



Founded 1850

Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

Shapshots of Central at "Home" in April



Central Bell Ringers



Greeting friends



Celebrating Central's Wonderful Building



Meeting new Friends

Greetings with smiles and goodies



Welcoming New Members

Central Ministries Calendar

(note that community groups are not listed/concerts are.)



1 Tuesday

1pm Church and Society

3 Thursday

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

6 Sunday ~ Holy Communion

9am pre-service coffee fellowship
9:30 Worship/Children Classes
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour
10:30 Music Committee
11 "Unafraid" Class
4pm Eldon and Lani Kelly in Concert
5:30 Vespers Class

10 Thursday

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

13 Sunday

9am pre-service coffee fellowship
9:30 Worship/Children Classes
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour
11 "Unafraid" Class

14 Monday

6:30pm Rainbow Café

15 Tuesday

6pm Trustees

16 Wednesday

7pm Administrative Council

17 Thursday

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

20 Sunday ~ Music Sunday

Monthly In-gathering for South Lansing Food Bank

9am pre-service coffee fellowship
9:30 Worship/Children Classes
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour
11 Spaghetti Fund Raiser
5:30pm Vespers Class

21 Monday

Judy Grove Circle – off site

22 Tuesday

1:30pm Finance

24 Thursday

6:30pm Spirit Singers
7:30 Chancel Choir

27 Sunday

9am pre-service coffee fellowship
9:30 Worship/Children Classes
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour
11 Sunday School Classes
5:30 Vespers Class

29 Monday

Closed for Memorial Holiday

May 31-June 3

Pastor Mark and Delegates at Annual Conference

June

3 Sunday ~ Holy Communion

9am pre-service coffee fellowship
9:30 Worship/Children Classes
10:30 Fellowship Coffee Hour

June 5

1pm Church and Society

June 10 ~ Graduation Sunday

99am pre-service coffee fellowship

Upcoming Events

To invite friends, neighbors, anyone to!

Sunday of May

May 6

**"At Home in Love"
Holy Communion**

May 13

**Mother's Day
"A Parent's Heart"**

May 20

**Pentecost
Music Celebration!**

May 27

**Trinity Sunday
"There's More to the Story"**



MUSICALLY SPEAKING:



ON SUNDAY, APRIL 22, the **Capital Area Bell Ringers Ensemble** performed here at Central UMC in Fellowship Hall, with a reception that followed. Our former handbell director, Shannon Spasova, was part of the event. This was a terrific outreach into our Greater Lansing community, and the group's music was artfully portrayed.

Sunday, May 6, at 4:00 p.m. will find beloved **Elden Kelly (Christmas Cabaret jazz musician) joining his wife, Lani, in playing "Song of the Nightingale: Music for Oboe and Guitar"**. The husband and wife duo comes together to present a concert of some of their favorite classical music and arrangements. Experience music by Bach, Ravel, Dvorak, Satie, Ralph Towner, and more in this delicious instrumental combination. Rounding out the afternoon's performance will be new arrangements of well-known songs and premiers of new works by Elden Kelly for the duo. Bring your friends and experience an incredible presentation by extremely talented musicians.

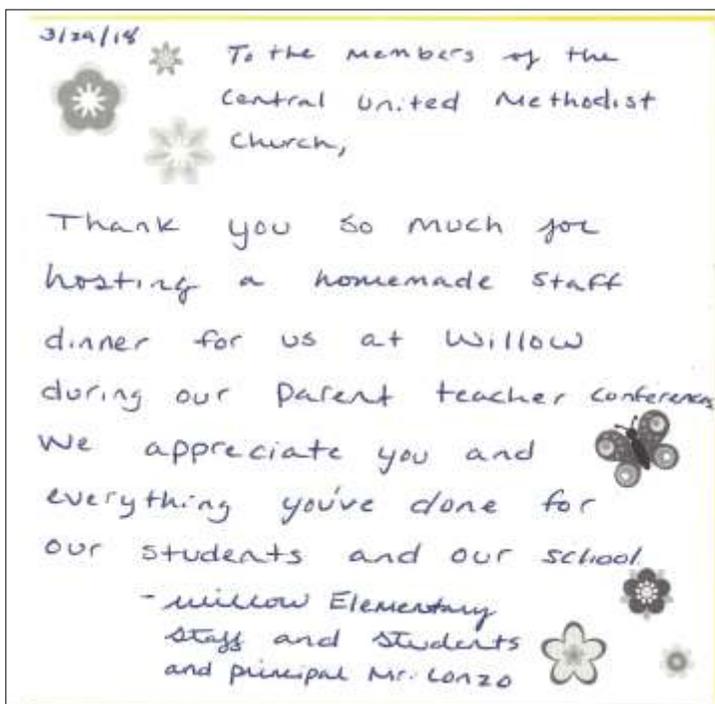
The Chancel Choir; Steve Lange, conductor; Ian Devine, percussionist; Ed Fedewa, bassist; and Jeff Kressler, pianist, are all "revving" up for the **big May 20 Celebration of Music in Worship, featuring Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass"**. Immediately following, everyone is invited to enjoy Jeannie Sanders' fabulous homemade spaghetti lunch. For an amount to be determined by you, you will have spaghetti, marinara sauce, salad, bread sticks, beverage, and dessert. To-go is also available. A publicity "blitz" is planned for this event, steered by the generous efforts of parishioners Catherine Hibbard and Randy Whatley.



