

Introduction

The characteristics of faith shown in the Saints/Pilgrims

I. They Lived, Trusting God in their Journey to a Better Homeland (vs. 13)

"All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth" (NASB).

This is why they were courageous in their giving, their submitting and their working. They died like they lived, trusting God for the journey of life.

II. They Set their Hearts to Possess a Better Homeland (vs. 15-16)

"And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country that is a heavenly one."

"If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:1-2,

III. They Focused on the Homeland of Unique Privileges and Undying love of God (vs.16)

"Therefore God is not shamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them."

What are the characteristics of this City of God we longed for? (see Revelation 21:1-7)

***Yes, it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."
(1 Corinthians 2:9-11)***

Welcome to



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. Dominic Tommy, Pastor
pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Celebration of All Saints Day

November 5, 2017

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign, pass, and return red friendship pads in each pew at this time.
Also prepare Prayer Request Sheets during this time.*

INTROIT "Living for Jesus" vs 1-3 TFWS 2149

*CALL TO WORSHIP (words of Charles H. Gabriel, 1856-1932)
When all my labors and trials are o'er and I am safe on that beautiful shore, just to be near the dear Lord I adore, will through the ages be glory for me.

***Response: "For All the Saints" (vs 1&2)** Hymnal 711

When, by the gift of His infinite grace, I am accorded in heaven a place,
Just to be there and to look on His face; will through the ages be glory for me.
Friends will be there I have loved long ago; joy like a river around me will flow;
Yet just a smile from my Savior, I know, will through the ages be glory for me.

***Response: "For All the Saints" (vs 3&4)** Hymnal 711

Oh, that will be glory for me, glory for me, glory for me,
When by His grace I shall look on His face; that will be glory, be glory for me.

***Response: "For All the Saints" (vs 5&6)** Hymnal 711

Ushers will collect Prayer Request Sheets

INVOCATION PRAYER (in unison) (be seated)

God of Ages: we thank you for faithful witness of the saints through ages. Through their writings, speaking, arts, and music we now have a glimpse your beauty and glory. We praise you for all who served without recognition or honor—offering encouragement to the lonely, the sick, and the fearful. Through their lives we see your faithfulness and sense your comfort. Now we pray that you will use even us to reflect the glory we see in Christ. May the voices of all the saints be remembered today, as we swell in joyous praise to you, the giver of all good gifts, through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM "Shall We Gather at the River" Chancel Choir
Lowry, arr. by Coates

INVITATION FOR OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise" TFWS 2031

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS

Our heavenly Father, we draw near you with an offering of love and gratitude. We invoke your blessings on these tithes and offerings. Thank you for the spiritual and material blessings bestowed on us. Help us to be more worthy of your gracious generosity in this life and in the life to come. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

MEMORIAL MOMENT—ROLL CALL OF SAINTS

*Michael McCartney, Chair—Endowment, Memorial & Planned Giving Committee
Kay Barcroft, Chair, Worship Committee*

After we celebrate the lives of members and friends of the congregation who were called home to glory in the past year, the congregants will have an opportunity to also remember other saints who were called home within November 2016 and October 31, 2017. You can request a paper butterfly available on the usher tables, and you may write the name of your loved one on it or leave it blank; then bring it with you to the altar during Communion. Your butterfly will be received and hung on the memorial tree; you will then proceed to receive Communion at any station.

HYMN OF COMFORT "Beyond the Sunset" On Screen

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Romans 8:35,37-39) Hymnal 887

*GLORIA PATRI "Glory to the Father" Hymnal 70

Please remain standing for the Reading of God's Word.

*SCRIPTURE: **Hebrew 11:13-16** Pew Bible Pg 212
The Word of God to the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "Heaven—A Better Homeland" Rev. Dominic Tommy

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN "Blest Are They" On screen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION On screen

*HYMN OF DEDICATION "On Jordan's Stormy Bank" Hymnal 724

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

****Please rise in body or in spirit***

The date has been set for "Dinners for Eight"! On Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m., hosts/hostesses will open their homes and provide the meat and potatoes. The guests sign up to participate and help with other parts of the meal. This would be a time to linger over dinner and have fellowship time with members of our church. *If you are interested in being a host/hostess, please sign the sheet in Fellowship Hall.* We will share more information as this event unfolds. If you have questions, see Andrea Gentner (616-374-7126) for more details.

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Our Samaritan Christmas Box Project is underway. There is a table set up in Fellowship Hall with instructions and a sample box. When you have filled the box, please put a rubber band around it and place it under the table. *The Missions Committee will be paying for the cost of mailing.* Deadline to drop off boxes is next Sunday, November 12. See Dodie Denman if you have any questions. Thank you for sending a little joy around the world!

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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. Your support of this ministry is very much appreciated.

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Our next Fresh Food Distribution is:
Tuesday, November 7th at 2 PM, in the back parking lot.
 Volunteers are always welcome and asked to arrive at 1:30.

