

Founded 1850



Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

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

October 2016

From the Pastor, Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis

Religion and Relationship and Relevance

What we are discovering in our 213 Process and Rev. Tom Bandy Consultations is that the heart of who we are and what we are have the same root word. The **Rel** of Religion, the **Rel** of Relationship **Rel** of Relevance. We have identified our Core Values and Bed Rock Beliefs - the heart of our understanding of ourselves as Christians - our Religion.

The next step is to identify those whom we can bless around us and how to be in relationship with them. That means knowing who they are, understanding what they need, and having the intentionality to bless them in ways relevant to their lives.

Central grew in days when no one had to try to bring people to church. People just came. Times have changed, society is drastically different than even 20 years ago. Studies tell us that people are still deeply interested in spirituality. They just don't make institutional religion the place they explore it. That is because they don't know us, or if they think they do, the image of Christians is that they are hypocritical and judgmental. And while that is not true of us, we get painted with that brush.

So what do we do about it? Our Leadership Team and Ad Council are consulting with Rev. Tom Bandy as to how we can know who is our community better and how we can reach out to them. He has given us several strategies for engaging with the people around us.

We hope that members of our congregation will volunteer to be a part of doing interviews, forming focus groups and prayerfully engaging our community in the weeks ahead.

At the heart of this is forming relationships. In the end, the heart of our faith is just that, a relationship with our Lord that extends to our relationships with others. It is what makes Central the **Heart of Christ in the Heart of Lansing** - a heart that beats for others and wants to bless them.

And part of blessing others is speaking their language. This is where relevance comes in. What engages some people may not engage others. We have our preferences that may not resonate with those with whom we want to be relevant. Already we have heard about things we could change that would make us more able to minister with those not here. The question is, what are we willing to change?

Now there are things timeless about our faith. There are Core Values and Bedrock Beliefs that Central carries. But that does not mean things will stay the same. If they do, we will get the same results, which is continue our slow but certain decline. But if we can embrace change with a sense of excitement, try new things and allow ourselves to evolve to meet the challenges and opportunities of this present moment, I believe Central will have a robust and exciting future ahead.

Religion, timeless and true, **Relationships**, deep and significant, **Relevance**, timely and authentic will make that future come alive and our community glad we are Christ's heart for them.

Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis

Missions Cathy Amundsen, Chair

THANK YOU CENTRAL!

Many boxes of schools supplies were delivered to **WILLOW SCHOOL** plus a total of \$1,326.00 for school uniforms. The teachers and staff are very appreciative of all that we do to help the students there. Mr. Rollins, from Willow, was here and had an opportunity to converse with Central members about the school and students.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE offering total was \$280.00. In a country and world where many are searching for peace this is an important offering.

COMING UP: The **CROP WALK** will be October 9th. Kathy Hicks will be walking with her students from Mason. Watch for her announcement and seek her out to pledge your support. The Mission of CHURCH WORLD SERVICE/CROP has been clear since 1946: Feed the hungry. Clothe the naked. Heal the sick. Comfort the aged. Shelter the homeless. Since 1946 the world has changed. No longer is Church World Service shipping car loads of grain to Europe as it did from 1948-1952. Early CWS learned that successful projects and programs must come from the people themselves, not be imposed by others. Their Mission has expanded to areas all around the world where they are assisting people to find their own unique solutions for the basic causes of hunger and poverty. They have assisted in long-term recovery efforts after hurricanes in the US and wars in Asia and Africa. They now have a STAR program providing counseling and debriefing services in response to terror and trauma. The UMC and CWS are working together to foster HOPE in the future for some of the most vulnerable of God's children. (*Information from CWS materials*)

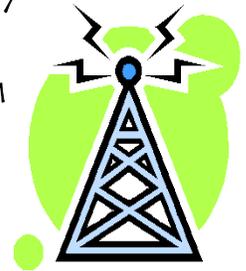
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARING

Church & Society Victor Asbury, Chair

Central United Methodist Church will host a **Human Trafficking Awareness event** entitled "All Worthy of Love," on Tuesday October 18th, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Speakers will be Senator Judy Emmons and Laura Toy of The Institute on Human Trafficking Education. A soup supper will be served free of charge. Travel sized hygiene items are being solicited to be given to the survivors of human trafficking. Michigan has one of the highest rates of human trafficking in the nation. We encourage the whole community to come to this informational event and be made aware of ways we can bring this deplorable practice to a halt and heal the people victimized by this abuse. Please RSVP Victor Asbury at asburyv@netscape.net.

