



# The Beacon

Volume 14 No. 2

FEBRUARY 2025

Pancake  
Breakfast



## PANCAKES FOR CALIFORNIA

Recently, a church member proposed a pancake breakfast to raise funds for UMCOR to aid those affected by fires in California. It's important to note that 100% of the donations to UMCOR go directly to helping those in need, with no funds used for administrative costs.

Our church members rallied together to promote the event, posting flyers in local businesses, churches and news outlets, and sharing the information via email

lists and personal Facebook pages.

Many thanks to Cherry Republic who donated cherry-themed products (pancake mix, syrup and hot cocoa mix). We received many compliments on the breakfast and on holding this benefit.

On January 25, about 160 people attended our pancake breakfast and many compliments were received. Donations totaled \$3,440, with contributions coming from both local and out-of-state supporters who had seen the poster online. We will keep you updated on the final accounting. **Total to date: \$4,487.91 [1/28/25]**

This event displayed the community's unity and generosity, highlighting our collective impact in supporting a worthy cause.

*Many thanks to all who supported this event!*





United  
Women  
in Faith

## EMPIRE UNIT – WESTERN WATERS DISTRICT

**Monday, February 3 – 11 AM Meeting**

A Prayer and Self Denial Service will be conducted. Each year the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering supports a United Women in Faith program. This year our gifts will support intentional economic development, microenterprise, job training, and life skills projects around the world. We will learn of one such project in Peru. The suggested sacrificial gift is \$25, but you may give as you can afford and are led to do

so. There will also be a brief pledge time so bring your checkbooks, ladies. Looking forward to seeing you.  
*Jean Petersen*

### Purpose of United Women in Faith

*“shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the Global ministries of the church.”*

### JOIN US ON ONLINE ...

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/northernwatersumw>

Michigan Conference site: <https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/>

National site: <https://uwfaith.org/>

Reading Program: <https://uwfaith.org/resources/2022-reading-program/>



## CARE GIVERS GROUP

*Meets Every Other Wednesday at 11:00 AM*

**FEB 5 – FEB 19**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Barb Foged 231-633-3348 or**

**Kay Coombs 231-227-1051**

The Public is Welcome!



**Worship Services**  
**SUNDAYS - In Person 10:00 AM**  
**Sermons continue Online & Web Site**



## UMCOR DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY- UNITED STATES #901670

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding— that disaster response is local—forms the foundation

for UMCOR's US disaster training and response. When responding to a disaster in the United States, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, expertise, and community collaboration to churches and partners making them more resilient to disasters. **Make your donation by check payable to: Empire United Methodist Church, PO Box 261 Empire 49630 - When forwarding your donation, please note: UMCOR #901670**

*The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways. Through your support, and our church, we fund many projects each year.*



### THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

*In-person or ZOOM at 2:00 PM*

Join us for a study of the Book of Revelation. John teaches that Jesus, the exalted Christ, is the center of faith. Key topics include personal religious experience, God's voice in the church today, advocating for what is right,

distinguishing good from evil, God's redeeming grace, and the covenant with God.

### EMPIRE AREA PAPER PANTRY 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY - FEB 28

**5:00 - 6:30 PM**

We currently serve 12 client families, each consisting of 1 to 7 members. A list of items needed for the Paper Pantry are on a handout posted on the church office door. Your donations are appreciated. Thank You!





# 2025 MISSIONS & PROGRAMS [MAP]

## 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER SCHEDULE

<u>COMMUNITY EVENTS</u>	<u>WORSHIP</u>	<u>COMMUNITY SERVICE</u>	<u>LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS</u>
<b>JAN 25 – PANCAKE BKFT</b> <b>Benefit – CAL Fire</b> <b>victims ✓</b> <b>\$4,487.91 UMCOR</b>	<u>“Bread, Bath &amp; Beyond”</u> Worship series ✓	GL Teachers/Staff Appreciation gifts ✓ AA, NA, Caregivers, ✓ Women’s 12-step ✓	2025 Giving Tree –lobby Paper Pantry Socks-Homeless ✓ BACN – Monthly Offer. ✓
<b>FEB</b>	<u>“Bread, Bath &amp; Beyond”</u> sermon series	AA, NA, Caregivers, Women’s 12-step	2025 Giving Tree – lobby Paper Pantry Socks – Homeless UMCOR- Disaster Relief
<b>MAR 22 Chili Cook Off</b> w/EACC.	Ash Wed 2/14 Service 4 PM sermon series	AA, NA, Caregivers, Women’s 12-step	2025 Giving Tree – all year-lobby Paper Pantry Socks - Homeless



### Notes to the Congregation ...

To the Congregation of the Empire UMC – Thank you, so very much, for your kind & thoughtful donation to our Student Assistance Fund this holiday season. Helping families with fuel during the Christmas festivities truly helps families put money towards making their Christmas extra special. We appreciate you & are so fortunate & grateful to have you in our community.

