

Lake Harbor's Harbor Light

Volume 24.5 May 2024



REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MARY IVANOV

It was wonderful to celebrate the promise of new life and resurrection on Easter Sunday! In our two worship services, we **welcomed five new members**, one of whom worships online: **Del Griffes, Nancy Robertson, Taryn Smith, Rob Wheeler, and Erin Wheeler.**



We celebrated Holy Baptism with **two young people** and their families: **Lily Marie Cooper**, family of Ruth Humphreys, and



Laney Joy Katherine Pelham, daughter of Landon & Melanie Pelham. At just over a year old, Laney's reaction to the water was a sweet proclamation of "Wow!" I'm not sure there's a better way to put it when we consider the gift of God's grace in our lives – whether we're one, 41, or 91! May this season of Easter be filled with many "Wow!" moments.

See you on Sunday, *Pastor Mary*

2024 Michigan Annual Conference: Pastor Mary, Jason Colella, and Paul Powers will be **at Grand Traverse Resort on May 29-June 1** to represent Lake Harbor UMC. Pastor Mark and Annette Erbes will be there as well, serving as a part of our Board of Ordained Ministry and as our Conference Lay Leader. Annual Conference includes time for worship, legislation, and fellowship. This year's theme is ***Fearless: Embracing a New Future.*** We will highlight innovative ways of welcoming as well as how we go forth into the world to see, hear, affirm, engage, and create new communities. We will look how we are accountable to God's call for hospitality and how to assess our progress. Please pray for all who will gather for this time of holy conferencing. If you're interested to learn more, go to 2024.michiganumc.org/

GET IN MOTION AND HELP STOP CHILD HUNGER IN MICHIGAN!

During Annual Conference, many people, including Pastor Mary, will participate in a walk to raise funds to support needs in Michigan. If you're interested in registering or making a donation, go to this link:

<https://2024.michiganumc.org/Okchildhunger/>

May Worship News by Karen Booth

May 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.: Children's Sunday

Scripture: Mark 10: 13-16

Synopsis: Today's will celebrate ministry with young people in our congregation and recognize ministries in our church and community. Our High School Youth Mission Team will serve breakfast after worship to raise funds for their summer mission trip.

We begin **our series on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5.**

May 12, 2024: "Lord, It's Hard to be Humble"

Scripture: II Corinthians 6: 1-10

Focus verse: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Synopsis: Jesus begins with a call to humility – a sense of how we're called to understand ourselves and others in light of God's grace. "Poor in spirit" is a challenge to all of us as we fight the power of our ego and recognize our need for God.

We'll offer **special prayers for Mother's Day.**

May 19, 2024: "Holy Spirit: Our Comfort Keeper"

Scripture: John 14: 15-21

Focus verse: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Synopsis: With life and love comes pain and grief. If we seek to avoid vulnerability and the risk needed for deeper relationships, we miss out on the blessing of community. The Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as our Comforter, and Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit reminds us of the promise of comfort.

Today is Pentecost. You are invited to wear **red, orange, or yellow** as a visual reminder of the day that the Holy Spirit came upon the church.

May 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.: "Meek Is Not Weak" *Scripture:* James 3: 13-18; Colossians 3: 1-14

Focus verse: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Synopsis: Meekness isn't weakness or passiveness, but is intimately connected to strength and power under control. It's described as "gentle-force" and changes our understanding of what makes for a life of significance and value.



Fellowship Time 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.

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 Zuker leads the Celebration Team. Please contact Vicki (231-759-8848 or zukerr@comcast.net) for more details.

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

You're invited to **share your gift in the music ministry** of Lake Harbor UMC.

- **Vocal Ensemble** rehearses on **Wed., May 15 and 22 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary.
- **Hand Bell Choir** rehearses on **Sundays, May 5, 19, & 26 at 6:00-7:30 p.m.** in the Music Room.

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.

Radical Hospitality: An invitation is still the most powerful form of evangelism and a sign of hospitality. Did you know that many people say that they would come to church if someone invited them? We can invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us for worship or to participate in special events. **Vacation Bible Camp is coming in late June**, and it's a great opportunity to share with the kids in your life!

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

Another Hand in Ours...Benson Douglas Bishop was born on April 7 to Michael & Jessica Bishop and joins big brother, Knox. Proud grandparents include Michelle & Joe Bishop and great grandparents Sandy & Nolan Throne. We ask God's continued blessings on this family.

In My Father's House...

