



Founded 1850

# Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

## Pastor Mark's Musings

Death and Resurrection... Lent and Easter...contrasting ideas? Maybe not. The UM Book of Worship suggests the use of John 12: 24-26 at the Committal Service at the cemetery or other place of burial.

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

This clearly implies that death must happen in order for life to occur. That is so very contrary to Western culture. Often, we seek to hang on to that which we cherish or honor. Some go to great lengths and sacrifice to hold on to possessions, tangible and intangible.

The traditions of the Christian faith journey that I adhere to, the scripture that speaks to me, the life experience that I have found profoundly meaningful, have led me to “die” to habits, understandings, even core beliefs that stand in the way to living out God’s unconditional love for me, others, and all of creation. We, of the Wesley tradition, hold that we are “moving on to perfection” thereby letting go of that which hinders us from being “transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that [we] may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2b)

Such is what makes Easter a reality in our daily lives. I am thankful for the season of Lent wherein I look in the “mirror” and discern what stands in the way and seek to “sacrifice” it on the “cross.” This is all so that I can deeply and profoundly celebrate Easter in our lives and community. I pray that has and continues to be your journey this Lenten season of 2019. May this Easter prove to be one of celebrating new life, new ways of being Christ-like, new deep-seated change for each of us, for our congregation, for our community, and world. Celebrating new life along beside of you!

Encountering Lent, Looking Forward to Easter,

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.)



*April*

**4 Thursday**

- 5:30pm Bell Choir Practice
- 6:30pm Spirit Singer
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**7 Sunday**

**Holy Communion**

- 9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship
- 9:30am Worship
- 10:30am Fellowship
- 10:45am Church Potluck
- 5:30pm Vespers

**Deadline for ordering Easter Flowers**

**8 Monday**

- 6:30pm Rainbow Café—1st Flr. Lounge

**9 Tuesday**

- 6:00pm Trustee Commission

**11 Thursday**

- 6:30pm Spirit Singer
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**13 Saturday**

- Recycle Rama

**14 Sunday**

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

**15 Monday**

- 5:30pm SPRC Meeting
- 6:00pm Judy Grove Circle

**17 Wednesday**

- 7:00pm Ad Council

**18 Thursday**

- 6:00pm St. Paul’s for Worship and Dinner
- 7:30pm Easter Brass and Organ Practice
- 8:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**19 Friday**

- 7:00am Food Drop
- 12:00pm Good Friday Service
- 6:00pm Trustees Commission

**21 Sunday (HAPPY EASTER)!**

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

**24 Wednesday**

**25 Friday**

- 6:30pm Spirit Singer
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 5:30pm Vespers

**28 Sunday**

- 9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship
- 9:30am Worship
- 10:30am Fellowship
- 4:00pm Piano Concert, Sanctuary
- 5:30pm Vespers

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**Because we  
United Methodists  
LOVE to EAT together!  
Please come to our  
Spring Potluck**

**With Old-fashioned Hymn Sing  
Sunday, April 7th  
Immediately  
after worship**

Bring a dish to share:  
a casserole, meat, veggies,  
or fruit, bread, chips,  
or a dessert or appetizer!  
Beverages and table service provided.  
A big “Thank you,” to our gracious hosts,  
the Judy Grove Circle!

**Bring a guest!**

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**Holy Thursday Invitation  
From**

**St. Paul Episcopal**

Gather together with our neighborhood church people for a meal and a time of worship, in St. Paul’s newly renovated church on **April 18 at 6:00**, remembering the Passover Meal shared by Jesus and his disciples before his crucifixion.



## Services for Lent

**March 6 – Ash Wednesday – Noon and 7pm in the Sabina Chapel**

Theme: *Be Like Jesus* (Joel 2:1-2, 12-17)

**March 10 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lent**

*Be Like Jesus: Resist* (Luke 4: 1-13)

**March 17 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lent**

*Be Like Jesus: Compassionate* (Luke 13: 31-35)

**March 24 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Lent**

*Be Like Jesus: Life Giving* (Luke 13: 6-9)

**March 31 – 4<sup>th</sup> Lent**

*Be Like Jesus: Realist* (John 12: 1-8)

**April 7 – 5<sup>th</sup> Lent Communion**

*Be Like Jesus: Determined* (Luke 15: 11b-32)

**April 14 – Palm Sunday**

*Be Like Jesus: Good* (Philippians 2: 1-11)



## **Continuing the Conversation following General Conference 2019 of the UMC...**

**Bishop David Bard has announced four more opportunities for dialogue with him on actions taken at the 2019 General Conference.**

In a letter dated March 7, 2019, Bishop David Bard engaged the clergy and laity of The Michigan Conference around actions and aftermath of the 2019 General Conference.

