

Founded 1850



Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

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

June/July 2017

From the Pastors, Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis and Rev. Mark Thompson

“To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.”

It seems impossible to me that I will be leaving Central this month. My home church has become my home again, and I have loved being with you here. And while my disbelief that I am packing up overwhelms, there is another sense that is stealing upon me, that God has a hand in this timing. There is a time for everything, and while this seems far too soon, I don't know a time, when it would have been any different. I am aware that varieties of leadership are called for in changing circumstances. I have had my own particular way of doing church. It may not be the way that will best lead us forward into the future God has for us. I have always been a classicist in my sense of worship, I have trusted the tradition to carry us forward, because it resonates with me personally. But we live in a time when that tradition has to be constantly reinterpreted and I sense it is time for that to happen for Central. I am happy that we have able leadership coming in Rev. Mark Thompson. I trust his pastoral instincts, and I am glad he is not like me! What would be the point of changing pastors is they did not bring change?

There is a time for Central, seasons of leadership, and there is a time for Bill and I, to sit in the pew, hear the word, take the time, experience the freedom retirement offers us. It has been a very active life, full, joyous, demanding, fulfilling, and happy. What we will do with the years ahead is a mystery to us now. But this we know, it will be filled with hope and love for all of you, and trust, that in this great connection we call United Methodism, will be filled with friendship.

Thank you! congregation for your contributions to the scholarship set up in my name at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. I can think of no more profound expression of appreciation than ensuring ministry moving forward in the future. Thank you for that, for who you

are as a people, for the privilege of serving Christ with you, and for the love we have known together. You are my joy!

Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis

A note from Rev. Mark

I feel honored to be the next Pastor of Central UMC. It will be a joy to walk along beside of the leaders and congregants of such a fine congregation as I follow after a line of pastors who have faithfully served in and through Central. I look forward to getting to know each of you in various settings as we live into what it means to be vital disciples of Jesus, the Christ in this chapter of Central's history.

With the guidance and empowerment of God's Spirit, we can continue to see Central reach towards its potential in service to the community of downtown Lansing and beyond.

May God be known in our life together in such a way as to draw ourselves and others to be more of who God created us to be.

Pastor Mark

Mark Thompson First Sunday

The Rev. Mark Thompson's first official Sunday and welcome reception will be July 9. You may see Pastor Mark, before that, moving into his office, perhaps visiting Sunday July 2. But he officially takes the helm on July 9. Take every opportunity to welcome, Pastor Mark. He is a seasoned pastor, with a heart for Christ and the Church. He loves visiting people, and is a committed, intelligent and gentle spirit. You will find Mark an easy pastor to love, and will find him a warm and generous pastor. We are fortunate to have his gifts!

Missions

Cathy Amundsen, Chair

THANK YOU for your gifts to **Urban Santa Cruz Children's Ministry** in the amount of \$156.00. This ministry aims to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the children of the poor neighborhoods of Santa Cruz to improve their lives and break the cycle of poverty. You have been a part of that ministry.

June 11th was Native American Ministries Sunday. This offering helps to educate Native American seminarians. One tribe in North America has told this story for centuries: when people "pale as birch" crossed the great water in large canoes, they brought with them "The Black Book." However, the bringers of the physical Book could not have known what it would mean and look like to be Native and a follower of Jesus.

Today Native Americans—with many unique languages, many unique cultures—honor their heritage, and live as Jesus-followers, led by a rotation of primarily Native American pastors.

Most Americans today recognize that the history following the arrival of the large canoes bore little resemblance to the one all Christians identify as Creator. That's why the people of The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are creating a new history. Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we're able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus.

As a member of The United Methodist Church, your gift, on this day, equips Native congregations—like Greensky Hill Indian UMC in Charlevoix, MI and Bradley Indian Mission UMC in Shelbyville, MI—to worship and serve as only they can.

This work, and hundreds of other ministries, are possible because you give. Our Giving Allows Native Americans to Encounter, Worship and Serve Jesus. (*Information from the General UMC*).

