

Harbor Light

Volume 26.5 May 2026



REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MARY IVANOV

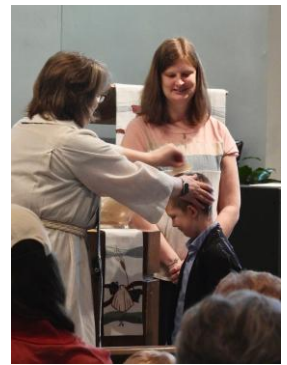
I'm grateful to all those who offered their gifts in worship throughout **Holy Week** and participated in our different opportunities for worship and fellowship, including **handwashing and footwashing on Holy Thursday** and our Prayer Vigil. These are meaningful times of remembering that we're called to **"love boldly and sincerely"** in the name of Jesus Christ.



Easter is a season, and we celebrate the promise of new life and resurrection! In April, we welcomed two **new members**:

Janet Fujita-Skok and **Valerie Benham**.

We also celebrated the baptism of two children. Praise God for the gift of grace!



See you on Sunday, *Pastor Mary*



2026 Michigan Annual Conference: Pastor Mary, Jason Colella, Annette and Pastor Mark Erbes, and Ruth McPhail Ubaldo will be at **Grand Traverse Resort on May 28-May 31** to represent Lake Harbor UMC and engage in worship, legislation, and fellowship. This year's theme is **Love Boldly**. Guided by the Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39), we invite the Holy Spirit to be at work in us and through us as we love God fully and love our neighbors as ourselves. We show that we are Christ's disciples, as we have love for one another (John 13:34-35). Throughout Annual Conference, we will be reminding ourselves and celebrating our identity as United Methodists, Christians always poised and ready to love boldly in the name of Jesus Christ.

And we'll **celebrate with Ruth McPhail Ubaldo as she is commissioned as a Deacon!** We're grateful to be a part of Ruth's journey in ministry and excited for God's work in her life as she is called to serve.

Please pray for all who will gather for this time of holy conferencing. If you're interested to learn more, go to 2026.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 3, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.: “Connect”

Scripture: I Corinthians 12: 12-19

Synopsis: Everything that is created is in relationship with all other things. God’s vision for birds had to do with the quality of the creation of air. How a song is experienced by those who sing it will change the composer’s perception of the song or even the song itself. Nothing exists in isolation. So too for our relationship with others. What happens for humanity is closely related to how we respond to each other. Are we willing to connect and re-vision our lives as we come in contact with others who are not like us? New possibilities await if we are willing to offer ourselves fully and be willing to be changed by our interactions.

May 10, 2026: “Listen”

Scripture: Acts 16: 6-16

Synopsis: “Listening” as part of creativity is about perceiving. We open our senses to see what is emerging. Perhaps what we start doesn’t end up looking like what we thought it would. Instead, once the act of creating begins, we listen to how the Spirit is guiding our next steps and unfolding possibilities we were previously unaware of. Without paying attention in this way, we act as if we have all the answers. And when we are up against something that doesn’t go our way, we see it as a negative. But what if those moments are simply our Creator God inviting us to see new ways of moving forward in our lives?

May 17, 2026: “Resting”

Scripture: Exodus 20: 8-11

Synopsis: Something grossly overlooked in the creative process is the place of effortlessness and play. In the story of creation, God rested. And this was very “good” as well! Staying too focused on deadlines and how every moment can be “productive” robs us of an important feature of what it means to be humans made in the image of God: rhythm. Celebration is necessary along the journey. God’s creativity is ongoing, so while the story said God was “finished” and then rested, really it was simply a pause to reflect, to observe, and to celebrate, and then God continued God’s creative work among us and with us.

May 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.: “A Birthday Celebration”

Scripture: Acts 2: 1-21

Synopsis: You are cordially invited to a birthday party! Are you confused by this invitation? Did you know that the feast of Pentecost is often referred to as “the birthday of the church?” It is called that because Pentecost is when the apostles received the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, and immediately went out among the people and began spreading Jesus’ message, thus establishing the beginning of the Church.

You are invited to dress in **red**, **orange**, or **yellow** as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

“Jesus at the Lake”

Much of Jesus’ ministry took place in and around the Sea of Galilee. What do those stories mean for our life and faith today? For those who live “by the lake,” how does the setting speak to us, encourage us, and challenge us as followers of Jesus?

May 31, 2026: “This Gift of Water”

Scripture: Luke 3: 15-23a

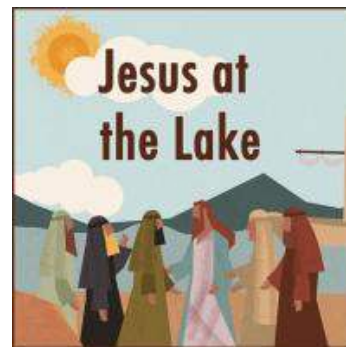
Synopsis: Jesus is named, claimed, and affirmed when he is baptized, and the same is true for us. What does baptism mean to you? How does God’s grace lead you and change your life?