“What most agree upon is that this is a challenging and difficult time for The United Methodist Church,” he said. Then he continued, “Emotions continue to run high. Reactivity is at a fever pitch, and social media is a great reactivity machine. How might we lead together in such a time as this?”

The Bishop gave the assurance that, “As your bishop, I am with you in the midst of all that is happening, and with you in ministry,” and invited all United Methodists in the state to , “join me in providing the leadership the Michigan United Methodist Church needs at this time, leadership which promotes less reactivity and more thoughtfulness, leadership which offers a holding environment that fosters creativity and adaptive work, leadership that is rooted in and promotes soul work, leadership that helps move the ministry of the church forward even in this uncertain time.”

**To further that partnership in soul work, Bishop Bard now announces four opportunities to engage in conversation. The Post-General Conference listening sessions will be held at:**

- ▶ April 13, Southfield: Hope UMC, 10:30 am to 12:30pm
- ▶ April 20, Grand Rapids: Trinity UMC, 10:30am to 12:30pm
- ▶ **May 14, East Lansing: University UMC, 7:00-9:00pm**
- ▶ June 1, at Annual Conference in Acme, MI

**The format for the sessions will be a brief statement followed by questions and responses. Sessions are open to all persons.**

## **A Statement and Wedding Practice Change for Central United Methodist Church**

After much prayer and two congregational meetings, the Council adopted the following statement and changed the Central UMC Wedding practices to the following:

In opposition to the outcome of the United Methodist General Conference of February 2019, Central United Methodist Church commits to the equity and worth of all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, gender, socio-economic class, political persuasion, disability, national origin, or other status.

We seek to provide a safe and respectfully community where all can experience the love of God fully and serve one another faithfully. Central United Methodist Church will be available for all weddings, including same gender ceremonies.

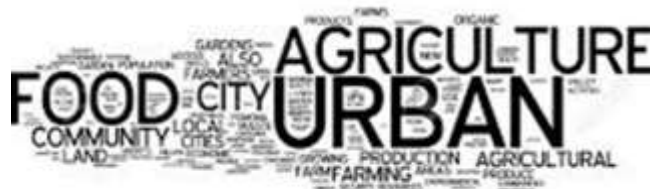
Adopted by Central UMC Council, March 27, 2019

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City Speaks presents...

### **URBAN FARMING** In the City

Join our conversation on Thursday, April 4th at 7:00pm  
Central United Methodist Church  
215 N. Capitol Ave.  
in the Fellowship Hall



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

## Music and Worship Notes for April 2019

- ◇ **Sunday, April 7th – Bells Ringing in Worship**
- ◇ **Thursday, April 18th – 6:00 p.m. Holy Thursday dinner and service – Fellowship Hall**
- ◇ **Friday, April 19th – 12:00 – 12:45pm – Good Friday service – Chapel**
- ◇ **Sunday, April 21st – No pre-service coffee; 8:45 – 9:15 am– Is an Easter breakfast: eggs; coffee; orange juice; cinnamon rolls**
- ◇ **Sunday, April 28th– 4:00 p.m. – MSU piano virtuoso in concert, Yan Zheng**
- ◇ **Sunday, May 5th – 4:00 - Capital City Ringers in concert – Fellowship Hall**
- ◇ **Sunday, May 19th– Celebration of Music in Worship / Spaghetti Lunch**



## Events and Happenings at CUMC



A Sunday Fellowship time discussion led by Nicole Springer regarding our church's response to the recent official "gender decision" handed down from the World UMC Conference in St. Louis.



