



# TRAILBLAZER



## Gull Lake United Methodist Church

8640 Gull Road, Richland, MI 49083  
(269)629-5137 [www.gulllakeumc.org](http://www.gulllakeumc.org)

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### December Sermons

#### **Dec. 5 "The Way of Jesus: Resurrected"**

Acts 2: 22-28

#### **Dec. 12, "Children's Ministry Sunday"**

Luke 3: 1-6  
Communion

#### **Dec. 19, "The Way of Jesus: Living"**

Acts 2: 29-36  
Mission Offering

#### **Dec. 24, "Candlelight"**

Luke 2: 1-20

#### **Dec. 26, "He is Born!"**

Luke 2: 41-52

### Pastor's Greetings

The Peace of Christ Be with You All,

Greetings and Happy Advent, everyone! I hope this finds you with a stomach full of delicious Thanksgiving food and a heart filled with all the joys and blessings of the season. This will be a special Christmas for the church, as it will provide space once again for the in-person worship and holiday fellowship we all missed so dearly last year. This year, we have much more to offer, including:

- 11/28: 1st Sunday of Advent (10am)
- 12/2 and 12/5: Wassailing & Caroling in/around Richland
- 12/5: 2nd Sunday of Advent (10am) and Afternoon Prayer (4pm, before caroling)
- 12/12: 3rd Sunday of Advent & Children's Christmas Pageant (10am), Healing & Prayer service (4pm)
- 12/19: Christmas Sunday & Festival of Music! (10am)
- 12/24: Journey to Bethlehem (4:30), Christmas Coffee House (5:30), Candlelight Service (7pm)
- 12/26: Carols and Leftovers! (10am)

There is a very specific and important reason we so missed this activity last year, and that reason is ***Incarnational Presence***. Incarnational Presence simply means that we believe God is present with us, here in the physical world, and we experience that presence more deeply and meaningfully when we are together in person.

Incarnation is the fourth of our themes for what has been a fruitful worship series on The Way of Jesus. It is little more or less than the continuous outpouring of God's loving presence into all of creation. ***Incarnation is realized most profoundly in the person of Jesus***, whose birth we covet and celebrate during this season of anticipation, and whose anointing as the Christ Child we recognize from the beginning of time (John 1: 1-14).

When we recognize the Christ Child in the world, and when we accept this child as the reality of God's Love and Light, then we recognize that incarnational presence ***in ourselves and in each other***. That is what it means to practice Peace on Earth and Good Will to all! That is what it means to know Comfort and Joy. Without the Christ Child in our lives and in our hearts, we too easily forget the miraculous mystery, reality, and wonder of Incarnation. Indeed, that is why Tiny Tim can so deeply proclaim "God Bless us, every one!" A Merry Christmas to you all, and we will see you in church.

Grace and Peace, Ian

# Children and youth



## Announcing This Year's Christmas Pageant!

**Kids and Youth**, join us for our retelling of the Christmas Story! There is a part for you - as a reader, an angel, a shepherd and more! This pageant is super simple and fun - no lines to memorize - just come be a part. Here's the schedule:

**Dec. 5** - Rehearsal during Sunday School and **after church** -- should be done by 11:45 am. You'll learn your character and get your costume. If you can't make rehearsal and want to be part of the pageant, please call or text Melissa at 269-377-4682.

**Dec. 12** - Pageant during church. Meet at church **at 9:30 am**.

## Journey to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve

We're bringing back the Christmas Eve Children's Service! Please join us at **4:30 pm on Dec. 24** as we **Journey to Bethlehem**. This is a very **interactive opportunity for children and their families** to experience the night Jesus was born. Expect about 45 minutes of crafts, music and a Christmas story. We're moving to Fellowship Hall to make more room to invite friends!

