



Founded 1850

Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

Pastor Mark's Musings

Amid adjusting as the new pastor at Central, I have found a freshness in many parts of my life.

Here's some wonderful news! My grandson, Tulvia, has learned how to say the word "Dad!" Sean, my son and Tulvia's father, surely experienced his "heart strangely warmed." Mine certainly was when I heard the news.

For those who like word meanings and their nuances, the name Tulvia is a Swedish name that translates into English as "overflowing." I like to think of my grandson as "overflowing" with love.

For those who like to know the source of quotes, you might have already surmised that "heart strangely warmed" is a phrase that John Wesley used when writing about a holy moment at a bible study held on Aldersgate Street, May 24, 1738.

Knowing these meanings and context, you might wonder about the connection between the two. My July sermon series on "community" spoke to this connection.

I believe that God is at work, helping persons and communities live into their full potential of bringing peace and equity to all of creation. Such holy work does warm the hearts of people as they see and experience overflowing love.

I have found that the community at Central United Methodist is overflowing with love for social justice that brings equity, a pride in preserving a wonderful edifice while making it more user friendly for the church as well as the community, and a desire to grow spiritually and numerically. This reality creates a "heart strangely warmed" in me repeatedly. It's another way of saying that God is doing some profound work among and through us.

My August sermon series will focus on "abundance." It will be a time to celebrate the abundance of God's unconditional love. We will be singing, speaking, listening, and pondering about the abundant opportunities we have to share the good news of unconditional love through word and deed. This is so for each of us as individuals and as a community called Central UMC.

In the fall, beginning September 10th, we will be focusing on our "Core Values" as Central UMC.

I look forward to sharing insights with you through sermons, meetings, and conversations. Even more importantly, I look forward to hearing insights that each of you folks have to share. Let's grow spiritually together so that we can become greater disciples of Jesus, the Christ.

Being the pastor of Central UMC is a wonderful experience. My heart is "strangely warmed" to think of what God has, is and will be doing in and through Central.

A blessed man, father, and pastor - *Pastor Mark*

On July 9th we officially welcomed our new pastor,
Rev. Mark Thompson, to our church family.



Victor Asbury and Rev. Russell McReynolds led the liturgy of installation of Pastor Mark. Special music and accompaniment of hymns were provided by former choir member, Amy Voorhees-Hall. We enjoyed a specially-decorated cake at Coffee Fellowship Hour.



- From the Leadership Team

Focusing of the Future of Central

The Leadership Team has met three times since July 1, focusing on the future of Central. The team started their work with Rev. Thompson with a review of what we learned from the information and recommendations of the 213 process and from Tom Bandy. The team reviewed what the church has done in response to the information and recommendations, such as the development of our core values and bedrock beliefs, and small group ministry activities. The team is now considering possible priorities for the future of Central. The Leadership Team shares its findings with the Administrative Council.

Missions **Cathy Amundsen, Chair**

THANK YOU from the Mission Commission :

The total for the Native American Ministry Sunday offering in June was \$231.00.

The total for the Noisy Sunday offering July 16th was \$3049.70.

Thank you for your faithful giving to the work of the church at home and around the world.

Cathy Amundsen, Mission chair

School supplies being collected for Willow School!

Below is the list of supplies the teachers have requested:

Copy paper
Pencils
Construction paper
Hand sanitizer
Tissues



There's a spot in the Library where you can drop off your gifts for the teachers and classrooms at Willow School. The staff is *very appreciative* of all Central's interest and help. Your gift can make a difference in the life of a child.

Gift Cards for Willow School Uniforms

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of student uniforms, you may buy a J.C. Penney or Sears gift card. Bring it on Sunday mornings (July 30, August 3, 13, 20, and 27).

The gift cards will be delivered to the school. Mr. Rollins of Willow School advised that if we wish, receipts can be provided for the uniforms purchased by the Willow School staff.



We are anticipating that the dedication of the items for Willow School will take place on August 27.

Worship & Music Notes

Caryn Welter, *Director of Music and Worship*

You did it! Your collective spaghetti fundraiser efforts generated over \$1200, 60 % of which has gone to “Bridging the Gap” and 40% of which has gone to the Music Support Fund. Thanks 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!

The Chancel Choir’s new Director is from Pennsylvania. Her name is Alison Geesey, and she has amazing credentials. She has already earned two Master’s Degrees, and is coming to MSU to work on her Doctorate. She’s been told she has big shoes to fill, given the jobs our former directors have landed after “interning” here at Central!



Our Bell Choir, under the direction of Shannon Spasova, will have one new member and one returning member. Former ringer Candace Dilley will join us once again; Ashley Grettenberger will be a first timer. We welcome them both with open arms! We’re exploring the possibility of having a concert here, put on by the Capital City Ringers (of which Shannon is an active member).

