



February 23, 2025

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

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



February 23, 2025

We Gather

Gathering Music

Dunes Music
Education Students

Welcome & Announcements

Threshold Moment

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come and learn the ways of life.

People: We have come to follow Jesus.

Leader: Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you.

People: We have come to follow Jesus.

Leader: Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who persecute you.

People: We have come to follow Jesus.

Leader: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

People: We have come to follow Jesus. Let's worship the one we follow together.

We Praise God

Hymn #66

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Children's Time

Pastor Lou

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we do not always love our neighbor. We confess that we have despised others, even to the point of hatred. We confess that we have been hurt by others. We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation at times seem impossible for us, but we know that nothing is impossible in You. We come to You, seeking healing and wholeness. Help us to live in peace with others and with you. Empower us to seek reconciliation, healing and forgiveness. Remind us of Your message of peace to those who had denied him and abandoned him. May we walk in his ways. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Special Music

"Jesus Loves Me"

arr. Raney
Marna Jeffery, Dianne Prieditis

Mission Moment

Momentum Center

Barbara Lee VanHorsen

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Prelude in C"

J.S. Bach
Isaac Noel, DMEF Student

*Doxology #94

"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"

*Prayer of Dedication

Merciful God, who calls us to love beyond measure, we offer these gifts as a sign of our commitment to your teachings. Help us love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and bless those who curse us. May our offerings give hope and healing to those our ministry whom our ministry touches. May our church reflect your boundless grace in this beloved community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

We Share the Word

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 45:3-11 (CEB)

Hymn #560

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

A Reading from the Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

Sermon

"Don't Sell Out Your Brother or Your Neighbor"

Pastor Lou

We Respond to the Word

Response to the Word

Leader: Let us be known as children of the Most High.

People: We will love our enemies, and do good to those who hate us.

Leader: Let us be known as disciples of Christ.

People: We will bless those who curse us, and pray for those who wrong us.

Leader: Let us be known as heirs of the Spirit.

People: We will be merciful, even as our God is merciful.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator in heaven, holy is your Name, Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

*Final Hymn #572

"Pass it On"

We are Sent Forth

*Benediction/*Chimes

*Parting Music

DMEF Students

**Please stand as you are able*

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
Hymn #66

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to the throne thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise the Lord for grace and favor
to all people in distress;
praise God, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious now God's faithfulness.

Father-like, God tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame God knows;
mother-like, God gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet God's mercy flows.

Angels in the heights, adoring,
you behold God face to face;
saints triumphant, now adoring,
gathered in from every race.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

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!

Genesis 45:3-11 (CEB)

Joseph said to his brothers, "I'm Joseph! Is my father really still alive?" His brothers couldn't respond because they were terrified before him.

⁴ Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me," and they moved closer. He said, "I'm your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt. ⁵ Now, don't be upset and don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives. ⁶ We've already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. ⁷ God sent me before you to make sure you'd survive and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. ⁸ You didn't send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt.

⁹ "Hurry! Go back to your father. Tell him this is what your son Joseph says: 'God has made me master of all of Egypt. Come down to me. Don't delay. ¹⁰ You may live in the land of Goshen, so you will be near me, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and everyone with you. ¹¹ I will support you there, so you, your household, and everyone with you won't starve, since the famine will still last five years.'

Help Us Accept Each Other
Hymn #560

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us,
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew
us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Luke 6 :27-38

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Pass it On
Hymn # 572

It only takes a spark
to get a fire going,
and soon all those around
can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love
once you've experienced it;
you spread his love to everyone;
you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring,
when all the trees are budding;
the birds begin to sing,
the flowers start their blooming.
That's how it is with God's love
once you've experienced it,
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend,
this happiness that I've found;
you can depend on him,
it matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountaintop;
I want my world to know;
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

This Week's Calendar

SUNDAY **February 23, 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
- 10:45 AM Bible in 52 weeks for men – Rooms 13/14 downstairs

MONDAY **February 24, 2025**

- 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Group – Panera Bread, Grand Haven
- 11:00 AM Reading the Bible – Ryder Lounge
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 1:30 – 5:30 PM Piano Lessons – Sanctuary
- 1:30 PM Book Club – Panera Bread, Grand Haven
- 5:30 PM Chair Yoga – Social Hall (lower level)

TUESDAY **February 25, 2025**

- 9:00 – 11:00 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 9:00 – 11:00 AM Pastor Lou's Office Hours
- 10:00 AM Sermon on the Mount – Room 2
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 11:00 A Staff Meeting –Ryder Lounge
- 7:00 PM Bells of Glory – Choir Loft

WEDNESDAY **February 26, 2025**

- 9:00 – 11:00 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 9:30 AM Organ Lesson - Sanctuary
- 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
- 5:45 PM Meeting Jesus study- Ryder Lounge
- 6:00 PM Knit & Crochet – Conference Room
- 6:00 PM Guitars – Sanctuary
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Loft

THURSDAY **February 27, 2025**

- 9:00 - 11:00 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 10:30 AM Community Choir – Choir Room
- 11:00-3:00 PM Private lessons – Wiltse Center
- 11:30 AM Chair Yoga – Social Hall
- 3:00 – 7:00 PM Piano Lessons – Sanctuary

FRIDAY **February 28, 2025**

- Office Closed
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 2:45 PM Serve at Supper House

*Art in the Ryder Lounge exhibit is dedicated to HEARTS,
with art contributions from members of the Tuesday Painters group.*

Church of the Dunes
Information, Events, and Activities
Events and activities are open to all.

