



REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MARY IVANOV



Thank you for the many expressions of love and care during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your kind words, thoughtful cards, and expressions of support are a true blessing. Thanks to our MNO team and others who provided delicious meals for our family! It feels good to be appreciated, and I **deeply appreciate your faithfulness** as I'm thinking about our faith commitments. Thank you for:

Praying for each other – I see the power of prayer at work in you. It matters to our church family and to others whom you've prayed for. Prayer ultimately changes us.

Being present in worship – Worship is a gift and a way that we're called to action in the name of Jesus Christ. Your commitment to stay connected and to grow spiritually is an inspiration.

Giving gifts – Your financial support of mission and ministry makes a difference in people's lives every day. Generosity is a hallmark of following Jesus.

Serving – Your time, energy, gifts, and skills are used by God in mighty ways as we "participate in the miraculous."

Sharing your witness – You "show and tell" your faith at home, at work, in relationships, on social media, and in everyday life. Our deep certainty about God's love, our trust in God's care, and our honest questions and struggles are what make for a living and active faith that makes disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This month includes **All Saints Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving**, which provide opportunities to give thanks, and our theme is **Grace and Gratitude** with a lot of opportunities and tools to practice gratitude. It's also **Election Day**, and I pray that we will **exercise the privilege and responsibility we have to vote**. Our Wesleyan Methodist DNA includes active involvement in social and political matters since the 18th century including the abolition of slavery, protecting workers from dangerous conditions, ending debtors prison, new systems of care for poor children, women's suffrage, civil rights, health care, and creation care.

I'm always reminded of **John Wesley's journal entry from October 6, 1774:**

"I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them

1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy
2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and
3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

These are wise words in a tender time. **Beginning on Wed., Oct. 30 at our Prayer Service, prayer stations will be set up** in our sanctuary. I invite you to make time to use them during the week of the election.

See you on Sunday, *Pastor Mary*

November Worship News by Karen Booth

“Grace and Gratitude” - It is easy to be “stuck” in a downward spiral of negativity. Developing an attitude of gratitude may not change our circumstances, but it does change our way of thinking.



Remember to **set your clocks back on Sun., Nov. 3** when DST ends!

November 3, 2024: “Gratitude for the Saints” *Scripture:* Ephesians 1: 11-23; II Corinthians 4: 7-18

Synopsis: As we remember loved ones who have lived faithfully and now rest in God’s perfect love, we see more clearly that connection between grace and gratitude.



We’ll celebrate **All Saints Day** as we remember loved ones who have passed away since November 1, 2023. If you have a loved one to be included, **please provide the name to the office by noon on Mon., Oct. 28.**

“Thankful” photo session between worship services (see more info below)!

November 10, 2024: “The Attitude that Matters” *Scripture:* Colossians 3: 1-17; Acts 4: 32-37

Synopsis: Gratitude is an attitude that affects our whole lives – personally and communally, and true gratitude offers a witness to the world.

“Thankful” photo session between worship services

November 17, 2024: “Moving On and Circling Back” *Scripture:* Luke 17: 11-19

Synopsis: Thanksgiving should be a natural response to God’s grace and love in our lives. Prayers of thanksgiving also cultivate gratitude in us, which offers needed perspective for every day. Pastor Kim Bos will preach.

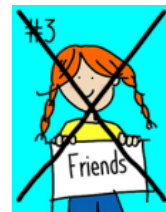
Mon., Nov. 18 **GRIEFSHARE “Surviving the Holidays”** session at 6:30 p.m.

November 24, 2024: “Christ the King” *Scripture:* John 18: 33-38; Revelation 1: 4-8; Philippians 4: 4-9

Synopsis: Gratitude drives us to reveal the truth of God’s Kingdom and live under the authority of Christ the King.

Our Worship Connections Team is asking for your help in creating our own **“Thankful”** video using [Shawna Belt Edwards’s music video](#) as our model.

- Write something for which you are thankful in large letters on a large white paper. You can draw a picture in lieu of writing.
- Hold the paper in front of you and take a selfie (or ask someone else to take it). Group shots are also acceptable. Please take them in landscape (#1 & #2), not portrait format (#3).



