

JULY 2026

The Lantern

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, EDMORE MI

From Pastor Lem's Desk

June has been a stormy month. Tornadoes, thunderstorms, hail, and straight-line winds have all come our way. Violent storms can disrupt our plans and leave us feeling unsettled.

Yet some of the most disruptive storms we encounter are the storms of life. The sudden loss of a loved one, a disruption in employment, a health crisis, or even a season of grief and discouragement can shake us to our core. In the midst of such storms, we may wonder if anyone truly cares.

A rainstorm eventually passes, and we wait for the sunshine to return. But when we are experiencing emotional pain, uncertainty, or stress, waiting can be difficult. We may feel isolated and alone.

Jesus understood that His followers would face difficult times. That is why He gave this promise in John 14:16-17:

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (NIV)

These words remind us that we are never alone. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, God is present

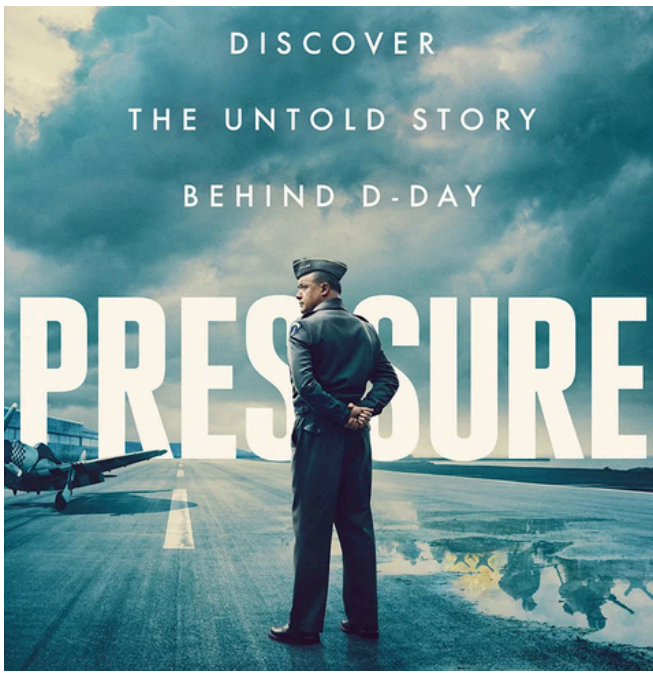
with us in every circumstance. He knows our hearts, our hurts, our fears, and our joys. Even when the storm clouds seem darkest, God remains faithful.

As the old gospel song reminds us, “Take it to the Lord in prayer.” Bring your burdens, your worries, and your sorrows to Jesus. He walks with us through every storm and leads us toward the hope and peace that only He can give.

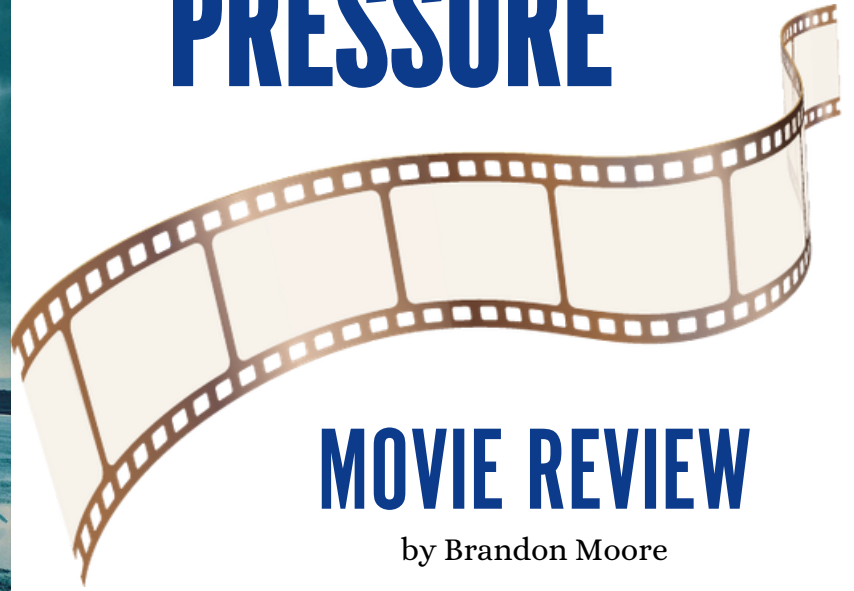
Blessings

Pastor Lem





PRESSURE



MOVIE REVIEW

by Brandon Moore

My father and I went to the theater recently and watched the film *Pressure*, based on the 2014 stage play by David Haig. The film follows the preparation for D-Day—specifically, the challenge of predicting if the weather would allow the mission to proceed. The main character isn't a general or politician; instead, Andrew Scott plays Group Captain James Stagg, a Scottish meteorologist. Winston Churchill himself recommended Stagg to General Dwight Eisenhower. Stagg's task: to deliver an accurate forecast so Allied forces could decide whether to assault the beaches of Normandy within the planned timeframe.

