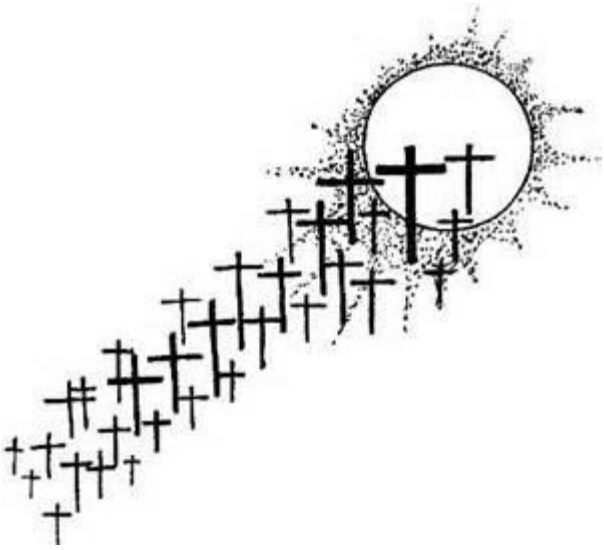
EMPIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BEACON Volume 15 No. 11 NOVEMBER 2026

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All Saints Sunday – Nov. 1

Historically, the Church has confessed a belief in the "communion of the saints," which includes not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we experience the communion of saints, feasting with believers past, present and future. The author of Hebrews 12 reminds us that these saints, a "great cloud of witnesses," surrounds us and cheers us on.

On All Saints Day, United Methodists publicly remember and honor those who have passed away. Celebrated on the first Sunday in November, many congregations light candles, ring bells of remembrance, and call the names of those lost in the previous year as a way of honoring the impact their lives have had on us.

ALL SAINTS DAY SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44



Empire United Methodist Church - Vision Statement:
A community who goes out, serving in love, sharing Christ.
"Go, Serve. Share Christ."

Christ the King Sunday (also known as Reign of Christ Sunday) in the United Methodist Church falls on **November 22, 2026,** (the last Sunday of the liturgical year, immediately preceding Advent).
Scripture Readings (Year C): Jeremiah 23:1–6; Luke 1:68–79 or Psalm 46, Colossians 1:11–20 ; Luke 23:33–43

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE HELD

Conference recap: *Empire UMC held its annual conference on October 10 at Old Mission Peninsula UMC, with Rev. Kristi Hintz presiding. Attendees approved clergy compensation and expense allocations, reviewed membership and attendance reports, and confirmed that ministry shares were paid in full. The conference also covered district reorganization, leadership nominations, and available district support services. The minutes follow:*

Empire UMC's first annual church conference, as a member of Northern Skies District, was held October 10. Attending were Pastor Melody Olin, Denny Olin, Tom Petersen – SPRC chair, Jean Petersen – Trustee chair, and Sandy Mallory – Administrative Council chair. Northern Skies District Superintendent Rev. Kristi Hintz presided. Old Mission Peninsula UMC hosted the event.

- Sandy Wegner-Mallory was appointed secretary for EUMC.
- The District Superintendent explained that following the latest reorganization of the Michigan Conference UMC, Rev. Jodie Flessner has assumed the new role of Conference District Superintendent. Michigan now has four area conferences. Northern Skies District is comprised of 91 churches which include all UM Churches in the Upper Peninsula, northern Lower Peninsula, as far south as Ludington.
- Actions taken at the conference were the setting of clergy compensation - $60,831, the IRS Housing Exclusion $3,000, Pastor's total professional expenses $4,000 – all approved. Reports submitted: At close of 2025 Empire UMC reported 66 members at year-end, 5 were removed due to death, leaving an estimate of 61 at year end 2026. Inactive members on 1st year list – 11, on 2nd year – 8. Average weekly attendance is 25 in person, 65 online.
    - The Committee on Nominations and Leaders List was submitted and if there are any changes to it will be submitted to Northern Skies District Office as soon as possible. There were no recommendations for Lay-Servant, Candidates for Ministry and no Persons for Certified Lay Ministry.
- Ministry Shares Report – 100% paid in full; District Ministry Shares – paid in full
- Under District Conference Items, District Staff for Northern Skies District Vibrancy, Rev. Jim Noggle was introduced. He is available for consultation with district churches. EUMC is following this format for church vibrancy. Pastor Gordon Grigg III has assumed the new role as District Chaplain. He is available for pastoral care and Young People Ministry in the District. The District Leadership and District Budget were affirmed.

