



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

Rev. Dominic Tommy, Pastor

616-374-8861

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CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Celebration Service

December 24, 2017

4th Sunday of Advent

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

“He is Born” Chancel Choir
Traditional French Carol

*CALL TO WORSHIP Luke 1:46-51 (Magificate of Mary)

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name.

And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation.

He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

*OPENING HYMN:

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” vs 1-4 Hymnal 234
Ushers will collect Prayer Request Sheets
(Please be seated)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Response: “Away in a Manger” vs 1-3 Hymnal 217

INVOCATION (in unison)

O God, the stories of our faith have lost their power. We have heard the prophecies spoken so many times, the promises retold again and again, the call to prepare ourselves for your coming repeated so often, we don't really hear or heed them anymore.

We have replaced these messages of life: with guessing what presents we are getting, with preparing for parties and the social obligations of Christmas. Bring us back to a sense of mystery: a sense of awe, a sense of wonder, a sense of excitement, a sense of anticipation, a sense that something special is about to break into our everyday world. Help us prepare our hearts, souls, and minds for the coming of the Messiah. Amen

ANTHEM

“Our Hope is in this Child”
Judith Snowdon

Chancel Choir

SHARING PEACE

The Peace of our Lord Jesus be with You!

And Also with You!

(Please take this time to greet one another in the Name of Christ by saying, “Peace be with you” and your neighbor says “And also with you”)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Children age 4 & under are welcome to leave for the Nursery downstairs right after the Children's Moment.

INVITATION FOR OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” Hymnal 95

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS

Lord, we place our faith in the Christ Child and His wonderful grace. We believe in Christmas stories that changes lives. Use our gifts and offerings in spreading the good news of your blessed kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

PRAYER CONCERNS, PRAISES, PASTORAL PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please Stand for the Reading of God's Word.

*SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-38 Pew Bible, NT pg 38

SERMON: “**ADVENT OF THE CHRIST CHILD**” Rev. Dominic Tommy
“Nothing is Impossible—Mary and the Angel”

*CLOSING HYMN “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem” Hymnal 179

*BENEDICTION Choral Response “Jesus, Name above All Names” TFWS 2071
**Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us.
Blessed Redeemer, Living word.**

POSTLUDE

**Please stand as you are able.*

Advent Devotionals from the Samaritans Purse are available on ushers' tables and in Fellowship Hall. December newsletters and prayer calendars can also be found.

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The Worship Committee invites you to join them in the **'taking down the greens'** on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2018, at 7 pm.

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Year-End Notes from the Finance Office:

(Please see Dawn Deardorff or the Church Office if you have any questions.)

- Financial contributions for credit in 2017 must be made no later than December 31.
- Pledges for 2018 are still being received. Additional pledge cards are available on ushers' tables.
- 2018 envelopes will be made available at the end of the month.
- If you are interested in signing up for On-line giving through our website, or setting up an automatic reoccurring payment through your bank, you can also check with us for more information or if you have questions.

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TONIGHT:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 24th, 7:00 pm

Invite your family and friends to this beautiful service
of story and song.

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

Worship Assistant:
Kay Barcroft

Audio/Visual

Today: Chuck Rayner / Kay Barcroft
Next Sunday: Same

Coffee Fellowship

Today: n/a
Next Sunday: Open

Greeters

Today: Dale Mossburg / Jean Cook / Karen Avery
Next Sunday: Same

Nursery

Today: Judy Freidhoff / Penny Thelen
Next Sunday: Dawn Deardorff / Eunice Goodemoot

Ushers

Today: Tony Barcroft / Dave Faulkner
Next Sunday: Same

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*Altar flowers this morning are presented by
Jan and Jane Everett in celebration of their 26th anniversary.
Also in memory of Jane's mother who passed away 2 years ago.*

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THIS WEEK'S PRAYER CONCERNS

Patsy Cole Janet King Bernie
Eunice Goodemoot Mary & Dave Beckman Joe
Our men and women in military, police, fire and emergency personnel

Continued in Prayer

Sgt. Branden Curtis Karl Klynstra Gary Smith
Sr. Airman Lloyd C. Corston Phylis Armstrong Ed Hilliker
PFC Steven Wakley, Jr Dale Patterson Hank Minenna
1SG Nicholas Ludema Terena Galaviz Susan Steele
PFC Jason Hilley Pam Coleman Sharon Brink
Sgt. Nathan Sparrow Travis Tucker and family Ross McDowell
Brian Rayner 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
Webberville United Methodist Church, Webberville
Retired Pastor Jim Kinsey, Lake Odessa

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

12/25 Andrea Gentner
12/26 Bob Kendregan
12/28 Mary Dykhouse
12/30 George Covington
Carole Reiser

Anniversaries

12/24 Ray & Joanne McDaniels – 67 years
12/27 Gordon & Ruth Bylsma – 42 years

EVENTS

Tonight **Christmas Eve Service** – Sanctuary 7 pm
Mon 12/25 **Christmas Day** (*church office closed*)
AA Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom 7 pm
12/26-12/29 *Office closed – For an emergency, Pastor can be reached at 269-941-3787*
Thu 12/28 Respite Care – Lounge 1:30 pm
Souper Thursday Community Dinner– Fellowship Hall 4:30-6 pm
Sun 12/31 No Sunday School
Worship Service – *Rev. Duane Walter preaching* 10:30 am
Mon 1/1 **New Year's Day** (*church office closed*)
AA Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom 7 pm
Wed 1/3 **Worship Committee & Friends, Taking Down Greens** 7 pm
No Choir Rehearsal
Thu 1/4 Respite Care – Lounge 1:30 pm
Souper Thursday Community Dinner– Fellowship Hall 4:30-6 pm
Fri 1/5 *Office closed*
Sun 1/7 *Sunday School resumes* 9:30 am
Worship Service – Sanctuary 10:30 am
Mon 1/8 **Administrative Council Meeting** – Fellowship Hall 7 pm
A.A. Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom 7 pm
Tues 1/9 **Fresh Food Distribution** – back parking lot 2 pm
Fellowship & Care Committee – Front Room 6 pm
Wed 1/10 Friendship Group – Fellowship Hall 9 am
Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary 7 pm

*******Sunday School Announcement*******

**There will be no Sunday School on December 31.
We will resume classes on January 7, 2018.**

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*****Monday 12/25 thru Friday 12/29 – Church Office will be closed*****

*****Sunday 12/31 thru Saturday 1/6 – Pastor Dominic will be on vacation*****