An underlying theme is the unseen pressure weighing on everyone involved. The title *Pressure* can refer to the weight of the decisions these men had to make, but it also refers, in this case, to the barometer. Captain Stagg sees weather patterns that others don't or won't, all while enduring personal burdens from the war. The film becomes a study in standing one's ground against overwhelming opposition.

Fittingly, one of the pivotal moments in the film—the scene that reveals whether the decision of Captain Stagg and ultimately General Eisenhower was correct—happens in the middle of a church service. It makes you think about how, in our moments of doubt, pain, and decision, God provides what we need when we choose to look to Him for answers.

'*Pressure*' was directed by Andrew Maras. The run time is 100 minutes, and it is rated PG-13. While the film deals with wartime tension, there are minimal battle scenes. This is a true story, and if you are well-versed in World War 2 history, this film centers on a lesser-known but valuable detail of the war.

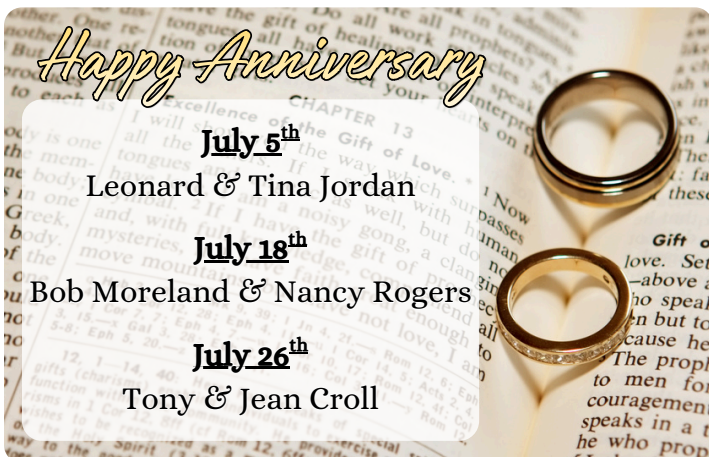
Crafter's Corner

Submitted by Hazel Christensen



As you may have heard, the majority of Faith Crafters are on vacation until school resumes this fall (approx. late August). Not so for the mother-daughter duo, Ethelda Klunder and LeeAnn Smith. These ladies have established their own bazaar selling homemade kitchen aprons and crocheted rugs. Faith Crafters and our mother-daughter duo are joining forces to pay the remaining \$1500 balance for the water damage at the church earlier this year.

I CAN DO ALL THINGS
through Christ
 PHILLIPIANS 4:13 WHO STRENGTHENS ME.



<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Offering</u>	
05/03	44	04/26 - 05/02	\$2,227.10
05/10	41	05/03 - 05/09	\$2,385.51
05/17	46	05/10 - 05/16	\$732.00
05/24	..	05/17 - 05/23	\$1,295.00
05/31	59	05/24 - 05/30	\$1,736.00
06/07	47	05/31 - 06/06	\$1,979.50
06/14	28	06/07 - 06/13	\$5,769.00
06/21	46	06/14 - 06/20	\$2,350.00
06/28	..	06/21 - 06/27	..

THINGS TO KNOW

Thank You

Thank you from Hazel Christensen

Hazel is singing your praises for the beautiful get-well cards, homemade goodies, and healing prayers received following my recent surgeries and hospital stay. Thank you all for the boost in spirit I received as a result. YOU ARE GOOD PEOPLE!



Yard Services

We are so grateful for the generous donations we have received this year to help cover our lawn care expenses. Your willingness to give has made a real difference, and we truly appreciate each and every contribution.

However, we are not quite where we need to be yet. We still need approximately one-third of the total funds required to fully cover lawn care services for the remainder of 2026. If you are able to help, please consider making a donation—no amount is too small. Every dollar brings us closer to keeping our church grounds looking their best for our congregation and community.

This month, our Noisy Offering will support our local food pantry. We invite you to join us in this meaningful effort on July 19th by bringing any spare change you can find to contribute. Every contribution, no matter the size, is important and can make a difference in our community.

