

# Trustee Update



- \* LED lighting has now been installed in Fellowship Hall. According to the Consumers Energy audit, this was our biggest draw for electricity. The new lighting should save our church hundreds of dollars a year in energy costs.
- \* A new basement entrance was recently constructed by Ken Stoepker. This will help keep rain and rodents out of our basement. Feel free to check it out!
- \* The kitchen recently had a new window installed. This replaced an old, leaky one that did not seal well.
- \* Don Landon has agreed to once again do the snow removal for our church lots. Don has always done a great job at a reduced price for his services.
- \* Ray Wildman has agreed to shovel the snow off of the church steps and keep the sidewalks clear. Thanks Ray!
- \* The replacement of the front and south sidewalks has been pushed back to spring. The weather did not cooperate this fall to properly allow the work to get done.
- \* The kitchen will be closed for a period of time in January. Workers will be temporarily moving the island in order to dig a small trench to install a larger diameter drain pipe. This should fix the problem of the sinks backing up. New countertops will then be installed in the kitchen to replace the old, worn out surfaces. Estimates for the counter tops are being gathered.

As always, please thank your trustees for their time and efforts in helping to keep our church running smoothly!  
-Del Kostanko, Trustee Chair

## Notes of Interest:

- ⇒ **Church Office Hours:** The Church Office will be lightly staffed during the last 2 weeks of December. If you need assistance, please call ahead or leave a message on our answering machine. As always, if there is a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Dominic at the parsonage (616-374-8294) or on his cell (269-941-3787).
- ⇒ **Pastor Dominic will be on vacation** from December 25 to January 2. Our Guest Preacher on December 30 will be Paul Carmichael, a local pastor, counselor and member of "Sentimental Journey," who performed here in August.
- ⇒ **No Sunday School Classes** will be held on December 23 or December 30. Classes will resume on January 6, 2019.
- ⇒ **Dress-Down Sunday:** Feel free to dress down for "Unhanging of the Greens" following coffee hour on Sunday, January 6. Please stay and help if you can. We'll have a light lunch—sign-up for items will be in Fellowship Hall.
- ⇒ There will be **no** newsletter published for January.



*Earn Money for Missions while you Shop!*

If you enjoy shopping on-line, there is a way for Central UMC to benefit from your purchases. Go to [smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1474903](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1474903) (which has the same sites as Amazon), place your purchase, and Amazon donates a portion to Central UMC at no additional cost to you.

Central United Methodist Church is located in downtown Lake Odessa at 912 4th Avenue. Contact us at 616-374-8861; [info@centralchurch-lakeo.org](mailto:info@centralchurch-lakeo.org) or [pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org](mailto:pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org). Check out our Facebook page for current activities, weekly dinner menu, and youth activities.

central  
united methodist church

December 2018



## PASTORAL REFLECTION

Dear Central Families and Friends:

Christmas greetings to you from Central United Methodist Church's office. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families as we approach this significant season—the birthday and festivities of the Christ Child. We trust that this will be your most joyous Christmas, and that the New Year will hold for you God's blessings. Remember, as we celebrate Christ's birth, that we have duty on earth with trust in God and blessings of his daily grace to renew our faith and dedicate our lives for the ministries of God's Kingdom here at Central—our united effort can usher in Peace here in Lakeo for God's glory.

In fact, as I write this reflection, we are reminded of your faith and walk with us this year. You've been a blessing for many phases of our continual ministries here at Central Church with your presence in worship, your prayers, and your financial support. Many of you spend hours to work daily around the Church. You help to maintain our Sunday fellowship hours, make sure the committees continue to serve their purpose, and promote a safe place for our children in worship, Sunday school, and in the nursery. Thank you very much! Three verses in "The Servant Song" (Richard Gillard) depicts the people of Central Church, and we are grateful to everyone that labors with us:

<i>We are pilgrims on a journey</i>	I will hold the Christ light for you	<i>I will weep when you are weeping</i>
<i>We are brothers on the road</i>	In the night-time of your fear	<i>When you laugh, I'll laugh with you</i>
<i>We are here to help each other</i>	I will hold my hand out to you	<i>I will share your joy and sorrow</i>
<i>Walk the mile and bear the load</i>	Speak the peace you long to hear	<i>Till we've seen this journey through.</i>

**Phase-out of Community Ministry:** Directed by Leona Rayner, and with many volunteers, Central Church hosted the Lakewood community for warm homemade meals every Thursday (known as Souper Thursday). This was a compassion ministry for 8 years. After prayerful consideration on the struggle of human resources for support and lacking volunteers to help, Souper Thursday ended on November 15. We are grateful to Leona and all the volunteers for their help and support over the years. Furthermore, the Respite Care program that was a co-op of Souper Thursday will also take a break. The Fresh Food Truck from Feeding America that delivers food on the first Tuesday of the month will continue until March 2019. The future of these two programs (Respite Care and Food Truck) will depend on finding volunteers to serve the community. Central Church is grateful to God for these ministries over the years and pray that the Lord will open another door of ministries in the near future.

At the First Christmas, the Wise Men brought gifts to Christ Child at the manger. The enclosed special Christmas envelope is to give you an opportunity to lavish Jesus with a birthday gift. As is our annual tradition—your special offering will go to the Lakewood Ministerial Association's benevolence fund to support needy families in the Lakewood School District. The association, after prayerful screening for authentic requests from families in the community, helps with rents, utilities, and prescription payments. Hence, your offerings can go a long way. Thank you!

On the other hand, please remember to return your 2019 Stewardship Pledge Form for the coming year ministries at Central Church, and be a part of our In-Gathering Sunday on December 9.

