

Community Support Needed

Greetings! Last fall we had the opportunity to host a 'Prayer in the Park' in Lake Odessa. Around 130 folks attended as we worshiped God in prayer, music and testimony. In appreciation of the use of the park and the crew who took care of the clean up, we offered to contact our area churches to help with the annual cleanup and maintenance of Swifty's Place. This is a great opportunity for us to join together in service to our community.

Clean-up Day at Swifty's Saturday, June 5 8am to noon

Come in your work clothes, tennis shoes are recommended (no sandals).

Items to bring if you have them: Work gloves, basic tools (hard guarded rakes and leaf rakes, shovels), battery operated sander.

Linda Swift indicated she will have chalk available for the kids and has a job for them as well. The kids are asked to go thru the structure and mark with chalk any wood splits so the crew can take care of these.

Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions, etc. Thank you for your prayers and your assistance with this event. Blessings,

Bonnie Rush (571-281-3860)

Lakewood Community Women

FRIENDSHIP GROUP RETURNS



The Friendship Group has started to meet in a small group setting, sometimes at Central and sometimes at the home of an individual. The typical schedule will be the 2nd and 4th Fridays from noon to 3 pm with lunch, worship and board games. If you are interested, please contact Betty Shetterly for location and up-to-date information (616-374-7069).

Did you know?

According to AT&T, beginning October 24, 2021, you must dial 10 digits (area code + telephone number) for all **local calls**. On and after this date, local calls dialed with only 7 digits may not be completed, and a recording will instruct you that your call cannot be completed as dialed.

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 CHURCH

Keeping Christ Central

May 2021



PASTORAL REFLECTION

This is my last article as your pastor. In eight weeks I leave with my family for life along the Lake in Pentwater. I can't complain at all about the water. Right? The brief time left us calls for transparency.

It has been my joy to serve as your shepherd. From our first meeting out in the alley to last night's Finance Committee meeting, I have witnessed the people of this church embody grace in the midst of difficulty. Whether a bit of laughter from one of our more mischievous members, a practical bit of advice from our treasurer, or a well seasoned word from our lay leader, we share grace together. Each Sunday I participate in a beautiful act of worship made possible by people who offer their time and talents without a thought. The Fellowship and Care Committee is the little committee that could, always looking for another way to make the love of God real in this place. And, of course, I am forever grateful to the teachers who make this a great place for all our children. If I have managed to do anything, I hope it's been in helping all these fires burn just a bit brighter. God is doing a wonderful thing in and through you, and I'm grateful for the time I got to spend in this season of your life. Some exciting things to take note of this May and June.

Sunday, May 2, we will begin worshiping out of doors! Bring your singing voice, because that Sunday we will worship God in song! I think my exclamation points express my excitement without saying much else. We ask you to continue to wear your mask. Chairs will be provided. You are also welcome to bring your own. That Sunday we will also celebrate Communion in the same way we have been. Thank you to Mary for providing that wonderful bread!

Sunday, May 9, we celebrate both Mother's Day and Jacob Spagnuolo's baptism. I hope you can come and offer both Jacob and his family the grace that makes Central such a special place to be.

Sunday, May 23, is Pentecost, one of my favorite Sundays in the entire Christian calendar year. Come wearing your brightest red, and we'll see if we can't get a great picture in front of the church after services. That Sunday we will also hold a blessing of the bikes, pedal and motor. The handicap parking along the street will be reserved for hogs and other such summer beasties.

Sunday, May 30, worship moves to 9:30. It also happens to be Trinity Sunday, which may be my favorite day for worship all year long. Sunday school will be suspended from this Sunday until September 12.

Sunday, June 6, is "Ask Your Pastor" Sunday. Maybe you have a question about the Bible or the spiritual life you always wanted answered. Send that question to me. If I choose your question, I will do my best. My last Sunday with you will be June 13.

You will have three Sundays before Rev. Paul arrives. June 20th Rev. DeAnn Dobbs will bring the message. She is among the very best preachers I have heard in our conference and I am excited she can be there with you. On June 27th and July 4th Rev. Eric Beck will take some time off from retirement to lead you. I think you may have heard his name before.

Rev. Paul will be moving into the parsonage some time in mid-June. The trustees have done a great job caring for it. While there isn't much to be done there before his arrival, you can fill this time with grace by friending "Paul Reissmann" on Facebook. I also encourage you to write an encouraging note. It is important to remember that this is a time of change for him too. You can send those to Rev. Paul Reissmann, c/o Wayland UMC, 200 Church Street, Wayland, MI 49348. The SPR Committee is actively working to find ways to welcome him when he and his wife, Ashleigh, arrive.

