

Intro:

1. *Be Honest to Yourself as you move into the New Year!*  
*Pick up where you began*  
*In verse 6 notice some important phrases:*  
 a) Confidence \_\_\_\_\_  
 b) Good Works \_\_\_\_\_  
 c) Completion till that day \_\_\_\_\_
2. *Goal for Believers is Romans 8:29*
3. *Understanding Verse 6 in the Light of Romans 8:28-39*
4. *Who is In Charge of Your Life—God or You?*

Think of this poem by George Brooks

*I want us to know that as true believers in Jesus Christ*  
*Satan had kicked us down but God lifted us up*  
*Satan had bound us with sin but God released us*  
*Satan had ruined us but God remolded us*  
*Satan had degraded us but God gave us hope*  
*Satan had impoverished us but God gave us riches*  
*Satan gave us sorrow but God gave us real joy*  
*Satan valued us as junk but God made us jewels*

# 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.***

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912 Fourth Ave., PO Box 485, Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
[www.centralchurch-lakeo.org](http://www.centralchurch-lakeo.org) (616) 374-8861  
**Rev. Dominic Tommy, Pastor**  
[pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org](mailto:pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org)

## WORSHIP CELEBRATION SERVICE

Epiphany Sunday/Baptism of the Lord January 7, 2018

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### 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 "Open Our Eyes" TFWS 2086

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 72)

Blessed be the Lord who does wondrous things! The Lord defends and delivers those who are poor and needy.

**Open our ears that we may hear God's words of promise. May God's justice and peace abound!**

The Lord takes pity on those who are weak and oppressed. The Lord provides abundance in the land.

**May God's redemption live in us and through us! May all be fed and the people blossom!** The Lord is faithful. **Blessed be the Lord forever!**

\*OPENING HYMN: "Another Year is Dawning" On screen  
*Ushers will collect Prayer Request Sheets*

INVOCATION PRAYER (in unison) *(Be seated)*

**O God of light, we give you thanks that all creation is blessed by your faithfulness. Always forgiving and loving – always overcoming our sins of pride, blindness, and despair. In times of abundance give us grateful hearts that we may rejoice in your great kindness. In times of suffering give us eyes to see your light shining, that we may live in hope and faithful service. Draw us together in our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may proclaim the good news of hope and salvation to our communities and world. By your Spirit empower us to reach out to all of your children who are suffering injustice, living in poverty, and without hope. May we arise together in the light of your grace. Amen.**

### 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 dismissed to the Nursery downstairs immediately following the *Children's Moment*.

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

**All we have is from your gracious hand, O God, and we dedicate these gifts to you in thanksgiving for this abundance. For the blessings of food, home, and family, Lord, we thank you. For the gift of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the promise of salvation through him, we thank you. In our giving, remind us of both the physical and spiritual blessings you have given us. Let these gifts strengthen us to share what we have been given so that the light of your love may shine in the lives of others. Amen.**

PRAYER CONCERNS, PRAISES, PASTORAL PRAYER

*Please stand for the Reading of God's Word.*

\*SCRIPTURE: Philippians 1:1-12 Pew Bible, NT pg 185

SERMON: Promises and Words to Live By: Rev. Dominic Tommy  
*"Promises of His Leading – Confidence in God"*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION, Giving of the Bread and the Cup

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Hymnal 298

"Lead me to Calvary" On screen

\*CLOSING HYMN "Lead On O King Eternal" Hymnal 580

\*BENEDICTION Choral Response "God Be With You" v. 1 Hymnal 672

God be with you till we meet again;  
by his counsels guide, uphold you,  
with his sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand as you are able*

## Thank-You's

Dear Central Church Family,

Thank you for allowing me to serve you with my music this past year. I look forward to another great year. Thank you for the money gift.

Also—thank you to the person who left a gift on the organ for me; the gas card will be very useful. ~~Love in Christ, Marilyn Noffke

Thanks to all of you for the generous Christmas gift! I really appreciate it.

~~Mike McCartney

We would like to thank the Central Church family for your generous Christmas gift. You are very caring and thoughtful friends and I am so thankful to be working with you. ~~The Stoepker family.

Thank you for allowing us to use your lovely church to hold our AA meetings on Mondays at 7 pm. Happy New Year! ~~The LakeO Group

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**Prayer Calendars** for January as well as **Upper Room** devotionals are available on ushers' tables and in Fellowship Hall.