All-Church Worship Brainstorming - "Jesus at the Lake"

Monday, May 4 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30-9:00 p.m. Brainstorming

David & Karen Booth's house

We will have a potluck dinner. Karen is serving pulled pork. Please bring a dish to share. Members of all ages and backgrounds are invited to participate in the one-time commitment. The ideas generated at the brainstorming are used in worship. We'll brainstorm ideas for a 6-week series.



Information is available at church and [online](#). RSVPs are helpful but not mandatory. Sign up at church or contact the church office (213-798-2181 or Office@LakeHarborUMC.org). Please read the Scripture and message synopses and preview the videos before we gather if at all possible.

Directions to the Booth's from church: Take Henry St south to Mount Garfield (1.2 mi), Turn right (west) onto Mount Garfield (0.7 mi). Mount Garfield dead-ends at Lake Harbor. Turn right (north) on Lake Harbor (0.1 mi). Turn left (west) on Westwood Drive (0.2 mi). The Booths have a 1½ story tan brick house on the left side of the street. **Note:** Street numbers will change from the 1500's to the 5700's as the road curves.

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.

Ruth McPhail Ubaldo coordinates the **Celebration Team**. Their **next meeting is Tues., May 12 at 6:00 p.m.**

Thanks to everyone who prepares our sanctuary for worship!

Interested in volunteering during a worship service? Fill out this short form (<https://forms.gle/3KkW4CG1Vn8niuEg7>) to learn more. Once you complete this form, Ruth McPhail Ubaldo or Karen Booth will reach out to you to follow up depending on the service you are interested in volunteering for.



Fellowship Time is offered between worship services, and ice cream is coming soon! We're looking for people to serve. **Sign up** at the Welcome Center.

Please **"Check In"** on Facebook whether you worship in-person or on the livestream. This invites others to get connected if they're looking for a place to worship. Our **YouTube channel** (Lake Harbor UMC) has worship service recordings. Subscribe and share them!



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

Hand bells practice on Sunday, May 3, 17 & 31 at 5:30 p.m.

Choir meets on Wednesdays: May 13 & 27 at 6:30-8:00 p.m. and at 8:15 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Contact Diane Thompson for more information.

PRAISE TEAM rehearses on **Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.** Contact Michael Boersma.



“Lord, Hear our Prayers...”

Our next Prayer Service is **Wed., May 27 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.

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



A new session begins on Mon., Aug. 17. 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.



Breath Prayer is a great tool to center our hearts, especially in anxious times. Try this one based on Romans 8: *Nothing can separate me...from your love.*

Tuesday morning Bible study meets at **10:00-11:30 a.m.** in the Lounge – and on Zoom. New members are always welcome! We’re studying the **Book of Acts**.

Men’s Bible Study meets **Tuesdays (May 5, 12, 19 and 26) at 7:00 p.m.** in the Library. Questions? Contact Mike Layman.

Spirit Sisters Bible Study meets **Wednesdays (May 6, 13, 20 & 27) at 6:00-7:30 p.m.** in the Lounge. We’re finishing our study on the Book of Acts before summer break. All 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 **Adoption and Foster Care Awareness & Support**.

Find our **United Methodist Social Principles** at this link: <https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124>



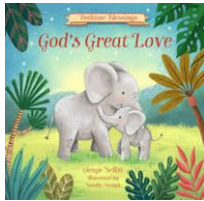
Our **Muskegon Methodist Ministries (MMM) book study** is off to a great start! We’re reading ***Knowing Who We Are: The Wesleyan Way of Grace*** and focusing on our identity as United Methodist Christians. We meet on **Thursdays from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Pastor Mary and other pastors facilitate as **we meet at a different church each week: May 7 – Temple UMC, May 14 –**

Crestwood UMC, & May 21 – Central UMC.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...

Sunday School has wrapped up for this school year. Our Education Team will host some fun outdoor activities this summer. Watching for more details! Here's a cool way to pray! ----->



Children's Sunday is May 3, and we have **one worship service at 10:00 a.m.** Many of our young people will participate in worship, reading and sharing about creative things they do. **Author Glenys Nellist** will be here sharing two of her stories, and every family will receive a copy of one of them! After worship, our HS Youth Mission Team will serve breakfast. A free-will offering will be received to support their trip to Henderson Settlement in July.



