

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Lakewood Area CROP Walk
Sunday Afternoon, April 29

Join us in a community-wide event to raise money to combat hunger locally and around the world! One fourth of the funds raised locally support the mission of the Lakewood Community Council.

Sign Up, Collect Donations and Walk with church families from the area.

Forms will be available every Sunday until the Walk day.
You can also join our Central UMC on-line team
and ask for support from your on-line friends!



No experience required!

SOUND TECH NEEDED

Our Worship Committee is seeking another volunteer to run the sound board on Sunday mornings. You would alternate schedules with Chuck Rayner and Tony Barcroft. Training provided; no experience required. Please contact Chuck Rayner or Kay Barcroft.

It's a Photo Shoot! July 26, 27, 28

Fellowship & Care has made arrangements for our church family to have pictures taken this summer for a new Church Directory. **Mark the dates on your calendar now!** More details will follow.



April 2018



Pastoral Reflection

Dear Central Friends,

Last month, I received an email with this question: **What are the Sacraments of the Church? Is anointing of the sick a part of Sacrament?** My answer to this question may be helpful to others in the parish of Central UMC. First, *Sacraments or Ordinances* of the Church are not biblical words, though, its practices are revealed in actions and participations of Christ and the Apostles in the Gospel and were initially developed by early Church Fathers. In other words, Sacrament or Ordinance (which are used interchangeably by the Roman Catholic Church and Protestant denominations) are formal religious acts in which God's grace is channeled to people of faith, symbolically or actually practiced. Example is your actual submission to the rite of baptism or participation in the Sacrament of Communion through worship and sharing of Bread and Wine.

Another way of understanding Sacrament is explained as "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. It usually refers to a religious ritual which is believed to carry a special healing or saving power. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two sacraments almost universally recognized in Christendom, though many evangelical Christians shy away from the word sacrament in favor of "ordinances"" (The Holman Bible Dictionary, published by Broadman & Holman, 1991.)

Again, Sacraments are an essential part of global churches including The United Methodist Church. They are means of grace, or channels in which God imparts spiritual blessedness to his children. Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion, Eucharist or whatever your denomination prefers) are essential to our faith journey *but are not means* of Salvation or ticket to heaven. One must first experience new birth in Christ, or born-again through repentance and forgiveness of sins as prompted by the Holy Spirit and instructed by our Lord Jesus to Nicodemus in the Gospel of John (3:1-10).

Lastly, anointing of the sick is not a Sacrament, rather it is frequently used in connection to healing. In my pastoral ministry to the sick, it is mostly used at the final stage of anticipating the last pilgrimage of saints returning home to our Heavenly Father. The practice is based on New Testament passages such as Mark 6:13; James 5:14. Anointing, in this case occurred physically with substance such as oil, myrrh or balsam. Anointing the sick with oil may refer to medicinal treatment (see Luke 10:34). James 5:14 likely refers to the healing power of the Holy Spirit as verse 15 speaks of "prayer saving the person." "Prayer of faith" in the text suggests that whether a believer is healed through medicine or through miraculous means, all healing is ultimately attributed to the "Lord that health us." But do you also know that spiritual anointing through the Holy Spirit in your heart sets you apart for various services in Christ's Church?

Blessings on you, now and always! ~~Pastor Dominic Tommy

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.
Check out our Facebook page for current activities, weekly dinner menu, and youth activities.

Celebrations

Birthdays	04/29 Warren Courtney
04/02 Christy McDonald	04/30 Marti Lind
04/03 Julie Klynstra	Anniversaries
04/09 Jamie Everett	04/19/1975 Allen & Kathy Decker
04/10 Aaron Reiser	04/21/1962 Bob & Karen Avery
04/19 Rita Bigelow	04/21/1984 Bob & Char Kendregan
04/25 John Gentner	04/25/1992 Tom & Shelly Reiser
04/27 Peg Faulkner	04/28/2017 Brandon & Jackie Spagnuolo

Upcoming Events

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| A.A. OPEN MEETINGS
Mondays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – 7:00 pm | COMMITTEE/OTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED: |
| FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION
Tuesday, April 3—2:00 pm (Volunteers are asked to arrive at 1:30.) | Worship Committee —Tues., April 3, 7 pm |
| ADULT RESPITE
Thursdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26—1:30 to 4:30 pm | Missions Committee —Mon., April 9, 9 am |
| SOUPER THURSDAY COMMUNITY DINNER
Thursdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26— 4:30 to 6 pm | Friendship Group —Wed., April 11, 9 am |
| COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE
Monday, April 9 —12:00 to 5:45 pm | Finance —Mon., April 16, 6 pm |
| COMMUNITY CROP Walk
Sunday, April 29—1:00 pm | Friendship Group —Wed., April 25, 9 am |



Let's Go Camping!

