

Trustees Update



The kitchen will be closed from April 9th to approx. April 17th to have plumbing issues repaired. Currently, our drains are too small in diameter to handle the occasional large influx of water from the sinks being drained. This has resulted in flooding and damage to the kitchen island. The updated plumbing will alleviate these problems and prevent the possible formation of mold. The Trustees, along with the Kitchen Committee, continue to strive to keep our kitchen clean and safe for all to enjoy. ~~Del Kostanko, Trustee Chair

FROM FELLOWSHIP & CARING COMMITTEE



As we have done for the last several years, Central United Methodist Church will participate in the Community Easter Egg Hunt at the park on Saturday, April 20 from 10:00-12:00. We are going to be running the prize wheel again. If you would like to donate small items for prizes, there will be a box in Fellowship Hall from Sunday, March 31 to Sunday, April 14.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS!!

The United Methodist Women THANK YOU ALL for your generous donations at coffee hour on Sunday, March 24, celebrating 150 years in Mission.

This Month: Circle Meeting
Monday, April 8, 1:00 pm
Church Lounge
Hostess: Karen Avery
Program: Betty Shetterly
Keep Making Peace—April 13
University UMC, E. Lansing

Next Month: Spring Breakfast
Saturday, May 11, 9 am
Fellowship Hall
Program: Brenda Filkins, Beatrix Potter
Graduates Reception Coffee Hour
Sunday, May 19

If you are not a member but have questions or would like to become a member, please see one of the officers for more information: Terri Catt, Andrea Gentner, Helen Good, Thelma Curtis and Elaine Garlock.

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

April 2019



PASTORAL REFLECTION

Dear Central Friends

A Testimony of God's Healing

Let me share the story I read some time ago in a church publication. The article, "WHERE DO WE GO IN TIMES OF TROUBLE?" sheds light on the struggles of many people in Church pews. I find it true that daily, somewhere in the world, someone is going through tough times. It is hard to address them from the pulpit. Here is the author's picture: "During times of trials and tribulations, when our mountain-top experience turns into a slide through the dark valley, most of us run somewhere for strength. Some go to friends, church, co-workers, addictions, or some just suffer in silence.... My story is that I suffered from depression most of my life. Not knowing what was 'normal,' I never realized that there was something wrong with my behavior. The love I grew up with was based solely on performance. I learned at an early age to be a perfectionist, because that was the only way to get warm fuzzes from anyone. I ALWAYS felt I had to be outstanding in order to be loved." "Eventually, I became suicidal. I could no longer hide the pain, the feelings, and my own insecurities. I wanted desperately to go to sleep and not wake up in the same physical, mental and emotional pain I came to know as 'my life.'

"Satan kept urging me to go ahead and take the pills. At the moment of reaching rock bottom, I remember Jesus saying to me, 'Put down the pills. Follow me and I promise you something better.' I prayed at the Cross and decided not to end my life, but to follow Jesus and hold on to the promise of 'something better.' Life didn't change overnight. There were still many trials before me, but Jesus believed I had value and He truly did love me." In the midst of their trials, God led them to a church. "We felt drawn toward Celebration Recovery group," the writer continues, "We didn't know why at the time. It turned out that it was with these people that I could be myself—hurting, in pain, and feeling unworthy—I was accepted for who I am. After 45 years of depression and feeling unworthy, I have a place where I can go and be prayed for, lifted up and supported through my best and worst days. It doesn't matter if the pain is from depression, alcohol, divorce, co-dependency or even grief. There's a place where you can find peace—the heart of God, and through people who have walked your walk and can spiritually nurture you back to safety—a place where you can feel welcome and relaxed, knowing that no matter what, you are loved. My heart's desire is to share my faith journey, and encourage those who are hurting to stay focused on Christ. Maybe today will be the day that God promises you 'something better.' "

This similar life can be found in every congregation. Sometimes, when pastors look over the congregation, we see pains and sadness, many broken hearts and relationships, loss of loved ones, needs for a good paying job, crisis that came as a result of family feuds, betrayals of trusts, broken covenants between husbands and wives, and victims of physical and verbal abuse. The courageous ones are those who make the first step through the doors for help and healing. Is the Church a safe place for you? It should be! Is Christ's ministry of healing extending to you? It should be! If not, seek your place at the foot of the Cross during this Lenten Season—by Easter morning you should find grace, restoration, healing and hope for your pilgrim journey in Christ. Again, as the Lenten season continues, it is my prayer that you will let God get a hold of you, shower you with mercy and grace from the Cross of Calvary. Come, to the Cross of Christ for healing, wholeness, and peace.

