



AUGUST 2026

The Lantern

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, EDMORE MI

From Pastor Lem's Desk

This month I would like to share some of Oswald Chambers' thoughts on fairness. How should we react to unfairness? As you read the thoughts of Chambers, also read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5. "The Sermon on the Mount indicates that when we are on a mission for Jesus Christ, there is no time to stand up for ourselves. Jesus says, in effect, "Don't worry about whether or not you are being treated justly." Looking for justice is actually a sign that we have been diverted from our devotion to Him. Never look for justice in this world, but never cease to give it.

If we look for justice, we will only begin to complain and to indulge ourselves in the discontent of self-pity, as if to say, "Why should I be treated like this?" If we are devoted to Jesus Christ, we have nothing to do with what we encounter, whether it is just or unjust. In essence, Jesus says, "Continue

steadily on with what I have told you to do, and I will guard your life. If you try to guard it yourself, you remove yourself from My deliverance." Even the most devout among us become atheistic in this regard—we do not believe Him. We put our common sense on the throne and then attach God's name to it. We do lean to our own understanding, instead of trusting God with all our hearts".

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (From My Utmost for His Highest, by Oswald Chambers, June 27 entry)

Blessings

Pastor Lem

THINGS TO KNOW

August Noisy Offering

This month, our Noisy Offering will support the Fun, Friendship Foster Care Program. We invite you to join us in this meaningful effort on August 16th by bringing any spare change you can find to contribute. Every contribution, no matter the size, is important and can make a difference.



Fun Friendship, Foster Care

Friends & Fellowship is collecting donations for bingo prizes. Suggested items include puzzles, word search books, and other small gifts that would bring joy to this group of people.

August 2nd Lewis Perkins
August 6th Linda Helms
August 8th Judy Perkins
August 11th Jessica Henry
August 13th Pastor Lem
August 14th Ted Kondek
August 15th Kathy Helms
August 23rd Leta Guild
August 23rd Jean Sabin
August 25th Jane Hagen
August 26th Brittney LaCross
August 31st Brandon Moore
August 31st Bob Moreland

August 14th
Steve & Pat Kidwell

Happy Anniversary

August 14th
Ted & Fran Kondek

Attendance

06/28	52
07/05	53
07/12	46
07/19	48
07/26	56

Offering

06/21 - 06/27	\$2,672.00
06/28 - 07/04	\$8,030.50
07/05 - 07/11	\$3,854.00
07/12 - 07/18	\$1,994.00
07/19 - 07/26	\$1,941.00

Devotional Practice Makes Progress



When we're in difficult situations, it isn't easy to stay calm or hold our tongues for very long.

But in James 1:19, we learn how we should respond...

Be quick to listen.
Be slow to speak.
Be slow to anger.

The world is more like the opposite:

Be slow to hear what others have to say.
Be quick to voice your own opinions.
Be quick to accuse, argue, and fight.

Why is it so important to James that Christ's followers don't behave like this? Because "human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." (James 1:20)

So what does produce the right kind of living that God desires?

The Word of God.

James told his friends to "get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you." (James 1:21)

He said that if they have the Word of God in them, and if they are obeying it, they will be blessed. (James 1:25)

James is clear that if we are to be followers of God, we must know His Word and obey it. That means we need to take time to listen to others, pace ourselves when we speak, and keep our anger at bay.

So next time you're faced with something that makes you angry, take James' words to heart. Take time to temper your emotions, think through your feelings and arguments, and humbly pray for God to help you respond with kindness and grace



Newsletter & Bulletin Deadlines

All items for the August Newsletter must be submitted by noon on Monday, August 17th.

Weekly Bulletin Deadline: **11 am** on Wednesdays.

POTATO TENT

Sept. 18 & 19

Fri 11-7 | Sat 11-5

Faith United Methodist Church
833 South 1st Street, Edmore

Hot dogs • Elephant ears

Baked Potatoes!

Loaded • Stroganoff • Plain

Dine in or take out

Call ahead: 989-427-5575

Join us for a **Spaghetti Dinner**

By Donation.

Thursday, August 13th

5:00 - 7:00 PM



Faith United Methodist Church
833 South First Street, Edmore, Michigan

POTATO TENT

Sept. 18 & 19

Fri 11-7 | Sat 11-5

**Please sign up today to help serve
and bless our church family. Sign-
up sheets are on the table in the
Welcome Center.**

Prayer requests



Pray boldly. Pray faithfully. Pray with confidence for our church, our families, and our world. Your prayers matter, and God hears every one.

