



THE BEACON

Monthly Newsletter

VOLUME 14 Vol. 9

SEPTEMBER 2025

Ministry Spotlight: Paper Pantry Ministry

“The Paper Pantry, located at Empire United Methodist Church, will open ...” marked the introduction of this community outreach initiative in the February 2022 monthly newsletter. The announcement noted the regular operating hours: the pantry is open on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. This program was established to complement the Empire Area Food Pantry operated by Glen Lake Reformed Church in Burdickville.

The Paper Pantry provides a selection of personal toiletries and hygiene items, including bath and hand soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, razors, and other hygiene products. In addition, essential household supplies are offered, such as toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, laundry detergent, cleaning products, and dishwashing liquid.

All donated items must be new, unopened, and in their original packaging. Donations should be made in conveniently sized packages, as bulk quantities cannot be redistributed.

Currently, the Paper Pantry supports up to 25 families. Funding is generated through an annual Chili Cook-Off and contributions from other local organizations.

If you feel called to serve on this team or contribute in some way to promote our participation and visibility in village activities and events, please contact the Ministry and Programs outreach team chair, Jean Petersen.

Empire United Methodist Church - Vision Statement:

A community who goes out, serving in love, sharing Christ.

“Go, Serve. Share Christ.”



Thursday, September 4 2:00 PM Bible Study – Tom Petersen, leader

Monday, September 8 11:00 AM United Women in Faith
Business meeting, Fall/Winter events planning, program

Sunday, September 14 10:00 AM Worship Special Music: Choir
After Worship Assemble Teacher Appreciation Gifts for September, January and May;
snacks provided in Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, September 18 5:45 PM Staff Pastor Parish Relations
Committee** w/Dist. Superintendent via ZOOM, Fellowship
Hall

Saturday, September 20 7:00 AM UWF District Annual Conference
@ Georgetown UMC; \$20 registration deadline Sept. 13

Tuesday, September 23 5:00-6:30 PM PAPER PANTRY
Volunteers needed

ANNUAL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, OCT. 5 - 4:30 PM

**Traverse City Central
United Methodist Church**



Making disciples is part of the mission of The United Methodist Church, but many people wonder what it looks like in practical terms. Pastor Laqaan Malachi suggests: "embracing opportunities to meet people where they are, so that we might walk alongside them as God has walked alongside us."

Thursday Bible Study Resumes September 4

The Thursday Bible Study at 2:00 pm will resume on September 4. The following Books of the Bible will be covered this Fall:

Philippians, Colossians, 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, 1st and 2nd

Timothy, Titus, and Philemon, beginning with Christ's

obedience and ending with Christian refreshment. Some of the major ideas explored are obedience, faith and action, coming of the Lord, Christian endurance, and the life of grace in the church.

This revision of the Abingdon classic Genesis to Revelation series is a comprehensive, verse-by-verse, book-by-book study of the Bible based on the NIV. These studies are 13 weeks each and help readers strengthen their understanding and appreciation of the Bible by enabling them to engage the Scripture on three levels: 1 – What does the Bible say? 2 – What does the passage mean? 3 – How does the Scripture relate to my life?

The meaning of the selected passages is made clear by considering such aspects as ancient customs, locations of places, and the meaning of words. The simple format makes the study easy to use. To sign up and purchase a study book, please see Tom Petersen.

*Dr. Van Bogard Dunn, was Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus at
The Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, Ohio.*

NEED PRAYER? *A Community Prayer Request Box for community use* is in front of Empire



United Methodist Church, located at 10050 Michigan Street, Empire.

This ministry offers intercessory prayer for those without a church family, those attending a church without a prayer ministry, or those seeking anonymity.

Fill out a prayer request form found on the prayer box and place it in the locked mailbox.

For immediate needs, contact Pastor Melody at 989-560-1667.

Our Prayer Team maintains confidentiality and prays every Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

FOR SEPTEMBER – Haiti Children’s Project (Haiti #3020507) & Water for Life (Liberia #3020811)



HAITI: Children’s Project #3020507 - Providing life-changing health care and education services, including treatment of chronic illnesses like tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, to children and their family for over 50 years. **and/or**
LIBERIA: The Water for Life project #3020811 is a grassroots initiative and seeks to address the water and sanitation needs of affected communities through the following means:

Seek resources (funding) for the construction of 40 wells and 30 toilet facilities within communities and schools. ***Please be generous!***

Mail your donation to: Empire UM Church, PO Box 261, Empire 49630 Attn: Haiti #3020507; Liberia #3020811

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



Empire Unit – UWF

Due to the Labor Day holiday, our next meeting is Monday, **September 8 at 11 AM.**

Program: Business meeting and Fall/Winter Planning | **All are welcome!**

• **Western Waters District United Women in Faith Annual Brunch & Celebration is Saturday, September 20, 2025**
10 a.m.–1 p.m. (doors open at 9:30 a.m.) @ Georgetown United Methodist Church - 2766 Baldwin St., Jenison,

Michigan. COST: \$20 by **September 13 Registration DEADLINE.** We will carpool, 7:00 AM, from EUMC. See Jean Petersen for more information.

