

Founded 1850



# Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

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

November 2016

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

## **Our church, our community, our nation, our world**

What does Election Day, Veterans Day, Silver Bells in the City, Thanksgiving Day and the First Sunday in Advent all have in common? They are about our church, our nation and our world. By next week, our nation will have a new president and our nation will turn a new page in our democratic saga. We will commemorate once more the sacrifices that have been made by our veterans who have served our nation in the military, enduring unthinkable horrors for our sake and the sake of freedom.

On November 18, Central will host our entire city for the annual Christmas parade and open our doors with hospitality, donuts, cider and warm smiles as we incarnate the heart of Christ in the heart of Lansing—come be a part of it. On Thanksgiving Day we will bow our heads above our tables and give deep thanks for the blessings we know from our God and Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. And on the last Sunday of November we will look forward into the night of Advent toward the star of Bethlehem and the birth of him who is the Light of the World.

These occasions of commemoration remind us we are part of something larger than ourselves. We belong to a church, to a community, to a nation and a world that needs us to show up to it, in it and for it. We participate in those institutions that hold our life, that preserve our val-

ues, that give hope to the world. Whatever the outcome of our election, we are all winners in a democratic process that is the envy of the rest of the world. To cherish that right is to respect its outcome and pledge ourselves together to our nation's good. To belong to a church means to support its mission to bring the grace and hope of Christ to the good of people in all the ways we can. To give thanks and look forward is the gift of orienting our life by the light of what God has done and is always doing in Christ through the Spirit.

Our place is in all the above, working, hoping, praising, giving thanks and looking forward with anticipation. God is at work in you and me, at work in our church and community, in our nation and world. To see ourselves in the places that hold our life, is to understand we are the life of those places. If we want them to be there for us, we need to be there for them. So let's show up, be present, be spirited, be hopeful, be invested; for surely those people who have sacrificed for us that we may have the blessings we know have the right to expect us to do the same and pass it on.

Giving Thanks for all we have been given.

*Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis*

## Missions *Cathy Amundsen, Chair*

Thank you for your support of the CROP walk. Kathy Hicks walked with several of her students for Central and raised \$300.00.

Below are several giving opportunities in the next month. Each of us will find our "heart" pulled in different directions. We cannot all respond to every need but we can respond to some. You choose where God is nudging you!

**November 13 Christian Education Sunday.** This offering is divided between Central UMC and the Michigan Conference of the UMC. From our children in "the Rainbow Room" to our Adult Classes we are all learning on our Faith Journey.

**November 27 UM Student Day.** This special fund was established for the advanced education of persons related to the UMC in 1866. Since then this fund had helped deserving UM students continue their education and their faith journeys as they strive to make a difference in the world and discern what God has called them to do. (Information from UM material).

**November 29th Giving Tuesday.** Totals from Giving Tuesday around the world in 2015 were \$ 2.8 million. Many churches and charities participate in this special giving day. Go to [www.umcmmission.org/give](http://www.umcmmission.org/give). If you would like to contribute to the work of our missionary, Mbwizu, in Cameroon, please use the # 00344A. 100% of your gift will go to the project. **See attached 2-page newsletter.**

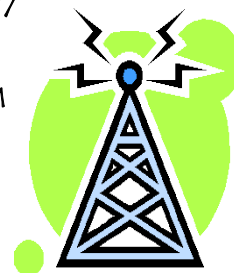


*Pledging skit was performed by the Royal Central Acting Group*



Sponsor a radio broadcast  
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WJIM-AM  
1240



## Church Directory

**Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis,**  
*Senior Minister*  
**Rev. Bill Amundsen, Ret.,**  
*Minister of Spiritual Formation*  
**Joi Tennant,** *Small Groups Coordinator*  
**Leslie Prame,**  
*Children's Education Director*  
**Caryn Welter,**  
*Director, Music and Worship, Organist*  
**Alyssa Cossey,**  
*Director, Chancel Choir*  
**Shannon Spasova**  
*Director, Bell Choir*  
**Annalise Poco, 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.

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

# Worship & Music Notes

Caryn Welter, *Director of Music and Worship*

## RECENT OUTREACH INTO OUR COMMUNITY HAS TAKEN TWO FORMS:

The concert on October 16 by Natalia Bezuglova, pianist, and Oleg Bezuglov, violinist, was spectacular. Both were musicians extraordinaire, and the program of Franck, Ravel, and Debussy served to further underscore their incredible talents. Recently, Pat Mort sent out a link to the concert, so you can access it if you were unavailable that afternoon. Our community has been blessed by the richness of great music!!

