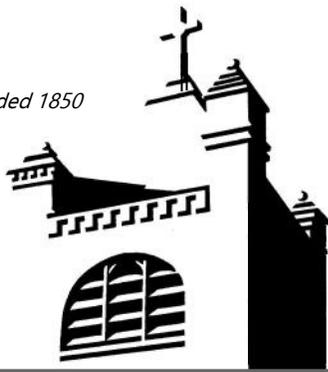


Founded 1850



# Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

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

September 2016

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

Our congregation has been working on developing a working list of **Core Values** and **Bedrock Beliefs**. *Core Values are the behaviors that we as a congregation pledge to always observe. Bedrock Beliefs are those things about our faith that are the things we have rock solid trust in, that we rely upon in times of stress.*

These are not replacements to our creeds found in our United Methodist Hymnal; those are assumed in our thinking. They are the ones our congregation has identified over these past few months of collecting the 67 Core values and 73 Bedrock beliefs that have been submitted. These were compiled, common themes identified and distilled by the Leadership Team, and taken to Administrative Council for final changes and adoption. In the history of Lansing Central United Methodist Church, this has never been done before. The importance of this cannot be overstated. These Core Values and Bedrock Beliefs will form the foundation of how we evaluate our internal organization and how we interact with the world outside of our walls. They become a way for us to tell the community and world what we are about, what we think is important and what we are inviting others to come and share in our church. While formulating our Core Values and Bedrock Beliefs was a recommendation from our consultant, Rev. Tom Bandy, those who participated in this process have found it an instructive and inspiring process in itself, mostly because of how much consensus materialized so early in the compiling of the lists. It demonstrated that Central does indeed have a core sense of who it is and a faith to share.

It is our hope that we will know these by heart so that we may share them readily.

## **Core Values:**

*We will:*

- Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God.
- Love God, with all of our heart, mind and soul, and our neighbors as ourselves.
- Treasure and support learning and growing in faith.
- Do our best to live out the healing work of Jesus in this broken world.
- Be thankful in all things.

- Welcome everyone.
- Treat everyone with respect, kindness and equality.

## **Bedrock Beliefs**

*We believe:*

- We are the Body of Christ.
- God is with us and strengthens us.
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ
- What we know about God, we see in Jesus Christ
- All people are loved by God.
- God forgives us unconditionally and call us to forgive.
- There is power in prayer.
- The Bible is our spiritual guide.
- Jesus in the way the truth and the life.

These statements are the sum of what we received. The Leadership Team spent two three hour sessions, and countless hours on our own compiling and comparing all the statements submitted to arrive at this very representative list.

It is now for us to live into all the ways our programming supports our Core Values; how we will do justice, love God and neighbor, promote learning, heal the world, be thankful and welcome everyone with respect and kindness. It is for us now to consciously reflect our deepest convictions that we are Christ's Body, that we know God is with us and feel God's strength. To reflect our hope that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus, and what we know about him we know about God. The fact that all people, all, are loved by God and that we are called to be people who forgive because we have been forgiven unconditionally. This is radical love at work. We affirm the power we know in prayer, the Bible as our book and Jesus as the way the truth and the life, God's word made flesh. If these statements become the deeds of our church, there will certainly be one thing said about us: "That congregation really understands their faith and puts it into action!" It's where we have always been, now we can make it known! Hallelujah!

*Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis Sept 6, 2016*

## Missions **Cathy Amundsen, Chair**

Because of the **Peace with Justice Sunday** offering, the people of The United Methodist Church (YOU) are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds---and yielding fruit!---of Peace. When you give to this offering you make possible the critical Kingdom Work in the world. Because you give:

Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities.

United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to address social-justice issues.

Students in Pennsylvania are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad.

When you continue to support Peace with Justice Sunday you help empower local Christians in Pennsylvania, Arizona, Liberia and around the world to build the kingdom of peace that Jesus ushered in. *But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!* Amos 5:24.