Even though the snow is just beginning to lose its grip on us, the 2018 camping season is about to begin. Plans are already being made to make this summer a special place for kids of all ages (there are even camping opportunities for adults!) There are nine camps connecting faith and fun across Michigan: *Albright Park Camp & Retreat Center in Reed City; Camp Kinawind, Boyne Falls; Crystal Springs Camp & Retreat Center, Dowagiac; Judson Collins Center, Onsted; Lake Huron Retreat Center, Burtchville; Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat Center, Pentwater; Lakeview Family Camp, Lakeview; Myers Lake Campground, Byron; and Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center, Dowling.* Brochures are available in Fellowship Hall, or you can contact Jane Kostanko for more information. Scholarships are also available! See Jane for details.

	UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS!!	Next Event:
	This Month: Circle Meeting Monday, April 9, 1:30 pm Church Lounge Hostess: Betty Shetterly	Spring Breakfast Saturday, May 12, 9 am Fellowship Hall

Program will be by Christy Erickson on her trip to Wyoming. Save the date!

If you are not a member but have questions or would like to become a member, please see one of the officers for more information.

Recent Prayer Concerns

Family of John Smith	Dan Denman	
Family of Laurel Garlinger	Beverly Corston	
Family of Ann Slowins	Gary Chapman	
Family of Ramona Dickinson	Kayla Boroff	
Family of Christine Wilson	Ed	
Family of Lester Forman	George Speas	
Family of Dick Waite	Bob Durkee	
Ann Wagner's family	John Jackson	
Phylis Armstrong	Harriett	
Phil & Janet Welch	Justin and family	
Joanne McDaniels	Lisa Nelson	
Carol Ray	Dale Brock and Patsy Cole	
Ken Lee	Virginia Decker	

What is our Helping Hand Fund?

The Helping Hand Fund is a designated fund at Central UMC. Designated funds are comprised of money given for a particular purpose, as opposed to an undesignated fund such as our Operating Fund which provides for the day-to-day operation and can be allocated in a number of ways as needed.

This month we are highlighting the Helping Hands Fund because the fund is getting critically low. This fund is hardly spoken of until it is needed. Helping Hands dollars can be used to assist individuals with immediate emergency needs. It is intended to be available to individuals connected to our Central Church family who may be in a financial crisis, such as medical expenses, utilities, rent, car repairs, and the like.

Since the inception of the Lakewood Area Ministerial Association's Benevolence Fund, which provides a similar ministry to the Lakewood community, we have not had to place as much emphasis on our Helping Hands fund. However, we'd like to remind our church family that others in the congregation do have financial needs from time to time.

This fund is dispersed at the discretion of the pastor. However, the pastor's name is not on the church's checking account so the check is issued through the normal process for paying bills. Checks are normally written to the creditor like a landlord or to a hospital. In that way we know that it is going to address a specific need and it provides some confidentiality to the person or family receiving the gift.

At any time, you can designate a gift to the Helping Hands Fund by noting it on your check or on your offering envelope. We thank you for thinking of others.

State of the Church Report

Stats for February 2018

Average Attendance:	52
Operating Fund:	
Receipts	\$13,262.50
Expenses	(\$12,949.03)
Monthly receipts needed to maintain budget:	\$16,580.00
Other Giving Received:	
Building Fund	\$ 1,074
General Missions	\$ 259
Missions from Endow.	\$ 7,818
Camping Scholarships	\$ 209
Christmas Baskets	\$ 193
R.A.V.E.	\$ 82
UMCOR Hunger	\$ 25
Souper Thursday	\$ 672

Native American Ministries

Native American Ministries Sunday is April 15th. This offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences, provides secondary scholarships for Native Americans, and strengthens, develops, and equips Native American rural, urban and reservation congregations, ministries and communities.

Upcoming Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Monday, April 9, 12 to 5:45 pm

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Marian Durkee at 616-374-7489.