



GULL LAKE UMC TRAILBLAZER

October 2026

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October Sermons & Scripture

October 4:

"Methodist Give Thanks"
2 Corinthians 9.15

October 11:

"Methodist Share Their
Faith: Living in 3D"
Matthew 28.16-20

October 18:

"Methodist Love Others"
1 John 4.20

October 25:

"Overflowing Joy & Rich
Generosity"
2 Corinthians 8.1-15

Brand New Day

Get up, get up, get up, whatever it takes
Wake up, wake up, wake up, go find a better way
Get up, get up, get up, it's a brand new day!
It's a brand new day

That's the chorus to a Brian Adam's song called "Brand New Day." It seems like it could be our theme song since July 1st when Penny and I came to Gull Lake UMC. Everything is new for Penny and I but also for all of you.

It's been less than three months and we've already had a series of meet and greets with everyone. Got to sing both a Beatles and Burt Bacharach song with our first series on what Jesus Love looks like. We've seen some growth with visitors and folks returning who we haven't seen in a while. I think that series has set the tone for who we are and who we need to be...loving God, loving one another, and sharing that love with the people in the community around us.

We gave away money in church one Sunday. Who does that! We challenged folks to take \$10 and bless someone who needs it. We've heard some touching stories and I know there is more we are yet to hear. These are the things that signal a brand new day in the life of the church. We are blessed to be a blessing to others and that is what we intend to do.

There is a lot of work to do, of course. We launched a new Sunday School program. Have begun a church-wide daily reading of scripture program. We will be exploring a new structure which will look a lot like the original Governance Board model approved by the church years ago with tweaks for lessons learned over the years. We need to complete the church-wide survey that we began as part of a research project and complete our Local Church Assessment.

I'm so excited to be a part of this church. Let's sing a new song for a new day:

Get up, get up, get up...whatever it takes (now that's the attitude we need)
Wake up, wake up, wake up, go find a better way (improvement,
growth...becoming more and more like Jesus is the better way)
Get up, get up, get up, it's a brand new day!

Together we can get up out of those pews and make a brand new day for ourselves, the church, our community, and our world. Let's get up and do it!

Blessings,
Ron

A PRAYER FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

LEARNING TO LET GO AND TRUST GOD

Proverbs 3: 5–6

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will make your paths straight.”*



In Disney's *Finding Nemo*, Marlin loves his son deeply. Because of painful experiences in his past, he becomes extremely protective of Nemo and worries about all the things that could go wrong.

When Nemo is taken away, Marlin's greatest fear becomes reality. He has no idea where Nemo is or what will happen to him, but he sets out across the ocean to find him. Along the way, he faces sharks, jellyfish, and countless obstacles that are completely beyond his control.

Then he meets Dory. While Marlin worries about what might happen next, Dory simply keeps moving forward. Her advice is simple: “Just keep swimming.”

Marlin's journey reminds us that we don't always get to know how the story will turn out. Like Marlin, we may want answers, certainty, and a clear path forward. We may worry about our families, our future, or things we cannot control.

But Proverbs reminds us to trust God even when we cannot see what lies ahead. Marlin couldn't see his entire journey. He could only take the next step.

As we begin a new month, we may not know what lies ahead either. But we can trust Him to guide us, even when we cannot see what is ahead. Sometimes faith means letting go of our need to have everything figured out and simply taking the next step.

Keep praying. Keep trusting. Keep swimming.

A Prayer of Trust:

Lord, as this new month begins, help me let go of the things I cannot control. When I don't know what lies ahead, remind me that You are already there. Give me peace when I worry, courage when I'm afraid, and faith to trust You with each next step.

Help me remember that I don't have to know the whole path when I trust You to lead me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1		
4 10 am Worship Service Communion 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Sunday Connections	5	6 7 am Breakfast Group 10 am Care Team 	7 9 am Wednesday Walkers 	8 10 am Puzzling 		
11 10 am Worship Children's Sunday School 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Sunday Connections	12 6:30 pm Trustees 6:45 pm Women at the Well	13 7 am Breakfast Group 9:30 am Missions	14 9 am Wednesday Walkers 10 am Finance Meeting  	15	16 Kelly out of the office	17
18 10 am Worship Children's Sunday School 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Sunday Connections	19	20 7 am Breakfast Group	21 9 am Wednesday Walkers 6:30 pm Gov. Board 	22 10 am Puzzling 	23	24
25 10 am Worship Passing of Mission Globes 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Sunday Connections 11:15 am New Member Class	26	27 7 am Breakfast Group	28 9 am Wednesday Walkers 	29	30	31

Walk To End Alzheimer's: Sat., October 3. See Peggy or Kathy for more details or to sign up!

Ministry Cluster

Here's a sneak peek at some of what our ministry teams are planning for your participation in the coming months. As our GLUMC church family enters the fall and a season of positivity and revitalization, how can each of us contribute to the ministries that benefit us all?

In addition to Kids' Corner, Sunday Connections, the Missions Team, and the Care Team, there are several opportunities ahead to connect, have fun, serve others, and build community together.

