

Founded 1850



Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

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

May 2017

From the Pastor, Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis

Transitions and Liminality

Any change brings with it anxiety and something called "liminality:" we enter a period where things are not as they were but not yet what they will become. Cultures across time teach us that periods of liminality are to be traversed with care. For instance, when a couple become parents, roles shift, priorities change, joy is added, but things are also lost in the process. Liminality happens when jobs change, when children leave home, when someone dies, or retires, or there is a pastoral change.

We are in a period of liminality at Central UMC. A time of transition when we say goodbye to roles we have been to each another, and say hello to new roles, a new pastor and new gifts to shepherd the life of the church. As many of you know, I am retiring as of July 1, 2017 and the Rev. Mark Thompson will take the helm as the Senior Pastor of Central United Methodist Church beginning July 9, 2017. Mark is a very able, seasoned pastor, gentle of heart and experienced in leading congregations. I am happy for Central to have his gifts come here. Because that is true, I will traverse this time of transition carefully, giving space for his leadership to take root by being absent for a time from Central.

This is a liminal period for Bill and I as well. This is my 40th year in active ministry. While my time at Central has seemed short to many, the years signaled by my birth certificate tell another story. In my mind and heart, I want to be here with you forever! This is my home church, it formed me into who I am. It will always be my home church. That will never change. But, when I consider the years ahead, I must think about goals Bill and I have had as a couple for our retirement, and when to begin

that transition. It is now upon us, and we will now learn to lean into that new phase of our lives.

In the midst of liminality, yes, loss and gain, we find that our hope, our faith, our rock and our certainty is this: that even in transitions, or especially because of them, we may walk the changes by the grace of our God who never does, never wavers in love for us, and is holding open arms toward us in the future blessing God has prepared for us in Jesus. We share that in the ministry we share always. Thanks be to God for that enduring, changeless love!

Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis

We love our 50 year members! 50 year members will be honored May 7:

Joy Adcock, Dorothy Anderson, Marvin and Phyllis Barrows, Dick Bates, Marte Boot, Joyce Brendahl, Ginny Cantwell, Lucille Chase, Carolyn Collins, David DeVinney, Nancy Dibble, Bruce Ebersole, Jeanne Fowler, Bryan Halter, Joanne and Ken Harvey, John Houston, Lois Jenkins, Dave and Mary Jessup, Vivian Johnson, Marilyn Kelley, James Kennedy, Jan Kennedy, Carl Leiby, Tom McLellan, Robert and Yvonne McLravy, Anne Mort, Pat Mort, Irma Farmer Moss, Beth Murley, Susan Murphy, Mary Nesman, Kathy Prout, Edie Robinson, Howard Sewell, Earl Shirtum, Justin and Marge Sleight, Dottie Stark, Peg Stebbins, Leora Stutes, Gadyen Templin, Linda and Paul Thompson, Linda Towsley, Bob and Stephanie Westerfield.

Missions *Cathy Amundsen, Chair*

MISSIONS: THANK YOU

The total for the Camp Sunday Offering was \$372, plus one camp scholarship paid in full. THANK YOU for your support of this important program.

Mission project coming in May:

On May 21 there will be an offering for the Urban Santa Cruz Children's Ministry in Bolivia.

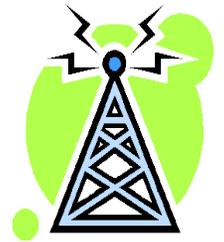
This ministry is focused on childcare and education for street children. In this city of 1,777,213+ population a high number of children live on the streets. These children dedicate themselves to washing cars and cleaning windshields as work; others belong to gangs with problems of delinquency, drugs and prostitution. This program was started to share the love of Christ with these children, to help with basic services, and provide an education. By providing an education, the staff hopes to help keep them away from the danger of the street and give them a chance for a better future. Thank you for your love and sharing with all God's children.

Spring is popping out all over at Central's Ottawa entrance; street is barricaded due to the work being done next door at St. Paul's



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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
Annalise 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*
Jarrod Peeper, 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

Worship & Music Notes

Caryn Welter, *Director of Music and Worship*

Sincere thanks go to **Alyssa Cossey** for the contribution she has made to worship through her efforts with the Chancel Choir. Her winsome attitude and fine skills have served Central well. Alyssa has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Choral Music and Music Education at the University of Arizona. She will be recognized during the Celebration of Music in Worship on May 21; her last day here will be June 4.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR TICKETS??? On May 21 we will celebrate music in worship at a special 9:30 service. One of the great things that will happen is Central Bell Ringers Director's playing a handbell solo. Another is the Chancel Choir, with guest organist Steve Lange, presenting "Rejoice in the Lamb" by Benjamin Britten. The bells will ring; the Spirit Singers will begin the service; an intriguing postlude will be played by three of your favorite musicians!

