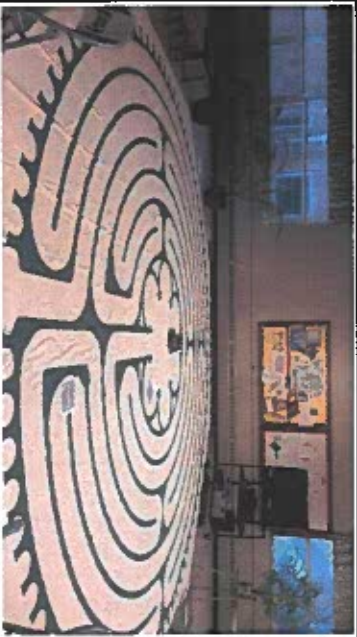


Ash Wednesday Prayer Walk



Many comments were received acclaiming what an 'awesome' and 'wonderful' experience it was.

Special thanks to Kay Barcroft and the Worship Committee for their many hours of preparation.

In spite of the freezing cold and knee-high snowbanks, many of our members braved the elements and were able to experience the prayer walk on Ash Wednesday and for a few days following.



Important Reminders:

- ⇒ Daylight Savings Time begins March 14. Please remember to 'spring forward' before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13.
- ⇒ Even though in-person Worship Services and Sunday School classes have resumed, worship services will continue to be posted on-line using facebook: Central United Methodist Church—Lake Odessa. A Facebook account is *not* needed to view our page or the services.
- ⇒ Church Office Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8am to noon. If there is a pastoral emergency, please call Rev. Vaughn on his cell (231-250-3924). After-hour prayer requests should be placed with Marian Durkee (616-890-1197).

Central United Methodist Church is located in downtown Lake Odessa at 912 4th Avenue.

Contact us at 616-374-8861 or kim@centralchurch-lakeo.org.

Check out our Facebook page for weekly sermons, current activities, and other events.

Central United Methodist Church—Lake Odessa

central
united methodist church

March 2021



PASTORAL REFLECTION

Dear Friends:

I have just come from officiating Joyce Steele's celebration of life service and am reminded of the opportunity each of us has to be the light in dark places, as Joyce was for so many. Matthew records the Sermon on the Mount as Jesus' first public teaching. The crowd there isn't Palestine's top forty under forty or Jerusalem's people to know. They are the anonymous. They are the people whose names history forgets. The people Jesus loves. And he tells them, "You are the light of the world." The ordinary people whose lives the world cares nothing for, they are the light of the world. And so are we.

We carry that light in us, and God gives us the chance to share the warmth and light of that fire with others. I'm grateful to Joyce for reminding me of that today.

I know not everyone got to walk the labyrinth before it was taken down, but the other three stations remain up and are located in the sanctuary. Feedback has been positive, so I invite you to take time Monday through Thursday between 8:00 and 12:00 to come by if you can. You are also welcome after services on Sunday.

This Lenten season we are journeying through the Way of Love, eight practices for the Christ-like life: Turning, learning, praying, blessing, resting, going, and worshipping. I am enjoying preparing these messages and offering them. You can take home a trifold with reflection questions about each discipline. Watch our Facebook page for short videos on each practice (You DO NOT need a Facebook account to access those!) And take a minute to add your name to our Way of Love bulletin board. Thank you to our Worship Committee for the work they did to make this a special Lent.

This March, the Fellowship & Care Committee will be preparing boxes for our college students. If you have a college student you think would benefit by receiving one, please give their name to Christine Cunningham or me with any pertinent information (i.e. allergic to peanuts). In the same vein, if you know a shut-in who would like to receive this newsletter or our weekly worship packet, please send that name to our church office with their contact information.

I have set aside two Sundays in June to speak to questions you might have about the Bible or life with God. If you have a question you have always wondered about, please send them to me at dr.thurstoncox@gmail.com. I will let you know if yours is selected and when I will preach on that topic. How often do you get the chance to do that?

