

Dunes Digest



A VISION: LOOKING FORWARD

Pastor's Thoughts

Rev. Lou Grettenberger

As you receive this letter, I am in Traverse City for the Michigan Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Here, I am finding out more about the continuing journey of the United Methodist Church and our denomination's efforts to become a more inclusive and grace-filled church. At the same time, we are learning more about the significant challenges that local churches and our denomination are facing. New challenges require renewed vision and passion to accomplish God's purposes for continuing life.

I was excited to hear that The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church recently announced a new vision for the United Methodist Church that reflects the Church's deepening commitment to embodying God's dream for the world.

The vision states:

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

This vision statement complements the U.M. Church's longstanding mission statement:

"The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The vision encourages United Methodists to embody the following principles:

- **Love Boldly:** Passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender and walk of life.
Inspired by Matthew 22:37-39 and John 13:34-35
- **Serve Joyfully:** With a Christ-like heart, journey alongside the most vulnerable, offering care and compassion with joy.
Inspired by Psalm 100:1, Nehemiah 8:10, John 13:14-15 and 1 Peter 4:10
- **Lead Courageously:** Follow Jesus' example by resisting and dismantling all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice and reconciliation.
Inspired by Joshua 1:9 and Ephesians 6:10

UMC Dunes has already begun living into much of the sentiment of this new vision statement. We have stated our commitment to and are doing our best to live into a more inclusive ministry. We are finding joy in the journey, as we sing, play, work, and serve our way to an ever-more-committed congregation.

Continued next page

Remembrance

Dave Heckaman died on May 10, 2025. Please keep his loved ones in your prayers.

Celebrating Baptism

Bentley McDaniel was baptized at Church of the Dunes on May 4, 2025.

Rory Vincent was baptized at Church of the Dunes on May 25, 2025.

We celebrate with their families and loved ones.

Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m.

All are welcome!

Livestream available at 9:20 a.m. on the church's YouTube channel.

Recordings of the services are also available there. To find it, search *Dunes Church Grand Haven YouTube*.

Church office hours:

Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Phone:

(616) 842-7980

Email: office@umcdunes.org

United Methodist Church of the Dunes

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Grand Haven, MI 49417
www.umcdunes.org

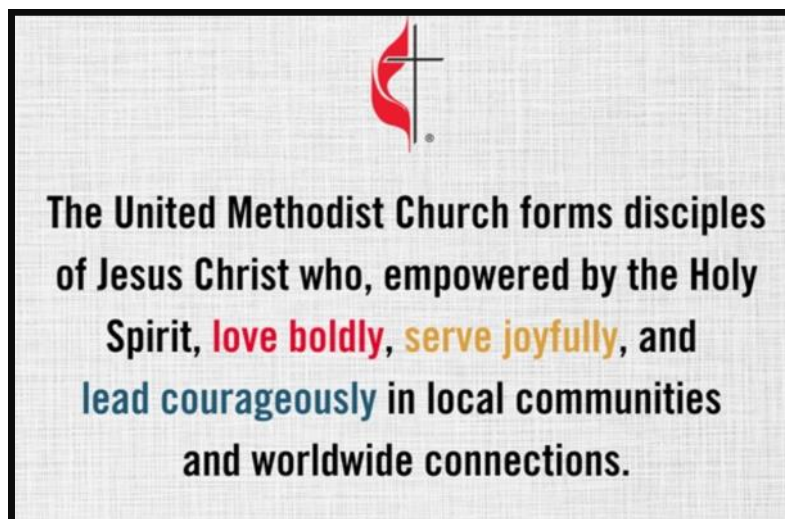
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Helping, serving, and loving are bringing us great joy. Our ministry includes taking some risks, stepping out in faith, and not letting ourselves be afraid of verbalizing our shared beliefs and commitment to fighting injustice and evil in whatever forms they reveal themselves.

I hope we can all embrace our denomination's new vision and find ways to live it out in our individual lives and our life together— loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously.

