

# THE TRUMPET

Feb Mar Apr 2026

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## Pastor's Column



### *From the Desk of Pastor Marv Herman*

Well, here we are at the turn of another year. One year ends, and another begins. As Christian churches, we have said goodbye to several of our beloved members who now reside in the loving arms of Jesus. Though we grieve, we also hold fast to the joy of God's presence in our hearts, continuing to move forward in the way they would have wanted us to.

In 2026, both Howarth and Paint Creek United Methodist Churches will continue our mission as vital pillars in our community. We will remain committed to supporting and contributing to organizations

that provide food, clothing, daily necessities, and financial aid—sharing God's love as He enables us.

Over the past year, we have been blessed with many wonderful Sunday services and meaningful celebrations of our Christian holidays. In 2026, I hope and pray we will also welcome new guests and members into our fellowship. Together, we can experience the joy of serving and growing in faith. I'm reminded of hymn number 98, which begins, "To God be the glory, great things He hath done," and I truly believe this is just the beginning of what God has in store for us in the year ahead. I invite you to continue joining us in all that we do and to invite others to come along as we journey into this new season of prayer and worship.

Let us approach this year with open arms and hearts, seeking to encounter what God has planned for each of us. As we step into the new year, we often find ourselves reflecting on the past and making resolutions for the future. Many of these resolutions focus on things we want to rid ourselves of: a few

pounds gained over the holidays, extra debt from Christmas shopping, or even habits we hope to break.

While it's important to consider what we might want to remove from our lives, the new year also offers an opportunity to add good habits—spiritual habits that can help us grow closer to God and more fully reflect His love in our lives.

I invite you to join me in making a resolution this year to read and meditate on the Scriptures presented in our Sunday bulletins. Take time to read them and apply them to your life. Pick up a daily devotion booklet to help you learn how God continues to work wonders in the lives of His people. Let us open our hearts and minds to the new insights God wants to reveal to us.

As we enter the season of Epiphany, which continues until the beginning of Lent on March 9, 2025, we are invited to deepen our understanding of God's revelation in Jesus Christ. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "revelation", a time when Christ made

Himself known not only to the people of Israel but to all nations. During this season, we are called to reflect on how Christ is revealing Himself to us today. In this season of light, we are encouraged to:

Seek deeper understanding: Just as the Magi followed the star to find Christ, we are invited to seek Him through prayer, Scripture, and worship.

Open our hearts to God's call: God's revelation isn't just about understanding—it's about responding. Allowing Christ to transform our lives and actions, we can share His light with the world.

Be a light to others: Epiphany reminds us that Christ's light is for everyone. As we experience His light in our own lives, we are called to share it with others through acts of kindness, justice, and love.

Let us resolve to encourage one another as a church family and to remain open to all the opportunities God has in store for us. Make this year your faith journey resolution to seek God's Word, to discover His desires for you, and to be willing to embrace His call both as individuals and as a church. Let us pray, study, and expect God to move in powerful ways in 2026 at both Howarth and Paint Creek United Methodist Churches. Together, we will grow, serve, and share the love of Christ in ways we never imagined.

With blessings and hope,  
Pastor Marv

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## **Grieving Together as the Body of Christ**

Recently, our church family has been shaken by the unexpected passing of three beloved members whose lives were deeply woven into the fabric of our congregations and our communities.

We grieve Rita Sauls, Calvin DeVitt and Robert LaFountain—faithful servants, friends, and pillars among us. While we continue to hold in our hearts all those we have lost over the past two years, these most recent losses feel especially close, tender, and raw.

Grief does not follow a schedule, nor does it move in neat, predictable stages. Scripture reminds us that even Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus (John 11:35). Grief is not a sign of weak faith; it is an expression of deep love. As the church, we are called not to rush one another through grief, but to walk together through it. The Apostle Paul urges us, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15).

Sometimes the most faithful response is simply presence—being there without trying to fix what cannot be fixed. Families who have lost a loved one often feel overwhelmed by attention at first and forgotten later. One of the greatest gifts we can offer is steady, gentle care over time. So, how do we support grieving families without being overbearing?

First, listen more than you speak. Avoid clichés or explanations that attempt to make sense of loss too quickly. Phrases like "I don't know what to say, but I care" or "You and your family are in my prayers" are often enough. Silence, when filled with compassion, can be holy.

Second, offer specific, practical help. Instead of saying, "Let me know if you need anything," consider concrete offers: a meal on a certain day, help with errands, a handwritten note, or simply sitting with them for a cup of coffee. These small acts are tangible reminders of God's love.

