



**The Lord is
merciful and
gracious, slow
to anger and
abounding in
steadfast love.**

Psalm 103:8

September 13, 2020

United Methodist Church of the Dunes

717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, Michigan

Lou Grettenberger, Senior Pastor

616-842-7980 | www.umcdunes.org

We Gather

Gathering Music

Welcome

Announcements

We Praise God

Invitation to Worship

Leader: Come! Come praise the eternal God!

People: Let all that is within us – body, emotions, mind, and will – praise God’s holy name!

Leader: Despite our failures, God forgives and releases us. More than any doctor, God heals our diseases.

People: When we are famished and weak, God fills us with good and beautiful things, satisfying our needs, and restoring our strength.

Leader: So come! Come, praise the eternal God! Sing songs from a grateful heart, and remember all that God has done for us.

People: Let us worship God together!

*Hymn #64

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Children’s Message

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, in the blazing light of your love our failings are illuminated; our failure to give, our failure to love, our failure to follow, our failure to serve, our failure to be the people you would have us be. Forgive us and renew us, O God. You know our nature; you know our failings. Enfold us in your arms that we might daily know your forgiveness and healing love. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. Be at peace for we know our sins are forgiven. Amen.

Reflection on Offering

Prayer of Dedication

God of our salvation, we remember that day when the Israelites, escaping their captors, were rescued by you, as you parted the sea to let them cross. Over the years, scholars have struggled with how many died that day that another group might be led to freedom. We offer our gifts to you in thankfulness for all your blessings, knowing others have so much less. Then we remember, that we have been blessed to be a blessing. May the lives we live today be an offering of blessing to those who are in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Share the Word

A Reading from the Psalms

Psalms 103:1-13

Worship Song

"10,000 Reasons"

Myrin/Redman
Meg Horist

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Exodus 14:19-31

Sermon

"Removing Obstacles"

Pastor Lou

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Respond to the Word

*Final Hymn #369

"Blessed Assurance"

We are Sent Forth

*Benediction

*Parting Music

**Stand as you are able*

Psalm 103:1-13

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits – who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.



Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Lou Grettenberger – Pastor
Carla Kocher – Announcements
Karyn Gillan – Liturgist
Megan Horist – Music & Production
Marna Jeffery – Organ

Church of the Dunes is a family of faith which seeks to:

- grow in God's grace and love
- challenge and equip all members to be faithful disciples
- share the Good News
- demonstrate and reflect the love of God

CHURCH STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Ministers:	all members of the congregation
Senior Pastor:	Rev. Louis Grettenberger (231-883-9806; pastorlou@umcdunes.org)
Administrative Assistant:	Cathryn Marshall (office@umcdunes.org)
Director of Worship Arts:	Megan Horist (mhorist@umcdunes.org)
Organist/Accompanist:	Marna Jeffery (mjeffery@umcdunes.org)
Dir. of Children's Ministries:	Daniel Malseed (dmalseed@umcdunes.org)
Director of Youth Ministry:	Ashley Boersma (aboersma@umcdunes.org)
Director of Communications:	Carla Kocher (communications@umcdunes.org)
Finance Manager:	Tom Eggebeen (financemanager@umcdunes.org)
Custodian:	Chuck Welton (office@umcdunes.org)
Kitchen Coordinator:	Sherry Baker (sbaker@umcdunes.org)
Wednesday Night Suppers:	Tracee Cole and Kelly Grilley
Office Assistant:	Shirley Chappell
Covenant Missionaries:	Dr. Lester & Debbie Dornon

A staff member will answer calls to the church office (616-842-7980) from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For pastoral emergencies, please call Pastor Lou directly on his cell phone listed above. Staff members are monitoring emails. The church building is still closed at this time.

Worship at Church of the Dunes

Online - Sundays, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at www.umcdunes.org

Visit www.umcdunes.org/worship to view the online worship service. Each service will be posted beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings and is available to watch throughout the day and week.

In-Person - Sundays at 9:30 a.m., reservations are required

In-person worship is held in the Wiltse Center fellowship area at the church. Reservations are required so that the worship space can be set up for social distancing. Reservation instructions and the sign-up form are provided in the weekly announcements email that is sent out on Thursdays. If you need assistance with reservations, please contact the church office at office@umcdunes.org or call (616) 842-7980.

Information and Announcements

IMPORTANT! In-Person Worship Info

Reservations for the September 20 in-person worship service must be made by noon on September 17.

