



Founded 1850

# Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

## *Pastor Mark's Musings*

I love one of our mottos: **Downtown for Good**. It continues to inspire me when I consider the work of ministry that has been a part of our long history, current day, and will be into the future. We are Downtown for the Good of the greater good of all!

**Central UMC continues to be a place where individual faith is encouraged and nurtured. It continues to be a place where persons on their faith journey can gather for worship, service and fellowship.**

To help that to happen on a consistent basis we, Central UMC, have persons to provide behind the scenes support. The Bishop appoints a pastor to lead the congregation. We employ persons to care for the buildings, pay the bills, manage our funds, direct our music, empower programs, and provide secretarial support. All together we employ 14 persons.

One of those positions is the Office Manager, who is **Delicia Lockhart**. We welcome her to Central Staff. She began working on September 21st.

Delicia resides in Holt with her husband, Sean and son, Anthony. She has a daughter, Alexis who lives around the corner from them with her daughter (my granddaughter), Carleigh. Delicia enjoys cooking and baking (especially from scratch), likes to watch the cooking channel, enjoys traveling, decorating and spending time with her family and friends.

Delicia is a great addition to our Central Staff as we seek to empower volunteers to grow in faith through Central's ministry programs. Next time you are in the office during the week, stop in and introduce yourself and let her know what part(s) of Central you are involved in. Office hours are from 9:00am-2:00pm, Monday through Friday.

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,  
in all the ways you can, in all the places you can,  
at all the times you can, to all the people you can,  
as long as ever you can.*

## Central Ministries Calendar

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

## November

**1 Thursday**

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

**2 Friday**

9:30am S'Moves

**3 Saturday**

5:30pm 10 LB Fiddle

**4 Sunday****Holy Communion**

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship  
9:30 Worship  
10:30 Fellowship

**6 Tuesday**

9:30am S'Moves

**7 Wednesday**

1:30pm S'Moves  
5:30pm Sistrum Practice

**8 Thursday**

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

**9 Friday**

9:30am S'Moves

**11 Sunday****Holy Communion**

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship  
9:30 Worship  
10:30 Fellowship

**12 Monday**

6:30pm Rainbow Café

**13 Tuesday**

1:30pm Doors Into Prayer

**14 Wednesday**

1:30pm S'Moves  
5:30pm Sistrum Practice  
7:00pm Administrative Council

**15 Thursday**

11:30am Memorial Committee  
5:30pm Bell Choir  
6:30pm Spirit Singer  
7:30 Chancel Choir

**16 Friday**

9:30am S'Moves  
2:00pm CUMC Silver Bells

**18 Sunday****Holy Communion**

8:50am Bells Rehearse  
9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship  
9:30am Worship  
10:30am Fellowship  
5:30 pm Vespers

**20 Tuesday**

9:30am S'Moves  
6:00pm Trustees Commission

**22 Thursday**

Holiday - Building Closed

**23 Friday**

Holiday - Building Closed

**25 Sunday****Holy Communion**

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship  
9:30 Worship  
10:30 Fellowship

**28 Wednesday**

1:30pm S'Moves  
5:30pm Sistrum Practice

**29 Thursday**

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

**30 Friday**

9:30am S'Moves

## Upcoming Events

*To invite friends,  
neighbors, anyone to!*

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

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



## Music and Worship Notes

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

Under the leadership of parishioners, Pastor Mark, choirs, directors, section leaders, ushers, greeters, communion stewards and servers, audio / video leaders, volunteers who help with refreshment set-up, those who provide refreshments, and those who help with clean-up, recent worship services are supported and made more meaningful. Many thanks to all.

Recently, seven folks attended the workshop of world-renown clinician Michael Hawn, who demonstrated strategies for teaching congregational hymns and singing. He emphasized that the role of choirs is to lead and promote the singing of congregations. To that end, he used a variety of strategies which attendees could then use in teaching each other. Spirit Singers are now going back to singing a host of more “spirited” pieces. As an extension of our “Together We Will” stewardship efforts, various parishioners have told “their stories”. These have been most inspirational.

Central will once again host Silver Bells (Friday, November 16), providing a place for warming and for bathroom breaks, along with small refreshments. If you’d like to help with this, please contact Chairperson Mary Boudreau.

A year-long schedule of concerts has provided significant Outreach into the community. Upcoming on Friday, December 7, is the Christmas Cabaret Benefit, featuring a great meal and fabulous entertainment. Description for items you wish to put in the auction, along with an estimated value must be turned in to the office by November 11. Tickets will be available from Dick Bates on November 4, November 11, November 18, November 25, and December 2. A December 16 Christmas concert will be held in the sanctuary at 4:00 p.m., featuring Lani and Elden Kelly and their renditions of Christmas music – music that will ring in your head as you follow Advent through to Christmas Eve and its two services, one at 4:00 p.m. and one at 11:00 p.m.

#### CONTRIBUTING TO CENTRAL’S OUTREACH AND INSPIRATION

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

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



Remembering Francis "Frank" Anderson:





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 @ 517-927-6682 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



Early October Sunday Morning  
Worship Service

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.



