



Founded 1850

Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

[Pastor Mark's Musings](#)

Thank you, Pat Mort and Stephanie Rave!

Central is blessed to have so many people involved in the life of the congregation. “It takes a village” to help nurture the faith in each other, welcome new acquaintances on the journey along beside of the regular participants, keep the building up, and pay for the program and maintenance of it all. Most of the folks who do such are volunteers.

As most churches, Central has a paid staff that enhances the work of volunteers so as to empower them to do the work of ministry. We are very appreciative of all of our staff that enhances worshipful experiences, works in the offices, cleans and maintains the building and so much more!

I wish to lift up two persons in a unique way: Pat Mort, who has been the Administrative Secretary for over 15 years and Stephanie Rave, who has been our Bookkeeper and Financial Secretary for over 12 years. All three positions are being eliminated effective October 1, 2018, due to much needed budget cuts.

Pat grew up at Central and has served the congregation and community in many ways throughout the years. She has been able to guide some of the programming and ministries of the church in ways seen and unseen. Through the years, she has gone out of her way to enhance the fellowship and life of Central. We cannot thank her enough for her ministry and passion for Central.

Stephanie served the congregation well in the role of Bookkeeper and Financial Secretary. Through ongoing changes in bookkeeping records, computer systems and programs, I have seen her deal with the frustrations with patience. Kudos to her for her diligence in her ministry tasks.

We will miss seeing each of them in the office suite at Central. We trust that you will be able to continue to use your volunteer time to enhance Central's growth.

Thank you, Pat and Stephanie for your generous spirits that enliven ministry at Central.

Seeking to Serve as part of the “heart of Christ in the heart of the City,”
Pastor Mark

Central Ministries Calendar

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

October

4 Thursday

6:30pm Spirit Singers
7:30 Chancel Choir

7 Sunday

Holy Communion
9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship
9:30 Worship
10:30 Fellowship
5:30pm Vespers

11 Thursday

6:30pm Spirit Singers
7:30 Chancel Choir

14 Sunday

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship
9:30 Worship
10:30 Fellowship
4pm Bobby Jo Valentine Concert
5:30 Vespers

15 Monday

6pm Judy Grove Circle
6 Rainbow Café Up Close and Personal with Bobby Jo Valentine Pot Luck Salad Dinner

18 Thursday

6:30pm Spirit Singers
7:30 Chancel Choir

21 Sunday

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship
9:30 Worship
10:30 Fellowship
5:30pm Vespers

25 Thursday

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

28 Sunday

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship
9:30 Worship
10:30 Fellowship
5:30pm Vespers

November

1 Thursday

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

4 Sunday

Holy Communion
9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship
9:30 Worship
10:30 Fellowship
5:30pm Vespers



Welcome to our new Office Manager, Delicia Lockhart!

Delicia comes to us from Lansing Community College where she was an Administrative Assistant in Community Education.

Delicia lives in Holt with your husband, Sean, and son, Anthony. She also has a daughter, Alexis, and granddaughter, Carleigh.

Please make Delicia welcome as she begins her time with us. She asks for your patience as she learns the job and the Congregation.

She will be in the office Monday through Friday from 9am—2pm.

Upcoming Events

To invite friends, neighbors, anyone to!

Sunday, October 14, at 4:00pm, Bobby Jo Valentine will bring his Big, Big Love tour—a concert tour about the ways we find, lose, and discover love. His brand-new album, “Maybe Stars,” is available on iTunes and Spotify.

The annual Christmas Cabaret Benefit will be on **Friday, December 7**, with auction items made available ahead of that weekend.

Sunday, December 16, at 4pm, Elden Kelly and his wife Lani will perform a Christmas Concert in our Sanctuary.



Music and Worship Notes

Caryn Welter, Music Ministries and Worship Arts Director

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NOTES FOR OCTOBER, 2018

We're off to a great start! Thanks to all who are singing with the Spirit Singers and / or the Chancel Choir. Folks are very complimentary of what you're doing in worship.

This public thank-you goes to Janet Geissler for ringing the carillon as people arrived at the Thursday, September 13, Central Historical recognition.

Another public thank-you goes to co-chairs Nancy O'Shea and Carolyn Kirkby, assisted by Mary Ellen Maas, John Houston, and Joi Tennant for designing and implementing a fabulous celebration called "Homecoming"! Thanks, too, to bagpiper Walter Priebe and the Frontier Barbershop Quartet for providing uplifting musical segments. And, to all who attended, thank you for providing your usual colorful array of incredibly delicious food.

