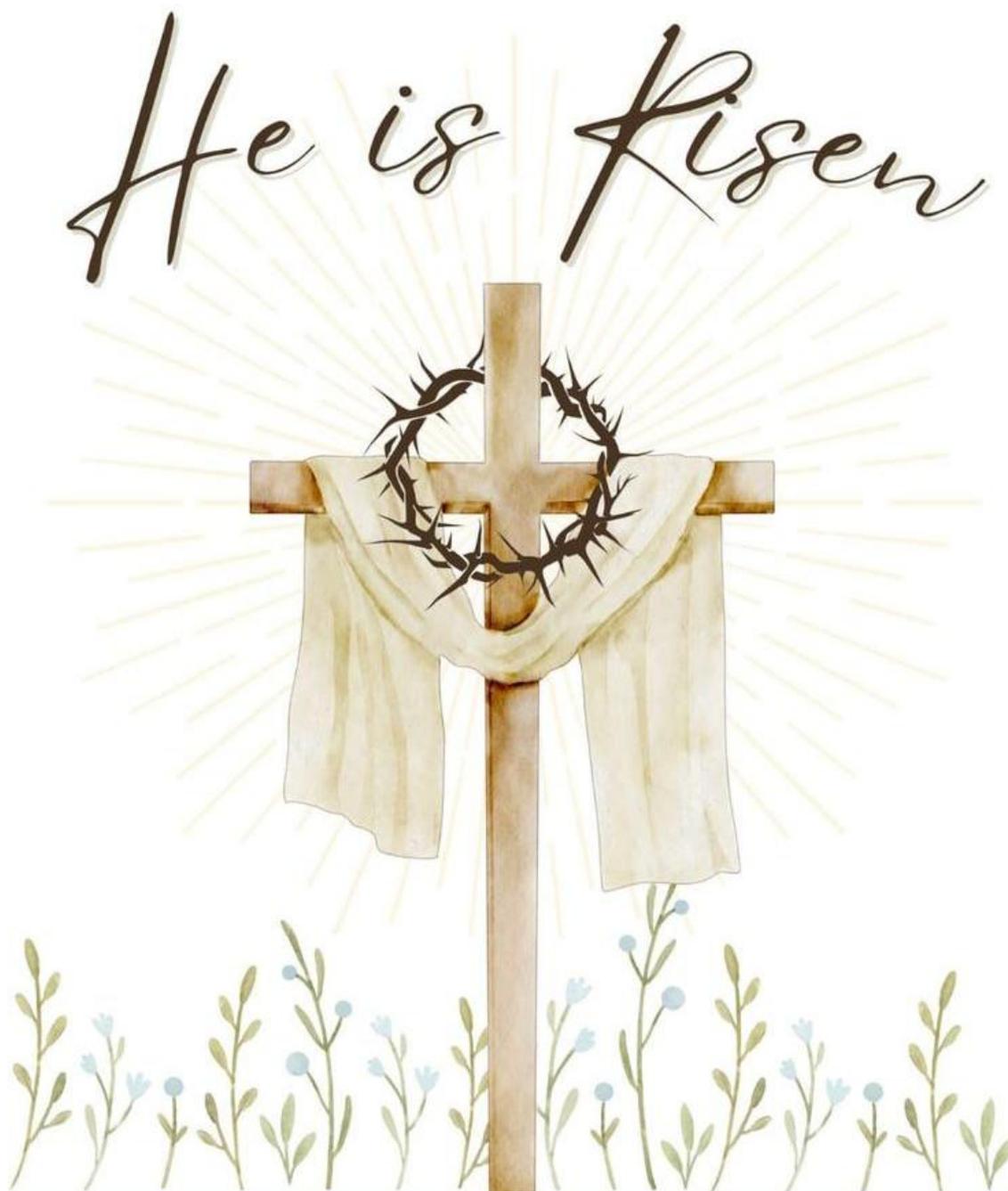


**Empire United Methodist Church**

**THE BEACON**

Volume 15 No. 4

APRIL 2026



# Community Events



## **Good Friday Service - April 3 4:00 PM**

---

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

When: Sat., APRIL 4

*(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)*

---



## **COMMUNITY EASTER DINNER**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

**12N – 2:00 PM “Take-Out” available**

**Reserve a Spot! 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**

## Join us for a FREE Community Easter Dinner!

Everyone is welcome to enjoy a delicious Easter Ham Dinner at the Empire United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 5, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Take-out options are available. Reserve a spot by calling 231-326-5510 and let us know how many will be in your group!