July 16th will be our summer NOISY SUNDAY offering. Start saving your coins (and paper money too!) for this important offering. This offering goes to the Ministry of Kindness Fund which is used at the pastor's discretion for needs of our congregation and those of the community.

Coming in August---collection of school supplies for Willow School.

Sponsor a radio broadcast
Call 485-9477

WJIM-AM
1240



Church Directory

Rev. Mark Thompson,
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

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

Work is being done by a contractor on waterproofing of the Social Hall. Most of the work inside the building has been completed. When completed, this work will insure 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. There will be two sump pumps. If one sump pump fails, the other sump pump will move the water outside of the building. After we are sure that the floor has been protected from any additional damage, new flooring will be installed where needed.

Temple House Elevator

We have been dealing with water continuing to enter the elevator pit in the Temple House for quite some time. Actions taken have helped deal with the problem, but we have ended up with water entering the pit again and again. It has been concluded that having a sump pump installed will deal with this safety issue on a permanent basis. As with the Social Hall, if water enters the building, it will be moved outside of the building. Bids are being sought from contractors.

Gathering Place

Work is continuing in the consideration of having our library be used as a gathering place as well as a library, both before and after worship services. Drafts of how the space could be arranged to serve both needs have been developed. Several persons are working together to find a solution that will work well for all of our needs.

Parsonage Inspection

The Parsonage Committee has inspected the condition of the parsonage and concluded that the parsonage is in very, very good condition.

Local Historic District

A public hearing was held on Monday, June 12 regarding a proposal to designate Central United Methodist as a Lansing Historic District. Based on the results of the hearing, the City Council may designate Central as a Lansing Historic District. It is expected that this process will be completed by late in June or early in July.

Sanctuary Comfort

Trustees are meeting with contractors seeking ideas about how the sanctuary might be made more comfortable during Sunday worship services in the warmer months of the year. We are looking for options and ball park cost estimates.

Worship & Music Notes

Caryn Welter, *Director of Music and Worship*

You Did It!!

Your collective spaghetti fundraiser efforts generated over \$1,200; 60% of which has gone to "Bridging the Gap" and 40% of which has gone to the music support fund. Thank you so much to all who set up and cleaned up, cooked the various parts of the fabulous meal, sold and purchased tickets, and, above all, savored and/or gifted the marvelous meal! Central is a happening place!!!



Bell Choir Director Shannon Spasova wowed us with her solo bell ringing finesse!



Our Music Sunday concluded with the rousing rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Scenes from recent worship services



These baby hats, made by the winter Life Group led by Jerrie Gibbs, were dedicated during worship, with the assistance of our children. The hats will be given to the newborns at Sparrow Hospital, with a tag identifying caring people from Central UMC as the hat-knitters.

Some shots of 50-year members of Central United Methodist Church



Joi's Journal

All-Church Summer Backyard Potluck Picnics Schedule

**Stay Connected!
Fun for everyone!**

Saturday, June 24, 3:00

Picnic and Pool Party
Home of Leslie and John Prame
929 McDiarmid, Grand Ledge
517-627-6077

Wednesday, July 12, 6:30

Home of Bill and Cathy Amundsen
735 Maycroft Road, Lansing
517-323-2445

Saturday, August 12, 1:00

Home of Carolyn Kirkby
6720 Westview Dr., Laingsburg
517-651-6302

Sunday, August 27, noon

Home of Bill and Faye McCracken
930 Audubon, E. Lansing
517-337-0207

Watch for more details
each month in the bulletin!

Children's Education Notes— From Leslie Prame

Yay! Summer is almost here!

Children's church time will be mixing it up a bit this summer. We will be simplifying class time with fun crafts, movies, and play time that coincide with a bible verse. I would like to complement our teacher line up with volunteers from the congregation. If you are willing to help one or two Sundays, please contact Leslie at 517-449-6328. Looking forward to seeing all our youth and the church family for a SWIM party and potluck on June 24th.



JUNE PICNIC INVITE!

