

**Theme:** Grace of Giving: For the work of Ministries

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Rev. Dominic Tommy

**Introduction**

Note these patterns of Graceful Giving in the text

**1. When We Give as Jesus Gave (2 Cor. 8:5-9)**

Jesus Christ is always the preeminent example for the believer to follow, whether in service, suffering, or sacrifice.

**2. The Macedonian Christians gave themselves to God and to others** (2 Cor. 8:5).

**3. The Macedonians' giving was, like that of Christ: motivated by love** (2 Cor. 8:7-8).

The Macedonian churches had an "**abundance of deep poverty**" (2 Cor. 8:2), and yet they **abounded in their liberality**.

**4. The Macedonians, as Central Faithful, Gave Willingly (2 Cor. 8:10-12)**

Note the difference between **promise and performance**. (2 Cor. 8:6), but they did not keep their promise.

Note that in 2 Corinthians 8:10-12 Paul emphasized **willingness**. Grace giving must come from a willing heart; it cannot be forced or demanded with promise that God will give the same fold to you.

**Bless Thou the Gifts**

Bless thou the gifts **our hands** have brought;  
bless thou the work **our hearts** have planned.

**Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;**

the rest, O God, is in thy hand. Amen

--Words of Samuel Longfellow, UMC Hymnal #587

**Proverbs 11:24-25**

***“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered”***

# Welcome to



# Central Church

## Our Mission

***Central United Methodist Church Glorifies God through the Work of Ministry and the Making of Disciples of Jesus Christ.***

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912 Fourth Ave., PO Box 485, Lake Odessa, MI 48849

[www.centralchurch-lakeo.org](http://www.centralchurch-lakeo.org)

(616) 374-8861

**Rev. Dominic Tommy, Pastor**  
[pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org](mailto:pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org)

# CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Worship Celebration Service

Last Sunday after Pentecost November 25, 2018

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### GATHERING

*Large print hymnals and bulletins are available. Please ask an usher.*

### PRELUDE

NOISY OFFERING *Today's Noisy Offering is designated for Green Gables Shelter.*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign, pass, and return red friendship pads in each pew at this time.*

*Also prepare Prayer Request Sheets during this time.*

\*PRAISING THE LORD "Blessed Be the Name of the Lord" On screen

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us to give an account of our lives.

**We stand in the presence of the Judge of all people.**

God asks us to declare our allegiance.

**We are followers of God through Jesus Christ.**

God requires that we not be followers in name only but in deeds.

**Although sometimes we fail, we are committed to our God.**

We cannot be disciples of Jesus and pursuers of wealth.

**We offer the simplicity of our lives as signs of our devotion to God and not to wealth.**

\*OPENING HYMN "Count Your Blessings" vs 1,3,4 On screen  
*Ushers will collect Prayer Request Sheets*

INVOCATION PRAYER (in unison) (be seated) (based on Psalm 25:1-5)

**To You, O God, we lift up our souls. To You we offer our praise and prayer, our worship and thanksgiving, even our very lives.**

**Make Your ways known to us. Show us the path**

**on which we should walk. Lead us in Your truth and teach us.**

**For You alone are the God who saves, the God in whom we trust; and the One on whom we wait. Amen.**

ANTHEM "Give Thanks" Chancel Choir  
*by John F. Wilson*

### SHARING PEACE

The Peace of our Lord Jesus be with You!

**And Also with You!**

(Please take this time to greet one another in the Name of Christ by saying,

"Peace be with you" and your neighbor says "And also with you")

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Children age 4 & under are dismissed to the Nursery downstairs immediately following the *Children's Moment*.

INVITATION FOR OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

\*DOXOLOGY "I Surrender All" vs 1, refrain Hymnal 354

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Giving God, we give you thanks and praise for all of your gifts to us. We know that you are the source of every good thing, light and love come from you. You have created us, and you continue to breathe life into us through the power of Your Holy Spirit. We now dedicate this offering to the work of your kingdom here on earth. May this collection be used wisely and diligently, that your love may be known widely. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.**

PRAYER CONCERNS, PRAISES, PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "God Will Take Care of You" vs 1,2,4 Hymnal 130

\*SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 Pew Bible NT pg 172

Leader: The Word of God to the people of God!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON THE GRACE OF GIVING: Rev. Dominic Tommy  
*"Graceful Giving – for the Work of Ministries"*

\*CLOSING HYMN "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" Hymnal 381

\*BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

**Lord, Be Glorified**

**1. In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified  
In my life, Lord, be glorified today**

**2. In my home, Lord, be glorified be glorified  
In my home, Lord, be glorified today**

**3. In Your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified  
In Your church, Lord, be glorified today  
be glorified today.**

POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand as you are able*

"Hanging of the Greens" is today, following coffee hour, lunch provided. This is a fun time to work together decorating the building for the Advent and Christmas season. Please stay if you are able. Many hands make light work.

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The United Methodist Women will **not** be having a December breakfast gathering. They are suggesting that you help with the Christmas baskets for fellowship and mission.

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If you are not currently using **weekly offering envelopes** but would like to do so, please contact Dawn Deardorff or the Church Office. If you are interested in signing up for on-line giving through our website, or setting up an automatic reoccurring payment through your bank, you can also check with us for more information or if you have questions.

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All are invited to the annual **Christmas Concert of Bells 'n Brass**, to be held at the Pleasant Valley United Brethren Church (13120 Bell Road), on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 3:00 pm. The music will be Christ-centered; refreshments available. Wheelchair accessible.

