



*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

Isaiah 60:1

January 12, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

United Methodist Church of the Dunes

717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, Michigan

Lou Grettenberger, Pastor

616-842-7980 | www.umcdunes.org

We Gather

Gathering Music & Chimes

Welcome & Announcements

Threshold Moment

Introit

"Star of Wonder"

Roche
Treble Ensemble

*Call to Worship

Leader: Darkness is banished!

People: God's light has come to us!

Leader: The brightness of the Star leads us!

People: We come to celebrate God's abiding love!

Leader: Glory be to God in the Highest!

People: And on earth, peace forever. Let us worship together.

We Praise God

Hymn #254

"We Three Kings"

Children's Time

Pastor Lou

Worship Song

"Shine on Us"

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who, when they saw the coming of the Christ Child, dropped all that they were doing and worshipped. We would like to be those who cared for God present in the world as a vulnerable infant; who cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety. And yet, merciful God, we recognize all the times we are more like Herod. We prove this whenever our need for control is more compelling than the needs of others' health and safety. We prove this whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed. We prove this whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit or power, and give in to our fear of the other. Forgive us, Holy one. Help us to be the light in the world just as you sent your son as the light to us. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"What is this Light?"

Shackley
Treble Ensemble, Marna Jeffery

*Doxology #249

"There's a Song in the Air"

verse 1

*Prayer of Dedication

God of Light, we present these gifts with love. We rejoice in our ability to share, but we long to do more. Please take our modest gifts and use them to shine your extravagant love into the world. May all know the hope that is found in you. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

We Share the Word

A Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn #2094

"Star Child"

A Reading from the New Testament

Philippians 2:14-16

Sermon

"Illuminate: Chasing Light"

Pastor Lou

We Respond to the Word

Star Gifts

Anthem

"Saw You Never in the Twilight"

Porter
Treble Ensemble, Marna Je4ffery

Epiphany Prayer

Star-flinging God, whose light dances across eternity, dazzle us into your presence this year. Open our hearts to the mystery of your love. Awaken us to your presence, knit to the ordinary. Reveal to us what is possible, but not yet present. Heal us, that we might be healers. Reconcile us to you and to ourselves, that our living might be reconciling. Stop us often, we pray, with news that is good with hope that holds, with truth that transforms, with a Word tailored to this trail we're on. May the word of your grace guide our steps like the sun by day and the north star by night, as we travel through the gift of a new year. Amen.

*Final Hymn #2235

"We Are Singing"

We are Sent Forth

*Benediction

*Chimes & Parting Music

**Please stand as you are able*

We Three Kings

Hymn #254

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

Shine on Us

Lord let Your light
Light of Your face shine on us
Lord let Your light
Light of Your face shine on us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your light shine on us

Lord let Your grace
Grace from Your hand fall on us
Lord let Your grace
Grace from Your hand fall on us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your grace fall on us

Lord let Your love
Love with no end come over us
Lord let Your love
Love with no end come over us
That we may be saved
That we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night
Let Your love come over us
Let Your light shine on us

Doxology
Hymn #249

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were

overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Star-Child
Hymn #2095 vs 1 & 5

Star-Child, earth-Child, go between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Hope-for-Peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Philippians 2:14-16

Do all things without murmuring and arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world, ¹⁶ holding forth the word of life so that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

We Are Singing
Hymn # 2235-a

We are singing for the Lord is our light,
we are singing for the Lord is our light.
We are singing for the Lord is our light,
we are singing for the Lord is, for the Lord is our light.
We are singing, singing,
we are singing, singing,
we are singing for the Lord is our light.
We are singing for the Lord is our light,
we are singing for the Lord is our light.



The Lord is Our Light

This Week's Calendar

SUNDAY **January 12, 2025**

- 9:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary
- 9:45 AM “Be Bold” Sunday School - Room 8
- 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship - Wiltse Center fellowship area
- 10:45 AM Faith Linked – Ryder Lounge

MONDAY **January 13, 2025**

- 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Group – Panera Bread, Grand Haven
- 9:00 – 9:00 PM Quilt Guild – Wiltse Center
- 11:00 AM Reading the Bible – Ryder Lounge
- 1:00 PM Life After Loss – Ryder Lounge
- 1:30 – 5:30 PM Piano Lessons - Sanctuary
- 5:30 PM Chair Yoga – Social Hall (lower level)

TUESDAY **January 14, 2025**

- 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 – Ryder Lounge
- 11:00 AM Staff Meeting – Conference Room
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 1:00 PM Esther Circle – Ryder Lounge
- 4:00 PM Staff Parish Relations Committee – Ryder Lounge
- 6:30 PM Trustees – Ryder Lounge
- 7:00 PM Bells of Glory – Choir Loft

WEDNESDAY **January 15, 2025**

- 9:00 – 11:00 am Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 10:30 AM Heart of Christianity Bible Study – Ryder Lounge
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM Private lessons – Wiltse Center
- 5:15 PM Wednesday Night Supper – Wiltse Center
- 6:00 PM Knit & Crochet – Conference Room
- 6:00 PM Guitars – Sanctuary
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Loft

THURSDAY **January 16, 2025**

- 9:00 - 11:00 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 10:30 PM Community Choir
- 11:30 AM Chair Yoga – Social Hall
- 11:00-3:00 PM Private lessons – Wiltse Center
- 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM Piano Lessons - Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM Grand River Program – Ryder Lounge

FRIDAY **January 17, 2025**

- Office Closed
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center

SATURDAY **January 18, 2025**

No scheduled activities

Church of the Information, Events, and Activities

Events and activities are open to all.