Please Pray

- Leta Guild broke her arm. She will also need stents put into her heart soon.
- Victims of the forest fires and anyone affected by the smoke.
- The upcoming Spaghetti Dinner
- Dale (Tina's brother-in-law) for the loss of his wife.
- Steve Kidwell - healing from a cough.
- Family of Jim Zimmerman
- Family of Rick (Ryan Walker's Dad)
- Safe travels for Aaron & CJ (Sara & Tom Slusher's grandsons)
- Potato Festival planning
- Peggy Graham for health, healing, and peace.
- Diana (Jane's niece) stable but would appreciate continued prayers
- Patti (friend of Jane B), recovering from a stroke; continue to pray
- Pray for 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



Dear Jesus, Please watch over our service men and women. Protect them every day, whether they are deployed or at home. Thank You for their sacrifice, their patriotism, and the security they provide for our country and our loved ones. Lord, keep them safe. Amen.

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, we thank You for the elderly members of our church. Bless them with comfort, peace, and joy each day. Surround them with love, protect them in need, and remind them of Your steadfast presence. May they feel cherished and supported by our church family. In Jesus' name, Amen.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

JULY 7, 2026

Fifteen women enjoyed a potluck meal at noon before the meeting. It was delicious.

President Janella opened the meeting with the following Bible verse: "And those that trust in the Lord will be happy." From Proverbs 16:20. Then we recited the Mission Statement.

Jean read the minutes from our June 2, 2026 meeting. Minutes were accepted.

Kathy gave the Treasurer's report. We currently have \$1855.74. Motion made by Doloris and seconded by Fran to give \$200 to the church to put toward sewer repair of the parsonage. The motion passed. Kathy read a thank you note from Margaret Miller.

We received the Central Bay Newsletter this week. Jean shared the following details from the letter:

1. Review of our Unit Objectives:

- Kathy will plan to report on one of the books she is reading for the reading program at the August meeting.
- Jean will review an article from our Response magazine at our September meeting.
- Plan to maintain our Faith level this year.

2. Kathy and I need to submit the report of the books we have read this year by August 22nd.

3. The District would like our 2026 pledge submitted ASAP. Kathy will handle this. They would like the amount we will pledge for 2027 by November 20th. We need to think about & vote on it next month.

4. We will vote on the 2027 officers in October, and the submission deadline is November 1st.

5. The District Annual Celebration is on October 10th in Weidman; the cost is \$20 per person. A flyer has been distributed. We need to think about this and inform Jean at the next meeting so she can submit it by September 21st.

Janella has not heard back from the district regarding the redistricting and our church hosting the District meeting in March of 2027. Our district is now the Central Shores District, which consists of 153 churches. Jean read a paragraph from the District President from the letter. There is no clear answer at present.

Potato Festival tent: There hasn't been a meeting, but people are purchasing ground beef from Meijer during a sale. There is a date set for July 15th at 9 AM to roll out elephant ears. Calley is making flyers to be distributed during the next Food Truck.

Discussion held regarding communication. Please bring planned activities to the church council.

Fund Raisers/regular meals: After talking to church council next week, we plan to have a spaghetti dinner starting August 13 th from 5-7 PM for the community. Accepting donations. Menu discussed. Will plan a dinner regularly and may vary it to a chili supper in cooler weather and use the 2 turkeys that were in the freezer for a turkey supper in October or later.

Cards will be sent to Edna Dyer and Sharon Deal.

The next meeting is on August 4, 2026, at 1 PM. Deloris will be the hostess, and Kathy will do a book report for the program.

Jean Croll, Secretary



\$ FINANCE COMMITTEE

JULY 14, 2026

Members Present: Jane Beach, Leann Smith, Pastor Lem, Becky West, Lisa Longnecker

Guests: Georgia Bohne, Brandon Moore

1. The Finance Committee Meeting was called to order on July 14th, 2026, at 10 AM.

- Jane Beach shared a devotion about faith.
- Jane Beach will do devotions for the August meeting.

2. Review of previous minutes: June minutes were not available.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Leann provided copies of church financial reports.
 - June 2026: Income: \$20,542.50; Expenses: \$11,283.38
 - Net Income: \$9259.12
 - YTD: Income: \$3440.33
 - All bills and ministry shares are current.
 - All flood expenses have been paid. An updated AED will be ordered, paid for by generous donations.
 - The bill for the parsonage drain line repair has not yet been received, but it appears it will be less than previously anticipated as the repair didn't require as much work as had been anticipated.
 - The driveway bid has been accepted to repair the south driveway area with cement—approximately \$6,000.
 - Jane Beach will prepare a Congregational Update for Becky to share July 19—congratulating the church family on their amazing response to the financial appeal.
 - Priscilla Jeffers is creating a visual aid “thermometer” for funds needed.

4. Old Business

- Amy Anderson will do our audit. Leann and Amy have begun the audit process.
- Mowing costs—we have received some donations for mowing costs this year. Mowing will cost \$1,920 for this season, and we have received \$1,290.
- Jane will work with Eric Horner on picking out current pics for the website.

