

Lake Harbor's

# Harbor Light

Volume 25.5

May 2025



## REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MARY IVANOV



It was wonderful to celebrate the promise of new life and resurrection on Easter Sunday! I'm grateful to all those who offered their gifts in worship throughout Holy Week, participated in our different opportunities for worship and fellowship, joined us to celebrate resurrection! In worship, we welcomed four **new members: Jamey Foreman, Colby Thurston, Duane & Pat Thatcher**

We celebrated the baptism of **Noelle**, daughter of Kathleen & Ryan, with her family.

Now we live in the hope of new life - and look for the living as we love and serve in the name of the risen Christ!

See you on Sunday, *Pastor Mary*



**2025 Michigan Annual Conference:** Pastor Mary, Jason Colella, and Annette and Pastor Mark Erbes will be at **Grand Traverse Resort on May 29-June 1** to represent Lake Harbor UMC and engage in worship, legislation, and fellowship. This year's theme is ***Unfinished: Growing Up and Into Christ*** invites us to explore a faith that expands beyond our limits and welcomes transformation.

The theme verse is Ephesians 4:15-16 that says, *"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."*

With that inspiration this conference is a journey of collective Spirit-filled discernment, rooted in the belief that our faith is a vast, inviting dwelling, unfinished and constantly expanding. Together, we will wrestle with disillusionment and imagine a more spacious, authentic way of following Christ. Through conversations, worship, and reflection, we will seek to grow into the fullness of Christ, embracing a faith marked by grace, curiosity, and joy.

**Please pray for all who will gather for this time of holy conferencing.** If you're interested to learn more, go to [2025.michiganumc.org/](https://2025.michiganumc.org/)

We're grateful to offer the **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. There are printed materials available, or you can go online [Pine Rest CAP](#). To access the Personal Advantage Portal, the username is **LHUMC**.

**May Worship News** by Karen Booth

**May 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.:** “Gathered at the Table”

*Scripture:* I Corinthians 10: 16-17

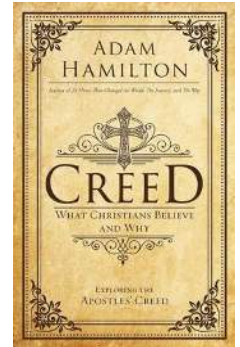
*Synopsis:* Ever since Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples, Christians all around the world gather to celebrate Communion so they can remember Jesus too. The bread reminds us of Jesus’ body. The wine reminds us of Jesus’ blood.

Today is **Children’s Sunday**. Author **Glenys Nellist** will share her new book in worship.

**“CREED”**

A series based on the Apostles’ Creed

We’re all searching. Sometimes the search is easy: simply type a question and the answer pops up. But sometimes our questions are complicated, and the answers are difficult to see and harder to articulate. 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.



**May 11, 2025:** “I Believe in God”

*Scripture:* Genesis 1: 1-2, 31; Exodus 3: 11-15; Deuteronomy 6: 4-5

*Synopsis:* Is there a God? How do we know? If God exists, what is God like? Scripture is where we start, but church tradition, human reason, and our experience help us to understand who God is and what God is like.

**May 18, 2025:** “Jesus Christ: God With Us”

*Scripture:* John 1: 1-5, 12-14

*Synopsis:* What do we believe *about* Jesus and why? What does it mean to believe *in* Jesus and to be saved?

Our words and actions reflect the One we follow.

**May 25, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.:** “The Holy Spirit: God In Us”

*Scripture:* Genesis 1: 1-2; John 14: 25-27; John 15: 26-27; Romans 8: 26-27

*Synopsis:* Who or what is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? All of us are helped and sustained by the Holy Spirit – God’s ongoing presence in our lives.



**All-Church Worship Brainstorming**

Series: **“Busy”**

Tues., May 20, 2025 at noon

Life can be crazy busy. In order to continue our work of caring for others, we need to find a rhythm that allows us to thrive – find a balance between work, play, rest, and reflection. One antidote to busyness is prayer. This series invites us to practices of making room, clearing out, slowing down, and prioritizing for the sake of holistic lives.

The worship brainstorming in the Lounge. We will have a **potluck lunch at 12:00 p.m. and brainstorm from 12:45-3:00 p.m.** Look for more information at church and on our website in the weeks ahead. To RSVP, call the church office (231-798-2181) or sign up at church.

