

# Trustee Update



The Trustees are happy to report that much progress has been made this year on maintaining our beautiful church. After a fun and successful Chicken BBQ in July, in which almost \$1,000 was made, we were finally able to get some much needed sidewalk repairs done.

We also:

- \* Replaced the balcony projector with a flat screen TV
- \* Fixed the speaker in the nursery
- \* Sealed the concrete church steps
- \* Installed a new water heater
- \* Had a thorough cleaning of the chimney done (it was blocked with dead birds and nests!) and then had a bird grate installed at the top to prevent further bird damage. Architectural Metals Inc. donated the work for the chimney, an almost \$2k value!
- \* Had several roof leaks repaired, including in the bell tower.

Please thank your trustees for their support of maintaining our church. Your trustees are Del Kostanko, Mike McCartney, Char Kendregan, Ray McDaniels, Dodie Denman, Mark Corston, Jane Everett, Kim Deardorff, and Dawn Deardorff. ~~Del Kostanko, Trustee Chair

## Notes of Interest:

- ⇒ **Church Office Hours:** The Church Office will be lightly staffed during the last 2 weeks of December. If you need assistance, please call ahead or leave a message on our answering machine. If there is a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Dominic at the parsonage (616-374-8294) or on his cell (269-941-3787).
- ⇒ **No Sunday School Classes** will be held on December 22 or December 29. Classes will resume on January 5, 2020.
- ⇒ There will be **no** newsletter published for January.

**amazon**smile

*Earn Money for Missions while you Shop!*

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](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1474903) (which has all the same sites as Amazon), place your order, and Amazon donates a portion to Central UMC at no additional cost to you and no additional effort! Thank you for supporting our Missions!

Central United Methodist Church is located in downtown Lake Odessa at 912 4th Avenue. Contact us at 616-374-8861; [info@centralchurch-lakeo.org](mailto:info@centralchurch-lakeo.org) or [pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org](mailto:pastor@centralchurch-lakeo.org). Check out our Facebook page for current activities, weekly dinner menu, and youth activities.

central  
united methodist church

December 2019



## PASTORAL REFLECTION

Dear Central Friends:

### Christmas Blues—Tips to Manage Stressful Life

As the holiday season is approaching, I thought I would share this article with you from [Wespath Dimension Bulletin on Health](#). As Christians, the way we handle our day to day life can make a difference, let it be your inspiration!

“While it’s not possible or even desirable to eliminate stress completely, it is useful to learn ways to manage it.

#### Resiliency:

- Focus energy on those things you can change.
- **Think positive**—we often have no control over unpleasant events, but we can change the way we think about these events. Avoid the following traps: — Catastrophizing (“I don’t know how I’ll ever get over this!”) — Generalizing (“My dog doesn’t like me, therefore no one will.”) — Projecting (“I’m sure this isn’t going to work out.”)
- Put things in **perspective**.

#### Mindfulness:

- **Practice rest and relaxation**—take six deep breaths. Breathe slowly and deeply in through your nose and out through your mouth. Visualize yourself at your favorite place. Use prayer breaths to help you relax. Use your days off to rest and do things for yourself. Use a calendar to keep track of deadlines and appointments.”

(from—WESPATH, a general agency of The United Methodist Church.)

#### Worship Service Vote

Last month, surveys to determine a year-round (permanent) time for Worship Service at Central was taken during two worship services and via emails. I regret to announce that the Worship Committee did not have consensus of going forward on the change. Thank you for participating!

**Celebrating the Birth of Christ?** –Give special offering for the ministries of Central Church through the envelope in this newsletter.

**“After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”** (Matthew 2:7-12)

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas moment. ~~Pastor Dominic Tommy

**CELEBRATIONS**

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Birthdays</b>       | 12/29 Lynsey Zona      |
| 12/02 Phylis Armstrong | 12/30 George Covington |
| 12/04 Karl Klynstra    | 12/30 Carole Reiser    |
| 12/04 Randy Freidhoff  |                        |
| 12/05 Jane Shetterly   |                        |
| 12/05 Shane McNeill    |                        |
| 12/10 Cole Zona        |                        |
| 12/10 Case Zona        |                        |
| 12/22 Patsy Cole       |                        |
| 12/25 Andrea Gentner   |                        |
| 12/26 Bob Kendregan    |                        |
| 12/28 Mary Dykhouse    |                        |

**Anniversaries**

|            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 12/11/1982 | Dan & Margie First         |
| 12/13/1969 | John & Andrea Gentner      |
| 12/15/1991 | Jan & Jane Everett         |
| 12/16/1982 | Ron & Eva Atwell           |
| 12/18/1982 | Ron & Christine Cunningham |
| 12/20/1964 | Wes & Kaye Friend          |
| 12/24/1950 | Ray & Joanne McDaniels     |
| 12/27/1975 | Gordon & Ruth Bylsma       |

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
Tuesday, Dec. 3—2:00 pm (Volunteers at 1:30.)

