



Lake Harbor's

Harbor Light

Volume 25.3 March 2025

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MARY IVANOV



I'm always grateful to connect with our kids (our youngest disciples) on Sunday morning, and it reminds me how important it is for them to be connected to caring adults beyond their family. I have great memories of my church family, teachers, and other people who knew me and cared about me as I was growing up, and it's a blessing to know that we can offer that to one another.

For our family, one important community connection is Scouting. Luka has been involved in Scouting for many years, and it has offered great opportunities for developing leadership skills, growing in his appreciation of the natural world, and serving others.



Luka earned his Eagle Scout rank last November. His Eagle Scout project was constructing three Little Free Libraries at three of our local elementary schools. We're excited to celebrate Luka's accomplishment with you and appreciate your support and encouragement over the years. His **Court of Honor is Sunday, March 23 at 4:00 p.m. in our sanctuary, and we'd love to have you join us.**



I also want to invite all of our Scouts to join us in worship on Sunday, March 16 when we'll celebrate **Scouting Sunday**. You're welcome to wear your uniforms. We'll offer a special blessing for you!

See you on Sunday, *Pastor Mary*

The season of Lent starts on
March 5, 2025

Begin Lent with us at the
Ash Wednesday Service @ 7pm @ Central UMC
1011 2nd St, Muskegon

We will gather with area Methodist churches and honor this day with special guest speaker, Bishop David Bard.



As we enter into the season of Lent, consider how you might mark this time. **How will you open your heart more fully to God - and take time to be holy (as the song says)?** Worship on Ash Wednesday is a meaningful way to enter in the season. Please join me for this important time of worship.

We'll celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Baptism and receive new members on Easter Sunday, April 20.** If you're interested in baptism, please contact Pastor Mary to set up an appointment for further conversation.



Membership class will be offered on **Tues., March 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lounge.** Please contact Pastor Mary if you're interested in attending.

March Worship News by Karen Booth

March 2, 2025: “Awe Inspired”

Scripture: Luke 9: 28-43

Synopsis: Transfiguration is about astonishment and amazement. It’s a moment to stand in awe of God’s presence and glory – and hear God call us to listen to Jesus. And it’s followed by the reality of the messiness of life.

March 5, 2025: “It’s Alright, Ma”

Scripture: II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m. at Central UMC in downtown Muskegon

Join with friends in Christ from other UMCs and from the community as we begin the season of Lent - the 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. Bishop David Bard will be our preacher.

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 that becomes more than a meal. The soul is nourished along with the body.

March 9, 2025: “Follow Me”

Scripture: Luke 5: 27-32

Synopsis: Tax collectors were the entrepreneurs of Roman antiquity and were generally regarded with disdain by mostly everyone. That Jesus would extend to Levi, a tax collector, both the call of discipleship and the intimacy of table fellowship is countercultural and unexpected.

March 16, 2025: “Let Your Hair Down”

Scripture: Luke 7: 36-50

Synopsis: Jesus is anointed at Simon the Pharisees’ home during a meal. We don’t know when or how this woman encountered Jesus prior to this moment, nor do we know how Simon responds to Jesus’ works of kindness and forgiveness. Her boldness is an act of loving faith that challenges the status quo.

We’ll celebrate **Scouting Sunday** in both worship services.

March 23, 2025: “Slow Down and Tune In”

Scripture: Luke 10: 38-42

Synopsis: Martha was busy. Mary chose to be still, to tune in to Jesus. It’s not bad to prepare and work, but the busyness can impede our need for times of connection to God. Tuning in may mean setting the immediate aside and taking time to notice how God is beckoning to dwell with us a while. What contemplative practices can feed and nourish our active lives?

March 30, 2025: “Keeping Up Appearances”

Scripture: Luke 11: 37-54

Synopsis: Jesus offers indictments against those who have power, especially those who are leaders in the religious community. Those six “woes” expose hypocrisy that can consume us inside if we’re not attentive to our need to cultivate humility and see ourselves as standing in need of God’s forgiveness and grace.



Fellowship Time is offered after both worship services, so we’re looking for people to serve coffee and refreshments. **Please Sign up** at the Welcome Center.



Volunteers are needed during Celebration Service: If you’re willing to serve once a month as a greeter, online host, or computer operator, please contact Ruth McPhail Ubaldo at ruthubaldo@gmail.com.

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES... *“God gave us music that we might pray without words.”*

Our hand bell ringers are looking for new ringers to join them for the Lenten season. **We practice on Sundays at 6:00 p.m.** Please contact Diane Thompson for more information.

