

Founded 1850



# Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

*A monthly publication of Central United Methodist Church, Lansing, Michigan*

August 2016

**From the Pastor, Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis**

At this writing, the Conventions of the Democrats and Republicans have concluded and a bruising political fight looms ahead. The news around the world continues to shock and sadden us. Divisions in our communities leave us troubled. What are we as Christians to do about our world? More importantly, what is our response as Central UMC to the place we occupy here on the corner of Ottawa and Capitol? What does it put upon us to be "The Heart of Christ in the Heart of Lansing?" How do we think globally and act locally in response to the challenges of our days?

I think there is a seriousness to our presence here. An importance that cannot be overstated. In our discussion of our Core Values and Bed Rock Beliefs that we are honing from the many responses we received, one stated value was that we are deeply committed to our location and we are downtown for good! What does that mean? It means we are here to do good to our neighbors. We are learning more about the demographic makeup of the people who live around Central. They are singles, they are grandparents, they are struggling families, they are idealistic, they are gay, they are couples, they are families, and they are here. So to whom are we the heart of Christ? To them. The question is, how will we be the heart of Christ to them?

We will need to listen. We will need to see. The next step of our 213 Bandy Reach process is to know our neighbors better. We have already

begun this work. Our **Central Fest** invited 450 people from our neighborhood to come and enjoy themselves with us, for fun, food and friendship. Friendship. That is what offering our hearts and the heart of Christ to our neighbors looks like. Friends hear each other's stories, and share each other's joys and burdens. It means, we step out of our comfort zones in order to come along side others and walk with them, as we will for our **Lansing Gay Christian Alliance Conference** on Sept 9. It means we will see the needs of the underserved students at **Willow School** as we work to supply them with the items they need in order to help provide a quality educational experience for the children of Lansing. It means we will work to help build a scholarship for persons of color to join the ranks of our public safety corps. It means we will support the work of our **missionary in Cameroon** to bring Christ and health to a people half a world away. These are only a few of the things Central is doing to engage our world, but these are things we do in response to the news that shocks and saddens with news of our own, that lifts and gladdens.

We are, as a church, on a journey out into the world to do all the good we can, in all the ways we can, to all the people we can. That engagement is going to change us. Are we ready for that change? I think we are. Will it stretch us? Yes. Will it be uncomfortable? Probably. Will it

**Continued on page 4**

## Worship & Music Notes

**Caryn Welter**, *Director of Music and Worship*

**THE NEW *CONNECT* cards have had a great response.** As you model for guests how to proceed, you also provide vital information for the life of Central. Please keep up the good efforts.

**WELCOME, Cody Harrell!** Beginning in the Fall, this capable young man will serve as Baritone Section Leader for the Chancel Choir. A recent graduate of Michigan State University, he has accepted a full-time Journalism and English teaching position at East Lansing High School. A close friend of Brandon Smith, Mr. Harrell has frequently substituted for Brandon. He has also been part of a nationally-known, award-winning quartet with Brandon. Cody is very excited at the prospect of working with us again here at Central UMC.

**SINCERE THANKS go to all those who have attended REACH workshops at Sycamore Creek UMC.** Under the leadership of Rev. Tom Arthur, the events have been engaging and enriching, giving very specific strategies for following many of the directives that were introduced by demographer Tom Bandy during the Spring three-day event here at Central. For those who are attending the session on August 20 to learn about "Launching Systems," the book is titled Launch, by Nelson Searcy. The topic will address how we launch new services, churches, or satellites. It's not too late to sign up!

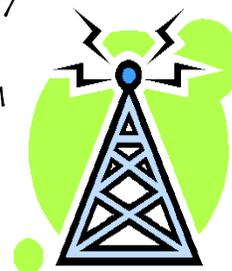
Speaking of launching new concepts, folks have asked "**What is a God Gig, anyway?**" "**Why are we doing it?**" A **God Gig** is a gathering of God's people out in the world, having a wonderful time and engaging the people around them in the love of God. Central's next God Gig will be on August 10, 6:00 p.m. at Sir Pizza in Old Town. We're doing this in order that we can listen to and observe the community by engaging with it. Come join us on August 10 and enjoy a fabulous time with all who are gathered.