Peace,
Pastor Lou



Important June Dates for Your Calendar

Sunday, June 1 - Music Ministry Sunday Page 7

Sunday, June 1 - Celebration Recital

Church Sanctuary (main floor), 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 15 - Father's Day

Saturday, June 21 - Silent March Page 9

Central Park (Grand Haven), 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 22 - Whitecaps Baseball Game

LMCU Stadium (Comstock Park), 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 28 - Beach Night Page 6

Grand Haven State Park, 6:00 p.m.

MARY CIRCLE

Meets First Thursday of the Month, 1 PM, Ryder Lounge

Darlene Graska, Mary Circle

It's an age thing... Mary Circle has transitioned from an evening circle to an afternoon circle. Format of the circle meetings varies. We had interesting speakers for the 1st quarter of 2025 including Joyce Bowling with updates from Hope House, and Sarah Elliott, a liaison for Grand Haven Area Public School homeless children. We visited the Christian Reformed conference grounds. Executive Director Valarie Williams shared the history of the grounds and all the amenities open to the public. We also enjoy an occasional lunch at a local restaurant, a yearly picnic, or even a Christian game day!

For our June 5 meeting, we will have a representative from Hope Project as our guest speaker. Hope Project supports the healing of women and girls who have survived sex trafficking. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, June 5 at 1:00 p.m. in the Ryder Lounge (main floor).

2025 PHOTO DIRECTORY

Photo Dates and Submission Guidelines

Church of the Dunes Office and Communications

Church of the Dunes will be compiling a new photo directory for 2025! These directories will be completed over the summer, and will be available for pickup at the ministry fair in the fall.

If you are unable to submit a digital photo, you may instead choose to have your photo taken at church. Photos will be taken by our Communications Lead on three Sundays this summer: **June 15, June 22, and July 13**. Photos will be taken between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in order of sign-up, on those dates. To sign up to have your photo taken at church, see Madelyn Steinbeck, the Communications Lead, or use the sign-up sheets posted on the door of the Communications Office. Please note that sign up sheets may be moved on Sundays.

The directory will also include two collage pages. These pages give the directory personality! For the collage pages, you are encouraged to submit digital photos of yourself that you think embody the social spirit of Church of the Dunes. These photos should not include others or imagery that is inappropriate or offensive. An example might include submitting a photo of yourself in uniform for the Church of the Dunes drill team! Or a photo taken of you wearing a fun hat! Or even a photo of yourself from your college days. These photos can be submitted to the communications office and may be cropped. Not all images are guaranteed to be included, but we will make an effort to include as many as possible.

If you choose to submit a personal digital photo for the directory (NOT the collage pages), please utilize the tips on the following pages (**pages 4-5**). Thank you!

DIRECTORY PHOTOS

These instructions are tips to ensure your digital personal photo submissions fit properly in the directory formatting. If you have more questions regarding formatting or photo standards, contact the church office or communications office.

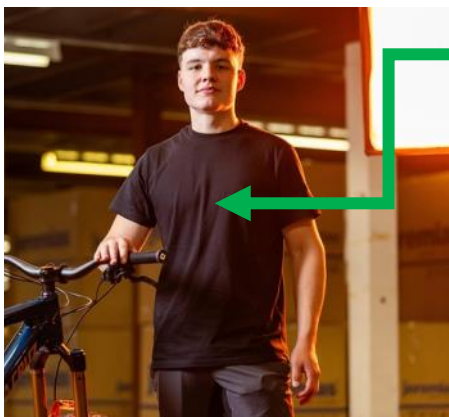


Clear Faces

Faces of all participants in the photo should be unobstructed and clearly visible from the front. Please avoid face paint, masks, or excessively silly facial expressions.

Correct Size

Images should be vertically oriented between square and 2:3 proportionally. Images should be clear and a large enough image or file size to not look pixelated or blurry (at least 800 pixels wide or 1.5 megabytes).