July Noisy Offering

Food Pantry



Information Update



We are currently updating our church directory and contact records. If you have not yet filled out an information update form, we kindly ask that you do so at your earliest convenience. Blank forms are available on the table in the Welcome Center.

Please complete one form per person so we can ensure our records are accurate and up to date. This helps us stay connected with you and your family. Thank you for taking a moment to help us with this!



Newsletter & Bulletin Deadlines

Items for the next Newsletter must be submitted by **Monday, July 20th**, at noon for the August Newsletter.

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

Prayer requests



Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ~ 1 Thessalonians 16-18

Please Pray

- Patti (friend of Jane Beach) had a stroke
- Rick Anderson (Tom Dobbrastine's cousin) is fighting leukemia
- Hazel is recovering from surgery
- Diana Turner (Jane's niece) - health issues
- Pray for all those bravely fighting cancer.

Current Service Men & Women



Chris Arganbright	Adam Griswold	Joseph Schmitt
Asher Felty	Joshua Guild	John Withey
Payton Clouse	Robert Nemetz	



“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

June Burt
Lakeview Terrace
(Room 6)
9494 Paden Road
Lakeview, MI 48850

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.



Stanley's generosity never ceased to amaze me. He often bought meals and gifts for elderly church members, cleaners in his neighborhood, or anyone who needed cheering up.

Equally amazing was that even though Stanley wasn't wealthy or savvy at investing, his small investment did impressively well, enabling him to keep giving. Whenever someone thanked him, he'd point upwards and smile, as if to say, "It came from God, not me." God, he often said, helped him to help others.

This was what Paul alluded to in 2 Corinthians 9 as he wrote about giving. Proud of the Corinthians' readiness to help fellow believers (v. 2), he hoped to pick up a collection they had started (v. 3). Implored them to give generously and cheerfully, he noted that God would not only reward those who gave (vv. 6-7) but also bless people so they could give even more (v. 8).

God doesn't expect us to give what we're unable to give (8:12). Rather, He entrusts us with money, time, or talent to "abound in every good work" (9:8), and He supplies what we need so we "can be generous on every occasion" (v. 11). That's why we can give in faith and with a cheerful heart (v. 7), knowing that we give only from what we've been given. In the process, we bring praise to God's name (v. 13).

Scripture Insight

The instructions in 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 about the generous giving believers in Jesus at Corinth should employ weren't given in a vacuum. In the previous chapter, Paul had described the ultimate model for giving—what Christ has given us (8:9)—as the example that should also characterize our giving. The Macedonians had already embraced this heart of generosity (vv. 1-6), and as the Corinthians had displayed growth in so many other areas, the apostle wanted them to know the joy of giving as well (v. 7). Today, we can experience the blessing and privilege of giving cheerfully from what God has given us.

Bill Crowder

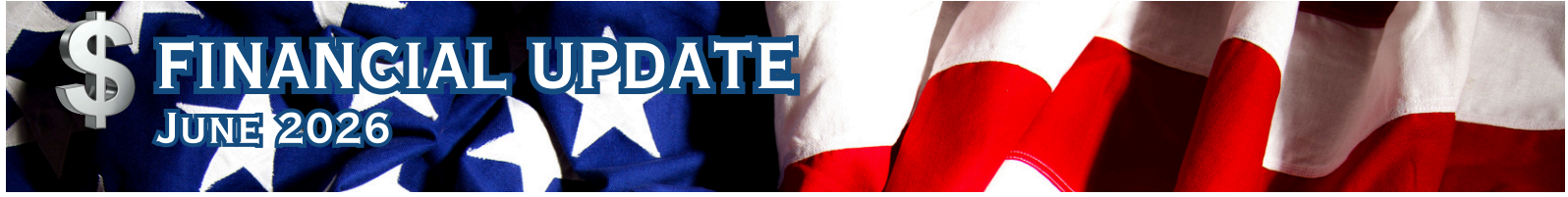
Reflect and Pray

What has God given to you? To whom can you give today, sharing from what you've received?

Dear God, please open my eyes to Your blessings and open my heart to bless others generously and cheerfully.

God is able to bless you abundantly, so that . . . you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8



Dear Church Family and Friends,

We last gave a Financial Update in April 2026. We are presenting this update to share ongoing financial concerns with you.

As mentioned before, Pastor Lem and Colleen are a gift to our church family. In addition to their wonderful ministry, Pastor Lem uses his retirement health insurance, which means Edmore Faith saves over \$20,000 annually by not having to provide health insurance. Pastor Lem is also listed as a half-time pastor, but we all know we see him far more than that. These are both amazing financial blessings. Thank you, Pastor Lem and Colleen!