Plans are underway for this summer's **Vacation Bible Camp! Snowball Mountain Challenge: With Jesus We Can Do All Things** **June 22-25** from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

We'll be finding our strength in God with activities, life lessons, and laughter – and empowering kids to trust God, share love, and discover they can face any challenge with God by their sides! If you'd like to

register your children, there are forms available, or you can use this link (<https://forms.gle/9rkmJgNmsJXdygUZA>) or the QR code. Watch for a Facebook event that will have postings and updates. If you'd like to help at (or before) VBC, contact Kate Robbins.



Summer Camps: Follow these links to find great options for everyone, including family camping: www.graceoutside.org and www.lakelouisecommunity.org **Scholarships are available too!** 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. LHUMC Camp Scholarship application: <https://forms.gle/THY7GkGVUcSCo2AM9>

Lake Harbor Youth Groups

5th-8th grade at 6:00-7:00 p.m. **9th-12th grade** at 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Youth will meet on **Wednesdays: May 6, 13, and 20.**

Join us for Breakfast in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, May 3** after 10:00 a.m. **Children's Sunday worship** for a time of fellowship and great food! It will be a great opportunity to ask students about our mission trip to Henderson Settlement in Frakes Kentucky in July. Our leaders (pictured here) are planning!





2026 Graduates & families: Please let the office know if you're graduating from high school, college, trade school or a certificate program. Please include your name, school, degree, and plans for the future. We'd like to have a small picture emailed in, too. We'll celebrate your accomplishments in both worship services on **Sun., May 17**. The deadline for photos is Wed., May 13. *December 2025*
College Grads are included!

May 20 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! Come prepared to get dirty and wear shoes! Just because it's our last scheduled meeting of the school year doesn't mean the good times are over. We'll have things happening over the summer. Keep an eye on your E-mail, and check next month's newsletter for some details.

Mission Trip 2026: On July 11-19, we'll be serving in Frakes, Kentucky with Henderson Settlement (hendersonsettlement.com). We'll be doing construction projects. We are so excited to provide this opportunity for our students! And we're grateful for a **grant that we received from the Wisner Family Foundation** to help cover the costs of registration fees and transportation. This is a great blessing as we serve in mission!

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! **The Ross Youth Fund** offers financial support to youth and young adults who are participating in mission opportunities, including our HS Youth Mission trip. **Application deadline is May 17!** The application is available as a Google form at this link: <https://forms.gle/Pu3GGAcbfN68W8HJ9>

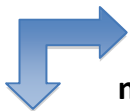
Do you want to help make our Mission Trip a success? There are lots of opportunities - sponsoring meals, a tank of gas, devotion team supplies, and more! You can always make an offering! Look for our "Stock Sale" in June. We're looking forward to an amazing trip and an awesome summer!

PEACE AND LOVE, Jimmy Epplert, Director of Youth Ministries

Contact Info: Cell # (231) 750-9707, peaceandlovejimmy@gmail.com, Facebook = Jimmy Epplert

Young Adult Care Cards: We sent out **36 cards** in April to remind our Young Adults they are important to Lake Harbor and are in our thoughts and prayers.

Young Adults (18-25 years old): Please help us stay connected to you by filling out a **Young Adult Contact Information Form** located at: <https://forms.gle/T3wZLJQptUQ8SoAg8>



Missions Corner: Thank you for helping us serve others in Jesus' name. Our **next meeting is Mon., May 11 at 6:00 p.m.** If you have questions or ideas, please contact the office or Jill McMahon.

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



Thank you for giving generously in order to transform our community and the world!

- Our support for **Native American Ministries** offering is **\$280** (as of April 26).
- **Easter Offering & April Noisy Offering** total is **\$2798** (as of April 26) to support our Ross Youth Fund and missionary Dr. Temab Nkomozepe serving in Zambia, Africa.

Our May Noisy Offering supports an organization called **STARFYSH**. Established in 2010, Starfysh is a grassroots movement to serve the people of the island of La Gonave, Haiti. Starfysh's goal is to **restore dignity and hope** to the 100,000 people who live there, working to bring holistic, sustainable transformation to the island.



May MAP Food Pantry items: Peanut Butter & Jelly and Bar Soap

MAP Clothes Closet: We serve on **Tues. May 5 and Thurs., May 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.**



PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY is celebrated on **May 31**. Our gifts strengthen ministries like refugee resettlement and other justice ministries in our conference and around the world. Thank you for supporting our special giving Sundays!



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.



Kids' Food Basket currently serves **2,700 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>. **Volunteers are needed!**



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

Our next date to serve is June 7-13 providing food items and delivering meals to the **Family Promise Day Center**. Please mark this week on your calendar. If you have questions contact Jill McMahon or Ruth Pyman.