Third, respect boundaries. Everyone grieves differently. Some may want conversation; others may need space. Allow families to set the pace, trusting that your continued prayers and kindness still matter even when words are few.

Finally, keep remembering. Grief often deepens after the services are over and life moves forward. A card weeks later, a name spoken aloud in prayer, or acknowledging anniversaries can be deeply meaningful. As Psalm 34:18 assures us, "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

As a church family, we do not grieve alone. We grieve with hope—trusting in the promise that "neither death nor life... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38–39).

May we continue to be a people who love well, show up faithfully, and bear one another's burdens—now and in the days to come.

Blessings, Pastor Marv

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## WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE !!!!

(Submitted by Andy Knaack)

Do you remember this word? Would you believe the spell-checker did not recognize the word Murgatroyd? Heavens to Murgatroyd! 'Heavens to Murgatroyd' is American in origin and dates from the mid-20th century. The expression was popularized by the cartoon character Snagglepuss – a regular on the Yogi Bear Show in the 1960s.

The other day a not so elderly (I say 75 year old) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy; and he looked at her quizzically and said "What the heck is a Jalopy?" He never heard of the word jalopy!! She knew she was old.... But not THAT old. Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of Technology. These phrases included: Don't touch that dial, Carbon copy, You sound like a broken record, and Hung out to dry.

Back in the olden days we had a lot of moxie. We'd put on our best bib and tucker, to straighten

up and fly right, Heavens to Betsy! Gee Whillikers! Jumping Jehoshaphat! Holy Moley!

We were In like Flynn and Living the life of Riley; and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China! (the politicians got rid of this phrase).

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but when's the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and pedal pushers. Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, "Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!" Or, "This is a fine kettle of fish!" We discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind. We blink, and they're gone. Where have all those great phrases gone?

Long gone:

- Pshaw, the milkman did it.
- Hey! It's your nickel.
- Don't forget to pull the chain.
- Knee high to a grasshopper.
- Well, Fiddlesticks!
- Going like sixty.
- I'll see you in the funny papers.

- Don't take any wooden nickels.
- Wake up and smell the roses.

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has liver pills. This can be disturbing stuff! (Carter's Little Liver Pills are gone too!)

We of a certain age have been blessed to live in changeable times. For a child each new word is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age. We, at the other end of the chronological arc, have the advantage of remembering there are words that once did not exist and there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our collective memory. It's one of the greatest advantages of aging.

Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth.....

See ya later, alligator!

After a while, crocodile!

Oki-Doki Smokie

We are the children of the Fabulous 40's and 50's..... No one will ever have that opportunity again....We were given one of our most precious gifts: living in the peaceful and comfortable times created for us by the

“Greatest Generation”

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## THE OAK TREE By Vera Rhine

A mighty wind blew night and day.

It stole the oak tree's leaves away.

Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark until the oak was tired and stark.

But still the oak tree held its ground while other trees fell all around.

The weary wind gave up and spoke,

"How can you still be standing, Oak?"

The oak tree said, "I know that you can break each branch of mine in two,

Carry every leaf away,

Shake my limbs and make me sway,

But I have roots stretched in the earth,

Drawing stronger since my birth.

You'll never touch them, for you see,

They are the deepest part of me."

Until today, I wasn't sure of just how much I could endure, but now I've found,

With thanks to you,

I'm stronger than I ever knew.

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## NOTABLE QUOTES:

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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"He died for me, so I will live for Him"

- o Author Unknown

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"Honk if you love Jesus, text if you want to meet him."

- o Aletha Black

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"When we work, we work, When we pray, God works."

- o James Hudson Taylor

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"Faith tells me that no matter what lies ahead of me, God is already there.

- o Author Unknown

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"Trusting God is a series of choices, not a onetime event

- o Christine Caine Author

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## GRANDPA & GRANDMA "GRAND GRINS"



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What do you call a rabbit who tells jokes?

- o A funny bunny

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What did one Easter Egg say to the other?

- o Heard any good yolks lately?

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Why did the baby chick cross the road?

- o To meet up with her peeps!

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What do rabbits say before they eat?

"Lettuce pray"

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What do you call a bunny with fleas?