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate with your neighbors.



### **The Michigan Conference celebrates increased financial giving in 2025** ***Thanks local churches for their commitment to connectional ministry within our conference and beyond.***

**JAMES DEATON** Content Editor, **MICconnect** 3.4.2026 [Excerpts]

The Michigan Conference UMC released its 2025 year-end financial report, and there is good news to share. Last year, local United Methodist churches increased overall financial giving through [Ministry Shares](#) by 2.4%, raising the total collection rate to 80.8%, up from 78.4% in 2024.

There are 539 local churches that pay Ministry Shares, and 350 of them paid 100% or more of their apportionment. These statistics indicate that 65% of local churches met their 2025 Ministry Shares budget. *[Empire UMC paid 100% in 2025]*

“We are so grateful for the generous donations from all churches that contributed in 2025!” said Angie Anger, Chief Financial Officer. “It is heartening to see the improvement from the previous year, and we’re thankful that churches that might have been struggling over the last few years were able to contribute. Every gift is significant as we partner together in shared ministry.”

Looking ahead to this year’s giving, the overall collection rate for January 2026 was 3.8%, 1.3 percentage points higher than in January 2025. Conference leadership hopes this news, along with the positive trend shown in 2025, signals more dialogue and awareness of the impact of financial giving and a slight mindset shift within the conference as healing continues post-disaffiliation, local churches rediscover focus post-pandemic, and United Methodists find value in connectional ministry.

Rev. Leslee Fritz, Special Assistant to the Bishop for Mission and Budget, works closely with the finance staff and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration to help interpret annual conference budgets. She sees the impact of better communication within the Michigan Conference on how Ministry Shares relate to local church ministry and budgeting.

Fritz noted, “The conversation about our need for all churches across the conference to do their part to help fund our shared ministries and mission is having a positive impact. We are grateful for the many churches that made this a priority in 2025 and believe we will continue to see positive growth this year.”

This shift in giving coincided with the release of the denomination’s [new vision statement](#), one year after the historic 2020 / 2024 General Conference. The vision statement reads: ***“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.”***

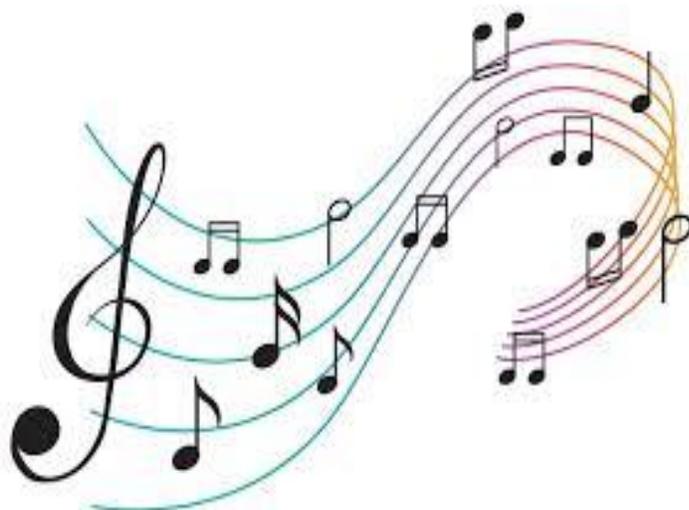
## ***Do You Sing in the Shower . . .? or . . . the Car?***



### **Join our EUMC choir!**

#### **Why Sing?**

- Singing improves breathing. When you learn to sing, you learn to breathe well, use your diaphragm and increase your oxygen intake and lung capacity
- Singing is an aerobic activity that increases overall health. It exercises major muscle groups in the upper body, helping to improve the efficiency of your cardiovascular system and encourages you to take more oxygen into your body, leading to increased alertness,
- Singing boosts confidence. The act of learning a new skill, improving, and being a part of a group helps to influence your confidence and self-esteem.
- Singing is a mindful activity that can reduce stress and increase focus. For one hour, you can fully focus on the sound, the breathing, and the joy of singing for our Lord.