Appropriate Attire

Clothing, background imagery, and other objects in the image should avoid words and imagery that may be offensive or derogatory. Attire worn in the photos is at the discretion of those in the photo.

DIRECTORY PHOTOS

To avoid issues with formatting or digital photo submission, avoid the following common problems. If you have more questions regarding formatting or photo standards, contact the church office or communications office.



No Landscape Images

Images in the final directory will be vertical with proportions closer to a square or 2:3 proportional image. Images may be cropped at the discretion of the office in final production. To avoid cropping, avoid landscape images.

Too Far Away

Directory images should include a clear view of the face. Avoid images where faces are blurry, covered, or far away in the picture.



No Other People

Images should only include you, your spouse, or children within your family. Avoid images with people in the background, people outside of your family, or people who will be separate from you in the directory.

COVERED IN CARE

Blessed Dresser Scarves

Ann Antaya

Church of the Dunes Craft Circle

Pictured are members of Craft Circle who made dresser scarves for the women of Hope House. The scarves were blessed during the May meeting. The next Craft Circle meeting is Thursday, June 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ryder Lounge (main floor). All are welcome.



SWEET SUMMER FUN

Big Ideas and Bigger Summer Plans

Ruth Woodward, *United Women of Faith*



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith is in full planning mode! Watch for information in the coming months about our Garden Party on Wednesday, August 13. Many women are already working on projects for the Holly Berry Bazaar which will be held on Saturday, November 8. Have an idea? Let us know. This is a huge undertaking and requires lots of planning and work. All are welcome to help plan, create, and work. Plans are also underway for our annual Candlelight Christmas. Watch for details in the coming months.

All the above activities are well in the future, but coming up in just a couple of weeks we will again be honoring dads with "**PIES FOR POPS!**" On Father's Day, we will have a variety of pies and will have slices available in exchange for a free-will offering. Treat your 'Pop' to a slice of pie on his special day.

BEACH NIGHT: JUNE 28

Return of 20 Somethings' Events

All '20 Somethings' are invited to join a summer beach night! Dinner and activities will be provided. The group will meet at the Church of the Dunes' weekday entrance (main floor) at 6:00 p.m. and will carpool to the Grand Haven State Park.



Worship Arts Ministry: Notes from the Loft

by Megan Horist, Director of Worship Arts

JUNE 2025

THANK YOU!

To all the volunteers that help make worship so beautiful at the Dunes! Chancel Choir, Bells of Glory, Strings and Things Guitar Club, instrumentalists, vocalists, ushers, technology team, banner creators, communion preparers, and many more. Thanks for all you do to make worship special at the Church of the Dunes!

COME CELEBRATE MUSIC AND WORSHIP

During worship on Sunday, June 1, we will have an opportunity to focus on what it means to worship God through music at the Church of the Dunes. Come celebrate where we've been, what's happening in the music program now, and looking toward the future as we worship through music together!

ONLINE WORSHIP - SAY HELLO!

We are now offering chat before worship! Log in on your computer or phone and say hello before the service begins! Chatting is open at 9:20 a.m. until the opening hymn. All worship services at the Dunes are live-streamed to our YouTube channel: Dunes Church Grand Haven. Join us online for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:20 a.m. All services are available in full at the conclusion of the live-stream.

Hope to see you soon in person or online!

Megan

COMING UP IN WORSHIP

JUNE 01

**CHANCEL CHOIR &
BELLS OF GLORY**

in worship for the final
Sunday of the season

JUNE 08

Pentecost Sunday

Communion

GUITAR CLUB

in worship

JUNE 15

Special Music—

TREBLE ENSEMBLE

JUNE 22

Special Music—

**MATT AND PAIGE
HORIST**

Mission Moment:

Supper House

JUNE 29

Special Music—

**DUNES BASS CLEF
ENSEMBLE**



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

2025 Graduating Seniors



ArSarNi Grettenberger

Plans: to attend Western Michigan University to pursue an education in architecture.

