

Empire United Methodist Church

THE BEACON

Volume 15 No. 5

MAY 2026

FLOODING IMPACT IN MICHIGAN

As you well know, floods have impacted much of our state, especially in northern Michigan. Along with other organizations, **UMCOR** and **After the Storm** <https://afterthestormmi.org/> are positioned to help. Calling **211** – will directly connect those impacted with resources offered by communities, governments and, of course, our volunteer organizations. These events also remind us that we can always donate “Flood Buckets” <https://umcmission.org/resources/umcor-cleaning-kit-instructions> - additional information will continue to be published in Mlconnect <https://michiganumc.org/missions/disaster-response/>. Our prayers remain with all affected and First Responders.

Blessings, Jodie R. Flessner, Western Waters District Superintendent

Donations may be sent to EUMC, PO Box 261
Attn: MI Flooding – Empire, MI 49630 OR
Place in the Tin Buckets – during Sunday services

1st Responders Appreciation Community Pig Roast



Johnson Park, Empire

Saturday, June 20

12 Noon to 2:00 PM

**FREE
event**

The Empire community will honor Leelanau County 1st responders on Saturday, June 20 at Johnson Park in Empire from 12 to 2 PM. *Enjoy a free meal and an opportunity to meet with 1st responders and to thank them for their service.*

APRIL RECAP:



- This year's *Good Friday* service took place in Fellowship Hall, where Holy Communion was served.
- Due to bad weather, the *Easter Egg Hunt* at Johnson Park was cancelled. The candy will instead be given out during Halloween Trunk or Treat.
- *Easter Sunday* worship service was well attended and Holy Communion was served.
- Although attendance at the *free Community Easter Dinner* was low, all attendees were thankful for the food and fellowship.
- On Saturday, April 11, EUMC welcomed 11 students from Michigan State who volunteered at Sleeping Bear National Park. The group spent the night at EUMC, making use of our comfortable padded pews, and apparently had a restful sleep. Sunday morning, Pastor Melody, Denny Olin, and Sandy Mallory prepared and served them breakfast before the students left. This marks our fifth time hosting this group, and both the accommodation and the meal are always appreciated. If you'd like to join the hospitality team next time, please let Pastor know and sign up.
- Personal hygiene items were collected for migrant seasonal workers in Benzie County and distributed to Eden Hill Presbyterian Church, which coordinated the initiative.
- Glen Lake Teacher/Staff "Appreciation Gifts" were assembled after worship on April 19 and delivery will be made in May. ***Thanks to the volunteers!***

Empire United Methodist Church - Vision Statement:

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



Highway Spring Cleanup Volunteers Needed Sunday, May 3 – 1:00 PM

It's time to do EUMC'S part for God's creation!



Through the Michigan Adopt-A-Highway program, Empire UMC maintains a section of M22 between M109 (Dune Hwy) & Welch Road, cleaning it several times each year.

- Park on Burnham Road (off M22).
- Wear light-colored clothing suitable for the weather, gloves, and sturdy shoes.
- Safety vests and MDOT trash bags will be provided.



Church Council Meeting

Minutes Tuesday April 7, 2026

Sandy Mallory - chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM; Tom Petersen offered a prayer.

Present: Carole Merillat, Bill and Jan Lyon, Denny Olin, Tom and Jean Petersen, Sandy Mallory.

Approval of previous meeting minutes: Bill Lyon made a motion to approve the minutes, and Jean Petersen seconded. **Minutes approved.**

Pastor's Report: Pastor Melody Olin was absent due to major dental surgery on this day. Denny gave her report.

- Visitations included Kay Wilcox, Kay Coombs, Aggie Wilson, Barb Smith, Gerri Sorbie and others.
- Because of the weather, the Easter egg hunt at Johnson Park was cancelled. The candy will instead be distributed at Halloween Trunk or Treat. Next year, we will investigate holding an indoor event.
- The Chilli cookoff brought in \$577 dollars for the food and paper pantries.
- The Easter Dinner attendance declined. Food cost \$580.88, with a \$244.00 donation helping offset expenses. Next year, we will order half as much food. The dinner will honor Barb Smith.

Staff Pastor Parish Relations: Tom Petersen, chair, shared that the pastor has provided her upcoming dates away from the pulpit. The next SPRC meeting is scheduled for April 28 at 10:00 a.m.

Finance: March Income \$11,608.03; Expenses \$12,082.19; Net loss -\$474.16

- 2026 General Fund Monthly Income required: \$13,542.
- General fund Year-to-date [04/02/26]:
Income \$31,574.20, Expenses -\$41,885.11; net loss - \$10,310.91.