Recently, Bob Pena, Nona Bartley and I attended a workshop on inclusive worship – an effort to use music as a means of better including more minority worshippers (particularly African-American, Native American, Hispanic). You can see these efforts as you note the origin of music as it’s indicated in bulletins.

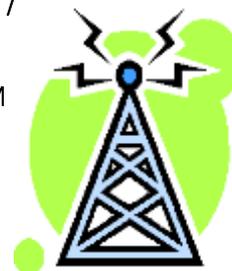


To all pre-worship coffee enjoyers: Please contribute generously to the donate box so this hospitality effort will not go in the red.

Many Thanks.

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*
TBD
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
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.

Send copy to:
Stephanie Hall,
halfmindedsunflower@gmail.com,

Trustees **Larry Beckon, Chair**

The role of the Trustees is to support and maintain all the property belonging to the congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective.

Social Hall and Area: In 2016, the Social Hall was restored. Early in January, 2017, water entered the south end of the Social Hall and we have been trying since then to recover from the damage. This has been, by far, the most time-consuming project that the trustees have faced in years. We are now at the point that the contractor who is making the south end of the Social Hall waterproof has about 99% of the work completed. If water enters the building in that area, it would be pumped out of the building into the drain in the middle of our south parking lot. **The trustees have hired Miller's Wood Floors to install a new flooring in the south end of the hall.** Installation is expected that start in early August.

Bruce Newton is at work restoring the Social Hall rest rooms. The cost for restorations will be about \$30,000. When the floor and the rest rooms have been restored, this area of the church will be what it needs to be – a great meeting place for the congregation, and for groups from the community who are also looking for a great place to meet.

Local Historic District: After many meetings and hearings in the Lansing City Hall, the City Council designated Central as a Lansing Historic District. Central is also designated as a national and state registered building/place. As a Lansing Historic District, Central receives legal protection that the historic exterior of our buildings will be retained. There are ten other local historic districts in Lansing.



Library Task Force

Leah Fitch



NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE RALPH GOODELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Many books have been donated to the library in the past year. Several have been featured in the Central Journal with book reviews. (A big THANK YOU to the Central members that wrote those books reviews.) All the articles about the Library previously printed are collected in a notebook in the Reference Section so if you want to look up a book that you are interested in reading, it is quite easy to find the book review.

Here is a partial list of new books donated to the Library in the last year or so. If you donated a book recently and it is not included here, that means it is waiting for the librarian to process it and type up catalog cards. Those books will be added to the collection soon and will probably be included in a future Journal article.

Here are some titles that have been added to the Collection and are ready for you to check out.

C. S. Lewis, The Case for Christ by Art Lindsley.

The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew--Three Women Searching for Understanding by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner.

The Charm Bracelet by Viola Shipman.

The Unexpected King: A Child's Activity Book for Easter by Daphna Flegal.

Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez.

The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins.

Launch: Starting A New Church from Scratch by Nelson Searcy and Kerrick Thomas.

Ignite: How to Spark Immediate Growth in Your Church by Nelson Searcy.

Plainsong by Kent Haruf.

Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home And Other Unexplained Powers of Animals by Rupert Sheldrake.

God at 2000 (Seven lectures from God at 2000 Symposium in February 2000) edited by Marcus Borg and Ross Mackenzie.

The Media Collection in the Library has been rearranged and is ready for your use. There are approximately 250 video tapes. There are about 20 CD's, over thirty DVD's and a few cassette tapes. All of these various formats include a variety of subjects. Some are for children, some just for entertainment, and some religious. Several would be appropriate for study groups or Sunday School classes or for your own personal study. There are a few recordings of sermons or music programs done at Central. There is a red notebook that lists the media titles by format and another section that lists them by subject or category. If you are interested, I would be happy to show you how the notebook is organized.

The Library is not organized by the Dewey Decimal system or Library of Congress numbers. Instead it is divided into 35 subjects or categories; those categories are posted on the Library bulletin board. Each shelf has a label with the category name. There is also a card catalog so you can look up an item by title, by author, or by the subject/ category. There is a separate section just for the various media types.

If you have Central library materials at home that you are finished with, please return them to the Return Box next to the entrance to the Library. Then you can stop by and find something new to read.

- Submitted by Leah Fitch on behalf of the Library Task Force.

AUGUST POTLUCK PICNICS!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Potluck Picnic at Carolyn Kirby's house!

- August 12, gather at 1:00, lunch at 2:00
- 6720 Westview Dr. Laingsburg, 48848
- Bring a dish to pass.
- Drinks and table service provided.