And, after all that is the fabulous annual spaghetti lunch fundraiser, featuring spaghetti, meat sauce, marinara sauce, salad, breadsticks, and dessert. Reserve your spot at the table or your to-go meals on Sundays during coffee fellowship by "buying" tickets. Sixty percent of the proceeds will go to Central's Bridging the Gap campaign; forty percent will go to the Music Support Fund to help underwrite the music program. These tickets would make great gifts, too. Reserve several spots a.s.a.p.

On Saturday, April 22, Nona Bartley, Bob Pena, and Caryn Welter attended a workshop entitled "**Uniting Nations in Worship: Welcoming Multi-Christian Cultures into Our Worship Space.**" The event focused on the topic of hospitality and how to welcome those from around the globe into our time of worship, as well as focusing on ways we can touch the hearts of those minority people who are already in worship with us. Clinicians primarily discussed African American, Hispanic and Native American cultures. The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship

Arts (FUMMWA) sponsored this enlightening event at Jackson First UMC.

Also on Saturday, April 22, at Potterville UMC, the **Reach Network** (which we are part of as an outcome of the 213 Process), had as its focus the theme "**How to Develop Extravagant Givers.**" Cathy Amundsen, Mary Boudreau, and Lee Clarkson attended and have brought back many energizing and productive suggestions for Central as we move forward along in our quest to bring more people to Jesus Christ. The group will convene soon to focus its ideas in ways that will make them useful to the committees and commissions whose job it is to develop engaging ministries through our continuing to promote extravagant giving.

SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES! If you'd like to offer your talents at singing or playing an instrument during the summer months, please email bcaryn@aol.com.

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 Waterproofing

An agreement with Absolute Waterproofing has been signed. A tile drain system will be installed in the Social Hall so that any water entering the southern half of the Social Hall (which is where all of the water entered the hall) will be moved by a sump pump out of the building and into the drain in the middle of the south parking lot. The cost of this work will be about \$15,000 with \$10,000 of the cost provided by our insurance company. It is expected the waterproofing will be completed by the end of May. After we are sure that the floor has been protected from any additional damage, new flooring will be installed where needed.

Gathering Place

There have been conversations of moving the fellowship time after worship service in Fellowship Hall to the library. Fellowship time has been held in the library before the worship service for the past few months. Drafts of how the space in the library might also be used for gathering have been developed by Swanson Design Studios. Those drafts have been reviewed by the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Council. A revised plan will be developed to try to insure that both library and gathering functions could operate effectively in the library both before and after the worship service.

Local Historic District

The Lansing Historic District Commission held a public hearing on April 17 regarding a report to establish Central United Methodist as an historic district. The commission has recommended Central be recognized as a local historic district, which provides legal protection for insuring that the historic exterior of a building be retained. The next step in this process is for the Lansing City Council to vote on approving the recommendation.

Scholarships

Applications for scholarships are available in the church office through May 15. Funding for scholarships is provided from endowment funds.

Apartment

Restoration of the apartment has been completed. Flooring was replaced in several places. Mary and Stacy Morris painted the apartment. New appliances (refrigerator and stove) were purchased and installed. John Morris installed a new gas shutoff valve for the gas range. Minor repairs were made where needed. Building Attendant Jerrod Peeper and his family are now living in the apartment. The long term use of the apartment has not yet been determined.

Jai's Journal

An evening together in Fellowship Hall with our neighboring churches to celebrate communion and eat our Maundy Thursday meal.

Thank-you to Mary, Stacy and John Morris for creating the delicious dinner and the table decorations.



Seven monologues, written by Pastor Linda, imagining the troubled perspectives of people, such as Judas and Mary, in the last days of Jesus' life, were dramatically read as part of our deeply meaningful Good Friday service with the Christ Community Church.



The Kephart's helped with the scrumptious Easter breakfast buffet prepared by the Judy Grove Circle.



Among Friends

Tom Kephart ~ home
JoAnn Klein ~ home
Don Jessup ~ home
Sue Mills ~ home
Tom Towsley ~ Florida
Bob Westerfield ~ Independence Village,
Grand Ledge

Under hospice care ~ Beverly Boudreau, Maria
Inez Garcia, Stephanie Westerfield

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Be a Tourist in Your Own Town

Saturday, June 3, 2017, 10:00 am to 5 pm

You are invited to share a bit of your time and a lot of your smiles for this year's **Be a Tourist in Your Own Town**. Last year, over 220 people from the greater Lansing area came through Central's doors. Our welcoming volunteers shared our history, our music, and our stories. It was a great day!