## ADULT OPPORTUNITY

### *Advent Adult Sunday Connections*

### *Turn the Holiday Preparations into Holy Days of Preparation*

Everyone is invited, a half-hour to help you:

Sundays, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 11:10-11:40

In the Sanctuary

Join together for a half hour preparation for your busy weeks during Advent. We'll share a thoughtful message, scripture, a reflection, and a take-home help for the coming busy week. You'll be blessed by our time together and the message shared together.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00A Bulletin deadline 1:00P Bible Study	2 5:30P Wassailing	3	4 11:00A Visitation 12:00 Service Jean George
5 10:00A Worship 4:00P Prayer Service 4:30P Caroling	6 9:00A What's Happening? deadline	7 7:30A Liz's 9:30A Missions 10:00A Care Team 6:30P Scouts	8 9:00A Bulletin deadline 1:00P Bible Study	9 10:00A Gift Wrapping	10	11
12 10:00A Children's Pageant Communion 4:00P Prayer Service	13 9:00A What's Happening? deadline 11:00A Finance 6:30P Trustees 6:45P W@W	14 7:30A Liz's 6:30P Scouts	15 9:00A Bulletin deadline 1:00P Bible Study 3:00P TB due	16	17	18
19 10:00A Worship Mission Offering	20 9:00A What's Happening? deadline	21 7:30A Liz's 9:30A Care Team 6:30P Scouts	22 9:00A Bulletin deadline 1:00P Bible Study	23	24 4:30P Children's Service 5:30- 6:30P Coffee House 7:00P Candle- light Service	25 <b>Christmas</b> 
26 10:00A Worship 4:00P Prayer Service	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed 7:30A Liz's 6:30P Scouts	29 Office Closed 1:00P Bible Study	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed New Year's Eve	





## Parish Nurse Notes

As we enter the month of December, are you looking forward to Christmas, or are you feeling some anxiety? Our lives can become hectic with all of the holiday preparations and it is easy to become overwhelmed by all the parties, decorations, gifts, and travel. We all have this idea of what a perfect Christmas will look like. Maybe your dream is a beautifully decorated tree and home, the perfect & latest toys & gifts, and your family's smiling faces around a wonderful feast. This hectic pace and expectations can increase our anxiety. It can cause us to forget the true meaning of Christmas and the real joy intended for each of us.

Remember the first Christmas was certainly not as Mary and Joseph had planned. But in all of their struggles and anxiety, they were able to find simple joy and blessings in the birth of Jesus, even in the stable setting.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we need to remember what wonderful gifts of love, hope, and grace we have received from God. We in turn are to be Christ like in our lives. What better gifts can we give than that of ourselves, our love, and our care? What gifts will you share for Christ this year?

*Blessings, Connie Wise, RN, FCN*

“We can do no great things; only small things with great love.” Mother Teresa

## Richland Wassailing

Did you miss the announcement?



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### Wassailing!!

Richland's 48th annual Wassailing event is slated to take place on **Thursday, December 2nd, from 5:30 – 8 pm**. Many businesses will be open with holiday refreshments and entertainment, and you can visit Santa and his reindeer at the Village Hall!

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Due to COVID in 2020, the event did not happen, but in prior years, GLUMC has had a cadre of brave souls out with chimes and Christmas music to wander around the Village Square and sing for a period of time. Two places we absolutely visit are Richland Eye (The Flynn's) and the Richland Library. (Both are warm and sheltered.)

I pick up the chimes and music and meet everyone at the monument across from Liz's in the square around 5:20. See me or contact me anytime and I will explain how the music is written. No music reading ability needed.