Rev. Kristi closed with a prayer.
Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Wegner-Mallory, Secret



FOR THE MONTH as of OCT 2, 2026
Income - $11,337.25; Expenses $17,978.75 **-$6,641.50**
GENERAL FUND Year-to-Date as of OCT 2, 2026:
Income: $111,409.40 Expenses: $125,724.08 **-$14,314.68**

2026 General Fund Monthly Income required: $13,542 for budget. General Fund expense items include Ministry Shares; Church Operations; Church programs: Missions: Clergy & staff salaries. [See Treasurer's Report posted on south wall bulletin board for detail.

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.

$650K grant keeps recovery going



FAITH GREEN TIMMONS
Michigan Conference Communications *Posted on October 14, 2026*

Many homes and businesses in northern Michigan's Indian River area were consumed by standing water caused by widespread flooding this past April. Heavy rain combined with melting snow pummeled the region. Six months later, After The Storm is still working to help residents there gain their footing and restore their homes. Above is one example of the high waters volunteers and nearby residents traversed to save what they could and attempt immediate repairs. ~ photo courtesy After the Storm

Church

a human connection of love,
not a building

a lifestyle,
not a weekly activity

an act of service,
not a service to attend

|taylor duvall|

UMCOR [UnitedMethodistCommitteeOnRelief] has awarded the Michigan Conference a $650,000 grant for After The Storm, an EngageMI ministry partner helping families recover from April's storms and flooding.

Affirmation of our collective efforts is both encouraging and exciting. The Michigan Conference has learned of a generous United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) grant for After The Storm, the nonprofit ministry our conference created to support families throughout the long recovery process after disasters.



Each Christmas, we thank our Pastor and Staff *[administrative assistant, piano/keyboard musicians, and choir director]* *with a monetary gift in appreciation of their work. If you wish to contribute, please mail your donation to* EUMC, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 261, Empire, MI 49630; mark the check memo line with: *Pastor/Staff Christmas Gift*. **The deadline is December 13**.

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

ADVENT BEGINS NOV. 29

Come Home for Christmas

Advent is an invitation. For many, it is the invitation to get into that Christmas spirit, to count down the days to the grand celebration, and let the holiday transform everything around us. We're not all about Christmas, the holiday, about December 25 with all the jingle bells and tinsel. We are about Christmas, the Mass of Christ, the celebration of the Incarnate one who comes to remind us that we are not alone, and God is with us. We are about the longing for the coming kin-dom, where we will study war no more, where people will walk in the light, where joy will be found, and love will be the tie that binds us together. That's the home for which we long. That's the invitation this Advent season to our church and the world:

"Come home for Christmas."

United Women in Faith

Empire Unit – UWF

We will meet on **Mon., November 2**
9:00 AM Lemon Pie makers
11:00 AM Meeting – ALL Christmas Luncheon Planning program, menu, decorations, etc.
Your input is valuable; please attend this annual event planning.
2:00 PM Prep/Bake Chicken
5:30 PM LIONS DINNER workers





CARE GIVERS GROUP

NOV. 11 & NOV. 25

Meets Every Other Wednesday at 11:00 AM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

EUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL - Public Welcome

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"Go, Serve. Share Christ."

PAPER PANTRY UPDATE . . .



ALL items on the Paper Pantry shopping list are needed each month to restock the shelves. Donations may be dropped off during church office hours or after Sunday worship. We served 14 families in October. *Thank you for your support!*

NEXT PAPER PANTRY: NOV. 24 - 5:00 TO 6:30 PM



The Choir will perform the African American spiritual "I'm Gonna Sing," arranged by Audrey Snyder, as special music on Sunday, Nov. 8





Something's Coming . . . Can You feel it?

