



# Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

## Pastor Mark's Musings

December is a wonderful time of year. It can hold some very holy moments for those who are looking for them. Sometimes persons are totally surprised by such divine touch amid a busy season that has been punctuated with horrific violence caused by hatred and greed.

I look forward to anticipated holy moments in this month.

Here are some of them:

Walking out of a shop where I just purchased a gift for a loved one, knowing that the gift was chosen as I contemplated the spiritual reality of that loved one.

Standing in the various places to pause and look at the lights and décor that reminds me of God's incarnate light, color of life, ever green presence.

Advent worship service moments wherein music or silence perks my spirit to take a deep breath and God is ever so close.

Holding my first grandchild, Tulvia, and being overwhelmed with the joy that he has a will bring in my life.

Sending time with each of my adult children and their significant others as we celebrate the love connection with each other that deepens each year.

The worship services on the 24th will have many holy moments: at 9:30, the Fourth Sunday of Advent when the 4th Advent Candle is lit, building anticipation for the Christ Candle to be enflamed with light and love; 5 pm family friendly Christmas Eve service when I get to chat with a special visitor (wink, wink) and the children; seeing the glow of candle light in the magnificent sanctuary and hearing the music, birth story, feeling the glow of spirits in community.

Being the last one to go to my car after the late service...looking up and seeing stars and/or clouds and experiencing the holy silence.

Thinking about these ahead of time helps prepare my spirit to be open to receive the abundant life that such moments brings.

What holy moments are you anticipating this month?

How are you preparing to be aware of such moments when they do occur (and they will)?



## Missions

Cathy Amundsen, *Chair*

### **SOUTH LANSING MINISTRIES**

Thanks to each of you who have contributed to the food gathering on the third Sunday of each month. The Food Bank at South Lansing Ministries (SLM) greatly appreciates Central's continued support for the Food Bank and Personal Needs closet.

In the last month SLM served 87 families, for a total of 282 people. 40% of this number were children. Your contributions really make a difference.

### **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS:**

#### ***THE MITTEN COLLECTION***

Please watch for a special place in the Library to leave your hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. These will be delivered to **Willow School** in January.

Many children arrive at school without enough warm items for winter. Others arrive with mittens, etc., but by the end of the day... well, you know how that goes!



The school staff are very appreciative that they can have items available to offer children when they see the need.  
THANKS.

#### **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT PROJECT**

For over 20 years Dorothy Frederickson has lived and worked in Haiti with **SOARING UNLIMITED**, the organization she founded to serve the people of Haiti. One of the goals of Soaring Unlimited is to expand medical services to Women, Children and Families.

Now retired and back in Holt, Michigan, Dorothy is spearheading the **Baby Box program**. This program will provide beds for newborns that are specially manufactured for use in developing countries like Haiti.

The Baby Box Program started in Finland 80 years ago when they experienced a very high infant mortality rate. They currently have one of the lowest infant death rates in the world. Having a safe place to sleep during the first months of life should decrease the infant mortality rate in Haiti, which is currently among the highest in the World.

Soaring Unlimited already has a company that will make the boxes and someone who will make the waterproof mattresses. Each Baby Box is stocked with the basic things an infant needs during the first months of life. They include a, blanket, hat, cloth diapers, sleepers, onesies, baby socks, rubber pants, bath towel, wash cloth, soap, bib, etc. These Baby Boxes will be given to mothers in the SOARING UNLIMITED Medical Clinic Birthing Center Program after they have participated in the free baby/child care classes offered.

Watch for the display in the Library before Christmas for more information on how

## 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.

**Trying to Keep Up with Building Issues:** Below is part of a report from our Facility Manager Bruce Newton about what is happening to our buildings. A new furnace is being installed in the parsonage. The cabinets and counter top for the coffee cart will be delivered after Thanksgiving and Bruce will make additions to the cart. A window in the gym was broken and has been replaced. We had a false fire alarm to which the Lansing Fire Department responded. Decorating the church is moving forward. An air compressor that will correct the air pressure operation for our steam system has been installed. Plans are being considered or developed for a sump pump for the Temple House elevator and for automatic door openers for the Capitol Avenue entry to the Temple House. Problems and opportunities continue to arise.

**Not Enough Money:** Central has had problems with our computer systems for years. They are old, not efficient and if something fails, there is often nothing we can do about it. A proposal has been received for a new server that will connect all of our computers, will be able to store all of the information on all of our computers (in effect, the server will “back-up” all our computers) and will make our computers work more efficiently.

