

Mission Committee Report



Your Mission Committee last met on October 8, 2018. It has been a busy year for the committee. So far this year, we have made donations to the following: UMCOR, the Christmas Basket fund, Lakewood Area Ministerial Association, Lakewood Project Graduation, Manna's Market, Feed the Need, Four Health Family Resources, Relief after Violent Encounters (RAVE), Forgotten Man Ministries, Mobility Worldwide (PET), Habitat for Humanity, Ionia Area Hospice, Barry County Cares, CWS Blankets and Tools, Sunny Crest Youth Farm, MSU Wesley Foundation, Positive Solutions-Informed Choices (PSIC), Society of St. Andrew, and Heifer International.

After Pastor Dominic's sharing of information about missionaries with whom he is acquainted, we also started supporting the Webb's. It was nice to become acquainted with them when they paid us a visit recently and presented an informative program during church about the work they are doing. The Mission Committee organized a potluck after church for the Webbs. We would like to thank everyone who helped by bringing or sending food and for those who attended the potluck. Special thanks go to Mike and Myra McCartney for hosting the Webb family in their home Saturday night.

We continue to support missionary Paul Webster, as well.

The Mission Committee has also promoted the Christmas Shoebox Program. We will pay the postage on any boxes sent from our church. Dodie Denman is spearheading this program.

Von Goodemoot attended the Lay Leader Forum at Shaftsbury UMC on October 13th. The forum focused on the mission program, Engage Michigan. Our District Superintendent, Jerry DeVine, led the opening worship section of the meeting and introduced the speakers. There was a session on Lay Servant Ministries. The second session introduced the Engage Michigan program. Rev. Paul Perez, Associate Director of Mission and Ministries, explained this new approach to the 2019 Advance Specials. It encourages congregations to shift from "ministry to" models to "ministry with" vulnerable people and communities. We appreciate your support which enables the work the Mission Committee does.



Earn Money for Missions while you do your Christmas shopping!

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 which has the same sites as Amazon, place your purchase, and Amazon donates a portion to Central UMC at no additional cost to you!



27th Annual Christmas 'Round the Town.

Friday, November 23rd, 9 am - 6 pm

Saturday, November 24th, 9 am—3 pm.

Central Church will be opened, hosting vendor booths—many you will know!

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

November 2018



PASTORAL REFLECTION

Dear Central Families:

A Glorious Future for the Saints

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (Psalm 23:1-6).

The burden of proof rests upon us, based on our simple faith in the Lamb of God, even Christ. Notice in the 23rd Psalm the **Glorious Prospect** that is yours in verse 6 – **Goodness and Mercy** for all the days of your life down here, and then—in the King's palace forever. That's awesome! And if you can say "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want" (vs.1), you can confidently sum up that: beneath you is "green pastures"; beside you to drink is the "still waters"; with you, is a "**dependable Shepherd**"; before you, "a table of feast with abundance" and around you may be many "enemies", but don't let that bother you if your focus is on the Shepherd. Notice that upon you is the **anointing of the Lord**, that means **you are special**, set aside for service—here and in the kingdom of your King. And after your pilgrim journey, "**goodness and mercy shall follow you** all the days of your life and beyond in the "House of the Lord." Don't let this blessing pass you! Now, how about this, "*The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion (heavenly Jerusalem) with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*" (Isaiah 35:10).

Our prayer then: "**Lord, when the saints are marching in, let me be in the number.**"

A Visioning Forum: Ministry Exploration and Future of Central Church

You have seen in the bulletins about the upcoming leadership meeting on Monday, November 12, at 6-8 pm., a time for questions and suggestions you may have about Central Church. To serve you better, please sign up on the bulletin board for a count. Dinner (pizza, salad, refreshments) will be served from 5:30-6. Visioning Forum follows the meal. Please carpool with those who cannot drive at night; it's your Church and you have a stake in its future.

Central Church continues to be a Champion in Global Missions

We recently received our missionaries serving in the Arabian Peninsula. **Dr. Brendan Webb, Mary Webb** and their children were our guests at Central (Oct. 14). Dr Webb, a physician, serves as an emergency doctor and trains indigenous doctors and medical personnel in their mission field. Mary Webb, a teacher by profession, uses her gifts teaching the population served. They both are missionaries with Interserve USA, an international Christian mission board at Upper Derby, PA. Central Church is privileged to be in partnership with the Webbs. Central's Mission Committee is grateful for your prayers and support on their behalf.