In the meanwhile, know you are blessed, and I am blessed by you.

~~~Pastor Vaughn

**CELEBRATIONS**

|                        |                                         |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Birthdays</b>       |                                         |
| 03/01 Earl Strater     | 03/16 Charlie Reiser                    |
| 03/02 Terri Catt       | 03/17 Lorraine McMullen                 |
| 03/03 Bev Corston      | 03/19 Lily Kostanko                     |
| 03/03 Ian Shears       | 03/25 Harold Dennie                     |
| 03/04 Ray Dykhrouse    | 03/25 Jeanna Gibbs                      |
| 03/08 Randy Klein      | 03/27 Eunice Goodemoot                  |
| 03/10 Claire Freidhoff | <b>Anniversaries</b>                    |
| 03/12 Pam Shears       | 03/06 Bill & Jewel Eckstrom—66 years    |
| 03/14 Tony Barcroft    | 03/30 Von & Sharlene Goodemoot—30 years |

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION**  
Tuesday, Mar. 2—2:00 pm (*Drive-thru process*)
- DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**  
Sunday, Mar. 14
- PALM SUNDAY**  
Sunday, Mar. 28
- COMMITTEE/OTHER MEETINGS:**  
Fellowship & Care Committee - Tues., Mar. 2 (TBD)  
UMW Unit Meeting—*Cancelled*  
Worship Committee—Tues., Mar. 9 (TBD)  
Staff-Parish Relations—Tues., Mar. 16 (TBD)  
Finance Committee - Tues., Mar. 16 (TBD)  
Administrative Council—Tues., March 23 (TBD)

**LENTEN MATERIALS AVAILABLE**

Numerous publications and devotionals for Lent are still available to pick up in fellowship hall. Copies of Barb Wareing's "40 Stories of Living Life" are also available, as well as "The Way of Love" tri-folds to help you during the Lenten sermon series. We have also just received March issues of *Our Daily Bread* and *The Upper Room*.



**World Day of Prayer  
Friday, March 5th**

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions. We hope that you will take the opportunity to meditate and pray in spirit with women around the world.



Change of  
Address

Mackenzie Thelen  
4335 Maricopa Drive, 14-B  
Ames, IA 50014

**PRAYERS OF CONDOLENCE**

Family of Marge Benson  
Family of Camron Yager

Family of Joyce Steele  
Family of Doris Marini



**THANK YOU!**

The Fellowship and Caring Committee would like to thank Jane Kostanko, Dawn Dearnoff, Lori McNeil, Kay Barcroft and Jackie Spagnuolo for all their work to bake and decorate the Valentine's Day cookies! They were delicious and beautifully decorated!

Thanks, also, to Rita Bigelow for bringing the delicious paczkis from Meyers Hometown Bakery. For this unique time, it made our "Fat Sunday" a little more special.

**LAKEWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL, INC.**

Serving residents of the Lakewood Public Schools District since 1967  
February 5, 2021  
Central United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 485  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
Dear friends of Central Church,

On behalf of the Lakewood Community Council, I would like to thank you for your generous \$1,640.02 donation for the Christmas Basket program. It's support from area churches and community groups that make this program possible.

In addition to purchasing food items and other necessities, we also provide meat/dairy gift certificates to the recipient families. So your donation is most welcome!

We would extend our most sincere thanks for the use of your building again this year. We are so very grateful for the convenience of your facility and for your hospitality!

Lakewood Community Council, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

You received no goods or services in return for this gift.

Again, thank you for your generous gift, which will help us care for Lakewood families in need.

Sincerely,

*Kay Barcroft*  
Kay Barcroft  
Treasurer

where Christ is central.

State of the Finance Report

**Stats for January 2021**

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Operating Fund: | \$ 9,839.68  |
| Receipts        | \$ 12,183.91 |
| Expenses        |              |

**Other Designated Giving:**

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Building Fund          | \$ 290 |
| General Missions       | \$ 45  |
| Helping Hand Fund      | \$ 5   |
| Human Relations Sunday | \$ 11  |
| World Communion Sunday | \$ 10  |
| General Education Fund | \$ 36  |

Memorial Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies WILL BE available for purchase this Easter season. Last year, due to Covid, we were unable to offer these beautiful seasonal flowers in honor of, or in memory of, our friends and family.

More details will be forthcoming in your bulletins.



**Don't be late for church!**  
Remember to 'spring forward' before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13th.

Upcoming Blood Drive

The next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for  
**Monday, April 12**  
12 to 5:45 pm  
Safety protocols will be in place.



Fresh Food Distribution  
Tuesday, Mar. 2, at 2 p.m.  
DRIVE-THRU ONLY