**We're having an hour-long training session in September, based on Bandy recommendations,** which will help us all to be a more welcoming church. The date is Thursday, September 8, and all volunteers are asked to be in the sanctuary by 5:30 p.m. This is for ushers, greeters, liturgists, communion stewards and servers, worship assistants, and all those who participate in leading Sunday worship. Worship is our primary offering of Christ, and excellence is our objective.

**Another way to be more welcoming was demonstrated on Sunday, July 31, at 9:00 a.m. Guests and congregants were invited to the library's coffee center that is being piloted on**

Sponsor a radio broadcast  
Call 485-9477

WJIM-AM  
1240



## Church Directory

**Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis,**  
*Senior Minister*

**Rev. Bill Amundsen, Ret.,**  
*Minister of Spiritual Formation*

**Joi Tennant,** *Christian Education*

**Caryn Welter,**  
*Director, Music and Worship, Organist*

**Andrew Minear,**  
*Director, Chancel Choir*

**Brandon Smith,**  
*Director, Bell Choir*

**Anne Todey, Cody Harrell, Austin Porsht**

*Chancel Choir Section Leaders*

**Patricia Mort,**  
*Administrative Secretary*

**Alice Pifer,** *Financial Secretary*

**Stephanie Rave,** *Bookkeeper*

**Bruce Newton,** *Facility Manager*

**Edward Pea, Anthony Moran, Jeremy Brown,** *Building Attendants*

**Office Phone: (517) 485-9477**

Office Fax: (517) 485-9772

Website: [lansingcentralumc.org](http://lansingcentralumc.org)

Facebook: Lansing Central United

Methodist Church *and* Central United

Methodist Church: What's Happening

**Sunday Worship – 9:30 AM**

Fellowship Hour – 10:30 AM

Sunday School - All Ages—11:00 AM

**Radio and Television** The worship service is broadcast live at 9:30 AM on WJIM-AM (1240) radio and telecast Tuesday and Thursday at 4 PM on Lansing Comcast Cable channel 16.

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**Send copy to:**

[farmlewis@aol.com](mailto:farmlewis@aol.com)

Linda Farmer, *Editor*

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**Music and Worship Notes continued**

**Sunday mornings through August 28 by the Engaging Worship Committee. Kuerig coffeemakers were available, along with snacks. Feedback has been very positive. Come; enjoy!**

**Looking Ahead – Many experts believe that renewing churches benefit from focusing on two things: Worship and Small Groups.** If you'd like to join the small group called Chancel Choir, rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the third floor rehearsal room. If you'd like to join the small group called Spirit Singers, rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the third floor rehearsal room. If you'd like to join the small group called Central Bell Ringers, rehearsals will begin on Thursday, October 27, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**Upcoming Music Events:**

**Sunday, September 25, 4:00 p.m. – Winter Wonderland Sweet Adelines Chorus**

**Sunday, October 16, 4:00 p.m. – A Paris Chamber Music Recital**

**Friday, December 2, 6:00 p.m. – Christmas Cabaret Benefit**

**Sunday, December 11, 4:00 p.m. – Ron Di Salvio, pianist, in "The Second Twenty-Four Days of Christmas"**

**Sunday, February 12, 4:00 p.m. – Stephanie Gewirtz and Jon Gewirtz in Concert**

**Sunday, May 21, 9:30 a.m. – Celebration of Music in Worship / Spaghetti fundraiser**

**From the Video Ministry: Parishioners are asked to read this from Peter and indicate their opinions / preferences on the August 7 or August 14 CONNECT cards.**

*These ideas were presented by Peter Hudy at the last Ad Council meeting. Committee chairs were asked to query their respective groups for feedback and suggestions. The plan would then reflect the collective desires of the congregation. They were asked to report back on or about August 20 so a plan could be drafted which would be submitted to proper authorities for approval.*

*There are some technical issues with the VIDEO side of the broadcast; this gives us a good opportunity to reassess what we are doing, why we are doing it, and what we really hope to get out of the VIDEO aspect. The radio side of the broadcast ministry would not be affected at this time.*

Peter sees three options for the video side:

**Keep on publishing the complete video of the church broadcast (what we currently do).**

We do have obsolete equipment but can probably maintain this level, making repairs as needed to our out-of-date equipment.