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, *Small Group Ministries*

Leslie Prame *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

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.

The **Central Journal** is published monthly by Central United Methodist Church, 215 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI. 48933

Send copy to:

farmlewis@aol.com

Linda Farmer, *Editor*

Worship & Music Notes

Caryn Welter, *Director of Music and Worship*

FOR YOUR CALENDARS: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WILL BE AT 4:00 and 11:00 p.m. THERE WILL BE WORSHIP ON SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 25.

In the way of a reminder, **Director Shannon Spasova will meet with Central Bell Ringers on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016, IN THE SANCTUARY.** The other rehearsal dates are Thursday, November 3; Thursday, November 10; Thursday, November 17. Bells will play in worship on Sunday, November 20. Bell ringers, past, present, and potential are welcome.

As we welcome soprano section leader, Amy Voorhees-Hall, these are some interesting facts about her. She is a University Distinguished Fellow and a second year DMA student in Choral Conducting at Michigan State University. As a Graduate Teaching Assistant, Hall teaches an undergraduate level music education class and assists with the MSU Choral Union. She holds a B.M. degree in Vocal Performance from Simpson College, has additional Music Education training from Iowa State University, and a Master's Degree with honors in Educational Leadership from Drake University.

Prior to her studies at MSU, Amy taught public school for seventeen years with experience at the Elementary, Middle and High School levels. Her most recent appointment as the Director of Choral Activities at Waukee High School included Chair of the vocal Music Department K-12, supervising staff and accompanists and overseeing eleven different choral ensembles including very successful show and jazz choir programs. Conducting responsibilities include A Cappella Concert Choir, who was invited to sing on the American Choral Director's Association National Convention in 2014 in Salt Lake City, UT, Cantate Advanced Treble Choir, Bella Voce Treble Choir and two vocal jazz ensembles as well as the annual high school musical. While at Waukee High School, Hall served on the Affirmative Action Committee and Leadership Team for the Waukee Community Schools and held numerous other leadership roles within the school district

and community. Additionally, she has served as an adjunct faculty member for Drake University.

Choirs under her direction have received consecutive Superior I ratings and perfect scores at State Large Group Festival. She has worked with the Des Moines Children's Chorus, Ames Children's Choirs and heartland Youth Choir in Iowa.

Hall is in demand as a clinician, guest conductor, presenter and vocal technician for numerous school districts and collegiate institutions. She has worked with choirs in Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Colorado. Amy has presented workshops and sessions at Wartburg College, Luther College, Drake University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Simpson College and the Iowa Choral Director's Summer Symposium.

She is a member of the American Choral Director's Association, National Association for Music Education, Jazz Education Network, Iowa Choral Directors organization and has previously served on the Board of Directors. Hall currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan State Vocal Music Association as Coordinator of Student Activities, a position that unifies undergraduates from around the state of Michigan as a way to foster growth in the future of music education. Let's hear a SHOUT OUT for Amy, a brilliant musician.

CENTRAL'S NEXT BIG CONCERT WILL BE ON SUNDAY, October 16, at 4:00 p.m. The title is A Paris, French Music for violin and piano. The classical and jazz instrumental duo will present and intriguing line-up of literature, featuring Cesar Franck's Violin Sonata in A Major, Maurice Ravel's Tzigane: rhapsodie de concert and Claude Debussy's La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin, En Bateau, and Clair de Lune. Oleg Bezuglov has performed in our sanctuary in the past; his wife, Natalia Bezuglova, is the pianist at Mt. Hope UMC. Won't you support this rich, amazing opportunity for outreach into our community by your presence?