Our computer systems for managing our donations, memberships, and schedules are “older than the hills”. To meet these specific needs, the National Methodist Council recommends the use of an updated program called Church Window. Central’s general fund has a technology services account that could pay for Church Windows, but there is not enough money available in that account. We also have an account for equipment (such as a server) and there is also not enough money available in that account. The total cost for what Central needs now for our computer systems is more than \$5,000. The only way that Central can pay bills is to receive more money in the collection plate or use money from our endowment funds. In this case, the solution chosen by the trustees was to use some money from our endowment funds. The more money we spend now, the less money we have available to deal with future issues.

**Burleigh Endowment Fund:** As reported in an earlier issue of the Central Journal, it was reported that the Leonard and Thelma Burleigh Endowment Fund was in a condition where none of the money in the fund could ever be used. After approvals by the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Council, the Church Conference in October authorized the Board of Trustees to sell the General Motors investment documents which were in the Burleigh Fund. The General Motors investment documents have been sold and a new Leonard and Thelma Burleigh Endowment Fund has been established. The fund is worth about \$30,000 and can be used for needs of the church.

## Worship & Music

Caryn Welter, *Director*

you can participate. All items collected will be delivered to Holt, Michigan so there will be no shipping fees involved.

**DECEMBER 1 – CHRISTMAS CABARET BENEFIT** - This promises to be a lovely evening, complete with silent auction, great entertainment provided by Elden Kelly, Jon Gewirtz and Stephanie Gewirtz, David Theis and our own Central section leaders. The meal will once again be provided by Professional Planners.

Proceeds will go to the Michigan Children's Home Society and to Central.

If you have auction items, please bring them to the church by Tuesday, November 28, clearly labeled with contents and estimated value. Committees and commissions, as well as the Administrative Council, are invited to submit "baskets" for the auction.

**SILVER BELLS** - Thank you to the Men of Orpheus for their performance at Central! Thank you, too, to those who planned, organized, and implemented the evening's activities, all under the organizational efforts of Mary Boudreau. Yours was a huge task, and Central friends are most appreciative.

**COMING SOON - MSU CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIR** - Tuesday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m. and under the direction of Kyle Zeuch, this amazing group will present a broad array of music. Bring your friends and neighbors so we can show solid support for these wonderful young people.

**SIP 'N' SING** - starts on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3. Come early and savor the tasty breakfast foods prepared by your friends. This endeavor, initiated by the Engaging Worship Team, provides an opportunity for fellowship and allows great fun with ringing bells and singing Christmas carols. We hope to see you there at 8:45 a.m.



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** will be at 9:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. (with pre-service music beginning at 10:30).

If you would like to sing in the Choir on Christmas Eve at 11:00 p.m., we'll be preparing a Cantata "King of Love" and you are welcome to join us for practice on Thursdays at 7:30 (except for Thanksgiving). See Caryn for details.

**BELL CHOIR SCHEDULE** – Bells # 1 – November 30; Bells # 2 – December 7; Bells # 3 tbd; Bells # 4 – December 21; play in worship – December 24, 11:00 p.m.

***From The Leadership Team :***

Our deepest gratitude goes to all those who serve in and through Central UMC. Whether that be through praying for Central to grow spiritually and numerically, volunteering your time, resources or money, you are to be commended for your trust in the leadership of Central.

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1: 3-6)

***May your Advent and Christmas time with family, friends, and community draw you closer to the love celebrated at Christmas, God’s love.***

Jamie Zimmer, Larry Beckon, Russell McReynolds, Bill McCracken, Bill Amundsen, Caryn Welter, Mark Thompson

**Finance Committee**

It is critical to the development of the 2018 Budget that all pledges be included. You may obtain another card from an usher or from the front office. Placing it into the offering or turning it in to the front office by mail or in person is fine. Occasionally, folks simply phone Pat Mort and give her the information that way.

**Church Directory**

**Rev. Mark Thompson,**  
*Senior Pastor*

**Rev. Bill Amundsen, Ret.,**  
*Assistant Pastor*

**Joi Tennant,** *Small Group Coordinator*

**Caryn Welter,** *Director of Music and Worship Arts, Organist*

**Alison Geesey,** *Director of Chancel Choir*

**Annalisa Poco - Alto, Jenn Giustino - Soprano, Cody Harrell -Bass,**

**Jarod Moyer - Tenor,**  
*Chancel Choir Section Leaders*

**Janet Geissler,** *Bell Choir Director*

**Patricia Mort,** *Administrative Secretary*

**Web Guru,** Renee Hall

**Stephanie Rave,** *Financial Secretary/Bookkeeper*

**Bruce Newton,** *Facility Manager*

**Jack Neller, 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

**Sunday Worship – 9:30 AM**

Fellowship Hour – 10:30 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.