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**Thank you** to all the participants in our Laity Sunday worship service. Together, in Christ, we can do all things.

*"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" Hebrews 13: 1-2*

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**Lakewood Community Council Christmas Baskets** will be packed Dec. 4-7 with delivery on Dec. 8. There are still some gift tags left in the Fellowship Hall. Gifts should be wrapped and tagged with the appropriate age.

Financial contributions can be marked "Christmas Baskets" in the Missions section of your offering envelope or a separate envelope. Donations of (water-resistant) mittens, hats, and socks can be left in the Fellowship Hall any time before December 4, in addition to non-perishable packaged food. Kay Barcroft or Alan Goodemoot can answer any questions you may have. The families who receive these gifts are blessed, and those who help with this project feel blessed as well. Your support of this project is very much appreciated!

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MINISTER: Every Member of This Church  
PASTOR: Rev. Dominic Tommy  
SECRETARY: Kim Stoepker  
ORGANIST: Marilyn Noffke  
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Jackie Spagnuolo  
CUSTODIANS: Mike McCartney, Michael Helmic  
TODAY'S SERVICE:

**Worship Leader**  
Tom Reiser

**Audio/Visual**  
Today: Tony Barcroft / Shelly Reiser  
Next Sunday: Chuck Rayner / Kay Barcroft

**Coffee Fellowship**  
Today: Hanging of the Greens with lunch  
Next Sunday: Phylis Armstrong / Betty Shetterly

**Greeters**  
Today: John & Terri Catt  
Next Sunday: Elaine Garlock

**Nursery**  
Today: Marcia Bytwerk / Penny Thelen  
Next Sunday: Mary Dykhouse / Judy Freidhoff

**Ushers**  
Today: Shane McNeill / Dodie Denman  
Next Sunday: Dave Faulkner / Tony Barcroft

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**THIS WEEK'S PRAYER CONCERNS**

Family of Don Wagner	Al Klein	Sara Williams
Family of Ron Clone	Unspokens	
<b><u>Continued in Prayer</u></b>		
Sgt. Branden Curtis	Karl Klynstra	Mary Shoemaker
Sgt. Lloyd C. Corston	Phylis Armstrong	Susan Steele
PFC Steven Wakley, Jr	Dale Patterson	Hank Minenna
1SG Nicholas Ludema	Travis Tucker and family	Kim Seese
PFC Jason Hilley	Pam Coleman	George Speas
Sgt. Nathan Sparrow	Armrose LaBine	Brian Rayner
Judi Brandon	Brian Harper	Arlene Lee
Marti Lind	Barbara Wareing	Lloyd Corston

**Our Special Friends**

Leah Abbott	Margot Bailey	Lloyd Corston
Ada Dennie	Peg Faulkner	Bette Makley
Joanne McDaniels	Ed Reiser	Phil Shetterly

**Our Partners In Ministry**

Missionary Paul Webster, Zambia, Africa  
 Missionaries Brendan and Mary Webb, Arabian Peninsula  
 Bath United Methodist Church, Bath  
 Retired Pastor Jim Kinsey, Lake Odessa

**CELEBRATIONS**

**Birthdays**

11/26 Fran Morris  
 11/26 Mackenzie Thelen  
 11/27 Marilyn Noffke  
 11/29 Dominic Tommy  
 11/29 Del Kostanko

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Today's Noisy Offering is designated to the Green Gables shelter in Hastings which provides a safe temporary, nurturing environment and support to victims of domestic violence in Barry County. Your spare change could change a life.*

**EVENTS**

Mon 11/26	<b>Vision Forum – Fellowship Hall</b> AA Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	<b>6 to 8 pm</b> 7 pm
Wed 11/28	<i>No Friendship Group</i> <b>Women's Bible Study</b> (final class)– Lounge Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	<b>5:30 pm</b> 7 pm
Fri 11/30	<i>Office closed – For an emergency, Pastor can be reached at 269-941-3787</i>	
Sun 12/2	Sunday School – Classrooms Worship Service – <i>Stewardship</i>	9:30 am 10:30 am
Mon 12/3	AA Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	7 pm
Tues 12/4	<b>Fresh Food Truck</b> – Back parking lot <b>Christmas Baskets set-up</b> – Fellowship Hall	<b>2 pm</b>
Wed 12/5	<b>Christmas Baskets</b> – Fellowship Hall Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	<b>9 am - 2:30 pm</b> 7 pm
Thur 12/6	<i>(There will be no UMW Christmas breakfast this year.)</i> <b>Christmas Baskets</b> – Fellowship Hall	<b>9 am – 2:30 pm</b>
Sat 12/8	<b>Christmas Basket Delivery</b>	<b>9 am to noon</b>
Sun 12/9	Sunday School – Classrooms Worship Service – <i>Stewardship Sunday</i>	9:30 am 10:30 am
Mon 12/10	<b>Administrative Council</b> – Fellowship Hall AA Open Meeting – Sr. High Classroom	<b>6:30 pm</b> 7 pm
Wed 12/12	<b>Friendship Group</b> – <i>Phylis Armstrong's</i> Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary	9 am 7 pm

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**Upcoming Events:**

- ❖ Dec. 14 Community Christmas in the Village Parade and Festival – 6 to 9 pm
- ❖ Dec. 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service – 7 pm

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