



September 8, 2024

ENGAGE Sunday

United Methodist Church of the Dunes
717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, Michigan

Lou Grettenberger, Pastor
616-842-7980 | www.umcdunes.org

September 8, 2024

We Gather

Gathering Music & Chimes

Welcome & Announcements

Threshold Moment

Introit

"Praise God's Holy Name"

Hampton
Chancel Choir

*Call to Worship

Leader: We can trust God

People: God is like the mountain: rock solid.

Leader: God loves all the people:

People: the poor, the disenfranchised, the outcast, the stranger.

Leader: We can depend on God.

People: God feeds the hungry, heals the sick, and restores relationships.

Leader: Praise our Loving God.

People: Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

We Praise God

*Hymn #368

"My Hope is Built"

Children's Time

Pastor Lou

Back to School Blessing

Loving God, we thank you for the students, teachers, classroom aids, administrators, building employees, and bus drivers in our midst. We thank you that most were able to enjoy a restful and relaxing summer. We pray for all these as they return to school. Bless these students with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who teach, help, and learn. Replace fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy. Grant teachers and all who help in our schools with wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Worship Song

"This is Amazing Grace"

Riddle/Farro/Wickam

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we come before you today knowing that we often fall short of your call to love one another well. We allow ourselves to be blinded by wealth and power. We ignore those around us who suffer injustice, poverty, and rejection. We tune out the cries of the poor and those on the edges of our communities. Help us to see your great generosity, hear your word of mercy, and feel your great love for all who need your redemptive grace. Strengthen us to reach out in service to those who are in need. Make us aware of those outside our own communities, that we may see them as your precious children and serve them in humility and joy. May we continue to grow in grace as we learn how to serve you in the name of your greatest servant, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Let Us Sing Jubilate Deo"

Gilpin
Chancel Choir

*Doxology #94

*Prayer of Dedication

Loving Creator, we dedicate these offerings with hearts guided by your wisdom and grace. As we gather on this September Sunday, may our gifts embody the teachings of Christ, spreading honor, kindness, and justice to all. Use these offerings to uplift those in need, fostering hope and peace in our community. May we live out your wisdom in our actions and generosity. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

We Share the Word

A Reading from the Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

Hymn

"Draw the Circle Wide"

A Reading from the New Testament

James 2:1-17

A Reading from the Psalms

Psalms 146:5-8

Sermon

"Getting Our Hands Dirty"

Pastor Lou

We Respond to the Word

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (contemporary)

*Final Hymn #2186

"Song of Hope"

We are Sent Forth

*Benediction

*Chimes & Parting Music

**Please stand as you are able*

My Hope is Built
Hymn #368

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

{Refrain:} On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)

His oath, his covenant, his blood
supports me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. (Refrain)

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne! (Refrain)

Doxology
Hymn #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Draw the Circle Wide

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle,
draw the circle wide.

Mark 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.²⁶ Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."³⁰ And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him.³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them,

the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do not claim the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory while showing partiality. ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here in a good place, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit by my footstool," ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor person. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into the courts? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹¹ For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but you murder, you have become a transgressor of[a] the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Psalm 146:5-8

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who
keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

Song of Hope
Hymn #2186

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.



This Week's Calendar

SUNDAY **September 8, 2024**

- 9:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary
- 9:45 AM Sunday School - Room 8 (lower level)
- 10:30 AM ENGAGE - Wiltse Center

MONDAY **September 9, 2024**

- 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Group – Panera Bread, Grand Haven
- 1:00 PM Life After Loss – Ryder Lounge
- 1:00 PM Struggle is Real – Room 13
- 2:00 PM Gun Violence Prevention – Room 2
- 5:30 PM Chair Yoga – Social Hall
- 6:00 PM Dunesmen – Ryder Lounge

