



STATIONS OF THE GOSPEL
A Journey from Jerusalem to Calvary
Monday–Thursday, April 10-13
8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

On Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, we are reminded to reflect upon the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross.

Jesus had gone to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover with his disciples when he was caught in a web of events that would eventually lead to his death. The crowds who were waving palm branches and proclaiming him the messianic king would only five days later cry for his execution – a sobering reminder of the human tendency to want God on our own terms.

What happened one Friday in Jerusalem was not "once upon a time," but once for all time. As Christians we are called to follow Jesus on his lonely trek from the Upper Room through Gethsemane to Calvary.

Starting Monday, April 10th, you will have the opportunity to journey with Jesus to the cross. The Stations of the Gospel will be set up in the Sanctuary Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. A booklet will guide you through the stations where you will be able to spend any amount of time you wish reflecting on the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross.

Let this truly be a Holy Week.



Central Church

Our Mission:

Central United Methodist Church Glorifies God through the Work of Ministry and the Making of Disciples of Jesus Christ.

912 Fourth Ave., PO Box 485, Lake Odessa, MI 48849

www.centralchurch-lakeo.org

(616) 374-8861

Rev. Karen Sorden, Pastor

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Lake Odessa, Michigan
Rev. Karen Sorden

April 2, 2017

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

Large print hymnals and bulletins are available. Please ask an usher.

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Karen Sorden

Please sign, pass, and return red friendship pads in each pew at this time.

Also prepare Prayer Request Sheets during this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (congregation in bold)

Coming from places that have seen better days,

God bids us to celebrate this day, a day full of new possibilities.

Coming with our breath taken away by grief,

the Holy Spirit breathes new life within us, renewing our connection with God and with one another.

Coming to worship seeking a hope that will endure,

Christ unbinds the fetters that hold us in death, speaking in word and sacrament, and building community for holy service.

*OPENING HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Hymnal 110

Ushers will collect Prayer Request Sheets.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, O God, when we see the world through rose-colored glasses rather than as it really is, much less the way you seek it to be. Forgive us, Holy One, when we forsake lively and risky faith calling us to be agents of change in our world for the bland conviction that all will be well. Renew us with your grace and ground us with your Spirit that we might be empowered to live in word and deed as testimonies to the power of your love over the grave. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (congregation in bold)

You can put your hope in God, dear friends, for God offers us that love which never fades, that life which never ends.

We wait for God, and God does not fail us. God's hope, God's love, and God's grace are forever. Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

"A Lenten Meditation"

Chancel Choir

Douglas E. Wagner

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

"Upon This Rock"

Rev. Karen Sorden

Matt. 16:13-20

*HYMN OF RESPONSE "There's Something About That Name" 2x Hymnal 171

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER CONCERNS AND PRAISES

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Hymnal 13

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

*SONG AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Hymnal 95

*CLOSING HYMN

"Forward Through the Ages"

Hymnal 555

*BENEDICTION

*RINGING OF THE BELLS

*POSTLUDE

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Your Central UMC **CROP Walk** Team is gearing up to join with our community brothers and sisters in Christ to combat hunger here and abroad. Please consider being part of the team to walk and collect donations. There are Walker Donation Envelopes in Fellowship Hall to support our team of walkers. Questions? See Kay Barcroft or Von Goodemoot.

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Roll Down, Justice! A Biblical Reflection for Lent

Everyone is welcome to attend the Lenten study, *Roll Down, Justice!*, a biblical reflection written by Faye Wilson and featuring the music and reflections of Mark A. Miller. Together we will look closely at the work we each have yet to do to “seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.”

Join us, along with Pastor Mark Jarvie and members of the Congregational Church, on Wednesdays during Lent for a light lunch and a time of study and reflection. We alternate between meeting here at Central and at the Congregational Church. This week, **Wednesday, April 5, we will meet here at Central in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 pm.** We hope to see you there!

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This month’s Prayer Calendar is available on the ushers’ tables and in Fellowship Hall. Please pick one up and include in your daily prayer practice.

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Our next Fresh Food Distribution is:

Tuesday, April 4th at 2 PM

East parking lot.

Volunteers are always welcome and asked to arrive at 1:30.