Bugs Bunny

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## PAINT CREEK NEWS

Paint Creek UMC Mission  
Schedule 2026

January- Human Relations  
Sunday

February- Methodist Children's  
Home Society

March- UMCOR  
 April- Native American Sunday  
 May- Student Day &  
 Peace with Justice Sunday  
 June- Noah Project  
 July- Haiti- Grace Children's  
 Hospital  
 August -  
 September- Red Bird Christian  
 School  
 October- World Communion  
 Sunday  
 November- Bishop Judith Craig  
 Children's Village  
 December- Baldwin Center

Submitted by Colleen Barkham

## Spotlight on Violet Moggio

My name is Violet Moggio, and I am a ninth grader at Rochester High School.

Recently, I've found myself caring for something very important to me: my papa's plants. My papa, Calvin DeVitt, had many plants, and he taught me how to take care of them long before they became my responsibility. He showed me how to feel the soil, how to gently lift the pots and weigh them in my hands to know how much water they needed, and which plants were more particular — more fussy — than others.

Since his passing, those plants now live with me. Somehow, I am keeping them alive, and some of them are even growing new sprouts. The poinsettias look like they're growing grass, and there's a geranium that

seems determined to climb right out of its pot. I've learned that I can smell when they need water or sunlight, and I move them around accordingly. Each plant gives off its own scent, its own quiet signal.

My papa kept these plants alive for many years. Now, in caring for them, I feel like I am helping to keep a part of him alive too—continuing what he patiently taught me, one plant at a time.

### *Pastor's Note:*

As Violet's pastor, I want to add how grateful I am for this remarkable young person in our congregation. In addition to her thoughtfulness and compassion, Violet is an excellent student and an active member of her high school marching band and music program. I also appreciate her good-natured patience with my endless band humor and my enthusiastic encouragement that she keep music as part of her future—with the hopeful dream of one day marching with the Michigan State University Marching Band. Yes, I have shown her the MSU Marching Band, "Entrance Kick-Step." As a former member of the Western Michigan University Bronco Marching Band, I can only say: wherever her path leads, I hope Violet continues to share her gifts through music, learning, family and faith.

Paint Creek is blessed to call her one of our own.

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### February

Deborah Vanderlinde	Feb 4
Colleen Barkham	Feb 15
Edward Barkham	Feb 15
Judy Mair	Feb 19

### **Anniversaries** (none)

### March

Scot Cleaveland	Mar 14
Diana Ostrand	Mar 17
David Osterkamp	Mar 25

### **Anniversaries** (none)

### April

Violet Moggio	Apr 7
Trevor Barkham	Apr 10
Andy Knaack	Apr 11
Robert LaFountain	Apr 20

### **Anniversaries** (none)

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## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

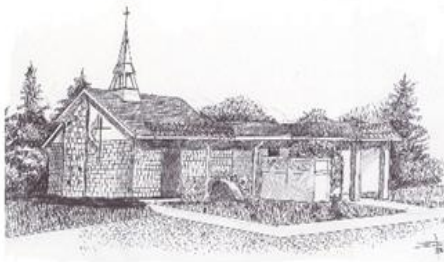
Jan, Paul,  
 Marlene, Ann,  
 David



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## HOWARTH NEWS



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### **Communion Preparers**

We are in need of Communion Preparers. If you can help, please sign up on the list by the kitchen.

Thank you so very much for your assistance with Communion!

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### **Birthdays and Anniversaries**



#### **February**

##### **Birthdays**

Deborah Vanderlinde Feb 4  
Cheryl McKay Feb 19

##### **Anniversaries**

Steve & Ruth Ferrell Feb 14

#### **March**

Abey Boughner Mar 2  
Jennifer Howden Mar 25

##### **Anniversaries**

(none)

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#### **April**

Brianna Howden Apr 3  
MacKenna Greene Apr 10

##### **Anniversaries**

Bob & Tena Hostler Apr 4  
Scott & Jennifer Howden Apr 24

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### **PRAYERS AND CONCERNS**

Dennis, Marilyn  
Kristin S., Rick,  
David W., Bella S.

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### **Liturgist needed!**

Please be sure to sign up for **coffee hour**. Signup sheet is on bulletin board by kitchen.

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## **Chuckles of the Day**

The Irony for mankind is that a computer program asks a human to prove that they're not a robot.

Whoever said, "Do the job right the first time and you'll never have to do it again" NEVER shoveled a Michigan driveway!

**Working at an unemployment office has to be a tense job...knowing if you get fired, you still have to come in the next day.**

**Only Willie Nelson could look perfectly normal in this situation . . .**



A woman was surprised to find an old picture of herself, younger, slimmer and falling in love with her future husband. When she showed him the picture he said, "WOW, look at that.....that's my old Impala!"

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"That's my old Impala!"

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