- Send the photos to Karen Booth via Email **by Mon., Nov. 11.**
- Need help? On **Nov. 3 and 10**, we’ll provide paper, crayons, colored pencils, markers, and a photographer at church between worship services.

Fellowship Time will be offered after both worship services on Sun., Nov. 10 and Nov. 24, so we're looking for people to serve coffee and refreshments. **Sign up** at the Welcome Center for Early and Celebration service.



Hanging of the Greens is Sun., Nov. 24 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. We also plan on setting up an outdoor nativity and lighting on the east (Henry Street) side of the church. There are jobs for everyone. Hope to see you then!

Our Worship Connections Team has sketched out plans for 2025, based on the theme “**Living in the Light of Jesus**” and would love to have everyone **participate in ONE of these worship planning events this year.**

- **Come, Let Us Adore Him:** Tradition and remembering the songs and stories from our beginnings can be a powerful invitation to grow as disciples as we grow closer to Christ. So, come, let us adore him. This series runs from Dec. 1-Jan. 12. *Brainstorming:* Thurs., Nov. 7 from 6:00 – 9:30 pm at the Booth’s house.
 - **Do Unto Others:** Jesus taught that we should treat others as we want them to treat us – including those with whom we disagree. Known as The Golden Rule, it holds the power to bring people together again. This 6-week series runs from Jan. 19-Feb. 23. *Brainstorming:* Week of Dec. 9 or 16.
 - **A Lenten Supper – Dinner with Jesus:** Meals were one of Jesus’ ministry strategies. According to the Gospels, Jesus ate with many people, including tax collectors, sinners, and his apostles. A Lenten Supper is any meal at which the soul is nourished along with the body. This 10-week series runs from March 2-May 4. *Brainstorming:* Week of Feb. 3.
 - **Creed:** We’re all searching. How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life? Some powerful answers are contained in the Apostles’ Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. This 6-week series runs from May 11-June 15.
 - **Busy:** Life can be crazy busy. This series invites us to practices of making room, clearing out, slowing down, and prioritizing for the sake of holistic lives. This 4-week series runs from June 22-July 13. *Brainstorming:* Week of May 25 or June 2.
 - **Anchored in Hope – Trusting in God’s Promises:** We do not have to fear that God will not keep His promises. We can put our trust in Him and the promises He has given to us in His word. This 4-week series runs from July 20-August 10. *Brainstorming:* Week of May 25 or June 2.
 - **Seven Deadly Sins:** Sin isn’t something we should be so concerned about in others; it’s pervasive and very much alive in us, too. For as much as we celebrate God’s grace, the reason we need grace is because of sin. This 7-week series runs from Aug. 17-Sept. 28. *Brainstorming:* Week of July 20.
 - **A Joyful Noise – Sow Joy, Reap Harmony:** Stewardship is not just a duty, but a joyful expression of faith. This 4-week series runs from Oct. 5-26. *Brainstorming:* Week of Sept. 8 or 15.
 - **Living Life Backwards – How Ecclesiastes Teaches Us to Live in the Light of the End:** Considering the reality of death helps us pay attention to our limitations as human beings and receive life as a wondrous gift from God – freeing us to live wisely, generously, and faithfully for God’s glory and the good of the world. This 4-week series runs from Nov. 2-23. *Brainstorming:* Week of Oct. 6 or 13.
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Advent and Christmas Worship Brainstorming

“Come, Let Us Adore Him”

Thurs., Nov. 7

We’ll have a “Christmas” **potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m.** at David and Karen Booth’s house. Please bring a dish to share and maybe wear a Christmas sweater or sweatshirt. **Brainstorming is from 7:00-9:30 p.m.**

Tradition and remembering the songs and stories from our beginnings can be a powerful invitation to grow as disciples as we grow closer to

Christ. Embrace the Presence and Promise of the Christ who comes. And through it all, we will gather to worship. So, come, let us adore him.

More information about each week’s Scripture readings and message will be available at church and at our website. RSVP by calling the church office at 231-798-2181, or by signing up at church.

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 for more details. Vicki Zuker leads the Celebration Team. Please contact Vicki for more details.