Love INC's Love Café is a **pay-what-you-can restaurant** with a job skills training program located at **557 W. Western Ave. in Muskegon**. Follow our journey on the **Love Café** page on Facebook.



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



Our Care Team meets on **Wed., May 6 at 11:00 a.m.** We're always happy to welcome new members, so please join us!



Lunch Bunch meets on **Tues., May 12 at 12:00 p.m.** at **Russ' (back dining area)**. Everyone is invited! Sign up on the Welcome Center. It's a great way to see friends and meet new people!

80+ Friends: Save The Date! **Wed., June 10** is our **Spring Luncheon**. Invites will be sent out in May.

Ross Park Readers continue to serve in classrooms, and we'll celebrate this ministry on Children's Sunday! Contact Pastor Mary if you're interested in learning more.



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.**

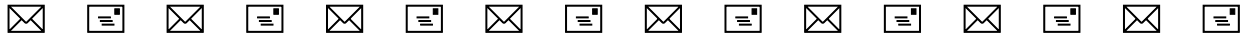
An updated Photo Directory was E-mailed out April 28. If there's a change to your contact information, please contact the office at 231-798-2181 or Office@LakeHarborUMC.org. **It's never too late** to submit or update your photo!

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



Thank you for your generous monetary gift for personal care items! Your support is greatly appreciated. Blessings to all, *The Hope Project Team*

Thank you so much for all the snacks during our conferences! Also thanks for the gift cards! Your thoughtfulness and support is very much appreciated! Love, *Ross Park Elementary Staff*



Our **regular 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 checked on Monday.

Pastor Mary and the church staff will **NEVER** contact you for financial assistance or gift cards. If you ever receive a suspicious call, text, or E-mail message, **please report it to us, block the number or sender, and Do Not Respond.**



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

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 UMCOR's disaster relief and recovery work that helps even local needs or providing 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 2026,** our total income for General

Fund was \$116,435 with expenses of \$107,999. 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 nearly **\$2,800 so far**. God invites us to share God's abundance with others as a sign of the hope of resurrection and new life!

ONLINE giving 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 thankful for your support that makes it possible to care for our physical space. **Gifts to our Preservation Fund are always appreciated** – whether planned or given anytime!

An important note as our Memorial Garden is waking up! 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 will meet at a local park on **Thurs., May 21 at 11:00 a.m.** For location, contact Mary Swisher.



Mudgi's Magnificent Caramel Corn will be available on **Sun., May 10** for \$2.00/bag with proceeds to support Trinity Health Comprehensive Breast Program. Thanks for your support!

Huge Yard & Bake Sale for Juvenile Type 1 Diabetes Research and Trinity Health Comprehensive Breast Program on **Fri., May 1**, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. & **Sat., May 2**, 8:00 a.m. - Noon (**Everything ½ off**) **Unity Reformed Church** (1521 Porter Road) – Contact Mudgi Cavender for more info



Unity Music Festival 2026 is **August 5-8** at Heritage Landing. **The best priced tickets** are only available through the church **during April and May**. Contact the office to order yours. Tickets must be paid for **by Thurs., June 4!**

Sunday Servants

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

Serving May 3 at 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Kids & Youth

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

Computer: Lisa Kasmauski *Camera:* Jean Kelly

Sound: Ruth Pyman *FB Host:* Jill McMahon

Counters: Bev Layman, Kathy Luckett

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

Worship Leader: TBD

Ushers: Bob Keim, Jason Cantu, Taryn Cantu

Computer: Larry Kasmauski *Camera:* Lisa Kasmauski

Sound: Gary Cooper *FB Host:* Jen Cooper

Counters: Ed Baranowski, Karen Hill

Serving May 10 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:* Niki Epplett

Tear down: Dirk & Julie Fuller

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

Worship Leader: TBD

Ushers: Dave Stamy, Ruth Pyman, Adam Pyman

Computer: Ivan Ivanov *Camera:* Derek Mertz

Sound: Rob Mertz *FB Host:* Ivan Ivanov

Counters: Steve Hill, Mike Layman

Serving May 17 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:* Rob & Erin Wheeler

Serving May 24 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, Mudgi Cavender

Serving May 31 at 9:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: TBD

Ushers: Jim Post, Karen Post, Peggy Tully

Computer: Kevin Nelund *Camera:* TBD

Sound: Ruth Pyman *FB Host:* Jenn Tripp

Counters: Bev Layman, Fred Woodworth

Serving May 31 at 11:00 a.m.:

Worship Leader: TBD

Greeters: Sheryl Thompson & TBD

Computer: TBD *Camera:* TBD

Sound: TBD *FB Host:* TBD

Tear Down:

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.