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Christy & Casey McDonald

6744 Gleneagles Dr., SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Toni Robinson

742 Washington Blvd
Lake Odessa, MI 48849

**In case of a pastoral emergency, please call
Pastor Karen at the parsonage (374-8294).**

MINISTER: Every Member of This Church
PASTOR: The Rev. Karen Sorden
SECRETARY: Kim Stoepker
ORGANIST: Marilyn Noffke
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Jackie Cunningham
CUSTODIANS: Mike McCartney / Rolando Varela
TODAY’S SERVICE:

Worship Assistant:
Lori McNeill

Communion Steward:
Char Kendregan

Homebound Communion Stewards:
Karen Avery / Eunice Goodemoot

Audio/Visual

Today: Tony Barcroft / Shelly Reiser
Next Sunday: Same

Coffee Fellowship

Today: Karen Avery / Penny Thelen
Next Sunday: Open

Greeters

Today: Del & Jane Kostanko / Jane Lawther
Next Sunday: Same

Nursery

Today: Eunice Goodemoot / Dawn Deardorff
Next Sunday: Jean Cook / Marcia Bytwerk

Ushers

Today: Kim & Dawn Deardorff
Next Sunday: Same

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THIS WEEK'S PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Tom Niethamer	Collins families	Tom Noffke
Family of Jeanie Meeso	Toni Robinson	Stacey Cole
Unspokens	Christopher Patrick	Cindy Piercefield Green
Prayers & safe travel for Karl Klynstra		

Continued in Prayer

Sgt. Branden Curtis	Karl Klynstra	Gary Smith
Sr. Airman Lloyd C. Corston	Ginny Kruisenga	Ed Hilliker
PFC Steven Wakley, Jr	Dale Patterson	Dave & Sue Steeby
1SG Nicholas Ludema	Toni Robinson	Hank Minenna
PFC Jason Hilley	Phylis Armstrong	Susan Steele
Sgt. Nathan Sparrow	Pam Coleman	Sharon Brink
Ross McDowell	Susan McDaniels	Terena Galaviz
Nadine Speas	Karie Hilley	Jim Decker
Family of Dean Watrous		

Our Special Friends

Leah Abbott	Margot Bailey	Ada Dennie
Lois Goodemoot	Marian Klein	Joanne McDaniels
Phil Shetterly		

BIRTHDAYS

4/2 Christy McDonald
 4/3 Julie Klynstra
 4/7 Kendrick Fruchey

OUR PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Our Missionary, Paul Webster, Zambia, Africa
 Gresham UMC, Grand Ledge
 Lakewood United Methodist Church, Lake Odessa

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<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>April 9</i>	<i>10:30 am service</i>
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>April 13</i>	<i>7:00 pm service</i>
<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>April 14</i>	<i>1:00 pm service</i>
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	<i>April 16</i>	<i>10:30 am service</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated in worship this morning. (Gluten-free and additive-free elements are available.) All are welcome at the Table.

If you did not already place an order for your memorial Easter Lily, forms are available at the ushers' tables. Tomorrow is the last day to order.

EVENTS

<i>Today</i>	Youth Group – Alpha – Sr. High Classroom	12:00 pm
Mon 4/3	<i>Easter Lily Orders due</i> A.A. Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	7 pm
Tues 4/4	Fresh Food Distribution – Parking Lot	2 pm
Wed 4/5	Lenten Bible Study – Central Church Fellowship Hall Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	12 pm 7 pm
Thur 4/6	Respite Care – Lounge Souper Thursday Community Dinner– Fellowship Hall	1:30 pm 4:30-6:00 pm
Fri 4/7	Pastor's Sabbath - <i>Church office closed</i>	
Sun 4/9	Worship Service – Palm Sunday	10:30 am
Mon 4/10	Missions Committee – Front Room Blood Drive – Fellowship Hall A.A. Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	9 am 12 – 5:45 pm 7 pm
Wed 4/12	Friendship Group – Fellowship Hall Lenten Bible Study – First Congregational Church Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	9 am – 12 pm 12 pm 7 pm
Thur 4/13	Respite Care – Lounge Souper Thursday Community Dinner– Fellowship Hall Maundy Thursday Service – Sanctuary	1:30 pm 4:30-6:00 pm 7 pm
Fri 4/14	Community Good Friday Service – Sanctuary	1 pm
Sat 4/15	Easter Egg Hunt – Lake Odessa Park	10 am
Sun 4/16	Easter Sunday Service – Sanctuary	10:30 am
Mon 4/17	<i>Church Office Closed</i> Finance Committee Meeting – Front Room A.A. Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	6 pm 7 pm
4/18-4/19	<i>Pastor Karen out-of-office to Workshop</i>	

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