Our vocal choir has begun! The Advent season, and the preparation of Jesus’ coming, is approaching. With it comes the “music of the season.” You’re invited to come and share your voice as we prepare for the “Light of the World.” **Rehearsals are Wed., Nov. 6 and 20 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. We also rehearse on Sunday mornings when we sing from 8:15-8:45 a.m. We look forward to seeing new faces!

Hand Bells practice on **Sundays at 6:00-7:30 p.m.** in the Music Room adjacent to the nursery. We always have room for more ringers, especially “big bell ringers.” We are a fun group of “ding-a-lings.” For more information, contact Diane Thompson.

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

“Lord, Hear our Prayers...”

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.

Prayer Requests are posted on the tower by the sign-in tables.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 says, *“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* You’re encouraged to **participate in our “Thankful” video, watch for opportunities in worship** beginning on Sun., Nov. 3, or **use social media as a tool for expressing gratitude.**

Here’s a challenge: make a gratitude post every day for the month of November as your witness to others. Gratitude is a powerful tool that is contagious!

GriefShare® Our session meets on **Mondays at 6:30 p.m.** in the Lounge through Nov. 11. 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.

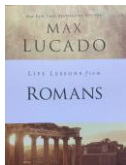
“Surviving the Holidays”
Mon., Nov. 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Cost is \$5.00 for workbook.
Please share this opportunity with family or friends.
All are welcome!

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

November/December Upper Room devotionals (both small and large print) are available. **Devotional readings are 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 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. They will pause their study of Deuteronomy on Nov. 19 and begin their Advent Study called “55 Old Testament Prophecies about Jesus.” Handouts will be provided at the Nov. 19 meeting. We’ll return after the holidays to complete our study on Deuteronomy on Jan. 7, 2025. Contact Mike Layman if you have any questions.



SATURDAY SISTERS 2.0 BIBLE STUDY: We continue to meet **Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** in the Lounge. We’re currently studying the book of Romans. Join us for Scripture, prayer and personal growth in our walk with Jesus!

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 **November**, our focus is **Gambling.**



CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...

Sunday School meets at **10:15-10:45 a.m.** for **kids and youth.** We’re having a fun learning together. If you haven’t been here yet, please join us! Preschool-5th graders and MS meet downstairs. Grades 9-12 meet upstairs in the Youth Room. **We will not meet on Dec. 1** (Thanksgiving weekend).



From Grades 2-5: In October, we explored different ways to pray each week. We colored in prayer, did crayon prayers, Skittles prayer, and a prayer labyrinth. In November, we’ll be talking about different things we can be thankful for and how we can be thankful for God’s love.



Movie Night on **Fri., Nov. 8 at 6:00 p.m.** upstairs in the Lounge. A snack and juice boxes will be provided. Join us for a fun evening!


Soon we’ll be moving into the Advent season. We’ll be sending home some items to help our families to celebrate Advent at the end of the month. Watch the calendar for great events in December!

Lake Harbor Youth Groups

We meet on **Wednesdays: November 6, 13, and 20 (No meeting on Nov. 27)**
6th-8th grade meets at **6:00-7:00 p.m.** **9th-12th grade** meets at **7:00-8:00 p.m.**

Nov. 13: Both groups meet from **6:00-8:00 p.m.** downstairs in the kitchen. We'll be making food that will become part of our Soup Pot Ministry and will be used to bless families throughout the year. It's a fun night filled with laughter and learning!

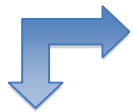
Nov. 22 & 23: PIES, PIES, PIES! Youth and parents: Check your Emails for times and details!

 **It's time for pie!** Our youth group's world famous holiday pies are coming soon! We'll be offering a limited number of Cherry, Pumpkin, Classic Apple, and Apple Crumb. **Pies are \$15 each this year** and will be made with Love! The last day to order is Sun., Nov. 17 unless we hit our limited numbers before then, so don't wait!

