



GULL LAKE UMC TRAILBLAZER

A Message from Pastor Ron Overflow: Living Generously

November
2026

November Sermons & Scripture

November 1:

“Stir What You Got”

2 Timothy 1.1-9;

Luke 6.37-38

November 8:

“Following Jesus is a
Third Class Ticket”

Acts 6:1-6

November 15:

“Ladle or Spoon?”

1 Timothy 6.17-19

November 22:

“When to Tear Up
Your Giving Card”

2 Corinthians 9.1-9;

Exodus 25.1-9

November 29:

“Will I Follow My
Destiny?”

Luke 1.39-46 (Mary)

What would it look like to live a life that overflows?

Brenda Jones, a 69-year-old great-grandmother, had spent a long year on the donor list waiting to receive a liver. Then, on July 18, a hospital in North Texas called—they had a viable liver for her. Meanwhile, 23-year-old Abigail Flores also needed a liver. Her situation was more urgent than Jones’s. Without a transplant, doctors feared Flores had maybe one more day to live. So they asked Jones to give up her spot so that Flores could get the precious organ. Jones agreed. “In my heart, I wouldn’t have been able to live with the liver if I had let this little girl die,” she told WFAA. Jones was placed back at the top of the donor list and got a new liver days later.

Blessed with a possible new liver Brenda chose to be a blessing rather than keep it. God has blessed each of us in countless ways—with love, grace, relationships, opportunities, and the gift of life itself. The question is not simply, “*What do I have?*” but “*What can I do with what God has given me?*”

That is the heart of our stewardship theme this year: Overflow.

When we recognize how much we have already received, gratitude begins to grow—and gratitude leads to generosity. We give not because we have to, but because we have been blessed. We give our time, our talents, our resources, our prayers, and our love as a response to God’s goodness.

And something remarkable happens when we live generously. We discover that giving doesn’t leave us with less—it often leaves our lives with more. More joy. More purpose. More connection. More opportunities to make a difference.

Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:8 that God gives us what we need so that we can “abound in every good work.” God’s blessings are not meant to stop with us. They are meant to overflow through us.

As we begin our stewardship season, let’s ask ourselves: *Where is God inviting me to live more generously? How can I allow the blessings I’ve received to become a blessing to someone else?*

May our church be a community where joy, peace, love, grace, and generosity overflow—from God to us, from us to others, and throughout our community. Receive God’s blessings. Give generously. Live abundantly. Live Overflow.

N O V E M B E R

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends: Fall Back 1 Hour 10 am Worship Service Communion All Saints' Day 11 am Fellowship	2	3 8 am Breakfast Group 10 am Care Team 	4 9 am Wednesday Walkers 	5	6	7
8 10 am Worship Veteran's Day 11 am Fellowship	9 6:30 pm Trustees 6:45 pm Women at the Well	10 8 am Breakfast Group 9:30 am Missions	11 9 am Wednesday Walkers 10 am Finance Meeting  	12 10 am Puzzling 	13	14
15 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship	16 Kelly out of the office	17 8 am Breakfast Group	18 9 am Wednesday Walkers 5:30 pm WDT 6:30 pm Gov. Board 	19 Potluck & Game Night 5:30-7 pm	20 Grad Bash Pie Fundraiser	21 Grad Bash Pie Fundraiser
22 10 am Worship Consecration Sunday 11 am Fellowship Hanging of the Greens	23	24 8 am Breakfast Group	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed 	27 Office Closed	28
29 First Day of Advent 10 am Worship Passing of Mission Globes 11 am Fellowship	30					

Advent & Holiday HAPPENINGS



Hanging of the Greens

November 22 | After Church

Join us as we prepare our church for Advent with decorating, kids' ornaments, and our popular Soup Supper Revisit featuring chicken noodle soup, bread, and cookies after the service!



Sermon Series: *The Great Questions of Christmas*

Beginning November 29, explore the questions and meaning surrounding the Christmas season.

