

Faith United Methodist
Church, Edmore MI

The Lantern

November 2025



From Pastor Lem's Desk

It is hard to feel thankful when we suffer a loss. A loss of a loved one, a friend, or someone who goes away from us on their own accord. It is a loss. So, as we approach this year's Thanksgiving time, it may be hard to be thankful. We may be tempted by loss, anger, sorrow, or emptiness to reject thankfulness. The writer of the book of James says this: "Do not be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters! Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God, the Creator of the heavenly lights, who does not change or cause darkness by turning. (James 1:16-18 GNB)

Remember God is good to us. Yes, it has been a hard few months for us here at Edmore Faith United Methodist church. But do not become disheartened. God is good to us, for God has provided our salvation from eternal death. For by grace you have been saved by faith. A promise kept for all who believe. We are still with each other. We choose to uplift and encourage, and care for each other. We choose to carry one another's burdens, for we love with the perfect love of God in us.

How do we respond to loss? Peter writes in his letter, "Praise be to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade...In all this, you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials". (1 Peter 3-6 NIV)

To keep our hearts on track, let's choose to do as the praise song says. "Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son".

Blessings and Thanksgiving

Pastor Lem

BE THANKFUL.
BE
Grateful
&
BE BLESSED.

a Movie

REVIEW

by
Sallie
Horner

During World War II, struggling farmer Colvis Nevels leaves his rural Kentucky home to take a factory job in bustling Detroit. Reluctantly accompanying Colvis is his long-suffering wife, Gertie, a talented woodcarver set in her traditional ways.

This movie encourages viewers to reconsider making hasty decisions in their lives without fully understanding the consequences. Gertie (played by Jane Fonda), who believes in hard work and simple living, soon experiences turmoil when her husband, Clovis (Levon Helm), uproots the family from the Kentucky mountains to the city of Detroit.

After adjusting to the new environment, Gertie faces a series of hardships, including the tragic death of one of her children. Nevertheless, she finds the strength to take charge and salvage what remains of her family.

This is a must-see movie. It is inspirational and thought-provoking. Gertie's strength and determination serve as a powerful example for anyone facing difficulties in life.

The movie is available on Amazon Prime and has a rating of five out of five. It is a heartfelt story that you won't want to miss.

Bible verse: Above all else, love each other deeply. 1Peter 4:8

In Loving Memory

*Those we Love remain with us, for Love itself lives on.
Cherished memories never fade, because a loved one is gone.*

*Those we Love can never be more than a thought apart.
For as long as there is memory, they'll live on in our heart.*



Noisy Offering

Mark your calendars for November 16th and remember to bring your spare change for our Noisy Offering! Every coin counts, and your generous donations will make a meaningful impact by supporting Adopt-A-Family for Christmas. Let's come together to make some noise for a great cause!

Happy Birthday

November 03 Vi Snively
November 03 Don Christensen
November 03 Ileen Peterson
November 16 Susan Isham
November 19 Michelle Leak-Rensland
November 25 Priscilla Jeffers
November 27 Becky West

August

<u>Offering</u>		<u>Attendance</u>	
9/28 - 10/4	\$2,530.76	10/5	50
10/5 - 10/11	\$3,427.00	10/12	43
10/12 - 10/18	\$2006.00	10/19	38
10/19 - 10/25	..	10/26	51
10/26 - 11/1	..		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

November 16
 David & Sherry Kruithoff

Person(s) of the month

Mark Ellis is our person of the month for November. Mark sits on the SPRC Team. He is known for arriving at church just before service starts and seeing that the candles are lit for the service. He teaches the children how to light the candles and assists them as needed. Mark is known for his quick humor and willingness to help others. He is always available when he is needed most. He shows up at SPRC meetings, he responds well to emails or texts, and is often at church, helping move heavy things. He helps out with special events when possible. He's a very caring person with a joyous sense of humor.

He exemplifies Jesus's commandment: 'Love God. Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Thank you, Mark, for your faithfulness to FUMC.