**BLOOD DRIVE—Fellowship Hall**  
Monday, Dec. 16—Noon to 5:45 pm

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE—Sanctuary**  
Tuesday, Dec. 24—7 pm

**COMMITTEE/OTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED:**

- Respite Group**—Thur., Dec. 12 and 19
- Friendship Group** - Wed., Dec. 13
- Missions Committee** - Mon., Dec. 16, 9 am
- Finance Committee** - Mon., Dec. 16, 6 pm

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, an all-Sunday School Christmas Play will be performed during worship. If anyone wants to participate, as actors or helpers, contact Jane Kostanko. Practices are being held during Sunday School hour from now until the 15th.

**NEWS OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**



The United Methodist Women held our World Thank Offering meeting on November 4. The objective was to learn how the collective power of the World Thank Offering is a beacon of light that reveals God's goodness in dark places. We took in \$163.08. Thank you, Ladies.

We were very blessed this year and were able to give to the following: Solar ovens \$150; Community House \$300; P.E.T. \$200; Central Church operating fund \$500; Lakewood Area Benevolence Fund \$300; Habitat for Humanity \$100; UMCOR \$100; and \$300 to Christmas Baskets in honor of Alan Goodemoot.

We will be hosting booths at the Christmas 'Round the Town. Please stop by and support us.

There is no meeting in January. **Monday, February 10, 2020**, will be the next General Meeting in the church's lounge. Program books for 2020 will be available in January.

Have a blessed holiday, and thank you for your support this past year.  
~~Terri Catt, President

CHRISTMAS EVE  
**CANDLELIGHT**  
SERVICE

**Monday, December 24**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Join us for a very special evening of prayer, praise, and music concluded with the lighting of candles.**

**Invite your family and friends to this beautiful service of story and song.**

**Prayers of Condolence**

|                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Family of Lloyd Corston        | Family of Rick Andreau      |
| Family of Dale Mossburg        | Family of Jerry Seese       |
| Family of John Gentner's niece | Family of Josephine Salazar |
| Family of Robert Cobb, III     |                             |



**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BASKETS**

Central Church will host the Lakewood Community Council Christmas Basket Program for low-income families in our community. Boxes of food, meat/dairy certificates, gifts, and hats/socks/mittens for children will be delivered on **Saturday, December 7**.

Our church has been asked to contribute \$10-\$12 wrapped gifts for girls ages 7 and 15. Please wrap & tag your gifts with appropriate age. Gift tags are available in Fellowship Hall. Your financial gifts, time & prayers are also needed.

Donations of gifts, hats, warm gloves/mittens, and socks can be left in the Fellowship Hall any time before December 4. Financial contributions can be marked "Christmas Baskets" in the Missions section of your offering envelope or a separate envelope. Kay Barcroft can answer any questions you may have.

We will be happy to find a job for you at any of these times:

- \* **Tuesday**, Dec. 3, 7 pm to 9 pm
- \* **Wednesday**, Dec. 4, 9 am to 2:30 pm - Sort food & pack boxes
- \* **Thursday**, Dec. 5, 9 am to 2:30 pm - Pack boxes & gift bags
- \* **Saturday**, Dec. 7, 9 am to noon - Delivery

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.

**RECENT EVENTS**



Central Church celebrated All Saints Sunday on November 3rd. Six of our saints were honored that day: Philip Shetterly, Fred "Sonny" Shuert, Leah Abbott, Ada Dennie, Alan Goodemoot, and Ed Reiser.



**THANK YOU**

The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who filled Samaritan Purse Christmas Boxes, and for those that bought bulk items. We filled 27 boxes and had donations of many bulk items. When the boxes were taken to the collection site, it was estimated that with all of the miscellaneous items, we probably filled 100 boxes! This will make many little boys and girls very happy. Thanks again.. ~~Dodie Denman, Coordinator

**State of the Church Report**

**Stats for October 2019**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Average Attendance:                         | 66                |
| Operating Fund:                             |                   |
| Receipts                                    | <b>\$11,234</b>   |
| Expenses                                    | <b>(\$18,218)</b> |
| Monthly receipts needed to maintain budget: | \$16,580.         |
| <b>Other Designated Giving:</b>             |                   |
| Building Fund                               | \$ 515            |
| General Missions                            | \$ 160            |
| Missionary Delbert Groves                   | \$ 30             |
| World Communion Sunday                      | \$ 52             |
| General Education Fund                      | \$ 66             |

**Upcoming Blood Drive**

**Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Monday, December 16, 12 to 5:45 pm**



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

**Poinsettias on Sale**



Orders for memorial poinsettias are being taken until **Sunday, December 8**.

The cost is \$16 each. See your church bulletin or contact the church office if you are interested. They will be on display in the sanctuary through Christmas Eve.