5. New Business

- Some discussion about a community summer church camp, as there does not appear to be any camp experience in Edmore. We do have funds that could contribute to a summer camp experience but would need to check with other churches and possibly Youth for Christ for help and to use their building.

6. Around The Table

- Nothing new at this time.
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7. Next meeting – August 11th, 2026, at 11 AM.



Financial Update

Dear Church Family and Friends,

July 2026

Thank you for your great outpouring of love and support for our church after our last financial update! Yay—pat yourselves on the back for your good efforts!

We are extremely pleased to report that as of our July Finance Committee meeting, all bills are paid, ministry shares are paid, and we have a Year-to-Date balance of \$3,440.63! This is a tremendous turnaround from our previous negative Year-to-Date of -\$5,818.79

We are also pleased to report that all flood expenses have been paid—thanks to ongoing donations and a wonderful ministry by Ethelda and Leann, who create and sell aprons and rugs.

Our new AED can be ordered soon, all paid for by donations— and this lifesaving tool is so much needed! Thank you, generous donors!

We do have expenses still in front of us. We are waiting on a quote for the repair of the parsonage drain, but it appears NOT to be as big of a problem as had been feared. We have an accepted quote for repair of the driveway with cement. This will be approximately \$6,000. We will also require additional donations for mowing expenses.

This is certainly a time to continue your faithful giving. Edmore Faith is blessed by so many giving at the maximum for their life situation---so thank you! Your giving allows our church to continue to be the beacon of hope and help for the community for which it is so well known. Please consider ideas for continuing to enhance the financial health of Edmore Faith. The quilt fundraiser and rug/apron fundraiser are two wonderful ideas that show people using their God-given talents to help Edmore Faith grow. Rumor has it that there is an upcoming spaghetti dinner fundraiser as well—stay tuned for details! There are likely more unique ideas out there as well!

Pray, pray, pray with FAITH— thank God for his wonderful provision in improving our finances and ask him for ideas for continued stability!

The Finance Committee will continue to closely monitor the financial situation and give further updates as needed. Thank you for being such a faithful member of this church family.

STAFF PARISH RELATION COMMITTEE (SPRC) NEWS

AUGUST 2026

Hello Church Family,

What an exciting time to be part of Edmore Faith!! Yay!

Our financial picture is more encouraging at this time--due to devoted prayer, wonderful projects from people using their God-given gifts, and thoughtful increases in donations! Yes! Thank you!

There is a renewed enthusiasm for thinking about projects to reach out to the surrounding community, which will continue to help our financial picture as well! Please join in this creative thinking process and brainstorm other ideas!

We are blessed to see new faces joining us on Sundays as well!

So many positives!

Please help our church be the hands, feet, heart, and mouth of Jesus during these exciting times of growth. The following tips may be helpful for all:

- Our church should be everyone's happy place!
- All ideas are valuable.
- Realize that with different people in a conversation, it is highly unlikely that any one person will have 'their idea' chosen in its entirety---Win-win decision making means choosing something everyone can live with, even if not a person's first choice.
- Areas of concern should be talked about—not people. Statements should reflect why an idea may or may not work—Ideas should be talked about, not people.
- A person should be allowed to finish their statement/comment/thought without interruption. Then clarifying questions can be asked.

If a committee or a group of people have an idea for Edmore Faith, please remember all information goes to and through Church Council so that the council can get everyone on board to increase the success of the idea.

Thanks for ALL YOU DO AND ARE to help Edmore Faith remain a valuable, caring presence in our communities, as well as to help us move forward in exciting ministries to help all.

GO EDMORE FAITH!!

Thank you all!



Jane Anderson Beach

Staff Parish Relations Chairperson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 <i>Holy Communion</i> 	3 6 pm AA Meeting	4 1 pm WIF	5 9 am Potato Tent Prep	6 1 pm Euchre	7	1 8
9	10 6 pm AA Meeting 10 am M&M's ---- LEM & COLLEEN VACATION ----->	11 9 am Mens Group 10 am Finance Meeting 12 pm Church Council	12 9 am Potato Tent Prep	13 5-7 pm Spaghetti Dinner 	14	15 3 pm Grief Support Group
16 <i>Noisy Offering</i> Fun Friendship Foster Care Program	17 6 pm AA Meeting Newsletter Deadline >----- LEM & COLLEEN VACATION ----->	18	19 9 am Potato Tent Prep 6 pm Friends & Fellowship	20 1 pm Euchre	21	22
23 LEM & COLLEEN VACATION -----	24 10 am M&M's 6 pm AA Meeting	25 9 am Mens Group 11 am Church Council Meeting	26 9 am Potato Tent Prep	27 1 pm Euchre	28	29
30  Potluck	31 6 pm AA Meeting					