


# From Pastor Lem's Desk

What a blessing to see the Potato Tent in action! It takes dedicated leaders to coordinate all the willing hands and joyful hearts to accomplish this. Thank you all for making this potato tent happen.

Thank you to our leaders: thank you for stepping up to guide this effort. Your dedication to organizing all the workers, managing the complex food purchases and donations, and overseeing the extensive food preparations in the weeks leading up to the event made the potato tent a success.

To our incredible volunteers: whether you were rolling up your sleeves for the early prep work, keeping things running smoothly in the kitchen, or engaging with the community during our downtown sales, your hard work carried this work to completion. I also want to thank everyone who stepped forward to provide the financial support that made all of this possible.

I'd like to offer a scriptural thought for us to reflect upon. Ask yourself: What did the world see when they looked at our Potato Tent? And just as importantly, what did we see in each other?

Hopefully, what was seen was a shared mindset deeply rooted in scripture. Colossians 3:23-24 (ESV) reminds us, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men... You are serving the Lord Christ." This establishes the mindset for all our labor. Whether preparing food, managing a busy line, or cleaning up at the end of the day, your volunteering is an act of worship.

Furthermore, you beautifully lived out the encouragement found in Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV): "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Working side-by-side was a wonderful way of meeting together, encouraging one another, and demonstrating Christ's love in a practical way to our community.

You have done well in living out your ministries in service to the Lord God. For it is for God that you have done this work. Your work furthers the mission of Edmore Faith United Methodist Church of going, caring, and sharing to make disciples for Christ.

Blessings

Pastor Lem

# October

## Birthdays

| | |
|---|---|
| **October 4th** | Evan Croll |
| **October 8th** | Lynette Nevills |
| **October 9th** | Calley Currier |
| **October 15th** | Kathy Bongard |
| **October 24th** | Tom Slusher |

## Anniversaries

| | |
|---|---|
| **October 7th** | Lewis & Judy Perkins |

## October Noisy Offering

### Ritchie Project

This month, our Noisy Offering will support the Ritchie Project. Join us on October 20th and bring any spare change you can—every coin adds up and helps with this worthy cause.

## Newsletter & Bulletin

Submit all items for the November Newsletter by noon on **Monday, October 19th.**

Weekly Bulletin Deadline: **11:00 am** on Wednesdays.

## August/September

| Attendance | | Offering | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **08/30** | 55 | **08/16-8/22** | $2,576.50 |
| **09/06** | 49 | **8/23-8/29** | $3,283.00 |
| **09/13** | 50 | **8/30-9/5** | $2,015.50 |
| **09/20** | 52 | **9/6-9/12** | ... |

# Pray

Bring your prayers to God with boldness and faith. Pray with confidence for our church, our families, and our world. Every prayer matters, and God hears each one.

## Prayer Requests

- Ethelda - Not feeling well
- Aaron Hadley - recently diagnosed with ALS
- Edna Dyer - fell and broke hip and had surgery
- Peggy Graham - in Alma Hospital & would appreciate prayers.
- Shannon Pendell - has cancer & would appreciate prayers.
- Sheri Bartlett - beginning cancer treatment
- Richard Macklin - issues with his lungs & is now on oxygen.
- Katrina - pray for her knee and for her to find adequate housing.
- Stephanie Kanine - continue to pray for recovery from surgery.
- 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.

# All Saints Day
## November 1st

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one since last November, please share their name with Calley so we can lovingly remember and honor them during our All Saints Day observance on November 1. Thank you.



Dear Church family,

We are so blessed by the wonderful staff members that help us take care of our church family and our church building. It is rare to find such dedication and caring.

As a reminder, if you have any concerns about any staff issue or job performance , please talk to Pastor Lem or Jane Beach, SPRC chairperson– not directly to the staff member. Pastor Lem and/or Jane would be more than happy to explore any concerns.

Thank you for helping our church run as effectively and positively as possible.

Jane Anderson Beach



# October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Edmore Faith is truly blessed to have Pastor Lem and Colleen guiding us. We encourage everyone to take this opportunity to express your appreciation for their leadership.

Here are some ideas to show your gratitude: a thoughtful note, a card, a treat, garden goodies, a dish you prepare just for them, a restaurant gift card, a gas card, or even dedicating a week of prayer—these are just a few suggestions!

