

Sunday School resumes

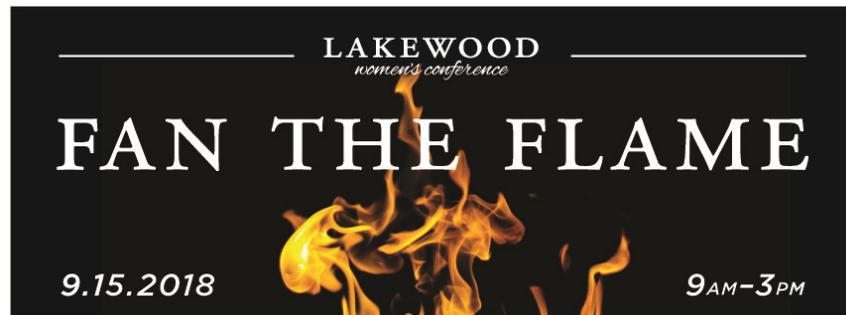


September 9th is Kick-off for our Sunday School program for this year, but you can attend at any time.

We have classes for all ages which begin at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings. We have an Early Elementary Class for ages 4 - 2nd grade led by Kay Barcroft and Andrea Gentner. The Upper Elementary Class for 3 - 6th grades will be led by Jane Kostanko and Shelly Reiser. Our Mi-High Class for grades 7 - 12 is led by Julie Klynstra and will be learning and practicing praise music to open our worship. An Adult Class led by Pastor Dominic, will be an in-depth study of The Parables of Jesus.

And Coming Soon: A Women's Bible study during the week.

We Need You! To be able to provide for classes that meet the needs of our church and community, we need lots of volunteers. We still need people willing to help on an occasional basis, substitutes, and helpers. Please see Jane Kostanko if you can help out or if you have questions.



All women of the Lakewood community are invited to participate in the Women's Conference to be held at the Lakewood United Methodist Church on **September 15th**. The speaker will be Sara Krieg, Women's Ministry Director at Ada Bible Church. This is a free event, donations are appreciated. Lunch will be provided. You can register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/LakewoodWomen> or call 269-367-4800. Questions? Contact Terri Catt (480-231-7785).

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.

central
united methodist church

September 2018



PASTORAL REFLECTION

Dear Central Families,

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-4)

The pages of our Bibles are filled with the stories of hundreds of men and women. Nearly every story contains one common thread. Whether the character is a king or a peasant, a prophet or a general, a fisherman or a preacher, nearly every person mentioned in the Bible has his or her dark side revealed.

Noah got drunk. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all lied to save their own hides. Moses committed murder. David was guilty of adultery. Solomon was an idolater. Peter cursed and lied. John the Baptist doubted Jesus. The list could go on and on. The pages of the Bible are filled with the sins of the people mentioned on its pages.

My messages in the coming weeks (September/October) will be centered on a man named Joseph in the Book of Genesis, chapters 47-50. Joseph was the eleventh son of the patriarch Jacob. His name means "**Jehovah has added.**" He lived 110 years and there is not a single sin attributed to this man. He endured trials and afflictions that most cannot even imagine and nowhere does the Bible even hint that his faith in God waivered. He never seemed to get his eyes off the Lord.

Whether Joseph was in the place of favor in his father's house or languishing in a prison, he was the same man. Hardship did not harden his heart. Riches and power did not corrupt him. He was the same man regardless of the circumstances in which he found himself. Joseph was truly a unique character to learn from! Messages on this series are about family foundation, sufferings and broken hearts; relationships, trials and uncertainties; hope and despair; but above all, **acts of grace and forgiveness**. I invite you to attend worship services in order to be spiritually blessed through these messages. Hope you'll prayerfully be present in the House of the Lord as we kick-off the fall season.

Does Baptism matter to You? Does everyone who joins a local church need to be baptized? This is a live question for many churches today, and it raises a host of other crucial questions: What is the meaning and function of baptism? Does baptism have any inherent relationship to the local church? How do baptism and Holy Communion fit together? What exactly is church membership?

To answer the question of whether baptism is required for church membership, the Bible in Acts chapter 2 sheds light on why you should be baptized if you are a Christian and attend local church regularly. Digging deep into the Bible's teaching on baptism, the Lord's Supper, and church membership could strengthen your faith journey. Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) can transform a scattered group of Christians into a gathered local church. Someone writes: "**Baptism is where faith goes public. It is the initiating oath-sign of the new covenant. It is the passport of Christ's kingdom and a kingdom citizens swearing-in ceremony of faith journey. The Lord's Supper is the renewing oath-sign of the new covenant, a corporate act of fellowship with Christ that binds the church into one body. Baptism confers church membership and the Lord's Supper confirms it. Baptism confers membership; the Lord's Supper renews it. So, baptism is required for church membership like vows are required for marriage.**"