Friday, December 2, is the big night of our Christmas Cabaret Benefit. Doors open at 5:45, and it's not too soon to invite your friends to calendar this great event. In preparation for the Silent Auction, administered by Janet Geissler, committees and commissions have been invited to prepare baskets of goodies / events / opportunities to offer up for that night. They are being asked to submit descriptions of their respective "baskets," along with an estimated value to Janet (janet3773@gmail.com) by Friday, November 18 (the same day as Silver Bells). The actual baskets, then, will be due on Thursday afternoon, December 1.

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS:

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

Central hosted the Winter Wonderland Sweet Adelines Chorus on Sunday, September 25. This excellent group provided one hour of memorable selections, both as a whole and as two



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: The heavy rain that entered the fourth floor loft of the Scott Temple House in the morning of August 16 caused less damage than we expected, mainly because of the firm that was hired to “dry out” the damaged areas. Bids have been obtained to have painting done in the loft and the second floor lounge. The wood floor in the loft that was damaged by the water will be restored. Most of the cost for doing this work will be paid by our insurance company.

Down Spout Replacement: As noted in the September Central Journal, Borner Restoration, Inc. 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. The special materials that are needed for this project have not yet been received. When this project is completed, it is believed that most, if not all, of the problems of rain water entering our buildings will be resolved. 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.

Local Historic District: The Board of Trustees is in the process of submitting a request to the City of Lansing to have Central’s building recognized as a local historic district. An historic district can contain one or more buildings. Being a historic district is a way of providing legal protection for insuring that the historic exterior of a building is retained. The Christman building, directly east of Central, is also an historic district. There is a Lansing Historic District Commission which reviews plans by a building owner for doing work to the exterior of a building or plans to demolish a building in an historic district. As part of the review process by the Commission, suggestions for improving a planned project may be made to an organization (such as Central) that is considering having work done on the exterior of a building. The process for becoming a local historic district includes the establishment of a historic district study committee. That study committee gathers data, holds a public hearing, writes a report of its findings, and can conclude its work by recommending to the City Council that a new historic district be established. The work of the study committee may take several months.

Restoration of Temple House Windows: Work on the restoration of all the windows of the Temple House (about 100 windows) has been completed by T. L. Hart, Inc. This project was funded (\$60,000) by the Buildings Endowment Fund and the Houseman Endowment Fund. While the lift equipment to reach the windows was at the church, the louvers in the carillon tower were also restored and painted by Hart. (East, North and West views below)



Planning for 2017: Near the end of each year, the Board of Trustees focus on plans for the next year for possible projects related to our buildings and for the possible use of endowment funds for the next year. As reported in an earlier Central Journal, the church has 31 endowment funds. By the end of 2016, we expect that funds from at least 21 endowment funds will have been used to support Central’s ministries.

Among Friends

Pat Mort ~ home
Bryan Halter ~ home
Joyce Brendahl ~ home

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

+++++

A Special Thanks

At the 2016 International Day of Peace Celebration Thursday September 22 at University United Methodist Church, **Penny Zago**, outgoing Director of the Shalom Center, housed at Central United Methodist Church, was the first recipient of the Penny Zago award for Peace with Justice. Penny has served 10 years as Director and was honored for exemplary service and leadership to the community in general and Peace with Justice in particular. She was honored in worship at Central Sunday September 25th by incoming Shalom Center Director Pat Grauer. Central Welcomes Pat back to Central as she was here in the 1970's as spouse of the late Rev. Charles D. Grauer, Associate Pastor at Central at that time. Congratulations Penny Zago for a job well done, justice served and peace promoted by your good work.



Submitted by **Pat Mort**

Judy Grove Circle meets again October 10, at 6pm. We are working on a fundraiser for Central after our potluck dinner. If you'd like information on our next meeting please contact Edie Robinson, Linda Towsley or Sue Strait. Thank you.
If you are interested in forming a day circle, or another night circle, please contact Pat Mort at 485-9477 (days).

COMING SOON - HOLIDAY GIFTS !

The Judy Grove Circle will be making goodies in a jar. Soups, hot chocolate and sweets will help you with your holiday shopping and also help your church.

Youth Basketball Techniques Clinic

For Kids age 8 - 14
Thursdays
6:00 to 7:30 PM

Hosted By Lansing Central
Directed by coaches of the
Lansing Christian Basketball League

Reaching neighborhood boys and girls and families not currently involved with a league or team, who want to learn basketball skills. Coaches focus on building character, Christian values and sportsmanship.

