

EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BEACON

Volume 15 No. 7

JULY 2026



Community Thanks Our First Responders

Over 200 community members delivered Heartfelt Thank-Yous to Those Who Serve



“Our first responders care for this community every day, often in moments of great need,” said Rev. Melody Olin, pastor of Empire United Methodist Church and organizer of the event. “This gathering is a heartfelt way for us to come together, show our appreciation, and thank them for all they do for our families and neighbors.”

Community Supporters made this event possible through generous support:

Art’s Tavern, Northwoods Hardware, The Empire Blue House [STR], Shipwreck Café, Jim and Claudia Bomersback, Harriger Construction, Storm Hill HOA, Empire Family Dental, Tiffany’s Ice Cream, Greystone Gardens, Deering’s Tree Service, Tim Barr and Bonnie Nestor, Glen Craft Marina and Resort, State Savings Bank, The Miser’s Hoard, Empire Chamber of Commerce, Empire Area Community Center, Empire Lions, St. Philip Neri, Empire Lakeshore Inn, Dave’s

Garage, Sleeping Bear Gallery, The Cherry Republic.

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Community Partners and Volunteers

This community effort is organized with the help of Empire United Methodist Church; along with representatives from St. Philip Neri Church, EACC, Empire Village, and support from the Empire Lions Club.

Many thanks to Jeanette Stepanik for the photos.



Sponsors celebrate with 1st Responders

A Joyful Celebration of Music in July



The EUMC Choir will present “Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel” during the worship service on Sunday, July 12. This traditional spiritual has been adapted and arranged by Roger Emerson.

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LCN’s Samaritans' Closet

11840 S. Lacore Rd. (M-22) – Empire

“Thoughtfully selected clothing collection, household goods and unique finds.”

Donation Hours: Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*Proceeds from the Empire store will remain in the county to support **Leelanau Christian Neighbors’** core programs, including financial assistance as well as food and baby pantries.*

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The **Empire Area Food Pantry** needs volunteers for the summer at the Glen Arbor Farmers Market (Tuesdays). Volunteers arrive early to notify vendors about collecting food donations for EAFP, collect donations at market closing, and then deliver them to the pantry. **Contact Kay Evans at 765-661-0714 to volunteer and for further information.**



July - Empire Area Community Center

EACC sponsors the Empire Area Community Emergency Fund to financially assist an individual or a family that has fallen upon challenging times. This is done on a one-time basis through the payment of a known expense such as medical, housing or utility bill. Funds are collected and administered through the Empire Area Community Center, a Michigan Registered 501(c) 3 Public Charity. Donations will go to their general fund to cover events [i.e. Anchor days, Halloween trunk-or-treat, Christmas Potluck gathering], Please be generous! **You may place donations in the collection pails at the back of the sanctuary or mail a check payable to Empire United Methodist Church, PO Box 261, Empire, MI 49630, with EACC noted in the memo line.**

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.



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Lowell UMC & Empire UMC Choir

Special Music on June 28

The choir from Lowell UMC opened worship with a special arrangement of “Shine, Jesus, Shine.” The EUMC Choir then joined them for Mark Miller’s arrangement of “I Believe.” The music was wonderful and we thank the Lowell UMC Choir for this joyful occasion. Following the service, guests gathered in Fellowship Hall for a reception and light luncheon.

[photo by Jim Sorbie]

CARE GIVERS GROUP

Meets Every Other Wednesday at 11:00 AM

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.



EMPIRE AREA PAPER PANTRY

4TH TUESDAY - JULY 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 UNIT – WESTERN WATERS DISTRICT



Monday, July 20

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The Lighthouse Cafe, in Elberta

9:00 AM – Meet at EUMC - carpool to Cafe

ALL women of EUMC are invited to attend this gathering. Bring a friend or two and join the fun!

Sign-up sheet on table in Fellowship Hall

... *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."

BIBLE STUDY GROUP: Thursdays at 2:00 PM New Study

"SIMON PETER – Flawed But Faithful Disciple

By Adam Hamilton

"I began to notice just how important a figure he is for each of the Gospel writers. In nearly every episode of Jesus' life and ministry, Peter is somewhere nearby." Adam Hamilton, author.

For more information, contact
Tom Petersen.



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

*"Therefore, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation;
my God will hear me." Micah 7:7*



Needed for the Anchor Day parade float: a "farmer," "Betsy Ross," and a "tourist" to ride on the float.

We also need someone to tow the float/trailer and volunteers to help assemble it on parade day, Saturday, July 18.

Contact Sandy M. or Pastor Melody!

A Prayer for the World . . .

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty; open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN [The Book of Common Prayer]

1st Sunday of every month

Holy Communion is 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 year!**
- ❖ **MISSION OF THE MONTH Offering** –During 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

JULY 5
JULY 12
JULY 19
JULY 26

HOST

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. 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
		2:00 PM – Bible Study
THURSDAYS	Church Office closed	3:45 PM – Choir



EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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