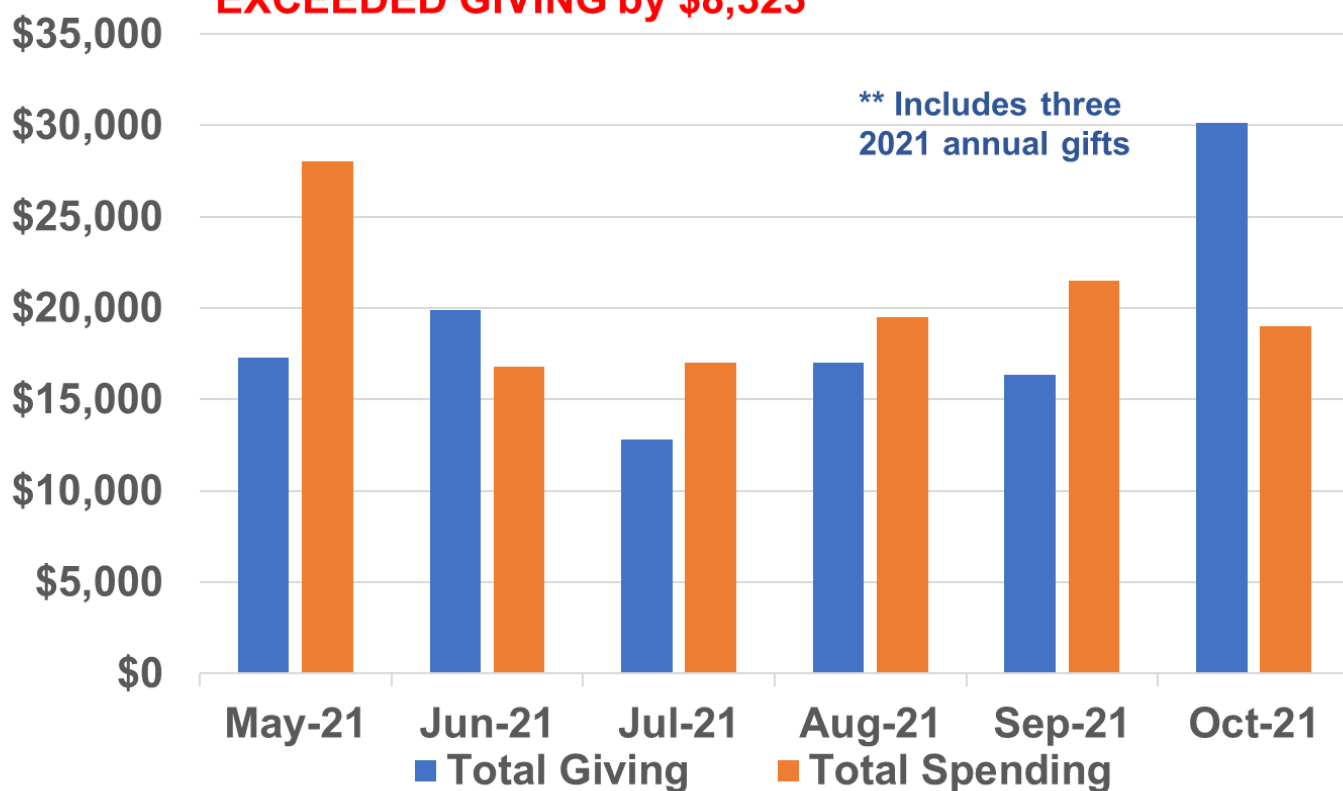
Please phone or text me if you would like to join in this outreach community event. We have loads of fun.

Sincerely, Jim Wise

# And Now a Word from Your Finance Committee

## GLUMC Total Giving vs Total Spending Last 6 Months

**In the last 6 months, SPENDING  
EXCEEDED GIVING by \$8,323\*\***



### How to Make Donations of Stock/Financial Instruments

Please contact David Bell, the director of the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan (UMFM), should you wish to make a donation of stock to Gull Lake United Methodist Church (GLUMC). The UMFM can help manage the sale of various financial instruments and convert them to cash at a very competitive rate. You may contact David at [info@umfmichigan.org](mailto:info@umfmichigan.org) or call at (888) 451-1929. The web site for the UMFM is <https://umfmichigan.org/>



# MISSIONS

## November /December Mission Offering Opportunity

Our Monthly Mission offering for November was Christmas **gifts** for the residents of **Open Doors**. Tags, suggesting items to buy, are located on the small tree in the Narthex. However, you do not have to have a tag - you may purchase any useful household item. All items need to be returned UNWRAPPED by Sunday, **December 5**. Gift cards are always welcome, especially to Walmart or Meijer, and all are invited to the wrapping party on **December 9 at 10am**.



CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF GLUMC by helping others

### THE ARK IS HERE!

We are celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at GLUMC by featuring 40 Days of **Heifer International**. Purchasing an animal for Heifer is like giving someone a small business providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families with a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food, and a sustainable livelihood. Each family that receives an animal agrees to pass on one or more of its offspring to a neighbor in need.

You have 40 days to purchase an animal or a share of an animal. All gifts received by December 31 will be **TRIPLE** matched by Heifer International, growing the impact of your donation. Shares of animals are \$20 and an entire animal may cost anywhere from \$60 to \$500. Please be sure to make your donation to GLUMC and memo Heifer.