If you are able, and will help represent Central's family, we need a few friendly folks over the 6 week event to enthusiastically welcome our guests, be a friend, encourage, and do a little "kid crowd control."

Thank you for helping us
REACH out
to our community.
Contact Dave Stinson.

Pop Tabs for the Methodist Home in Grand Rapids

Are you saving your pop and vegetable can metal tabs? We at Central have been collecting these for many years. Aluminum and steel tabs are currently sold for 7 cents per pound. This money has been used to purchase paving for the Home's parking lot, lighting around the parking lot, the city sidewalk in front of the parking lot, and roof repairs.

These tabs are collected by the UMW. They are sent to us in gallon jugs from Central's Florida winter vacationing members, from senior care facilities in Lansing, and from our CUMC members and friends. Keep them coming. Put them in the large glass hurricane vase on the book return box outside the library. Those little tabs are making a great difference.
THANKS.

Message provided by Dottie Stark

October

2 Sunday ~ World Communion

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

3 Monday

6:30pm Simplify Life Group

6 Thursday

9:30am Simplify Life Group
2:30pm Simplify Life Group
5:30 Bell Ringers Intro Meeting
6:30 Spirit Singers
7:30 Chancel Choir

7 Friday

6:30pm Simplify Life Group
7:00 Simplify Life Group

9 Sunday

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

10 Monday

10am Staff
6pm Judy Grove Circle
6:30 Simplify Life Group

13 Thursday

9:30am Simplify Life Group
2:30pm Simplify Life Group
6:00 Trustees
6:30 Spirit Singers
7:30 Chancel Choir

14 Friday

6:30pm Simplify Life Group
7:00 Simplify Life Group

16 Sunday

Monthly In-gathering for South Lansing Food Bank

9:30am Worship
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour
4pm Paris -A Chamber Music Recital
5:30 Vespers Class

17 Monday

10am Staff
6pm Simplify Life Group

20 Thursday

9:30am Simplify Life Group
2:30pm Simplify Life Group
6:30 Spirit Singers
7:30 Chancel Choir

21 Friday

6:30pm Simplify Life Group
7:00 Simplify Life Group

23 Sunday

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

24 Monday

10am Staff
6:30 Simplify Life Group

25 Tuesday

6pm Finance

27 Thursday

9:30am Simplify Life Group
2:30pm Simplify Life Group
6:30 Spirit Singers
7:30 Chancel Choir

28 Friday

6:30pm Simplify Life Group
7:00 Simplify Life Group

30 Sunday

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

31 Monday

10am Staff

November

3 Thursday

9:30am Simplify Life Group
2:30pm Simplify Life Group
5:30 Bell Ringers
6:30 Spirit Singers
7:30 Chancel Choir

4 Friday

6:30pm Simplify Life Group
7:00 Simplify Life Group

6 Sunday ~ All Saints Day ***Daylight Savings Time Ends***

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

The Central Journal is published monthly by Central United Methodist Church, 215 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933. The October deadline is Oct. 24 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

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.

Ghosts, Goblins, and Turnips.

By Stephanie J. Hall

Turnips? Yes, turnips.

Long before the carving of pumpkins, the Celtic people used turnips to make jack-o-lanterns for the harvest festival Samhain, when it was believed the souls of the dead roamed the earth.

While the origins seem many and varied, Western Europeans had practices that we still see on Halloween today: going door to door for food, dressing up as mummies or other disguises, and playing pranks on each other.

As Christianity spread and All Saints' Day was moved from May to November 1, Samhain was celebrated on what became the evening before All Saints' Day, (or All Hallows' Day), which was known as All Hallows' Eve, then Halloween.

I only remember a few of my Halloween costumes: a gas-station attendant, a chicken, and (sitting on my dad's shoulders) a very tall pope. Whatever you want to be for Halloween - a fantasy version of yourself, or something scary to remind you that what haunts you might only be wearing a mask - enjoy the holiday for what it is: a time to knock and open doors, and share a little delight.