Thank You Notes: My thanks to everyone and their families hosting fellowship (coffee hour) every Sunday. I am also proud of the UMW and many committees for hosting various meetings, funeral luncheons, and welcoming folks visiting our church for worship or any other reason. "*Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, supplies you grace to carry on His work through obedience of your faith*"— (Romans 16:25-26)

~~ Pastor Dominic Tommy

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays	11/21 Jane Lawther
11/04 Carolyn Jackson	11/23 Art Wagner
11/04 Barb Bosworth	11/23 Dick Winkler
11/06 Barbara Pooley	11/26 Fran Morris
11/10 Scot Carpenter	11/26 Mackenzie Thelen
11/11 Jane Everett	11/27 Marilyn Noffke
11/13 Brian Decker	11/29 Dominic Tommy
11/14 Jewel Eckstrom	11/29 Del Kostanko
11/14 Ford McDonald	
11/15 Kay Barcroft	Anniversaries
11/19 Barb Hall	11/08/1959 Ed & Carole Reiser

UPCOMING EVENTS

A.A. OPEN MEETINGS Mondays, Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26 – 7:00 pm	COMMITTEE/OTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED: Vision for the Church – Mon. Nov. 12, 6 pm (lite dinner at 5:30)
FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION Tuesday, Nov. 6—2:00 pm (<i>Volunteers at 1:30.</i>)	Fellowship & Care – Tues., Nov. 13, 6:30 pm
ADULT RESPITE Thursday, (only) Nov. 1, 15 —1:00 to 4:30 pm	Friendship Group – Wed., Nov. 14 & 28, 9 am
SOUPER THURSDAY COMMUNITY DINNER Thursday, (only) Nov. 1, 8, 15—4:30 to 6 pm	Finance Committee – Mon., Nov. 19, 6 pm
COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE —Nov. 21, 7pm Zion Lutheran Church (Velte Road)	Education Committee – Tues., Nov. 27, 7 pm
CHRISTMAS ROUND THE TOWN Nov. 23—24 - Fellowship Hall	SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES PLANNED: All Saints Sunday—Nov. 4 Laity Sunday—Nov. 11 Stewardship Sundays—Nov. 18 & 25 Hanging of the Greens—Nov. 25 , after coffee hour

CHANGES COMING TO RESPITE AND SOUPER THURSDAY PROGRAMS

You may have heard that our *final* Souper Thursday dinner will be a Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday, November 15th. After almost 8 years of service to the community and church family, Leona has decided to end the weekly dinner as we know it. Talks with other churches in the area are underway to see if some sort of ongoing program can be developed, but at the this time the future is unknown. The Respite Program, led by Rita Bigelow and Terri Catt, will end on November 15th as well, but they are hoping to pick back up next year if possible. The Fresh Food truck will continue until March. Leona would like to thank everyone for their support of the programs, both in time and donations, and reflects on the many people who have been served by these services.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S NEWS

- ♦ **Monday, November 12:** Unit General Meeting at 1:30 pm., in the Church Lounge. World Thank Offering (turn in Blessing Boxes)
 - ♦ **Christmas Round the Town:** UMW will be selling ornaments, aprons and caramel corn. Volunteers to help during the event would be appreciated.
 - ♦ **Thursday, December 6:** Breakfast: More information forthcoming.
- Questions? Please contact Terri Catt, President.



RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Marj McDowell	Unspokens	
Family of Ashley Dykhouse	Helen Good	
Those traveling for winter	Tom Noffke	
Logan	Sherry Helmic	
Sonny Shuert	Duane Deardorff	

JOYOUS OCCASIONS

Several baptisms were celebrated in the month of October. **Allison Elaine Singh**, daughter of Matthew & Ashley (Barcroft) Singh, was baptized on the 7th. We rejoice with **Virginia Rayner**, and **Raymond Wildman** for their Christian witness through the Sacrament of Baptism and membership at Central Church on the 21st. We are blessed they have joined the Family of God at Central Church.



On October 28, Central Church celebrated **Pastor Appreciation Sunday**. In honor of Pastor Dominic and Comfort, a special surprise coffee hour was held. Thanks to the Mission and Staff-Parish Committees and everyone else who helped to pull this off!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Planning is underway for the Lakewood Community Council Christmas Basket Program, 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 boys age 10 and 14, and girls age 12.* 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 if you can help that day/evening.
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
After gifts, the priority for needs are financial gifts, then mittens (especially water-resistant), hats, and socks. Your support of this ministry for the less fortunate in our community is very much appreciated! See Kay Barcroft or Alan Goodmoot for questions.

State of the Church Report

Stats for September 2018

Average Attendance:	76
Operating Fund:	
Receipts	\$16,615
Expenses	(\$15,047)
Monthly receipts needed to maintain budget:	\$16,580.
Other Designated Giving:	
Building Fund	\$ 702
General Missions	\$ 212
UMCOR World Hunger	\$ 25
Missionaries	\$ 10
Christmas Baskets	\$ 202
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 10
Souper Thursday	\$ 411
UMCOR Hurricanes	\$ 324

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.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Sunday is December 9th.

Letters and pledge forms have been mailed out. We would ask you to prayerfully consider your pledges for 2019 and turn them in on or before December 9.