Dave Jirikovic passed away on April 9. We pray for his wife, Lisa, and their family.

David Valk passed away on April 10. We pray for his wife, Laura, and their 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 does not meet in May. We will meet on June 8.

Our next Prayer Service is **Wed., May 22 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.*



A new session begins on Mon., Aug. 19. More information is at www.griefshare.org.

For additional resources on grief, visit www.sytsemcompass.com. They have compiled a listing of local grief support resources.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

May/June 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. New members are always welcome.

Men's Bible Study meets on **Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.** in the Library. We're currently studying ***When Christians Get It Wrong*** by Adam Hamilton and **will meet through May** before taking a break for the summer. Mike Layman has a few extra copies of the book. New members are always welcome.

Saturday Sisters Bible Study meets on **May 18 & 25 at 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** at Rose Emmons's home (5474 McDowell St.). We will continue our study on the book of Proverbs. Join us as we explore God's wisdom on living life in our chaotic world. New members are welcome!



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 May, our focus is **Suicide Prevention**.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...

May birthday blessings to our Sunday School friends: Maesyn Boss 5/7

Caroline Stamy 5/15 Max Thompson 5/25 Bryce Conner 5/29 Maggie Sroka 5/30

Join us for Children's Sunday on May 5! Our Education Team has been working together with families to showcase the many personalities of our young people. There is **one service at 10:00 am**, so we can pack it all in for everyone! This will be followed by a breakfast being made and served by our youth and is an opportunity to come together as a church family, share laughs, conversation, and memories! A free-will offering will be received to support our Senior High Mission Trip this summer.



Camp Firelight VBC is around the corner, and we're getting excited!

Mon.-Thurs., June 24-27 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. for Pre-K thru 5th grade

Camp Firelight VBC invites children on an exciting journey where they learn to trust God no matter what situation life brings. At Story Station, they'll learn God is always with them. At Missions Station, they'll become more confident in sharing

God's love. They'll play games, do science activities, and explore arts and crafts that will all reinforce that God loves each and every one! **Sign your campers up today at [VBC Registration Form](#)**

If you'd like to help kids experience all the fun this summer, please talk to someone on Education Team or sign up on the clipboard on the Welcome Center. We have some great plans in the works!

Camp Firelight VBC will show kids how much God loves them and offer an incredible opportunity for kids to learn how to show God's love to others. **We'll be highlighting a different community agency each day at our Missions Station**, and kids will learn how they can make a difference in their community. On one of the days, we'll be making Supper Packs for Kids' Food Basket and will need donations. If you'd like to contribute to this effort, start watching for sales! Here is a list of needs (a tub is in the sanctuary):

- ❖ Pudding cups
- ❖ Fruit cups or pouches (no foil tops please)
- ❖ Meat sticks - .28 oz or .5 oz size
- ❖ Pretzel, Cheez-It, or Goldfish bags (single serve size)
- ❖ Quart size Ziplock bags

We all know the need for **toilet paper**, and Family Promise is in need of a replenished supply! If you'd like to help, you can bring it in any time between now and Camp Firelight VBC. Our VBC campers will be making a **Tower of Toilet Paper!** We can't wait to see how big of a tower we can make!



**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 LHUMC offers scholarships for those who are attending Christian camps, and we want to support you! If you have any questions, please contact 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: May 1, 8, 15, and 22 (our last regular meeting).**

It'll surely be a "SMASHING" good time!

May 5 is Children's Sunday, and we'll be **Commissioning our Mission Team**. Please be present to receive this blessing from our church family as we prepare to spend a week at Lake Michigan Camp in Pentwater.

After worship, we'll be serving breakfast. Students will be participating in worship and helping to make and serve the food!



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!** Please join us in celebrating our graduates.

Mark your calendars because on **Fri., May 17 at 6:00 p.m.** we'll have a fun night full of food and laughter at our **Basket Auction and Dinner!** We'll have many different items to bid on. You don't want to miss out on this night of awesome fellowship as we raise funds for our mission trip!

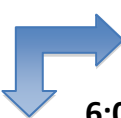
HS Youth Mission Trip: We're combining going to camp with our mission trip this year. We're going to **Lake Michigan Camp in Pentwater for the week of July 14-20** and doing projects at and around camp. We'll sleep in the bunk houses, shower in the bathhouse, worship on the beach, gather around the campfire, and participate in many camp traditions. We know many people at Lake Harbor UMC have strong ties to Lake Michigan Camp, and we're so excited to serve at the camp this year and take care of many projects that need to be done. Thank you for your support!