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.

In AUGUST 25 people were served. Please bring or send your donation [purchased items or \$\$] for the next **PAPER PANTRY** on **SEPTEMBER 23, 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 AM

SEPTEMBER 3 – SEPTEMBER 17

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

EUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL - Public Welcome

Thank You to Our Paper Pantry Volunteers

Gratitude for Your Dedication and Service

To all the incredible volunteers who give their time and energy to EUMC's Paper Pantry, thank you. Your generosity, kindness, and commitment make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. It is through your teamwork and compassion that the Pantry continues to be a welcoming resource and a source of dignity for our community. We are deeply grateful for your efforts and spirit.

Thank you for showing up, for caring, and for making the once-a-month pantry [4th Tuesday 5:00 to 6:30 PM] a success.

EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2025 MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2025

PRESENT: Donna Haiderer, Jean Petersen, Tom Petersen, Denny Olin, Melody Olin, Sandy Mallory
Jean opened with a prayer.

FIRST RESPONDERS' APPRECIATION DAY/PIG ROAST – Donna Haiderer

The 2026 event is *Tentatively* set for June 20, 2026, with confirmation from the Lions Club in October. The 2025 event in June was successful; great response from the 1st Responders; community attendance more than doubled from 2024; good pig roast food and better deal on food; added cookies which 1st Responders really enjoyed [*thanks to the Olins*]; EUMC team plans to attend 2026 “tasting” for new/added menu items by caterers. A “well-oiled” machine thanks to support from team members from EACC, Lions Club, and St. Philip Neri Church.

- **Sponsor support** was great and covered all expenses - \$2400 raised, plus enough for 2026 deposit to caterer: Cherry Republic, Art's Tavern, Shipwreck, EACC (*Empire Area Community Center*), Blue House (*Haiderer's*), Northwoods Hardware, Harriger's, Jim & Claudia Bomersback, On the Narrows Marina, Storm Hill HOA, Hometown Pharmacy, Empire Family Dental, Misers Hoard/Empire Chamber of Commerce
- No newspaper coverage by Leelanau Enterprise; made contacts by phone, emailed news releases, personal invitation! *Maybe next year!*

Suggestions for 2026:

- Move date to 3rd Saturday in June. The M22 Challenge Race is held annually on the 2nd Saturday of June and relies on coverage provided by Leelanau County 1st Responders.
- Reduce rental number of port-a-johns to 1 handicapped; Lions Club offered use of their restrooms.
- Clean port-a-johns after event
- Yard Signs – purchase and place Sunday before event.
- Sign – Portable Marquee – Lions Club? Or other? Advertising on M22 -M72 corner at least the day of event.
- *Re-cap event* meeting immediately following event with reps from EUMC, EACC, Lions Club, St. Philip Neri Church.

TRUNK OR TREAT – OCT 31

- MENU: Pulled pork sliders, hot dogs, hot cocoa, water; no chips [had a lot left over last year].
- Set up: 2 canopy tents [12x12, 10x10] on hand; pulled pork in roaster; hot dogs served from crock pot; hot water cooler for cocoa; water-small bottle case(s). Need slider rolls, hot dog rolls
- If any Donations: will go to Food/Paper pantries; container to be provided by Pastor Melody.

TEACHERS' APPRECIATION GIFTS – Donna Haiderer

- Sept. 14 – after Worship – assemble gifts
- Announce to congregation via worship announcements, through The Beacon, Facebook, website
- Distribute: to Glen Lake School system - September, January and May

SHARING NEW IDEAS:

1. LEFT-OVER FOOD from Church dinners, gatherings

Distribute to those who are homebound, ill, after funerals, people living alone, or facing hardship (e.g., Lions chicken dinner, Easter ham dinner, women's luncheon, etc.).

- A dedicated Outreach Coordinator, in partnership with volunteers, will maintain a list of community members who may benefit, including homebound individuals and families identified through church records, referrals, and previous participation.
- Members of the congregation and community can request food either by calling the church office, submitting a request through the bulletin, or signing up via the church's website.
- Volunteers will deliver meals to recipients as needed following events, ensuring timely support.
- Criteria for receiving leftovers include living alone, recent illness, bereavement, or other circumstances that limit access to nutritious meals.