*(Information from the UM web site for Special Day offerings.)*

### **Willow School Gifts total \$1,126**

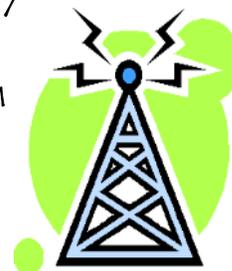
Great day! The money just kept coming in. Mr. Rollins was there and I think people really enjoyed talking with him after church.

### **WHAT IS UMCOR DOING IN RESPONSE TO THE FLOODING IN LOUISIANA?**

Flooding has impacted at least 40,000 homes and 30,000 people. UMCOR has issued an emergency grant to the Louisiana UM Conference. 2,950 cleanup buckets have sent with 2,000 more ready to go when the need is identified by the Louisiana conference. Several UM Churches have been converted into shelters for persons displaced by flooding. UMCOR has supplies ready to go to the STATE of MISSISSIPPI when the water recedes there. The American Red Cross national office reached out to UMCOR and they have been connected with Louisiana UM Conference leadership as well as Sager Brown for warehouse space, clean up buckets and shelter for evacuees. We are a connected church and work together when our brothers and sisters are in need.

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*  
**Alyssa Cossey,**  
*Director, Chancel Choir*  
**Shannon Spasova**  
*Director, Bell Choir*  
**Anne Todey, Nathan Hartges, Cody Harrell, Amy Voorhees-Hall**  
*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*

# Worship & Music Notes

Caryn Welter, *Director of Music and Worship*

**Many thanks go to those who served as liturgists or provided music** over the summer months. You made all the difference in our weekly worship experiences.

**As we prepare for a new program year, consider whether you'd like to join the small group called CENTRAL BELL RINGERS** which meets on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., beginning October 27. This, about its new director:

**Shannon Spasova** is a United Methodist preacher's kid from Ohio who started ringing bells at age 8 when she fell in love with the bells at her dad's new church. Her bell career really ramped up at Oberlin College when she played with a bell quartet called "Krazy Dave and the Swingin Ringers." During graduate school she played with Madison Area Concert Handbells, and this will be her fourth year in the Capital City ringers. In her other life, Shannon is Assistant Professor of Russian in the Department of Linguistics and Languages, and Technology Specialist in the Center for Language Teaching Advancement at Michigan State University.

This talented young woman describes herself as more of a ringer than a director, and so will direct as she rings! BELL RINGERS, PAST, PRESENT, and POTENTIAL, what fun this year will be!

**Consider whether you'd like to join this small group on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.: SPIRIT SINGERS – Caryn Welter, Director**

Singers include: Dick Bates, Mary Boudreau, Linda Farmer-Lewis, Sandy Humphrey, Carolyn Kirkby, Kathy MacLaren, Bob Pena, Walter Priebe.

The Central UMC Spirit Singers group is comprised of volunteers, rehearses once a week, and typically sings twice a month in worship. The ministry of this group is touted as "fun, refreshing, and musically accessible." Its members enjoy great fellowship and connectedness.

The faithful group leads the congregation in singing, especially congregational intonations and in the absence of the Chancel Choir. It lifts up

repertoire from the late 20<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Consider, too, whether you'd like to join this small group on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.: CHANCEL CHOIR – Alyssa Cossey, Director**

Singers include: Dick Bates, Mary Boudreau, Linda Farmer-Lewis, Anita Gamble, \*Cody Harrell, \*Nathan Hartges, Sandy Humphrey, Carolyn Kirkby, Kayuko Kondo, Bill Lewis, Faye McCracken, Judy Patrick, Bob Pena, \*Amy Voorhees-Hall.

Central UMC's Chancel Choir is comprised of volunteers whose voices are enhanced by the talents of young people from Michigan State University who serve as \*section leaders. The group rehearses once a week, and sings in most worship services during the program year, September - May. The ministry of this choir is one of the pillars of the church's life, leading the congregation in its praise of God, and providing rich opportunities for people to sing in ways that minister to the people. The variety of music, chosen from across the centuries, strives to touch everyone's head and heart some of the time, creating in the congregants a joyful attitude of participation. The Choir's ministry speaks to people's deepest sorrows and most-longed-for joys, inspiring a life of faith which enriches its members and, thereby, enriches those it touches.