For your calendars, the annual **Christmas Cabaret Benefit** will be on **Friday, December 7, 2018**, with auction items being made available ahead of that week-end.



On March 26, Central UMC provided a great meal to Willow teachers and staff on one of their parent-teacher conferences. Thank you Mission Commission for leading the way in Outreach!



Dear members and friends of CUMC,

The 2018 year presents a new financial challenge. Your faithfulness in 2017, along with the generous giving to "Bridging the Gap" in the amount of \$32,785, helped us to end the year in the black.

\$12,000 of that extra giving is being used this year as income toward a budget of \$432,892. Pledging last fall raised \$223,000. Rentals, extra offerings, endowment funds and contributions for our radio ministry bring our expected income to \$395,020. But our expenses total \$432,892.

As you can see, that leaves us short \$37,872 which is about 9% less than needed.

So we are asking you to consider filling our "Cup of Ministry" to overflowing as we continue the great Central family witness to the community. Surely God's presence is in this place!



Envelopes are provided in bulletins at the church or from one of our ushers. You may also send your contribution directly to the church office, Attn. Stephanie Rave. It will be helpful if you write "Filling the Cup" on the memo line of your check. We hope to hear from as many folks as possible by May 31st so that we can assess our finances for the rest of the year.

Wishing you many blessings,

The Administrative Council and the Finance Committee,

Alan Clarkson and Jamie Zimmer, chairpersons

Central LIVE on the Airwaves

WJIM-AM 1240

Broadcast weekly

9:30-10:30



Sponsor a radio broadcast in memory or honor of a loved one...or just because...!
Call 485-9477

We frequently hear stories from many folks who say that Central's Radio Broadcast is:

- A **blessing** to those who are not able to attend.
- A **witness** to the community.
- A **comfort** to those who are honored.
- A **privilege** to carry on the tradition.

You are invited to participate individually or by partnering with others in continuing to bless others via Central Live on the Airwaves!

Contact Pat Mort for available dates and indicate who is being honored or remembered. (485-9477)

The cost is \$250 per week.

Available Sundays through July are
May 20 (Music Sunday)
June 3, 10, 17

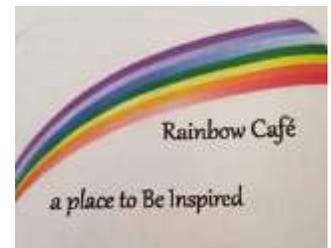


On Monday, May 14th, **Lansing Rainbow Café** is delighted to share a video presentation from Bishop Gene Robinson's keynote address before over 1500 attendees at the Gay Christian Network annual conference. As one of God's strongest advocates for the LGBTQ community, his personal testimony continues to inspire today.

Bishop Robinson became the first openly gay bishop in historic Christianity. Despite national and international efforts to derail the ordination, he was consecrated the North Bishop of New Hampshire in 2004, serving until retirement in 2013. Discussion will follow this video presentation.

Come early as light snacks and beverages will be provided at this free event held from 6:30 - 8pm at Central United Methodist Church downtown Lansing.

●We are making some **exciting updates** next month. A new logo design has been created including an updated calendar and mission statement. Come and be **INSPIRED**.



Denny Stoneman, Founder/Director
 Lansing Rainbow Café
Dennydds1@yahoo.com

***Maundy Thursday Judeo-Christian Seder Meal
 Shared with St. Paul's Episcopal and Christs Community Churches***



Missions Commission

Chair: Cathy Amundsen

Members: Kathy Hicks, Nancy O'Shea, Susan Grettenberger, Estela de-Hudy

COMING **MAY 20th** Special offering for **Urban Santa Cruz Children's Ministry in Santa Cruz, Bolivia**. This school is in its 20th year and is named the Walter Henry School in honor of our UM Missionary Walter Henry. His wife, Susan, states that she attended a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) trip to Bolivia on Special Education "Embracing Disabilities in Bolivia" in 2016. She states, "most of the volunteers who worked hard to make this conference come together...I have known from age 10 or 12. Now they are Methodist school directors, doctors, lawyers and teachers - all members of the Nueva Vida Methodist Church in Santa Cruz." "The school director is working hard to update the physical aspects of the school and to provide an excellent Christian based education



for **the almost 200 students**. He has a degree in Business Administration and is currently working on a master's degree in School Administration. I have known him since he was in middle school. He has been active in the leadership of Nueva Vida church since high school." Susan states "this is a worthwhile project to support!" **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.**