Christmas is the season of good wishes and good will: a season for family memories, for sacrifice and gifts to those we love. If we want Christmas to truly come, we must let the Christ Child dwell in our hearts and guide our actions! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families. ~~Pastor Dominic

**CELEBRATIONS**

<b>Birthdays</b>	12/29 Lynsey Zona
12/02 Phylis Armstrong	12/30 George Covington
12/04 Karl Klynstra	12/30 Carole Reiser
12/04 Randy Freidhoff	
12/05 Shane McNeill	<b>Anniversaries</b>
12/10 Cole Zona	12/11/1982 Dan & Margie First
12/10 Case Zona	12/13/1969 John & Andrea Gentner
12/12 Leah Abbott	12/15/1991 Jan & Jane Everett
12/22 Patsy Cole	12/16/1982 Ron & Eva Atwell
12/25 Andrea Gentner	12/18/1982 Ron & Christine Cunningham
12/26 Bob Kendregan	12/20/1964 Wes & Kaye Friend
12/28 Mary Dykhouse	12/24/1950 Ray & Joanne McDaniels
	12/27/1975 Gordon & Ruth Bylsma

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- A.A. OPEN MEETINGS**  
Mondays, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 31 – 7:00 pm
- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
Tuesday, Dec. 4—2:00 pm (Volunteers at 1:30.)
- CHRISTMAS BASKETS/DELIVERY—Dec. 4-8**  
(see related article)
- BLOOD DRIVE—Fellowship Hall**  
Monday, Dec. 17—Noon to 5:45 pm

- COMMITTEE/OTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED:**
- Vision Forum** – Mon. Dec. 3, 6 pm (rescheduled)
  - Kitchen Committee** - Mon., Dec. 10, 10:30 am
  - Friendship Group** - Wed., Dec. 12 (Armstrong's)
  - Missions Committee** - Mon., Dec. 17, 9 am
  - Finance Committee** - Mon., Dec. 17, 6 pm
  - Administrative Council** - Mon., Dec. 17, 7 pm

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16**

On Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, an all-Sunday School Christmas Play will be performed during worship. If anyone wants to participate, as actors or helpers, contact Jane Kostanko. Practices are being held during Sunday School hour from now until the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Sunday School classes are starting a church-wide service project for Heifer International on January 6. A short video will be presented during the January 6 service. More information will be shared in upcoming bulletins.

**NEWS OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

The officers of the United Methodist Women have decided to cancel the Christmas breakfast this year. In its place, they are suggesting that members help with the Christmas baskets for fellowship and mission.



There is no meeting in January. **Monday, February 11, 2019**, will be the first Unit General Meeting in the church's lounge. Program books for 2019 will be available soon.

**PLEASE NOTE RE: MISSIONARY GIVING**

Because Central Church is now supporting both Paul Webster AND Brendan and Mary Webb, please designate which missionary you are supporting with your gifts in 2019.

**RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS**

Family of Fred Schelter	Sara Williams	
Family of Don Wagner	Betty Shetterly	
Family of Ron Clone	Al Klein	
Juanita Kusters & family	Judy Cross	
Betty Erickson	Donna Moore	
Marsha Raffler	Duane Deardorff	
Vernon Booher	Char Kendregan	
Coddaire Family	Lynda Warner	
Ron & Renee Goffs		

**RECENT EVENTS**



During our "Great Thanksgiving Feast," Central Church recognized Leona Rayner's 8 years of community service through the Souper Thursday meal and respite program. Thank You, Leona!!



**Hanging of the Greens**

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BASKETS**

The Lakewood Community Council Christmas Basket Program is underway! Accomplished through a cooperative effort of community schools, clubs, businesses and especially churches, this year we have very little inventory left and a few less churches, so we are asking for a small increase in the number of gifts. Central Church is asked to contribute \$10-\$12 gifts wrapped and tagged for a variety of ages. After gifts, the priority for needs are financial gifts, then mittens (especially water-resistant), hats, and socks.

Boxes will be delivered on Saturday, December 8. Your help in preparation is welcome at these times:

- Tues., Dec. 4**, by arrangement: See Kay Barcroft.
- Wed., Dec. 5**, 9 am to 2:30 pm: Sort food & pack boxes
- Thur., Dec. 6**, 9 am to 2:30 pm: Pack boxes and gift bags
- Sat., Dec. 8**, 9 am to 12: Deliver boxes to families

Your support of this ministry for the less fortunate in our community is very much appreciated!

**THANK YOU**

The Worship Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with the Advent decorating in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. **We will be holding a Dress-Down Sunday for the "Unhanging of the Greens"** following coffee hour on January 6. Come as you are; stay and help if you can. We'll be having a light lunch; sign-ups for lunch items will be in Fellowship Hall.

**State of the Church Report**

**Stats for October 2018**

Average Attendance:	61
Operating Fund:	
Receipts	<b>\$16,436</b>
Expenses	<b>(\$18,768)</b>
Monthly receipts needed to maintain budget:	\$16,580.
<b>Other Designated Giving:</b>	
Building Fund	\$ 577
General Missions	\$ 107
Pat Fisher Mem.-UMCOR	\$ 860
Marj McDowell Memorial	\$ 285
Missionaries-Webbs	\$ 37
Christmas Baskets	\$ 192
U.M. Student Day	\$ 2
World Communion Sunday	\$ 30
Souper Thursday	\$ 414

**Upcoming Blood Drive**

**Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Monday, December 17, 12 to 5:45 pm**



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

**Poinsettias on Sale**



Orders for memorial poinsettias are being taken until **Sunday, December 9**. See your

bulletin or contact the church office if you are interested. They will be on display in the sanctuary through Christmas Eve.