We give thanks for all of the support and blessings from our church family. We are so thankful that we are able to be part of the lives of our students and their families. As the holidays approach, please join us in prayer for all of the gatherings and celebrations, time together as families, and especially for those whom the holidays bring struggles. We often forget that the gathering or event we look forward to may feel differently for others and may be a hard, stressful, sad, and even painful time for others. May we honor them as well! PEACE AND LOVE, JIMMY



Looking ahead...Cookie Walk is Sat., Dec. 14. See Jimmy for the list of cookies needed!



Missions Corner: Missions Team is always 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

Our next meeting is **Mon., Dec. 9 at 6:00 p.m.**



CROP Walk 2024 Walkers raised over \$1,500! Thanks to Jay McMahon, Arianna Davros, Chris Ostrander, Deb Smith, Gail DeHudy, Sheryl Thompson, Jill McMahon, Sue Graves, Ed Baranowski, the Bos Family, and Pastor Mary and Ivan Ivanov.

Our October Noisy Offering supported **Muskegon Rescue Mission** as they prepare for Thanksgiving meals. Thank you for your generous support!

Our November Noisy Offering supports **AgeWell Services/Meals on Wheels**, which has been serving our area since 1973. They provide services to those age 60 and over in Muskegon, Oceana, and Ottawa counties. Their programs and partnerships help keep older adults healthy and active through good meals, fitness and creative classes, learning opportunities, rides to medical appointments, and spaces to connect with friends.

SPECIAL OFFERING for United Methodist Student Day on Sun., Nov. 24: This offering supports scholarships administered by the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry of the United Methodist Church. Your gifts make a difference in lives of young people as they pursue their educational goals.



UMCOR continues to respond to needs in many areas affected by recent hurricanes. You can always make a gift marked for UMCOR Hurricanes.

Supper House: We serve on **Tues., Nov. 5 at 3:00-5:00 p.m.** with a team of 6 people. **If you plan on serving, call Sheryl Thompson** so we can plan accordingly.



November MAP Food Pantry items: Pull Top Soup and Toilet Paper

MAP Clothes Closet We serve on **Tues., Nov. 5 & Thurs., Nov. 7 at 12:15 p.m.** If you're willing to help, call the Office at 231-798-2181. There is always need for **men's clothes, housewares, and plastic shopping bags.** They can be left in the MAP box by the main doors in the sanctuary.



hand2hand.

Hand2Hand is a ministry that steps in to help ensure kids have a weekend pack of food. We're collecting **canned pasta (with pop tops if available)** to assist Temple UMC as they provide meals for the students of Edgewood Elementary School. There is a drop box for your gifts in the sanctuary by the Hand2Hand banner.



Kids' Food Basket is collecting items to support kids and families in our community: Fruit cups or pouches, Pudding cups, Meat sticks (i.e. Slim Jims), Cheerios, Pretzels, Cheese Crackers. You can bring them to the tub in the sanctuary. Visit their website to help: <https://kfb.volunteerhub.com>.



Membership, Nurture & Outreach (M.N.O.) News: We always welcome new members to this fun-loving group! Contact Sheryl Thompson or Karen Post.

Join us for SOUP FEST on **Wed., Nov. 6 at 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** We're making soup for the Soup Pot Ministry that serves people of our church.



Young Adult and College Student Care Cards: We're thinking of our young adults working out in the world and our college students as Finals week quickly approaches in early December. We will be showing them some LHUMC love by sending a \$10.00 gift card. **Please make sure we have your Young Adult (18-25 year old) and College Student on our list.** Contact the office at 231-798-2181 **by Nov. 19.**



Ross Park Readers are starting to serve in classrooms! **If you're interested in serving in this important hands-on mission and community connection,** please see Pastor Mary.



Lunch Bunch meets on **Tues., Nov. 12 at 12:00 p.m.** at **Driftwood Café.** Everyone is invited! It's a great way to see friends and meet new people!

Our Autumn Luncheon for our 80+ friends was a success!



CARDS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL: Please give the office updated addresses for your loved ones who serve in the military. We want to include them when we send out cards in November.

55 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS! In December, our **MNO group** packs **Christmas goodie bags** for our **homebound members and friends**. We ask for donation of cookies, candy, fruit, and small items (small hand creams, Kleenex packs, etc.). We'll be packing approximately 30 goodie bags on **Wed., Dec. 4 at 10:00 a.m.**, so pencil it in your calendar and watch for good deals on items to brighten someone's day. Go through your favorite cookie or candy recipes, make some special treats, and bag them up! Watch for a sign up on the Welcome Center or call Sheryl Thompson if you'd like to help. Thanks!