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You are reminded to check the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall to sign-up for various activities you can help with. Sunday morning Coffee Hour is the center of our weekly connectional life. Our prayer is that families and individuals will sign up weekly to provide coffee and fellowship moments without interruptions on any Sunday. Please consider this ministry as part of community moments for members and friends worshipping with us here at Central. You could also sign up for altar flowers to celebrate a birthday or honor a loved one. Now is the time to reserve your special date and sign up before it's gone. **Committee chairs are encouraged to fill in those dates that events are planned to avoid conflicts.**

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**Fresh Food Distribution is Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM**

Central Church - back parking lot.

Volunteers are always welcome and asked to arrive at 1:30.

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**

Tom Reiser

### **Audio/Visual**

Today: Tony Barcroft / Shelly Reiser

Next Sunday: Same

### **Coffee Fellowship**

Today: Open

Next Sunday: Open

### **Greeters**

Today: Kim & Dawn Deardorff / Mark Corston

Next Sunday: Same

### **Nursery**

Today: Leona Rayner/Karen Avery

Next Sunday: Brenda Steele / Kay Goodemoot

### **Ushers**

Today: Kim & Dawn Deardorff / Mark Corston

Next Sunday: Same

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**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.**

### THIS WEEK'S PRAYER CONCERNS

Joyce & Sonny Shuert  
Beverly Corston

Eunice Goodemoot      Unspokens  
For those having to work outside

#### Continued in Prayer

Sgt. Branden Curtis  
Sr. Airman Lloyd C. Corston  
PFC Steven Wakley, Jr  
1SG Nicholas Ludema  
PFC Jason Hilley  
Sgt. Nathan Sparrow  
Brian Rayner  
Patti Coorman

Karl Klynstra              Gary Smith  
Phylis Armstrong        Ed Hilliker  
Dale Patterson            Hank Minenna  
Terena Galaviz            Susan Steele  
Pam Coleman              Sharon Brink  
Travis Tucker and family   Ross McDowell  
Judi Brandon              Kim Seese  
Armrose LaBine

#### Our Special Friends

Leah Abbott  
Lois Goodemoot  
Ed Reiser

Margot Bailey              Ada Dennie  
Joanne McDaniels        Phil Shetterly

#### Our Partners In Ministry

Our Missionary, Paul Webster, Zambia, Africa  
Country Chapel UMC, Dowling  
Tod Clark, Pennock Hospital Chaplain

### CELEBRATIONS

#### Birthdays

01/13 Philip Shetterly

#### Anniversary

01/14 Fred & Joyce Shuert – 63 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.*

#### EVENTS

Mon 1/8	<b>Administrative Council Meeting</b> – Fellowship Hall A.A. Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	<b>6 pm</b> 7 pm
Tues 1/9	<b>Fresh Food Distribution</b> – back parking lot <b>Fellowship &amp; Care Committee</b> – Front Room	2 pm <b>6 pm</b>
Wed 1/10	Friendship Group – Fellowship Hall Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	9 am 7 pm
Thu 1/11	Respite Care – Lounge Souper Thursday Community Dinner– Fellowship Hall	1:30 pm 4:30-6 pm
Fri 1/12	<i>Office closed – For an emergency, Pastor can be reached at 269-941-3787</i>	
Sun 1/14	Sunday School - Classrooms Worship Service – Sanctuary	9:30 am 10:30 am
Mon 1/15	<b>Finance Committee</b> – Front Room AA Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	<b>6 pm</b> 7 pm
Tues 1/16	<b>Nominations/Lay Leadership Committee</b> – Front Room	<b>10 am</b>
Wed 1/17	Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	7 pm
Thu 1/18	Respite Care – Lounge Souper Thursday Community Dinner– Fellowship Hall	1:30 pm 4:30-6 pm
Fri 1/19	<i>Office closed – For an emergency, Pastor can be reached at 269-941-3787</i>	
Sun 1/21	Sunday School - Classrooms Worship Service – Sanctuary	9:30 am 10:30 am
Mon 1/22	AA Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	7 pm
Tues 1/23	<b>Education Committee</b> – Front Room	<b>7 pm</b>
Wed 1/24	Friendship Group – Fellowship Hall Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	9 am 7 pm
Thu 1/25	Respite Care – Lounge Souper Thursday Community Dinner– Fellowship Hall	1:30 pm 4:30-6 pm