



THE BEACON

Monthly Newsletter

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OCTOBER 2025

The Vision of The United Methodist Church



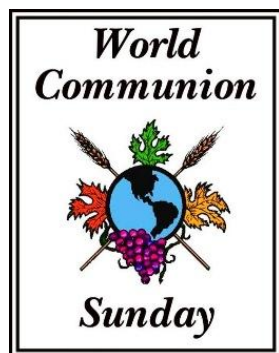
Stepping in faith into a new season of ministry

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections.

Love Boldly: We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. (Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35)

Serve Joyfully: With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy. (Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10)

Lead Courageously: Following Jesus' example, we resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. (Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10)



OCTOBER 5 ...

United Methodist churches observe [World Communion Sunday](#) on the first Sunday in October. The observance focuses the attention of United Methodists on the universal and inclusive nature of the church. Offerings collected in United Methodist churches on World Communion Sunday are used to fund scholarships for young scholars and seminarians. Donations equip racial and ethnic-minority students in the United States and international students to transform the church and communities. Half of the proceeds from the offering are for World Communion Sunday Scholars administered by the General Board of Global Ministries. The remaining half

is to be used for the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program, which are administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Your donation can be mailed to EUMC - PO Box 261, Empire MI 49630; or dropped in the collection plate on Sunday, October 5.

After assassination, bishops urge peacemaking

By Heather Hahn

Sept. 12, 2025 | UM News

UMC Bishops Issue Statement Condemning Political Violence

Key points:

- United Methodist bishops call for prayers and actions for peace following a school shooting and the assassination of activist Charlie Kirk.
- They wrote as people across the political spectrum debate the legacy of Kirk, whose death follows a growing number of politically motivated acts of violence.
- The bishops roundly condemned violence in all its forms and urged churchgoers to emulate Jesus.

Subscribe to free e-newsletter: UM News Digest featuring important news and events in the life of The United Methodist Church at UMNews.org.



Ministry Spotlight: Free Community Easter Dinner

For the past three years, EUMC has hosted a free Community Easter Dinner as part of its outreach efforts. Each year, a welcoming meal of ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, dessert, and beverage is served to anyone in the community who wishes to join.

Volunteers greet guests, prepare the meal, serve and clean-up. - The more the merrier!

If you feel called to help with this ministry, in 2026, —whether by serving on the team or supporting efforts to enhance our presence in village activities and events—please reach out to Jean Petersen, chair of the Ministry and Programs Outreach Team.

Empire United Methodist Church - Vision Statement:

A community who goes out, serving in love, sharing Christ.
“Go, Serve. Share Christ.”



Empire Unit – UWF

We will meet on **Mon., October 6, at 11:00 AM** in Fellowship Hall. **All are welcome!**

Program: *World Thank Offering* – Giving as an Expression of our Faith. Focus: How does giving cultivate hope?

Bring your donation/offering box to our meeting!

Fall/Winter Planning: Lions Dinner 11/ 3; and Christmas Luncheon [date, program,

menu, decorations]. Your input is valuable; please attend this annual event planning.

Western Waters District United Women in Faith Annual Brunch & Celebration Held

The annual brunch and celebration for the Western Waters District United Women in Faith took place on September 20 at Georgetown United Methodist Church in Jenison, MI. Attendees included Jean Petersen and Sandy Mallory, who represented the Empire Unit, UWinF. The event's central theme was "Supporting Women Around the World."

Jody Pratt, a longtime advocate for women in faith and an engaged member of Middleville UMC, was the invited speaker. Pratt serves as the Michigan Conference Volunteer in Mission (VIM) Coordinator and trains volunteers for both VIM and Early Response Volunteers (UMCOR) within the North Central Jurisdiction. Her service includes leading domestic missions from Benton Harbor to God's Country Cooperative Parish in Newberry, Michigan, as well as coordinating international teams to Russia, Puerto Rico, and Peru.

Intergenerational mission teams have assisted communities along the Amazon River basin, focusing on health care for women and children. The upcoming 2025/2026 mission team will serve in the Lima/Callao area, aiming to address urban poverty. Youth and the Women's Federation of Callao supports this effort.

During her talk, Jody Pratt described the transformative effect of international mission trips on her life. She recounted witnessing severe poverty and the profound changes brought about by disaster, while also forming lasting friendships. Mission volunteers, she emphasized, truly become the hands and feet of God in their work.

Ingathering items helped to stock the Community Cupboard shelves at Georgetown UMC with toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, shampoo/conditioner and soap. Donations for the Peru mission trip were also received.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month



– Pastor Appreciation Sunday - 10/12

Pastors put in long hours, often working more than 40 hours a week and remaining on call every day. Let's recognize how much we value our pastor!



