

# Program Updates

After many years of our weekly Souper Thursday meals, the program ended in November with our Souper Thursday Thanksgiving Feast to the community. Central Church is grateful to Leona Rayner and all the volunteers of that program.

And from the Souper Thursday program, its affiliated ministry of Feeding America's fresh food truck will continue until March under Leona's direction. We are also happy to announce that Cargill will continue to sponsor the program and take over the coordination and reporting required by Feeding America for the balance of 2019. Our parking lot will continue to be the central place of distribution following the same schedule we had established: the 1st Tuesday of the month. We will pray that our Central Church volunteers can continue to help with this important ministry to our community.

As you may know, the weekly Respite Program is also taking a hiatus for a few months. We are hopeful to re-start the program sometime in 2019, perhaps on a once- or twice-a-month schedule.

With the discontinuation of the weekly meal program, Central has decided to transition to a Kitchen Committee to help manage the use, licensing, and coordination of the kitchen. Responsibilities will include quarterly cleaning of kitchen and store room and keeping supplies stocked for coffee hour, funerals and any other needs that come up. They will continue to keep a list posted on the kitchen door for needed supplies, and coordinate who will be purchasing them. The committee may also make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for changes or improvements to the kitchen.

Your new Kitchen Committee members are: Sharlene Goodmoot (chair), Karen Avery, Dawn Deardorff, Dodie Denman, Marian Durkee, Mary Dykhouse, and Leona Rayner.

## Other Notes of Interest:

- ⇒ The new **Pictorial Directories** have arrived! Print versions are limited to one per family and will be distributed at coffee hours or through the Church Office.
- ⇒ On February 10, after worship, the Education Committee will be holding a **Soup Luncheon**. Donations from the meal will be used to wrap up the Heifer International campaign. Please join us for a variety of delicious soups, salads and desserts. Please contact Jane (janekostanko@gmail.com) if you'd like to help provide food.
- ⇒ The Fellowship and Caring Committee is planning a **special coffee hour** on March 3. Please bring a delicious dessert to share with everyone as we celebrate the last Sunday before Lent begins.
- ⇒ The next Gathering of the **Friendship Group** will be Wednesday, April 10 (weather permitting).

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



February 2019

## PASTORAL REFLECTION

Dear Friends:

**"This is the Day (Year) the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."** —Psalm 118:24

New year greetings! We hope that you had a joyful Christmas and a happy transition into the New Year. Comfort and I were blessed by your prayers, support and cards during the season. We were away from LakeO for a few days and was able to spend time with families around Michigan. Thank you for your love and support.

The text above is liturgical affirmation of God's blessings on His people, and—You are one of them! Commenting on Psalm 118:24, a great Bible teacher, Robert Morgan writes:

*"God is in the day-making business. The Ancient of Days is the Manufacturer of Days. He has a continually running conveyer belt stretching from the sun to the earth and from heaven to this world. One new day (or year) rolls off God's assembly line every twenty-four hours, right on schedule, each one unique. We rise from bed each day knowing that an endless succession of sunrises and sunsets come from the workbench of His will, all of them individually crafted, packaged with grace, wrapped in love. This verse reminds us that God's compassions never fail; they are new every morning, for great is His faithfulness. Goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives; and as our days may demand shall our strength ever be."*

The context of Psalm 118 is rich in Messianic praise to God for his everlasting mercy. In verse 22, our Lord is pictured as a discarded stone that then will be reused as the most significant stone of all, indeed, He is the Cornerstone!

*"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. Jesus, the Savior has now become the cornerstone, or foundation of our salvation."* vs.22. The Psalmist marveled, *"This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes"* vs. 23. In verse 29, the community of the faithful is called to end the psalm as it began in verse one—a call to praise for the goodness and love of the Most-High God— *"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"* Would you join us in 2019 for worship and praise to God? —please do!

Here at Central Church we ended the year with positive events surrounding our worship services and ministries. Due to manpower, some changes were made in some ministries. For example, the Souper Thursday meal program to the community ended last November; we, however, maintain services for the Fresh Food Truck on the first Tuesday of the month. We lost a few members through death. We baptized three, and brought two into membership. We serve the community in various ways. We continue to promote local and global missions. A series of meetings were held in 2018. Election of officers was done by the Nominating Committee during annual Charge Conference. Please check the roster to find your name and serve the church faithfully.

