



Empire United Methodist Church

"An Anchor in the Community since 1884"

THE BEACON

Volume 15 No. 3

MARCH 2026

Thanks so much to everyone who came out for the Siedlaczek family benefit on January 31. Donations are still coming in, and we've raised \$9,700 so far!

**THANK
YOU
ALL**
for your support!



Lenten Sermon Series - "The Way" continues . . .

Throughout the month of March, Pastor Melody will continue with "The Way" Sermon Series from Worship Design Studio 2026.

March 1 "The High Way" Psalm 37:23-24 | Isaiah 55:1-9

We are taught that everything costs. But our ways are not God's ways. We are all invited, without price, to the abundance of God's grace. This is the higher way that we are invited to. We embody for the sake of the world. The "rich food" that we are invited to partake is the richness of life when all have enough not simply to survive, but to thrive. Hospitality is the way – even though we do not agree on everything, we are still one family at one table.

Holy Communion will be served. ALL are Welcome.

March 8 "The Way Around" Psalm 32:1-11 | Luke 13:31-34

We are not always understood. Jesus found this out, just like so many of us. Close family, friends, and neighbors may cling to an idea of who we are and cannot imagine we have grown beyond that identity. And likewise, we may do the same to them. We are called to move ahead and do what we feel called to, claiming who we know we are, taking the way round what others think we ought to do and be. And we offer the same steadfast love and encouragement to others.

March 15 "The Way Home" Psalm 25:4-10 | Luke 15:11b-32

No matter what we call "home" in this physical world, we yearn for a spiritual home within that offers serenity, acceptance, and belonging without question. The extravagant acceptance of the father for the son in Jesus' parable of the wandering son is difficult for us to believe sometimes – that no matter what we have done, who we are, how far we are from what we want to become, we are welcomed home by the Loving Parent.

March 22 “The Free Way” Psalm 18:1-33 | Phil 3:12-14

New paths are possible through freedom in Christ. And these ways can be made plain before us if we have eyes to see. Yes, we will strain against adversity – such is life. But new paths are always possible. New horizons are ours through relationship with God and with each other. There will be both stumbling blocks and stepping stones along the way. But God is our rock and our redeemer – God is with us in our every step.

Palm Sunday

March 29 “The Other Way” Psalm 37:1-9 | Luke 15:11b-32

This moment on the road for Jesus feels both like the end and the beginning. Such are so many moments of our lives. A pilgrimage may reach its destination, but the hope, the wisdom, the lessons learned along the way have offered a new starting point for us. What have we learned and what transformation – what “other way” – are we called to in the name of right relationship in our lives?

Join us at 10:00 AM every Sunday in March. We’ll save you a seat!

Thursday Bible Study

2:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

It’s not too late to join our new study of the Books of 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. Contact Tom Petersen for more information.



MARCH 8



MARCH 17



MARCH 20

EMPIRE UNIT – WESTERN WATERS DISTRICT



Monday, March 2 – 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>



EMPIRE AREA PAPER PANTRY

4TH TUESDAY - MARCH 24

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

MARCH 4 – MARCH 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.



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)

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



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Sign-up sheets – Fellowship Hall table

For

CHILI COOK-OFF

EASTER EGG HUNT

EASTER DINNER

Sat., March 21

Sat., April 4

Sat., April 5

Sign-up Today!



TC Safe Harbor for the Homeless

*Food, Shelter, **Hope***

Safe Harbor supports the physical and spiritual welfare of people experiencing homelessness by providing emergency shelter, food, and hope.

It is a non-profit, volunteer-run Seasonal Emergency Shelter and a year-round Housing & Human Services Resource Center located in

Traverse City. As part of the Continuum of Care, it also focuses on community partnerships in order to better collaborate on long-term solutions to ending homelessness in our region.

Dedicated to the preservation of the physical health and spiritual welfare of adults experiencing homelessness, Safe Harbor offers food, shelter, and hope for their guests.

Safe Harbor is 100% volunteer operated. This means your donation goes directly to the shelter functions.

Make your donation by check payable to: Empire United Methodist Church, PO Box 261

Empire 49630 - When forwarding your donation, please note: TC Safe Harbor.

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.

FREE

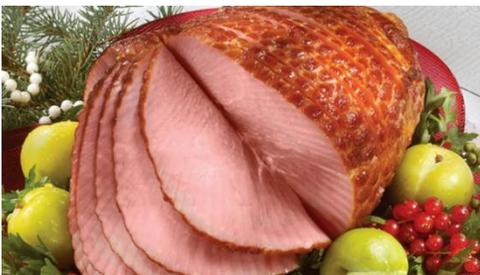
FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE

FREE



COMMUNITY EASTER DINNER

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

12 – 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
Bring a new personal hygiene product!

COMMUNITY



Saturday, March 21

1:00 - 3:00 PM

**Empire Town Hall
Front St., Empire, MI 49630**

As you taste, vote with \$\$ for winner! Chili with the most \$\$ wins!

REGISTRATION Required

Call 989-560-1667

for

Entry Rules/Registration

BENEFIT: Empire Area Food Pantry & Paper Pantry

Sponsored by Empire United Methodist Church & Supported by Empire Area Community Center



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

MARCH



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