CONTRIBUTING TO CENTRAL'S OUTREACH AND INSPIRATION

September 29 – 7 individuals attended Michael Hawn workshop in Grand Rapids, featuring ways to enliven and broaden congregational singing in the 21st century

October 14 – Community Outreach via vocalist Bobby Jo Valentine, singing about the way we find, lose, and discover love

October 18 – First rehearsal, Central Bell Ringers

November 11 – bid sheets due so Cabaret auction items can be displayed on November 25

November 16 – Community Outreach - Silver Bells

November 25 – Cabaret auction items on display

December 7 – Community Outreach – Christmas Cabaret Benefit – doors open 5:45 p.m.

December 16 – Community Outreach – Elden and Lani Kelly in concert – 4:00 p.m.

December 24 – 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.- Central and community in worship

February 17 – Community Outreach - Frontier Barbershop Quartet in concert – 4:00 p.m.

May 19 – Community Outreach - Celebration of Music in Worship / Spaghetti Lunch

Discover there's more to Battle Creek than Snap, Crackle and Pop when you travel there by luxury coach October 10 with Day Trippers. Learn how Battle Creek was part of the Underground rail road, dine in the historic Michigan Central Railroad depot, see the homes where the Seventh Day Adventist Church began and honor the men and women who gave their life so we live in freedom. Day Trippers is a group of adults who enjoy going to interesting places, having lunch out and being home by late afternoon. The group plans four reasonably priced trips a year, travels by luxury coach and welcomes you and your friends to come with us.

The next trip leaves at 9 a.m., Wednesday, October 10 to discover Battle Creek, just an hour SW of Lansing. Kellogg's is synonymous with Battle Creek but we will discover there's more than breakfast cereal to this neighboring city. The \$55 per person cost includes transportation, tip for bus driver, lunch, snack on the way home, and donation to Historic Village. Sign up after church at Day Tripper's table in Fellowship Hall or call Rev. Bill Amundsen, 323-2445. Your check is your reservation.

Michigan Area Bishop, Rev. David Bard, at Central's Historic Celebration.



Old acquaintances renewed at Central's Historic Celebration.





Food and fun at Central's last summer picnic at Dave and Mary Jessup's home.

If you experience any radio/audio-visual issue, please IMMEDIATELY call or text Peter Hudy @ 5179276682 so that the issue can be addressed as soon as possible.

Thank you for your help in making this ministry more effective. in making this vital ministry more effective.

Additional hearing aids are available on loan during the service. Ask an usher if you need one. These new devices are in memory of Marion and Rolin Stutes and Donald McLaughlin.

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 the Office for available dates and indicate who is being honored or remembered. (485-9477)

You may also contribute towards the radio ministry without sponsoring a specific broadcast.

The cost is \$250 per week.

Our 55th Year of Broadcasts.

3 Brand New FALL SMALL GROUPS

Come be a part of one of these 7-week book studies to expand your mind, grow your faith, and strengthen our congregation!

Together at the Table; Diversity Without Division,

by Bishop Karen P. Oliveto,
co-led by Pastor Mark Thompson
and Denny Stoneman
Hosted by Al and Sharon Doering

Ruthless Trust,

by Brennan Manning,
led by Dave Stinson

Doors into Prayer,

by Emilie Griffin,
led by Joi Tennant

You will find a brochure with all details, times, and places in your September Sunday bulletins! Sign-up in Fellowship Hall.



At Central's Historic Celebration.

Do you like being with young adults? Here's your chance! Central UMC members, friends and visitors are invited to partner with MSU Wesley students this year by making a commitment to get together with a new young friend for a meal once a week. Freshman and returning students will be heading back to East Lansing and LCC soon. For some, a relationship with someone like you would mean so much. If you want to be in relationship with a young adult this year or just want more information, give Pastor Bill Chu a call at 517-996-2207 and let him know Central sent you.



Nancy Dibble lines up her shot at Central's last summer picnic at the Jessup's.

Save Fellowship Time!

We NEED 4 "teams" to take turns about once a month setting up and taking down coffee hour.

Please call 2 or 3 friends and create your team! It's easy and fun when we all help out! Your team should include one person who is already experienced in this job. We can help you figure that out! After-Church Fellowship is a Central institution! WE NEED IT! We LOVE it!

We NEED You!

Please Help!

**Call Mike Garcia to volunteer
517-908-5109 or 517-885-8173.**

Mission Committee

Cathy Amundsen, Chairperson

THANK YOU for all the school supplies you gave to Willow School. Many of you had an opportunity to meet and visit with the Principal, Mr. Lonzo, while he was here at Central for the dedication of the supplies. Those of us who transported them to the school saw the joy on the faces of staff members there as we unloaded box after box. You have truly made a difference in the lives of children AND teachers!

Please see the invitation from Willow School to the Luau and hog roast on October 3rd. This is your chance to tour the school, enjoy a hog roast and sample fresh produce from the Willow Garden.

