



Founded 1850

Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

Pastor Mark's Musings

I have written 384 renditions of pastor articles for church newsletters; one each month for 32 years. In all those years, I don't recall a time of repentance of my white privilege. "What you ignore you empower." This came from an article by Jim Morse that spoke of the horrors of the holocaust. The same can be said of the reality of white privilege.

Such privilege is showing itself in the continued and now more documented violence. The article "Finally Came to Understand White Privilege" by Shane Phipps (patheos.com/blogs/shanephipps/2017/07/02/finally-came-understand-white-privilege) helped me to face up to reality on a deeper level.

The hatred shown to Colin Kaepernick guised as patriotism, the reality of brutality shown to Trayvon Martin (biography.com/people/trayvon-martin-21283721) and other black men and women, girls and boys, is making headlines more now than ever.

In our Book of Discipline of The UMC, in the Section of our Social Principles: The Social Community, we find this:

We support the basic rights of all persons to equal access to housing, education, communication, employment, medical care, legal redress for grievances, and physical protection. We deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, disability, status, economic condition, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious affiliation.

This speaks to the spirit of United Methodism, my spirit, your spirit as United Methodists. I pray that I will continue to intentionally continue to move on to perfection as I emulate Jesus, the Christ in all that I believe, say and do. I implore you to do the same. Our world desperately needs us to do so.

One way that I vow to do so is to listen more and more to the voices of those who are marginalized. Maybe I am keener to such since I do fit into such a group (openly gay UMC clergy in a partially homophobic State, Nation, and Denomination).

Whatever the case may be, I am where I am today because of rubbing shoulders with marginalized people and listening to their stories through face to face encounters, reading and listening to podcasts. And then letting their stories change me; change my life attitude. I have used my white privilege to get ahead, for I have been silent; **I repent and seek to change my ways by being prophetic against racism.**

I have used my white privilege to get ahead, for I have not let the stories of prejudice change my life attitude enough; **I repent and seek to allow reality of life before my very eyes to change me to the core of my being.**

I have used my white privilege to get ahead, for I have not be a studious person in remembering the lessons given to me by marginalized persons; **I repent and seek to be fully present and vulnerable to change when hearing, reading, watching racial injustices.**

Moving On to Perfection Along Beside of You,
Pastor Mark

*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.*

- John Wesley

Central Ministries Calendar

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

February

6 Wednesday

3:00pm SPRC Meeting

6:00pm Finance Committee Meeting

7:00pm Ad Council

7 Thursday

6:30pm Spirit Singer

7:30pm Chancel Choir

10 Sunday

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship

9:30am Worship

10:30am Fellowship

1:15pm Elden Kelly Student Recital

5:30pm Vespers

11 Monday

6:00pm Rainbow Café

14 Thursday

6:30pm Spirit Singer

7:30pm Chancel Choir

15 Friday

7:00am CUMC Food Drop

17 Sunday

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship

9:30am Worship

10:30am Fellowship

5:30pm Vespers

18 Monday

1:00pm Guys Lunch Out—Flapjack's

19 Tuesday

Book Study w/Rev. Ellen Zienert

20 Wednesday

9:00am Day Trippers

21 Thursday

6:30pm Spirit Singer

7:30pm Chancel Choir

24 Sunday

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship

9:30am Worship

10:30am Fellowship

5:30pm Vespers

27 Wednesday

7:00pm Ad Council

28 Thursday

6:30pm Spirit Singer

7:30pm Chancel Choir



Upcoming Events

*To invite friends,
neighbors, anyone to!*

February 20th—Day Trippers, 10:30 AM at Central UMC. We are staying “home” on a wintry day to travel in our imagination. A storyteller will transport us by words, Jack Neller’s model trains will be on display transporting us back to our childhood memories, lunch will be satisfying and then we are “traveling” to a warm, sunny afternoon in Hawaii with a DVD travel guide. Join us for a good change of pace for just \$25.00 each.

March 1st— Friday Night Book Study, at 7:00pm-8:30pm; We’re studying John Shelby Spong’s book entitled: “Why Christianity Must Change or Die” We’ll be discussing chapter 3, entitled, “In Search of God: Is atheism the Only Alternative to Theism?”

Meeting location: Rev. Bill and Cathy Amundsen’s home—735 Maycroft Road, Lansing, MI 48917

March 9th - We have been notified that **Carolyn Schuurman’s**

Memorial Service will be
Saturday, March 9, at 11:00am
at Central, with a luncheon following.



Music and Worship Notes for Feb. 2019

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

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Sunday, April 28, 4:00 p.m.

Guest Organist plays the Jaeckel organ in Central UMC's sanctuary

Co-sponsored by Central's Music Department and the Fellowship of United Methodists
in Music and Worship Arts

Sunday, May 5, 4:00 p.m.

