

LAY LEADERSHIP REPORT FOR 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON	Kim Deardorff (19)
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR	Von Goodemoot (13)
LAY MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE	John Gentner (11)
RESERVE LAY MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONF	Andrea Gentner (11)
RECORDING SECRETARY	Penny Thelen (15)
LAY LEADER	Von Goodemoot (15)
STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS CHAIRPERSON	Sharlene Goodemoot (19)
FINANCE CHAIRPERSON	Penny Thelen (14)
EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON	TBD
WORSHIP CHAIRPERSON	Kay Barcroft (11)
TREASURER	Mike McCartney (15)
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Dawn Deardorff (15)
UMW PRESIDENT	Terri Catt (18)
FELLOWSHIP & CARING CHAIRPERSON	Christine Cunningham (19)
MISSIONS CHAIRPERSON	Marian Durkee (00)
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR-no vote	Kim Stoecker (06)
TRUSTEES CHAIRPERSON	Del Kostanko (13)
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Christine Cunningham (19)
ENDOWMENT, MEMORIAL, PLANNED GIVING	Mike McCartney (08)
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE	Tom Reiser (13)
	Margie First (16)
	Dan First (16)

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central
united methodist church

November 2019



Pastoral Reflection from Pastor Dominic Tommy

Dear Central Friends and Families:

Do Justice, Practice Kindness, and Serve the Lord

Through Prophet Jeremiah, the LORD says: **"Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the alien, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place."** (Jeremiah 22:1-3) And from Apostle Paul, **"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."** (Romans 12:21)

Presently, the nations of the world are going through a crisis of identity. We hardly know who we are any more. We lost the culture of decency and respect with those whose opinion differs from us. Millennial trends of no respect to culture, histories and traditions appear to capture us unawares. These trends of defiance have waded into Churches, families and communities.

In the past years, American Churches, synagogues and other places of religious worship have been attacked and members killed by hate-filled gunmen. In the month of March three African-American churches have been burned down in Louisiana. And beyond USA, other nations went through similar moments of tragedy, for example—bombing of a Catholic church in the Philippines, and sometime ago on Easter Sunday morning, hundreds of Christians were murdered and injured in a coordinated set of bombings throughout Sri Lanka and in Egypt. In many cases, anti-Semitism was a motive.

These incidents always affect religious communities; and where the Church is dominant, they assist in picking up the taps, pray and mourn with the affected community. Central Church is not neutral when it comes to missions of ministering to the needy in our community and beyond. We **"mourn with those who mourn"** (Romans 12:15). Central Church always stands in sincere sympathy with all people who suffer violence, injury and harm, regardless of religion, race, gender, culture or ethnicity. We oppose terrorism, violence and hateful ideologies. The Gospel of love surely must triumph over evil.

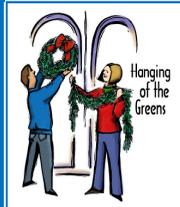
Your support for missions in prayer and financial giving through the Church enables our Missions Committee to do justice and practice kindness on your behalf. Thank you!

It is my hope and prayers that as we move into the months of November and December (months of festivities, Thanksgiving, and Christmas) that you will practice justice and kindness by giving for the work of ministries at Central.

I am proud and thankful for all of you at Central Church. Your commitment and faithfulness to the Lord and the Church is always my pastoral joy in Lake Odessa.

Grace to you, always!

Rev. Dominic Tommy



Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens will be held on **Sunday, November 24**, following worship. 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. There will be a sign-up sheet for lunch items. Even if you aren't able to help with the decorating, perhaps you could supply a lunch item. Children are welcome, too, if accompanied by their adult.

Congratulations to Elaine Garlock !!!

Elaine received the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel chapter service award on September 19th for "long and dedicated service in improving the status and welfare of older citizens" She has been a member of the Ionia chapter since 1986 and has a long list of accomplishments.

Memorial Gifts

Your gifts to Central Church become a living tribute to honor a loved one or friend.

We praise the Lord for the lasting legacy provided by all donors:

In Memory of Alan Goodemoot: \$1,428

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.

Sunday School at 9:30 am—Worship at 10:30 am
Fellowship Time follows worship

Celebrations

Birthdays	11/14 Jewel Eckstrom	11/26 Fran Morris
11/01 Mark McCrumb	11/14 Ford McDonald	11/26 Mackenzie Thelen
11/04 Carolyn Jackson	11/15 Kay Barcroft	11/27 Marilyn Noffke
11/04 Barb Bosworth	11/19 Barb Hall	11/29 Dominic Tommy
11/06 Barbara Pooley	11/21 Jane Lawther	11/29 Del Kostanko
11/10 Scot Carpenter	11/21 Cain Nelson	
11/11 Jane Everett	11/23 Art Wagner	Anniversaries
11/13 Brian Decker	11/23 Dick Winkler	11/10/1990 Joey and Jan Jackson