“Sing to the Lord a new song” Come, join your voice in song. **Choir meets on Wednesdays: March 12 & 26 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.** and at 8:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

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 Monthly Prayer Service is **Wed., March 26 at 5:30 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.*

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.

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



Muskegon Methodist Ministry Men’s Prayer Breakfast on **Sat., March 8 at 9:00 a.m.** at Crestwood UMC. (1220 Creston St. Muskegon, 49442). Everyone is invited.

PRAYING WITH OUR LAKE HARBOR FAMILY...

In My Father’s House: Sandy Corning, who passed away on Feb. 15. She is the mother of Dawn VanDyke and grandmother of Nicole & Dan Malseed and Sara & Shawn Seher.

In My Father’s House: John Colella Sr., who passed away on Feb. 18. John is the father of John & Sandy and Brian & Nancy and grandfather to Jason.

We pray for God’s comfort and peace to be with those who grieve.



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 7.** 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

March/ April Upper Room devotionals 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.** It’s free and easy to do!

Spiritual Gifts are not our talents or skills, but the **grace of God at work within us, empowering us to match our deep passions with the world’s deep need.** You can learn more about God’s gifts in you by taking an inventory. Copies are available at church, or you can use this link and complete the inventory online: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/spiritual-gifts> Please share your results with Pastor Mary!



During the month of March and the end of the season of Lent, you're invited to engage in daily Bible reading **focused in the Psalms. Psalms 1-41 are focused on God's presence.** Pastor Mary will be posting twice a week on Facebook, and you're invited to read along.

Advocacy Day is on Wed., March 12 - a day of prayer, public witness, and meetings with elected officials about legislation in 2019 that changed auto insurance laws.



Pastor Mary and Annette Erbes plan to attend. Learn more and register at <https://michiganumc.org/advocacy-day-2025>

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 (March 4, 11, 18 & 25) at 7:00 p.m.** in the Library as they resume their study of Deuteronomy. Contact Mike Layman if you have any questions.

SPIRIT SISTERS BIBLE STUDY meets **Wednesdays (March 5, 12, 19 & 26) at 6:00-7:30 p.m.** in the Lounge. We'll continue our study called **Strength in the Struggle** - a Bible study for women on letting go of fear and anxiety. Join us – we'd love to welcome you!



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 **March**, our focus is **Mental Health, especially removing the stigma.**

We're grateful to offer a new opportunity - Pine Rest Church Assistance Program (CAP). CAP offers **mental health and wellness resources, including confidential counseling services,** to congregation members free of charge as a part of our church's agreement. **Look for more information, including an information session, coming in March!**

Lay Servant Ministries Spring Retreat: April 25-26 at Cadillac UMC

The cost is \$30 and includes two meals and snacks. For more details, see the [Lay Servants Training Flyer](#)
DEADLINE to register is Sat., April 12.



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, including making flour when we learned the story of Ruth. **Preschool-5th graders and MS** meet downstairs. **Grades 9-12** meet upstairs in the Youth Room.



Game night on Fri., March 14 from 6:00-8:00 p.m for all ages! Join us – and bring a friend, or come make a new friend! We'll have a variety of games to choose from, but bring your favorite if you'd like – and a snack to share.





Summer Camps: Faith-based summer camps are an excellent way to connect with God, other people, and creation. The United Methodist Church has campgrounds in Michigan with summer camps for kids and families of all ages and abilities. Lake Harbor UMC strongly believes that camp experiences are a meaningful way to grow your faith, and we are committed to supporting anyone who would like to go to camp. We have a scholarship program, so that money is not a barrier! Check out the camping website with links to the summer schedule and different camps at www.graceoutside.org, www.campmichigamme.org, and www.lakelouisecommunity.org. If you have questions or need help registering, please talk to Pastor Mary, Niki Epplert, or Kate Robbins.



Our Education Team is offering **Red Cross Training** for our nursery staff and teachers on **Sun., March 30 from 1:00-5:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. If you're interested in participating, please contact Kate Robbins.

Help Wanted: Loving, caring people to join our Nursery Caregiver crew on Sunday mornings. Be a regular part of the team or as a substitute. Talk to Kate Robbins, Children's Christian Education Director, or Pastor Mary Ivanov if you'd be interested in learning more about this opportunity.

Lake Harbor Youth Groups

6th-8th grade (Middle School) at 6:00-7:00 p.m. **9th-12th grade (High School)** at 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Youth will meet on **Wednesdays: March 5, 12, 19, and 26**

Wicked Sweet Winter Retreat is **March 7-9**. Please pray for our students as they spend the weekend in the woods at Lake Michigan Camp in Pentwater growing in faith and in relationship with each other!