Let's Fill The ARK!





Key dates include:

**Sunday, Nov 28th** - First Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, Dec 12th** - Children's Sunday assisted by youth.

**Sunday, Dec 19th** - Service in Song, filled with Christmas music from beginning to end.

**Friday, Dec 24th** - Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

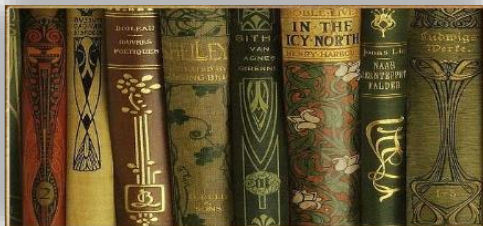
**Sunday, Dec 26th** - Casual worship with more of your favorite Christmas hymns.

So far, we have interest in **Christmas Winds** for our band students and adult players, reviving a **Chime Choir**, our **youth guitar & uke band**, a **vocal quartet**, **harp & piano** music from Martha Kuch & Kathy Hoorn, **piano/organ for traditional hymns** and more! Sharing Christmas music has always been a great entry point for our faith community to invite friends into worship and church life. I believe this year, it's even more critical we be invitational and get as many people engaged as possible, playing, singing or listening!

Please contact me sooner than later if you'd like to join us so I can pull music and plan rehearsals! I'll also be reaching out over the next couple of weeks and will plan to be available by appointment to assist and coach as needed. Watch out for additional updates in the next few weeks!

Love in the Spirit!

Craig Schroeder, Music Director



During December tables will be set up in the Fellowship Hall and books may be brought in for others to take home. Books will remain for a while. When they are all are picked over, they will be donated to Deacon's Conference. Sort through your books and prepare to share!



## **Happy Advent and Merry Christmas! Join us for worship and fun this Holiday Season!**

### **Sunday, 11/28**

- First Sunday of Advent, Worship & Fellowship at 10am



### **Thursday, 12/2 and Sunday, 12/5**

- Join us on 12/2 for **Wassailing** in Richland town square, and join us again on Sunday, 12/5, at 4:30pm for **Christmas Caroling** to our homebound members, with refreshments and hot chocolate afterward at the church! Please contact Jim Wise if you are interested in either event and Happy Singing!

### **Sunday, 12/5**



- Second Sunday of Advent, Worship & Fellowship at 10am
- **Afternoon Prayer** in sanctuary at 4pm (*before* Caroling & Refreshments at 4:30)

### **Sunday, 12/12**

- Third Sunday of Advent, **Children's Christmas Pageant** & Fellowship at 10am
- **Healing & Prayer service** for all who are grieving, in the sanctuary at 4pm



### **Sunday, 12/19**



- Christmas Sunday Worship, Fellowship & **Festival of Music!** - 10am

### **Friday, 12/24**

- "Journey to Bethlehem" **Children's Christmas Eve Service** at 4:30pm - Please join Melissa and Pastor Boley in Fellowship Hall for an interactive experience of the Christmas story!
- Christmas Eve Coffee House - Join us for activities, fellowship and refreshments **in between Christmas Eve services** from 5:30-6:30.
- Candlelight Service @ 7pm - Come and bear witness to the Christ Child as we partake in a **candlelight service of Lessons and Carols** in the sanctuary. Spend some or all of this sacred night at the church with us. Merry Christmas!



### **Sunday, 12/26**

- "Carols and Leftovers!" at 10am - Join us in the sanctuary for a casual worship service as we all sing our favorite Christmas carols together, and **bring your favorite leftovers from Christmas Day** to share during fellowship time afterward! See you all in church!





## Books for Spiritual Growth

Our Holiday Reading List is here! This list will change from season to season depending on each month's worship theme. Some of these books will affirm our values; some will challenge them. All are offered for those who wish to learn and grow more in their spiritual journey with God and Christ. Happy Reading!