Food Handling and Tracking:

- Leftovers will be repackaged, stored in the freezer, and clearly marked with dates for placement and removal to ensure safety and freshness.
- Communication Methods: Announcements about the program and upcoming deliveries will appear in worship bulletins, newsletters, and on the church's Facebook page and website.
- Direct outreach will be made through phone calls to known individuals in need and families who may benefit from the service.
- Updates and reminders will be given during church services, and special highlights will be shared in The Beacon and on the church website.

Purpose: To free up freezer space and eliminate waste of good food, while providing comfort, nourishment, and support to those who need it most.

Goal: Ensure that surplus food from church events reaches people who may be overlooked, fostering a sense of community care and stewardship of resources.

- **Impact:** The program will share stories of how this outreach has supported individuals and families in times of challenge, celebrating both reduced food waste and strengthened community bonds. Future communications and reports will highlight these successes to encourage ongoing participation and awareness.

2. VISITATION TEAM TO NEW/CURRENT APT RESIDENTS [ACROSS THE STREET]

Two to three team members visit new apartment complex residents with a "Welcome to the Neighborhood" greeting, fostering a warm and supportive first impression. During each visit, the team will:

- Introduce themselves, explain the purpose of the Visitation Team, and outline how they support new and current residents.
- Offer a brief overview of available services in the area, including the food pantry, paper pantry, Leelanau County services, and options for rides to medical appointments.
- Ask residents if they have immediate needs, questions, or concerns and provide thoughtful, responsive answers.
- Share a printed list or contact card with key phone numbers, websites, and directions for follow-up support.
- Encourage ongoing communication, making residents feel comfortable reaching out whenever help is needed.

PURPOSE: "Welcome to the Neighborhood" via Visitation Team

GOAL: Ensure all new residents are aware of and feel comfortable accessing local support services, fostering a sense of community and belonging.



3. COMMUNITY FAIR in 2026

A public exhibition will be held to display local organizations that provide services to newcomers and community residents.

- Fellowship Hall will serve as the venue for these organizations to present information and demonstrate examples of their work.

Purpose: Disseminate information via public notices, apartment complex laundry room postings, newspapers, Facebook, EUMC website and the organization's website to ensure the community is informed about this outreach opportunity.

Goal: Offer comprehensive details regarding the services available to community members.

4. COOKING CLASS FOR SMALL HOUSEHOLDS – SMALL GROUP

This initiative offers hands-on cooking classes for individuals or small households interested in preparing different recipes (*including some gluten-free and vegan*) and using modern kitchen appliances. The classes are designed for those living alone or with one to two others, with a focus on practical cooking methods and recipes tailored for smaller portions or specialized diets.

- Each session will cover using appliances such as air fryers and instant pots, and feature step-by-step demonstrations on preparing quick, healthy meals.
- Small groups of up to 10 participants will attend each class, with a \$10 fee per person to cover the cost of ingredients.
- Attendees are asked to RSVP with payment in advance to secure their spot, ensuring a guaranteed and manageable class size.
- Participants will leave each session with practical skills, new recipes, and the confidence to prepare healthy, delicious meals at home.
- The program also fosters a sense of community, allowing attendees to connect with others who share similar interests in healthy cooking.
- Volunteer recruitment will focus on finding individuals with different cooking experiences (*including some gluten-free or vegan cooking*) or proficiency with kitchen appliances like air fryers and instant pots. Volunteer recruitment will focus on finding individuals with different experiences in cooking (including some gluten-free or vegan cooking) or proficiency in using modern appliances like air fryers and instant pots.
- Outreach to recruit volunteers will include announcements at community events, social media posts, and word of mouth through local organizations.
- Classes will begin in January 2026 and be held once a month during the winter, scheduled during daytime hours for accessibility.



PURPOSE: To help those in small households (1-3 people) learn how to cook healthy, smaller meals, including gluten-free and vegan options—using modern appliances.

GOAL: Provide clear, actionable cooking guidance and foster community connections, starting January 2026.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, NOV. 17 @ 10:00 am

May this SEPTEMBER be a season 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*



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.



SEP 7	Kay Coombs	Gerri Sorbie, Tom Haiderer
SEP 14	Sandi Flack	Jan Lyon, Beth Noonan
SEP 21	Jean Petersen	Tom Petersen, Sandy Mallory
SEP 28	Meredith Goodrick	Kay Wilcox, Meredith Goodrick

Thank you for serving!



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



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