

Pastoral Reflection



Dear Central Families:

Grateful Hearts—to All Who Serve at Central

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:1-4)

In Apostle Paul's letter to the Thessalonians he is appreciative of his partners in ministry. Paul knew he needed others to share in the missions of the Church. The Thessalonians' church support and prayers enable John, Mark, Paul, Luke, Peter and many others in their early missionary journeys to spread the gospel of Christ through Mediterranean and Asian worlds. Even though His missionary journey throughout Asia was the Lord's call to serve the Church, Paul understood he must be sustained by prayer, love, fellowship, and financial giving of the saints. His gratitude prompts us to reflect on our friendships and team work that is rooted in shared-faith and common mission for Central Church. The leadership of Central UMC is grateful that "You" share our visions and hopes of reaching souls for Christ in the community and globally.

We want you to know that your faithfulness to the cause of Christ and His Church has enabled us to maintain every phase of our ministries; and because you give faithfully, we are able to make a difference in the lives of many people in Lake Odessa. Like the Apostles, on behalf of Central Church Administrative Board and many committees working behind the scene, we say "thank you" and pray God's blessing on you and your family.

Three events are coming up at Central this month, and we want your participation as much as you are able:

All Saints Sunday—November 5. All Saints worship is an occasion for expressing communion of the saints as well as for calling attention to the profound gifts God gives us through others in the body of Christ. Our worship on this day involves reflection and thanksgiving for the gifts of all who have given witness to Christ's love and demonstrated the fruits of the Spirit. It also calls for recognition of Christ's continued presence in the church through imperfect people who are nevertheless "called to be saints" (Rom. 1:7). Please join us at Central for celebration of the saints moving on to glory.

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service—We invite you to attend Lake Odessa's Thanksgiving Community worship. This service is organized by area churches to raise benevolence funds for needy families in the community. Service will be held at the First Congregational Church on Wednesday, November 22, at 7 pm. Our Chancel Choir will be participating in the service.

Stewardship Pledge for 2018 Ministry: With thanksgiving spirit, Central families will take a few Sundays in November to remind ourselves of our covenant relationship and responsibilities expected of Christians in managing the business of the Church. To demonstrate your commitment and support for your church, a letter asking for a step of faith pledge of tithes and offerings for programs and activities of Central Church for 2018 was written by Penny Thelen, Chair of Finance Committee, and mailed to Central families along with a Pledge Card. Please prayerfully and promptly return your Pledge Card to the Church Office or place it in the offering plate on any Sunday in November. Consecration of our in-gathering (pledges) is scheduled for Sunday, November 26 during worship service. If you are away from Central or on vacation, please send your commitment card with prayers to the Church Office.

Sincerely in Christ, Pastor Dominic Tommy



Phil Shetterly honored as "Resident of the Month" at Heartlands-Ionia. See the full article posted on our bulletin board.

FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

Your trustees have been diligently doing their best to maintain our beautiful church and parsonage, including recently:

- ◆ Repaving the main east parking lot and alley lot. It looks slightly different due to it being "chip sealed" (very small crushed rocks instead of asphalt), similar to what the counties do to make their roads last longer. Some loose stones will be visible over the course of time. Regular maintenance will lessen these and greatly extend the life of our parking lot.
- ◆ Window and Bell Tower metal trim work was recently completed. This project has been in the works for the past 4-5 years and was a major undertaking due to the unique architecture of our church. The work was completed by Architectural Metals Inc. and involved custom metal wrapping of each window, arched doorways and bell tower openings. Rotting wood window frames were replaced and painting was also done. This work will beautify the church, lessen maintenance costs over time and protect the stained glass windows.
- ◆ Roof and interior balcony damage was fixed from a March windstorm. Insurance covered the costs. Future projects in the works include much needed brick tuck work and a new front sign.

Please thank your trustees for their time and efforts when you see them! Your trustees are Chair Del Kostanko, Lynda Cobb, Mark Corston, Kim & Dawn Deardorff, Jane Everett, Char Kendregan, Ray McDaniels, and Leona Rayner.

