

central united methodist church

March 2017

From Pastor Karen

Friends,

Here we are at the beginning of another Lenten season. Lent is a good time for personal introspection, a good time to check in with ourselves on how we're doing in the disciple department. Have we been as compassionate as we could be? Are we kind, forgiving, loving, humble, willing to help others even when we're busy?

While self-reflection is a good practice for Lent, it's not the whole picture! Inward disciplines need to be balanced with outward practices. In our tradition, we claim a tradition of "the priesthood of all believers," which basically means we're all ministers.

Now you might be a bit reluctant to consider yourself a minister, but I believe it's important to understand that we actually minister to each other every day. Kind words can change a person's entire day. An offer of forgiveness can give birth to a new relationship. A visit can bring peace to one suffering dread, anxiety, grief, or loneliness.

In the priesthood of all believers we are ordained by our baptism, called to be God's own people, to be God's hands and feet and voice in this world. I invite you to reflect on your priesthood tasks and consider the 40 days of Lent a time to bring them into your daily life. It'll make the world a more beautiful place – and imagine how you'll feel!

~~Pastor Karen

Lenten Sermon Series: "A Journey of Stones"

March 5:	"Written In Stone" Ex. 32:1-24
March 12:	"Rejected Stones" Ps. 118, Mark 12:1-12
March 19:	"Sticks and Stones" John 8:1-12
March 26:	"Hearts of Stone" Luke 11:37-52
April 2:	"Upon This Rock" Matt. 16:13-20
April 9—Palm Sunday:	"Crying Stones" Luke 19:29-40
April 16—Easter Sunday:	"He's Alive!" John 20:1-18

Amazon Smile—A new way to fund missions

What is it? "AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop on-line, at no cost to you." Central United Methodist Church has been registered at AmazonSmile, part of the popular Amazon.com shopping giant. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible Smile.Amazon.com purchases to the charity selected by customers (not unlike the Meijer Rewards we had in the past).

When customers sign up for AmazonSmile, they're asked to select one of over a million charities to support. If you click on our unique link or type it in the search line, you will skip this charity selection process and be taken directly to the selection for our Central Church. **Our unique charity link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1474903>.** Keep in mind you cannot go to Amazon.com first and then find where to sign up. You must start at the website shown above and the rest of your shopping experience will be the same as you are accustomed to. Proceeds earned will be directed to Missions.

Recent Prayer Concerns

Family of Dorothy Barnum	Cindy Piercefield Green	Marie Possehn
Family of Shirley DeVrou	Jane Majinska Gasper	Bob Avery
Family of Jim Hilton	Karie Hilley	Cindy Good
Ken	Nadine Speas	Terena Galaviz
Bob Stadel	Tom & Marilyn Noffke	Sue Calkins
Jim Decker	Diane Cimala	Jean Cook
Susan McDaniels	Deanna	Layla Logan
Piper	Duane Ruether	



When we give during
UMCOR SUNDAY,
we ensure that 100% of
designated donations get to
those who need them the most.



UMCOR Sunday, previously known as One Great Hour of Sharing, is celebrated on **March 26th**. Gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered.

Emergency Training

Last year our Board of Trustees addressed safety and emergency procedures here at the church. They put into service two trauma-type medical bags; a.k.a., "go bags," one at the rear entrance of Fellowship Hall and the other at the south sanctuary entrance. They are to be used for emergencies, such as fire or tornado.

The Trustees have scheduled an in-house training presentation on **Sunday, March 19**, following worship. They have invited Army combat paramedic Officer Cedric Ford to review these procedures, familiarize us with our "go-bags," discuss trauma first aid, and share *what you can do to help yourself and others in an emergency situation while you are waiting for an EMT to arrive*.

Please grab a cup of coffee or snack after worship, and then join us in the sanctuary for this informative program. All church family, all ages, are invited and encouraged to attend.

Central United Methodist Church is located in downtown Lake Odessa at 912 4th Avenue.
Contact us at 616-374-8861; info@centralchurch-lakeo.org or pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org.

You can also check out our Facebook page for current activities, weekly dinner menu, and youth activities.

where Christ is central.

Roll Down, Justice! A Biblical Reflection for Lent

Lent, a period of 40 days of reflection between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, offers Christians an opportunity to renew their commitment to being more Christ-like.

Roll Down, Justice!, a biblical reflection written by Faye Wilson and featuring the music and reflections of Mark A. Miller, poses the following questions to believers:

- ◆ What are you prepared to give in order to have a closer walk with God?
- ◆ What can you give in order to embrace anew the work of justice?

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, Wednesdays during Lent for a light lunch and a time of study and reflection. We will alternate between meeting here at Central and at the Congregational Church. The study will begin **Wednesday, March 8, at 12:00 pm here at Central Church** in Fellowship Hall. We hope you'll join us!

Upcoming Events

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Wednesday, March 1—6 pm

ADULT RESPITE
Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30—1:30 pm

SOUPER THURSDAY COMMUNITY DINNERS
Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30— 4:30 to 6 pm

FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION
Tuesday, March 7—2 pm
Volunteers are needed! Please arrive by 1:30.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP
Wednesdays, March 8 & 22—9 am to 12 pm
All are welcome to join in the fun & fellowship.

ALL-CHURCH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PRESENTATION
Sunday, March 19—12 pm
Our church family is encouraged to attend a presentation by Army combat paramedic Officer Cedric Ford discussing our emergency "go-bags" and how to help yourself and others in an emergency situation.

Celebrations

Birthdays	
03/02	Terri Catt
03/03	Bev Corston
03/04	Ray Dykhouse
03/10	Claire Freidhoff
03/14	Tony Barcroft
03/16	Ashley Singh
03/16	Charlie Reiser
03/19	Bradley Anderson
03/19	Lily Kostanko
03/25	Harold Dennie
03/25	Jeanna Gibbs
03/27	Eunice Goodmoot
Anniversaries	
03/06	Bill & Jewel Eckstrom—62 years
03/30	Von & Shar Goodmoot —26 years

NEWS OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN!!

Ruth Circle meeting will be Monday, March 20th, 1:30 pm - Home of Helen Miller at 580 Riverwalk Street, Hastings.

- ◆ March is the DAY OF GIVING to celebrate our Legacy 150 years of UMW. On March 23, 1869, eight women gathered at a Methodist Church in Boston and organized the Missionary Society, what would become the UMW. Consider the year, 1869, with your gift in increments of 1869: \$1.86, \$18.69, \$186.90, etc. Or you may want to honor UMW for 150 years of service with gifts of \$1.50, \$15, \$150, etc. Give to the LEGACY FUND 150 in March, a special date for UMW. Each Day of Giving gift will be matched dollar for dollar (National Level). Come to Helen's prepared.

We work for the missions of the world and locally. Anyone can join UMW at Central Church. Contact a member today, or see Helen Miller. ~~Pres. Helen Miller



Confectioner of the Year!

On Sunday, March 26th, our Fat Sunday celebration was held after worship. Attendees enjoyed home made soup by our Youth Group and "voted" on their favorite confections by purchasing samples.

The winner of our 6th Annual Fat Sunday Confectioner of the Year Award is:

Leona Rayner

with her Dessert Lasagna.

Coming in at second place was Judy Freidhoff with her rhubarb squares.

Thank you to the Youth Group for preparing some great soup, Fellowship & Caring for putting this together, and to all of our bakers for sharing their tasty treats.

Next Blood Drive



Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Monday, April 10.

Times are from 12 to 5:45 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Marian Durkee at 616-374-7489.

Check out the calendar on the church's bulletin board for ongoing scheduled activities or log on to our Facebook page to stay current with events.