Beginning September 13, Church of the Dunes is offering an in-person worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. In-person worship will be held in the Wiltse Center fellowship area at the church, and reservations are required. Reservations are due by noon on Thursdays for the upcoming Sunday. Online worship will continue to be available as well.

How: Reservation instructions are available in the most recent weekly announcements email. (If you are reading this in the weekly email, please scroll down for reservation information.) If you need assistance with reservations, please contact the church office at (616) 842-7980 or office@umcdunes.org.

What to expect: Masks will be required on church property, both indoors and outdoors. Those who attend will be asked to agree to a temperature check, answer some basic health questions, and to sign in. Ushers will provide guidance and instructions for entering and leaving the worship space. Nursery and Sunday School **will not** be available.

CHURCH PHONE UPDATE:

Beginning September 9, a staff member will be answering the church phone from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. For emergencies and pastoral care, please call (231) 883-9806. The church building is closed, except for in-person worship services. Most staff members continue to work remotely and can be contacted by email.

WELCOME OTHERS TO ONLINE WORSHIP - VIDEO GREETERS NEEDED:

Would you like to be a video greeter and share a hello and welcome in an upcoming worship video? If you are acquainted with using a phone camera to take video, the process is simple, and instructions are provided. This is a great opportunity for us to get to “see” one another after a long time apart. For details, contact Megan at mhorist@umcdunes.org.

TRI-CITIES CROP WALK GOES VIRTUAL:

The Tri-Cities CROP Hunger Walk will be a virtual walk this year. This means that you can walk at a time and day of your own choosing. What remains the same? The Tri-Cities is walking because many people locally and globally must walk to get their basic needs to survive. This year's walk is set for Sunday, October 4, so we are trying to collect donations by that time. Our challenge for this year is unique. Not only we trying to cross a milestone by raising over \$1,000,000 in total for all the years of the Tri-Cities CROP Walk, but for each walker who raises \$100 or more online, a local donor will donate \$100 for up to 150 walkers. The Church of the Dunes has a team set up online. Please consider joining the team. Contact Blair Miller for information and to sign up at bchm58.44@gmail.com or (616) 212-1040. <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/grandhavenmi>

Welcome to Church of the Dunes

Church of the Dunes is a family of faith which seeks to:
grow in God's grace and love
challenge and equip all members to be faithful disciples
share the Good News
demonstrate and reflect the love of God

The United Methodist Church of the Dunes aspires to love as Jesus loved. We open our hearts, minds, and doors to all. This congregation invites persons of all races, sexual orientations and gender identities, ages, abilities, and socio-economic status to participate fully in all aspects of the Christian life.

Praises, Prayers, and Thanks

FLOWERS:

The flower arrangement in the worship space today is in memory of Ginger Collins' parents, Lawrence & Erma Collins. The two roses are in honor of the birth of twins Augustus Kirby & Meara Ellender English born to Cassie & Andrew English on March 7. Grandparents are Val & Paul Martin. The single rose is in honor of the birth of Karsen Elliott Merz born July 23 to Dalton & Kendall Merz, grandmother Hilary Merz, and great-grandparents Harold & Gail Merz.

THANK YOU:

Dear Church of the Dunes, Thank you so much for the lovely bouquet and your friendship. The flowers were such a wonderful surprise and made my day! Thank you also for all the cards and well wishes for a speedy recovery. *Ginger Collins*

PLEASE JOIN OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD WHO ARE PRAYING FOR United Community Centers, Ft Worth, TX; and Ruth Ingulsrud Grubel, Missionary

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

Sept 15	Keyan Weesies (13)
Sept 16	David Miles
Sept 17	Stuart Roeder
Sept 18	Anna Marie Ackerman, Sandra Amstutz, Mary Merritt, Edo Mestrom
Sept 19	Bob Polk
Sept 20	Kaia DeSchaaf

Giving and Attendance

<u>Date/Week Of</u>	<u>Offerings Received</u>	<u>Weekly Average Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Weekly Budgeted</u>
September 6	\$3,769	\$9,095	\$9,846

To give by mail, please send offering to United Methodist Church of the Dunes, 717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, MI 49417. To give online, visit <https://umcdunes.org/give/>.

As of September 8, the September 6 online worship service had 115 views.

Contact

www.umcdunes.org office@umcdunes.org (616) 842-7980
For emergencies and pastoral care: (231) 883-9806