



The Beacon

Volume 14 No. 3

MARCH 2025

Lent begins - “Lookin’ for Love”

Ash



love
and

participate in the “turning around” of the world.

Wednesday, a “marker,” starts a journey of self-reflection and repentance. The origin of the word “repentance” means “turning around,” aiming to restore our relationship with God. In a sense, we are looking for love once again. When we look to God for – not simply for the approval of others – start with our own “turning,” we

Come join us as we begin our Lenten journey of “Lookin’ for Love”*

**Sermon Series [WDS]*

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5 - 4:00 PM Service

“Looking for Love”

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9, the 1st Sunday of Lent

“Look for the Resister”

Psalm 32, Matthew 4:1-11 (MSG)

March 16, the 2nd Sunday of Lent

“Look for the Helper”

Psalm 121, John 3:1-17

For

March 23, the 3rd Sunday of Lent

“Look for the Thirst-Quencher”

Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:13-14

March 30, the 4th Sunday of Lent

“Look for the Shepherd”





United
Women
in Faith

EMPIRE UNIT – WESTERN WATERS DISTRICT

MARCH 3 11:00 AM Meeting Program

Pledge Service – Business Meeting:

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR SOUL CARE: 40 WAYS TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

By BARBARA L. PEACOCK BAKER BOOKS (2023). In this world of frantic activity and constant entertainment, it can be hard to identify and embrace the rhythms that lead to true flourishing. Here, author and spiritual director Barbara L. Peacock offers a way to integrate inner growth into the realities of your outer life through 40 ways to help put spiritual disciplines into action each day. From prayer and

meditation to serving and socializing to resting and healing, these simple, restorative practices will help readers develop the kind of Christian walk they desire.

The 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.”

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



Registration for the 2025 Michigan Annual Conference, “Unfinished: Growing Up and Into Christ,” opens Saturday, March 1.

JAMES DEATON -

Content Editor, UMC Michigan Conference

Lay and clergy members of the Michigan Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will meet for business, fellowship, and worship from May 30 to June 1, 2025, at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme, near Traverse City.

Annual Conference begins with the Opening Worship and Memorial Service on Friday, May 30, and concludes at 2 pm on Sunday, June 1. The clergy session will be held on Thursday, May 29.

Bishop David Bard will preach during the opening service, and you'll have a chance to give toward an offering benefiting two longstanding mission partners: Haitian Assets for Peace International (HAPI) and the Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village. Bishop Bard has designated a 10% tithe to go to UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery, most recently addressing devastation from Hurricane Helene on the East Coast and the California wildfires.



Registration opens on **Saturday, March 1, at 9:00 am Eastern / 8 am Central.**

COMMUNITY



Saturday, March 22

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Empire Town Hall
Front St., Empire, MI 49630

As you taste, vote with \$\$ for winner! Chili with the most \$\$ wins!

REGISTRATION Required

Call 989-560-1667

for

Entry Rules/Registration

BENEFIT: Empire Area Food Pantry & Paper Pantry

Sponsored by Empire United Methodist Church & Supported by Empire Area Community Center



EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Present: Pastor Melody Olin, Denny Olin, Sandy Mallory, Sandi Flack, Jan Lyon, Bill Lyon, Meredith Goodrick, Roy Pentilla, Tom Petersen, Jean Petersen, Aggie Wilson, Tim Egeler, Roger Merillat, Carole Merillat

Sandy Mallory, chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and Pastor Melody Olin opened with prayer. Sandy made one correction to January minutes – ***Pig Roast is June 14th***. Minutes **corrected and approved**.

CALIFORNIA FIRES BENEFIT REPORT – To date, \$4,487.91 has been donated to UMCOR-CAL Fires.

