

November 15, 2026

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

Louis Grettenberger, Pastor
www.umcdunes.org | 616.842.7980

November 15, 2026

We Gather

Gathering Music & Chimes

Welcome & Announcements

Threshold Moment

Introit *"Siyahamba"* arr. Hopson
Celebration Choir

*Call to Worship

Leader: The time for harvest is close at hand.
What have you done with the gifts God has given you?
People: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.
Leader: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.
People: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.
Leader: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.
People: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. Let us worship together!

We Praise God

*Hymn #526 *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"* Red Hymnal

Children's Time Pastor Lou

Worship Song *"You are My King (Amazing Love)"* Foote

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Again we must confess, Holy One, our struggles to be faithful disciples. Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful once again of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others. Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall once again, keeping company with our old friend, sin. Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life, we fill ourselves once again, with scorn for the poor choices they make.
God, have mercy on us. Once again, open our eyes to your kingdom in our midst, so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus Christ, the one in whom we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *"A Lord-Built House"* Lentz
Celebration Choir

*Doxology # 67 *"We Thy People Praise Thee"* (verse 2) Red Hymnal

*Prayer of Dedication

Generous Christ, every good gift comes from your hand, and you entrust us with resources, abilities, and opportunities to serve your kingdom. Keep us from measuring our worth by what we produce or possess. Instead, teach us to invest our lives in love, mercy, and the building of community. Receive these offerings and use them to lift burdens, create hope, and strengthen your people. May we find joy not in accumulation, but in faithful relationship with you and our neighbors. May all that we offer today become a witness to your abundant grace. Amen.

We Share the Word

A Reading from the New Testament 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Hymn #356 "When We are Living" Red Hymnal

A Reading from the Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon "Wasted Opportunities" Pastor Lou

We Respond

Pastoral Prayer

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.

We are Sent Forth

*Hymn #2153 *"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"* Black Songbook

*Benediction

*Chimes & Parting Music

Please stand as you are able

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Red Hymnal # 526

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.

You are My King (Amazing Love)

Foote

I'm forgiven
Because You were forsaken
I'm accepted
You were condemned
I'm alive and well
Your Spirit is within me
Because You died
And rose again

Amazing love
How can it be
That You my King
Would die for me
Amazing love
I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You

You are my King
You are my King
Jesus You are my King
Jesus You are my King

Doxology #67

We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee,
God of every nation!
We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee,
Lord of Hosts eternal!
For thy blessings, for thy bounty,
joyful songs to thee we sing,
songs of glory, songs of triumph,
to our God and King.
We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee,
praise thee evermore!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,
you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you
yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a
thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security,"
then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains
come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4
But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to
surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and
children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So,
then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and
be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are
drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us
be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a
helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for
wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10
who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may
live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up
each other, as indeed you are doing.

When We are Living

#356, Red Hymnal

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
We belong to God, we belong to God.

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
We belong to God, we belong to God.

'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
We belong to God, we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.
We belong to God, we belong to God.

Matthew 25:14-30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves
and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents,
to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.
Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the
five talents went off and traded with them and made five more
talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents
made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the
one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his
master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves
came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had
received the five talents came forward, bringing five more
talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see,
I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well
done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in
a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into
the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also
came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two
talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to
him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had
received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I
knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow
and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and
I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is
yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You
knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where
I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money
with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what
was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give
it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have,
more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from
those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken
away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer
darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

I'm Gonna Live so God Can Use Me
Black Songbook #2153

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

This Week's Calendar

MONDAY	**November 16, 2026**
9:30 AM	Prayer Shawl Group – Panera
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Private Pickleball – Wiltse Center
10:00–12:00	Chair Volleyball – Wiltse Center
11:00-12:00 PM	Senior Food Boxes – Parking Lot
1:00 PM	Caregivers – Ryder Lounge
1:00–6:00 PM	Piano Lessons – Music Room
4:45–6:15 PM	Piano Lessons - Choir Room
5:30 PM	Chair Yoga – Social Hall
6:00 PM	Dunesmen – Wiltse Center
TUESDAY	**November 17, 2026**
8:30 AM	ROMEO's - Russ Restaurant
9:00-11:00AM	Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
11:00 PM	Staff Meeting – Ryder Lounge
11:30–12:30 PM	Private Pickleball – Wiltse Center
2:00 PM	JTSC Team – Study Room
4:00 PM	Staff Parish – Ryder Lounge
4:00–5:00 PM	Piano Lessons – Music Room
6:00 PM	Greater Balance – Social Hall
6:00–8:00 PM	Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
6:30 PM	Quilt Guild Board – Conference Room 2
7:00 PM	Jubilant Ringers – Choir Loft
WEDNESDAY	**November 18, 2026**
9:00–11:00 AM	Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
1:00-2:00 PM	Dog Training – Social Hall
4:00 – 5:30 PM	Piano Lessons – Music Room
5:15 PM	Wednesday Night Supper – Wiltse Center
6:00 PM	Knitters/Crocheters – Conference Room
6:00 PM	Guitar Club - Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Watercolor Class – Art Room
7:00 PM	Celebration Choir - Choir Loft
THURSDAY	**November 19, 2026**
9:00–11:00 AM	Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
9:30 AM	Soul Sisters – Ryder Lounge
10:30 AM	Community Singers – Choir Room
11:30 AM	Chair Yoga – Social Hall
6:00 PM	Line Dancing – Social Hall
FRIDAY	**November 20, 2026**
8:30 AM	Bible for Men – Conference Room 2
SATURDAY	**November 21, 2026**
9:30 AM	Rise and Shine Playgroup – Wiltse Center

Church of the Dunes
Information, Events, and Activities

Events and activities are open to all.