***The question: Have you been Baptized? If not, what's taking you so long? If you are interested in Membership and Baptism at Central, talk to me or call the Church office to register for two sessions of a membership class to be held in October 2018.** ~~Pastor Dominic Tommy

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays	9/30 Christine Cunningham
9/10 Betty Shetterly Dawn Deardorff	
9/11 John Catt	
9/16 Karen Avery	
9/20 Chuck Rayner	
9/29 Ada Dennie	
Anniversaries	9/3 Ray & Mary Dykhouse—58 years
	9/4 Kim & Dawn Deardorff—42 years
	9/6 Tim & Kay Goodmoot—21 years
	9/18 John & Terri Catt—53 years

UPCOMING EVENTS

A.A. OPEN MEETINGS Mondays, September 3, 10, 17, 24 – 7:00 pm	COMMITTEE/OTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED:
FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION Tuesday, Sept. 11—2:00 pm (Volunteers at 1:30.)	Fellowship & Care —Tues., Sept. 11, 6 pm
ADULT RESPITE Thursdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20 —1:30 to 4:30 pm	Board of Trustees —Tues., Sept. 11, 7 pm
SOUPER THURSDAY COMMUNITY DINNER Thursdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20 —4:30 to 6 pm	Friendship Group —Wed., Sept. 12 & 26, 9 am
RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE Thursday—Saturday, Sept. 27-29	Finance —Mon., Sept. 17, 6 pm
	Administrative Council —Mon, Sept. 17, 7 pm
	Staff-Parish w/D.S. —Mon., Sept. 24, 7 pm
	Education Committee —Tues., Sept. 25, 7 pm

THE DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR DINNERS FOR 8!

On Sunday afternoon, September 23, at 1:00, 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 Kathy Decker (269-945-4880) for more details.

THANK-YOU'S

With the Finance Committee's approval, the Board of Trustees recently voted to disburse the majority of the proceeds from this year's Chicken BBQ to the grand nephew of Leona Rayner, 10-year-old Nick Christiansen. Nick suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and is wheelchair bound. There is no cure for his disease and he has a short life expectancy. The money is being used toward a portable wheelchair ramp so the family will not have to drag his wheelchair up and down their front steps. He was presented with the check and the family sends "many thanks for this generous gift!"



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We wish to thank Pastor Tommy and everyone else who helped to make our last Sunday at our church (Aug 26th) such a memorable occasion. We really appreciated the love and caring expressed by everyone. We will miss all of you as we start a new chapter in our lives. Although we will be full time residents of Florida, we do look forward to an occasional visit to attend our church and renew our friendships with all of you. ~~Bill and Jewel Eckstrom

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Terena Galaviz	Dick Winkler
Family of Scott Estep	Linda Brisena
Family of Fred Morris	Gary Smith
Family of John Avery	Ruth Ford
Family of Maxine Johnson	Jan Jackson
Family of Dallas Beland	Sharon
John Guilford family	Jodie
Fran Morris	



JOYOUS AND SOLEMN OCCASIONS

Congratulations to Pastor Dominic and Comfort Tommy who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on July 29. The Fellowship and Care Committee surprised them with a bouquet of roses and a special coffee hour following worship.



We recently said 'good-bye' to long-term members, Bill and Jewel Eckstrom, relocating to Florida. The Church family participated in a farewell service with coffee hour following. We wish them all the best!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S NEWS

- ◆ On Friday, Sept. 14, we will be using Central's kitchen to put together lunches for the women's conference, Fan the Flame. If you can lend a hand, please arrive by 9 am.
 - ◆ UMW District Meeting is Sept. 19 at Holt--sign up sheet is in F.H.
 - ◆ The sign-up sheet to help at the Rummage Sale is in Fellowship Hall. **We are not accepting any more items for the sale.** Help is needed on Monday, Sept. 24, to set up tables and racks!
 - ◆ Put Oct. 8 on your calendar for the 50's dinner --more information will be shared in your bulletins.
 - ◆ Monday, Oct. 22 is a Workbee to make Christmas ornaments and aprons for Christmas Round the Town.
- Questions? Please contact Terri Catt, President.



State of the Church Report

Stats for July 2018

Average Attendance:	68
Operating Fund:	
Receipts	\$21,375
Expenses	(\$14,183)
Monthly receipts needed to maintain budget:	\$16,580.00
Other Designated Giving:	
General Missions	\$ 152
UMCOR World Hunger	\$ 45
CWS Tools	\$ 25
Christmas Baskets	\$ 125
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 101
Souper Thursday	\$ 138

Upcoming Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Monday, October 8, 12 to 5:45 pm



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

Annual Church Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, 7:00 pm at Grand Ledge UMC. All church members are encouraged to attend. Staff-Parish will be meeting with the D.S. on Sept. 24.