Our church is full of joy...and new faces! Both of those are very exciting things. We are happy to share our wonderful church home with groups needing a spot—AAA and Euchre groups meet regularly, as well as our monthly Friends and Fellowship. The Men’s bimonthly Bible Study and monthly Grief Group (including non-church family members) are great additions to church life and to what our church can offer to our community!

The Finance Committee continues to monitor finances and suggest adjustments if/when needed to be the best stewards of our funds. It was hoped that 2026 would have a positive impact on our financial situation, but that has not YET been the case. The entire Rummage Sale proceeds of \$6831 were all allocated for the General Fund. Despite the Rummage Sale funds going to the General Fund. As of June 9th, **we are down approximately \$6,000.00**. This obviously remains an area of significant concern that needs to be shared with you. If this were our household budget, our income would not cover our expenses. We can continue to operate, but we need to find ways to balance our income and expenses. In addition to the above deficit, Edmore Faith is still paying for the flood expenses. We also have needed repairs —the driveway entrance and parsonage drain line. (drain done, but cost not yet available).

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Please keep our church in your prayers always, but especially NOW.
- Please do 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.
- Consider your personal situation.... can you increase your giving even slightly? A few slight increases added together will make a positive impact.
- The 10% increase in giving chart is still available in the Welcome Center.
- Please prayerfully consider ideas for enhancing the financial health of Edmore Faith.
- Brainstorm fundraising and cost-cutting ideas and bring those ideas to Church Council—a fresh perspective on a challenge can often be just what is needed.
- Pray, Pray Pray with FAITH---God has great answers to this concern!

The Finance Committee will continue to closely monitor the financial situation to determine if further action is needed. Thank you for being such an important part of this church family.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

JUNE 2, 2026

The meeting was opened by President Janella with the following Bible verse: Psalms 139:14. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made: your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Then the ten ladies present recited our Mission Statement.

Jean read the meeting notes of May 5, 2026. Minutes approved as written.

Jean presented the treasurer's report. The balance on hand was \$994.34. Kathy deposited our offering of \$66.00 from the last meeting. She paid out \$133 for supplies for Pat Loveless funeral. So the total today is \$927.34 before our offering. She did receive a check from the Miller funeral, which she will report next month. Report accepted.

A motion was made to elect Kathy Bongard as our Treasurer to replace Georgia. Motion passed.

Clarification was made that the funeral policy has been updated, and the checks that the funeral homes are giving to the church for funeral charges do not cover the cost of the meal. Any initiation of the funeral luncheons will start with the WIF president. The cost of food for the luncheons was discussed.

The yard sale was discussed. The money raised will go into the church's general fund. A meeting to discuss the yard sale is pending.

How is the kitchen remodeling going? Planning a Memorial meeting soon to discuss the money available.

Planning a Potato Tent Meeting soon.

Discussion about potlucks in the months with 5 Sundays. Janella agreed to see that in those months (August and November), the communication gets out in the bulletin and newsletter, etc.

Fran will send a card to Anne Riegler. The group signed a card for Hazel, and Jean will mail it.

Pat gave the program, reading from Jesus Calling by Sara Young.

The next meeting is on July 7th at 1200 and is a potluck. Janella will be in charge.

The meeting was adjourned with the reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

Fran made a yummy pineapple cake for dessert.

Jean Croll, secretary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 1 pm Euchre	3	4 
5 <i>Holy Communion</i> 	6 6 pm AA Meeting	7 12 pm WIF Potluck 	8	9 1 pm Euchre	10	11
12	13 10 am M&M's 6 pm AA Meeting CENTRAL MICHIGAN AREA CONCERT BAND 7:00 P.M., VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, DOWNTOWN SHEPHERD	14 9 am Mens Group 10 am Finance Meeting	15 6 pm Friends & Fellowship	16 1 pm Euchre FEEDING AMERICA FOOD TRUCK 4-5 pm - sign up 5 pm - food distribution 5:30 Monthly Bible Study	17	18 3 pm Grief Support Group
19 <i>Noisy Offering</i> Local Food Pantry 	20 10 am M&M's 6 pm AA Meeting Newsletter Deadline	21 11 am Church Council Meeting	22	23 1 pm Euchre	24	25
26 6 pm AA Meeting	27 6 pm AA Meeting	28 9 am Mens Group	29	30 1 pm Euchre	31	