And beloved, I pray that all will go well with you and that you may be in good health, and that your soul will find peace in the Risen Lord. Amen.
Blessed Easter! ~~Pastor Dominic Tommy

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays	04/27 Peg Faulkner
04/01 John Jackson	04/29 Warren Courtney
04/02 Christy McDonald	04/30 Marti Lind
04/03 Julie Klynstra	
04/10 Aaron Reiser	Anniversaries
04/14 Rachel Cobb	04/19 Allen & Kathy Decker—44 years
04/19 Rita Bigelow	04/21 Bob & Char Kendregan—35 years
04/20 Michael Helmick	04/21 Bob & Karen Avery—57 years
04/25 John Gentner	04/25 Tom & Shelly Reiser—27 years
	04/29 Brandon & Jackie Spagnuolo—2 years

UPCOMING EVENTS

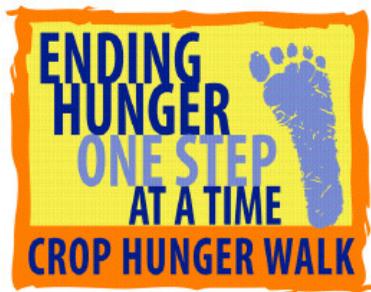
- A.A. OPEN MEETINGS**
Mondays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – 7 pm
- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION**
Tuesday, April 2—2:00 pm (Volunteers at 1:30.)
- RESPITE GROUP**
Thursdays, April 4 & 18—1 to 4 pm
- BLOOD DRIVE**
Monday, April 8—12 to 5:45 pm
- FRIENDSHIP GROUP**
Fridays, April 12 & 26—1 pm
- PALM SUNDAY SERVICE—April 14**

- HOLY THURSDAY—April 18**
Seder Meal—6 pm (sign up in Fellowship Hall)
Holy Sacrament—7 pm
- LAKEO EASTER EGG HUNT**—at the Park
Saturday, April 20—10 to 12
- EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE—April 21**
- COMMITTEE/OTHER MEETINGS:**
Board of Trustees—Tues., April 2, 7 pm
Missions Committee—Mon., April 8, 8:30 am
Finance Committee—Mon., April 15, 6 pm
Staff-Parish Relations —Mon., April 22, 6 pm

CROP WALK IS SUNDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 28

Join us in a community-wide event to raise money to combat hunger locally and around the world! One-fourth of the funds raised locally support the mission of the Lakewood Community Council.

Sign Up, Collect Donations and Walk with church families from the area. Whether you walk the full 2-mile course, some of it, or even none of it as a "spirit-walker", we'd love to have you join us. Forms will be available every Sunday until the Walk day. You can also join our Central UMC on-line team and ask for support from your on-line friends!



We would like to thank the following donors who contributed to the Philip Shetterly Memorial Fund:

Phylis Armstrong, Bob & Karen Avery, Tony & Kay Barcroft, Rita Bigelow, George Carpenter, Lloyd & Bev Corston, Ron & Christine Cunningham, Virginia Decker, Ray & Mary Dykhouse, Elaine Garlock, Carolyn Jackson, Delos Johnson, Jane Lawther, Bonnie Leak, Fran Morris, Dick & Julie Nelson, Pat Wilson, and those who donated anonymously.

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Dennis Goodmoot	Dale Mossburg
Family of Robert Reed	Bette Makley
Family of Steve Leonard	Todd
Family of James Morse	David Lackey
Family of Mollie Evans	Ed Reiser
Family of Mike Scott	Elaine Garlock
Family of Freeman Bever	Joanne and Ray McDaniels
Family of Danial J. McRoberts	Jodi
	George Carpenter



Let's Go Camping!

The Michigan Area United Methodist Camping is taking summer reservations for kids of all ages. Camping is available at these campgrounds: *Camp Kinawind, Boyne Falls; Crystal Springs Camp & Retreat Center, Dowagiac; Judson Collins Center, Onsted; Lake Huron Retreat Center, Burtchville; Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat Center, Pentwater; and Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center, Dowling.* Scholarships are available through our Education Committee! See Jane Kostanko for more information. **There is also family camping available** at Lake Michigan, Lakeview, and Myers Lake Campgrounds. More information is posted on the bulletin board upstairs outside the classrooms, or you can contact Jane for details.

They Have Returned!

Beginning on **Friday, April 12**, the **Friendship Group** will resume meeting twice a month for fun and fellowship. Some things have changed since meeting last year: Gatherings will be twice a month on **Fridays at 1:00**. Not changed is the opportunity for everyone to get together for a light meal, friendly games and good conversation. The group meets in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome, even if you have never attended before! See Betty Shetterly with questions.

The **Respite Group**, also known as Central's "Thursday Recess Gang," is scheduled to start up again beginning **Thursday, April 4**. They will meet twice a month from **1:00 to 4:00**, led by Rita Bigelow. If you know of any caregivers who would benefit from this program, please let Rita know.

State of the Church Report

Stats for February 2019

Average Attendance:	53
Operating Fund:	
Receipts	\$12,170.47
Expenses	\$13,301.85
Monthly receipts needed to maintain budget:	\$16,987.

Other Designated Giving:

Building Fund	\$ 520
General Missions	\$ 295
Heifer International	\$ 585
UMCOR	\$ 100
Missionaries	\$ 10
R.A.V.E.	\$ 51
Philip Shetterly Memorial	\$1,195

Upcoming Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Monday, April 8, 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, April 2, at 2 p.m. Volunteers are encouraged and asked to arrive by 1:30.