On Saturday, October 22, the Greater Lansing Chapter, American Guild of Organists, presented an amazing program of organ attributes and an engaging skit which featured the organ as played by Darlene Greenman-Ross and narrated by WKAR's Jody Knol. The sixteen young people, ranging in age from 8 years to 16 years, and their families were spellbound by the fabulous presentation. There was time for each of the youth to play Central's Jaeckel organ; then, after a pizza lunch, three scholarship winners performed for the entire group and amazed us with their command of the instrument. The Greater Lansing area has some wonderfully talented organists-in-the-making. *(Photo courtesy of Barbara Hiranpradist)*

## MORE OUTREACH INTO THE COMMUNITY WILL BE ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2:

You, your family and friends are invited to attend the annual **Christmas Cabaret** Benefit for which tickets will be available starting Sunday, November 6. Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. for the silent auction. Items can be submitted to the mezzanine room we used last year, starting on Sunday, November 20. Committees and commissions are invited to contribute "baskets" of items, with descriptions of the baskets and estimated values going to Janet at [janet3773@gmail.com](mailto:janet3773@gmail.com), by Friday, November 18. All baskets and other items must be submitted by Thursday, December 1. For each contribution, please remember to get a copy of the donation form from the front desk. The entertainment will be provided by Elden Kelly, classical guitarist; Ron DiSalvio, pianist; a Water Wonderland Chorus ensemble, and our own



Chancel Choir Director and section leaders! Proceeds will go to the Methodist Children's Home and Central's music program. Come; enjoy!

## UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS:

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

**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**



## Small Group News

By Joi Tennant

### Winter "Life Groups" Recruiting Leaders

It's time to form all new Life Groups for our 8-week Winter Semester, which will begin in mid-February. We are looking for 5 or 6 leaders who will be willing to either lead a study pre-selected by Joi Tennant; or who would like to create their own group around a personal interest or skill. Here are some ideas just to get your creative juices flowing:

- ◆ Photography
- ◆ C.S. Lewis book study
- ◆ 8 Documentaries with discussion
- ◆ Table games for fun
- ◆ Teach knitting, crochet, water color
- ◆ Study 8 Christian martyrs (DVD's)
- ◆ 8 weeks of potlucks and recipes
- ◆ Teach line dancing
- ◆ Lead a "Great Courses" DVD class

Our Life Group format includes weekly sharing and caring, and also praying for each other. In addition, each Life Group will choose a simple mission project to do together during the 8 weeks. Leaders choose the time and place your group will meet.

If you are feeling inspired by these ideas, and you think you'd like to try leading a group, please give Joi a call to talk this over soon. Home phone: 989-224-8159

## Children's Education News

By Leslie Prame

We are having fun in Junior Church learning about the Fruit of the Spirit! Each week we take an amazing journey learning about Love, Peace, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Self-control, Forgiveness, and more! We are using our bibles as we explore new bible stories, learn verses and learn from each other as well. We even put on our painting aprons and created a beautiful Fruit of the Spirit altar cloth for our classroom. Looking forward to Education Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, when Pastor Linda will do a 'Blessing of the Bibles' with the children during children's message time.



Photos below: Members of one of the Simplify discussion groups (l-r Mary Jessop, Leah Fitch, Mary Nesman, Nancy O'Shea, Faye McCracken and Jane Worthington) Dressing up for Halloween are the Father (Finn), Sun (Zan) and Holey Ghost (Ada Clarkson)



# 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.*

**Financial Information:** A recent report from one of our investment advisors indicates that the value of our endowment funds has increased in the first nine months of the year. It is expected that the value of the endowment funds may fall for the year.

**Historic District:** A letter has been sent to the Mayor requesting the designation of the CUMC buildings as a local historic district. Central has been recognized for many years as a historic building/place within the State of Michigan and the nation. The process of establishing a local historic district includes the establishment of a historic district study committee to review and process requests for establishing local historic districts. We have requested that Penny Zago be appointed to the study committee as a representative of Central.

**Repairing Damage Caused by Water:** A partial payment of about \$27,000 has been received from our insurance company as payments for repairing the damage. From that income, we have paid the contractor who "dried out" the church. Brotherhood has also approved payments for repairing and painting the damage done in the loft and in the second floor lounge. Contractors to repair the damages in these areas have been selected. The companies selected to do work in these areas are the same contractors that did restoration work in the John Wesley Social Hall.

**Building Use:** Facility manager Bruce Newton is now managing the use of our buildings, handling all requests for using the buildings.

**Replacement of Downspouts:** As reported earlier, the existing building downspouts are to be replaced with larger downspouts. This important project will lead to stopping water from continuing to enter and damage our buildings.

## **Additional Tables for John Wesley Social**

**Hall:** The Memorials Committee is providing the funds needed to buy ten new round tables for this area. Additional tables and chairs are needed for the social hall.

**Power Outage one October Sunday:** This was an event that the Trustees could not do anything about. The service was conducted by candlelight and cell-phone flashlight.



### Among Friends

Hannah Boley ~ U of M Hospital  
Tom Kephart ~ home  
JoAnn Klein ~ home  
Lee Ann Stutes ~ home  
Bryan Halter ~ home  
Joyce Brendahl ~ home

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

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### Transitions

*Bob Woodward* died October 20. His service is set for Saturday, November 5, 3pm at University United Methodist Church.

