

## A HELPING HAND

You may not be familiar with Central Church's Helping Hand Fund. We often speak about the Operating Fund because it is the most central to enable our ministry as a church, providing for the day-to-day operation of our congregation and the ability to serve God. But we also have designated funds (all the other funds) comprised of money given by church families for a particular purpose.

The Helping Hand Fund is a designated fund; dollars are given to assist individuals with immediate needs. It is intended to be available to persons in a financial crisis. It has been used to pay medical bills, rent, utilities, car repairs, and the like. Our church uses the Helping Hand Fund to support only individuals and families connected to our Central Church family.

The fund is dispersed at the discretion of the Pastor and overseen by the Missions Committee. The requests are intended to address a specific need and are handled in a confidential manner for the person or family receiving the gift.

The Helping Hand fund is only sustained by donations from you. There is no budget; there is no fundraising. You are probably aware of individuals within our church who could use a helping hand, especially in these trying times. Some are too proud to ask or accept help, but we would like to continue having funds available for when the need or request arises.

We ask that you prayerfully consider giving to the Helping Hand Fund, whether consistently or on occasion. All gifts are welcomed and truly appreciated.

### Recent 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 Helen Miller: \$45

In Memory of Earl Decker: \$25

Central United Methodist Church

## Annual Chicken Bar-B-Q



Unfortunately, this year's  
BBQ has been postponed!

central  
united methodist church

June 2020



### Pastoral Reflection from Pastor Dominic Tommy

Dear Central Friends and Families,

#### PASTORAL FAREWELL NOTES!

The next Pastoral Reflection to be read will be that from Dr. Rev. Vaughn Thurston-Cox. Vaughn is appointed to Central Church as your new pastor. Officially, Rev. Thurston-Cox will take up his duties on July 1, 2020. My pastoral presence at Central will remain until June 14th. Thereafter, Comfort and I shall be taking vacation for two weeks. Any need for a pastoral presence, or in any emergency during "moving weeks" of June 1 through 14, you can still reach me at **(269) 941-3787**.

Speaking of moving, Comfort and I will be moving out of the parsonage beginning June 1. Sunday, June 14, would have been my final worship service day at Central Church, but that is not going to happen. (Please read the recent update on re-opening the Church on the next page). The Administrative Board of Central Church plans to gather in mid-June to assess the situation with the input of Pastor Vaughn.

Are you guessing where we are moving to? We are moving to our retirement home which is: **2840 Riley Ridge Road, Holland MI 49424.**

My e-mail address will cease to be the address for the pastor on the **30th of June**. The cell phone number, given above, will also cease as an official contact phone for pastoral emergencies. Rev. Thurston-Cox will have a new e-mail address and phone number for you on July 1st.

As we transition into a different milestone of life, Comfort and myself are appreciative of your support, fellowship, and love extended to us during our pastoral residency in Lake Odessa. The past three months at Central Church have been very tough for us as we experienced isolation and uncertainties in the midst of Covid-19. Your faithfulness to Christ and Central Church has brought comfort and hope to us and the Church. We wish we could make up for the loss of all the face-to-face contact with parishioners during this time--very unusual for many pastors, including myself, to end ministry in this way. I hope you understand.

Finally, and this is the sad part—bidding "Farewell" without seeing you. May all be well with you and your loved ones. And, I am inviting you to join me in praying for the global Church of Jesus Christ. Pray for Central Church in her continual work of ministries within the LakeO community and beyond; and your office Administrative Secretary, Kim Stoecker, as she goes through the changes of welcoming a new pastoral leader. You all know what a great part of the office team Kim has been over these many years! Central Church is blessed having her in the office. I believe that you will continue to appreciate her kindness and knowledge to keep all of us on track.

With the United Methodist Church—being a connectional church—I am not going to say good-bye. We shall be seeing one another again! If not here, we'll see you in the New Jerusalem. Till then...

Shalom!

~~Pastor Dominic Tommy

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.