**Nathan Hartges is the group's new tenor section leader** and a sophomore at Michigan State University, studying vocal performance. He has sung with the Worship Team at Trinity Church here in Lansing, leading with piano and guitar. At Mason High School, he entered a State-wide competition to highlight the best actor in a leading role; he was one of 13 guys and 13 girls who were selected and given the opportunity to study at Wharton Center with Broadway actors.

**ENGAGING WORSHIP – This highly energized group took action at its August 21 meeting to:**

Recommend to the Ad Council on August 30 its acceptance of the Bedrock Be-

liefs and Core Values that were suggested by all the committees and commissions, then reduced by the Leadership Team on August 18. The Council will be asked to consider the addition of a Wesley reference.

Ask Ad Council for feedback re August 6 Block Fest. The Worship group was unsure about how effective the event was in its mission for outreach. However, it did bring members together, seeking a common goal.

Indicate to the Ad Council that the God Gigs are providing good fellowship and a little outreach.

Propose Central's establishing a small group to "make a bigger deal of the celebration of new members." Perhaps someone could write a profile of each new member, along with a photo of introduction to be published.

Make no proposal re podcasts. One has taken place, and it's a difficult undertaking. The Worship group believes that Linda and Peter should decide whether / how to proceed.

Proceed with the before-service coffee time until the start of Advent, based on the many positive comments it received and the fact that it hasn't adversely affected 10:30 Coffee Fellowship.

Request of our Facilities Manager that two tables be added in Fellowship Hall, that they be informally arranged, moved farther apart, and moved further from the coffee / cookie tables. (This has already happened.)

Suggest that liturgists and other worship leaders sit in the "big chairs" and remain there throughout the service. Suggest that other people who take part in the service sit in the front pews so there will be no lag time between service components.

Suggest that members of Finance ask their committee to examine the possibility of more than one stewardship time.

Ask that we refrain from making a decision re the 3-pronged video possibility which was sent to all members until we revisit what is the number of people who watch the video. Leah is researching the answers. Perhaps the answer to our having too few video managers is to hire a student and pay

him / her as we do the choir's section leaders.

Put a "new spin" on opportunities. At the August 20 REACH event in a meeting room at Buddie's in Holt, it was suggested that the way to extend existing groups is to form new ones. Perhaps a "new spin" idea could simulate new groups when the formation of actual new ones is not feasible. For example, the video people could be called media specialists and the Chancel Choir might become the Sanctuary Choir, etc.

ONCE AGAIN, SUGGEST THAT MORE PEOPLE BE INVOLVED IN WORSHIP.

More is better. This suggestion has been made many times over the last several years.

Invite people to attend the last four REACH events:

September 17 – How we plan, implement and evaluate the weekend service.

October 14 and 15 – REACH summit – For those who've attended many events.

November 19 – How we develop leaders at all levels.

December 17 – How we constantly evaluate and improve our church.

(RSVP to [bcaryn@aol.com](mailto:bcaryn@aol.com))

Remind everyone of the upcoming September 8 training session at 5:30 p.m. for ushers, greeters, liturgists, communion stewards and servers, worship assistants, and all those planning for and leading Sunday worship. Worship is our primary offering of Christ, and excellence is our objective.

#### **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, presents "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**

# Trustees

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

*The role of the trustees is to supervise and maintain all the property belonging to the congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective.*

**Storm Damage:** During the evening and morning of August 15-16, the heavy rain of between two to four inches resulted in water entering the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the loft in the Temple House. The water set off the smoke and fire alarm system. When the Fire Department arrived, the water was discovered on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, which had also moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. Rev. Farmer-Lewis contacted Camelot Service, Inc., a company that helps organizations respond to damage. Bruce Newton checked the roof and contacted Borner Restoration, Inc. who quickly determined what was causing the water to enter the building and fixed the leak. As this article is being written, Camelot has been at Central for more than one week removing water and drying out the building with heat (120 degrees). Our insurance company was contacted on the day the damage occurred and a claims company has made a preliminary examination of the damage to the ceilings, flooring, and walls. The claims adjuster has indicated that we can expect our electricity bill during this time to be several times the normal bill. This is all that is known at this time.