Hobbies: Completing Lego cars, reading comics, and puzzles.

Favorite Quote: "When the student is ready the teacher will appear. When the student is truly ready, the teacher will disappear."



Trevor James Larkins

Plans: to start an apprenticeship in the construction field, specializing in siding or electrical work.

Hobbies: Video games, wrestling, biking, and walking nature trails.

Favorite Quote: "You should enjoy the little detours to the fullest because that's where you'll find the things more important than what you want."



Eh Paw Ku Grettenberger

Plans: to attend Western Michigan University to study bio-medical science in hopes of going to Veterinary School.

Hobbies: Reading, golf, and hiking.

Favorite Quote: "I'm not aging, I'm just upgrading."

EFFORTS AND INVOLVEMENT

How to Get Involved with Gun Violence Prevention Efforts

Val Martin, Gun Violence Prevention Groups at Church of the Dunes and St. John's Episcopal Church

June is gun safety awareness month. It's a time when groups pause to remember those who have been impacted by gun violence and encourage those advocating for change. The Church of the Dunes Gun Violence Prevention Task Group, in collaboration with St. John's Episcopal Church, has been working to place safety information, safe bags and gun locks in the hands of preschool parents. Over 300 bags and locks have been distributed in our community. In addition, our groups have been working on a Soulbox project (see soulboxproject.org) to help raise awareness of the impact of gun violence in our community. Each box represents the soul of one life lost to gun violence. In 2023, we lost 1406 persons to gun violence in Michigan, over half to suicide. Gun violence remains the highest cause of death among children nationwide. Our goal is to make 1406 boxes for display. Education begins as small groups are asked to make a box and continues when the completed display is viewed in libraries, churches, and other public spaces. We will be highlighting this project at the Silent March this year.

Join the Silent March to remember the victims of gun violence on Saturday, June 21. To participate in the march, gather at Central Park prior to 11:00 a.m. At 11:00 a.m. marchers will silently take off on foot down Washington Avenue toward Harbor Drive and then back up Washington Avenue back to Central Park. The entire march takes place in silence. Marchers are asked to wear black or orange. Signs displaying the Soulbox project will be provided. We are in need of extra helping hands this year as many of our collaborators from St. John's will be attending a memorial service for a long time church member. Your assistance and/or attendance at the march this year is specifically requested. An organizing meeting for those interested in helping with the march will be held on Monday, June 2 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 2 (lower level).



Photos from a previous Silent March

PLAYGROUPS AND PROGRESS

Greetings from Family Ministries

Jodie Freeman, Director of Family Ministries

Summer is finally almost here. We had many exciting things happen over the past month. Our graduates are on their way! We wish them love and happiness as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

Our Sunday School Friends are celebrating a baptism, launching into a new curriculum, and are continuing to experiment with their bucket drums.

The Nursery is in progress for some updates and changes. We are most excited to finally finish the row of tiles on the wall. If you are interested in helping with that project, please consider donating. The cost of each tile is \$11 and funds can be given to the office.

Rise & Shine Playgroup is looking forward to their next gathering. Our theme is “Camp Stuff.” Stuffed animals will be “camping out” at the church enjoying all sorts of fun activities. Children will receive pictures and updates on their stuffy’s activities throughout the week.

Things are beginning to really take shape. It has been encouraging to see how many people have expressed interest in the past few weeks in getting involved and helping. It is time to take a moment to appreciate and reflect on some of the good things that have been happening. Too often we let these moments pass by without taking the time to fully take them in and appreciate the ways that God works for good.

