

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO MY LAKEO FAMILY

Dear Central Members and Friends:

With deep gratitude, Comfort and I thank you for your recent celebration of my Retirement. The drive-thru parade was very COOL! It was a joy seeing all the faces coming out—a very emotional moment for us. We really missed all of you. Thank you for showers of cards, balloons and monetary gift. We are deeply grateful for your love, support and forgiveness.

In addition, you will soon be welcoming your new pastor, Rev. Dr. Vaughn Thurston-Cox and I am confident that you all will pass the love and support shown to me to Pastor Vaughn and his family. Please do!

We have been amazed at how God, through the Central Church family, has blessed us. Every name and face will be remembered. It was an opportunity to serve and shepherd you. Thank you for all you've done.

On a sad note, our loss of Phylis Armstrong on my last week was very sorrowful to us. My thoughts and prayers for everyone as we remember her love and support to our church and her commitment to the Lord. Phylis is home with the Lord now! May her soul rest in perfect peace!!

Above all, pray for us. If you happen to be in Holland, MI, give us a call and stop by when possible; we'd love to have you! Again, we appreciate you, and may the Lord bless and keep you safe.

~~Pastor Dominic (Comfort) Tommy



This year, \$3,160 was raised for the 2020 CROP Walk. While this is far short of the \$9,684 raised last year, the CROP Committee is grateful for the faithful givers who were able to support us. A fall walk might be considered, depending on the social and medical conditions. Donations can still be made at www.crophungerwalk.org (search for 48849 or Lake Odessa..

Recent Gifts

We would like to thank a generous donor for their June gift to the Helping Hands Fund: **\$500**

Central United Methodist Church

Annual Chicken Bar-B-Q



Unfortunately, this year's BBQ has been postponed!

central
united methodist church

July 2020



Pastoral Reflection from Pastor Vaughn

Good morning, Church! This article will probably be longer than most I'll write for you, but we find ourselves moving through several transitions all at once. Both you and I are letting go of someone we grew to love in order to get to know someone we didn't know before. We are still passing through this period of pandemic, which has claimed 122,000 Americans in just four months, and will continue to claim lives until a vaccine is made available to the public. A frame of reference might be the flu, which typically claims approximately 36,000 people in a year. I am confident in the midst of both of these things that God is not only present but that his mercy renews itself with each and every dawn.

I want to start by saying just how excited I am to get to know you and be in ministry with you. I felt very good after my introduction to the SPRC and have heard wonderful things about you from people who have worshipped with you in the past. I am eager to see how the Spirit leads us to serve Lake Odessa together.

A little about myself. Despite coming from West Michigan, I am a third generation United Methodist. I explain to my more Reformed friends it was predestined to be this way. After graduating from Zeeland High and completing my undergraduate degree at Grand Valley, I went to Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, where I met the woman who'd become my wife. We both lived in Michigan and carpooled back and forth. That gave us a lot of time to get to know one another.

Pastor Hillary graduated with a degree in Christian Education in 2002. I returned to Michigan with her and completed my Master of Divinity online. We married in 2003. Choosing her is the single best decision I ever made. We pastored several churches across Northern Michigan before our daughter Grace was born in 2014. You will get to know quite a bit about Grace, and just how she came into our lives. She started young fives at Wacousta Elementary last year, right across the street from Wacousta Community UMC, where Pastor Hillary works. Grace loves the park at Lake Odessa and Dairy Queen.

It is my hope to join you in ministry. The ministry of Jesus Christ doesn't belong to me. As your pastor I am eager to help you discern where God is calling us to be in ministry with him together. This transition probably won't look like others in the past, but I will still be meeting with people and listening to their stories.

(PLEASE SEE INSERT FOR CONTINUATION)

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 look us up on our Facebook page: Central United Methodist Church - Lake Odessa.