Second Annual Holiday Open House

December 13, 2026 | 2:00-4:00 PM

Hunter's Run Community Center, 6911 Hunter's Run

Join our church family for a holiday gathering!
We're looking for sweet or savory treats to share.
Contact Karen Morse or call 269-303-3562
to contribute.



Christmas Eve Service

December 24 | 7:00 PM

Join us for a special time of worship, reflection, and celebration as we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Great Things Are Happening Here



Wednesday Walkers enjoying the beautiful October weather on Sue's last Wednesday with us.

The **2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's – Calhoun County, MI** took place on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at Squirrel Hollow Golf Course in Battle Creek, Michigan. It was a beautiful October day! At the time of this reporting, 137 participants across 30 teams raised \$33,188 (reaching 74% of the \$45,000 goal).



UMCGSW - Branch 8 participated as a combined team in the walk. 34 participants from Marshall, Battle Creek Chapel Hill, Battle Creek First, Battle Creek Newton, Homer, Kalamazoo Sunnyside, Climax and Scotts, Concord, Albion First, Galesburg, Augusta, Girard, Lyon Lake, and Gull Lake raised **\$4,926.01** (reaching 99% of our \$5,000 goal) ranking as one of the top teams for the walk (second overall behind *Edward Jones - Region 376*). This total is still going up due to monies collected and turned in after the walk.

Gull Lake was represented by Kathy Ruger and Jeff and Peggy Iler and with your generous donations we collected \$470 to help find a cure.

There was some very encouraging news announced at the walk. At the beginning of the event they introduced 5 people, each representing the four colors of the Alzheimer Association; purple, blue, yellow orange and a new color, white. White, the new color, was presented by the first person to have been cured of Alzheimer's!!

Isn't that wonderful! Your generous donations really are helping to look forward to a world without Alzheimer's.

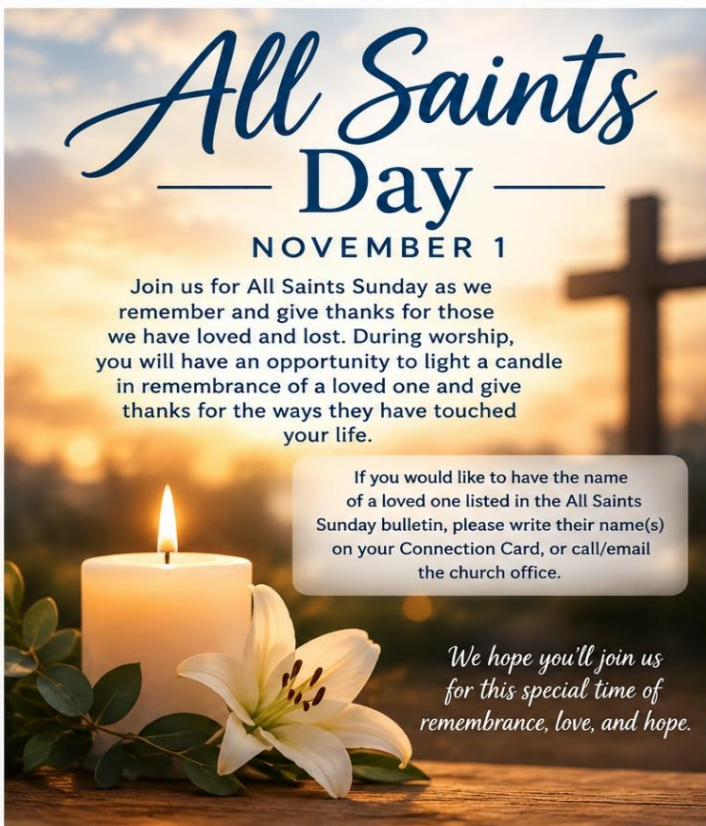


MISSIONS

Our November mission is Ministry with Community, which serves breakfast and lunch 365 days a year to those who experience food insecurity in Kalamazoo County. To provide breakfast and lunch for one day costs \$500. Sponsoring just breakfast is \$350. The Mission Team is challenging our church family to raise enough money to provide one day's worth of meals and will match all funds raised. Can we do it? Can we provide a whole day's meals?