Trustees Report: Jean Petersen

- Tom Haiderer is leading the parsonage kitchen counter replacement project.
- It was approved to purchase a new large coffee urn; our old one developed a leak.
- The water fountain condenser has broken so the water will not be cold.
- Discussion: Entrance to the parking lot on the south side was difficult to maneuver this past winter. There is a large, excavated area that the village constructed for drainage. Concern is that this is covered with snow and can cause damage to vehicles. We cannot have it filled in but will put orange hazard sticks around it during the winter season.

Worship Team: Will meet April 13, at 9:30 a.m.

United Women in Faith: Jean Petersen

- Next meeting is April 13, 11:00 a.m.
- Empire Lions Dinner - May 4 – we will be serving ham [using leftover ham from the Easter dinner]

Jean shared that she attended the UWF Spring Fling at Community House in Grand Rapids. The organization has remodeled its facilities to expand daycare, after school programs, senior wellness and computer services, congregate meals, and a fresh market partnering with local farmers for produce.

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes continue . . .

Missions:

- Mission of the month for April: LIFT (Leelanau investing in future teens)
- Mission of the month for May: Blanket the world (Church world services)
- Mission of the month for June: Wesley@ Central Michigan University
- Next paper pantry April 28 . See the shopping list on the church office door. We have an abundance of paper towels and toilet paper. Please sign up to help!!

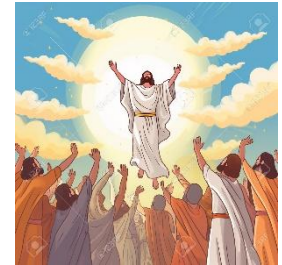
Other Business:

- Michigan State students will be here overnight 4/11-4/12. We will host overnight and serve them breakfast.
- Discussion: A casual coffee hour to share memories of Barb Smith will be held after a Sunday service in May. Information will be posted.

Adjournment: Denny made a motion to adjourn, Tom seconded it. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be August 11, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Lyon



**MAY 17
Ascension Sunday**

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP:
“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.



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 AREA PAPER PANTRY

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!*



Empire Unit – Western Waters District Monday, May 4

6:00 PM Lions Club Dinner

- Lemon Pies preparation 9:00 AM
- Table Set-Up & Buffet serving tables
- Dinner preparation 11:00 AM

Jean Petersen will be calling for workers!

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.”*

PENTECOST SUNDAY – MAY 24

In The United Methodist Church (UMC), Pentecost is the 50th day after Easter, celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in Jerusalem. Often recognized as the "birthday of the church," this event marks the empowering of believers to spread the Gospel, symbolizing the start of the church's public ministry.

Key aspects of Pentecost in the UMC include:

- **Empowerment of the Holy Spirit:** It commemorates the moment the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and followers, filling them with courage and enabling them to communicate, as described in Acts 2.
- **Birthday of the Church:** Pentecost signifies the birth of the Christian Church and the beginning of the mission to "make disciples of all nations".
- **Liturgical Significance:** It is a major feast day. Red is the liturgical color used on Pentecost Sunday to symbolize the fire of the Holy Spirit.
- **Active Grace:** From a Wesleyan perspective, the day emphasizes God’s Spirit actively empowering believers to act in the world, shifting from fear to bold ministry.

The Season After Pentecost: The period starting after Pentecost Sunday through to Advent, focused on the church's growth and God's ongoing presence.

The United Methodist Church - Pentecost People *[Wear Red on Pentecost Sunday]*





CARE GIVERS GROUP

Meets Every Other Wednesday at 11:00 AM

APRIL 6 - 20

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

The Public is Welcome!



Church World Service – Blanket the World with Love”

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That’s why the **Church World Service (CWS) Blankets program** was created —to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world and in the U.S. can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters.



When neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way. Please be generous!

Make your donation by check payable to: Empire United Methodist Church, PO Box 261, Empire 49630 - memo: CWS #98210

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.

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	HOST	COUNTERS
MAY 3	Kay Coombs	Gerri Sorbie, Tom Haiderer
MAY 10	Sandi Flack	Jan Lyon, Beth Noonan
MAY 17	Jean Petersen	Tom Petersen, Sandy Mallory
MAY 24	Meredith Goodrick	Kay Wilcox, Meredith Goodrick
MAY 31	Sandy Mallory	Kay Coombs, Gerri Sorbie

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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