You are Cordially Invited to the

Empire United Methodist Church

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, December 8, 2026

Gathering 11:30 am - Program - Luncheon

Please RSVP by Monday, December 1 - Jean Petersen - 231- 334-4091

Seating is Limited – Reply Early as Possible

Freewill Donations for the EUMC Paper Pantry are gratefully accepted!

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NOVEMBER - Micki Barr Memorial Giving Tree

Mission of the Month

This year, the Missions Team invites donations of "gift cards" from Meijer's, Walmart, or other big box stores, and "gas cards" from EZ Mart or Meijer's, in any amount. *The team will distribute the cards to local families in need during the first week of December.* Place gift cards in the Missions pails in the sanctuary or mail the cards to EUMC, Attn: Giving Tree, PO Box 261, Empire, MI 49630. **Please donate by November 29.** A Missions Team member will be at EUMC on November 29, from 9:00 AM – Noon, to collect last-minute gift cards.

❤ *Thank you for bringing a little more Christmas joy to local families in need.* ❤

Northern Skies DISTRICT

FOOD DRIVE

Together We Can Make a Difference!



ATTENTION CHURCHES OF THE NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT!

Let it be known that the gauntlet has been thrown down. You are invited to participate in the **1st annual Northern Skies District Food Drive.**

WHEN?

November 1–30

Have members bring in non-perishable items each Sunday in the month of November to your church.

REPORT YOUR TOTALS

Send your weekly donation amount by Wed. of each week to **northernskiesfooddrive@gmail.com** to have your count added to the official scoreboard.

STAY INFORMED

A website forthcoming will report what each church has collected and what we have collected together as a District.

WHERE TO DONATE

At the end of the drive, your church can donate the food to any local food pantry in your community that makes the most missional sense.

A LITTLE HISTORY...

Last year Stephenson, Menominee, and Ishpeming Wesley UMC competed by collecting canned goods all during the month of November. Together we collected **1256 items** which we donated to our local area food pantries.

Our churches had fun spurring each other on during the challenge, so much fun we are doing it again this year and we want to invite all the congregations across the District to participate too.

THE PRIZE

The winning church will receive accolades, glory and the coveted **Northern Skies Food Drive Traveling Trophy** to be awarded at the next District Breakfast during Annual Conference.



QUESTIONS?

Reach out to **Gordon Grigg (gordoncgrigg@gmail.com)** or **Scott Sherrill (scott@mtu.edu)**.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

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.* ***Place in the "Food Pantry Cart" in the Lobby!***

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** *(unless otherwise noted)*

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 – Place cash donations in the tin buckets on the tables at the back of the sanctuary throughout the month. The **"Mission of the Month"** offering supports global, Conference, and local charities selected throughout the year, as well as the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for local families in need. For suggestions or questions about charity selections, contact Jim Sorbie, Missions Team chair.

"NEW" in the Lobby - Collection cart for the Food Pantry & Storage Bins for Socks for the TC homeless!

Put faith into action!

Serve through your interests: join the choir, greet guests, usher, host events, assist the tech team, or help in other ways. Ask the pastor about sending cards or calling those on the church prayer list. Take the initiative—use your unique gifts and talents to make a difference.

Worship Servers

Thank You for Serving!

	COUNTERS	HOST
NOV 1	Gerri Sorbie & Tom Haiderer	Kay Coombs
NOV 8	Jan Lyon & Beth Noonan	Sandi Flack
NOV 15	Tom Petersen & Sandy Mallory	Jean Petersen
NOV 22	Kay Wilcox & Meredith Goodrick	Meredith Goodrick
NOV 29	Kay Coombs & Gerri Sorbie	Sandy Mallory



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; 231-326-5510, or email: empireumc@gmail.com. Submit items for publications 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*

EMPIRE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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