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: [Ross Youth Fund application](#)

Spring is here and along with that comes a flurry of activities for our youth. Please pray for our youth as they participate in proms, sports, performances, school, tests, and all that comes at the end of the year!

Summer plans are in the works, and we'll have a good combination of activities, serving, sharing, laughing, and growing.

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.

 **Missions Corner:** Missions Team meets every other month, and we're looking for passionate people to join us! Our next meeting is **Mon., June 10 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 McMahan at 231-343-5749 or jdcmmahan23@gmail.com.



Our April Noisy Offering is **\$437.05** to date to support **Hope Project**, a collaboration of law enforcement, social services, faith communities, elected officials, people who've experienced and overcome human trafficking. Thank you for your generous support!

Our May Noisy Offering will support our **LHUMC Camp Fund** to provide scholarships for families sending kids and youth to Christian camps this summer.



Native American Ministries Sunday special Sunday offering raised **\$335** to date. This offering supports Native American seminary students and church leaders. Thank you for your support!

Supper House: We serve on **Tues., May 7 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.



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 soon!**



May MAP Food Pantry items: Pasta Sauce or Macaroni & Cheese and Toilet Paper

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., May 21 and Thurs., May 23**. If you're willing to help, call the Office at 231-798-2181



Hand2Hand: We've been partnering with Temple UMC in supporting this program that provides weekend meals for kids in the Muskegon area. Your generosity to this program has been amazing! They have enough canned pasta to get them to summer break, so **we're taking a break from collecting until late summer**. Thank you for your support!



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! Our next meeting is **Wed., June 5 at 10:30 a.m.** Contact Sheryl Thompson at (231)563-6417 or Karen Post (231)733-2782.



A Big THANK YOU to everyone who serves on our large team to host luncheons after memorial services. It was a busy month, and your gift of hospitality blessed many people. From setting up to making sandwiches to serving and cleaning up, you shared the love of God in a powerful and meaningful way. You are deeply appreciated!

A current photo directory was sent out to our full E-mail list mid-April. If you don't have a current photo in the directory, please send one to our Office@LakeHarborUMC.org. In early May, we will have photographers waiting to do a quick photo after worship.

Young Adult Care Cards: We sent out **27 cards** in April. Thank you to all those who supported this ministry, including our Tuesday Morning Bible study class!

Ross Park Readers continue to make a difference in the classroom for both staff and students. As the school years winds down, look for a gathering of those interested in learning more in August!



Lunch Bunch meets on **Tues., May 14 at 12:30 p.m.** at **Driftwood Café**. 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.**

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

As we prepare to begin a worship series on the Beatitudes of Jesus, you may remember that in that passage, Jesus reminds us that those on his list of who are truly blessed tend to be very different than those that our world generally considers to be the most fortunate. Instead of the rich and powerful, we discover that in God's Kingdom, the blessed are those who mourn, who are poor in spirit, who are persecuted, etc.

I have come to believe that Jesus' list of those who are blessed is a call to all of us to care for those he includes. We might also add to the list by remembering that those who are lonely, who are faced with illness, and who are going through difficult transitions in life are also blessed by him. And when we reach out to them in any way, we become those who Jesus also blesses because of our willingness to show mercy.

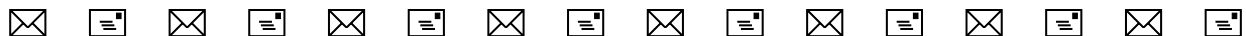
If you are sensing a call to reach out to the truly blessed, I would invite you to become a part of our Congregational Care Team, which is a group of persons who reach out in various ways to those who could use a reminder that they are blessed, not just by Jesus, but by their church. You can find out more by attending **our next Care Team meeting**, which will be **Wed., May 8 at 11:00 a.m.**

Blessings, Pastor Mark Erbes, Congregational Care Coordinator

80+ Spring Luncheon: We'll host the luncheon on **Wed., June 5 at 11:30 a.m.** at the back of the sanctuary with boxed lunches for our 80+ and homebound friends. You can enjoy your lunch at church, take your lunch to go, or have it delivered to you. Friends in care facilities will get some goodies delivered as well. **Look for more information coming soon to make your reservation by June 3.**

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

- **Jim & Andrea Goodburn** 265 N Mararebeach Lane Muskegon, MI 49442-1576
- **Arianna Davros & Jay McMahan** 3449 Molly Blvd. Muskegon, MI 49444
- **Emily Umstead** 1344 Burke Ave. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505-5543
- **Jean Wasserman** Phone number- **231-780-1124**
- **Cyndi Barefoot** Cell Phone Number **231-206-4825**
- New Members' information is available in the latest Photo Directory.



