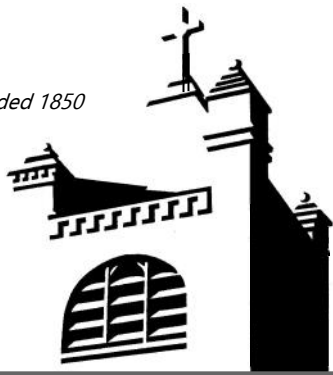


Founded 1850



# Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

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

April 2017

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

## Easter Message from the Pastor

God doesn't do easy things. God does impossible things. God's love overcomes impossible things, and Jesus' resurrection is the evidence, the church the visible result. There is no more improbable institution than the church, a volunteer organization whose role in the world is always suspect. The church depends on human leadership, which is always flawed, and on the good will of people who invariably fail. The church is a far more improbable reality than the resurrection of Jesus, yet here we are. In all of Central's history, and in the church universal, impossible challenges arise. How can we overcome.....? whatever the challenge is. This has been true throughout our history as a church. What is important is to know that God has already overcome it. That is the message of faith and that is the fact of Easter. Yes, we will have to struggle and figure stuff out, and adapt to change. But, we will not fail as long as we keep faith with the risen one and love one another.

Our campaign "Bridging the Gap" to cover our \$30,000 budget shortfall is a rather modest amount to raise to insure that Central is able to continue to offer the ministry we want to offer. 60 people could give \$500 and we would be there. Hardly impossible. But what is more important is for us to recognize that this investment is exactly about keeping faith and loving one another. We are very good as a congregation giving generously to missions, that giving continues to rise. That is a very significant sign that this congregation wants to serve need in relevant and tangible ways. But we can only do that if we are here to be church. The Church itself is a mission that needs our gifts. Can we imagine something more than hanging on the cross of struggle and instead soar where Christ is leading. We need to see that our Easter joy is the joy of being the church, the body of Christ. And all good gifts flow from the strength of that body.

Let us bridge this gap now, that it might not distract us from the ministry we share here in this place. But more. Let us live in an Easter reality that trusts God and trusts the future so that we have courage to invest in it, both for the sake of the church and the world we are here to serve.



Bring your "Bridging the Gap" gift to church on May 7 or before, and we will celebrate what God can do!

## 50 Year Member Celebration May 7<sup>th</sup>, Bridging the Gap Celebration, and Baby Shower!

We have many people at Central who have been here for 50 years or more! We want to honor those persons at a special worship service on May 1, where we can honor these long-time faithful! Also on May 1 we will celebrate the conclusion of our "Bridging the Gap" Campaign. Faithfulness will be our theme as we give thanks for the people who have made Central, Central, in the past and present. And again, on May 7<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the future, with a baby shower to welcome Lynda and Tony McCracken Keim's expected son and Miyoko Cundo's expected daughter with a baby shower. If you would like to be involved in gifts for the babies contact the church office.

## Coffee Hour Contributions Appreciated!

We love providing hospitality to our congregation and guests! It says we are glad you are here, come stay awhile, let's get to know each other. We want to continue to be able to provide this element of mingling, so we are asking that when possible, you support this ministry to Keep the Coffee Brewing! Donation baskets will be on the serving table. Many thanks!

**Easter Breakfast on Sunday April 16** will begin to be served at 8:00a.m. provided by the Judy Grove Circle, who are contributing all the proceeds to the Bridging the Gap Campaign.

## Camp Sunday Offering April 30

April 30 we will celebrate Christian Camping! One of the greatest ways ever to share Christ's love with children, youth and adults. Camp songs will be sung!

*Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis*

## *Missions* Cathy Amundsen, Chair

### Thank you from the Mission Commission:

THANK YOU for your gifts to UMCOR Sunday 3/19. The total so far is \$1171.00. One of the areas UMCOR is currently working in is Sudan. There they are working with partner agencies to address the starvation that is occurring due to the drought and civil strife.

### CAMPING SEASON IS COMING

The camping program in the Michigan UMC has long been important in the goal of "making disciples for Jesus Christ." There are camps for children, youth, adults, grandparent/grandchild camps and family camps. There have been reading camps, math camps, music camps and sport camps. All of these are led by leaders eager to share the love of Christ with each camper. Time at camp is an opportunity for each camper to grow in their relationship with God and others as they live together for a week in a camping environment. Each camp costs approximately \$400.00 per camper. Central has several children and youth interested in the camp program. The Camp Sunday Offering on April 30th will help to offset the cost of camp and also support the staffing and upkeep of our Conference Camps.