2025 PIG ROAST UPDATE – April 19th at 1:00 p.m. tasting in Cadillac to pick sides to go with the pork. Denny said that anyone wanting to go can let him know. St. Philip Neri, Lion's Club, & EACC will help with this event. Donna Haiderer is team leader. Anyone who would like to be on this committee, please contact Donna.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Meetings/events attended in January: Clergy Group HUB at EUMC, EACC regular monthly meeting, EACC Winterfest planning, Trustee meeting, helped person from community get needed funds, caregiving for individuals from church/community individuals, Weekly Bible study, worked at fundraiser for CAL fire victims, paper pantry, conference paperwork
- Upcoming events: Worship Team 2/3, UWF 2/3, Trustee meeting, SPRC 2/11, MAP meeting 2/10, meet with Karen from Single MOMMS from Benzie, EACC regular monthly meeting, EACC Winterfest mtg, weekly Bible study, volunteer for Winterfest 2/22, Clergy group from district at Leland UMC, worked at paper pantry 2/25.
- Currently working on: Chili Cook-off for 3/22, Lenten services/sermons, helping Christine update church website.
- Pastor will be at Lake Huron for the Board of Ordained Ministry interview week 3/10 thru 3/14. Tom Petersen will cover congregation care that week.

Pastor stated she needs to adjust her work schedule to ensure Friday is her sabbath day. She has neglected to do so lately.

LAY LEADER – No Report

STAFF PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS – Tom Petersen said the team will meet on 2/11 to work on sick leave as we need to comply with new law.

FINANCE – Tom Petersen made a **Motion** to name Meredith Goodrick as Empire United Methodist Church Treasurer; Roy Pentilla **seconded**; motion **passed**. No revenue was recorded for January because it isn't going to be reported until the last day of the month with the new Quick Books Program. Meredith suggested that we meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month so that the financial report will show the total revenue amount deposited for the prior month. **[Consensus]**

TRUSTEES – Our insurance company has informed us that we need to update our sexual abuse/misconduct policy. The MAP Task Force Meeting is 2/10. The church needs to purchase three new computers as the ones we have are ancient. A new printer was purchased for Pastor's office. Continues on next page ...

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING Minutes continues ...

WORSHIP & NURTURE – Pastor Melody reported that two baby/toddler highchairs were purchased, and one was used at the pancake breakfast fundraiser.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH – we will meet tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. program on prayer and self-denial will be held.

MEMORIAL – No Report

MISSIONS – Paper pantry 2/25 at 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Need items and workers/volunteers. Monthly Mission is UMCOR – Disaster Relief -US.

OTHER BUSINESS – none

ADJOURNMENT – Tom moved to adjourn; Tim seconded.

Passed

NEXT MEETING – March 9th after church [second Sunday of the month]

Respectfully Submitted, Carole Merillat

MARCH 9

A



Easter Egg Hunt

When: Sat., APRIL 19

(weather permitting)

Where: Lion's Club Park

(James R Johnson

Park)

Time:

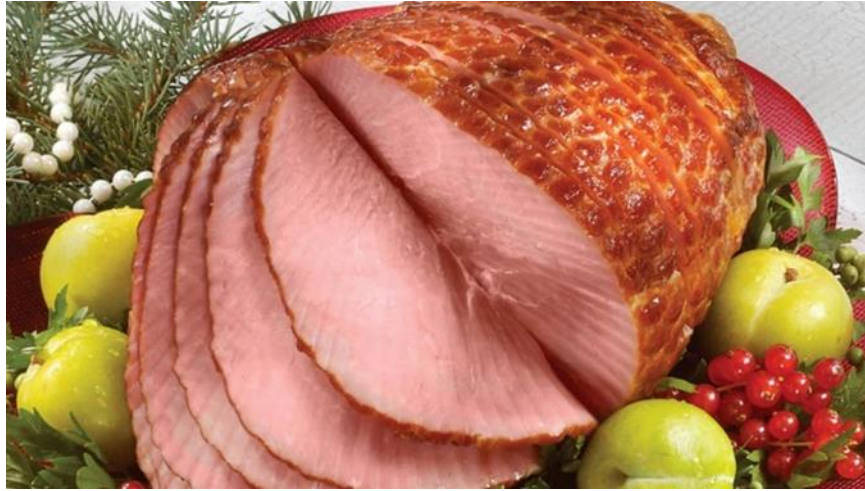
11:00 AM

Kids – Bring a basket for your eggs. The Children (ages 0-12) will be put in age groups to hunt in a specific area of the park.