Mark Ellis



Prayer requests



Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16

Please Pray

Family of Paul Clouse

Those in the path of Hurricane Melissa.

Leta's family - prayers for illness.

Ray - for the restoration of his sight.

Nancy Rogers was in an accident, with minor injuries, and is ok.

Family of Bob Beardslee

Family of Sallie Horner

Robert Ferguson - had a stroke.

Family of Gerald VanSyckle (Tina's brother in law)

Family of Rick Bandfield

Family of Brad Beulow

Brock (Jess' brother) - health issues

Nancy Bosch (Carol Nevills' sister) - health issues

To all those bravely fighting cancer.

Current Service Men & Women



Chris Arganbright

Asher Felty

Payton Clouse

Adam Griswold

Joshua Guild

Robert Nemetz

Joseph Schmitt

John Withey



"Almighty God . . . Lead them [our troops] straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith. They will need Thy blessings . . ."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Assisted Living/ Nursing Home

Sue Isham

United Memorial - Long Term Care

615 Bower Street

Greenville, MI 48838

Jean Sabin

Arbor Grove

1320 Pine Avenue

Alma, 48801

Gracious God, shower our elderly with Your boundless care. Strengthen their bodies, uplift their spirits, and surround them with a community that embodies Your love in practical ways.

Present: Jean Croll, Priscilla Jeffers, Janella Hicks, Jane Beach, Becky West, Pastor Lem, Calley Currier, Tina Jordan, Matt Croll

Prayer: Pastor Lem began the meeting with a prayer.

Becky

- Potato Tent: Everything is ready for the Potato tent event besides finding the right size cups for the condiments. Final shopping has been completed. Added a desk in the hallway for the to go orders and there will be a bell there to signal when an order comes in.
- Lay Servant: Janella and Becky are going to Rosebush for Lay Servant training on November 1st.

United Women In Faith

- October 4th: Eight of our Women in Faith ladies will be attending the district meeting.
- Jean has been helping with the reading program.
- Funeral: The Naru Family donated \$500 to the WIF. There is another funeral coming up.

Trustees

- Worked on adding a baby gate between the new classroom space and the nursery.

SPRC

- SPRC forms for Charge Conference are done.

Education

- Discussed the change of the Sunday School Classroom.
 - Priscilla said, her class has been in there for 2 weeks and it seems to be working well. Only up to 2 kids have been in there so far, it may be slightly different if all 4 attend at the same time. But, with Kathy's organizational skills, it should work out fine.
 - Discussion on the door between the rooms. They may cut a window into the current door, or just use a baby gate to separate the rooms.
 - The book shelves can stay, maybe with a few things moved around to fit better for the classroom. The TV can be moved back into the nursery for use to prepare for the Christmas Program.
- Jean would like Priscilla to inform her when a child is getting close to third grade so she can get bibles for them when it is time.

Finance

- August Income: \$10,136.66 Expenses \$9,856.12 In the black for August \$280.54 YTD: \$8,734.76
- Ministry shares were decreased by 4.18% from the district. They will be \$11,144.00 which is a savings of \$486.00
- It was decided after a couple of months of discussion to put \$25,000.00 into a 1 year CD.

- Youth for Christ: What is the best way we can support them? We can support them not only financially but volunteering. It would be a good opportunity for us to help them when we can and it could help us in the process. We need to think about ways to help and ways they could possibly help us.
- Audit: We have not done one this year, we are looking into doing one next year for a 2 year audit. We are trying to find someone to do it for us.
- A motion was brought forward to send \$1000.00 from the John Anderson Fund to Youth for Christ. Janella Hicks made the motion, it was seconded by Jane Beach. All were in favor and the motion carries.

Memorial

- We will be having a meeting sometime in the near future. There have been funds that have come in, the group needs to meet and discuss where the money will be going.

Worship

- They just had a meeting and they are working on songs that agree with everyone, though it is difficult to suit everyone.