We will celebrate Pastor Lem and Colleen on Sunday, October 18th, 2026, with a spaghetti dinner immediately following the church service, along with a Pastor Appreciation Cake! Please plan to join us on October 18th to fellowship with Pastor Lem and Colleen in recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month.

United Women in Faith meeting September 1, 2026

President Janella opened the meeting with a Bible verse from Isaiah 55:5: “Seek the Lord while he may be found: call on him while he is near.”

Then our Mission Statement was recited by all present.

Jean read the meeting minutes from August 4th, 2026. Minutes accepted as read.

Kathy gave the treasurer's report. After adding $92 from the offering last month, we have a total of $1943.74. Report accepted.

Jean reported that 7 ladies are planning to attend the District meeting at Weidman on October 10th. She will send money and registration in. Discussion was held regarding the change in the district. We are now called the Central Bay district that is divided into 11 connexion zones. We are in number 9, which consists of Cedar Springs, Greenville, Ionia, Lakeview, Lowell, Lyons-Muir, Pierson, and Sparta churches. When we hold our District Meeting in March, it will probably consist of these churches.

Old Business: Spaghetti dinner was discussed. We made $946 for the church. This goes to Finance to use as they see fit. It was decided to have the next dinner on October 15 th from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Instead of a potluck on the 18 th for Pastor Appreciation, we will serve leftover spaghetti and provide a cake.

Tina reported that the Potato Tent is progressing. Sign-up sheets are out in the welcome center.

Other: Next month we will vote on officers.

Next month we need to vote on the pledge for 2027.

Cards to be sent: Jessica, Judy Perkins, Stephanie, Joan Schumaker.

Program: Jean reported on the latest Response magazine. The big Assembly relates that this year’s theme is Share the Good News Everywhere. We are called to Social Justice by focusing on issues that face women, children, and youth.

Climate Justice is another focus. We hope to learn more about what we can do in our smaller, rural areas.

Jean suggested that we work on some objectives/goals for our group for 2027. Think about this so we can discuss it at the October 6th meeting.

Hostess will be Becky for October, and Sara will have the program.

Kathy served the 15 ladies present a lemon dessert and fruit.

The meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Jean Croll, secretary

# Finance Committee — September 8th, 2026

**Finance meeting**

September 8th

Present: Georgia, Lisa, Leann, Becky, Pastor Lem, Jane (came late)

Income: $14,804.00
Expenses: $13,813.10
Net income: $990.90
Year to Date: $5685.66

Talked about having finance minutes turned in. We talked about the goal chart in the welcome center. We decided we didn't need it right now. It will be removed.

Next meeting: October 20th, 10 am. We will be meeting the third Tuesday of the month, if possible.

## Devotional "Look Up"

It's normal, as well as understandable, to spend our time, energy, and attention focusing on the here and now. We're busy, after all. Sometimes we're preoccupied. And when we stop to really think about it, it's difficult to perceive something beyond our five senses.

But in his letter to the Colossians, Paul encourages his fellow believers to look up:

"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand."
Colossians 3:1 NLT

As you think about Paul's words and the realities of heaven, here are four things to consider:

- First, heaven isn't some vague, dream-like state. It's a real place, with real people, where God is the true King.
- Second, there will come a day when we will all meet God face to face. We will no longer need faith or hope, because that which we've hoped for will finally be revealed.

- Third, our troubles and our heartbreaks (and even death itself) are temporary! Scripture tells us that, eventually, God will do away with pain and death and sickness and suffering—forever.

- Lastly (and most importantly), God is still on His throne, with Jesus beside Him in the place of honor. No matter how crazy, senseless, or heartbreaking the world can seem, we can have confidence knowing that nothing is outside of God's sovereign plan.

So when you're tempted to look around at others or look inward at yourself, look up instead. Heaven is wherever God is, and that's the truest reality of all.