Capitol City Ringers in concert – Fellowship Hall

Reception afterward, sponsored by the Ringers

Sunday, May 19, 9:30 a.m.

Celebration of Music in Worship

10:30 a.m. Spaghetti Lunch, in downstairs dining room, sponsored by Central's Music
Committee

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

How easy is it for you to smile? How easy is it for you to say “Hello”? Could you do those two things on a Sunday morning, for about 20 minutes? We need your help. Please notify the office of your availability, or call (517) 285-0140. It's the epitome of hospitality when guests' first line of connection is a warm smile and friendly greeting from church folks.





Board of Trustees February, 2019

The role of the Board of 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 issues: The trustees evaluated the needs of Central's ministry during its January meeting and determined what funding can be used to support our ministries. Despite less than positive financial returns from

Central's endowment funds in 2018, more than \$70,000 will be transferred from endowment funds to Central's general fund during 2019.

Parsonage repairs: Considerable progress has been made in responding to needed repairs identified in the inspection of the parsonage, including pest inspection. Additional work will be done when the weather allows.

Temple House elevator sump pump: Much of the work identified in the January Central Journal has been completed during the cold weather near the end of January. Lead paint has been removed. In early February, the elevator will be shut down, concrete will be removed, a sump pump and related piping will be installed, and electrical work will be done.

Loading Dock: The damaged door on the Temple House loading dock is expected to be replaced in early February.

Heat Tapes: The heat tapes that were installed last fall on our roofs to melt snow and ice are proving to be very effective. This is part of our plan to protect the outsides of our buildings and to keep water from entering into the buildings.

Plaster Restorations: As a result of the work that was completed to protect water from entering our buildings, proposals are being sought to have plaster restorations completed in several places. The plaster restoration that was recently completed near the ceiling in the NW corner of the sanctuary was made possible because of the tuckpointing that was completed.

Submitted for the Board of Trustees by Larry Beckon

2018 UMW AT CENTRAL

Did you know that as a United Methodist you also belong to United Methodist Women? The Mission of UMW is to support Women and Children local and far away.

Central at this time has one active circle, Judy Grove, named after one of our former Education Directors. They are a small group but mighty and would love to add members.

This past year they have done Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets for 3 families, sent holiday cards to Central's members, sponsored church meals, helped keep the kitchen clean and any other projects that come along as well as book studies.

Central has given for many years to the five channels of giving, which include: Pledge to Mission; Mission Recognition, Gift in Memory, World Thank Offering and Gift to Mission. Beyond that we give to Call to Prayer. The amounts are smaller than in the past. This past year we only gave \$560.00,

A Mission Recognition is given in honor of someone who has does those extras with their time to the church. Our honoree last year was Mary Beth Pifer. Mary Beth is very active in the circle as well as a counter, child care, coffee hour, greeter and much more. Congratulations !!!!

Every four year National UMW holds Assembly which brings in people from all over the world. In 2018 it was held in Columbus Ohio. Pat Mort and Linda Towsley attended. There are workshops, speakers, vendors, entertainment and Bible Study . The next Assembly will be held in 2022 in Orlando.

Judy Grove would love to have you join them. They meet the third Monday of every month except July and August. Talk to Pat Mort or Linda Towsley for more information.





Please mark your calendars!

On Wednesday, February 20th, the Grand Trunk Western Railroad will be set-up for Day Trippers. If you have any questions, please call Jack at 517-731-1812

Please join us!

Mary Boudreau and Bob Pena are expanding ways to reach out to the area with news about Central. We will be coordinating new ideas in social media, press releases, and activities that utilize our unique location. If you have information to share or ideas please let us know bodreau.mary1231 <mailto:angeenp@gmail.com> or 517-896-1671. thank you!

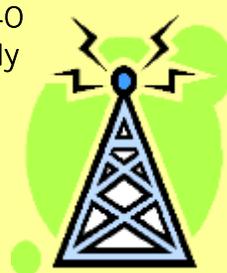
Additional hearing aids are available on loan during the service. Ask an usher if you need one. These new devices are in memory of Marion and Rolin Stutes and Donald McLaughlin.

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.

Mission Commission

MISSION NEWS:

THE BABY BOX PROJECT FOR SOARING UNLIMITED: During December you contributed \$575.00 to this project in Haiti. You are making it possible for babies in Haiti to have a safe place to sleep rather than being placed on the ground. Soaring Unlimited is grateful for the storage room they use here at Central to store supplies for these boxes.

THE MITTEN TREE: The Mitten Tree was heavy with warm hats, scarves and mittens/gloves this year. 170 total items were received. The smaller size items (101) were given to Willow School children. Staff there were very happy to see them delivered on a cold winter day. Over 50 adult size items were made by an acquaintance of a Central member. These were given with other adult size items to the South Lansing Food Bank. They were offered to folks as they came in to pick up their food boxes. What a difference you all make in the world!

