

Trustees' Report



The trustees are pleased to announce the following projects have either been completed, or soon will be:

- ◆ Fellowship Hall now has LED lighting installed in the ceiling. These new lights will save the church hundreds of dollars a year in energy costs.
- ◆ Our rear basement door (the angled door near rear entrance to Fellowship Hall) will soon be replaced with an upright, shed style entranceway. The current door is old, rotting and leaking. It allows water into our basement during heavy rains. The door entranceway will allow easier access to the basement and provide a bit of extra storage space. The cost of this project (via the bidding process) is \$2,850.
- ◆ Construction work will soon begin on the front and south sidewalk areas. The old, broken concrete will be torn out and fresh concrete sections poured. In addition to improving safety and looks, the new concrete will assist in allowing rainwater to flow away from the church. The cost of repairing these two sidewalk areas is \$5,000.
- ◆ Ray Wildman of our church is now tending to the lawn care at the church. He will also clear the steps and walkways of snow once winter sets in. Please thank him for taking on this job!

Other projects on the horizon that need to get done at the church include replacing our aging front sign and replacing the storage shed roof outside of Fellowship Hall. We also need some repairs and sprucing up in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall including plumbing repairs, new countertops, and ceiling tiles. Please thank your trustees for all their time and effort in keeping our church in working order!

Del Kostanko, Trustee Chairperson

Meet our new Custodian—Michael Helmic



The Staff-Parish Committee is pleased to announce the addition of Michael Helmic to the Central Church staff. Michael and his wife, Sheri, live in Sunfield. Michael has similar experience from the University United Methodist Church in Lansing where he was custodian for 7 years, and is also a Trustee and member of the church. Michael is a veteran and also worked for a time with the Michigan State Police. Michael will be working on a rotation schedule with Mike McCartney. Please be sure to say "hi" when you get a chance to meet him. We are very thankful to have him join our staff.

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



October 2018

PASTORAL REFLECTION

Dear Central Families,

Faith Communities Look Beyond Numbers

September after Labor Day begins many activities of the Church. Here at Central, Sunday school classes for all ages are available. These classes provide opportunity to feed your soul and grow spiritually. I know, this is hard for many of us. We seem to not see the necessity of perpetual learning of Word's God. Though many Church attendees may not have the desire of reading and inductively studying the Word, the church, however, continues to build a great community of faith through Sunday School, worship and preaching of the Word.

Central Church is blessed to have faithful Sunday school teachers and helpers—ready to teach and lead children to have faith in Christ; their commitment to lead is commendable. As I write this article, I am reminded of a piece I read some time ago about Children, Church, Church Membership—all as means of faith community and fostering of the kingdom ministry of Christ. Read this article and see if this story communicates a sense of community where children are embraced, loved and encouraged to serve the Church. In the eternal perspective of God's kingdom, the reward for the church is enormous!

"Forty years ago, a Philadelphia congregation watched as three nine-year-old boys were baptized and joined the church. Not long after, the church sold the building and disbanded.

One of those boys was Dr. Tony Campolo, Christian sociologist at Eastern University, Pennsylvania. Dr. Campolo remembers: "Years later when I was doing research in the archives of our denomination, I decided to look up the church report for the year of my baptism. There was my name and Dick White's — he is now a missionary — and Bert Newman is a professor of theology at an African seminary." Then Campolo read the church report for the year he joined the church. It said, "It has not been a good year for our church. We have lost twenty-seven members. Three joined, and they were only children." — Marlene Lefever (1001 Illustrations)

Indeed, "Numbers" for churches are good, however, "Commitment and Faithfulness" of members is the golden key of the kingdom. The joy of the Church is found in the words of the Captain of the Church, Jesus: "At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me" (Matthew 18:1-5)

I am thankful for all our faithful friends and members at Central Church. Sacrificial service offered to the church and the world is the joy of your pastor. "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved friends, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:57-58)

With all my love to you and your family -- Pastor Dominic Tommy

P.S. You are invited to Central Church for a baptismal service for Allison Elaine Singh on Sunday, October 7. Allison is the child of Matt Singh & Ashley Barcroft and proud grandparents are Tony and Kay Barcroft, and great grandmother is Elaine Garlock.