**For publication in the next Journal send**



## Central at Prayer

### For Central Friends

Vern Kauffman ~  
 Independence Village  
 Tom Kephart ~ home  
 Tom McLellan ~ home  
 Tom Towsley ~ home  
 Bob Westerfield ~  
 Independence Village

### Under Hospice Care

Alice Pifer

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of both *Stephanie Westerfield*, who died November 13 and



*Que la Paz de la Navidad sea contigo.*

*(May the peace of Christmas be with you.)*

### Thank you Central Family!

Turning 60 was made fun by the surprise cake at the Stewardship Luncheon, gifts of food and sweets/chocolate, cards and well wishes.

Thank you for making me aware of the blessing of entering my 60th decade of life here on earth.

Peace,



Judy Grove Circle meets December 11 at 6pm in the Second Floor Lounge for our regular pot luck meeting. All are welcome to attend.

As part of our outreach program, Judy Grove is providing 3 food baskets through the Salvation Army Christmas Basket program. We are also active supporters of the Angel Tree, Mitten Tree and other activities that benefit those in our community, along with national and international projects supported by UMW.

Please watch the Central Journal and bulletins to see what is coming in the months ahead as we discern where we are going as United Methodist Women at Central.

**SUE MILLS MEMORIAL** - David Mills has invited all Central friends to a concert by the Hillsdale Arts Chorale, during which a portion will be dedicated to his late wife Susan.

The event will be at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Hillsdale, Michigan, at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday evening, December 16, 2017. Dave has also invited us to a pre-concert open house at his home.

In order that Dave can plan appropriately, please rsvp to Faye or

**1 Friday**

9:30am Community Group  
12pm Friday Basketball  
6 Christmas Cabaret

**2 Saturday**

5:30pm Community Group

**3 Sunday~1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent****Holy Communion**

8:45am Sip 'n' Sing  
9:30 Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Hour  
5pm Sunday Basketball  
5:30 Vespers Class

**4 Monday**

5:30pm Monday Basketball

**5 Tuesday**

9am Community Group  
12pm Tuesday Basketball  
1 Church and Society

**6 Wednesday**

1:30pm Community Group  
6 Wednesday Basketball

**7 Thursday**

5:30pm Bell Choir  
5:30 Sistrum Rehearsal  
6:30 Spirit Singers  
7 Community Group  
7:30 Chancel Choir

**8 Friday**

9:30am Community Group  
12pm Friday Basketball  
4 Sistrum Concert

**9 Saturday**

10:30am Sistrum Concert

**10 Sunday~2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:45am Sip 'n' Sing  
9:30 Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Hour  
2pm Angel Tree Pick Up  
5 Sunday Basketball  
5:30 Vespers Class

**11 Monday**

5:30pm Monday Basketball  
6 Judy Grove Circle  
7 Men of Orpheus

**13 Wednesday**

1:30pm Community Group  
5:30 Sistrum  
6 Wednesday Basketball  
God gig ~ off site

**14 Thursday**

6:30pm Spirit Singers  
6:30 Rainbow Cafe  
7 Community Group  
7:30 Chancel Choir

**15 Friday**

9:30am Community Group  
12pm Friday Basketball

**16 Saturday**

5:30pm Community Group

**17 Sunday ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

*Monthly In-gathering for  
South Lansing Food Bank*  
8:45am Sip 'n' Sing  
9:30 Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Hour  
5pm Sunday Basketball  
5:30 Vespers Class

**18 Monday**

5:30pm Monday  
7 Men of Orpheus

**19 Tuesday**

12pm Tuesday Basketball  
6 MSU Children's Choir  
Program

**20 Wednesday**

6pm Wednesday Basketball  
7 Administrative Council

**21 Thursday**

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

**22 Friday****24 Sunday ~ Christmas Eve**

8:45am Sip 'n' Sing  
9:30 Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Hour  
4pm Family Service  
10:15 Musical Prelude  
11 Candlelight Service