- *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Birth*
  - <https://www.cokesbury.com/The-First-Christmas?refq=the%20first%20christmas%20marcus%20borg>
  - Basing their interpretations on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, scholars Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan offer a clear and uplifting message of hope and peace. The First Christmas gives readers a fresh, deep, and new understanding of the Nativity story, enabling us to better appreciate the powerful message of the Gospels.
- *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*
  - <https://www.cokesbury.com/Almost-Christmas-2>
  - Magrey deVega leads a group of authors in exploring how we can make a deeper commitment to Christ during Advent, and connect our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace.
- *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*
  - <https://www.cokesbury.com/All-the-Good>
  - In All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas, a group of diverse Wesleyan scholars take you on an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley's means of grace. John Wesley's emphasis upon practices of piety and mercy—or good works—drew from the larger Christian tradition. Such practices are often referred to as means of grace.
- *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes*
  - <https://www.cokesbury.com/The-Heart-That-Grew-Three-Sizes?refq=the%20heart%20that%20grew%20three%20sizes>
  - We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, How the Grinch Stole Christmas! This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.





1<sup>st</sup> Sue Worgess  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Veronica Pero  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Jamie Wilson  
 5<sup>th</sup> Doris Hamill  
 8<sup>th</sup> Joan Bosserd-Schroeder  
 8<sup>th</sup> Ryan Hallmark  
 9<sup>th</sup> Jan Hartough  
 10<sup>th</sup> Ben Pitz  
 17<sup>th</sup> Rob Baker  
 17<sup>th</sup> Jamie Kuch  
 17<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Newburn  
 18<sup>th</sup> Gene Cuneo  
 18<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Harvey  
 20<sup>th</sup> Jim Welch  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Teri Dykstra  
 26<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Balcom  
 26<sup>th</sup> Tamila Williams  
 28<sup>th</sup> Rheyma Gruber  
 30<sup>th</sup> Frank Stuckey

Happy Anniversary

2<sup>nd</sup> Larry & Edie Lane  
 28<sup>th</sup> Ted & Kris Dietz



## LOST 'N' FOUND

Items will be collected for three months and at the end of the quarter be given to charity. Look for lost items until the end of **December**.

Lost: Nothing at this time.

Found: Woman's blue zip-up sweater  
 Cane  
 Paw Patrol sippy cup  
 Car keys  
 Silver bracelet  
 Feather earring  
 Silver hoop earring



If you no longer would like to receive the Trailblazer or have a change of email, please notify Kelly in the office, 629-5137.

Please let me know if your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect. We want to help you celebrate your happy events and don't want to get it wrong!

### From the Editor:

Articles for inclusion in the monthly Trailblazer are due the third Thursday of each month by 3:00 p.m.

Your article may be edited for punctuation, spelling and occasionally, grammar or syntax, space, or just to make it more easily understood.

Make sure to include: Who, What, Where, When, Cost, Contact person and phone number.

Please submit to:  
[trailblazerglumc@gmail.com](mailto:trailblazerglumc@gmail.com)

Email changes go to the Office Manager at address below.

### Office Manager:

Kelly McLeod  
Monday-Friday, 9A-1:00P  
[gulllakeumc@gmail.com](mailto:gulllakeumc@gmail.com)  
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### Financial Manager

Edith Lane  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9A-1:00P  
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629-5137 or 269.569.6334

### Pastor

Ian Boley  
Tuesday-Friday, 9A-2:00P  
[ianboley@gmail.com](mailto:ianboley@gmail.com)  
629-5137 or 989.400.1268

### Trailblazer

Leslie Schultz  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month, 3:00P  
[trailblazerglumc@gmail.com](mailto:trailblazerglumc@gmail.com)  
629-4048

## This 'n' That

### Creating for the Son



meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00P in the Education Hall.

Our **next meeting will be announced** when we are back to in person meetings. All women with a creative bent are welcome to join.



### Sonshine Circle



meets the second Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at GLUMC. However, we will not be meeting until everyone feels safe again.

### Women at the Well



Women at the Well normally meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:45 pm in the homes of members. However, in December we be taking part in our annual dinner at the church on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm. We are ordering dinner from UP North and bringing it to the church. Call

Leslie Schultz 629-4048 to order.

### Bible Study



Pastor Ian is hosting a Bible Study on Wednesdays in Hamill Hall at 1:00 pm. We will delve into a Wesleyan Advent Study.



Breakfast at Liz's on Tuesday's at 7:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to join us.



## ***Gull Lake United Methodist Church***

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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.