AFTER WORSHIP:

- **United Women in Faith Fundraiser:** The UWF will be selling Rada cutlery during coffee fellowship time each Sunday in November, as well as the first Sunday in December. All proceeds will go to missions. See Nancy Humphrey for information or to order.
- **FaithLinked Guest Speaker:** in lieu of their regular reading, FaithLinked's meeting today will host a presentation from Sara Brakhane, Executive Director of the Chispa Project, an organization that promotes literacy by creating libraries internationally. All are welcome!

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1:00 PM
If you are experiencing the caregiving journey and are looking for support and a safe space for conversation or advice, we invite you to attend the caregivers support group on the third Monday of each month in the Ryder Lounge (main floor) at 1:00 p.m.

DUNESMEN MEAL AND MEETING – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 6:00 PM
The Dunesmen will be meeting on Monday, November 16 at 6:00 p.m. for a meal and meeting in the Wiltse Center (main floor). This month, Robert Mann will be presenting on church history.

ROMEOs BREAKFAST – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 8:30 AM
All men, retired or not, are invited to join ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out) for breakfast at Russ' Restaurant in Grand Haven on the third Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. This is an informal get-together for good food, conversation, and fellowship.

RISE & SHINE PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 9:30 AM
The Rise & Shine preschool playgroup will be meeting in the Wiltse Center (main floor) on Saturday, November 21 at 9:30 a.m. This is time for parents to socialize while kids enjoy supervised playtime. See the Family Ministries bulletin board for more information.

BROWN BAG FOOD GATHERING – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
The next Brown Bag Sunday will be Sunday, November 22 in worship. To help support the food pantry of The Salvation Army, pick up a brown bag(s) from the welcome center, fill the bag with items from the attached list of most needed food items, and then return the bags to the church before worship next Sunday, November 22.

CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 5:00 PM
All are welcome and invited to the annual Church of the Dunes Thanksgiving dinner! Turkey, stuffing, potatoes, and gravy are provided. Please bring your own plate and utensils and a side dish or dessert to share. If you plan to attend and have not signed up yet, contact the church office.

THE GREAT FEAST VOLUNTEER REQUEST – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
The Great Feast, the annual, community supper for those in the Tri-Cities, held on Thanksgiving Day, needs volunteers. This year, the meal will be held in the Wiltse Center of Church of the Dunes. See Jill Kelly or sign up at *https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549AAAF2AA5FDCE9-66653301-volunteer#/* or contact Jill Kelly.

ADVENT BOOK STUDIES – BEGIN IN DECEMBER
This Advent, All are welcome for a devotional study. Sign up on the Adult Ministries bulletin board. Book studies are held in the Bible Study Room (lower level).

Meeting Time	*Book Cost*	*Book & Facilitator Information*
Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.	no cost	book provided, advent devotionals
Begins December 1		Led by Mary Anne Miller
Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.	December 2	The Carols of Christmas by Alan Vermilye
Begins December 2	$10	Led by Ruth Woodward

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 - Oasis classroom, 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.

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.

Flowers on the altar are provided by members of the congregation, often to celebrate an anniversary, a birthday, or in memory of a loved one. The arrangements are $40, and can be taken home after the service. Several dates in August are available! Please call the office for more information.

Praises and Prayers

The flowers are given by Shirley Staehlin in celebration of Tiana Staehlin's 25th birthday and by Margaret Miller in memory of her husband Charles.

Birthdays

Today	Abel Scott
November 17	Ray Komray
November 18	Joann Jarvi
November 19	Patricia Keenan, Doug Thorpe, Judith Tindall
November 21	Gayle Cox, Cindy Edgerle

Contributions vs Expenses

Week Of	Contributions Received	Average of Weekly Contributions	Weekly Budgeted Expenses	Percent of Contributions to Expenses
November 8	$6,289	$9,469	$10,631	89%

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

Sunday, November 8, 2026

Sanctuary	159	(in Nursery/Sunday school)
Online Views	99	(66 x1.5)*
TOTAL	258	

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

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Pastor:	Lou Grettenberger
Liturgist:	Diane Gordon
Music:	Celebration Choir, Marna Jeffery
Technology:	Jim Burch, Jane & David Norton
Greeter:	Judy Masson
Welcome Ctr:	Vicki Reis
Ushers:	Ron Kurburski, Heather Torrance, Dan Starkey, Neal Miller, Barry Huntington
Coffee Hour:	Pam & Dale Zurakowski, Carla Pearce

Next Week – November 22

Pastor:	Lou Grettenberger
Liturgist:	Char Brown
Music:	worshipBand, Marna Jeffery
Technology:	Jack Cook, Trevor Larkins, David Norton
Greeter:	Mike Moynihan
Welcome Center:	Suzanne Moynihan
Ushers:	Sam Easterly, Heather Torrance, Dan Starkey, Eric Weber, Doug Mitchell
Coffee Hour Host:	Carla Pearce

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 on his cellphone at 231-883-9806.