**Focus on sermons or podcasts and highlight special musical moments.** My impression is that the targeted output videos would be more readily accepted / viewed by society-as-a-whole than would our complete services. This would offer a potentially high quality product.

**Redesign the entire video ministry from the ground up** with new equipment and enhanced staffing levels to allow multiple camera angles, projection of the children's messages, and selected music (no screens please), live streaming, etc. This redesign should consider the radio ministry, too, as well as the entire, in-house, amplification experience. Proceeding on this route implies contracting an outside organization to provide concrete recommendations.

**Again, please respond on the August 7 or August 14 CONNECT cards. Thanks very much for your input.**

**FOR YOUR CALENDARS: THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ARE SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 P.M. AND 11:00 P.M., WITH A 10:30 P.M. PRELUDE**

***Pastor's Message continued***

be worth it? Absolutely. Shall we grieve at the sidelines of the world's problems, or engage and transform the life of the world around us?

As Richard Rohr wrote in his meditation this week, "The following of Jesus is not a 'salvation scheme' or a means of creating social order (which appears to be what most folks want religion for), as much as it is a vocation to share the fate of God for the life of the world....He invited people to 'follow' him by personally bearing the mystery of human death and resurrection. Those who agree to carry and love what God loves, both the good and the bad of human history, and to pay the price for its reconciliation within themselves--these are the followers of Jesus. They are the leaven, the salt, the remnant, the mustard seed that God can use to transform the world."

We, who bear the marks of baptism, are leaven, salt and seed; we are the people who will "carry and love what God loves," and God has placed us here to love the people around us to transform the life of the world.

**Upcoming Reaches Out Into the Lansing Community**

**August 6, Block Party**

The renowned Sea Cruisers will join Central for our Block Party Festival Saturday from 2-6p.m. in the Ottawa parking lot. We have invited 450 people to come! Wow. There will be Brat Burgers, Ice Crème, games for kids, face painting and a wonderful opportunity to greet our neighbors. Don't miss this wonderful summer celebration!

**God Gig, August 10**, 6:00 at Old Town Sir Pizza. Come order what you want and enjoy the open mic and the fellowship of our friends and the people of Old Town!

**God Gig Two: Another option!** Sunday August 14 at 12:15 after Worship and Sunday School at The World Buffett, on West Saginaw. We have a room reserved. The cost is \$8.99 plus extra beverage beyond tea and coffee, and it includes a wide array of wonderful food. Continue the fellowship!

**Save the date**

**Friday Evening September 9, Central will host the Lansing Gay Christian Alliance Conference in Central's Wesley Hall.** A catered dinner will be offered for donation beginning at 6:30p.m. and there will be an array of speakers telling their stories about being Christian and gay and the challenges that has presented. This event is for all people, gay or straight, who would like to support gay Christian people in their walk with Christ. The Name of the event is "**Living into the image of God: Building safe bridges into wholeness.**" The Lansing Gay Christian Alliance is sponsored by clergy and laity of Central UMC, First Presbyterian, Christ Community, St. Paul's Episcopal, Space for Grace. If you are planning to attend, please let our church office know or sign up at the desk.

## *Missions* Cathy Amundsen, *Chair*

REMEMBER We are collecting school supplies for Willow School. WATCH FOR THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALES. You will find a bookshelf in the Library where you can drop off your contributions.

The teachers' WISH LIST:

Copy paper

Pencils

Construction paper

Hand sanitizer

Tissues

At our last Mission Commission meeting we talked about the JOY and ANTICIPATION of a child on the first day of school with the promise of a new outfit. That led to the idea of getting gift cards for Willow School to help students with new uniforms for the start of the school year. The Willow School staff and volunteers tell us of the positive changes in the atmosphere and behavior of the school since the students started wearing school uniforms. However, it is not always easy for families to provide uniforms. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of a student uniform you may buy a JCPenney or Sears gift card. Bring them to the library on Sunday morning through August 21. There will be a sample uniform for your viewing. Since the school staff will be purchasing the uniforms, Mr. Rollins has offered to provide receipts for the cards used. These and the school supplies will be dedicated on August 28th.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR gifts to the Noisy Sunday offering. The total was \$2,451.10. WAY TO GO CENTRAL.