Thank you to my church family for all the prayers, hugs, kind words, and support through my long journey with my husband's Alzheimer's disease. It was so appreciated. Also thanks to the Funeral Lunch Team for their work to provide lunch for my family and friends. It was great! And a special thanks to Pastor Mark and Pastor Mary for taking such good care of us during this difficult time. My family can't thank you all enough. Blessings to all, Laura Valk and the Family of David Valk



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



From our FINANCE Team: What a blessing to see the support for our special offerings to support needs nearby and around the world! Whether it's funds to help disaster relief and recovery or canned pasta to feed children, your giving makes a difference! Thank you for supporting our general fund with your consistent giving, too. **At the end of March 2023**, our total income for General Fund was \$108,259 with expenses of \$104,063. We celebrate God's faithfulness as we respond with generous hearts. Thank you for being faithful stewards of God's gifts in your life!

Thank you for **your generous support of our Easter offering**, which totaled over **\$6,200!** Both **Kids Belong First Place** and **UMCOR's international disaster relief response** will be blessed!



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.

First quarter (Jan-March 2024) Giving Statements have been E-mailed out. If you receive a hard copy, please pick it up at the back of the sanctuary at the Welcome Center. If there are questions or concerns, contact Gail Barefoot at FinSec@Lakeharborumc.org or through the office.

From our Trustees:

We're currently working on meeting the need for a new dishwasher and freezer for our downstairs kitchen area. We're also doing an overview of safety protocols and procedures, including investigating a repair and upgrade of our fire alarm system. Your faithful giving helps us to maintain our physical space, and we're grateful. **Gifts to our Preservation Fund, which we use for building needs, are always appreciated** – whether planned or given anytime!



Memorial Garden Team is looking for some extra hands! **An important note:** PLEASE refrain from planting anything in the Memorial 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.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES



La Leche League, the breastfeeding group for parents, meets in the LHUMC nursery on **Tues., May 21 at 11:00 a.m.** Questions? Contact Mary Swisher at 231-777-3238 or text 231-215-4145.



Golfers wanted for the **Monday Men's 4:00 p.m. League** at Westwind Golf Course. It begins in April 29 and runs through Labor Day. If you're interested, please contact Glenn Chilson at 231-288-9356 or glennchilson@ymail.com

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

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 May 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Youth & Children
Ushers: Fred & Pat Yonkers, Kathy Mertz, Rod Moon
Computer: Larry Kasmauski *Camera:* Lisa Kasmauski
Sound: David Booth *FB Host:* Jill McMahan
Counters: Madonna Borgerding, Joe Gerhardt

Serving May 12 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 May 12 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 Epplert
Tear down: Laura Dean & Kelsey Boss

Counters: Madonna Borgerding, Karen Hill

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

Worship Leader: TBD
Ushers: Dave Stamy, Ruth Pyman, Adam Pyman
Computer: Karen Booth *Camera:* Jean Kelly
Sound: Gary Cooper *FB Host:* Jen Cooper

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

Worship Leader & Tear Down: Chris Beaudoin
Greeters: Jill Warren & Jill McMahan
Computer: Julie Fuller *Camera:* Jay McMahan
Sound: Arianna Davros *FB Host:* Ruth McPhail Ubaldo
Counters: Steve Hill, Bev Layman

Serving May 26 at 10:00 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, Mike Layman

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.

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.

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>

Lake Harbor United Methodist Church

4861 S. Henry St.
Norton Shores, MI 49441



2024

www.lakeharborumc.org

(231) 798-2181

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

It's Time to PAR-TEE!

Mission for Area People's
4th Annual 4-Person Scramble
Friday, June 14th, 2024

Registration and Light Continental Breakfast – 8:30 am
Shotgun – 9:30 am

Lunch provided following the tournament
Cost – \$400 per team

LOCATION: STONEGATE GOLF CLUB, TWIN LAKE

All Proceeds Benefit MAP's Vital Programs to the Community

www.missionforareapeople.org/events *for more info call 231-733-9672

REGISTER NOW

*Silent Auction
50/50 Raffle*

A logo depicting a stylized tree with human figures as branches, symbolizing growth and community.