



Empire United Methodist Church

“An Anchor in the Community since 1884”

THE BEACON

Volume 15 No. 2

February 2026

FUNDS RAISED FOR SIEDLACZEK FAMILY

Emit Siedlaczek, a 13-year-old seventh-grade student at Glen Lake Community Schools, recently experienced a serious accident at home that resulted in second- and third-degree burns covering over 30 percent of his body. He is currently receiving treatment at DeVos Children’s Hospital in Grand Rapids and faces an extended period of recovery.

Empire United Methodist Church initiated outreach to the community with the goal of raising funds to support Emit’s immediate family during this challenging period. The family is coping with lost income, frequent travel between their home and Grand Rapids, temporary displacement from their residence, and the potential loss of most of their possessions—all while supporting Emit’s ongoing medical needs.



A Pancake Breakfast was hosted at Empire United Methodist on January 31 to support Emit and his family. While the final amount is still being calculated, approximately \$3,000 was raised during the event. The exact amount will be announced as soon as available.

THANK YOU ALL
for your support!

Glen Lake students served!





UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Feb 1	10:00 AM	Worship Service
	7:00 PM	AA Group
Monday, Feb 2	9:00 to 1:00	Church office open
	11:00 AM	United Women in Faith meeting – Pledge Ceremony
Wednesday, Feb 4	9:00 to 1:00	Church office open
	10:00 AM	Grief Support Group - Contact B. Foged, K. Coombs
	11:00 AM	Caregivers Group
	12:30 PM	12-Step Women's Group
	8:00 PM	NA Group
Thursday, Feb 5	2:00 PM	Bible Study

Sunday, Feb 8	10:00 AM	Worship Service
	7:00 PM	AA Group
Monday, Feb 9	9:00 to 1:00	Church office open
	10:00 AM	MAPS meeting
Wednesday, Feb 11	9:00 to 1:00	Church office open
	12:30 PM	12-Step Women's Group
	8:00 PM	NA Group
Thursday, Feb 12	2:00 PM	Bible Study



Sunday, Feb 15	10:00 AM	Transfiguration Sunday – Worship Service
	7:00 PM	AA Group
Monday, Feb 16	9:00 to 1:00	Church office open PRESIDENTS' DAY
Tuesday, Feb 17	11:30 AM	Mardi Gras Luncheon @ St Philp Neri – sign up
Wednesday, Feb 18	9:00 to 1:00	Church office open
	10:00 AM	Grief Support Group - Contact B. Foged, K. Coombs
	11:00 AM	Caregivers Group
	12:30 PM	12-Step Women's Group
	5:00PM	ASH WEDNESDAY – Imposition of Ashes
Thursday, Feb 19	2:00 PM	Bible Study



Sunday, Feb 22	10:00 AM	Worship Service – 1st Sunday in Lent
	7:00 PM	AA Group
Monday, Feb 23	9:00 to 1:00	Church office open
Tuesday, Feb 24	5:00-6:30 PM	Paper Pantry open
Wednesday, Feb 25	9:00 to 1:00	Church office open
	12:30 PM	12-Step Women's Group
	8:00 PM	NA Group
Thursday, Feb 26	2:00PM	Bible Study





ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

PRESENT: Pastor Melody & Denny Olin, Sandy Mallory, Kay Wilcox, Roy Pentilla, Roger & Carole Merillat, Jim & Gerrie Sorbie, Meredith Goodrick, Roger & Beth Noonan

- Sandy Mallory called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. and Pastor Melody opened with a prayer.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Roger Noonan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Oct. 13, 2025 meeting, second by Meredith Goodrick. ***Motion approved.***

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Melody reported that Ash Wednesday is February 18 and the beginning of Lent.

- Chili cook-off is scheduled for March 21
- Easter egg hunt – Saturday, April 4.
- Pastor and Denny attended “game night” at the Empire Townhall and had a good time. It is held every Wednesday from 6-8 PM. The Empire Lions Club hosts “Euchre” from 1-3 every other Friday.
- Pastor Melody is setting up visits with the congregation.
- In planning stage for setting up an October Community Fair that will be geared toward senior citizens.
- She will meet with Tom Petersen to plan SPRC quarterly meetings.

FINANCE: Meredith Goodrick gave the treasurer's report. She reported that there is \$800 in the United Methodist Men's account but this group no longer exists. The money will be deposited into the general fund. She also reported that we will now be withdrawing \$4,000 a month from the Endowment fund instead of \$3,000.

TRUSTEES: Jean Petersen sent an email report:

- Women's Rest Room: both toilets were replaced as the old ones were malfunctioning and increasing the water bill. They could no longer be economically repaired.
- Glen Lake Electric fixed the parsonage generator as rain and then snow froze inside it.
- Jean would like to schedule a trustee meeting for February 1.