Snowbirds: Please let the church office know your contact information before you leave. We appreciate knowing your departure date and return date for our mailings.

An updated Photo Directory was E-mailed out in October. Please take a look and make sure that your contact information is accurate. **It's never too late** to submit or update your photo! Email it to Office@LakeHarborUMC.org.



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 for the lovely 80+ Autumn Luncheon. Everything was delicious, and it was so nice to get together with old friends and new ones too. *Marie Kordecki*

From our FINANCE Team: At the end of September 2024, our total income for General Fund was \$299,015 with expenses of \$277,844. Thank you for your consistent giving and generosity as we grow together as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

As we create a **budget for 2025**, we've asked our ministry areas to give us realistic numbers of what it takes not only to support basic operational expenses like staff salaries and building maintenance, but also to tell us what it takes to support programming for youth ministry, education, and worship. **Any budget that we create is a faith budget; however, knowing what we can expect to have to work with is important.**

Thanks to those who have offered a Faith Commitment for 2025. This is a great help to us as a community of faith. **Our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness are the foundation for how we carry out our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.** Taking the time to prayerfully consider and write down our commitment is an important part of our life together congregation, and **we hope that you'll offer your Faith Commitment this year.**

ONLINEgiving Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit card or debit card. Electronic giving is easy and stress free, offers convenience for you, and offers consistency in giving, which blesses our church. 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.



From our Trustees: Take time to notice the **emergency signage, including emergency exit plans and emergency procedures**, in each area of the building. Thank you for your continued financial support that helps us to care for the needs of our physical space for our ministry. **Gifts to our Preservation Fund, which we use for building needs, are always appreciated** – whether planned or given anytime!

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

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



Please **"Check In"** on Facebook whether you worship in-person or on the live-stream.

We also have a **YouTube channel** (Lake Harbor UMC) where you can access all of our worship service recordings. Feel free to subscribe! And our website upgrade is near completion, so look for a new look coming soon!

Our website is updated! There are still some additions to come, but go to www.lakeharborumc.org to see the new look!



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**. Messages left on weekends will be returned on Monday.



COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

La Leche League, the breastfeeding group for parents, will meet at Lake Harbor UMC Nursery area on **Tues., Nov. 19 at 11:00 a.m.** Questions? Contact Mary Swisher.

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>

Sunday Servants:

Serving Nov. 3 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: TBD

Ushers: Dave Stamy, Adam & Ruth Pyman, Mark Graves

Computer: Luka Ivanov *Camera:* Derek Mertz

Sound: Rob Mertz *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

Counters: Steve Hill, Joe Gerhardt

Serving Nov. 3 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Brad Hilleary

Greeters: Sheryl Thompson & G.L. Bates

Computer: Skyler Bosch *Camera:* Russ Loomis

Sound: Bob Bosch *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

Tear Down: Jimmy & Niki Epplert

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

Worship Leader: TBD

Ushers: Jim Post, Karen Post, Peggy Tully

Computer: Fred Yonkers *Camera:* Pat Yonkers

Sound: Ruth Pyman *FB Host:* Ivan Ivanov

Counters: Madonna Borgerding, Karen Hill

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

Worship Leader: Dirk Fuller

Greeters: John Thompson & Sheryl Thompson

Computer: Jim Grace *Camera:* Julie Fuller

Sound: Karen Grace *FB Host:* Niki Epplert

Tear down: Nicole & Dan Malseed

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

Worship Leader: TBD

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

Computer: Larry Kasmauski *Camera:* Lisa Kasmauski

Sound: Gary Cooper *FB Host:* Jen Cooper

Counters: Cyndi Barefoot, Allen Winslow

Guest Pastor: Rev. Kim Bos

Serving Nov. 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

Serving Nov. 24 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

Counters: Ed Baranowski, Mike Layman

Serving Nov. 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 & G.L. Bates

THANK YOU



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

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.