October 25 will be a busy Sunday! After church, we'll offer a **New Member Class** for those interested in learning more about Gull Lake UMC or becoming a member. Mark "New Member Class" on your connection card. We'll also have **Service Sunday** after worship, packing and delivering bags to the Richland Mobile Home Park. Then, from **4–5 pm**, join us for **Trunk-or-Treat** at the RMHP. Provide a decorated car and/or treats, and mark "Halloween" on your connection card.

In November, join us for **Hanging of the Greens** after church on November 22. Help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season, with soup provided afterward. Mark "Greens" on your connection card.

In December, we'll have our second annual **Holiday Open House** on Saturday, December 12, at Pastor Ron and Penny's home. Watch for an opportunity to help provide sweets and savories.

Your voice and involvement are important to the vitality of our GLUMC congregation. If you would like to be involved in making ministry happen at GLUMC, you're invited to join us for a **Ministry Cluster gathering Monday, October 4 at 6:30 pm**.

Please indicate on the connection card which ones of these **YOU** will roll up your sleeves and help make happen!



A Big Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Fall Kickoff! It was great to see so many people come together and enjoy the morning.

A special thank you to everyone who helped prepare breakfast and clean up afterward. Your time and willingness to help are truly appreciated. Thank you for helping make Fall Kickoff a great start to the season!

Finance Update: Month of August 2026

Total Cash YTD	\$161,142
Unified Income August 2026	\$14,283
Unified Expenses August 2026	\$16,160
Net Income August 2026	-\$1,877

August 2026 YTD Unified Income	\$106,139
August 2026 YTD Unified Expenses	\$105,928
August 2026 YTD Net Income	\$211

Designated Accounts

Balance \$67,091

Current Assets Cash \$161,142 minus dedicated accounts \$67,091 leaves \$94,051 to pay for expenses not paid by dedicated funds.

Kathy Ruger - Treasurer

UPCOMING EVENT

Tanya Prather shares her life story in her new memoir, *Beacon of Hope*. Tanya is the daughter of former GLUMC member Jackie Klepper, whose love of lighthouses inspired the book's cover.

The poster features a circular portrait of Tanya Prather on the right. The main text reads: "You're Invited! ♥ BOOK SIGNING WITH AUTHOR TANYA PRATHER Author • Advocate • Hope Giver". Below this, it says: "Come meet me, get your copy signed, and let's celebrate hope, healing, and new beginnings." The book cover for "BEACON OF HOPE" is shown, with the subtitle "A Memoir of Survival, Healing, Forgiveness, and Finding My Light". To the right of the book, a quote says: "Stories can heal. Hope is real. Keep knocking. ♥". The event details are listed: "TUESDAY OCTOBER 13TH 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM" at "Chocolatea 7642 S Westnedge Ave Portage, MI 49002". The Chocolatea logo is at the bottom right, with the tagline "TEA • CHOCOLATE • COMMUNITY". A cup of coffee with a heart design and the text "Fuel Kindness Read More ♥" is at the bottom left. A quote at the very bottom reads: "Even in the darkest moments, there is still a light." - TANYA PRATHER.

MISSIONS

Our monthly mission in October will be in support of **Community Homeworks**, which helps in repairing homes in order to keep people housed safely, and also provides home repair classes and a tool library for homeowners in Kalamazoo County. Please leave your donations in the globes located in the Narthex.

We are collecting **Pancake Mix and Syrup** in October for the mobile home park.

In August our mission was the First Day Shoe Fund and we raised \$802.98, which, at \$14 per pair of shoes, will purchase 57 pairs of shoes! Our church family ROCKS!!



Gull Lake UMC

NEW MEMBER CLASS



All are
welcome!



Sunday, October 25
After Church



Pizza Included!



For anyone who is
considering becoming
a member or just wants
to learn more about
Gull Lake UMC.



Please indicate
your interest on the
Connection Card.

Gull Lake United Methodist Church
is hosting



Trunk or Treat

Join us for Trunk or Treat at the
Richland Mobile Home Park
from 4:00–5:00 PM!

Everyone is invited to come dressed in a church-appropriate Halloween costume and enjoy an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and plenty of treats.



Want to help make the event a success?

If you'd like to dress up or decorate your trunk and hand out candy, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



We are also collecting candy donations!

If you'd like to contribute, please place your candy donations on the Missions Table in the Fellowship Hall.

**We hope you'll join us
for this fun afternoon!**



Governance Board Update

Beginning in 2027, the Gull Lake Governance Board—under the guidance of Pastor Ron—will transition from a traditional committee oversight to a **Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS)**.

In preparation for this exciting transition, the board has established the following strategic goals for our church:

- **Complete and Apply Assessment Insights:** Implement the learnings gleaned from the work our Local Church Assessment Team is in the process of completing.
- **Shift to a Mission-Driven Focus:** Increase our lay focus to ensure our efforts at Gull Lake are deeply mission-driven.
- **Empower Lay Leadership:** Invest in and empower our lay members to foster their leadership skills and strengthen our church leadership.