*Cathy Amundsen for the Mission Commission*

### Be a Tourist in Your Own Town... Calling all volunteers!

Once again Central will open the doors to the greater Lansing community to share our building's beauty, history and music. What our guests will receive is our warm and loving presence! Our volunteers are the best welcoming folks in town! You are invited to share a bit of your time and a lot of your smiles for this year's Be a Tourist.

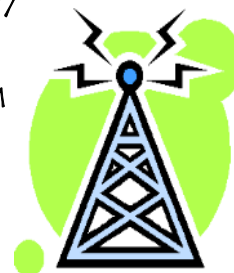
We need volunteers for both specific stations and for guided tours. All volunteers will help for 2½ hours. Volunteers will be given information about the stations.

### Be a Tourist in Your Own Town Saturday, June 3, 2017, 10:00 am to 5 pm

Please contact Penny Zago: 517-487-3013 or [pennycandy@comcast.net](mailto:pennycandy@comcast.net). Sign up and join in! You will have great fun!

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 Coordinator*  
**Leslie Prame** *Director, Children's Education*  
**Caryn Welter**, *Director, Music and Worship, Organist*  
**Alyssa Cossey**,  
*Director, Chancel Choir*  
**Shannon Spasova**  
*Director, Bell Choir*  
**Annalisa POCO, Nathan Hartges,**  
**Cody Harrell, Amy Voorhees-Hall**  
*Chancel Choir Section Leaders*  
**Patricia Mort**,  
*Administrative Secretary*  
**Stephanie Rave**, *Financial Secretary/Bookkeeper*  
**Bruce Newton**, *Facility Manager*  
**Jared Peeper, 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

**Send copy to:**  
[farmlewis@aol.com](mailto:farmlewis@aol.com)  
Linda Farmer, *Editor*

# Worship & Music Notes

Caryn Welter, *Director of Music and Worship*

**Thanks** to all who attended **Elden Kelly's March 19 concert**. It was great to see so many Central faces and guest faces, especially on a day when March Madness was forging madly ahead. As you see the guest book at future concerts, please sign and put your email address. This will model how our community guests can proceed.



## WORSHIP FOR LENT AND EASTER

**Sunday, April 9 – PALM SUNDAY – Worship at 9:30 a.m.**

**Thursday, April 13 – HOLY THURSDAY / MAUNDY THURSDAY - at Central 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Worship and meal** reminiscent of Jesus' last supper - Central UMC., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and Christ Community Church

**Friday, April 14 – GOOD FRIDAY 12:30 Worship at Central UMC**

## SUNDAY, APRIL 16 – EASTER SUNDAY!

**8:00 A.M. – EASTER BREAKFAST** – Egg Casseroles, Breakfast Meat, Pancakes and Juice – Prepared and Presented by the Judy Grove Circle, Sue Kephart and Mike Garcia. A free-will offering will be accepted.

**9:30 A.M. WORSHIP** – Everyone is invited to bring white flowers of their choosing in clear vases. During the opening hymn, people will take forward their flowers and place them on the chancel steps.

- In order for flowers to be designated **"In Honor Of"** or **"In Memory Of,"** the church office needs to be notified in advance, **by Friday, April 7.**

- Those who wish to contribute to the **Ministry of Kindness** are invited to do so, with the same proviso: to be designated **"In Honor of"** or **"In Memory Of,"** the church office needs to be notified in advance, **by Friday, April 7.**

- Those who do not notify the office ahead of time may still bring flowers or contribute to the Ministry of Kindness. Their offerings will be welcome, but

will not be indicated in the church bulletin.

- Those who wish to have flowers put on the altar, but are not bringing their own may see Stacy or Mary Morris in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, give them \$10, and know the flower shopping will be handled.