MISSION MOMENT: MOMENTUM CENTER

Today's in-worship Mission Moment benefits the Momentum Center, which provides support programs for adults and teens in Grand Haven experiencing mental illness, disabilities, or addictions. If you would like to contribute and plan to do so by check, please make it payable to Church of the Dunes and note Mission Moment on the memo line.

TODAY WE WELCOME students from the Dunes Music Education Fund who will be offering music during worship. DMEF offers free music lessons to local students. If you have any questions or are interested in supporting this fund, please contact the church office. Thank you to the students and families for worshipping with us today!

"THE BIBLE IN 52 WEEKS FOR MEN-A YEARLONG BIBLE STUDY"--TODAY, 10:45 AM

This group is open to all, with in-depth lessons and practical teachings applicable for those of all identities. Meetings take place every Sunday at 10:45 a.m. in Room 13/14 (lower level). Books are provided at no cost.

FOURTH MONDAY READING GROUP – FEBRUARY 24, 1:30 PM, PANERA BREAD

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at Panera Bread in Grand Haven. February's book is "The Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. To participate, get a copy of the book, read it, and join the discussion. (In inclement winter weather, meetings may be held on Zoom.)

"MEETING JESUS AT THE TABLE" STUDY – BEGINS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

This Lenten study group meets on Wednesdays from 5:45 to 7:00 p.m. Participants must purchase their own book.

EDUCATION GRANTS – APPLICATIONS DUE THIS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1:00 PM

The Memorial Fund Committee awards one-time education grants two times each year. Members and staff of Church of the Dunes, as well as children and grandchildren of members who have a connection to the church may apply. Details are available at www.umcdunes.org/serve. *The church office closes for the week on Thursday at 1:00 p.m.*

KENZIE'S BE CAFÉ 'BOGO DAY' – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Visit Kenzie's Be Café in Grand Haven this Friday, February 28 between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and receive a 'Buy One Get One' coupon from a Church of the Dunes volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Bruce Bishop or the church office.

"FAT TUESDAY" PANCAKE SUPPER – TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 4:30 - 6:30 PM

For "Fat Tuesday", the Dunesmen will be hosting a pancake supper with fresh pancakes and sausage. This event is open to all, with no reservations required. The event is free, although an offering plate will be available. The supper will take place in the Wiltse Center (main floor).

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER AND REFLECTION- MARCH 5, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

On Ash Wednesday, the Sanctuary will be open for self-guided prayer and reflection, with written prompts, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. There will be communion and the imposition of ashes, with Pastor Lou present to provide the communion and ashes.

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 given in memory of Alan by Marge Freeman, and in celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary (!) by Roger & Bonnie VanderMolen.

THANK YOU to Ruth Circle for my delicious Valentine “Hug” and to those responsible for the occasional “Thinking of You” cards. Your thoughtfulness is most appreciated! – *Ron Kirchner*

I SO APPRECIATE your birthday wishes. Knowing that friends took the time to send cards or call was so kind. Wish I was able to return to church but my illness prevents my attendance. – *Mike Anthes*

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

February 24	Sarah Kniss, Rose Umphrey(98)
February 25	Bruce Boonstra
February 28	Dale Edgerle (93), Rob Staehlin
March 1	Sylvia Ruscett (95)
March 2	Al Kochanowski

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>
February 16	\$2,369	\$9,734	\$8,830	109.3

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>
2-16	124	79	118.5	242.5

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
Pastor: Lou Grettenberger
Music: Dianne Prieditis & Marna Jeffery; Dunes Music Education Students
Technology: Blair Miller, Trevor Larkins
Greeter: Ron Kurburski
Welcome Center: Carol Barnhill
Ushers: Sam Easterly, Eric Weber, John Bartels, Pam & Dale Zurakowski
Coffee Hour: Sherry Baker

Next Week – March 2

Liturgist: Kay Cansfield
Pastor: Lou Grettenberger
Music: Chancel Choir, Marna Jeffery
Technology: ArSarNi Grettenberger
Greeter: Carole Woolf
Welcome Center: Volunteer Needed
Ushers: Sam Easterly, Nancy Humphrey, Neal Miller, Rich Cole
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.