We are calling for volunteers again this year. We need volunteers for both specific stations and for guided tours. Each volunteer will be asked to work for 2½ hours. All volunteers will be given information notes.

Sign up and join in! You will have a great day!

Contact Penny Zago: 517-487-3013 or pen-
nycandy@comcast.net.



Submitted by **Pat Mort**

Judy Grove Circle is meeting May 8 at Culver's in
Eastwood Town Center

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Hello Central Family,

I hope that this postcard finds you doing well and enjoying the warming weather. Having just returned from Germany and the cold I am reveling in the warmth of the south of France.

These four month abroad have gone by so quickly. I've learned a lot, met many new friends and traveled to 14 different countries. It's been a blast and I am immensely thankful for the opportunity. I shall miss living in this corner of France.

Love from abroad,
Benjamin Hudy-Velasco

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Dear Reverend Farmer Lewis,
My sincere thanks to you and the members of Central United Methodist Church for inviting St. Paul's Episcopal for the Maundy Thursday Services.

It was a warm and welcoming event and your thoughtfulness through-out our ordeal has been a blessing.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
Lyn Zynda
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Bridging the Gap Success Story

Thank you to all of you in your astounding response to the "Bridging the Gap Campaign." We stand at \$22,000 as of this printing and the Music Department contribution from the Spagetti Fund-raiser will bring in more. We celebrate this great showing of faith and love for Central, and we are all grateful for it!

Rev. Linda Farmer Lewis

May

1 Monday

6pm Baby Hat Knitters

2 Tuesday

6:30 Spirit Singers
7:00 Chancel Choir

3 Wednesday

1pm Church and Society

4 Thursday

11am CS Lewis Study
5:30 Bells

7 Sunday ~Holy Communion

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

8 Monday

10am Staff
6pm Judy Grove Circle ~ off site

11 Thursday

11am CS Lewis Study
5:30pm Bells

14 Sunday

9:30 Worship
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour
11 Sunday School for All Ages

15 Monday

12pm Staff ~ off site

18 Thursday

5:30pm Bells

20 Saturday

9:30am Music in Worship rehearsal

21 Sunday ~ Music in Worship

*Monthly In-gathering for
South Lansing Food Bank*

9:30am Worship
10:30 Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser
5:30pm Vespers Class

23 Tuesday

5pm Finance

24 Wednesday

6pm Trustees

25 Thursday

6:30 Spirit Singers
7:30 Chancel Choir

28 Sunday

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

29 Monday ~ Memorial Day-Closed

June

1 – 4 Annual Conference

4 Sunday

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

8 Thursday

6pm Trustees
6:30 Spirit Singers
7:30 Chancel Choir

| May 2017 | | | | | | |
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The Central Journal is published monthly by Central United Methodist Church, 215 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933. We are planning a June/July issue next. Deadline is Wednesday, May 24. Please submit your article to the editor at farmlewis@aol.com 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

NEW BOOK IN THE LIBRARY

The Charm Bracelet by Viola Shipman published by St. Martin's Press.

Sharing with you the description from the book jacket:

Through an heirloom bracelet, three women will rediscover the importance of family and a passion for living as each charm changes their lives.

On her birthday each year, Lolly's mother gave her a charm, along with the advice that there is nothing more important than keeping family memories alive, and so Lolly's charm bracelet would be a constant reminder of that love.

Now seventy and starting to forget things, Lolly knows time is running out to reconnect with a daughter and granddaughter whose lives have become too busy for Lolly or her family stories.

But when Arden, Lolly's daughter, receives an unexpected phone call about her mother, she and granddaughter Lauren rush home. Over the course of their visit, Lolly reveals the story behind each charm on her bracelet, and one by one the family stories help Lolly, Arden, and Lauren reconnect in a way that brings each woman close to



finding joy, love, and faith.

Viola Shipman is a pen name for Wade Rouse, who chose his grandmother's name to honor the woman whose charm bracelet inspired him to write his first novel. Rouse lives in Michigan, and describes the gorgeous Lake Michigan scenery as well as writing a charming story.

Selecting from 266 entries, *The Charm Bracelet* is one of 20 books chosen for a 2017 Michigan Notable Book Award. The book is in the Ralph Goodell Memorial Library thanks to a donation from a Central member.

Thank you.

Submitted by Win Anderson (Chairperson Emeritus) and Leah Fitch on behalf of the Library Task Force.