

Empire United Methodist Church

THE BEACON

Volume 15 No. 6

JUNE 2026

Community Appreciation for Our First Responders

Join us June 20 at

James R. Johnson Park

as we honor Leelanau County
first responders and their
families



The Empire community will come together on June 20 from noon to 2:00 PM at the Empire Lions Club's James R. Johnson Park for the 3rd Annual First Responders Appreciation Event. This special gathering will celebrate the courage, commitment, and service of Leelanau County first responders and offer a complimentary pig roast for attendees as a gesture of thanks from the community.

A Heartfelt Thank-You 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."



We are proud to recognize first responders and their families. **(A complete list of participating agencies will be published in the July issue of The Beacon.)**

Community Supporters made this event possible through generous support. (A complete list will be published in the July issue of The Beacon.)

Community Partners and Volunteers

This community effort is being organized with the help of Pastor Melody Olin, Donna Haiderer, Jim

Bomersback, Denny Olin, Sandy Mallory, Tom Petersen, and Meredith Goodrick of Empire United Methodist Church; along with Laura Meldrum of St. Philip Neri Church, Jeanette Stepenak of EACC, Linda Chase of Empire Village, and support from the Empire Lions Club.

****PHOTOS from 2025 celebration!**

Big things are happening in Empire!

LCN Announces the Opening of Samaritans' Closet in Empire



Leelanau Christian Neighbors (LCN) welcomed the community to the May 22 grand opening of its newest thrift store, Samaritans' Closet Empire, at 11840 S. Lacore Rd. (M-22). The event celebrated the completion of extensive renovations and marked LCN's official expansion to the west side of Leelanau County. Guests were invited to tour the new store, meet the staff, and shop a thoughtfully selected collection of clothing, household goods, and unique finds.

Donation Hours: *Community donations are accepted during regular business hours, Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

"We have worked hard to get the building ready, and we can't wait to open our doors to the Empire community," said Mary Stanton, LCN Executive Director. "This location is about more than just great finds; it's about supporting our mission to provide food and financial assistance to neighbors in Leelanau County."

Proceeds from the Empire store will remain in Leelanau County to support LCN's core programs, including financial assistance as well as food and baby pantries. The new location also makes it easier for local donors and shoppers to support these services without traveling to the organization's flagship store in Lake Leelanau.

Empire United Methodist Church - Vision Statement:

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

A Joyful Celebration of Music in June



We invite you to rejoice with us this June as music fills our worship with beauty, faith, and praise. We are delighted to share these special offerings with our church family:

- **June 14:** The EUMC Choir will bless us with “Lord I Stretch My Hands to You.”
- **June 28:** We will welcome a guest choir from Lowell United Methodist Church as they share “I Believe.”



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.**



Empire Unit – Western Waters District
Monday, June 1 11:00 AM

DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS!

- **Tuesday, June 9, 7 p.m.:** Zoom Book Talk: *The Personal Librarian* to receive the Zoom link by June 7
 - **Tuesday, June 30, 7 p.m.:** Zoom Book Talk - *The Happiest Man on Earth*
- **July 16-18:** Mission u of Michigan, Mt. Pleasant
 - **Saturday, September 19:** District Annual Celebration, Ludington UMC
 - **Saturday, October 17:** Conference Annual Celebration, Hope UMC, Southfield, MI
 - **Saturday, November 7:** Spiritual Growth Retreat, Pentwater Centenary UMC
 - **Saturday, March 20, 2027:** Spiritual Growth Retreat, Wesley Park UMC, Wyoming, MI, “Death, Grief and Grace” by author Sandra VandenBrink

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.”*

Western Waters District United Women in Faith

Join us on Facebook!: [Midwest District - Michigan United Women in Faith](#)

Michigan UWF site: uwfaithmichigan.org

National UWF site: [United Women in Faith | Love in Action \(uwfaith.org\)](http://UnitedWomeninFaith|LoveinAction(uwfaith.org))

BIBLE STUDY GROUP – THURSDAYS at 2:00 PM

“WHY?”... Making Sense of God’s Will

By Adam Hamilton

Where is God when the innocent suffer?

Where is God when my prayers go unanswered?

Why is God’s will so hard to understand?



Discover what is meant when Scripture speaks of God’s will.

“Unlike many Christian writers these days, Adam Hamilton does actually make sense of God’s will. This is a profoundly satisfying treatment of common misconceptions about God.”

~ Roger Olson, author of Questions to All Your Answers

Join us for this new Bible Study on Thursdays at 2:00 PM. For more information, contact Tom Petersen.



In Mt. Pleasant, Wesley at Central Michigan University seeks to be “a young adult Christian community committed to building God’s beloved community on earth.”

The hope is that “all people would know themselves as God’s beloved and get to be in love with the world.” Their campus activities and events are supported through your donations. Please place donations in collection pails at the back of the sanctuary or make your donation by check payable to: Empire United Methodist Church, PO Box 261, Empire 49630 - memo: Wesley@CMU #3042

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.

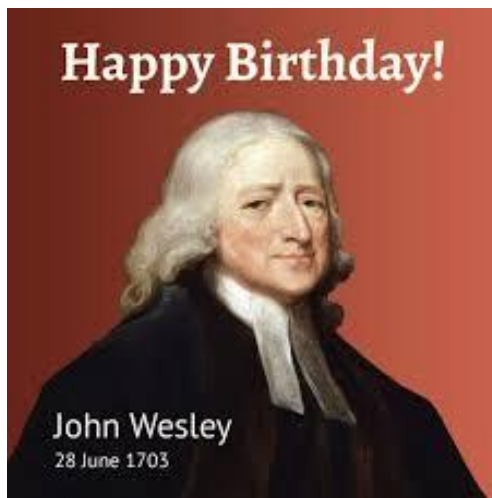


EMPIRE AREA PAPER PANTRY

JUNE 23

4TH TUESDAY - 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 any time —thank you!



*Today we remember the legacy of John Wesley--since it's his birthday!**

We can celebrate the influence of John Wesley by taking advantage of every moment to share the gift of God's love witnessed in Jesus Christ.

** John was born when England was still using the Julian calendar. While John's birthday on that calendar was June 17, when England moved the Gregorian calendar in 1752, the revised date became June 28.*

*[#JohnWesley](#) [#HappyBirthdayJohnWesley](#) [#UMC](#)
[#UnitedMethodist](#)*

1st Responders Appreciation Community Pig Roast



Johnson Park, Empire

Saturday, June 20

12 Noon to 2:00 PM

**FREE
event**

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!

On the 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 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

JUNE 7
JUNE 14
JUNE 21
JUNE 27

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."

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



**EMPIRE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
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