*Frank McKowen*, former choir director, died October 22. His service is set for Saturday, December 17, with 1pm visitation and 2pm service at People's Church.

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Submitted by **Pat Mort**

### Thanks

Dear Central Family & Friends  
Thank you for the wonderful gift you gave me as I prepare to retire from the Financial Secretary Position. Thinking about how I will use the gift is still a work in progress. God Bless.  
Alice Pifer



### HOLIDAY GIFTS NOW AVAILABLE!

The Judy Grove Circle has prepared goodies in a jar. Soups, hot chocolate and sweets will help you with your holiday shopping and also help your church's budget. These will be available Sundays during fellowship time in Fellowship Hall.

### Church & Society

**Victor Asbury, Chair**

**Once again Central is an Angel Tree Church.** Angel Tree is a program of Prison Fellowship that helps children, who often feel abandoned by their incarcerated parent, to know that they are loved by that parent and by Our Lord and Savior. In 2015 Central presented 26 children gifts from their incarcerated parent.

This year we will be serving 31 children. One of the three Giving Trees that Missions places in Central's library area will be the Angel Tree, which will have 31 paper angels on it. Each angel will have the name of a child in the Lansing area and a gift suggestion. A present will be bought for each child, wrapped and delivered to the caregiver of that child in the name of the prisoner-parent.

The guidelines for the gifts are that they should be in the range of \$15 - \$25. It's important that this guideline be followed. In many cases there are several children in one family. If one child receives a gift that was outside the guidelines it can create problems with the other children. Also, names don't necessarily go to the same Angel Tree churches each year, and if a child receives an out-of-guideline gift one year it can create problems for the next year's Angel Tree church.

The plans for the Giving Trees are that they will be up in time for Silver Bells on Nov. 18. The wrapped presents should be returned to Central by Sunday, Dec. 4. They will be delivered to the children on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Any questions should be directed to Victor Asbury – 517 599-2508, asburyv@netscape.net



## November

### 3 Thursday

9:30am Simplify Life Group  
2:30pm Simplify Life Group  
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

#### Consecration Sunday

#### *Daylight Savings Time Ends*

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

### 7 Monday

10am Staff  
6:30pm Simplify Life Group

### 10 Thursday

9:30am Simplify Life Group  
2:30pm Simplify Life Group  
5:30 Bell Choir  
6:00 Trustees  
6:30 Spirit Singers  
7:30 Chancel Choir

### 11 Friday

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

### 13 Sunday

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

### 14 Monday

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

### 17 Thursday

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

### 18 Friday

5pm *Silver Bells in the City*  
6:30 Simplify Life Group  
7:00 Simplify Life Group

### 20 Sunday

#### *Monthly In-gathering for South Lansing Food Bank*

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

### 21 Monday

10am Staff  
6:30pm Simplify Life Group

### 24 Thursday ~ Thanksgiving

### 25 Friday ~ closed

### 27 Sunday ~ First Sunday of Advent

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

### 28 Monday

10am Staff

### 29 Tuesday

6pm Finance

## December

### 1 Thursday

6:30 Spirit Singers  
7:30 Chancel Choir

### 2 Friday

5:45 Christmas Cabaret

### 4 Sunday ~ Second Sunday of Advent

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

November 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

The Central Journal is published monthly by Central United Methodist Church, 215 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933. The December issue deadline is Nov. 21.

Please submit your article to the editor at [farmlewis@aol.com](mailto:farmlewis@aol.com) 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

### Thought You Might Like to Know...

Recently one of Central's members checked out four seasonal children's books. I was curious since I know this member well enough to know that there are no small children at home and that the member would not mind my asking, or maybe teasing, about checking out children's books. The member explained that knowing there would some time to spend with grandchildren soon, the four books were checked out to have on hand to read during the time of their visit. I was so impressed by this thoughtful and good use of time that I am sharing it now. The member mentioned that the grandchildren especially liked one of the books and I was happy to hear their recommendation.

At least two other members have read a particular novel and I am impressed that they are keeping up with the bestsellers' list. (A recent clipping of the bestsellers' list is posted on the library bulletin board.)

A few members have donated books this year to add to the collection. On behalf of all of us, I thank them for their generosity.

I also thought you would like to know that Central's children regularly check out books from the Children's Collection. In reference to our magazine assortment, one member especially likes reading *This Old House* and another person likes *Sports Illustrated*. The magazine collection is also by donation and the variety appeals to different reading interests.

As we get closer to November, the Halloween and seasonal autumn books will be



reshelved and the Thanksgiving-themed books will be displayed. Are your grandchildren coming over the Thanksgiving weekend?

***Submitted by Leah Fitch on behalf of the Library Task Force***