I am so excited to have my church family coming to enjoy fellowship at my home.

I live in Laingsburg just two miles from Sleepy Hollow State Park. (Consider carpooling.) If you need directions please call me at 517-507-7236.

My house is interesting to see including waterfalls and a fish pond in the home.

I am excited about seeing everyone.
I hope all of you can come.!

Potluck Picnic at Faye & Bill McCracken's house!

- August 27 at 12:00 noon
- 930 Audubon Rd., East Lansing
- Bring a dish to pass.
- Meat, table service & beverages provided.

Just bring yourself, a dish to pass and small folding chair if you have one.

It would help to know approx. how many are coming. Contact us at 517-337-0207 or mccrackw@sbcglobal.net

We hope to see you there!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!

Among Friends

Mario Garcia - Sparrow
Tom Kephart - home
Tom Towsley - home
Tom McLellan - home
Bob Westerfield - Independence Village,
Grand Ledge

Under hospice care - Maria Inez Garcia,
Don Keim, Stephanie Westerfield

Please note -

Pat Mort is “off” for sick leave from August 17 until at least the first week of September. The potted flowers around the church will need watering during that time. If you are in the area and notice they look droopy, please give them a drink. They will be ever so grateful.

Please keep Pat in your prayers for a speedy recovery!

A Thank-You to Our Central Family

The outpouring of love and care that has surrounded us from our church family has touched our hearts deeply. For the past two months we have been blessed with every imaginable amenity. Thank you sincerely for the cards and gift cards, edible fruit bouquet, flowers, fancy cookies and candy, the take-out and other meals, the pies, the casseroles, the errand-running, the visits, the calls and texts, the inquiries, and the home visit from a great hair stylist.

Thank you, too, for arranging conference calls so I could be more “in the loop,” and business meetings that will help the program year begin more smoothly. Thank you, musicians, for your flexibility in scheduling rehearsals.

I would like to write lovely little notes to all of you, but my back wouldn't support that. As it mends, though, it's my hope that I can return when the choirs do in September. I miss you all.

You have brought “Showers of Blessings.”

With much love, Caryn

Bob Westerfield has a new apartment number.

His address is:
Bob Westerfield
4775 Village Dr, #27
Grand Ledge MI 48837

Thank you to our new editor, Stephanie Hall! She brings great talent and wit with her to this position. We appreciate you so much Stephanie!

(Submitted by Pat Mort)

And a big THANK YOU to Bill Lewis for giving me written instructions and tutorials via email on how to do this - all of this. And for even being willing to help me right up to the last minute!

-Stephanie Hall

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

The September issue deadline is Thursday, August 24. Please submit your article to the editor at halfmindedsunflower@gmail.com by that date. Thank you.

August

2 Wednesday

1pm Church & Society
1:30 Community Group

3 Thursday

6pm Missions
7 Community Group

4 Friday

9:30am Community Group
12pm Community Group

6 Sunday ~ Holy Communion

9:30am Worship
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour
1pm Outside Group

7 Monday

10am Staff Meeting

9 Wednesday

1:30pm Community Group
6 God Gig

10 Thursday

7pm Community Group

11 Friday

9:30am Community Group
12pm Community Group
6:30 Wedding Rehearsal

12 Saturday

1pm Church Picnic at Carolyn Kirkby's
3:30 Wedding

13 Sunday

9:30am Worship
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

14 Monday

10am Staff Meeting

15 Tuesday

6pm Trustees

16 Wednesday

1:30pm Community Group

17 Thursday

6pm Community Group
7 Community Group

18 Friday

9:30am Community Group
12pm Community Group

20 Sunday

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

21 Monday

10am Staff

22 Tuesday

5pm Finance

23 Wednesday

12pm Wedding
1:30 Community Group

24 Thursday

7pm Community Group

25 Friday

9:30am Community Group
1:30pm Community Group

27 Sunday

9:30am Worship
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour
12:00 Picnic at Faye & Bill McCracken's

28 Monday

10am Staff

30 Wednesday

1:30pm Community Group

31 Thursday

7pm Community Group

August 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	31		

September

1 Friday

9:30am Community Group

2 Saturday

4pm Wedding Rehearsal

3 Sunday ~ Holy Communion

9:30am Worship
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour
2:30pm Wedding

4 Monday ~ closed

5 Tuesday

1pm Church & Society

"And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom."

— Anaïs Nin



The Heart of Christ in the Heart of Lansing

lansingcentralumc.org

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

Join Us Every Sunday

9:30 AM - Worship Service
10:00 AM - Children's Church
10:30 AM - Fellowship Coffee Hour