Scrapbooking Event

GLUMC was happy to open its doors and share our space with the community for a local scrapbooking event with 22 participants! We love being able to provide a welcoming space for people to gather, connect, and enjoy their hobbies together. It looks like everyone had a great time!



Organ Playing

GLUMC offers instruction in the fundamentals of organ playing to individuals who already have a basic ability in piano or keyboard playing. Schedules are arranged on an individual basis. There is absolutely no cost to participants in this program, and individuals do not have to be a member of GLUMC or any church. The only requirement is that they already possess the ability to read music. For more information contact Gull Lake UMC at 269-629-5137

GLUMC POTLUCK & GAME NIGHT

MIX

Munch



November 19 from 5:30-7:00 PM

Join us once a month for a fun evening of food, games, and fellowship!

Bring your favorite game and a dish to pass!
To sign up to bring a dish and/or a game, please contact the church office.

Questions? Contact Penny Brooks 269-873-1781



Financial Times - October 2026

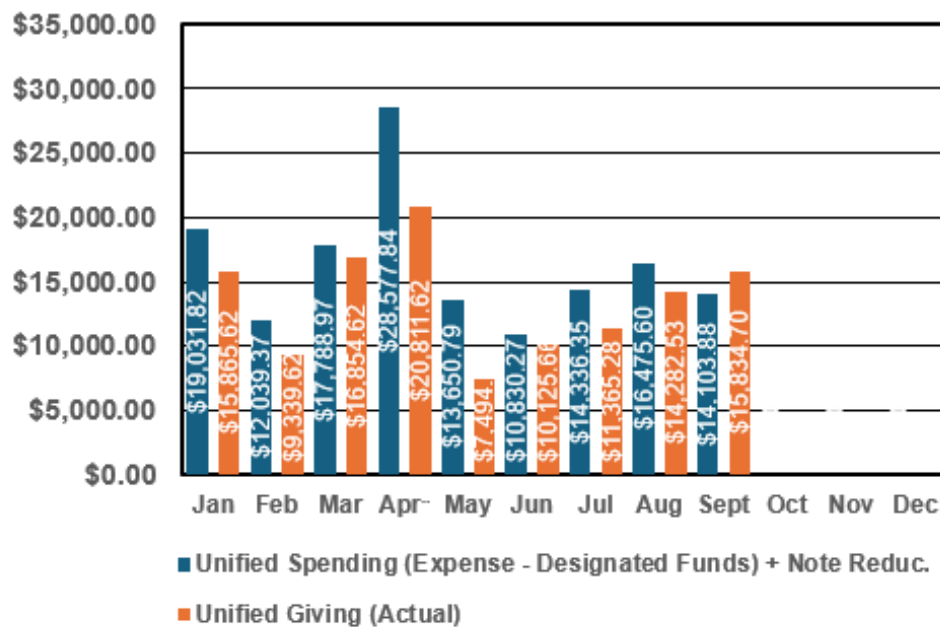
Church Financial Status: Jan-September 2026

	Sept	YTD
Unified Operating Income	\$15,835	\$121,974
Unified Operating Expenses	<u>\$12,379</u>	<u>\$118,307</u>
Net Operating Cash Flow	\$3,456	\$3,667

Current Assets Available for Non-budget Expenses \$97,389

- **Thank you!** GLUMC received some very generous gifts during September that have brought our financial status back to a positive position. Gifts were received for both the unified budget and for mortgage reduction.
- The 2027 pledge drive is beginning. Your pledges help the leadership team plan for our ministry programs for next year, in addition to the funding needed to operate the church. Please consider your 2027 pledge thoughtfully.
- Here is what our giving vs. expense pattern looks like for the first 9 months of the year:

**2026 GLUMC Actual Unified Giving
vs
Actual Unified Spending**





November

Happy Birthday!

4 Karen Thornton
11 Monica Bordner
14 Judy Weyhmiller
20 Bryce Bordner
27 Gavin Jenner
28 Harvey Flynn

Happy Anniversary!

9 Dave & Sally Warner

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.



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!

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 8:00 AM (during winter months). 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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