**Our Worship Connections Team** would like everyone know how grateful we are that **Andrew Basse**, a Mona Shores High School CSD/Industrial Arts Teacher, and one of his students, Isaac, were able to design and 3D print a new mounting bracket for one of our control booth parts that failed, saving us \$400. We are blessed!



**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 June 23-26**, and it's a great opportunity to share with the kids in your life!



**Fellowship Time is offered after worship**, so we're looking for people to serve. **Please Sign up** at the Welcome Center.

## **MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES...** *"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 7 and 21 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary.
- **Hand Bell Choir** rehearses on **Sundays, May 4, 18, & 25 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](mailto:diane.sj.thompson@gmail.com) for more info!
- **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](mailto: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.

**Our next Prayer Service** is **Wed., May 28 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.*



**A new session begins on Mon., Aug. 18.** More information is at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org). **For additional resources on grief**, visit [www.sytsemcompass.com](http://www.sytsemcompass.com). They have compiled a listing of local grief support resources.

# INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

May/June 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!



Through the season of Easter, engage in daily Bible reading **focused in the Psalms.** Join Pastor Mary in reading **Psalms 42-72** from April 21-May 21. She will be posting once a week on Facebook.

**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 and will move into a study on spiritual gifts. New members are always welcome.

**Men's Bible Study** meets on **Tuesdays (May 6 & 13) at 7:00 p.m.** in the Library as they study the life and reign of David. We will then be on break until September 2025.

**SPIRIT SISTERS BIBLE STUDY** meets **Wednesdays (May 7, 14, 21 & 28) at 6:00-7:30 p.m.** in the Lounge. We will finish our study on the Women of the New Testament this May and will be taking a break for the summer beginning in June. Please plan on joining us in the fall.



**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 **Food Insecurity.**



**Our Social Justice small group** meets on **Thurs., May 8 at 7:00 p.m.** to share, reflect, hear each other's stories, and help each other do the work of seeking justice where we are.



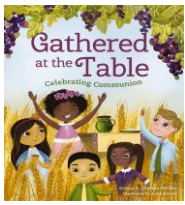
## CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...

**Sunday School** has wrapped up for this school year. Our Education Team will have some fun outdoor activities this summer. Be watching for more details!

**'You've been Egged!'** Thank you so much to all who donated candy for the bags! Over 50 homes were blessed with a fun message of Jesus' love! Thank you also to the Sr. High Youth group who packed the eggs and bagged them.

**Sunday School** had a lot of fun with friends and teachers on Easter Sunday!





**Children's Sunday is May 4.** There is **one worship service at 10:00 a.m. with Youth serving breakfast after worship.** We'll have a special guest, **Glenys Nellist**, reading one of her new books titled **Gathered at the Table.** To remember and continue faith learning at home, each young family will receive a signed copy! Glenys will also have other books available for purchase. Be sure to affirm our young people for all the energy they bring!

**Prayer Pals** - coming on Children's Sunday, May 4!

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. - Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)*

When we pray for someone else, it draws us closer in relationships, including our relationship with God. Praying for a child outside of your family helps them to see how much they are loved and cared for. We are implementing a Prayer Pal program so that each child and teen at Lake Harbor will have an adult assigned to pray for them.

You can sign up to be a Prayer Pal. You will be assigned a child (birth through age 17) as a Prayer Pal within a couple weeks after signing up. You will be given a little information about your Prayer Pal that may guide you in your prayer. This is a one-year commitment to pray. Offering to pray for someone is a free and powerful gift.



**Road Trip Vacation Bible Camp will be June 23-26.** We will embark on an exciting journey based on Joshua 1:9 – "The LORD your God is with you wherever you go. We'll learn about God's presence everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together. Please let Kate Robbins know if you'd love to share some time with us during VBC! Watch for registration forms coming out soon and available on the table in the sanctuary, or you can sign up your kids using this google form: [VBC Registration Form](#)



**Summer Camps:** 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](http://www.graceoutside.org) and [www.lakelouisecommunity.org](http://www.lakelouisecommunity.org) **Scholarships are available too, first come first served, so don't wait!** If you have any questions, please contact Niki Epplert or the office. If you have questions or need help registering, please talk to Pastor Mary, Niki Epplert, or Kate Robbins.