Calley-Secretary

- Membership Letters: We went through the list of people who showed up on the 2 year and 1 year inactive lists and decided to mail them all letters. The letter has been revamped from last year's letter.
- Tina brought up that when an email is sent, it goes to more people than who are involved in the church. It was decided to make a new email group to send to people who are more involved with the church.

Pastor

- Charge Conference is October 12th. Pastors are asked to speak of a specific ministry. Pastor may speak of our Friends & Fellowship because it is a unique ministry that others do not have.

Next Meeting Date: October 28, 2025



NEWSLETTER & BULLETIN DEADLINES

Items for the December Newsletter must be submitted by Monday, November 17th, at noon.
Weekly Bulletin Deadline: **11 am** on Wednesdays.

Thirteen ladies attended this meeting, which was called to order by Secretary Jean due to the absence of President Janella and Vice President Pat K. After a prayer was given, Jean read the Bible Verse selected for today from 1 John 3:18: "Let us not love with words and speech, but with actions and in truth." Then the group recited the Mission Statement.

The secretary's minutes from the meeting of September 2, 2025, were read by Jean and approved.

Georgia gave the treasurer's report. She started by saying that Kathy would be helping her. Payments have been made to UMCOR, our pledge for 2025, and for attendance at the October 4th District meeting, which will be paid back by the attendees. Tina received \$500 from Steve Naru for his sister's celebration luncheon. Our total before today's offering is \$1416.37. Georgia read a thank-you note from Steve Naru.

The Potato Tent brought in \$6561. This will be discussed at the next Church Council meeting, and our group will probably receive 10% of the profit.

Seven women attended the Annual District Celebration at Alma UMC on October 4th. The Keynote Speaker was Rev. Dr. April Gutierrez. Our group received a certificate for obtaining the FAITH level for our unit objectives. Kathy Bongard and Jean Croll received certificates for completing the first level in the reading program. This means that they each read 5 books from the 2024 reading list. The certificates are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. There is a state campaign called Gardens of Hope, which was presented to this group. The district would like each unit to give a hope gift of \$350 to support Engage partners in Haiti. A discussion was held about what our church mission group contributes to Haiti. Linda will gather the numbers to share with Jean for our discussion in November.

Jean reminded the group of upcoming funeral/celebration lunches: October 11th for Stevie, October 25th for Dick, and November 15th for Hazel's brother. Discussion held. October 26 is a potluck for Pastor Appreciation. The meat will be provided.

A discussion was held as to what we should do with our money. Kathy moved that we spend \$1000 on special needs. 2nd by Georgia. Motion passed. Becky moved that we give Hazel \$300 towards clothing for the school children, seconded by Fran, motion carried. Linda said that Missions may add to Hazel's amount. Hazel agreed to handle this project for another year. Further motions were made to give \$200 to Ritchie's project, \$100 to Have Mercy, and \$100 to RAVE. Motions carried. The remaining \$300 will be discussed during the next meeting. Everyone is to think about this.

Cards to be sent to the Klunder family, Sally, and Nancy Rogers. Jean gave the program reading from the book "50 Women Every Christian Should Know." She read about Florence Nightingale. This book can be borrowed from Kathy for further programs.

Next month, Kathy will be the hostess (substitution for Dolores) and Fran will do the program.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sara served a delicious Apple Elderberry Crisp.

Notes collected by Kathy. Typed by Jean on October 13, 2025



Finance Committee

October 14, 2025

Members Present: Jane Beach, Leann Smith, Georgia Bohne, Pastor Lem

Members Absent: Leonard Jordan, Becky West, Lisa Longnecker

Note: The following member will need to receive communication via regular mail as she does not have e-mail: Georgia Bohne

1. The Finance Committee Meeting was called to order on October 14th, 2025, at 11 AM.

- Prayer was led by Pastor Lem.
- Jane Beach shared a devotion on JOY, and Georgia will do devotions for the November meeting—see explanatory note below in minutes.