**Down Spout Replacement:** There has been some damage to the inside of the buildings because of the down-spouts. Borner has been hired to replace down spouts and elbows with larger down spouts and elbows which will allow more water to be quickly and safely moved away from the buildings. It will take about two weeks for the special materials to be ordered and received and about a week to have everything installed. Borner will also check all the heat tapes on the roof and down spouts (used to melt ice) and replace the heat tapes as needed. As in most restoration work at Central, Swanson Design Studios has been involved in clarifying the work to be done. The cost for this project is expected to be about \$8,000 and will be funded by an endowment fund.

**Endowment Funds:** Based on funds spent so far in 2016 and plans for the rest of the year, it is expected that about \$160,000 will be spent from endowment funds this year. Central has a total of 31 different endowment funds. Earlier this year, the trustees made \$20,000 available for Growth Initiatives, those initiatives relating directly to our efforts to reach out to others. The trustees have authorized up to an additional \$5,000, if needed, for additional Growth Initiatives. This funding for Growth Initiatives is provided from undesignated endow-

ment funds (funds which can be used for any purpose).

**Sewing Room:** It has been decided that the area that has been designated as the Sewing Room which is directly north of the Chapel will continue to be used to store materials and equipment. This room is also available for other uses, including small group meetings.

**John Wesley Social Hall:** The area that has been called the Dining Room has been renamed the John Wesley Social Hall by the Administrative Council. This restored area can be used for many purposes – large or small. Portions of the newly restored wood floor have buckled – near the south of the room. Under some of the flooring is moisture. We are not certain what has caused the moisture to accumulate. Further study is needed to determine the cause of the moisture. Some action will need to be taken to permanently make the floor flat and safe, but no action will be taken until the reason(s) for the problem is determined. Bruce Newton is monitoring the condition of the floor and the possible causes of the damage.

**Summer Restoration, Repairs and Maintenance:** Significant work has been done by Central staff this summer in the main floor restrooms of the Temple House (floors were stripped, sealed, and waxed), the third floor entry area around the Temple House elevator (plaster repair and painting), the offices of Caryn Welter and Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis (patching and painting), and in the Shalom Center (plaster repair and painting).

**Restoration of Temple House Windows:** Work on the restoration of the windows of the Temple House has been mainly completed on the east and north sides of the building and has moved to the west side. Extra work is needed on some of the west windows because of the extra damage there. While the lift equipment to reach the windows is at the church, the louvers in the carillon tower are being restored and painted. As noted earlier, the contractor for this project is T.L. Hart, Inc., the same contractor that did the restoration work in the John Wesley Social Hall, the foyer, and the stairway between the first floor and the lower level of the Temple House.

**Scholarships:** Scholarships have been awarded to seven persons. Funding was provided by endowments from Lillian Rush and by the CUMC Scholarship Endowment Fund, which has been financed by several persons.

## Among Friends

Ricardo Muniz ~ home  
Bryan Halter ~ home  
Bill Lewis ~ home  
Joyce Brendahl ~ home

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

Bob and Stephanie Westerfield have moved to Independence Village in Grand Ledge. Their new address is:

4775 Village Dr, #213  
Grand Ledge MI 48837

Their phone number is available from the church office if you would like it.

They would love hearing from and seeing their church family. If you have the opportunity, please send them a card.

+++++

## Milestones

Our sympathy and prayers go to the family and friends of Dolly Neller. Her service was held September 1.



*Submitted by* **Pat Mort**

Judy Grove Circle meets again September 12, in the Second Floor Lounge at 6pm. We will be planning our year after our potluck dinner. 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 or another night circle, please contact Pat Mort at 485-9477 (days).

## Thank You

To my Central Family,

Thank you for your calls, cards, prayers and hugs you have given me on the death of my brother and sister; it's heartfelt love. Love, thanks Nona Bartley

A big thank you goes out from Pastor Linda and husband Bill Lewis for the successful outcome of his recent surgery and recovery. Thanks to everyone for the cards, visits and thoughts and prayers. Bill returned to work on Tuesday, Sept. 6.