**25 Monday ~ Christmas**

*Merry Christmas*

**29 Wednesday**

6pm Wednesday Basketball

**28 Thursday**

6:30pm Spirit Singers  
7 Community Group  
7:30 Chancel Choir

**31 Sunday ~ New Years Eve**

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Hour

December 2017						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**January****1 Monday ~ New Years Day**

*Happy New Year  
Building Closed*

**2 Tuesday**

12pm Tuesday Basketball

**3 Wednesday**

1:30pm Community Group  
6 Wednesday Basketball

**4 Thursday**

6:30pm Spirit Singers  
7:30 Chancel Choir

**5 Friday**

9:30am Community Group  
12pm Friday Basketball

**6 Saturday**

5:30pm Community Group

**7 Sunday**

9:30am Worship  
10:30 Fellowship Hour  
11 Sunday School Classes  
5pm Sunday Basketball  
5:30 Vespers Class

## Let's Play Basketball!

Our gym is a precious asset, and we are now looking at it as a new “small group” opportunity. Here's our idea:

People associated with our church would be invited to come together for “open basketball” one evening a week. **Friends and extended family would be welcome to come along with you.** This would be an intergenerational experience (all kids must be accompanied by a responsible adult).

There would be a variety of ways to create the time together, from drills to skills to various types of pick-up games, depending on the turnout. The bleachers would be open for observers.

We would like to start in February on Thursday evenings, between 5:45 and 7:15. If you are interested or have questions, please indicate on your connection card in worship, or call Dave Stinson, 517-886-3753.



**LANSING CENTRAL DAY-TRIPPERS**...took an excursion to the ZIIBIWING CENTER, a Native American Cultural and Museum Center in Mount Pleasant on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

42 Persons took a Dean's Transportation Coach to Mount Pleasant. En Route, Mary Jessup (one of our own) took us through the back roads to tour the largest Wind Farm in Michigan. She offered excellent information on wind and solar energy

as we drove along. ALSO, Joe, at the Ziibiwing Center got most of us “Young At Hearts” out dancing Native American Dances. It was wonderful.

**DAY-TRIPPERS**...upcoming events: The next one on February 24<sup>th</sup> with a Dinner and Movie at Lansing Central UMC. Three other events are also being planned for 2018.



**Bishop David Bard invites Michigan United Methodists to conversations on human sexuality.**

Bishop David Bard has hosted three dialogs this fall on the subject of human sexuality and The United Methodist Church. One more such dialog will take place in our Lansing Area.

“Weaving the Future: connectional conversations” is an opportunity for individuals

across the state to share their hopes, dreams and concerns about the official position of The United Methodist Church as it relates to individuals who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, or Queer.

At the 2016 General Conference, delegates approved a proposal from the Council of Bishops to form a commission to explore how the church might live with grace with one another in light of significant differences on LGBTQ inclusion. In November 2016, each bishop was asked by the Council to organize conversations in his or her area parallel to the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.

“I invite Michigan United Methodists to gather with hearts and minds open to each other and to God’s Spirit as together we discuss our differences and also our hopes and dreams for The United Methodist Church,” Bishop Bard said. He added, “It is my expectation that as followers of Jesus we will gather to listen deeply to each other and take from these conversations not only a more profound understanding of both shared values and differences, but also a renewed commitment to compassionate and intelligent conversation even when the topics are difficult.”

Here is the details for the upcoming Lansing dialog:

Dialog 4 will be held Thursday, December 7 at 7:00pm at the Area Ministry Center, 1011 Northcrest, Lansing MI 48906, 517/347-4030.

Those interested in learning more about the official position of The United Methodist Church

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Hersey Kisses got everyone's attention during Pat Mort's Children's sermon on Thanksgiving Sunday.

Hearing about something is good, experiencing it is better.

Especially with chocolate!

Denny Stoneman, standing by his sponsors, Bill and Faye McCracken, was received into membership at Central Thanksgiving Sunday.

*Welcome Denny!*



Janet Geissler leading the bell choir pre-service rehearsal Nov 19

Bell Choir members in pre-service practice of a beautiful rendition of Come, Ye Thankful People, Come for the Thanksgiving Service





*The Heart of Christ in the Heart of Lansing*

**[lansingcentralumc.org](http://lansingcentralumc.org)**

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

Join Us Every Sunday

9:30 AM - Worship Service

9:30 AM - Children's Church

10:30 AM - Fellowship Coffee Hour

The Central Journal is published monthly by  
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