**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: May 7, 14, and 21.**



**Join us for Breakfast** in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, May 4** after **Children's Sunday** worship for a time of fellowship and great food! It will be a great opportunity to ask the students about their mission trip this summer to Chicago.

**May 21 will be our last regular meeting** of this school year. This will be an **all-together meeting** that's sure to be a "SMASHING" good time! Just because it's our last scheduled meeting of the school year doesn't mean the good times are over. We'll have some things happening over the summer. Keep an eye on your email, and check next month's newsletter for some details.

**Mission Trip 2025:** This summer, on **July 13-19**, we'll be serving in **Chicago, Illinois with Experience Mission** ([experiencemission.org](http://experiencemission.org)). While there, we'll partner with Bridge Builders, a ministry connected to Sunshine Gospel Ministries (<https://www.sunshinergospel.org/bb>). This will be an opportunity to serve alongside members of the inner city through established ministry locations, as well as a learning element for students, including experiencing a poverty simulation and talking with people who live and work in the communities where we will serve. This will be similar to other trips and also unlike anything we have done before. We are so excited to provide this opportunity for our students!

**Remember:** there are scholarships available. These trips can be expensive, and we want to make sure that finances never get in the way of a student having this great experience!

**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>

**Do you want to help?** There are lots of opportunities - sponsoring meals, a tank of gas, renting a van, and more! You can always make an offering! Look for our "Stock Sale" in June as well! We are looking forward to an amazing trip and an awesome summer!



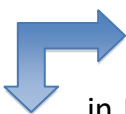
**Chili and Soup Cook-off wrap-up:** Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed a night of fellowship, soup, and chili! We raised over \$700 dollars and had a lot of fun! This year's winners were Camden Epplert for his Meat, Meat and More Meat Chili, and Kelsey Boss for her soup!



**Graduation Sunday is May 18.** We'll celebrate with **all those who have finished high school, college, and educational and training programs.** It is a day to honor their hard work, and we love to embrace them and remind them how much they are loved!

Please let the office know **by May 14** 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. 2024 grads, too!** Please join us in celebrating our graduates.

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



**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 will be June 2.** If you have questions or ideas, contact the office or Jill McMahan.



**Native American Ministries Sunday is May 4.** This offering provides development, implementation, and assessment of a higher education recruitment and retention for Native American clergy along with support for seminary students and church leaders.



**Supper House:** We serve on **Tues., May 6 at 3:00-5:00 p.m.** with a team of 6 people. **If you plan on serving, contact the office at 231-798-2181** so we can plan accordingly.

**Thank you** for giving generously in many ways that transforms our community and the world!

- **April Noisy Offering** to support **Mission for Area People's Medical Fund** total will be shared soon!

**Our May Noisy Offering will support Child Abuse Council of Muskegon County** whose vision is to *protect all children and create a safe and healthy community.* They build positive relationships in a child-friendly environment. All services provided are free of cost to the families served.



**May MAP Healthy Food Pantry items: Jelly and Deodorant**

**MAP Clothes Closet:** We serve on **Tues., June 3 & Thurs., June 5 at 12:15 p.m.** If you're willing to help, call the Office at 231-798-2181. There is an **urgent need bed sheets** and always need for **men's clothes, housewares, and plastic shopping bags.**



**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*

**Our next date to serve is May 25-31** providing food items and delivering meals to the Day Center. Please sign up where you can help at: [Family Promise May](#) or contact Jill McMahon or Ruth Pyman.



**Membership, Nurture & Outreach (M.N.O.) News:** We welcome new members to this fun-loving group! Contact Sheryl Thompson. Our next meeting is **Thurs., May 22 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Young Adult Care Cards:** We sent out **32 cards** in April to remind our Young Adults they are important to Lake Harbor and are in our thoughts and prayers.



**Lunch Bunch** meets on **Tues., May 13 at 12:00 p.m.** four our last time at Driftwood Cafe. Everyone is invited! It's a great way to see friends and meet new people!