2. Review of previous minutes:

- September 12th, 2025, minutes were reviewed and accepted as read/printed. Motion to accept Georgia, 2nd Jane. Passed by group vote.
- Discussion occurred regarding adding a devotion at the beginning of the meeting and prayer requests at the end. All felt this was a good idea.
- Jane did a devotion today, and Georgia will do one for the November meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Pastor Lem started the Treasurer's report by discussing a hypothetical situation, helping to understand that finances are important, but not the overall focus and mission of the church. Loving God and others should continue to be the ultimate focus.
- Leann provided copies of the church's financial reports.
 - September 2025: Income: \$18,097.18; Expenses: \$11,369.18 Net: +\$6727.98 —this reporting includes income from the Potato Event, which largely created the increase in net income.
 - YTD: Income: \$98,219.67; Expenses: 101,254.42 \$Net: -\$3,034.75. The negative year-to-date balance is declining but remains a concern.
 - Discussion about trying to have a thorough budget review this year when setting the 2026 budget—having more time for committees to really look at what was spent to inform decisions for 2026.
 - Ministry shares for 2026 will be decreased by 4.18%, saving \$486. The new amount will be \$11,144 for the year.
 - Per last month's financial discussion and church council action, \$25,000 was put into a 1-year CD at MPECU. The CD has earned \$59.38 since its recent inception.
 - At November's meeting, it will be decided what needs to be dispersed from the Potato Event money. We always do 10% to Missions and are wondering if the 10% for kitchen/supplies needs to be set aside as per usual, or can be directed to offset our negative YTD balance.



- In addition to donating \$1,000 out of John Anderson # 2 for Youth For Christ (a fund for young people carrying out Christian work in the world), a discussion occurred about other ways to partner with YFC to help them, Edmore Faith and the Community—some discussion about holding a community event at their building downtown—the Garage. Ideas still being considered. Will work with Missions on this as well.

4. Old Business

- Audit was again discussed. P Lem asked New Life to have their person call us if interested. Lisa will reach out to Dean Jensen, retired CPA, to see if he has any interest in doing this—no info on this at this time. At this point, we are considering a 2-year audit sometime in mid-2026.

5. New Business None currently

6. Around The Table

- Leann was seeking clarification about the ‘Memorial’ money for the kitchen currently held at the Michigan Area Loan Fund. At this point, it appears that it was money set aside for kitchen projects—not from a family memorial. As such, it can be released to the Memorial Committee to use for kitchen updates.
- No other input from committee members that wasn’t discussed earlier in the meeting.

7. Next meeting – November 11th, 11 AM

8. Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Lem for various individuals—some from church concerns and some brought up at this meeting.



Colleen and Pastor Lem thank all of you for all
your support throughout our ministry here in Edmore.
Thank you all for the wonderful Pastor Appreciation luncheon and gifts.

Thank You

November 2025

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Noah from YFC to speak Holy Communion 	3 10 am M&M's 7 pm AA Meeting	4 1 pm WIF meeting	5 9am Crafters	6 1 pm Euchre	7	1/8
9 Central MI Area Concert Band Performance: 7:00 PM at the Performing Arts Auditorium Mt. Pleasant High School	10 8 am Mens Group 10 am M&M's 7 pm AA Meeting	11 11 am Finance Meeting	12 9am Crafters	13 1 pm Euchre 5:30pm Soup & Bible Study	14	15 Memorial Service for Gary Slocum
16 Noisy Offering Adopt-A-Family 	17 7 pm AA Meeting	18	19 9am Crafters 6 pm Friends & Fellowship Newsletter Deadline	20 1 pm Euchre  4-5 pm - sign up 5 pm - food distribution	21 Memorial Service for Sallie Horner	22 3:00 pm Grief Support Group
23 Hymn Sing	24 8 am Mens Group 7 pm AA Meeting	25 10:30 am Church Council Meeting	26	27 1 pm Euchre  office closed	28	29
30						