#### **The Logistics:**

- We rehearse every Thursday from 3:45-4:45 pm.
- We share an anthem with the congregation each month (April- December).
- You don't need to know how to read music.
- You can miss rehearsals ... it's okay!
- We typically sing one or two-part music, so our choir is for MEN and WOMEN.

*This is your invitation to just show up at a rehearsal and decide for yourself.*

Call or text me if you have any questions. **Donna Haiderer 248.459.7631**



# Highway Spring Cleanup

## Volunteers Needed

**Sunday, May 3 – 1:00 PM**



*Spring is just around the corner! It's time to do EUMC'S part for God's creation!*

Through the Michigan Adopt-A-Highway program, Empire UMC maintains a section of M22 between M109 (Dune Hwy) & Welch Road, cleaning it several times each year.

- Park on Burnham Road (off M22).
- Wear light-colored clothing suitable for the weather, gloves, and sturdy shoes.
  - Safety vests and MDOT trash bags will be provided.

## We Glen Lake Schools Teachers & Staff

To show our deep appreciation for their hard work, caring and love for God's children, our congregation prepares about 150 gifts with messages of encouragement that are delivered three times each school year.

- In October 2025, they received packages of mints with a tag that said, **"Thank you for your commit-"mint" to our kids!"**
- In February 2026, they received pens with a tag reading **"You HapPEN to be INKredible! We are so thankful for you!"**

This month, we will prepare our May delivery of Skittles that will include the message **"We hope this brightens your day! We appreciate all the great work you do."**



## CARE GIVERS GROUP

*Meets Every Other Wednesday at 11:00 AM*

**APRIL 1 - 15 - 29**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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

*The Public is Welcome!*



# Church Council Meeting

The second quarter meeting will take place on Tuesday, **April 7 at 7:00 PM** in the fellowship hall. We strongly encourage you to attend, as we need to address and resolve important issues.



## EMPIRE AREA PAPER PANTRY

**4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY - APRIL 28 - 5:00 – 6:30 PM**

We currently serve 15 families. A list of needed Paper Pantry items is posted on the church office door. Donations are appreciated—thank you!

### *Empire United Methodist Church - Vision Statement:*

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

**PLEASE NOTE: WORSHIP TEAM WILL MEET APRIL 13 @ 9:30 AM**

## EMPIRE UNIT – WESTERN WATERS DISTRICT



### **Monday, APRIL 13 – 11:00 AM Meeting**

ALL women of EUMC are invited and encouraged to attend the monthly meeting. Hope to see 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>

## On the 1st Sunday of every month

**Holy Communion served** *All are*

*welcome!*

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

**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.*

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

- **Worship Team** **10:00 AM** *(unless otherwise noted)*
- **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 or interest is, get involved! Join the choir, greet guests, help as an usher, host events, support the tech team, or serve in any other way.* Reach out to the pastor to find out how you can help—perhaps by sending cards or calling those on the church prayer list. Don't wait for an invitation; use your unique gifts and talents to make a difference.



#### **DATE**

APRIL 5  
APRIL 12  
APRIL 19  
APRIL 26

#### **HOSTS**

Kay Coombs  
Sandi Flack  
Jean Petersen  
Meredith Goodrick

#### **COUNTERS**

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

**Thank You for Serving!**



## EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"An Anchor in the Community"*

**1884 – 2026**

**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 [empireumc@gmail.com](mailto:empireumc@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 – 1:00 PM Church Office open	
WEDNESDAYS	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM 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 – Resumes in March



**EMPIRE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
PO Box 261 – 10050 Michigan Street  
Empire, MI 49630

Rev. Melody Olin, Pastor  
(231) 326-5510  
Cell: (989) 560-1667  
Email: [empireumc@gmail.com](mailto:empireumc@gmail.com)  
Facebook.com/Empire United Methodist Church  
Website: [www.empireumc.org](http://www.empireumc.org)