Recently Rise & Shine Playgroup was invited to gather in Centertown for the annual “Chalk the Walk” event. We were given the entire expanse of sidewalk in front of Health Hutt to decorate. Playgroup Friends did a wonderful job bringing smiles to so many people as they passed by and admired the artwork. A hopscotch was added, and people of all ages enjoyed hopping down the sidewalk. As we grew tired and began deciding to call it a day after a morning of sidewalk drawing, I began to pack things up. And then it happened. One family stopped and asked about what was happening. I explained the event purpose and invited them to join in and use our chalk and space to draw if they wished to. They did. Then another family stopped. And then another. Within a few moments four families, speaking three different languages were busy decorating the sidewalk. The children, who had never met each other before, quickly gathered close together and begin collaborating on their art. None of these families had heard about United Methodist Church of the Dunes. Now they have. Now they know they are invited to come and join us for Sunday worship or Rise & Shine Playgroup any time they want. God is in the details. And God never fails to remind us that God has a plan. We just have to notice when God is speaking to us.



Grow in Faith

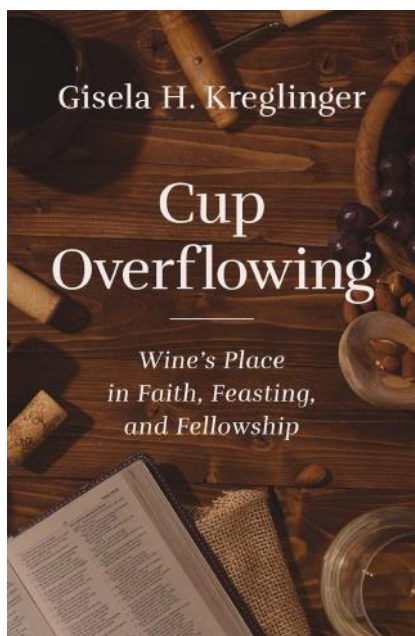


June Classes and Discussion Groups for Adults

Wired Word Weekly Discussion Group

Sundays, 10:45 a.m., Gail Smart, facilitator, Ryder Lounge (main floor)

Interested in discussing current events through a faith-focused perspective? Join the Wired Word discussion group to talk a new topic each week.



“Cup Overflowing” by Gisela Kreglinger

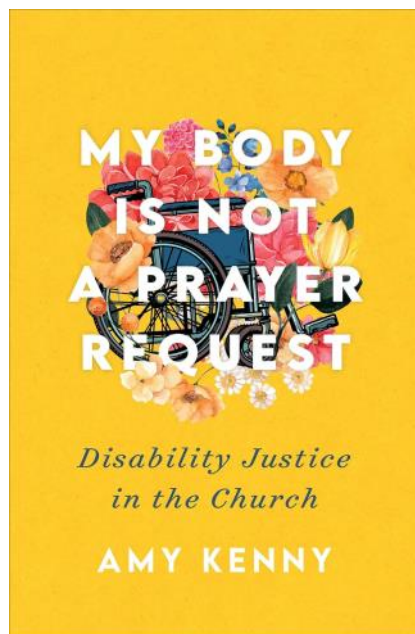
Begins Wednesday, June 4, 10:00 a.m., Room 2 (lower level)

Meets for 5 weeks

Ruth Woodward, facilitator

Cup Overflowing: Wine's Place in Faith, Feasting, and Fellowship, “Food and wine have become such hot topics in our culture, and yet there is so much confusion and ambivalence around it as well.”

Participants should purchase their own copy of the book. The sign-up sheet is available on the Adult Ministries bulletin board.



Fourth Monday Reading Group

“My Body is Not Prayer Request” by Amy Kenny

Monday, June 23, 1:00 p.m., Panera of Grand Haven

Gayle Cox, facilitator

“Written by a disabled Christian, this book shows that the church is missing out on the prophetic witness and blessing of disability. Kenny reflects on her experiences inside the church to expose unintentional ableism and cast a new vision for Christian communities to engage disability justice. She shows that until we cultivate church spaces where people with disabilities can fully belong, flourish, and lead, we are not valuing the diverse members of the body of Christ.”

To participate, purchase a copy of the book, read it, and join in on the discussion.