*With love, the Glen Lake Counseling Department [Glen Lake Community Schools]*

Dear Congregation, Thanks so much for the very generous gift! It is a privilege to be able to contribute to the worship service and play for the congregation. Your kind words of appreciation are more than enough!

*Claudia Bomersback*

Dear EUMC, I want to thank the congregation and administration for my very generous Christmas bonus. It was greatly appreciated!  
 God Bless you all, *Carole Merillat*

## A REFLECTION ...

In January 2024, Empire United Methodist Church identified the need for revitalization to serve the evolving needs of its congregants and neighbors in a dynamic world. Under the leadership of Mark Fiedler, retired MI Conference consultant, congregational meetings were held at EUMC to establish a process for church growth. Consequently, a 5-year "visioning process" was initiated, structured into yearly quarters.

As part of this process, innovative "outreach" events were planned for one year. We collaborated with various organizations within the Empire area, other churches, and charitable entities. Remarkably, we achieved **all** our goals.

Our church stands as a testament to embracing change and is expanding its outreach efforts within the Empire community. In our second year, 2025, we aim to replicate the success of 2024. We are actively exploring new partnership opportunities and planning new events to further share God's love with our neighbors. *sm*

# Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

**FEB 22 Empire Winterfest** *watch for details* EACC-sponsored

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**MAR 22 1:00-3:00 PM** Empire Town Hall

Registration Required – only 10 entries available – Deadline: March 15 – Call 989-560-1667 –  
Fundraiser for the Empire Food Pantry & Empire Paper Pantry -  
Empire United Methodist Church -sponsor

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**APR 19**

**COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT**

Johnson Park, Empire  
Sponsored by EACC, EUMC

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**APR 20 FREE Community EASTER HAM DINNER**

12:00-2:00 PM at Empire United Methodist Church –  
Call 231-326-5510 to reserve your party, “take-out” available

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# ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

**JANUARY 5, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Pastor Melody & Denny Olin, Sandy Mallory, Roger & Beth Noonan, Aggie Wilson, Roy Pentilla, Kay & Jim Coombs, Bill & Jan Lyon, Tom & Jean Peterson, Meredith Goodrick, Jim & Gerrie Sorbie, Roger & Carol Merillat, Kay Wilcox

Sandy Mallory, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:55 a.m. and Pastor Melody opened with a prayer.

## **PASTOR'S REPORT -**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Planning:**

- Pastor Melody is working on plans for the Lenten worship services; **Ash Wednesday is on March 5.**
- **Easter worship service** and the **FREE Community Easter Ham Dinner - on April 20.** The menu will be ham, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, rolls and dessert. Advertising for these events will begin in February. *PLEASE spread the word, too! If you received a poster by email - please forward to those you know, or groups you belong to!*
- **1<sup>st</sup> Responder Appreciation Day & Pig Roast – Sat. June 14** - plans are being made. If you are interested in participating in the planning phase or other duties, please contact Donna Haiderer.
  - A tasting of new menu side dishes offered by Mark's Pig Roasting Co. will be held at the VFW in Cadillac. See Denny Olin if you are interested in attending.

**2024 goals were reviewed.** We accomplished all goals for community outreach and mission projects.

**STAFF PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS** - Tom Petersen announced there will be an SPRC meeting on February 11.

**FINANCE** - Roy Pentilla gave the treasurer's report. The Huntington payroll account will be closed as soon as the last payroll is processed with Quick books through H&R Block. State Savings Bank will begin processing EUMC payroll and all EUMC accounts will be handled by them. After training on the new system, Meredith Goodrick will assume EUMC payroll and checks processing.

**TRUSTEES** - Jean Petersen reported that we are caught up on **maintenance** except for:

- large window in the paper pantry. It is broken, will not stay shut, and needs to be replaced. Tim Egeler is working on it.
- The old organ has been removed from the sanctuary and the piano from fellowship hall is now in its place. Claudia will investigate getting the piano tuned.
- Harriger's continue to do our snow plowing and shoveling.
- Denny Olin asked to have someone investigate the front door lock mechanism - hard to open.