Join us for our services, get involved in the life and ministries of Central Church! God Bless.

~~~Pastor Dominic Tommy

**CELEBRATIONS**

|                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Birthdays</b>     |                               |
| 02/02                | Dodie Denman                  |
| 02/04                | Dale Mossburg                 |
| 02/05                | Thelma Curtis                 |
| 02/06                | Sam McNeill                   |
| 02/09                | Lori McNeill                  |
| 02/12                | Margot Bailey                 |
| 02/12                | Frank Klein                   |
| 02/24                | Barbara Wareing               |
| 02/27                | Jonathan Freidhoff            |
| <b>Anniversaries</b> |                               |
| 02/14                | Chuck & Leona Rayner—11 years |

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**A.A. OPEN MEETINGS**  
Mondays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 – 7:00 pm

**FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
Tuesday, Feb. 5—2:00 pm (*Volunteers at 1:30.*)

**SOUP LUNCHEON—Feb. 10** *Following worship*  
*Sponsored by Education Committee*

**BLOOD DRIVE—Fellowship Hall**  
Monday, Feb. 11—Noon to 5:45 pm

**COMMITTEE/OTHER MEETINGS:**  
**Missions Committee** - Mon., Feb. 11, 8:30 am  
**Finance Committee** - Mon., Feb. 18, 6 pm

**2019 LEADERSHIP & CHANGES**

|                                                                |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ad Council Chair,</b> <i>Kim Deardorff</i>                  | <b>Worship Chair,</b> Kay Barcroft                                |
| <b>Ad Council Vice-Chair,</b> Von Goodemoot                    | <b>Treasurer,</b> Mike McCartney                                  |
| <b>Lay Member To Annual Conference,</b> John Gentner           | <b>Financial Secretary,</b> Dawn Deardorff                        |
| <b>Reserve Member To Annual Conf.,</b> Andrea Gentner          | <b>UMW President,</b> Terri Catt                                  |
| <b>Recording Secretary,</b> Penny Thelen                       | <b>Fellowship &amp; Caring Chair,</b> <i>Christine Cunningham</i> |
| <b>Lay Leader,</b> Von Goodemoot                               | <b>Missions Chair,</b> Marian Durkee                              |
| <b>Staff-Parish Relations Chair,</b> <i>Sharlene Goodemoot</i> | <b>Trustees Chair,</b> Del Kostanko                               |
| <b>Finance Chair,</b> Penny Thelen                             | <b>Endowment, Memorial, &amp; Planned Giving,</b>                 |
| <b>Education Chair,</b> Jane Kostanko                          | - Mike McCartney                                                  |

*Italics indicate new for 2019.*

**NEW FINANCIAL POLICY**

Beginning in 2019, the Finance Committee is initiating a new **Expense Voucher/Reimbursement Request form** to better track business purchases or reimbursements for church-related items bought by members, such as paper products for the kitchen, cleaning supplies, etc. We are asking that, before you turn in a receipt or bill to be paid, you should fill out the request form and indicate which church account should be used. Place it in the Church Office mailbox in Fellowship Hall along with the receipt/bill. Forms are located in the last slot of the mailbox in Fellowship Hall. We appreciate your use of this form.

**NEWS OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**Please Note: All regular meeting times have been changed from 1:30 to 1:00 pm.**

Hopefully you all now have your books; I apologize for the delay. The February 11 meeting is in the Church Lounge. Hostess is Thelma Curtis; program by Elaine Garlock, "A call to prayer and self-denial."

As United Methodist women, we must be in prayer asking God's guidance for the February 23-26 special session of United Methodist Church General Conference. Our new conference is asking us to have a response moment in every meeting, using an article from *Response Magazine* to tell our mission story. They would like us to use the prayer calendar regularly in the unit meeting to pray for our missionaries and send a card or note. I have invited Donna Cleaver and Rita Baird to our spring breakfast to help us understand our new district and how it has changed. Questions? You can call (480-231-7785) or email (catt3247@aol.com). ~~Terri Catt

**RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Family of Sonny Shuert     | Joyce Wagner       |
| Family of Phil Shetterly   | Alan Goodemoot     |
| Family of Peggy Buche      | Bonnie Leak        |
| Parker Haire family        | Jan Thelen         |
| Family of Mike O'Mara      | Dawn Deardorff     |
| Family of Shirley Brighton | Sharlene Goodemoot |
| Family of Tony Kidder      | Joan Prentiss      |
| Family of Doris Lambert    | Shirley Litch      |
| Family of Elizabeth Hines  | Mary Ann Perkins   |
| Family of Juanita Kusters  | Sandy Booth        |
| Family of Suzanne Lich     | Bryana             |
| Christopher Coleman        | Bob Cross          |
| Ray Dykhouse               | Ruth Conley        |
| Bill Shuert and daughter   | Jan Jackson        |
| Marcia Bytwerk             | Randy Armstrong    |
| Patsy Cole                 |                    |



**IT'S A NEW YEAR—CONSIDER A NEW WAY TO SERVE**

We are currently seeking a few new **counters** to help count money on Sunday mornings, on a rotating basis. Training is provided. See Dawn Deardorff if you can join the team or have questions.

Throughout the year, Central also has need of greeters, ushers, nursery attendants, and Sunday School teachers and helpers. There is a sign-up sheet for coffee hour as well. **(Committee chairs should reserve dates in advance for events.)**

You are also welcome to join our Choir if music is your gift. Whatever your interest, we can find a place for you. If you're not sure who to ask about serving in one of these roles, you can call the church office or see Pastor Dominic.

**THANK YOU'S**

- ◆ Thank you to our wonderful Central church family for all your generous support of the community Christmas Basket project. Many low-income families in the Lakewood area received generous boxes of food, meat certificates, toys, hats, socks, and mittens for children. On behalf of the Lakewood Community Council, we would especially like to thank our church family and staff for the gift of the use of our facilities for a full week. What a great gift to the community! Love in Christ, ~~Alan and Kay, Basket Coordinators
- ◆ The Worship Committee wishes to thank all those who helped take down the Christmas decorations and took care of lunch/coffee hour detail.

**State of the Church Report**

**Stats for December 2018**

|                                                              |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Average Attendance:                                          | 69          |
| Operating Fund:                                              |             |
| <i>Receipts</i>                                              | \$13,633.41 |
| <i>Expenses</i>                                              | \$14,983.85 |
| <i>Monthly receipts needed to maintain budget: \$16,987.</i> |             |

**Other Designated Giving:**

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Building Fund          | \$1463 |
| General Missions       | \$ 230 |
| UMCOR World Hunger     | \$ 328 |
| Missionaries           | \$ 55  |
| LAMA                   | \$ 937 |
| Christmas Baskets      | \$ 334 |
| U.M. Student Day       | \$ 112 |
| General Education Fund | \$ 45  |
| Pastor-Staff Gifts     | \$ 750 |

**Upcoming Blood Drive**

**Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Monday, February 11, 12 to 5:45 pm**



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



**Fresh Food Distribution Tuesday, February 5, at 2 p.m. Volunteers are encouraged and asked to arrive by 1:30.**