MINISTRIES & PLANNING (MAPS) REPORT:

- Pastor Melody and Jean Petersen visited the neighbors in the apartments
- 2025 Trunk or Treat report.
- The 2026 Pig Roast scheduled for June 20, 12N-2:00 PM. The deposit for the food has been paid. The next MAPS meeting will be held on February 9.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH: Jean Petersen sent an email report:

The UWF Christmas luncheon was a success. Gratitude was shown to the teams responsible for organizing the program, planning the menu, and creating the table decorations.

WORSHIP & NURTURE: Pastor Melody and Worship Team have sermons and services planned through Easter. She stated that the Christmas Eve service went well and thanked the Haiderer's for creating the manger; Sandy Mallory for the star; and Claudia Bomersback for the music, and all who helped to decorate the sanctuary.

MISSIONS: The January Mission of the Month is Benzie Area Christian Neighbors. The upcoming Paper Pantry will be held on January 27 from 5:00–6:30 p.m. December saw an abundance of donations, thanks to contributions made during the Christmas luncheon and from EACC. A shopping list of items needed can be found on the church office door. Personal hygiene and cleaning supplies are always in demand.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Two months ago, EACC started a new fund for donations to the Paper Pantry or Food Pantry.
- Denny Olin contacted Spectrum again and was able to secure a lower price for internet and phone services for the parsonage.

ADJOURNMENT: Roger Noonan made a motion to adjourn at 11:45. Second by Roy Pentilla. Approved.

NEXT MEETING: 2ndQtr April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Noonan, recording secretary



Thursday Bible Study

2:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

It's not too late to take part in our new study of the Books of Hebrews; James; 1st & 2nd Peter; 1st, 2nd and 3rd John; and Jude. Sessions include the uniqueness of God's final revelation for the salvation of the people, instruction in the faith, strengthening faith in the midst of the difficulties of life, faith and works, fellowship with God and with other believers, encouragement to be ruled by love, and the spiritual health of the

church.

Some of the major ideas explored are: developing a personal relationship with Christ, running the race of life, your Christian experience, your influence in the life of your church, Jesus as a historical person, the second coming of Christ, and Christian hospitality.

This revision of the Abingdon classic GENESIS to REVELATION series written by Keith Schoville* is a comprehensive, verse-by-verse, book-by-book study of the Bible based on the NIV. These studies are 12 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.

Join us for conversation, coffee and, sometimes, snacks!

*Keith Schoville served as professor emeritus in the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He authored two in the Genesis to Revelation series.



EMPIRE UNIT – WESTERN WATERS DISTRICT

Monday, February 2 – 11:00 AM Meeting

Program: Pledge Ceremony

Business meeting and Planning for 2026

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>



EMPIRE AREA PAPER PANTRY

4TH TUESDAY - FEB 27

5:00 – 6:30 PM

We currently serve 15 families (31 people). A list of needed Paper Pantry items is posted on the church office door. Donations are appreciated—thank you!

CARE GIVERS GROUP

Meets Every Other Wednesday at 11:00 AM

FEB 4 – FEB 18

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

The Public is Welcome!

Empire United Methodist Church - Vision Statement:

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



UMCOR DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY- UNITED STATES #901670

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding— that disaster response is local—forms the foundation for UMCOR's US disaster training and response. When responding to a disaster

in the United States, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, expertise, and community collaboration to churches and partners making them more resilient to disasters.

Make your donation by check payable to: Empire UMC, PO Box 261 Empire 49630 -

When forwarding your donation, please note: UMCOR #901670

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

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS



FEB 21 Empire Winterfest

watch for details **EACC-sponsored**



MAR 21 1:00-3:00 PM Empire Town Hall

Fundraiser for the Empire Food Pantry & Empire Paper Pantry

Registration Required – only 10 entries available

Deadline: March 15 - Call 989-560-1667

Empire United Methodist Church -sponsor



APR 4

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

11am at Johnson Park in Empire

**EASTER
HAM**



APR 5 *FREE* Community EASTER HAM DINNER

12:00-2:00 PM at Empire United Methodist Church

Call 231-326-5510 to reserve your party, "take-out"



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.

1st Monday of the month

- **Worship Team** **10:00 AM** (unless otherwise noted)
- **United Women of Faith** **11:00 AM**

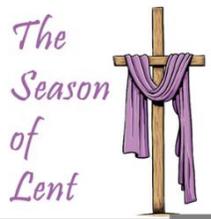
2nd Sunday of every month **Food Pantry collection**

- ❖ **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.

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 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.



**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEB 18**

DATE	HOSTS	COUNTERS
FEB 1	Kay Coombs	Gerri Sorbie, Tom Haiderer
FEB 8	Sandi Flack	Jan Lyon, Beth Noonan
FEB 15	Jean Petersen	Tom Petersen, Sandy Mallory
FEB 22	Meredith Goodrick	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. 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**
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