**WORSHIP & Nurture** – Worship service plans for January & February are being planned; hoping to have special music in March.

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH** - Will meet on January 6 at 11:00 a.m. Monthly programs are being developed.

**MISSIONS** - **BACN** [Benzie Area Christian Neighbors] is the monthly mission for January.

- Meredith asked if we could investigate supporting Traverse City Central United Methodist Church's homeless ministry. Jim Sorbie will check into it.
- Next paper pantry is Tuesday, January 28 from 5:00 - 6:30 PM. All items are needed for the pantry, and, for your convenience, a list is posted on the church office door. Volunteers are also needed. **VOLUNTEERS - Please sign up for the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday during 2025!**

**OTHER BUSINESS** - EACC is planning to do a Winter Fest on February 22; we may participate once Pastor Melody finds out the details.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Motion by Tom Petersen to adjourn; Second by Bill Lyon. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING - February 2, 2025, after worship**

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Noonan, recording secretary



## MONTHLY CALENDAR

1<sup>ST</sup> Sunday of every month

**Holy Communion served**

*"Take communion as often as you can. It is food for the journey."*

**All are welcome!**

- **Leelanau Area Food Pantry Collection** - Donations of canned goods and packaged food are collected for the Leelanau Area Food Pantry. The pantry is always in need of volunteers. Please contact Elaine Pentilla for more information.

- **Administrative Council meets after worship!** **FEB 2, 2025**

*Your participation and service are appreciated!*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

Worship Team

10:00 AM

United Women of Faith

11:00 AM

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month

### Food Pantry collection

- ❖ **Leelanau Area Food Pantry Collection** - Donations of canned goods and packaged food are collected for the Leelanau Area Food Pantry. The pantry is always in need of volunteers. Please contact Elaine Pentilla for more information.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month:

**EMPIRE PAPER PANTRY**

**5:00-6:30 PM**

- ❖ **Do not forget the Socks Box in the Lobby for the TC homeless!** We will continue to collect socks throughout the Fall/Winter months!
- ❖ **MISSION OF THE MONTH Offering** – Throughout the month, currency and coins may be placed in the tin buckets on the tables at the back of the sanctuary. The "**Mission of the Month**" offering helps a wide variety of charities and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (for local families in need). Global, Conference and local charities are selected throughout the year for this offering. If you have any suggestions or questions about selections, please contact Jim Sorbie, chair of the Missions Team.

## **Be the church!**

*Whatever your passion/interest may be! Sing in the choir, be an usher or greeter,*

*serve as a host, work with the tech team or any other way to serve!* Ask the pastor how you might be able to serve, including sending out cards or making phone calls to people on the church prayer list. Don't wait for someone to ask you to use your God-given gifts and talents.

Offer yourself in service.



#### DATE

FEB 2

FEB 9

FEB 16

FEB 23

#### HOSTS

Kay Coombs

Sandi Flack

Jean Petersen

Meredith Goodrick

#### COUNTERS

Gerri Sorbie, Barb Smith

Jan Lyon, Beth Noonan

Tom Petersen, Sandy Mallory

Kay Wilcox, Meredith Goodrick



**Serving as the Hands & Feet of Christ**  
**141 Years in Empire**  
**1884 – 2025**



*The Beacon* is published monthly by The EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Our mailing address: PO Box 261 – 10050 Michigan Street, Empire, MI 49630. 231.326.5510 [www.empireumc@gmail.com](mailto:www.empireumc@gmail.com). Information and items for publication must be received at the church office by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

***EUMC Mission Statement***

*“To live out a faith in Jesus Christ through our efforts to hear others, share in God’s truths, join in worship, and celebrate in the Joy of God’s grace.”*

**SUNDAY**

**10:00 AM**      **Worship Service**  
**7:00 PM**      AA Group

**MONDAY**

**9:00-1:00**      **Church Office**      **OPEN**

**(4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY of the month)**

**5:00-6:30 PM**      Paper Pantry

**WEDNESDAY**

**9:00-1:00**      **Church Office**      **OPEN**  
**8:00 PM**      NA Group

**THURSDAY**

**9:00-1:00**      **Church Office**      **CLOSED**  
**2:30 PM**      Bible Study  
**3:45 PM**      Choir Rehearsal [Resumes in March]

**CHECK EMAIL – FACEBOOK - WEBSITE  
FOR CURRENT INFORMATION**



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