Sunday September 23rd we celebrated Peace with Justice Sunday. The total for that offering, so far, is \$200.00.

October 7th is World Wide Communion Sunday. Since 1940 communion has been celebrated with Christians of all faiths on this first Sunday of October. In the UM Church this special offering supports racial and ethnic minority students pursuing various avenues of ministry. Your support of this offering aids in developing church leaders for the future of the UMC.

October 7th is also the Lansing Area CROP Walk. If you are interested in walking or supporting this effort please see Kathy Hicks either of the next two Sundays.

Cathy Amundsen for the
Mission Commission



We've moved!

Dears,

I greet you in the name of our risen Lord. It has been a while that you have not heard from us. Mbwizu and I have been one year off mission work for some time. We have received a new assignment to serve as missionaries in Belize, Central America, where we have arrived already on September 10, 2018. The Methodist Church of Belize is part of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas. The Conference is composed of Belize, Honduras and Haiti. My task will consist in supervising the work in the Stan Creek Circuit and grooming pastors spiritually. Mbwizu will serve as the director of Christian Education in the same Circuit. Together, we will endeavor to bring our humble contribution to this marvelous work that has been ably led by women and men of great competence for over eight decades.

Allow me thus to sincerely thank you for all your multiple support. Our prayer and hope is that you will continue to support us in this new adventure for the glory of the One who has called us to this new ministry.

May you be abundantly blessed!

Sincerely yours in His field,

Nkemba and Mbwizu Ndjungu
Your missionaries

Aloha!

You are invited to Willow's 2nd Annual Luau and Hog Roast!

Join us for this celebration of community, culture, and families!

- **Enjoy a hog roast**
- **Play games and activities**
- **Take a tour of the school**
- **Sample fresh produce from the Willow Garden**

Questions?

Contact Principal Steven Lonzo at steven.lonzo@lansingschools.net or Shalyn Stack at scwillow@cismichigan.org.

**Event to be held at the following time, date, and location:
Wednesday, October 3, 2018 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM (EDT)
Willow Elementary School
1012 Willow St
Lansing, MI 48915**

I wish I did not have to say goodbye to all my friends here at Central. I understand the financial problem and the first cut is always staff.

For the 12 years I've been here I would like to recognize those who have helped me in my position: Jamie Zimmer, Pat Mort, Larry Beckon, and Bruce Newton. I wish you all well. Thank you. *Stephanie Rave*



As Elton John says, goodbye is the hardest word...

Thank you to Jamie Zimmer, Larry Beckon, Stephanie Rave and those who have helped me through the years.

Please know you are in my heart; I just find it difficult to be in your presence under the circumstances at this time. As a third-generation Centralite, I feel a great love for this Church building and the "real" Church—her people. I will miss you very much.

Both Stephanie and I wish Delicia all the best in her new position.

Pat Mort



"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.

If you would like to help: serving as a liturgist or usher, contact Edie Robinson

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

greeting, contact Sue Strait

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

Thank you for your Ministry!

Baby rockers and toddler engagers needed! There are Sundays when families come and need to leave their little ones in the loving care of nursery workers...

If this is something you'd like to do, please let the Office know at 485-9477. Background checks will be run for everyone's protection.



**Central Journal: September 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.

Celebrating Historic Central United Methodist Church

Central is the 1st church in the Lansing area that has been recognized as an historic building at the national, state and local levels. As a Local Historic District, Central is committed to restoring and preserving the building's exterior. Central is also committed to restoring the interior of the buildings. A Celebration was held in our Fellowship Hall on Thursday, September 13 beginning at 5:15 with music from our carillons. After refreshments and additional music, we heard from the following speakers: Mayor Andy Schor; City Council member Brian J. Jackson; Cassandra Nelson of the Lansing Historic District Commission and Preservation Lansing; and Rev. John Boley, former minister at Central and now Clergy Assistant to the Bishop of the Michigan Area of the United Methodist Church. Following are quotes from the presentation by Reverend Boley.

“...In preparation for this evening, I looked up several definitions of history.... the best definition I found is that

“history is a dialogue between the past and the present.” ... What that suggests is that we are not bound by our past, but informed by it. We are not limited to our tradition, but are guided by it. And we don't worship the past, nor do we condemn it, as somehow being superior or inferior, rather, we live in the present, in work and be in hope for the future, while trying to learn from the past.

So we're here tonight to celebrate the great history of this building and congregation. It is truly remarkable – one of the longest standing worshipping communities in Lansing, housed in this unique building on this unique corner for all of these years ... who can forget the impact of this building on our lives for those of us who have been present here in any capacity over the years. It is great to celebrate this building, to give thanks for its stewards over the decades, to thank our municipal partners for celebrating history in the community, and to find ways to go forward into the future as the current stewards of this structure.