## 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 in-  
clude one person who is already expe-  
rienced in this job. We can help you  
figure that out! After-Church Fellow-  
ship 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.**



**Our Honored Saints**

**Nov. 1, 2017-Nov. 1, 2018**

Francis “Frank” Anderson  
Joy Eva Adock  
Lucille Chase  
Jeanne Fowler  
Carl R. Leiby  
Yvonne Odell McLravy  
Tom Towsley  
Alice Louise Pifer



**Gifts and Memorials Received**

**November 2, 2017 to November 4, 2018**

30 free radio advertising spots from Town Square Media

2 hearing aids in memory of Marion and Rolin Stutes and Donald McLaughlin

Savings from hand delivering Christmas cards to general budget

Community Concerts in memory of Jeanne Fowler

South Lansing Ministries Personal Needs Closet in memory of Marjorie Sleight

Radio broadcasts in memory of Elizabeth Bradley and Ethel Mae Benedict

Contributions for church gardens in memory of Beverly Boudreau and Lucille Chase

Contributions from the estates of Jeanne and Robert Fowler for Building Maintenance and Music Wesley Yard

# *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 groom pastors spiritually. Mbwizu will serve as the director of Christian 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

For more information on Rev. Nkemba.

Born in Malonga, Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C), Rev. Nkemba's previous appointments have been as a pastor in Kazembe and Lubumbashi and as a District Superintendent in Sandoa, all in the D.R.C. From 1998-2007 he served in Dakar, Senegal, where he was involved in evangelism, church-planting and theological education.

Rev. Nkemba earned a Master's of Divinity degree in 1994 from the Faculty (College) of Theology in Mulungwishi, D.R.C. He graduated from the Kimbulu-Kayera Seminary of Theology in D.R.C in 1984 and studied at the Institute Kamanyi from 1971-77. A clergy member of the Southern Congo Annual Conference, Nkemba was ordained a Deacon in 1983 and an Elder in 1985. Married to Mbwizu Ndjungu, also a GBGM missionary in Cameroon, Nkemba and Mbwizu are the parents of



## Coffee Hour Update

Mike Garcia and A-T Welter (Caryn and Gene's grandson) will now be sharing the responsibility of coffee hour set-up and clean-up, with the part-time assistance of other volunteers. Thank you A-T! Please sign up to help! Specify what you are offering to do, such as set-up or clean-up. **Elaine Brown** has offered to keep the schedule of volunteer helpers and refreshments organized so that we have enough but not too many goodies!



**Please continue to use the volunteer sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Or you may call Elaine to volunteer either to work or to bring snacks of any kind [517-349-4886].** Elaine will try to keep the sign-up sheets up-to-date so that you can tell where volunteers are needed. She will make calls asking for your help if and when we are short on either refreshments or volunteers. And she is also planning to call to remind those who have volunteered. We are thankful that Mike is feeling better.



"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 at the doors, contact Sue Strait

Ringling 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.

**Board of Trustees**

Submitted for the Board of Trustees by Larry Beckon



**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 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 [blar-ryb15@comcast.net](mailto:blar-ryb15@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,*

Mike Garcia, home; Joanne and Ken Harvey, California; Barb Lansing, home; Ricardo Muniz, home; Paul Zimmer, home.

We pray for Linda Towsley and her family in the recent death of her husband Tom.



Bobby Jo Valentine in Concert  
October 14 as part of our Concert Series

#### Central email addresses:

Pastor Mark: [seniorpastor@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:seniorpastor@lansingcentralumc.net)

Office: [adminassistant@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:adminassistant@lansingcentralumc.net)

Music/Worship:

[musicdirector@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:musicdirector@lansingcentralumc.net)

Pastor Bill: [assistantpastor@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:assistantpastor@lansingcentralumc.net)

Building: [buildingsuper@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:buildingsuper@lansingcentralumc.net)

Finance: [financialsecretary@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto: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 December deadline is **November 20**. Please submit your article to the editor at [adminassistant@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto: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*

*Soprano, Anna Poco*

*Alto, Colleen McNickle*

*Tenor, David Miechiels*

*Baritone, Cody Harrell*

**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](http://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](mailto:adminassistant@lansingcentralumc.net)



Bobby Jo Valentine: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL.

The Bobby Jo Valentine Concert along with **Lansing Rainbow Café**: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL events in October were both well attended and very inspiring for us all. Bobby's personal testimony and talent were great examples to each of us privileged to hear him.



## SAVE THE DATE



LANSING RAINBOW CAFÉ  
"THE HEART OF AN ALLY"

The November 12th event will address the topic of what it takes to be effective LGBTQIA allies. We will have a brief presentation with materials designed to stimulate discussion related to being powerful advocates for our local LGBTQIA friends and community. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend this free event (donations gratefully accepted). Snacks and beverages will be provided.

**Lansing Rainbow Café** proudly meets at Central United Methodist Church in downtown Lansing on the second Monday of each month from 6:30-8pm. Please join us on November 12th and be **INSPIRED**.

Denny Stoneman, Founder/Director  
Lansing Rainbow Café

Dennydds1@yahoo.com  
Facebook: Lansing Rainbow Cafe



*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

9:00 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.