An audience waiting to see the play, "Raisin in the Sun," directed by and starring Effrem Grettenberger, March 22 and 23 in our Fellowship Hall. The entire cast traveled from their home base in St. Louis. Paul Grettenberger also had a lead role in this American classic story that explores the divergent dreams of an African American family on the south side of Chicago. Paul and Effrem are the adopted children of Mary Boudreau and Susan Grettenberger.

Bill Tennant rehearsing with the choir before their combined anthem, "Just a Closer Walk With Thee," March 24.



Guest speaker, Gavin Risk, from Grand Rapids, singing a solo celebrating God's continued work in his life, as he concluded his talk about overcoming his 14 year gambling addiction.



## Mission News

COMING IN APRIL



APRIL 14th CAMP SUNDAY OFFERING: The Mission of the Michigan UM Camp program is " to create transformative camp and retreat experiences that develop disciples of Jesus Christ."

There are camps for elementary, middle and high school campers. Programs are available for seniors and grandparents-grandchildren camps and family camps.

There is no better investment for our youth and families than camp. If you are interested in a camping experience check out [umcamping.org](http://umcamping.org). or talk to Pastor Mark.

**UPDATE:** The Noisy Sunday offering, which goes to The Ministry Of Kindness Fund, received a total of \$516.81.

Thank you for your faithfulness in serving all of God's children.

The Mission Commission



**MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Beginning January 1, 2019, the West Michigan and Detroit Annual Conferences dissolved. The Michigan Conference was fully born. This change was envisioned many years ago. The vote to bring it to reality took place 3 years ago at each Conference. This change was due to need to consolidate offices, programs, services, and ministries for the sake of effectiveness to serve the entire state of Michigan.

There was also a realignment of the Districts. The Lansing District was dissolved and the Mid-Michigan District was born, which includes more churches than the old Lansing District. We are 83 churches strong, with Rev. Jerome (Jerry) DeVine as our District Superintendent.

**MICHIGAN CONFERENCE CENTER**

1011 Northcrest Road, Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 517-347-4030

Office of the Bishop: 517-347-4003

**CONFERENCE CENTER NORTH**

Treasury, Administrative, Services & Benefits

1161 East Clark Road, Suite 212, DeWitt MI 48820

Phone: 517-347-4030

**CONFERENCE CENTER WEST**

207 Fulton St E., Suite 6, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone: 517-347-4030

**WEBSITE:** [michiganumc.org](http://michiganumc.org)

**MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT**

1161 E. Clark Rd. Suite 216, DeWitt, MI 48820

## **“Financial Peace University” to be offered at Central.**

Beginning on Thursday, May 2, the Hudy and Hicks families will begin hosting the 9-week Financial Peace University (FPU) at Central as a small-group activity.

They are inviting members of the church and local community to participate according to the principals of FPU (e.g. there is a fee to enroll and participate).

Weekly meetings will gather from 5:30pm - 6:00pm for a light snack/dinner with the program to be from 6:00pm - 7:15pm.

Since this is open to the local community, it is not yet known how many people will participate. The Hudys and Hicks are going to be in touch with local United Methodist churches and other local organizations for promotion. They will also advertise this in the City Pulse.

No funds are being requested from Central, only the meeting space. In conversations with the facility's manager, the specifics have not yet been fully determined of location, but it is felt by the facility's manager that there should not be a problem with building usage since there are usually other groups in the building at the same time.

For more information, please contact Peter Hudy 517.927.6682 or Steve Hicks 517.898.3649

**To get a good overview and review of this popular course, go to [threethriftyguys.com](http://threethriftyguys.com)**



The Cast and crew of Encore! Productions would like to thank our friends at Central UMC for hosting "Raisin in the Sun". It was wonderful to be in beautiful Fellowship Hall and be supported by our Central family.

Sincerely,

Effrem Grettenberger, Alexa Seda, and Paul Grettenberger.



These wise words seen in the halls of a local high school.



Thank you!

Dear Central UMC, thank you for your support of the memorial service of my mother, Carolyn Schuurmans. The church has played an important role in the lives of our entire family.

Blessings, Mark Schuurmans

Thank you!

Central Staff, you have all been so very helpful and supportive in planning mom's service. Thanks so much for all you've done. I have wonderful memories of being at Central, and it has been a comfort to be back in this beautiful building with loving friends.

Fondly,  
Sue Eby

### 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*

*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)



*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.