Re-gathering for Worship



As Pastor Vaughn has mentioned in his article, worship service will look very different than the last time everyone attended months ago. We wanted to reiterate the specifics to help prepare you for the changes. Rest assured that signs will be posted and greeters and ushers will help you navigate. Above all, *please do not feel pressured to attend in-person services, especially for those at-risk. We completely understand if you are not comfortable joining us at this time.* If you are able, live streaming of the service will be available through our Facebook page: **Central United Methodist Church - Lake Odessa.**

- ◆ Doors will be posted for entry or exit.
- ◆ Masks will be required. Sanitizer will be available.
- ◆ 6 feet social distancing between family groups will be requested.
- ◆ Prayer requests will be dropped off in Fellowship Hall, along with tithes and offerings.
- ◆ Please ride the elevator with family members only, or one at a time.
- ◆ We will be seating you in every other pew.
- ◆ Ushers will help you find a seat, and will also dismiss you by rows following service. Please exit the building as quickly and safely as possible. There will be no coffee hour.
- ◆ There will be no bulletins, no nursery, no singing, and no communion.
- ◆ We have posted our cleaning and sanitizing practices. Weather permitting, windows in the sanctuary will be open to provide for good ventilation.
- ◆ *Last, but not least, if you are experiencing signs of Covid-19, or may have been exposed to someone who has, or have traveled outside the U.S. recently, please love your neighbor by staying home and worshipping online.*

Celebrations

- Birthdays**
- 07/01 Sidney Klynstra
 - 07/04 Wes Friend
 - 07/05 Tina Walker
 - 07/11 Virginia Rayner
 - 07/11 Von Goodemoot
 - 07/18 Tom Reiser
 - 07/21 Allison Thelen
 - 07/22 Kaye Friend
 - 07/27 Judy Freidhoff
 - 07/28 Christina Jackson

- Anniversaries**
- 07/29/1978 Dominic & Comfort Tommy
- DRIVE-BY FAREWELL!!**
- On Sunday, June 14th, members of Central Church paraded through the parking lot in their vehicles, saying good-bye and best wishes to Pastor Dominic and Comfort during his retirement.



July Events

- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION**
Tuesday, July 7—2:00 pm (see related notice)
- UMW CIRCLE MEETING**
Monday, July 13—**CANCELLED**

- Committee/Other Meetings Scheduled:**
- Worship Committee**—Tuesday, July 7, 7 pm
 - Fellowship & Caring**—Tuesday, July 14, 6:30 pm
 - Finance**—Monday, July 20, 6 pm
 - Education**—Tuesday, July 28, 7 pm

PRAYERS OF CONDOLENCE

Family of George Speas;
Family of Keith Hicks:
*Cards of condolence may be sent to Kathy Hicks:
14823 Willowbrook Drive
Lake Odessa 48849*



REMEMBERING PHYLIS ARMSTRONG by Tom Armstrong



Phylis Armstrong passed away at her home the evening of June 23. She experienced a series of strokes starting about 10 days before that. The first stroke appeared to be minor. We thought that she would be able to continue to live at home with some minor assistance. She apparently had additional strokes and her condition advanced rapidly over the weekend. This picture of her in her beloved garden was taken two weeks ago. She was still supervising the distribution of mulch and the trimming bushes. Hospice took over

her care on June 20 just before she participated in an online birthday party for her great-granddaughter Maggie who turned one-year-old. Up until the time of her stroke, her only real health problem was her hearing and chronic back pain -- perhaps the back pain was from all of the cows that she bent over to milk and all hay bales she lifted on the farm. She improvised a walking stick from an old rack handle that she used to get around the yard quite well. I'm sure that she wore out the rack from extensive use in her many gardens.

As per her wishes, she will be cremated and her ashes will be placed with those of Ted Armstrong at the cemetery in Lake Odessa. They will be in the company of many old friends, neighbors, farmers, merchants, and church members of her era. She is very grateful for all of the support from her church family. A memorial service will be conducted at the Central Methodist Church in Lake Odessa when conditions permit.

*Cards of condolence may be directed to Tom Armstrong at
3333 Yellowstone Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105*

 As you probably know, last month the family of Jan and Joey Jackson suffered the devastating loss of their home and most belongings during a fire. Fortunately, family and pets were not harmed. Anyone interested in helping may send gift cards or contact Jan through Marian Durkee at 3425 W. Durkee Road, Lake Odessa, 48849.

State of the Church Report

Finances for May 2020

Operating Fund:	
Receipts	\$14,907.17
Expenses	(\$ 8,369.23)

Designated Giving:

Building Fund	\$	420
General Missions	\$	70
Helping Hands	\$	405
Missionary Delbert Groves	\$	25

Change of Address



**for
Delos
Johnson**

Delos Johnson has moved to:
Cornerstone Living Center
2900 Kellems Drive
Hastings, MI 49058



**Fresh Food Distribution
Tuesday, July 7, at 2 p.m.**

DRIVE-THRU ONLY

**At this time only Cargill
volunteers are allowed to
hand out food.**