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE DUNES

Today in worship we celebrate the arrival of The Wise Ones to visit the baby Jesus. Each person will receive a beautiful paper star with a word printed on it. You are invited to consider how that word might apply to your life and faith in the new year. If you are visiting today, we hope you will consider making Church of the Dunes your church home.

ORDERS FOR LOGO APPAREL TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

Finishing Well Ministry will be taking orders for Church of the Dunes logo apparel and accessories (fleece vests, hats, tote bags, etc.) on Sundays in January at coffee fellowship time. Cash or check please. Orders will arrive in February.

“READING THE BIBLE TOGETHER” – BEGINS MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 11:00 AM

Bring your Bible as we read aloud and discuss the Gospel of Luke together. Meetings will take place in the Ryder Lounge (main floor). Attend weekly or as your schedule allows, no sign-up is needed.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP – MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1:00 PM

This group is open to all who have experienced a death related loss. A hospice and bereavement professional from Trinity Health – At Home leads the sessions. The group will meet in the Ryder Lounge (main floor).

PROGRAM: “A GRAND RIVER” – THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 6:00 PM

Ottawa County Parks naturalist, George Jaeger, is coming to Church of the Dunes to talk about the ways the Grand River’s geology is entwined with history and our culture today. Learn about sediments and erosion and learn to look for these characteristics in your county parks. Please sign up in advance by contacting Susan Thorpe; contact the church office for assistance.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP – MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1:00 PM

These monthly meetings are open to all caring for a loved one with a long-term illness or diagnosis. It is a time for information, tips, ideas, and to connect with others who are experiencing the caregiving journey. Meetings are held in the Ryder Lounge (main floor).

DUNESMEN MEAL AND MEETING – MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 6:00 PM

All men are invited for a meal, fellowship, and presentation in the Wiltse Center fellowship area (main floor). Joyce Bowling will speak about the important work of Love in Action’s Harbor Hall. Al Kochanowski is the meal host. Please let him know if you will be attending. For assistance in making the connection, contact the church office.

ROMEOS MEN’S BREAKFAST – TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 8:30 AM, RUSS’ RESTAURANT

Retired Old Men Eating Out (ROMEOS) invites all men, retired or not, to meet up for breakfast on the third Tuesday of each month, 8:30 a.m., at Russ’ Restaurant in Grand Haven. This is a casual get-together for fellowship and conversation.

CHAIR SUPPORTED YOGA CLASSES – MONDAYS, 5:30 PM AND THURSDAYS, 11:00 AM

These classes include gentle stretches done while seated in or supported by a chair, and are designed to support balance, flexibility, and relaxation. A \$1 donation per class session helps with expenses. These classes are open to all adults and meet in the Social Hall (lower level).

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.

Notes from the Church Office

Church Office Hours

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

The bulletin deadline is noon on Tuesdays, and earlier on holiday weeks. Bulletin space is limited and often fills up well before the deadline. Early submissions are recommended.

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.

Praises and Prayers

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY ARE in honor of the marriage of Taylor Leister and Diego Morse whose wedding was here yesterday.

THANK YOU TO CHURCH OF THE DUNES for the lovely flowers you sent me for my birthday. They brightened my day! *Dolores Quackenbush*

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

January 14	Michele McCracken
January 15	Carol Finke
January 17	Lynn Eady
January 18	Linda Gibbs
January 19	Gary Erickson, Betty Thompson

Giving

<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>
January 5	\$6,729	\$6,729	\$8,904	75.6

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/>.

Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>x 1.5</u>	<u>Total</u>
1-5	141	51	76.5	217.5

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: Bruce Bishop
Pastor: Lou Grettenberger
Music: Treble Ensemble – Casey Weeks, Dawn Scott, Meg Horist,
Cathryn Marshall, Jill Miller; Organ and Piano – Marna Jeffery
Technology: Don Woodward, Trevor Larkins
Greeter: Heather Torrance
Welcome Center: Susan & Doug Thorpe
Ushers: Sam Easterly, Pam & Dale Zurakowski, Char & Jack Grevel, John Bartels
Coffee Hour: Mike & Suzanne Moynihan, Sherry Baker

Next Week – January 19

Liturgist: Jan Lipfert
Pastor: Lou Grettenberger
Music: Chancel Choir, Marna Jeffery
Technology: Don Woodward, ArSarNi Grettenberger
Greeter: Darlene Graska
Welcome Center: Dave & Karen Hoffman
Ushers: Sam Easterly, Heather Torrance, Nancy Humphrey, Rob & Betty Roberts
Coffee Hour: Carol Sue Scherpenisse

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.