In the months ahead, look for updates as we build out the sub-goals and frameworks needed to achieve this vision.

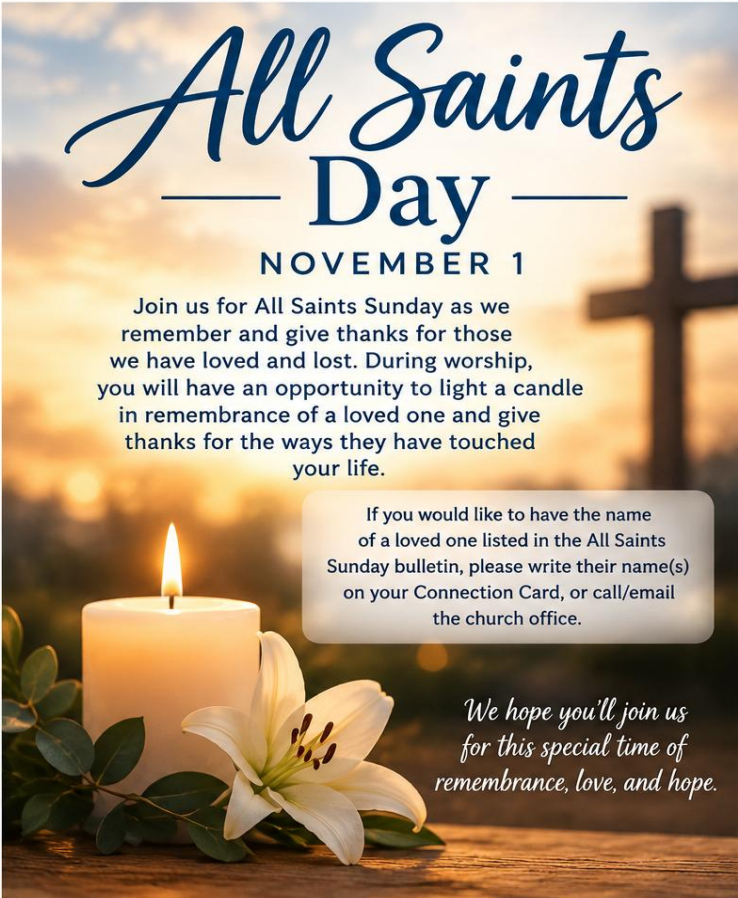
Your voice matters in this process. If you have any questions or feedback, please reach out to a member of the leadership board.

HAND CHIME RINGING



Hand chime ringing is one of the easiest ways to experience the joy of music. The

hand chime choir is a unique musical ensemble in that each performance is an individual event. Ringers choose which performance they want to take part in based on their schedules. Participating in one performance does not obligate you to participate in any other event. Commitment involves two practice sessions and one performance.



All Saints Day

NOVEMBER 1

Join us for All Saints Sunday as we remember and give thanks for those we have loved and lost. During worship, you will have an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of a loved one and give thanks for the ways they have touched your life.

If you would like to have the name of a loved one listed in the All Saints Sunday bulletin, please write their name(s) on your Connection Card, or call/email the church office.

We hope you'll join us for this special time of remembrance, love, and hope.

October

Happy Birthday!

4 Don Schultz
7 Carol Coggan
8 Addelynn Fry
9 Kyle Bordner
9 Lorence Wenke
10 Richard Chamberlin
12 Jeff Iler
15 Lily Wilke
15 Rachelle Jenner
16 Kelly McLeod
17 Beth Antias
17 Jayne Flynn
19 Nancy Harvey
27 Claire Flynn
27 Tessa Hesling
27 Brielle Jenner
29 Peyton Simpson
29 Ruth Allen



Happy Anniversary!

2 Troy & Jamie Wilson
18 Joe & Lynn Alberding
19 Matt & Julie Foster



Take, Swap, Enjoy!

There are books, puzzles, games, and more on the table in the fellowship hall. Feel free to **take, exchange, or swap** items with others!

Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We are energized by faith – Engaged to grow – Empowered to make a difference.

CONNECT WITH US!



Giving



GLUMC
Website



Facebook



Facebook Family



YouTube



Instagram

This 'N' That

Breakfast at Parkview Perk



Breakfast at Parkview Perk (in the village square), Tuesday's at 7:00 AM. We'd love for you to join us.

;;Puzzling??



Puzzling takes place every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 10 AM for about 2 hours in the classroom in the education wing. All are welcome to join the fun! Sometimes we go out for lunch afterward.

Sunday Connections



Sunday Connections follows worship in the library beginning about 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday Walkers



Wednesday Walkers meet every week @ 9:00 am @ the Richland Township Park (at the church during the winter months). Please join us!

Women at the Well



Women at the Well meets the second Monday of each month, at the church @ 6:45 pm.

From the Editor:

Articles for inclusion in the monthly Trailblazer are due the 3rd Thursday of each month by 9 am.

Make sure to include: Who, What, Where, When, Cost, Contact name and Phone number.

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