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays	10/19 Tim Goodemoot
10/03 Marian Durkee	10/22 Jenna Klynstra
10/07 Lauren Freidhoff	10/23 Dan First
10/11 Lloyd Corston	10/23 Shelly Reiser
10/14 Sam Kostanko	10/29 Jan Everett
10/15 Ruth Bylsma	10/30 Eva Atwell
10/15 Penny Thelen	
10/18 Brandon Freidhoff	
	Anniversaries
	10/19 Shane & Lori McNeill—22 years

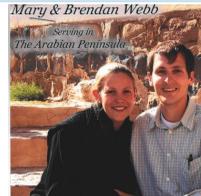
UPCOMING EVENTS

- A.A. OPEN MEETINGS**
Mondays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – 7:00 pm
- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION**
Tuesday, Oct. 2—2:00 pm (Volunteers at 1:30.)
- ADULT RESPITE (please note time change)**
Thursdays, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25—1:00 to 4:00 pm
- SOUPER THURSDAY COMMUNITY DINNER**
Thursdays, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25—4:30 to 6 pm
- RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**
Monday, Oct. 8—12 to 5:45 pm

- ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE**
Tuesday, Oct. 23—7 pm (Grand Ledge UMC)
- COMMITTEE/OTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED:**
Missions Committee— Mon., Oct. 8, 9 am
Friendship Group—Wed., Oct. 10 & 24, 9 am
Finance Committee—Mon., Oct. 15, 6 pm
Worship Committee— Tues, Oct. 30, 7 pm
- SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES PLANNED:**
World Communion Sunday & Baptism—Oct. 7
Missionaries Brendan & Mary Webb—Oct. 14

MISSIONARIES TO VISIT CENTRAL CHURCH

Mary and Brendan Webb, serving in the Arabian Peninsula, will be visiting our congregation on Sunday, October 14, and participating in worship service. They plan to share their experiences and their visions for serving those in an area known for poverty and tragedy, and particularly about the Yemen situation. A potluck will follow service so we may continue conversations with the Webbs. We hope everyone will join us on this special Sunday and show our support for their love and dedication to missionary work.



MISSIONS TO SUPPORT OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Missions Committee is asking for your participation in our annual Operation Christmas Child program. Boxes are available in Fellowship Hall. All you need to do is select an age group and gender of the child you wish the box to go to, purchase items that will fit into the box, and follow the instructions to seal and label the box. Drop it off in Fellowship Hall when complete, and the Missions Committee will see that it gets to its shipping destination. These boxes go to children around the world that do not have the luxury of owning such items. Placing a personal note with your name and address may bring a response from the child. *Thank you for your support.*

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN

Starting Wednesday, October 10th, a new women's Bible study will begin, "Dance, Stand and Run" by Jess Connolly. We will meet in the lounge and start with a light dinner at 5:00, followed by study from 5:30 to 6:30. This will run for 6 weeks. No sign-up required; just join us if you can.

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Marj McDowell	Dale Brock
Family of Pat Fisher	Sandy Widgery
Family of Lois Goodemoot	Barb Wareing
Family of Dorna Seavolt	Devin
Family of Jim Snyder	Baby Bruno
Steve Runyon	Terry Smith
Ashley and Kim	Ed & Patty Syrek family
Margene	Victims of Hurricane Florence



RECENT CELEBRATIONS

United Methodist Women's Sunday was September 16. An award was



presented to Terri Catt for the "Woman with a Heart" and the "Volunteer in Mission" recipient was Sharlene Goodemoot. Congratulations!



The Education Committee kicked off this year's Sunday School Program on September 9th with a Tailgate potluck.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S NEWS

- ◆ The UMW Outing for the 50's lunch at Mel's Diner in Mulliken on Monday, Oct. 8, will cost \$12. Meet at the Church at 11:45 to carpool. Also note, it is not handicap accessible.
- ◆ Brunch is being sponsored by the UMW on Sunday, Oct. 21—all are welcome to attend!
- ◆ Monday, Oct. 22 is a Workbee to make Christmas ornaments and aprons for Christmas Round the Town.
- ◆ A very special "Thank You!" to everyone who saved pop tabs for our UMW project. Unfortunately, we will no longer be able to pick them up or take donations.
- ◆ Praise for another successful rummage sale, and thanks to all the wonderful people who helped. We raised over \$2,000!

~~Terri Catt, President.

State of the Church Report

Stats for August 2018

Average Attendance:	70
Operating Fund:	
Receipts	\$12,690
Expenses	(\$11,732)
Monthly receipts needed to maintain budget:	\$16,580.

Other Designated Giving:

Building Fund	\$ 715
General Missions	\$ 175
UMCOR World Hunger	\$ 25
Christmas Baskets	\$ 160
Wesley Foundation-MSU	\$ 91
Souper Thursday	\$ 869

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. Maps are available on the bulletin board.