



**Empire United Methodist Church**

*"An Anchor in the Community since 1884"*

# **THE BEACON**

**Volume 15 No. 1**

**January 2026**



## **A Message from the Administrative Council**

Dear Church Family,

The New Year is a special time to reflect on God's blessings and the joy we find in community. Let us continue to support one another in faith and fellowship as we look forward to a new year of growth and service.

*Wishing you a blessed New Year  
filled with hope, faith, and love!*



## Upcoming Events

<b>Sunday, January 4</b>	7:00 PM	AA Group
Monday, January 5	9:30 AM	Worship Team
	11:00 AM	United Women in Faith meeting
Wednesday, January 7	10:00 AM	Grief Support group [contact B. Foged]
	11:00 AM	Caregivers group
	12:30 PM	12 Step Women's group
	8:00 PM	NA group
Thursday, January 8	2:00 PM	Bible Study [on-line & in-person] resumes
<b>Sunday, January 11</b>	11:00 AM	<b>Administrative Board meeting</b> A light Brunch to be served. Join in fellowship and participation as we discuss community outreach and church matters for 2026. A dish to pass and your input is appreciated.
	7:00 PM	AA Group
Wednesday, January 14	10:00 AM	Grief Support group [contact B. Foged]
	12:30 PM	12 Step Women's group
	8:00 PM	NA group
Thursday, January 15	2:00 PM	Bible Study [on-line & in-person]
<b>Sunday, January 18</b>	7:00 PM	AA Group
Wednesday, January 21	10:00 AM	Grief Support group [contact B. Foged]
	11:00 AM	Caregivers group
	12:30 PM	12 Step Women's group
	8:00 PM	NA group
Thursday, January 22	2:00 PM	Bible Study [on-line & in-person]
<b>Sunday, January 25</b>	7:00 PM	AA Group
Tuesday, January 27	5:00-6:30 PM	Paper Pantry [signup sheet – Fellowship Hall table]
Wednesday, January 28	10:00 AM	Grief Support Group [contact B. Foged]
	12:30 PM	12 Step Women's Group
	8:00 PM	NA Group
Thursday, January 29	2:00 PM	Bible Study [on-line & in-person]



**UWF – Empire Unit will meet  
Monday, January 5, 2026  
at 11:00 AM**

- **Planning for 2026**

## **Prayer Requests & Praises**

- Check Pastor Melody’s daily prayer email for updates and pray for those mentioned.
- Pray for our Pastor and her family.
- Pray for EUMC community outreach in 2026.
- Pray for healing for those struggling with illness and health issues this winter.
- Praise for the successful 2025 holiday outreach programs and all who participated.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

We are seeking volunteers for the following areas:

- Greeters for Sunday services
- Fill a vacancy on Ad Board Teams

If you are willing, please contact the church office or visit the sign-up at table.

## **CARE GIVERS GROUP**

*Meets Every other Wednesday @ 11:00 AM*

**Jan 7 and Jan 21**

***FOR FURTHER INFORMATION***

**Barb Foged 231-633-3348 or**

**Kay Coombs 231-227-1051**

**EUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL - [Public Welcome](#)**

# PAPER PANTRY UPDATE . . .



**ALL** items on the Paper Pantry shopping list are needed to restock the shelves monthly. Donations are accepted during open hours of the church office or on Sundays after worship. Personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies, dish detergent are needed this month.

Please bring or send your donation [purchased items or \$\$] for the next **PAPER PANTRY** on **Tuesday, January 27, 5:00 TO 6:30 PM.**

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



## **JANUARY – BACN – Benzie Area Christian Neighbors**

BACN is a caring community of neighbors helping neighbors. Their mission is "to strive to improve the quality of life for people with limited resources in our community by providing food, clothing, financial assistance, education and social support in collaboration with area resources.

♥ *Donations may be mailed to Empire United Methodist Church  
Attn: BACN - Mission of the Month, PO Box 261, Empire 49630.* ♥

*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.*

## ***Grief Support Group formed***

*A 9-week Grief Support Group has formed and is offered at Empire United Methodist Church. The next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, January 7, at 10:00 AM. The purpose of this group is to lay a foundation for bereavement education and support.*

*All individuals will be welcomed and valued in a safe, accepting, and comfortable environment. For further information or to sign up, please call Barb Foged at 231-633 3348.*



*Thank you for your gift at Christmas time,*

Pastor Melody

Christine Adams

Donna Haiderer

Claudia Bomersback

Carole Merillat

# UWF Annual Christmas Luncheon Program . . . “There’s Something About that Name”

[photos by Sandi Flack]



The Sanctuary – 12/9/2025



Community Choir directed by Donna Haiderer  
 Claudia Bomersback, pianist



The United Women in Faith – Empire Unit hosted their annual Christmas luncheon on December 9, welcoming 52 attendees. The gathering included a light meal, dessert, and the program “There’s Something About That Name,” which focused on the different names of Jesus found in the Bible. Kay Coombs and Carole Merillat served as narrators, while Donna Haiderer led the community choir in performing “How Will We Know Messiah,” [words and music by Nylea L. Butler-Moore]. Special appreciation goes to Claudia Bomersback for her beautiful musical accompaniment and to the EUMC men for their help with serving and kitchen assistance. ~ Jean Petersen, UWF President



**Dec. 28, 2025 Worship Service  
Pastor Tom Petersen, guest speaker**



**Special Music by Erica & Kurt**  
[The Petersen's daughter & son-in-law]

**January 6th – Volunteers (2)  
needed at the Empire Food Pantry!  
Please contact Elaine or Roy Pentilla  
as soon as possible.**

**FYI:** In December, our volunteers gave out holiday gift cards to local friends, gathered donations for the Empire Paper Pantry and Empire Food Pantry, and supported missions including the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and the Bishop's Advent Project. We appreciate everyone who participated—your kindness truly impacted our community.



## 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 tin pails 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 mission suggestions or questions, contact Jim Sorbie, Missions Team chair.



### **HOST**

JAN 4 Kay Coombs  
 JAN 11 Sandi Flack  
 JAN 18 Jean Petersen  
 JAN 25 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."*

<b>SUNDAYS</b>	<b>10:00 AM – Worship Service</b>	<b>7:00 PM AA Group</b>
<b>MONDAYS</b>	<b>9:00 AM – 1:00PM Church Office open</b>	
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Church Office open</b>	
	<b>11:00 AM – Care Givers Group every other week</b>	
	<b>12:30 PM – 12-Step Women's Group</b>	<b>8:00 PM – NA Group</b>
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<b>Church Office closed</b>	<b>2:00 PM – Bible Study</b>
		<b>3:45 PM – Choir Rehearsal – Resumes in March</b>



**EMPIRE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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