

central

united methodist church

May 2017

From Pastor Karen

Well, dear friends, the time has come. As you know, Bishop David Bard has appointed me to serve as Pastor to Cedar Springs United Methodist Church effective July 1. My last Sunday with you will be May 21.

One of the most difficult ministry challenges of all is saying goodbye to a church family you have loved and been loved by. I want to thank all of you for the many ways you allowed me to be your pastor. As the years go by I will look back fondly on our time together; I trust the same will be true for you. I am amazed at the ways God brought us together to share in many of life's events. With some of you I shared great joys and celebrations. With some I shared great sorrow and grief. What an honor it has been to share in these events along with many other moments we have shared as the Body of Christ!

While I am leaving you, there is one who remains constant: Jesus Christ. Jesus has been here from the beginning and will be here for the rest of time. If, through the power of the Holy Spirit, you allow Jesus to guide you, Central United Methodist Church will always have a mission. It may not look like the church you have today and there may be difficult decisions which need to be made, but a passion for our Lord and Savior will see you through.

I am confident of the love you have for our Lord and for one another. And I am even more confident of the love He has for you. My prayer is that you will continue to hold a deep and abiding awareness of the power of that love to change lives and to change the world.

I pray you have a wonderful future. I pray that under Pastor Dominic's pastoral leadership you find a way to connect with the neighborhood and invite more people to join you Sunday morning. You will always remain in my heart and in my prayers. Now remain in Christ, knowing that He will remain in you. ~~Pastor Karen

Blankets+ Sundays

On Mother's Day, May 14, and Father's Day, June 18, you will have the opportunity to "buy" a blanket or a tool in memory or honor of your mother and/or father. On these two Sundays, we will take up a special offering to benefit the Church World Service Blankets+ program. Special envelopes will be available for your "purchase." Special cards will also be available on the usher's tables for you to send to mom or dad to let them know of your "gift." Our goal is to raise at least \$10.00 (the cost of one blanket) for every member of our congregation. Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity to assist people in need around the world. Your contributions provide the means to transform lives and communities when they are faced with an emergency or simply struggling to put food on the table. For more than 65 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food, and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens
- Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.

You are the plus in Blankets+!

Recent Prayer Concerns

Family of Noreta Nagelkirk	Unspokens	Patty Anderson
Vicki	Brian Rayner	Fran Morris
Stacey	Jim Wackerlin	Judy Laidler
Kathy Shelmat	Cindy Good	Rachel Mutchler
Susan McDaniels	Kendrick Fruchey	Jennifer
Joanne McDaniels	Toni Robinson	



Congratulations to Jackie Cunningham & Brandon Spagnuolo, united in marriage on Saturday, April 29.

Welcome Pastor Dominic!

As you are aware, we will be blessed with a new pastor starting July 1st. During this transition time where we say 'goodbye' to Pastor Karen and 'hello' to Pastor Dominic, you are welcome and encouraged to have conversation with both our clergy.

Welcoming cards and letters may be sent to Pastor Dominic Tommy at 3226 Badger Ave. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509; or by email to pastordominic61@gmail.com You may also see him in the upcoming weeks as he begins to meet with staff and committees.

Easter Egg-Stravaganza



The Lakewood area Easter egg hunt at the park was a huge success again this year. Over 400 kids received 'goodie bags' prepared by volunteers here at Central. Our Souper Thursday program also donated 6 bikes to the bike giveaway.

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.

From the Board of Trustees

Here are some of the issues your Trustees have been working on lately:

- ◇ The big windstorm on March 8th blew shingles off the sanctuary and fellowship hall roofs. It was patched the next day and the insurance company has been out to survey the damage. Repairs to those areas and also the interior balcony area where water damage occurred should be done soon.
- ◇ Architectural Metals now has the contract to complete wrapping the windows and bell tower in aluminum. They will also replace any rotted wood trim.
- ◇ Approval was granted to have Asphalt Made Easy chip seal and paint the alley parking lot and the east parking lot. This will save money over the years and help make our parking lot last longer.
- ◇ The decorative metal housings for the front lights of the church have been taken down so they can be freshened up by West Michigan Powder Coating. They should be re-installed soon.
- ◇ It's been 14 years since any tuck work has been done to the brick of our church. Estimates are currently being gathered so we can keep our building in great shape and avoid additional repair costs.
- ◇ Our first aid trauma class was a huge success! Thanks to all who participated.
- ◇ July 7 is the date for this year's Chicken Bar-B-Q; save the date and be ready to eat! As always, please thank your Trustees when you see them for their hard work. They are Mike McCartney, Char Kendregen, Mark Corston, Lynda Cobb, Ray McDaniels, Jane Everett, Kim Deardorff, Dawn Deardorff, Leona Rayner and Del Kostanko, Chair.

Faith & Finances Class Successfully Completed

On March 28, we celebrated 7 graduates from our Faith & Finances class. F & F is a 12-session class on financial literacy for low-income or financially vulnerable adults. Each 90 minute session was designed to teach those struggling to manage their money. F & F lays the foundation for good financial literacy by discussing money in the context of relationships, attitudes, values and obstacles. This curriculum encourages participants to plan ahead - setting goals & making a spending plan. Central UMC applied for and received a grant for this program, and it was led by Dodie Denman and Leona Rayner.

Upcoming Events

- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION**
Tuesday, May 2—2 pm
Parking lot on 3rd Avenue. Volunteers are welcome and asked to arrive by 1:30.
- ADULT RESPITE**
Thursdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25—1:30 to 4:30 pm
- SOUPER THURSDAY COMMUNITY DINNER**
Thursdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25— 4:30 to 6 pm
- UMW SPRING BREAKFAST**
Saturday, May 6--9 am
All women of the church and guests are invited; reservations to Andrea Gentner.
- PASTOR KAREN'S FAREWELL GATHERING**
Saturday, May 20—7 pm; Central UMC Fellowship Hall
Please join the P-PR Committee for a farewell reception in Karen's honor.

Celebrations

Birthdays		05/21	Alan Goodemoot	
05/04	Heather Fruchey		Helen Miller	
	Don Landon	05/25	Sharlene Goodemoot	
	Joanne McDaniels		Leona Rayner	
	Brandon Spagnuolo	05/26	Heather England	
	Jackie Spagnuolo	05/27	Jean Faulkner	
05/06	Russ Fruchey	05/31	Dale Brock	
	Brenda Steele			
05/08	Cadance Jackson	Anniversaries		
05/13	Mark Corston	Randy & Judy Freidhoff	05/06/2000	
	Helen Good	Bob & Marian Durkee	05/07/1968	
		Karl & Julie Klynstra	05/16/1992	



UMW News

On March 8th, Helen Miller and Betty Shetterly attended the Lenten breakfast at Mason UMC. After the delicious meal, their Pastor Karen told us how our gardens of flowers need water to grow and our faith needs water to stay strong. We all were sprinkled from the waterfalls by Pastor Karen. It was an amazing message.

What a beautiful day it was on Easter Sunday! May is a busy time for our UMW, starting on Saturday, May 6th, which is the Spring Breakfast at 9am. Christy Erickson will be telling us about her trip to Hawaii. If you have a question or to make your reservation, see Andrea Gentner.

Ruth Circle will meet on Monday, May 15, at 1:30pm in the Church lounge. Program with Elaine Garlock and hostess is Ruth Circle.

Sunday, May 21st is our Graduates Reception coffee hour; some of you members will be asked to serve.

Blessings to All—Helen Miller, President

Upcoming Blood Drive



Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Monday, June 12.