TUESDAY **September 10, 2024**

- 9:00 - 11:00 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 9:00 - 11:00 AM Pastor Lou's Office Hours
- 10:00 AM "Not Alone" Bible Study – Room 2
- 11:00 AM Staff Meeting – Ryder Lounge
- 1:00 PM Esther Circle – Ryder Lounge
- 2:30 PM Planned Giving – Conference Room
- 4:00 PM Staff Parish Relations Committee – Ryder Lounge
- 6:30 PM Trustees – Ryder Lounge
- 7:00 PM Bells of Glory – Choir Loft

WEDNESDAY **September 11, 2024**

- 9:00 - 11:00 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 4:30 PM Dreamweavers – Ryder Lounge
- 5:30 PM Supper - Wiltse Center
- 6:00 PM Yarn Lovers Knit & Crochet – Conference Room
- 6:00 PM Guitars - Sanctuary
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Loft

THURSDAY **September 12, 2024**

- 9:00 – 11:00 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 10:00 AM Craft Circle
- 11:30 AM Chair Yoga – Social Hall
- 2:30 – 6:00 PM Piano Lessons - Sanctuary

FRIDAY **September 13, 2024**

Office Closed

SATURDAY **September 14, 2024**

No Scheduled Activities

Church of the Dunes
Information, Events, and Activities

Events and activities are open to all.

TODAY AT CHURCH

- **Back to School Blessing** During the service, Pastor Lou will say a special blessing for students, teachers, and school employees.
- **Brown Bag Non-perishable Food Gathering** The groceries you see at church today will be given to The People Center's food pantry in Spring Lake. The next food gathering will be in November.
- **ENGAGE Fall Start-Up Event** After worship, please come to the Wiltse Center fellowship area where Church of the Dunes' ministries and groups will have information tables and friendly volunteers to answer questions. A continental brunch will be served.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP – SEPTEMBER 9, 1:00 PM

"Life after Loss" meets on the second Monday of each month in the Ryder Lounge on the main floor of the church. This is open to all who are dealing with a death-related loss. A bereavement professional from Trinity Health-At Home hosts and leads the discussion.

DUNESMEN MEAL AND MEETING – SEPTEMBER 9, 6:00PM

All men are invited to this get-together for a meal, fellowship, and a short meeting. Meal hosts are Bruce Bishop and Rich Cole. If you plan to attend, please contact one of them to let them know. For assistance, contact the church office.

CRAFT CIRCLE – RUG HOOKING ARTIST – SEPTEMBER 12, 10:00 AM

The fiber artist and entrepreneur who founded Green Dragonfly Studios in Grand Haven will give a special presentation about rug hooking. This meets in the Ryder Lounge (main floor). All are welcome!

CELEBRATION CHOIR REHEARSALS – SEPTEMBER 18 & 25, 7:30 PM

Celebration Choir is Church of the Dunes' occasional choir and is open to all singers, middle school to adult. This choir sings next for worship on September 29 with 45-minute rehearsals on the two Wednesday evenings leading up, September 19 and 25.

PIG ROAST & POTLUCK – SEPTEMBER 22, 11:00 AM

Please sign up on the sign-in sheet in this bulletin or contact the church office to RSVP.

DUNES CONCERT SERIES FIRST CONCERT – SEPTEMBER 26, 7:00 PM

This music series kicks off with the first (free!) concert on Thursday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Candid Antics (known formerly as Pocket Watch) will perform modern jazz with old-school and new-age influences. Please tell your friends and neighbors.

CROP WALK BIG NEWS! CHURCH OF THE DUNES HOSTS THIS YEAR – OCTOBER 6

We need lots of walkers, and volunteers to help with hosting duties. Walkers can choose the one-mile route or the 5K (3.2 mile) route. On October 6, check in is at 1:30 p.m., followed by worship at 1:45 p.m., and the walk begins at 2:00 p.m. You can sign up to walk or volunteer for the CROP Walk at today's ENGAGE event after worship or contact Blair Miller. For assistance contact the church office.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to replenish the bread and juice for the servers as communion is being served. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Volunteers may sign up to help monthly or occasionally. Contact Shirley Chappell or the church office for more information.

