



# The Beacon

Volume 14 No. 1

JANUARY 2025





United  
Women  
in Faith

## EMPIRE UNIT – WESTERN WATERS DISTRICT

### Monday, January 6 – 11 AM Meeting

Our January meeting will be on the 6th at 11:00. Hope to see many of you there to start the new year. Anyone interested in attending **virtual mission u**? [See info below] We can meet at the church, or since it will be late (9pm), when each session is done, we can join from home. The unit does have 1 copy of the study book which we could copy for each session, or you can order a book.

The **deadline is Jan. 3.**

*God bless your new year ... Jean*

## JOIN US FOR MISSION U IN 2025

**VIRTUAL MISSION U - registration is open!**

**Thursdays: 6:30-9:00 p.m.**

**January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025**

*Couldn't attend the Mission u in July? Now is your chance to participate virtually on your own or gather a small group of people from your church as we discuss the 2024 theme of 'Welcome Home'. Together, we will explore how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us while we discover what it means to live in the kin-dom of God and how this helps us develop practices for healthier communities. This inspiring study will be led by Steve Taylor, an active Home Missioner from the North Carolina Conference. Enroll yourself or a small group of up to five people for \$30 plus the cost of your book. Registration deadline is January 3. For more information or to register, visit [this link](#) or contact Mission u Registrar Sally Messner at [mimissionu@gmail.com](mailto:mimissionu@gmail.com). This class has been approved by the Michigan Conference Lay Servant Ministries Team as a renewal class for Certified Lay Speakers and Certified Lay Ministers.*



### 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 ...

**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/>

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



## CARE GIVERS GROUP

Meets Every Other Wednesday at 11:00 AM

**JAN 8 – JAN 22**

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

**Kay Coombs 231-227-1051**

EUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL

The Care Givers Group Welcomes all - Open to the public

## MINISTRIES



In 1983 the Benzie County worship communities joined together to serve Neighbors struggling with critical human needs. Since those humble beginnings Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN) has transformed from a charity providing basic needs to a community nurturing the spirit of those they serve. The philosophy serving with dignity and respect has become a trademark for BACN and its belief that all Neighbors have gifts to give and needs to be met is the premise in which the organization operates today. Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN) is dedicated to enhancing the quality of lives. BACN is a tax exempt 501c (3) non-profit human services organization providing services for people of all ages throughout the Benzie/northern Manistee County area.

**Make your donation by check payable to: Empire United Methodist Church**

**PO Box 261 Empire 49630 - When forwarding your donation, please note: BACN**

*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

**Resumes JAN 2**

We continue study of the Book of Revelation. Join us for interesting and informative discussion. John is teaching that Jesus, the exalted Christ, is the center of faith. "Some

of the major ideas explored are personal religious experience, the living voice of God in the church today, advocating for what is right, distinguishing between good and evil, God's grace seeks to redeem, and covenant with God.



 **The Giving Tree** Gift and gas cards were plentiful! Thank you for your generous donations this year. The cards were distributed in time for Christmas and the recipients were so appreciative! ❤️ *“The Giving Tree” was established in memory of Micki Barr who advocated for those in need in the Empire community.*



I want to give a big thank you to the congregation for the lovely card and gift. It was very kind and generous. I am truly blessed to be your Pastor.  
----- *Pastor Melody*

My heartfelt thanks to everyone for the beautiful cards and gifts this Christmas. I am very grateful to be working here with such wonderful people. ----- *Christine*



### ***EMPIRE AREA PAPER PANTRY***

***4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY - JAN 28***

***5:00 – 6:30 PM***

*Need Volunteers – sign-up sheet on table in fellowship hall!*

We have 12 client families, serving 1 to 7 in a family. We would like to see at least 12 of each product stored on our shelves before the next Paper Pantry. Thank you!



# ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL



**NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 5 *after Worship Service***

*On the agenda: 2024 in review; Team Meetings; 2025 Events*

∞∞ **Your participation is appreciated** ∞∞

## ADMINISTRATION

Ad Board Chair	*Sandy Mallory
Recording Secretary	*Beth Noonan
Treasurer	*Roy Pentilla
Financial Secretary	*Gerri Sorbie
Membership Secretary	*Gwen Denny
Trustees & UMW President	*Jean Petersen
SPRC Chair	<b>*Tom Petersen</b>
Missions Chair	*Jim Sorbie
Lay Leader	*Jan Lyon
Lay Member to Ann.Conf.	*Roy Pentilla
Pastor Melody Olin	<i>(non-officio member)</i>

## Staff Parish Relations Committee

*Barb Foged	*Tom Petersen (chair)
*Roger Noonan	*Kay Wilcox
*Roy Pentilla (lay member to ann.conf)	
*Jan Lyon (Lay Leader)	
Pastor Melody Olin <i>(non-officio member)</i>	