## CENTRAL BELL RINGERS' SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 6, 5:30 p.m. – rehearsal # 4

Sunday, April 9 – Palm Sunday – 8:50 a.m. call - Bells ring in worship

Thursday, April 27, 5:30 p.m. – rehearsal # 1

Thursday, May 4, 5:30 p.m. – rehearsal # 2

Thursday, May 11, 5:30 p.m. – rehearsal # 3

Thursday, May 18, 5:30 p.m. – rehearsal # 4

Sunday, May 21, 8:50 a.m. call - Bells ring in worship

## SUNDAY, MAY 21 – It's the CELEBRATION OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP!

Invite your family and friends to this amazingly inspirational service. Spirit Singers will open the service with "Sing of the Lord's Goodness"; the bells will ring; the Chancel Choir, with a little help from its friends, will sing Benjamin Britten's "Rejoice in the Lamb."

**Speaking of the Celebration of Music in Worship, that's the day of the Music Department's annual spaghetti lunch fundraiser.** Free-will tickets will reserve your space and will be available in Fellowship Hall starting on Easter Sunday, April 16. Or, it will reserve your space(s) for take-out. Reservations allow us to gather information about numbers. The day's package, worship plus lunch, can make a lovely Mother's Day gift or gift for any other special event. The meal includes pasta, marina sauce, meat sauce, salad, bread sticks, beverage and dessert. Sixty percent of the proceeds will go to the church's "Closing the Gap" undertaking, so you are asked to dig deeply into your pockets as Central strives to achieve the goal of addressing our budgetary deficit over the next few weeks. The other forty percent will go to offset extra expenses for our Easter worship celebration. If you find it in your heart to help in any way with spaghetti lunch serving, deserts, or clean-up, please give Carolyn Kirkby a call at (517) 507-7236.

# 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.*

## **Social Hall Wood Floor**

After the damaged wood floor was removed, four companies have reviewed what was under the damaged floor. No water was found. With the companies' better understanding of the damage, new bids have been received from the companies. The Board of Trustees and Swanson Design Studios are in the process of reviewing the bids. In some cases companies will be asked to clarify their bids. As reported earlier, the companies have proposed that an interior drain system be installed with a sump pump system which would pump any water entering the damaged part of the floor out of the building and into the drain in Central's south parking lot. After we are sure that the floor has been protected from additional damage, it is planned that a new wood floor will be installed on the southern half of the room.



*Social Hall floor pending renovation*

## **Temple House Lower Level Restrooms**

The restrooms adjacent to the Social Hall are not in good condition. It is planned to restore these areas, including replacing the floor. The restoration of these rooms is especially important because of the expected increased use of the Social Hall when the work being done in the Social Hall is completed.

## **Loft Restored**

The damages that were caused by rain entering the loft during the morning of August 16, 2016, have been repaired. Contractors did most of the repairs, which were financed by funds from our insurance company, Brotherhood Mutual. Central staff did the finishing touches. The loft, which is 51 by 27 feet, looks great now and is available for use. The loft is up the stairs from the gym.

## **Apartment**

The apartment is being cleaned, painted, and flooring replaced where needed. New appliances (refrigerator and stove) will be installed. The long-term use of the apartment has not yet been determined.



*Scripture comes alive in worship*



### Among Friends

Mary Jessup ~ on her way home  
Tom Kephart ~ home  
JoAnn Klein ~ home  
David Stinson ~ home  
Tom Towsley ~ Florida  
Bob and Stephanie Westerfield ~ Medilodge of  
Lansing, West

Under hospice care ~ Beverly Boudreau, Maria Inez Garcia

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### Children's Education Notes—From Leslie Prame



Throughout Lent and into spring we are learning about Prayer....What is prayer? Why do we pray? When do we pray? What do we pray about? Does life get too busy to pray? Our teachers have all kinds of activities planned to teach and explore with the children about what a difference prayer can make

and the POWER of PRAYER!

*Hope to see all the 'young at heart' on Easter Sunday for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.*



### These 40 Days



### Lent and Easter at Central

Sunday, April 9 – Palm Sunday  
9:30a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Thursday, April 13 – Holy Maundy Thursday  
6:00pm- 7:30p.m. Worship and Meal reminiscent of Jesus' last supper  
At Central in Fellowship Hall with St. Paul's Episcopal and Christ Community Churches

Friday, April 14 – Good Friday  
12:00 noon worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 16 – Easter Sunday!  
8:00a.m. – Easter Breakfast – Egg casseroles, breakfast meat, pancakes and juice – Prepared and Presented by the Judy Grove Circle, Sue Kephart and Mike Garcia. A free-will offering will be accepted.

