecurity, and those living in areas of war and conflict.

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 <u>www.lakeharborumc.org</u>:

- 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: The renovation of the upstairs bathroom at the parsonage is complete, and it looks great! Thank you for your faithful giving, which helps us to maintain our physical property – both our church building and our parsonage.

Gifts to our Preservation Fund, which we use for building needs, are always appreciated – whether planned or given anytime!

As the weather warms up and we look forward to enjoying our Memorial Garden, please refrain from planting anything in Garden. There is a plan in place for our garden, which is overseen by our team. If there's a plant you want to donate to the garden,

please make a monetary gift to Memorial Garden and contact Elyse Ihlenfeldt.

<u>DID YOU KNOW?</u> Lake Harbor UMC was chartered on **April 22, 1956.** 2024 marks **68 years** of ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ! We're grateful for many people who worked to establish the congregation at its beginning, and for many people who have loved and served as a part of our history.

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.**

Praise God for the blessing of being the Body of Christ together!

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES



<u>Golfers wanted</u> for the 2024 season of the Monday Men's League. We tee off between 3:45 pm and 4:15 pm. The League starts on the last Monday in April and continues through the Monday before Labor Day at **Westwind Golf course**, 2644 E. Hile. If you're interested, please contact Glenn Chilson at 231-288-9356 or glennchilson@ymail.com



<u>La Leche League</u>, the breastfeeding group for parents, meets in the LHUMC nursery on **Tues.**, **April 16 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!

Huge Yard & Bake Sale for Type 1 Diabetes Research

Friday, April 26, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (\$5 gets you in at 7:30 a.m.) Saturday, April 27, 8:00 a.m.-Noon (Everything ½ off)

Unity Reformed Church 1521 Porter Road (back parking lot)
Wheelchair accessible Mudgi Cavender 231-740-2325

<u>OFFICE HOURS are Monday – Thursday</u> from <u>9:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m.</u> 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!

Stay connected:

United Methodist Church: www.umc.org Michigan Area UMC: http://michiganumc.org

Midwest District: https://midwest.michiganumc.org/ Lake Harbor UMC: https://lakeharborumc.org/

Sunday Servants:

Thanks for making our worship services meaningful, memorable, and accessible! And thanks to those who serve in our financial ministry helping to keep accurate records of our financial stewardship.

You are appreciated!

Serving April 7 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: TBD

Ushers: Fred & Pat Yonkers, Kathy Mertz, Rod Moon Computer: Larry Kasmauski Camera: Lisa Kasmauski

Sound: Gary Cooper FB Host: Jill McMahon

Serving April 7 at 11:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Brad Hilleary **Greeters:** Sheryl Thompson & GL Bates Computer: Jim Grace Camera: Vicki Zuker Sound: Karen Grace FB Host: Jill McMahon

Tear down: Jimmy & Niki Epplett

Counters: Madonna Borgerding, Jim Cavender

Serving April 14 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: TBD Ushers: Mark Rousell, Bob Keim

Computer: Luka Ivanov Camera: Derek Mertz

Sound: Rob Mertz FB Host: Ivan Ivanov

Serving April 14 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Dirk Fuller Greeters: John Colella & John Thompson

Computer: Skyler Bosch Camera: Julie Fuller

Sound: Bob Bosch FB Host: Niki Epplett Tear down: Laura Dean & Kelsey Boss

Counters: Ed Baranowski, Mike Layman

Serving April 21 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: TBD

Ushers: Dave Stamy, Ruth Pyman, Adam Pyman Computer: Karen Booth

Sound: David Booth

Camera: Jean Kelly

FB Host: Jen Cooper

Serving April 21 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

Counters: Steve Hill, Mudgi Cavender

Serving April 28 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: TBD

Ushers: Jim & Karen Post, Peggy Tully

Camera: Pat Yonkers Computer: Fred Yonkers

Sound: Ruth Pyman FB Host: Ivan Ivanov

Serving April 28 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

Counters: Cyndi Barefoot, Allen Winslow

Lake Harbor United Methodist Church

4861 S. Henry St. Norton Shores, MI 49441



2024

www.lakeharborumc.org

(231) 798-2181