Chili! Chili! Chili! and Soup! It's that time again! Get those recipes out, and fire up those crockpots! Chili and Soup Cook-off is **Fri., March 28 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Who will be the big winners this year? Everyone is invited to enter! Soups and Chilis will be judged separately. Everyone is invited to come and eat! You vote for your favorite chili/soup by putting your monetary donations into the basket(s) of the creation you like best. All proceeds support our 2025 HS Youth Mission Trip.



We have been focusing on creation and love in our "lessons" together and have had some awesome conversations about creation, science, and evolution and love versus infatuation - and



mostly about God's Love. We were so inspired that we made some valentines for our homebound and did some creating of our own! Spring is just around the corner!

PEACE AND LOVE, JIMMY (Cell: 231-750-9707, peaceandlovejimmy@gmail.com, Facebook = Jimmy Epplert)

College Scholarships for United Methodist Students: Applications are now open for scholarships from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. **Apply by April 1** at www.umhef.org/scholarships/apply/



Missions Corner Missions Team meets every other month, and we're looking for passionate people to join us! Thank you for helping us serve others in Jesus' name. Our **next meeting is Mon., March 31 at 6:00 p.m.** If you have questions or ideas, please contact the office or Jill McMahon



Supper House: We serve on **Tues., March 4 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.

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

- **February Noisy Offering** to support Souper Bowl of Caring/MAP's Healthy Food Pantry is **\$480.94.**
- **Souper Bowl of Caring brought in 207 cans of soup** for Mission for Area People's Food Pantry!



Our March Noisy Offering supports **UMCOR Sunday**, (aka *One Great Hour of Sharing* in your envelope pack) which is officially **March 30**, 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 their donors specify, instead of on administrative costs.

2024 Noisy Offering Report: Thanks to your generous contributions, we supported:
 MAP Food Pantry and Medical Fund Shoes for Shores UMCOR Camp Scholarship Fund
 Reach the Forgotten jail ministry Ross Park outreach Muskegon Rescue Mission
 CROP Walk Age Well Services Hope Project totaling **\$6,365!**



March MAP Food Pantry items: Tuna Fish and Small Dish Soap

MAP Clothes Closet: We serve on **Tues., March 11 & Thurs., March 13 at 12:15 p.m.** If you're willing to help, call the Office at 231-798-2181. There is an **urgent need for winter wear and bed sheets** and always need for **men's clothes, housewares, and plastic shopping bags.** The Clothing Pantry needs totes with lids. They can be left in the MAP box by the main doors in the sanctuary.



Kids' Food Basket currently serves **2,000 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.** Visit their website to help: <https://kfb.volunteerhub.com>.



Hand2Hand helps kids with a weekend pack of food. We're collecting **canned pasta (pop top cans please!)** to assist Temple UMC as they provide meals for the students of Edgewood Elementary School. There is a box for your gifts in the sanctuary by the Hand2Hand banner.



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

Thank you to those who served **15 Family Promise guests** at the end of February!
Our next date to serve is May 25-31.



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



Valentine's Day Outreach: 39 bags were delivered to our homebound members and friends, and we mailed six valentines to friends who live out-of-town. MNO thanks all those who made treats and deliveries for our homebound members! You are God's hands and feet.



Ross Park Elementary outreach opportunity: March can be a very stressful month for school staff. So we're **reaching out on Records Day, Mon., March 10** with snacks and treats. Do you have a healthy cookie or snack you're famous for or one you know is a winner? Sign up on the Welcome Center if you can help. Please individually wrap your treats and bring them to church before 11:00 a.m. on March 10. Contact Sheryl Thompson or Myke in the office, 231-798-2181. Please **pray for school staff** as they continue to do such important work in our community!



Lunch Bunch meets on **Tues., March 11 at 12:00 p.m.** at **Driftwood Café**. Everyone is invited! It's a great way to see friends and meet new people!



College Student and Young Adult Care Cards: We're thinking of our college students who are studying hard and our young adults who are out working in the world. We'd like to show them some LHUMC love by sending a \$10.00 gift card in April.

Young Adults (18-25 years old): Please help us stay connected to you by filling out a **Young Adult Contact Information Form** located at: [YA Connection form](#)



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.

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

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

- **Phyllis Jones** has moved.
- **Tammy Sylvester Family** has moved.

An updated Photo Directory was E-mailed out in January. **It's never too late** to submit or update your photo! Email it to Office@LakeHarborUMC.org.



Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your unceasing prayers, generosity, concern and care for me and my family. Lake Harbor is a constant blessing in our lives for so many reasons. Thank you for everything! *Love, Kelly & Jamey Foreman, Colby Thurston & Sofia*



Thank you so much for the gifts to Robin and Jared on Valentine's Day. Your thoughtfulness is always appreciated. *Renée Hoadley*



We want to thank you for the very thoughtful goodie bags at Christmas Time and on Valentine’s Day. Nolan enjoyed all the treats at Christmas time, but sadly he wasn’t here for Valentine’s Day.

With love and gratitude, Sandy Throne



Thank you for all my beautiful Valentines. I felt the love all the way across Lake Michigan. Thanks for remembering me. *Your friend in Illinois, Ruth Van Veelen*



From our FINANCE Team: We’re thankful to report that we’re in a healthy place to support ministry and mission for another year! **At the end of January 2025,** our total income for General Fund was \$47,061. Our total General Fund expenses were \$27,616. 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.

Look for a special opportunity to give to our Easter offering, which will support a local mission – Hope Project – and a global missionary – Dr. Temba Nkomozepi, who serves in as an agriculturalist at Mujila Falls Agriculture Center in Kanyama, Zambia.

Remember: **it’s never too late to offer your Faith Commitment for 2025.** 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.



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: We’re moving ahead with the window project on the south end of the building. **Gifts to our Preservation Fund are always appreciated** – whether planned or given anytime!



Monday – Thursday from 9:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m. The office is closed on Friday and Saturday. The office phone is **231-798-2181**. Messages left on weekends will be returned on Monday.

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!

Stay connected: **United Methodist Church:** www.umc.org **Michigan Area UMC:** www.michiganumc.org
Western Waters District: www.westernwaters.michiganumc.org **Lake Harbor UMC:** www.lakeharborumc.org



La Leche League, the breastfeeding group for parents, will meet at LHUMC Nursery area on **Tues., March 18 at 11:00 a.m.** Questions? Contact Mary Swisher.

We're grateful to offer meeting space to **Girl Scouts, Pioneer Resources, LARC, and other groups too!** This is a wonderful way to engage with our neighbors and support our community.

Sunday Servants

THANK YOU for making our worship services meaningful, memorable, and accessible.

Serving March 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Ken Luckett
Ushers: Dave Stamy, Adam & Ruth Pyman
Computer: Karen Booth *Camera:* Jean Kelly
Sound: David Booth *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

Counters: Ed Baranowski, Fred Woodworth

Serving March 2 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 March 9 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, Mudgi Cavender

Serving March 9 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Dirk Fuller
Greeters: John Thompson & John Colella
Computer: Jim Grace *Camera:* Julie Fuller
Sound: Karen Grace *FB Host:* Niki Epplert
Tear down: Nicole & Dan Malseed

Serving March 16 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: TBD
Ushers: Fred & Pat Yonkers, Rod Moon, Kathy Mertz
Computer: Karen Booth *Camera:* Jean Kelly
Sound: David Booth *FB Host:* Ivan Ivanov

Counters: Bev Layman, Kathy Luckett

Serving March 16 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader & Tear down: Chris Beaudoin
Greeters: Jan Pascavis & Jill McMahon
Computer: Julie Fuller *Camera:* Jay McMahon
Sound: Arianna Davros *FB Host:* Ruth McPhail Ubaldo

Serving March 23 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: TBD
Ushers: Mark Rousell, Bob Keim
Computer: Larry Kasmauski *Camera:* Lisa Kasmauski
Sound: Gary Cooper *FB Host:* Jen Cooper

Counters: Ed Baranowski, Mike Layman

Serving March 23 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Rose Emmons
Greeters: Cindy Soyars & Ruth McPhail Ubaldo
Computer: Angela Thompson *Camera:* Jason Colella
Sound: Pete Thompson *FB Host:* Michelle Frazier
Tear Down: Rose Emmons & G.L. Bates

Serving March 30 at 9:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: TBD
Ushers: Dave Stamy, Adam & Ruth Pyman
Computer: Luka Ivanov *Camera:* Derek Mertz
Sound: Rob Mertz *FB Host:* Ivan Ivanov

Counters: Madonna Borgerding, Mudgi Cavender

Serving March 30 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: Chris Beaudoin
Greeters: Sheryl Thompson & Renée Hoadley
Computer: Jim Grace *Camera:* TBD
Sound: Karen Grace *FB Host:* Michelle Frazier
Tear Down: Rose Emmons

Lake Harbor United Methodist Church

4861 S. Henry St.

Norton Shores, MI 49441



www.lakeharborumc.org

(231) 798-2181

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.



March 9, 2025

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.