## *Trustees*

**Larry Beckon**, *Chair, Board of Trustees*

*The Trustees column will resume next month with many updates on the work being done around the church.*

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### Among Friends

Janet Stinson ~ home  
Bryan Halter ~ home  
Ravena McLaughlin ~ home

Under hospice care ~ Beverly Boudreau, Maria Inez Garcia, Bob Myers

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### Transitions

**Naomi Gibbs** died July 10. Her service was held July 19.

**Cyril Bartley** died July 14. His service was held July 20.

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*Visiting pastor Rev. Ed Ross on Sunday, July 31, and his "very old baby, Devora," teaching the children that Jesus loves them.*

UMW

Submitted by **Pat Mort**

Judy Grove Circle meets again September 12. If you'd like information on our next meeting please contact Pat Mort at 485-9477 (days). Thank you.

If you are interested in forming a day circle please contact Pat Mort at 485-9477 (days).

## August

### 2 Tuesday

6pm Finance

### 6 Saturday

2pm Central Fest Block Party

### 7 Sunday

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

### 8 Monday

12:30pm Staff ~ off site

### 10 Wednesday

6pm God Gig at Sir Pizza in Old Town

### 11 Thursday

6pm Trustees

### 14 Sunday

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour  
12:15 God gig at World Buffet Restaurant

### 15 Monday

10am Staff

### 16 Tuesday – 19 Friday

*Fellowship Hall closed for floor refinishing*

### 21 Sunday

*Monthly In-gathering for  
South Lansing Food Bank*  
9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour  
12pm Engaging Worship

### 23 Tuesday

6pm Finance

### 28 Sunday

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

### 30 Tuesday

7pm Administrative Council

## September

### 4 Sunday

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

### 5 Monday ~ Closed

### 8 Thursday

5:30am Worship Training Event  
6:30am Spirit Singers First Rehearsal  
7:30am Chancel Choir First Rehearsal

### 11 Sunday

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour  
11 Rally Day Pot Luck

August 2016						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30	31			

The Central Journal is published monthly by Central United Methodist Church, 215 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933. The September issue deadline is August 22. Please submit your article to the editor at farmlew-is@aol.com by that date. Thank you.



*The Heart of Christ in the Heart of Lansing*

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215 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933  
(517)485-9477



"That is a good book which is opened with expectation, and closed with delight and profit." from (Amos) Bronson Alcott, teacher and author (1799-1888)

"Books had instant replay long before televised sports." from Bern Williams

I have been collecting quotations and books for a long time. Some of the items on my "Things to Do When I Retire" list included write more letters, travel, and read the books that are on the "Books To Read" list. I have made some progress on these plans, but the joy of reading good books is forefront in my mind.

I have recently been helping Win Anderson in Central's Ralph Goodell Memorial Library so I have been reminded of this wonderful resource that we have right here in our church. There is an excellent collection of children's books. We have current magazines including Golf, Entertainment Weekly, People, Sports Illustrated, Time, This Old House, Fortune, Travel and Leisure, Vogue, Southern Living, Greater Lansing Business Monthly, World Outlook, and a few issues of National Geographic and Smithsonian. In addition, the weekend edition of the Wall Street Journal is available. What a bargain! No subscription fees and no extra trips to a library to check out or return an item. (Please note that I would not discourage a trip to a library or bookstore.) Check out a book and leave the book card on the desk. If you take a magazine, just return it promptly so someone else can read it, too. On Sunday morning after going to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation, stop by the Library. No additional driving or parking is necessary. Just return the items on the following Sunday when you come to church. Isn't that convenient?

When you find something you especially appreciated, consider recommending it to another member. Share the pleasure of holding a good book in your hands and traveling to another place or time or learning something new. Please don't wait until you retire. Read a good book today, and maybe your children will catch you reading.

***Submitted by Leah Fitch on behalf of The Library Task Force.***