# Church Council

## September 8, 2026

**PRESENT**: Pastor Lem, Becky West, Jean Croll, Georgia Bohn, Tina Jordan, Jane Beach, Janella Hicks.
Pastor opened the meeting at noon with a prayer.
Minutes: Jane motioned, and Pastor Lem seconded that the minutes be approved with corrections and placed on file. Pastor said minutes must be sent to the church office each month to be put on file.
**BECKY**: Janella is taking minutes again. The goal thermometer in the Welcome Center is not needed now. Jane has removed it for the time being. It may come out again later.
**WIF**: Janella: We discussed the success of the spaghetti dinner. We will have another one on October 15th, starting a half hour earlier. Potato tent updates and an October meeting in Weidman were also discussed. Jean suggested that we have goals for our chapter of WIF. Janella asked us to come up with some ideas and present them at our next meeting.
**TRUSTEES**: There is nothing to report now. Year-end paperwork needs to be done and signed.
**MISSIONS**: Nothing new to report.
SPRC: Jane, Charge Conference forms are being worked on as well as the compensation form process. There is an SPRC Zoom meeting scheduled for September 24th. The Charge Conference is scheduled for October 4th at 6:00 PM in Cedar Springs.
**EDUCATION**: Jean is trying to keep track of the children's ages to be able to give them their bible at the right age.
**FINANCE**: Becky, August income was $14804.00, expenses $13,813.10, which leaves a balance to the good of $990.90. This leaves a YTD balance of $5685.66 to the positive.
**MEMORIAL**: Tina: Four floor fans were purchased by Memorial. Work on the sink side of the kitchen should start right after the Potato Festival. Hopefully, remodeling that side will be finished this winter.
**WORSHIP**: Jean: Jessica from the local funeral home is making a book of local gathering places for families to meet/eat after a funeral or interment. Discussion was held about the need for a licensed catering company to provide the food. We can't always be able to provide the meal. Prices for using the hall are in the Funeral Policy that was sent to all Funeral Homes in the area. Rental prices and funeral guidelines are in our Funeral Policy. Jean will coordinate this information.
Pastor Lem: A CPR class is being arranged to refresh us on CPR and use of the AUD unit. There is a cost if you want to be certified, but none if you just want to participate. We are now in the Central Bay district, which is extremely large. This has been broken down into smaller connextion zones. Our zone is number nine, including Cedar Springs, Greenville, Ionia, Lakeview, Lyons-Muir, Lowell, Pierson, and Sparta.
**OLD BUSINESS**: Round table discussion about the announcements being heard/read before service. We also discussed the congestion in the Welcome Center.
**NEW BUSINESS**: Tina suggested that five percent of proceeds from the potato tent be given to Missions instead of the usual ten percent. After the money is earned, this will have to go to finance and then, if appropriate, be sent to Council for approval or not.

Submitted by
Janella HIcks

# Trustee's September 22, 2026

Present: Ted K, Pastor Lem, Matt C., Vi S, Georgia B., Mark D., Tom D., Brandon M.

The meeting opened at 10 AM with prayer.

Matt is postponing the sale of the utility trailer until the title is found.

The playground sign has been repaired.

The flower beds are in good shape. The parking lot is being treated for weeds. The same crew will handle snow removal this year for the same price as last year. Flags have been replaced.

Mark Decker has been working on cleaning around the roadside signs.

Custom Heating will conduct our yearly boiler inspection.

Tom and Mark will add vents to the door between the office and copy room to improve airflow.

Pastor and office staff are working on getting an updated computer. A donation has been made to cover that.

Meetings will be held as needed.

Ted will remain chair for the new year, with Vi as secretary and Tom as co-chair.

The vote was yes to allow the Senior Citizens Eucre group to meet here on Monday afternoon.

The meeting closed with a prayer.



# October 2026 Calendar of Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1<br>**1 pm** Euchre | 2 | 3 |
| Holy Communion 4<br>6:00 PM Church /Charge Conference Meeting | 5<br>**6 pm** AA Meeting | 6<br>**1 pm** WIF | 7<br>**9 am** Crafters | 8<br>**1 pm** Euchre | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12<br>**10 am** M&M's<br>**6 pm** AA Meeting | 13<br>**9 am** Mens Group<br>**10 am** Finance Meeting<br>**11 am** Church Council | 14<br>**9 am** Crafters | 15<br>**1 pm** Euchre | 16 | 17<br>**3 pm** Grief Support Group |
| 18<br>Noisy Offering<br>Ritchie's Project<br>  | 19<br>**6 pm** AA Meeting<br>**Newsletter Deadline** | 20 | 21<br>**9 am** Crafters<br>**6 pm** Friends & Fellowship | 22<br>**1 pm** Euchre | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26<br>**6 pm** AA Meeting | 27<br>**9 am** Mens Group | 28<br>**9 am** Crafters | 29<br>**1 pm** Euchre | 30 | 31<br>  |