(pictures from Civil and Environmental Engineering - Michigan Technological University trip)



Update on UMCOR - You contributed **\$1,235.00 toward our UMCOR** offering on March 11, 2018. The following information has been received from UMCOR. The UMCOR Board of Directors has just awarded more than \$46 million in the form of grants in support of disaster relief and recovery, global health projects and sustainable development. After hurricane Maria, UMCOR approved \$5 million in assistance to the Methodist Church of Puerto (MCPR). On April 13, 2018 three more grants to MCPR were approved, including a grant for \$15 million. These grants will allow the church to continue to expand comprehensive recovery work through 2020. **UMCOR is known around the world for being "the last to leave"**.

Sara Ann White, a board member of UMCOR stated, "I think about the scope of what we can do together. For me, UMCOR is one of the kingdom-building places of The UMC. It's just absolutely miraculous what a group of people can do with focus and a commitment to carry through."

REJOICE in what we can do together!



Celebrating Centrals Family History!



John Huston, Central UMC Historian, in the newly created Historical Room. He, along with Penny and John Zago and others, created this archival treasure room.

An Open House will be held the first Sunday of each Month. Stop in to see whose shoulders we stand on!



Grand Historical Celebration!
September 13th
5:30-8pm
Guest Speaker:
Mayor Andy Schor

Celebrating Central's building and property designation as historically recognized by City, State, and Federal Governments





Class of
2018

**Celebrate our Graduates
June 10**

We are happy to announce the graduation of four young men this year:

Benjamin Hudy-Velasco, receiving his BS degree from Western Michigan University.



Cyrus Prame, receiving his diploma from Grand Ledge High School.



Fisher Welch, receiving his diploma from Lansing Catholic High School.



Kristopher Montry-Huston, receiving his diploma from Holt High School.

Gather with us in church June 10 to see them wearing their mortarboards and gowns, to applaud their accomplishments and to bless them with our prayers for their future. We will also add some special fingerfoods to our coffee hour to turn it into a small reception for them after worship!

If you would like to contribute some food for the reception, please call Joi Tennant, 989-224-8159.

College Scholarship Available from Central UMC!

Scholarship applications can be picked up from the front desk, and are due to be submitted to the Pastor by **TUESDAY, MAY 15**. Recipients will notified by Wednesday, May 30.

Great appreciation continues to be given to Endowment funding for these scholarships.

(See Larry Beckon concerning giving to Central Endowments.)

Pastor Mark, Leora Stutes, Dick Bates, and Gene Welter

Backyard Potlucks Scheduling Begins!

What a great time we had last summer at the homes of several of our church members! It was such a popular activity that we hope to make this an annual summer happening.

We scheduled 4 last year, and we would love to have 4 invitations again this summer.

Any day of the week is an option. And if you have more room inside than out, the "backyard" concept is also optional. We are happy to help with tables, chairs, etc. The kind of potluck you prefer is up to you. Some hosts prefer to grill. Some like to provide something like beverages or paper plates, etc. Last year because of a storm, a potluck was moved to the Wesley dining room.

If you would like to reserve a date in June, July, August or early Sept., please call Joi Tennant, 989-224-8159 to volunteer your





Central Journal: May, 2018 Board of Trustees

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

Financial Reports: In 2017, the value of our endowment funds increased by 12%. Since January 1, 2018, the value has remained the same. Central has two investment advisors. One of our advisors for many years has been Chuck Sargent IV, the Senior Vice-President of Wells Fargo Advisors. Chuck retired at the end of April. His son, Chuck V, has also been working with Central for the past five years and will replace his father in working with Central.

Fellowship Hall Lighting: Central's building staff has changed all of the Fellowship Hall chandelier ceiling lights with LED bulbs. The room will be brighter and the cost of lighting will be reduced. When time allows, lights under the south balcony will also be replaced with LED.

Tuckpointing: Several companies have been contacted to inspect the condition of the masonry work of our buildings, the stone and brick. The companies will propose what work needs to be done and recommend priorities. Restoration work that is done is called tuckpointing. Some of the water that enters our buildings can be solved by tuckpointing.

Historic Celebration: Central is the only church in the Lansing area that has been historically recognized at the local, state and national levels. Plans are being made for a celebration on Thursday, September 13. The mayor of Lansing will be the major speaker. Preservation Lansing will be sponsoring this celebration with Central. Several members of Central are involved in planning the celebration.