**80+ Friends:** Save The Date! **Wed., June 11** is our **Spring Luncheon.** Invites will be sent out in May.



**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.



**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!



I wanted to share the God moment that I experienced during our mother's memorial on Saturday, April 5, 2025. I could feel the outpouring of love from everyone, starting with Pastor Mary, before, during and after the service. To family and friends that attended the memorial as well as the Muskegon Nurse Honor Guard that paid tribute to our mother's commitment to nursing. Last but not least, to the luncheon group who put together a lovely, well organized luncheon. All those who helped with the luncheon were gracious and kind. After witnessing everyone's love for our mother, family, friends and church family I knew God was definitely present on Saturday and throughout her life.

Thanks to all of you, *The family of Linda Herbert*

I just got the card from the church, and I wanted to say thank you. I plan on coming by sometime soon with my Grandma to see all of you again; it's been so long.

Thanks for thinking of me, *Koda Benson*



**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 2024**, our total income for General Fund was \$114,385 with expenses of \$100,616. 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 totals over **\$3,200 so far with the \$1,000 match from our Missions Team!** Both **Hope Project** and **global missionary Dr. Temba Nkomozepi** will be blessed!



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](http://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:** Check out the **new windows** on the south side of the building! There are also **new shelving units** in the Music Room.  
**Gifts to our Preservation Fund are always appreciated** – whether planned or given anytime!



**Muskegon Methodist Ministries** invites you to their quarterly meeting on **Wed., April 30 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at Crestwood UMC. Dinner is provided. The topic for this gathering is **environmental justice** and will include speakers from the Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership and those who work in local economic development programs.

## **COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES**



**La Leche League**, the breastfeeding group for parents, will meet at Danielle Bos' home on **Tues., May 20 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.

## **FROM THE OFFICE**



**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.



**Pastor Mary and the church staff** will NEVER contact you by text message or E-mail for financial assistance. This is a common method scammers employ using phone numbers from a church directory. If you ever receive a suspicious call or text message, please report it to us, block the number, and do not respond.

**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](http://www.umc.org) **Michigan Area UMC:** [www.michiganumc.org](http://www.michiganumc.org)  
**Western Waters District:** [www.westernwaters.michiganumc.org](http://www.westernwaters.michiganumc.org) **Lake Harbor UMC:** [www.lakeharborumc.org](http://www.lakeharborumc.org)

*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.*

## Sunday Servants

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

### Serving May 4 at 10:00 a.m.

*Worship Leader:* Kids & Youth

*Ushers:* Jim Post, Karen Post, Peggy Tully

*Computer:* Fred Yonkers *Camera:* Pat Yonkers

*Sound:* Ruth Pyman *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

*Counters:* Bev Layman, Kathy Luckett

### Serving May 11 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

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

*Worship Leader:* Dirk Fuller

*Greeters:* John Thompson & John Colella

*Computer:* Jim Grace *Camera:* Kathleen Grace

*Sound:* Karen Grace *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

*Tear down:* Nicole & Dan Malseed

*Counters:* Ed Baranowski, Karen Hill

### Serving May 18 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:* Steve Hill, Jim Cavender

### Serving May 18 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 May 25 at 10:00 a.m.:

*Worship Leader:* Rose Emmons

*Greeters:* Cindy Soyars & Ruth McPhail Ubaldo

*Computer:* Aiden Bosch *Camera:* Jason Colella

*Sound:* Pete Thompson *FB Host:* Michelle Frazier

*Tear Down:* Rose Emmons & G.L. Bates

*Counters:* Allen Winslow, Mike Layman

**Golfers wanted** for the 2025 season of the **Monday Men's league at Westwind Golf Course.**

We tee off between 3:45 and 4:15 p.m. League starts April 28 and runs through August 25.

If you're interested, contact Glenn Chilson.



# Lake Harbor United Methodist Church

4861 S. Henry St.

Norton Shores, MI 49441



## 2025

[www.lakeharborumc.org](http://www.lakeharborumc.org)

**(231) 798-2181**

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## Huge Yard & Bake Sale

### for Juvenile Type 1 Diabetes Research

Friday, **May 2**, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (\$5 gets you in at 7:30 a.m.)

Saturday, **May 3**, 8:00 a.m. - Noon (**Everything ½ off**)

**Unity Reformed Church** 1521 Porter Road

(back parking lot)

**Wheelchair accessible**

Mudgie Cavender 231-740-2325

