

# central

united methodist church

## Pastoral Reflection

Dear Central Families and Friends:

*Let the Cat Out of the Box—Fear is Natural!*

Let me begin by saying that “fear in all circumstances” can prevent us from moving on. We all have gone through this process. In fact, fear is across life’s spectrums—be that of facing organizational change, our social life change, or even a change of spiritual transformation, is always natural. The difference for the Christian community and social organization is that Christian community has three things: God’s Presence, God’s Promises, and faith in God. The presence of the Lord is within, and around them. The Lord led Israelites into freedom by the cloud (unseen future).

Whereas social communities have their creeds; codes and organizational expertise, they still fear the unknown. But Christian community depends on God, operates by faith, and is ready for the cause of Christ to pray and give in love and sacrificially. We follow the Bridegroom who gave himself on the Cross of Calvary for His Bride, the Church (you!) (Ephesians 5:21-33)

Fear is a creepy thing (a mighty weapon used by our adversary, Satan) and can creep into our heart, no matter how much we push it away, or pretend that we are immune to it. No! —for when we admit our weakness, then through His grace, we are strong.

To the Child of God who has authentic faith in Christ, and taps from the provision of God’s grace can always find comfort and hope that all will be well. Where does God’s grace to carry on come from?—it is feeding in the Word, coming to the presence of God in prayer, and seeking true fellowship with fellow brothers and sisters of like faith. If we take these armors of God, we will no longer give “fear” victory. Someone wrote:

“Followers of the Lord have often wrestled with the relationship between fear and faith. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Ps. 111:10), yet the presence of the Lord is the reason we need not be afraid (Ps. 23:4). A healthy fear of our unknown future and circumstances beyond our control can be God’s crucial means of directing our lives—while fear of anything else can prevent us from experiencing the life God has planned for us.

Faith does not replace fear; it puts fear in its proper place. No one goes through life without experiencing fear, but people who fear God (and trust in Him) handle the threats and challenges of life much differently than those crippled by fear or filled with false confidence. And the Bible is filled with illustrations of the best and worst ways to handle fear.” (Anonymous)

During a recent worship service, I asked for your prayers and supports to return to old-time Bible study group, Sunday school, and for your involvement in the life of the church. Be an ambassador for Central by inviting friends and neighbors to church. Plan to attend Sunday school and worship services as much as you can. For our friends out there, we love to have you in the Lord’s House. Hope you can say with Psalmist, I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! (Psalm 122:1) ~~Pastor Dominic Tommy

## September 2017

### KICK OFF Tailgate Potluck!

Sunday, September 10th  
Immediately following worship during coffee hour.

Wear your favorite team’s colors or gear and join us in Fellowship Hall for tailgating fun to celebrate our Sunday School Kick Off!

Sloppy joes, chips, drinks & home-made ice cream sundaes will be provided.

Plus, be ready for some fierce Minute-to-Win-it competitions!  
Don’t miss out on the fun!

All Are Welcome!!

### Homecoming Sunday September 10

**Worship at 10:30 am**  
**Sunday School 9:30–10:15 am**

- ◆ Early Elementary class led by Kay Barcroft and Andrea Gentner for children ages 4 to 2nd grade, studying PowerXpress.
- ◆ Elementary Class for 3rd to 6th grades, led by Jane Kostanko and Shelly Reiser, also studying PowerXpress designed for older kids.
- ◆ Mi-High class, led by Julie Klynstra and Von Goodemoot for kids between 6th-12th grade, studying a video series.
- ◆ Adult Sunday School, led by Pastor Dominic entitled, “If you Want to Walk on Water, You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat.” More details in your bulletins. Nursery will be provided.

◆ Missionary Paul Lee Webster is coming to Central UMC on Friday, September 8th, at 4:00 pm. He is serving at the Mujila Falls Agriculture Centre in Kanyama, Zambia. “As a rural development specialist I am attacking the root causes of poverty, disease, and hopelessness through education and training in small animal husbandry, cattle and goat milking, animal traction, tree nurseries, fruit culture, gardening and fish culture at our research and demonstration station. The goals are families who can provide balanced nutrition for themselves and an income from small scale, family-based production.” As part of his itineration back here in the states, our Missions Committee has invited him and his travel companion, Silvester Santimu, to visit Central. There will be a meal and a presentation in the sanctuary to share their mission story and the impact it is having; there will also be a ‘love offering.’ Everyone is 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.