Gym Restoration: The trustees have approved the restoration of the gym, which is expected to cost more than \$3,000. New lighting will be installed, and plastering and painting will be done. It is expected it will take several weeks to complete all the needed work. The gym will be closed in July and August. The work will be done by Central staff.

Submitted for the Board of Trustees by Larry Beckon

Thank you to all those who volunteer to keep our grounds inviting and pretty. Spring clean up helpers were Mary Bourdreau and Andrea Nevois.





Among Friends
Please pray for ~

As of this writing,

Joy Adcock, Clark Home; Frank and Win Anderson, home; Mike Garcia, Sparrow; Carolyn Schuurmans, Byron Center; Justin Sleight, home; Tom Towsley, home; Bob Westerfield, home.

*Dear Central Family,
Thank you so much for all your cards and condolences. A mothers passing is not easy. She told me she was ready to move on to her next life. My mother was a very unstable diabetic. She fought most of her life for life and at the end was so very tired. So knowing she is at peace, is a gift to us all.*

We miss you. There is no place like Central. God's blessing to all.

*Love,
JoAnn Knechtel*

Central email addresses:

Pastor Mark: seniorpastor@lansingcentralumc.net

Office: adminassistant@lansingcentralumc.net

Music/Worship:

musicdirector@lansingcentralumc.net

Pastor Bill: assistantpastor@lansingcentralumc.net

Building: buildingsuper@lansingcentralumc.net

Finance: financialsecretary@lansingcentralumc.net

Please use for all church correspondence.
Thank you.

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

The June deadline is **May 20**. Please submit your article to the editor at adminassistant@lansingcentralumc.net by that date.

Thank you for participating in Central UMC

Church Directory

Rev. Mark Thompson,
Senior Minister

Rev. Bill Amundsen, Assistant Pastor

Joi Tennant, Small Group Coordinator

Caryn Welter, Director, Music and Worship, Organist

Alison Geesey, Director, Chancel Choir

Janet Geissler, Director, Bell Choir

Annalise Poco - Alto, **Jenn Giustino** -

Soprano, **Cody Harrell** -Bass,

Jarod Moyer - Tenor

Chancel Choir Section Leaders

Patricia Mort, Administrative Secretary

Stephanie Rave, Financial Secretary/
Bookkeeper

Bruce Newton, Facility Manager

Jack Neller, Custodian/Building Attendant

Anthony Moran, Jeremy Brown,
Building Attendants

Office Phone: (517) 485-9477

Office Fax: (517) 485-9772

Website: lansingcentralumc.net

Facebook: Lansing Central United
Methodist Church

Coffee Fellowship 9:00

Sunday Worship – 9:30 AM

Fellowship Hour – 10:30 AM

The worship service is broadcast live
On **Radio** at 9:30 AM on WJIM-AM (1240)
radio

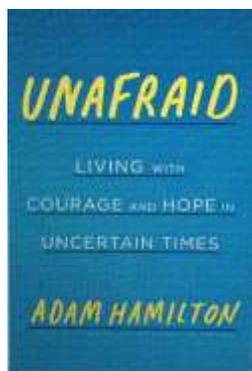
Television telecast

Tuesday and Thursday at 4 PM on
Lansing Comcast Cable channel 16.

**For publication in the next Journal send
copy by the 20th to:**

adminassistant@lansingcentralumc.net

**Welcome to our New Members:
Lisa Speck and Joe Weisenberger.**
They were sponsored by Mary Jessup and Bob Pena as they joined on April 8th.



Are you sensing that Fears and Worries too often control your mind?

Take time this month to learn practical steps to overcome them.

Step into the Fellowship Hall Shalom Center - cookies and coffee in hand - after worship, through May 13 ; and join the discussion led by Pastor Mark, and generated from the series of DVD interviews we will watch: *Unafraid*, by Adam Hamilton.

The topics for:

- May 6
Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances;
- May 13
Aging, Illness, Dying, and Fear of the Lord;

This is our new "Small Group" for spring. Please consider committing to this study each week, and inviting a friend! Meeting together weekly in a small group creates new understandings, friendship, and deeper faith.

"The church is not a building...the church is a people." So the song goes. We are in this together wish to empower each other for the sake of spiritual and numerical growth.



. . . serving as a liturgist, contact Edie Robinson

. . . presenting to the "Young at Heart," contact Caryn Welter

. . . greeting, contact Sue Strait

. . . serving in the summer music schedule, contact Caryn Welter

. . . ringing with the Central Bell Ringers, contact Janet Geissler

. . . singing with the Spirit Singers, contact Caryn Welter

. . . singing with the Chancel Choir, contact Alison Geesey

Beginning April 15, sign-up sheets will be available at the front desk.

Thank you for your Ministry!



Needed: someone to provide gluten-free bread for Communion beginning with June.

Please contact Mary Nesman at 517-321-4153 to help.



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

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

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