Please join us on Saturday, June 25th for a Summer Potluck and Swim get together

Things to bring:
Dish to pass
Swimsuit and towel
Lawn chair, if you have one
We will provide:
Tableware
Lemonade and Iced Tea
Grilled Hot dogs

Hosts: John and Leslie Prame
929 McDiarmid Ln
Grand Ledge MI
(517-627-6077)
General area—City subdivision just east of M-100
(turn right on Edwards street just past Lutheran church)
and South off Willow Hwy in Grand Ledge
(2 streets south of the Baptist church)

Time: 3:00pm to swim and 5:00 to eat

Among Friends

Mario Garcia ~ Sparrow
Tom Kephart ~ home
Tom Towsley ~ home
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—
Update**

Central United Methodist Church was a host
for this event on Saturday, June 3, 2017,
10:00 am to 5 pm

More than 200 people visited.

Thanks to all the volunteers who participated.

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Bridging the Gap Success Story

Thank you to all of you in your astounding re-
sponse to the "Bridging the Gap Campaign."
We stand at \$30,313 as of this printing. We
celebrate this great showing of faith and love
for Central, and we are all grateful for it!

Rev. Linda Farmer Lewis

Dear Lansing Central family,
Thank you so much for the incredibly generous ba-
by gifts! We cannot thank you enough for your
kindness and generosity. Thank you also for your
love and support throughout the process. We are
so blessed to have such an amazing church com-
munity for Cameron!

Much Love, Lynda and Tony Keim

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Thank you to everyone for all of the support, pray-
ers, cards and donation.
It meant the world to Veronica and I.

With Gratitude,
Renee Hall

+++++

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For all the help you have given in a moment of
need, especially for my husband during his treat-
ment at University of Michigan...May God bless
each one of you in special ways.

Thank you, from all of us.
Peter, Estela, Benjamin, Jonatan and Timo

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Submitted by **Pat Mort**

Judy Grove Circle is meeting June 20 in the 2nd
floor lounge. If you have any questions, please con-
tact Anita Gamble.

June

4 Sunday ~Holy Communion

9:30am Worship
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

11 Sunday

9:30 Worship
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

14 Wednesday

5:30pm God Gig at Sir Pizza in Old Town

18 Sunday

Monthly In-gathering for South Lansing Food Bank
9:30am Worship
10:30 Pastor Linda and Bill's Farewell Reception

21 Wednesday

6pm Trustees

24 Saturday

4pm Picnic and Pool Party at Prame House

25 Sunday

9:30am Worship
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

27 Tuesday

5pm Finance

July

2 Sunday ~ Holy Communion

9:30am Worship
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

9 Sunday

9:30am Worship
10:30 Pastor Mark's Welcome Reception

12 Wednesday

6:30pm Potluck at Amundsen House

16 Sunday

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

23 Sunday

9:30am Worship
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

25 Tuesday

5pm Finance

26 Wednesday

7pm Administrative Council

August

6 Sunday ~Holy Communion

9:30am Worship
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

June 2017						
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	

July 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	31					

The Central Journal is published monthly by Central United Methodist Church, 215 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933. Deadline for the August issue is Thursday, July 20. We will let you know where to send your articles. Thank you.



The Heart of Christ in the Heart of Lansing

lansingcentralumc.org

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

Book Review

***Plainsong* by Kent Haruf**

Have you ever found an author and thought, "Where have you been all of my life?" That's how I feel about Kent Haruf, an acclaimed writer who recently has become a favorite of mine. His novel, *Plainsong*, is set in the fictional small town of Holt, Colorado. His characters lead quiet, unassuming lives but manage to convey a sense of kindness and decency as they connect with each other.

Plainsong was a National Book Award finalist and has received rave reviews. The following blurb is from the citation for its nomination:

Ambitious, but never seeming so, Kent Haruf reveals a whole community as he interweaves the stories of a pregnant high school girl, a lonely teacher, a pair of boys abandoned by their mother, and a couple of crusty bachelor farmers. From simple elements, Haruf achieves a novel of wisdom and grace—a narrative that builds in strength and feeling until, as in a



choral chant, the voices in the book surround, transport, and lift the reader off the ground.

Stop by the CUMC library and check out our newest selections.

Submitted by Catherine Hibbard