It isn't time to say good-bye. Not yet. I want to be here with you until I leave. You can help me by praying for my family, Centenary United Methodist in Pentwater, and Ludington UMC.

God bless each of you. ~~Rev. Dr. Vaughn W. Thurston-Cox

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

5/04 Brandon Spagnuolo
 Jackie Spagnuolo
 5/08 Cadance Jackson
 5/13 Helen Good
 5/13 Mark Corston

5/25 Sharlene Goodemoot
 Leona Rayner
 5/27 Jean Faulkner

Anniversaries

5/6 Randy & Judy Freidhoff—21 years
 5/16 Karl & Julie Klynstra—29 years

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION

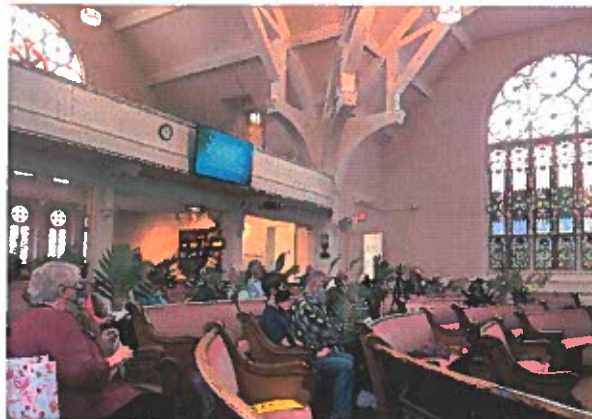
Tuesday, May 4—2:00 pm (Drive-thru process)

MOTHER'S DAY — Sunday, May 9

COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULED:

Worship Committee—Tues., May 11, 7 pm
Staff-Parish Relations - Tues., May 18, 10 am
Finance Committee - Tues., May 18, 7 pm
Administrative Council —Tues., May 25, 7 pm

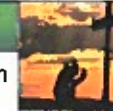
PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER CELEBRATIONS



PRAYERS OF CONDOLENCE

Family of Irene Ames

Family of Joy Wickham



FROM WORSHIP COMMITTEE

"Easter People Raise Your Voices!" Oh, how I missed singing that last year. And I might miss singing it again this year. Or maybe not. As more people get their second vaccines, the Worship Committee and Administrative Council will be reviewing our protocols to see what adjustments can be safely made. Probably not congregational singing in church just yet. I remind myself, though, that "EVERY DAY to us is Easter, with it's resurrection song." We ARE Easter People! Alleluia!

As always, the Worship Committee is grateful for all those who help make our worship services and other worship experiences meaningful. It takes a whole crew on Sunday mornings as well as a host of servants who get things ready ahead of time and prepare for special events like our Lenten stations and Holy Week activities. Thanks to all of you!

We miss our friends who are unable to be with us in person and are glad if you join us on-line. You are loved and not forgotten! We hope to be together again soon. To help with that, we will try to have our services outdoors in May when we can sing together with our masks on. So come prepared with layers and a chair. If it's too cold, wet, or windy, we'll be indoors. Special May Sundays include May 9 Mother's Day with an opportunity for personal mother stories; May 16 Ascension Sunday and Education Celebration; and a special day is Pentecost on May 23. Wear your **red!**

FROM FELLOWSHIP & CARE COMMITTEE

Last month, the Committee put together and sent out care packages to our college students—a total of 10. They included Tide packets, pens, index cards, snacks, hot chocolate, personal notes, and a devotional. Here is one of the thank-you's we received from Sebastian Beswick, Eunice Goodemoot's grandson:

"Thank you very much for the care package gift that I recently received! I was very surprised to see such a large package addressed to me arrive at my dorm room! With this college semester being the most lonely and isolating portion of my education it was comforting and heartwarming to receive such a wonderful gift. Thank you."

State of the Finance Report

Stats for March 2021

Average Attendance:	43
Operating Fund:	
Receipts	\$10,385.21
Expenses	\$18,727.73
Other Designated Giving:	
Building Fund	\$ 420
General Missions	\$ 125
Helping Hands	\$ 405
UMCOR Sunday	\$ 375
Funeral Fund	\$ 275
CROP Walk	\$ 5
TimberCreek Youth Ranch	\$ 34

Next Blood Drive

Red Cross Blood Drive
Monday, June 21
12 to 5:45 pm



Blood supplies are critically low and the need is great. The Red Cross will be following strict guidelines to provide for the safety of donors and their staff.



ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ RETURNS!

Save the date:
Friday, July 9th
Drive-thru only

Fresh Food Distribution
Tuesday, May 4, at 2 p.m.