### Celebrations

#### Birthdays

09/10 Betty Shetterly  
Dawn Deardorff

09/11 John Catt

09/14 Marian Klein

09/16 Karen Avery

09/20 Chuck Rayner

09/21 Bill Wilson  
Toni Robinson  
Cole Jackson

09/21 Leland Bursley  
Lili Harms

09/29 Ada Dennie

09/30 Christine Cunningham

#### Anniversaries

Ray & Mary Dykhouse 09/03/1960

Kim & Dawn Deardorff 09/04/1976

Tim & Kay Goodemoot 09/06/1997

John & Terri Catt 09/18/1965

### Recent Prayer Concerns

Family of Marie Haskins	Lois Goodemoot	Dawn Finkler
Family of Dave Schipper	Ed Reiser	Kari Perry
Family of Dale Harrison	Bonnie Leak	Michael Oaks
Toni Robinson	Rev. Bill Kren	Judi Brandon
Patti Cooreman	Kathy Moore	Bryan Evans



### State of the Church Report

Avg Attendance for July-84

Operating Fund Balance for July  
**\$40,052.93**

Other Giving Received in July

General Missions	\$ 204.00
Helping Hands	\$ 50.00
Building Fund	\$ 608.00
Souper Thursday	\$ 716.50

Avg Attendance Last Year-75

Operating Fund Last Year-July  
**\$19,784.31**

Green Gables N/O	\$ 92.45
Native American Fund	\$ 2.00
UMCOR	\$ 65.00

### Upcoming Events

#### FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION—Cancelled for September

*(We will be working to schedule for October once funding is in place.)*

#### ADULT RESPITE

**Thursdays, September 7, 14, 21, 28—1:30 to 4:30 pm**

#### SOUPER THURSDAY COMMUNITY DINNER

**Thursdays, September 7, 14, 21, 28— 4:30 to 6 pm**

#### MISSIONARY PAUL WEBSTER DINNER AND PRESENTATION

**Friday, September 8—4:00 pm**

#### HOMECOMING SUNDAY / KICK-OFF TAILGATE POTLUCK

**Sunday, September 10**, Sunday School at 9:30; Worship at 10:30—see related articles

### NEWS OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN!!

*United Methodist Women are busy working to meet our mission pledge and our year-end giving. In May, about 30 enjoyed the spring breakfast and the trip to Hawaii presentation by Christy. In June, 10 members gathered at Gentner's home for a cruise around the lake—thank you, John. In August, about 40 gathered for a lovely salad luncheon and the program of "Classic" music. Then comes a busy fall.....*

**September 17**—UMW Sunday with awards given for Woman with a Heart, which will be recognized at the District Annual, and Special Mission.

**September 18**—Ruth Circle meets at Pat Wilson's home at 1:30 pm. Andrea has the program.

**September 20**—The Lansing District UMW Annual Celebration will be held at Portland UMC. Have you sent in your registration form? If you want to carpool, see Terri Catt. This year the in-gathering is for items going to Haiti for newborn baby boxes. Items can be left in the Fellowship Hall vestibule. Questions? See Helen Miller before going to Portland.

*Remember, these are all the same week! We have work to do!*

**Friday/Saturday, October 6-7 Rummage Sale** Now is the time to clean house and donate to our local missions (see related article).

*If you are interested in joining UMW, ask any member or contact Helen Miller.*



Our Annual Church Conference has been scheduled for:

**Tuesday, October 17,  
6:00 to 8:15 pm at  
Lakewood UMC.**

More details in your bulletin.

### World Communion Sunday

**October 1, 2017**

Gifts to World Communion Sunday fund graduate racial-ethnic World Communion Scholarships, with at least one-half of the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond the United States. Donations also provide for undergraduate U.S. Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs.

### Annual Rummage Sale

**Friday, Oct. 6—9am to 8pm  
Saturday, Oct. 7—9am to 12**

*The church will be open at the following times to drop off your sale items:*

- ◆ *Monday, October 2  
9am to 5pm*
- ◆ *Tuesday, October 3  
9am to 5pm*
- ◆ *Wednesday, October 4  
9am to 9pm*

*Bake sale items must be dropped off Thursday (9 am-4 pm) for pricing. Please contact Terri Catt to schedule your drop-off or if you have questions (480-231-7785).*

### Upcoming Blood Drive



**Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for October 9th, 12 to 5:45 pm.** If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Marian Durkee at 616-374-7489.