**SUN., OCT. 5 3:00-5:00 PM ANNUAL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE
@TC Central United Methodist Church**

On Sunday, Oct. 5, our church conference at Traverse City Central UMC is at 4:30pm. *The 3:00-4:30 pm gathering time is for all the HUB churches. During this time we will be expanding on Radical Hospitality themes.*

**OCT 13 -14-15-16 10 AM-12N “GONE FISHIN’ - Fall Faith Adventure”
VBS for Adults – *sign up sheet on table***

FRI., OCT 31 5:30 PM Halloween Trunk or Treat - Front St @ The Library

EUMC will be serving **FREE** Pork Sliders, Hot Dogs, Hot Cocoa & Water, under the canopy!
Volunteers needed – ***signup sheet on table by kitchen!***



Reading is Fundamental (District Project)

ReadGR, an affiliate of Reading is Fundamental (RIF), launched in 2017 when a local school district cut the RIF program from all of their schools including all RIF staff. Parents, educators, and book lovers from all around the greater Grand Rapids area rallied to continue this

program. **ReadGR** is supported through Western Waters District Ministry Shares and direct gifts. **ReadGR** is thrilled to partner with local congregations and businesses to bring the love of reading to at-risk students in various charter schools along with Godfrey Lee, Godwin Heights, Kentwood, and Northview Public School districts.

The Executive Director of **ReadGR** is Becca Walsh Wolfe. Visit StorytimeGR to learn more: <https://www.storytimegr.org/>

Mail your donation to: Empire UM Church, PO Box 261, Empire 49630 Attn: ReadGR

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.

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

PAPER PANTRY UPDATE ...



ALL items on the Paper Pantry shopping list are needed to restock the shelves monthly. Donations accepted during open hours of church office or on Sundays after worship.

Please drop off items or send your donation [\$\$] for the next **PAPER PANTRY** on **OCTOBER 28, 5:00 TO 6:30 PM.**

**** Volunteer serves 1-1/2 hours on the 4th Tuesday of the month [you choose the month] to help distribute paper pantry items to community families at EUMC. Volunteers appreciated. Thanks!**



CARE GIVERS GROUP

Meets Every Other Wednesday at 11:00

OCTOBER 1 – OCTOBER 15 – OCTOBER 29

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Barb Foged 231-633-3348 or Kay Coombs 231-227-1051

EUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL -

Public Welcome

May this FALL season be of renewed faith, hope, and community. Whether you are traveling or staying close to home, know that you are in our prayers and forever part of our church family. Let us walk together, trusting God to lead us into the fullness of His love and purpose. With blessings and joy,

The Empire United Methodist Church Ministry & Programs Team



FIRST SUNDAY of the month

HOLY COMMUNION served
*“Take communion as often as you can.
... It is food for the journey.”*
ALL ARE WELCOME!

SECOND SUNDAY of the month Food Pantry collection

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

FIRST MONDAY of the month

Worship Team	10:00 AM
United Women of Faith	11:00 AM

FOURTH TUESDAY of every month:

EMPIRE PAPER PANTRY - 5:00-6:30 PM

Volunteer sign-up sheet on table in Fellowship Hall

Year-round Mission Giving – Check out the Lighted “Giving Tree” in the Lobby!

- ❖ *Do not forget the Socks Box for the TC homeless! Thanks for your support to “Safe Harbor.”*
- ❖ *Paper Pantry products! Your donations are appreciated.*

MISSION OF THE MONTH Offering – This month, place checks, cash, or coins in the buckets at the back of the sanctuary. The “**Mission of the Month**” supports various charities and the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund for local families in need. Global, Conference, and local charities are chosen year-round. For suggestions or questions, contact Jim Sorbie, Missions Team chair.



HOSTS

Oct 5	Kay Coombs
Oct 12	Sandi Flack
Oct 19	Jean Petersen
Oct 26	Meredith Goodrick

COUNTERS

Gerri Sorbie, Tom Haiderer
Jan Lyon, Beth Noonan
Tom Petersen, Sandy Mallory
Kay Wilcox, Meredith Goodrick

Thank you for serving!

Adult Fall Faith
Adventure (VBS)



"Gone Fishing"

(The greatest fish stories ever told)



Oct. 13th-16th
10a - noon

Call: 989-560-1667 to register by 10/10/24

WOW! Our 4th Annual Fall Adventure (VBS) just for ADULTS!

(Because aren't we all kids at heart?)

***Come join us for this 4-day Adventure where we will
talk about some of the greatest fishing stories ever told,
along with some hands-on crafts,
play awesome games, eat yummy snacks and just
have some great community fellowship!***

Come for all 4 days or just for a day or two or three

Whatever works for you!

**Empire United Methodist Church
10050 W. Michigan St.
Please call by Oct. 10th to register
and let us know which days you will be attending.
call Pastor Melody at (989) 560-1667**



Join Us For

Trunk *or* Treat



October 31st

DOWNTOWN EMPIRE
In front of the Library
5:00 – 6:30 PM

Empire United Methodist Church
will be serving:
FREE pulled pork sliders, hot dogs, hot cocoa, water

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Sign up sheet on Table next to kitchen!





EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"An Anchor in the Community"

1884 – 2025

The Beacon is a monthly publication of The Empire United Methodist Church. Contact us at PO Box 261, 10050 Michigan Street, Empire, MI 49630, by phone at 231.326.5510, or email eumc@gmail.com. Submit items for publication by the 3rd Wednesday each month.

Our 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."

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM – Worship Service	7:00 PM AA Group
MONDAYS	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Church Office open	
WEDNESDAYS	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Church Office open	
	11:00 AM – Care Givers Group every other week	
	12:30 PM – 12-Step Women's Group	8:00 PM – NA Group
THURSDAYS	Church Office closed	2:00 PM – Bible Study
		3:45 PM – Choir Rehearsal





**EMPIRE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
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