### Lansing LGBTQ-Christian Alliance: 1st Annual Dinner and Conference

*"Reflecting the Image of God:  
Crossing safe bridges to wholeness"*

Dinner and Conference Friday  
at 6:30 pm September 9, 2016

at:  
Central United Methodist Church, Downtown Lansing  
Everyone is welcome at this event, to help build bridges and relationships with the LGBTQ community, churches, and families in our community to build a culture of wholeness in Lansing and our world.

Sponsored by Central United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Christ Community Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Space for Grace Fellowship & the UCC

## Vespers Class

Beginning September 18, 5:30 – 7:00pm

Fall study will be "Short Stories by Jesus"

A Jewish New Testament scholar looks at the Parables through the lens of First Century Jewish Listeners

Amy-Jill Levine, author

Facilitators are Paul and Jamie Zimmer

Contact them to order a book.

## September

### 1 Thursday

Fellowship Hall Closed ~ floor refinishing

### 2 Friday

Fellowship Hall Closed ~ floor refinishing

### 4 Sunday

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

### 5 Monday ~ closed Labor Day

### 8 Thursday

5:30pm Worship Training  
6 Trustees  
6:30 Spirit Singers  
7:30 Chancel Choir

### 9 Friday

6pm LGBTQ-Christian Alliance

### 11 Sunday ~ Rally Day/ Education Offering

9:30am Worship  
11 Potluck

### 12 Monday

10am Staff  
6pm Judy Grove Circle

### 15 Thursday

6:30pm Spirit Singers  
7:30 Chancel Choir

### 18 Sunday ~ Peace with Justice Offering

*Monthly In-gathering for  
South Lansing Food Bank*

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour  
5:30pm Vespers Class

### 19 Monday

10am Staff

### 22 Thursday

6:30pm Spirit Singers  
7:30 Chancel Choir

### 25 Sunday

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour  
4pm Winter Wonderland Sweet Adelines Concert  
5:30pm Vespers Class

### 26 Monday

10am Staff

### 27 Tuesday

6pm Finance

### 29 Thursday

6:30pm Spirit Singers  
7:30 Chancel Choir

## October

### 2 Sunday ~ World Communion

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour  
7pm Vespers Class

The Central Journal is published monthly by Central United Methodist Church, 215 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933. The October deadline is Sept 26, 2016. Please submit your article to the church office by that date. Thank you.



*The Heart of Christ in the Heart of Lansing*

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

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

# Simplify.

**Here's What's Being Said About Simplify  
Our All-Church Fall  
"Life Groups" Book Study  
by Bill Hybels**

"Full of practical advice, hard-won wisdom, and spiritual insights."

"Rich thinking about what it means to live with focus and sanity and peace."

"Guides us into a soul detox from being exhausted to energized, frenetic to faithful."

"Redefines your perspective, realigns your priorities, re-ignites your faith in Christ."

"Practical truths to live the life you always hoped possible."

Sign-up started Aug. 28 -----Groups begin last week of Sept.

## **Book Review from your Church Library**

I tend to read more fiction than nonfiction, but I have had Erik Larson's book, *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin*, on my "to-read" list for a while. Now I know why the book earned such critical acclaim. Essentially, *In the Garden* is the story of William E. Dodd, a history professor at the University of Chicago, who became America's ambassador to Germany in the mid-1930s. Though he was NOT Roosevelt's first choice, after several others turned down the offer, Dodd was given the nod. When they first move to Berlin, Dodd and his family see what the world was supposed to see. Hitler's rise to power is cloaked in a carefully crafted facade, intended to impress the world as the "New Germany." Eventually, Dodd sees through the propaganda and recognizes the rise of Nazism for what it was—true evil. He tries to warn the State Department and the President that Hitler was going to plunge Europe into a war, but his warnings go unheeded. I always wondered why America ignored Hitler's true intentions. After reading this book, I better understand why America—and much of the world—buried our heads in the sand. If you like WWII history, grab a copy of this book. Larson's fast-paced writing style makes history come alive.

*Review by Catherine Hibbard*