## Finance/Stewardship

\*Meredith Goodrick (chair)  
 \*Roy Pentilla (Treasurer/Lay Memb. to Ann. Conf)  
 \*Gerrie Sorbie (Financial Secretary)  
 \*Sandy Mallory (Ad Board Chair)  
 \*Jan Lyon (Lay Leader)  
 Pastor Melody Olin *(non-officio member)*

## Trustees

*Gwen Denny	*Candy Hasselbeck
Tim Egeler	*Tom Petersen
*Jean Petersen (chair)	
Christine Adams (Custodian)	
Pastor Melody Olin <i>(non-officio member)</i>	

\*denotes member

## Worship & Nurture

\*Sandy Mallory  
 \*Jean Petersen  
 \*Jan Lyon (Lay Leader)  
 \*Carole Merillat (Pianist)  
 Claudia Bomersbeck (Pianist)  
 \*Donna Haiderer (choir director)  
 \*Shirley Solem (summer communion steward)  
 \*Jan & Bill Lyon (winter communion stewards)  
 Denny Olin (tech-booth)  
 \*Tom Haiderer (tech-booth)  
 \*Jan Lyon (tech-booth)  
 Pastor Melody Olin *(non-officio member)*

## Christian Education

\*Candy Hasselbeck (chair)

## Memorials

Aggie Wilson (chair)  
 Pastor Melody Olin *(non-officio member)*

## Nominations

*Bill Lyon	*Elaine Pentilla
*Jan Lyon (Lay Leader)	
Pastor Melody Olin <i>(chair)</i>	

## COMMUNITY MINISTRY

## Hospitality/Welcome

\*Jan Lyon  
 Pastor Melody Olin *(non-officio member)*

## Outreach

\*Jim Sorbie (outreach chair)  
 \*Laurie Taghon – summer prayer chain  
 \*Sue Palmer – winter prayer chain  
 \*Elaine Pentilla – Empire Area Food Pantry  
 \*Shirley Solem – Compassionate Care Chair  
 \*Jim Sorbie – Website coordinator  
 \*Sandy Mallory – Facebook coordinator  
 Pastor Melody Olin *(non-officio member)*

# Embracing Christian Stewardship: Nurturing Generosity & Responsibility

At its core, Christian stewardship is about recognizing that we are not owners but rather caretakers of God's creation. This perspective fundamentally shapes how we view our possessions, talents, time, and resources. It challenges us to shift our focus from selfish accumulation to selfless service, from consumption to contribution.

One of the central themes of Christian stewardship is the concept of tithing – the practice of giving a portion of one's income to support the ministry of the church and to help those in need. While the act of tithing is often associated with financial giving, it extends far beyond mere monetary contributions. It encompasses the holistic stewardship of all aspects of our lives. Stewardship invites us to reflect on the question: How can we use our gifts and graces to bless others? This mindset fosters a spirit of generosity that goes beyond meeting our own needs to actively seeking ways to uplift and empower those around us. Whether it's volunteering at a local shelter, mentoring a struggling youth, or simply offering a listening ear to someone in distress, every act of kindness is an expression of stewardship.

Moreover, Christian stewardship compels us to be mindful of the impact of our choices on future generations. It calls us to be responsible stewards of God's creation by advocating for policies and investing with value-aligned principles that promote sustainability and justice. It challenges us to confront issues of inequality and injustice and to recognize that these systemic problems are not just social obstacles but moral imperatives that demand our attention and action.

In practicing Christian stewardship, we find fulfillment and purpose beyond material wealth or personal gain. We discover the joy of giving, the satisfaction of making a difference, and the peace that comes from living in alignment with our values. Christian stewardship is a sacred calling to participate in God's ongoing work of renewal and reconciliation in the world. Ultimately, Christian stewardship is a journey – a continual process of growth and transformation as we learn to live more fully into the abundant life that God desires for us. It invites us to cultivate a mindset of abundance and to trust in God's provision and grace as we seek to share our blessings with others.

In a world marked by division, greed, and uncertainty, the message of Christian stewardship offers a beacon of hope and healing. It reminds us that we are all interconnected as children of God and called to love and care for one another as faithful stewards of God's gifts. May we embrace this sacred calling with a spirit of humility, gratitude, and generosity, knowing that in serving others, we are truly serving the One who has entrusted us with all.

**Rev. Dr. David S. Bell, President and Executive Director**  
**December 2024**

**United Methodist Foundation of Michigan** *[The EUMC Endowment Fund is with United Methodist Foundation of Michigan]*

### TALK TO JESUS

- Tell him about your **week**
- Tell him about your **dreams**
- Tell him what you're **afraid** of
- Tell him what you're **learning** about
- Tell him about a **decision** you're facing
- Tell him what you're **discouraged** about
- Tell him what you need his **help** with
- Tell him what you need his **forgiveness** for
- Tell him how he's **blessed** you
- Tell him what you **love** about him







## 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! JAN 5, 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**

JAN 5

JAN 12

JAN 19

JAN 26

#### **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

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



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