Candy Donations that will fit in plastic eggs are appreciated!

(Sponsored by Empire UMC and the Empire Area Community Center)

FREE FREE FREE COMMUNITY EASTER DINNER



SUNDAY, APRIL 20
12 – 2:00 PM

“Take-Out” available

Call us – Let us know how many in your party!
231-326-5510

EMPIRE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
10050 MICHIGAN ST, EMPIRE

Benefit: Empire Area Paper Pantry
Bring a new personal hygiene product!



TC Safe Harbor for the Homeless

Food, Shelter, *Hope*

Safe Harbor supports the physical and spiritual welfare of people experiencing homelessness by providing emergency shelter, food, and hope.

It is a non-profit, volunteer-run Seasonal Emergency Shelter and a year-round Housing & Human Services Resource Center located in Traverse City. As part of the Continuum of Care, it also focuses on

community partnerships in order to better collaborate on long-term solutions to ending homelessness in our region.

Dedicated to the preservation of the physical health and spiritual welfare of adults experiencing homelessness, Safe Harbor offers food, shelter, and hope for their guests.

Safe Harbor is 100% volunteer operated. This means your donation goes directly to the shelter functions.

Make your donation by check payable to: Empire United Methodist Church, PO Box 261

Empire 49630 - When forwarding your donation, please note: TC Safe Harbor.

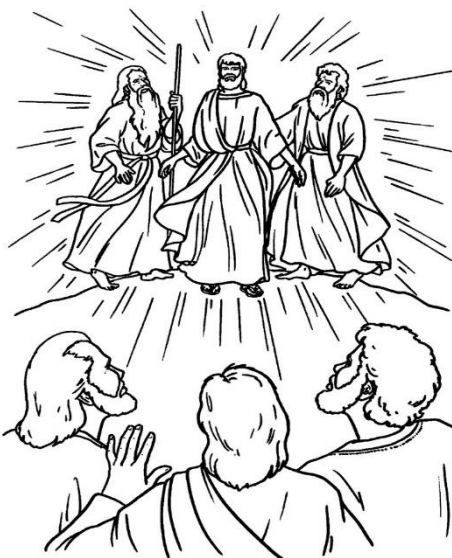
The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways. Through your support, and our church, we fund many projects each year.

PAPER PANTRY UPDATE ...

ALL items on the Paper Pantry shopping list are needed to restock the shelves. 28 people were served at the February pantry.

Please send/bring your donation [\$\$ or purchased items] for the next **PAPER PANTRY – MAR. 25, 5:00 TO 6:30 PM.** And, don't forget to sign up for work (4th Tuesday of the month).

Thank You!



Sunday, March 2 is Transfiguration Sunday. The "transfiguration" is a unique event in the Gospels. Matthew 17:1-8 says: ...Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; one for you, if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for Moses and one for Elijah. While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; and with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. (Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36)



1st Sunday of the Month HOLY COMMUNION

"Take communion as often as you can. --
It is food for the journey."
welcome!

All are



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. Your participation and service are appreciated!

1st Monday of the month

Worship Team

10:00 AM

United Women of Faith

11:00 AM

2nd 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.

- ❖ **Administrative Council meets after worship!** **MAR 9, 2025 NOTE CHANGE!**

4th 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

HOSTS

MAR 2
MAR 9

Kay Coombs
Sandi Flack

MAR 16
MAR 23
MAR 30

Jean Petersen
Meredith Goodrick
Sandy Mallory

COUNTERS

Gerri Sorbie, Barb
Jan Lyon, Beth

Tom Petersen, Sandy Mallory
Kay Wilcox, Meredith Goodrick
Kay Coombs, Gerri Sorbie



Smith
Noonan

**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. Information and items for publication must be received at the church office by the 3rd 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**

(4th 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**



**EMPIRE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
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