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SOUPER THURSDAY THANKSGIVING FEAST WILL BE HELD ON:
Thursday, November 16 — 4:30 to 6 pm *(No Respite or dinner 11/23)*
 Our Souper Thursday volunteers will be serving a Thanksgiving Feast with all the trimmings. All Central Church families and community friends are invited.

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Prayer calendars for November, as well as new issues of The Upper Room, are available on ushers' tables.

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MINISTER: Every Member of This Church
PASTOR: Rev. Dominic Tommy
SECRETARY: Kim Stoepker
ORGANIST: Marilyn Noffke
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Jackie Spagnuolo
CUSTODIANS: Mike McCartney / Rolando Varela
TODAY'S SERVICE:

Worship Assistant
 Kay Barcroft

Communion Stewards
 Von Goodemoot / Mike McCartney / Kay Barcroft

Audio/Visual

Today: Chuck Rayner / Shelly Reiser
Next Sunday: Same

Coffee Fellowship

Today: Fellowship & Caring Committee
Next Sunday: Open

Greeters

Today: Bob & Judy Cross / John & Terri Catt
Next Sunday: Same

Nursery

Today: Leona Rayner / Penny Thelen
Next Sunday: Comfort Tommy / Mary Dykhouse

Ushers

Today:
Next Sunday: Same

**In case of a pastoral emergency, please call
 Pastor Dominic at the parsonage (374-8294) or on his cell
 (269-941-3787) or the Church Office during office hours.**

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THIS WEEK'S PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Laura Avery Armrose LaBine Kylee Oakes
Safe travels: Peggy Wilkinson, Bonnie

Thank you to my church friends who sent prayers, cards, and wonderful meals to help with my recovery. I'll hopefully be back on both feet soon. ~~Shar Goodemoot

Continued in Prayer

Sgt. Branden Curtis	Karl Klynstra	Gary Smith
Sr. Airman Lloyd C. Corston	Toni Robinson	Ed Hilliker
PFC Steven Wakley, Jr	Dale Patterson	Hank Minenna
1SG Nicholas Ludema	Phylis Armstrong	Susan Steele
PFC Jason Hilley	Pam Coleman	Sharon Brink
Sgt. Nathan Sparrow	Terena Galaviz	Ross McDowell
Brian Rayner	Travis Tucker and family	Judi Brandon
Kim Seese	Patti Coorman	Armrose LaBine

Our Special Friends

Leah Abbott	Margot Bailey	Ada Dennie
Lois Goodemoot	Joanne McDaniels	Phil Shetterly
Ed Reiser	Helen Miller	

Our Partners In Ministry

Our Missionary, Paul Webster, Zambia, Africa
Williamston United Methodist Church, Williamston
Sunfield-Mulliken United Methodist Parish, Sunfield

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

11/06 Barb Pooley	11/10 Scot Carpenter
11/08 Joyce Norton	11/11 Jane Everett

Anniversaries

11/08 Ed & Carole Reiser – 58 years

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.

The Fellowship and Caring Committee will be hosting a Special Coffee Hour this morning in honor of our All Saints Recognition. Please join us!

EVENTS

Mon 11/6	AA Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	7 pm
Tue 11/7	Fresh Food Distribution – Back parking lot	2 pm
	Worship Committee – Front Room	7 pm
Wed 11/8	Friendship Group – Fellowship Hall	9 am–12 pm
	<i>No Choir Rehearsal</i>	
Thu 11/9	Respite Care – Lounge	1:30 pm
	Souper Thursday Community Dinner– Fellowship Hall	4:30-6 pm
Fri 11/10	<i>Office closed – For an emergency, Pastor can be reached at 269-941-3787</i>	
Sun 11/12	Sunday School – classrooms	9:30-10:15 am
	Worship Service – Sanctuary	10:30 am
Mon 11/13	A.A. Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	7 pm
Tues 11/14	Fellowship & Care Committee – Front Room	6 pm
Wed 11/15	Choir Rehearsal– Sanctuary	7 pm
Thu 11/16	Respite Care – Lounge	1:30 pm
	Souper Thursday Thanksgiving Dinner – Fellowship Hall	4:30-6 pm
Fri 11/17	<i>Office closed – For an emergency, Pastor can be reached at 269-941-3787</i>	
Sun 11/19	Sunday School – classrooms	9:30-10:15 am
	Worship Service – Sanctuary	10:30 am
Mon 11/20	UMW Unit General Meeting – Lounge	1:30 pm
	Finance Committee – Front Room	6 pm
	A.A. Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	7 pm
Wed 11/22	Community Thanksgiving Service – 1 st Congregational Church	7 pm
	<i>No Choir Rehearsal</i>	
Thu 11/23	<i>Thanksgiving Day – Church Office Closed</i>	
	<i>No Respite Care or Souper Thursday Community Dinner</i>	

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Christmas 'Round the Town
Friday, November 24 and Saturday, November 25
The UMW is hosting Christmas 'round the Town in our Fellowship Hall for vendors and their wares. There are a few booths still available: see Terri Catt.