November Events

FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION Tues., Nov. 5—2 pm (Volunteers at 1:30.)	Committee Meetings/Events Scheduled:
ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE Tues., Nov. 5—7 pm (Hastings 1st Green Street UMC)	All Saints Sunday —Sun., Nov. 3
ADULT RESPITE Thurs., Nov. 7 and 21 —1:00 to 4:00 pm	Friendship Group —Fri., Nov. 8 and 22, 12 pm
COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE Wed., Nov. 27 - 7 pm (First Congregational Church)	Fellowship & Care Committee —Tues., Nov. 12, 6:30
	Finance Committee —Mon., Nov. 18, 6 pm
	Worship Committee —Tues., Nov. 19, 7 pm
	Hanging of the Greens —Sun., Nov. 24

November Preaching Schedule

November 3 - Holy Communion/All Saints 21st Sunday after Pentecost—White	"The Joy of the Saints" Text: Psalm 16:5-11
November 10 22nd Sunday after Pentecost--Green	"How Wisdom Brings Balanced Life" Text: (James 1:1-8)
November 17 23rd Sunday after Pentecost—Green	"Our God—Letting Go of the Past" Text: (Psalm 130:1-8)
November 24 Thanksgiving Service Christ the King Sunday—White	"Other Ingredients of Thanksgiving" Text: (Philippians 4:4-9)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS!!

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who worked or purchased items from the Rummage Sale. Without you, it would not be possible! It is amazing how God works in a week like this. We have been talking about "God Sightings"; there were so many during the week. Our total intake was \$2,199.25 to be sent to Missions. God is Good! Thanks again.

We had 6 women show up to our workbee on October 28. They made many totebags for Christmas Round the Town, a Christmas quilt top, and burp cloths. Thanks to all who showed up to support our Missions.

Upcoming Events:

Circle Meeting—Monday, November 4
Meeting in Church Lounge.
Program is World Thank Offering. Bring Blessing boxes.

No meetings in December but would always appreciate your help with our Community Christmas Baskets for a local mission project.



We had a wonderful luncheon at Circle Inn at Gun Lake.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

This year's Lakewood Community Council's Christmas Basket Program is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend, Alan Goodemoot. Providing a happier and more plentiful Christmas for those in need in our community, especially the children, was a passion for him for the last 20 years of his life. We plan to remember Alan in several ways during the process of preparing and promoting this year's project. This program is a cooperative effort of the entire community—churches, schools, clubs, and businesses, but especially churches.

This year, Central Church is asked to contribute \$10-\$12 gifts wrapped and tagged for (8) girls age 15 and (8) girls age 7. Tags can be found in Fellowship Hall on Sundays.

Boxes will be delivered on Saturday, December 7. Your help in preparation is welcome at these times:

- Wed., Dec. 4, 9 am to 2:30 pm: Sort food & pack boxes
- Thur., Dec. 5, 9 am to 2:30 pm: Pack boxes and gift bags
- Sat., Dec. 7, 9 am to 12: Deliver boxes to families

The first priority for donations is the children's gifts, then mittens (especially water-resistant), hats, socks, and money. If you still want to do more, you could provide non-perishable packaged food products, especially protein items and fruits, or toiletries. Your support of this ministry for the less fortunate in our community is very much appreciated! See Kay Barcroft for questions.

RECENT CELEBRATIONS



On October 13, Central Church celebrated Pastor Appreciation Sunday. In honor of Pastor Dominic and Comfort, a special coffee hour was held. Thanks to the committees and volunteers who helped make this possible. Pastor Dominic is retiring, effective July 1. He has combined public ministries of 45 years (22 in Nigeria and 23 in USA). He is very grateful to Central Church and many other congregations that gave him opportunities to serve Christ and His Church. During the transition from now until July, Staff-Pastor Relations Committee and Pastor Dominic will work with the Bishop, District Superintendent, and the Cabinet of the Michigan Area United Methodist Church for the appointment of a new pastor.

On Laity Sunday, we celebrated the ministry of the laity. God uses us in a variety of ways. We have greeters, ushers, musicians, sound and video techs, nursery workers, worship leaders, a children's message presenter and many others who serve God on Sunday mornings and at other times. Special recognition was given to Brandon Freidhoff, video operator, and Jonathan Freidhoff, acolyte. We also want to give a special word of appreciation to Chuck Rayner who served God as our sound tech for many years—we don't know exactly how many, but probably close to 20!



State of the Church Report

Stats for September 2019

Average Attendance:	59
Operating Fund:	
Receipts	\$11,785.55
Expenses	(\$15,778.87)
Monthly receipts needed to maintain budget:	\$16,580.00
Other Designated Giving:	
Building Fund	\$ 610
Rentals Fund	\$ 60
General Missions	\$ 210
Funeral Fund	\$ 300
Christmas Baskets	\$ 83
Endowment Fund	\$10,434
General Education Fund	\$ 58

Annual Church Conference
is scheduled for
Tuesday, November 5,
7:00 pm at
Hastings Green Street First UMC.
All church members are encouraged to attend.



28th Annual Lakewood Area Christmas 'Round the Town
Friday, November 29 - 9am-6pm
Saturday November 30 - 9am-3pm