Job Posting

Director of Family Ministries *(part time)*

Church of the Dunes is seeking a faith-focused, organized, and creative Director of Family Ministries to develop, implement and oversee programming and events for nursery, children, youth, and their families. This position trains and coordinates volunteers and nursery staff. Bachelor's degree in related field preferred, two years of experience in Christian Education required. Sunday availability needed. Extended job summary and application information at www.umcdunes.org.

Community Choir Practices Begin Soon

September 19, 10:30 a.m.

Weekly Thursday morning rehearsals last about one hour. Choral experience is helpful, but not required. There are no auditions. This choir is open to all adult singers and performs occasionally at local senior living residences and other locations in the community.

All are Welcome

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.

Sundays at Church of the Dunes

Worship - 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary

For a link to the recorded livestream, visit www.umcdunes.org/worship.

Nursery - available during 9:30 a.m. worship

It is located a short distance down the hall from the worship space.

Sunday School for Children - Hosanna classroom (Room 8), lower level

The pastor will dismiss students to Sunday school from worship after the Children's Time.

Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m. - Wiltse Center fellowship area

Please stop by for fresh coffee and delicious refreshments.

Faith Linked - 10:45 a.m. - Ryder Lounge

Discussion of topics and current events from a faith-focused perspective. Open to all adults.

Notes from the Church Office

Church Office Hours

Monday -Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or by appointment.

Church of the Dunes would like to stay connected with you and to be supportive of you and your loved ones. If your contact information has changed, please let the church office know. If you or a family member is hospitalized, going to be having surgery, or is homebound and would like a visit, please let us know. Let us know, as well, if you have experienced a death in your family.

Hospitality Hint

Please silence your phone before the service begins.

Praises and Prayers

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given by Jane Turner in memory of husband Rick, and by Carol Sue Scherpenisse in honor of Mel on their wedding anniversary.

DEAR CHURCH FRIENDS, thank you so much for making my 90th birthday party such a memorable one with your cards and attendance. You make being 90 a happy age. *Bonnie Stone*

THANK YOU to all my church friends who prayed for me and sent cards after my recent fall. Healing is coming along fine because of you. *T Stone*

CHURCH MEMBER AND FRIEND Donna Jean L is turning 100 on September 27. If you would like to send her a birthday greeting, there will be a gift bag at the Welcome Center to collect cards. Can we give her 100 cards? After Sunday worship on September 22, I will take the bag and deliver it to her later in the week. Thanks in advance. *Vicki Reis*

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

- September 8 Teracia Graegin
- September 9 Karen Hoffman
- September 13 Gerald Gibbs, Jack Grevel, Judy Hanson
- September 15 John Pearce, Carla Vanderploeg Pearce

Giving and Attendance

<u>Date/Week Of</u>	<u>Offerings Received</u>	<u>Weekly Average Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Weekly Budgeted</u>	<u>Percent of Budget</u>
September 1	\$11,103	\$9,197	\$8,830	104.2

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/>.

September 1, 2024

Total attendance	240.5
In person	149
Online	91.5 (61 x 1.5)

Since one view may include more than one person viewing together, the Michigan Conference of the UMC recommends multiplying the number of views by 1.5 to estimate total online attendance.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Liturgist: Neal Miller
Music: Chancel Choir
Technology: Jane Norton
Greeter: Don Reis
Welcome Center: Vicki Reis
Ushers: Sam Easterly, Pam & Dale Zurakowski
Coffee Hour: ENGAGE Ministry Fair

Next Week – September 15

Liturgist: Kay Cansfield
Music: Chancel Choir
Technology: Jane Norton
Greeter: Carole Woolf
Welcome Center: Elizabeth Dales
Ushers: Sam Easterly, Jane Brown, Jackie & Tom Laughlin, Heather Torrance
Coffee Hour: Sherry Baker

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 office hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
For pastoral emergencies, please call Pastor Lou directly on his cellphone at 231-883-9806.