The total for the Human Relations Day offering was \$270.00. Thank you for your help as we seek to be Christ's representatives in this world.

Coming in February: Valentines for CWS Blankets It is that time again. We will have Valentines and some Birthday cards for sale on **February 3 and 10**. These are unique hand made cards for you to send to the special people in your life. "I don't send Valentines!" you say. Well, there will be Birthday cards available also. Proceeds go to the Church World Service Blanket program. CWS, during the first 6 months of 2018, distributed over 19,000 blankets to folks in need in the US alone.

February 17 will be Noisy Sunday This offering is for the Ministry of Kindness Fund here at Central. This Fund is used by folks in our congregation and in the community who have needs for which they do not have resources. This fund is distributed at the discretion of the pastor. We enjoy the sound of coins, but also accept paper money and checks. Thank you for your faithfulness in caring for others.

Food Drop January 25, 2019

Knowing that thousands of folks work each day in down town Lansing and feeling that some of them would be interested in helping folks who do not have enough to eat, Central organized the first Food Drop of 2019. Advertising went out. The Marketing Co-Chairpersons, Mary Boudreau and Bob Pena helped it to be launched. Many others took flyers to their offices and parking areas in downtown. The news outlets had been alerted. There were signs in the church yard. Coffee was made. At a time of the morning that some refer to as "O Dark Hundred" several Central members gathered for the first Food Drop of 2019. We were ready at 7 a.m. When folks pulled up in their cars, food was unloaded and they were offered a hot cup of coffee or tea to go. By 9 a.m. over 240 food items and over \$120.00 had been received. Other food items had been delivered to the church ahead of time.

One of Central's members pulled up with a co-worker. Both got out of the car and the co-worker wanted to tell her story. It was clear how important it was to her that we hear and understand what she had to tell. She said that when she arrived in Lansing from Laos in 1986, she came to Central to GET food. Now, in 2019 she was BRINGING food to Central. Hearing that story was one of the highlights of the morning. Truly, it had come full circle.

The Greater Lansing Food Bank estimates that there will be an increase of 6% in food need each year from now until at least 2025. Central has been collecting food for South Lansing Ministries one Sunday a month for several years. We will continue to do that and hope to increase our total food intake each month with a Food Drop the THIRD Friday of each month.

Would you like to help? Advertising? Talk to Mary Boudreau or Bob Pena. Helping on that Friday morning? Talk to Pastor Mark Thompson or Pastor Bill Amundsen. Helping deliver the food to South Lansing Ministries? Talk to Pastor Bill or Cathy Amundsen.



First picture is Mary Boudreau from Central, and Katie Price from South Lansing Ministries

Second picture includes Nancy O'Shea and Bob Pena from Central

Third picture is Dave Stinson (warming up)!

Fourth picture is Mary Boudreau on the corner of N. Capital and Ottawa with her food wagon

Pastor Mark was also present and lent a helping hand.

Mid-Michigan District Moved!

Our Mid-Michigan District Office relocated on Tuesday, January 22! The location is more accessible and central to all of our churches and has lots of parking. The phone numbers and emails remain the same:

sgillette@michiganumc.org 517-347-4173
jdevine@michiganumc.org

The new address is: Mid-Michigan District
1161 East Clark Road,
Suite 216
DeWitt, MI 48820-8312

We have also added a new email for a district treasurer: treasurer@midmichiganumc.org

Stop in and say hello if you are in the area.

Blessings,
Sarah Gillette, Executive Assistant
Rev. Dr. Jerome (Jerry) DeVine, District
Superintendent

New Lenten Small Group Study Coming Mid-March

Denny Stoneman will lead a small group book study, to be announced soon. Watch for details in the bulletin, or you can learn more and even weigh in about day, time and place options by calling him at 407-462-0081.

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 **March** deadline is **February 20th**. 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*
Soprano, Anna Poco
Alto, Colleen McNickle
Tenor, David Miechiels
Baritone, Cody Harrell
Janet Geissler, *Director, Bell Choir*
Delicia Lockhart, *Office Manager*
Betsy Mauk, *Financial Secretary*
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

Our great friends from Central helping sort and box food at the Greater Lansing Food Bank.



CUMC member of the congregation receiving January Communion.

David Theis, former section leader in our choir, returning with his beautiful voice as a guest soloist





Pastor Mark is wearing Rev. Frank Anderson's heavy black robe, passed on to him like a "mantle" by Frank's wife, Winn.



CUMC's first Potluck Brunch of 2019, sponsored by the Judy Grove Circle

Nicole Springer was the facilitator for the discussion following the Jan. 27th potluck, after we watched the DVD from Bishop Bard explaining the report from the Commission on A Way Forward, regarding an important vote, at the upcoming General Conference in Feb., that will impact the entire United Methodist Church world-





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

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