The building itself is certainly unique. It has the same architect as the state capitol building across the street, and you can imagine how this building was truly a Lansing community center back in the day, with this Fellowship Hall being used for all kinds of activities. The sanctuary, the gym, the bowling alley, Mary Sabina Chapel, the dining room. A unique building indeed ... I'll never be in a more unique building.

I remember the first time I was in the building, on an evening in February of 1997... The building was alive and you could feel the pulse. That is when our church buildings are at their best, when they are pulsing with vibrancy. If they are static and seen as a monument to the past, then we are in trouble and its congregation has little hope.

As a UM pastor in Michigan for 25 years, ... what is very clear is that if a congregation ... has come to believe that the building is the church, then that congregation has little hope for the future. Congregations which see their building as a tool to enhance ministry to the congregation and the community, with external focus, those congregations are healthier and have a greater future. And what is also clear is that congregations which worship the past, like so many that long for a return to the 1950's – they don't have much hope either. As we enter into a new era of the Christian Church sometimes called the Emerging Church, the Holy Spirit is reforming the Church to support those who embrace a different future than what has been in the past, even as the dialogue between past and present is a critical tool in determining that future.

... Our celebration tonight comes with a caveat. It is a caveat in the form of a question. How do we hold onto this great building and let go of it at the same time? How do we take pride in a great building like this, be good stewards of it through maintenance and care, and yet don't allow it to take over our thinking so that we think that the building is the church? It is critical to preserve great buildings like this in attractive ways for future ministry, but how do we refrain from going over that edge to think that the building is the church.

... But I do know that that challenge cannot be met without constant prayer, without a constant embracing of the City of Lansing, without a constant embracing of the prophetic role of the church in this place of being across from the political center of the state, and a constant and real understanding that this congregation's ministry is not to its building, but rather is to its members and to the community at large. In the meantime, we indeed give thanks for the visionaries and stewards who have gone before us and have left us this magnificent building to house our ministries and steer our passions."

If anyone wants a copy of the entire reservation of Reverend Boley, please contact Larry Beckon at blarryb15@comcast.net or at 351-0508.

Rev. John Boley
Lansing Mayor Andy
Schor

Left to right





Among Friends
Please pray for ~

As of this writing,

Frank and Win Anderson, home; Mike Garcia, home; Joanne and Ken Harvey, California; Barb Lansing, home; Ricardo Muniz, home; Pastor Mark Thompson, home; Tom Towsley, home, Paul Zimmer, home.

Our sympathy goes out to the Jessup family of the death of Dave and Mary's daughter-in-law, Barbara.

Our sympathy also goes out to the Forgrave family on the death of Anne's mother, Audrey Bas-



Central's Historic Celebration September 13, 2018 in Fellowship Hall.

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 November deadline is **October 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*

Delicia Lockhart, *Office Manager*

Bruce Newton, *Facility Manager*

Jack Neller, *Custodian/Building Attendant*

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

Delayed television telecast

Sunday at 10AM 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



Bobby Jo Valentine: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL.

Award winning singer/songwriter Bobby Jo Valentine will share his 2018 "BIG BIG LOVE" concert tour at Lansing United Methodist Church at 4pm on Sunday October 14th. Rainbow Café will also host "UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL" on Monday, 15th at 6pm at the Rainbow Café. Both of these events are free and welcome to all (Music sales and donations gratefully accepted).

Bobby is a proud advocate of equal rights for all people. This includes being a constant supporter of LGBTQ rights, performing at Pride festivals and benefits for LGBTQ youth programs all over the US.

Lansing Rainbow Café proudly meets at Central United Methodist Church in downtown Lansing monthly.

Please note the UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL event begins at 6pm on October 15th with a "potluck salad" dinner included.

Denny Stoneman, Founder/Director
Lansing Rainbow Café

Dennydds1@yahoo.com
Facebook: Lansing Rainbow Cafe

Vespers

Vespers is designed as a study of progressive Christianity using books written largely by scholars of the prestigious Jesus Seminar. These writings are challenging older ways of reading scripture in order to enrich and expand our understanding in light of contemporary research and conversation

This fall, we are using Bishop John Shelby Spong's book "Biblical Literalism – A Gentile Heresy" which examines the Gospel of Matthew in light of its very Jewish nature. Our Gospels quote extensively from the Old Testament traditions because they were written primarily by Jewish authors for Jewish audiences in the synagogues. Christianity was in its infancy and not fully developed for three hundred years.

We meet Sundays at 5:30 – 7:00pm in the second floor conference room. The members represent various religious backgrounds. You are very welcome to join us!

Jamie and Paul Zimmer are the conveners supported by Pastor Bill Amundson,



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

10:30 AM - Fellowship Coffee Hour

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