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

11/04	Carolyn Jackson	11/19	Barb Hall
	Barb Bosworth	11/21	Jane Lawther
11/06	Barbara Pooley	11/23	Art Wagner
11/08	Joyce Norton		Dick Winkler
11/10	Scot Carpenter	11/26	Fran Morris
11/11	Jane Everett		Lydia Cobb
11/13	Brian Decker		Mackenzie Thelen
11/14	Jewel Eckstrom	11/27	Marilyn Noffke
	Ford McDonald	11/29	Del Kostanko
11/15	Kay Barcroft	Anniversaries	
		11/08/1959	Ed & Carole Reiser

Recent Prayer Concerns

Family of Natile Joy Rareigh	Armrose LaBine	Janet King
Family of Marge Paradis	Brison	Terena Galaviz
Nora	Helen Miller	Arlene Lee
Martha	Mary Shuert	Ron
Evelyn	Shar Goodemoot	Jim Wackerlin
Judy	Lori Way	Marti Lind



Upcoming Events

ADULT RESPITE (no respite on November 23)
Thursdays, November 2, 9, 16—1:30 to 4:30 pm

SOUPER THURSDAY COMMUNITY DINNER (no dinner on November 23)
Thursdays, November 2, 9— 4:30 to 6 pm

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
Sunday, November 5—10:30 Worship Service

FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION
Tuesday, November 7—2:00 pm (Volunteers are asked to arrive at 1:30.)

THANKSGIVING FEAST
Thursday, November 16 — 4:30 to 6 pm
Souper Thursday volunteers will be serving Thanksgiving Feast with all the trimmings. All Central Church families and community friends are invited.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE—First Congregational Church
Wednesday, November 22—7 pm

CHRISTMAS 'ROUND THE TOWN
Friday, November 24—9 am to 6 pm & Saturday, November 25—9 am to 3 pm

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
Sunday, November 26—10:30 Worship Service

NEWS OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN!!

Our Rummage and Bake Sale went very well considering the construction hazards! Our profit after expenses was \$1,809. The donut sale went extremely well. We would like to thank everyone who helped, donated, worked the sale and/or packed up after.

On October 16, 22 members attended a very delicious dinner in an Amish home near Vermontville. Many of us purchased homemade items from her. We then visited the Amish coffee shop and bakery nearby. Our afternoon ended touring Sunnycrest Youth Ranch with a wonderful tour by Ron Coppess and John, their spiritual leader. They have many success stories to share.

Coming Soon: *Our Unit General Meeting is November 20th at 1:30 in the church lounge. We turn in our Blessing Boxes, designate where we want our money to be distributed, and elect next year's officers. It is a very important meeting; please plan to attend.*

Christmas 'round the Town is November 26 and 27. We still have 3 spaces available for vendors. We will be making caramel corn again this year; there will be a sign-up sheet for helpers.

An Officer's Meeting will be held on Monday, November 6.

Christmas Baskets

The Lakewood Community Council Christmas Baskets will be packed Dec. 5-8 with delivery on Dec. 9. Our assigned gifts are for girls ages 8, 9, or 15. Gifts should be wrapped and marked with the appropriate age. Families who receive these gifts are blessed, and those who help with this project feel blessed as well.

This year we are also asking for non-perishable packaged food because of a decline in donations through the schools. Also appreciated are money, mittens, hats and socks. Please mark your calendars and plan to help. More details will be in the bulletins. Your support of this ministry is very much appreciated!

State of the Church Report

Stats for September 2017

Average Attendance: 91

Operating Fund:

Receipts **\$12,935.03**
Expenses **(\$15,629.30)**

Other Giving Received:

Building Fund	\$ 548.00
General Missions	\$ 158.00
Souper Thursday	\$1021.50
UMCOR Disaster Fund	\$1440.00
Missionary Paul Webster	\$ 264.00
Christmas Baskets	\$ 80.33



On Tuesday, November 28, you are invited to come together with thousands of United Methodists to support the work of Advance projects and missionaries on UMC #GivingTuesday. Choose from more than 300 United Methodist missionaries and 800 United Methodist-related projects that YOU care about. Your donations will fund missionaries and projects, help survivors cope with natural or civil disasters, equip hospitals and clinics, help establish new faith communities, feed and educate children, and much more. On November 28, go to: www.umcmmission.org/give and choose your Mission. 100% of your gifts through The Advance changes lives around the world.