9:30a.m. – Worship – Everyone is invited to bring *white* flowers of their choosing in *clear* vases. During the opening hymn, people will take forward their flowers and place them on the chancel steps. They may be removed after Worship. If you would like someone to make a bouquet for you, see Mary or Stacy Morris.

- In order for flowers to be designated "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of," the church office needs to be notified by Friday, April 7.

- Those who wish to contribute to the Ministry of Kindness are invited to do so, with the same proviso: to be designated "In Honor of" or "In Memory Of," the church office needs to be notified in advance, by Friday, April 7.

- Those who do not notify the office ahead of time may still bring flowers or contribute to the Ministry of Kindness. Their offerings will be welcome, but just not indicated in the church bulletin.

UMW

Submitted by **Pat Mort**

Judy Grove Circle is *not* meeting in April.

## April

### 2 Sunday ~ Holy Communion

Fifth Sunday in Lent  
9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour  
11 Sunday School for All Ages  
5:30pm Vespers

### 3 Monday

6pm Baby Hat Knitters

### 5 Wednesday

1pm Church and Society

### 6 Thursday

11am CS Lewis Study  
6:30 Spirit Singers  
7:30 Chancel Choir

### 7 Friday

Easter Flower information due

### 9 Sunday ~ Palm Sunday

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour  
11 Sunday School for All Ages  
5:30pm Vespers

### 10 Monday

10am Staff  
6pm Baby Hat Knitters

### 13 Thursday ~ Maundy/Holy Thursday

11am CS Lewis Study  
*Sedar Meal* with St. Paul's and Christ Community Churches  
7:00 Chancel Choir

### 14 Friday ~ Good Friday

12:30pm Good Friday Service

### 16 Sunday ~ Easter Celebration

*Monthly In-gathering for  
South Lansing Food Bank*  
8am Easter Breakfast  
9:30 Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

### 17 Monday ~ Easter Monday

*Closed*

### 20 Thursday

11am CS Lewis Study  
6:30 Spirit Singers  
7:30 Chancel Choir

### 23 Sunday

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour  
11 Sunday School for All Ages  
5:30pm Vespers Class

### 24 Monday

10 Staff  
6pm Baby Hat Knitters

### 27 Thursday

11am CS Lewis Study  
5:30pm Bell Choir  
6:30 Spirit Singers  
7:30 Chancel Choir

### 30 Sunday ~ Camp Sunday

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour  
10:45 Music Committee  
11 Sunday School for All Ages  
7pm Vespers Class

## May

### 3 Wednesday

1pm Church and Society

### 4 Thursday

5:30pm Bell Choir  
6:30 Spirit Singers  
7:30 Chancel Choir

### 7 Sunday

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour  
11 Engaging Worship  
11 Sunday School for All Ages  
5:30pm Vespers

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

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)**

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(517)485-9477

## **Osterhase**

*by Stephanie Hall*

Let's go back in time to 18th century Pennsylvania. Lutheran German immigrants had a folk tale about an egg-laying rabbit named Osterhase (Easter hare) who judged whether children were obedient or not. The Osterhase would lay its colored eggs in nests made by good children the night before Easter. Even longer ago, the tradition of coloring eggs could be seen in Orthodox Lenten practices. Eggs were boiled for preservation because they were not to be eaten during the season. They were dyed red to symbolize Jesus' blood. Easter Day celebrations included a feast of eggs, meat and other items that had been given up for the 40-day fast. Now, let's go even further back to approximately 30 A.D. Tradition has it that Mary Magdalene, while holding a white egg, proclaimed the Resurrection to the emperor. He replied that Jesus being resurrected was as likely as the egg in her hand turning red. And so it did.

Some people attribute our Easter practices to pagan rituals. According to Germanic lore, the goddess Eostre (also known as Ostara and Eastre) found a little bird who was near death with his wings frozen to

the ground. Out of compassion, she turned him into a hare so he could stay warm as well as escape predators. In honor of his previous life as a bird, she allowed the hare to retain his ability to lay eggs in all colors of the rainbow. In ancient times, it was believed that hares and rabbits could reproduce while retaining their virginity, which lead people to make a connection between them and Mother Mary. As with many of our customs, the history of our practices seems to borrow from various traditions. Whether our modern celebrations have pagan roots or not, who cares? Eggs are eggs, bunnies are bunnies, and the Lord is risen indeed!