



Founded 1850

Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

Pastor Mark's Musings

John 1: 35-38 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "**What are you looking for?**"

John 20: 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? **Whom are you looking for?**" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Two very different scenarios, both involving Jesus. One was at the beginning of his ministry when he was seeking disciples. The other, after he had a following, albeit a following that was scattered due to his trial and crucifixion.

Two very different questions: "**What are you looking for?**" **Whom are you looking for?**" One can be seen as looking for a tangible item or experience. The answer was about where Jesus was staying, his home. The other question involved a person or metaphysical experience of a resurrected one. The answer involved Jesus speaking Mary's name, and her subsequent belief in Jesus as risen from the dead.

Some are still looking for a "what." A place to go to worship; a tangible locale to attend to. Hence the millions of dollars put forth within hours of the burning of the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. (No judgmental statement meant here.) We need the tangible as icons in our community and spiritual life. Yet, they can become the end as compared to pointing us beyond to the "who."

Some do seek the "whom." Looking for a relationship with God is paramount. Like Mary Magdalene, we sense there is something "else" going on, there is more to the story...so we hang around to find out. We "stay in the garden with him." Our inner most being can have moments of profound holiness as we connect with the divine essence that "calls our name."

Such craving is why the disciples gathered in the upper room after the resurrection. They had heard of Mary's encounter and they wanted one too. So it is, we like the disciples of old, gather as often as we can and crave an encounter with the holy. We gather in community to seek a deeper peace, a deeper spirituality; and we gather as a continuation of the community that gathered in the upper room; we gather so that we can have a glimpse of the holy touch of transformative resurrectional living; and we are called to proclaim such is possible for all of creation.

Come and join me on this year's Easter Season Journey as we delve into the meaning of Community of Resurrected Living.

On the Journey With 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.)



May

2 Thursday

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

5 Sunday

Holy Communion

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship
9:30am Worship
10:30am Fellowship
10:45am Music Committee Meeting
4:00pm Capital City Ringers Concert
5:30pm Vespers

Spaghetti Fundraiser tickets available for purchase

6 Monday

5:30pm Staff Parish Relations Committee

8 Wednesday

5:45pm Guided Prayer Gathering

9 Thursday

6:30pm Missions Meeting
6:30pm Spirit Singer
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

12 Sunday

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

13 Monday

6:30pm Rainbow Café

14 Tuesday

6:00pm Trustee Meeting

15 Wednesday

7:00pm Ad Council

16 Thursday

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

17 Friday

7:00am Food Drop

19 Sunday

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

20 Monday

6:00pm Judy Grove Circle—offsite

23 Thursday

26 Sunday

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

27 Monday

CHURCH CLOSED—Memorial Day

30 Thursday

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

Backyard Summer Potlucks Return!

I'm looking for 3 "teams" to host 3 summer potlucks this year! It's always easier to invite people to your home when you have the assistance of 2 or 3 friends to help with the set-up and clean up. So I'm encouraging you to form a team this year and then offer to host a "Backyard Potluck."

If this sounds like a workable plan for you please contact me this month, and we will get a schedule organized!

And thank you so much!

Joi Tennant (989-224-8159)



The structure of The United Methodist Church is based on “Conference” connectional ministry. These Conferences are both meetings and entities.

Such as **Central United Methodist Church members** make up a **Conference**, and entity.” A Member of Central UMC is a member of **Central UMC Conference**, Lansing, MI. This membership meets at least once a year in a **Local Church Conference**, a meeting to elect leadership, set the appointed clergy salary, approve Lay Servant Ministers, and approve persons as candidates in pastor ministry. This **Central UMC Conference** takes place each fall or whenever it is needed.

Two of the members of Central UMC are elected to become a part of the **Michigan Conference** of The UMC, an entity. Pat Bell and Pat Mort are the ones elected as delegates to the 2019 **Michigan Conference**. While maintaining their membership at Central UMC Conference, they are also members of this larger group. They, along with delegates from all Michigan UM congregations or charges, inclusive with all the clergy under the authority of the Bishop of the Michigan Conference, gather at least once a year in what is called the “**Michigan Annual Conference**,” a meeting. This meeting is for the purpose of electing officers of the **Michigan Conference**, setting a budget, ordaining clergypersons, making public pronouncements about social issues and concerns. This year the **Michigan Annual Conference** will May 30 – June 2.

The next level of UMC Conference is called the **Jurisdictional Conference** and entity. 12 persons who are Members of the Michigan Conference are elected as members of the Jurisdictional Conference. This election takes place every 4 years at the Michigan Annual Conference, due to happen this year. The purpose of the **Jurisdictional Quadrennial Conference**, a meeting, is to organize UMC in a certain geographical area for mission and ministry. We are part of the **North Central Jurisdictional Conference**, which includes Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois Great River, Northern Illinois, Indiana, West Ohio, East Ohio, Dakotas, and Michigan. This **Jurisdictional Conference** meets every 4 years to elect Bishops (nominated by Michigan and other Conferences), set mission priorities and budgets.

The top level of the UMC is the **General Conference**. Members of the **General Conference** are 6 persons of the Michigan Conference, elected by the Annual Conference. The **General Conference** typically meets every four years. This is the only Conference that can change the Book of Discipline, our UMC official quadrennium statement on social justice issues, concerns, and church law.

The goal is to have a representative presence at all levels of The UMC, helping to guide the denomination into “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Let us keep our membership of Central UMC Church Conference, and the delegates of Michigan Conference, Northwest Jurisdictional Conference, General Conference in our prayers as they seek to be guided by God’s unfolding of the “kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.”

Submitted by Pastor Mark Thompson

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

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NOTES FOR MAY, 2019

SUNDAY, MAY 5 – Our favorite bell-ringing group (aside from the Central Bell Ringers), the Capitol Area Bell Ringers, will perform in our Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. Their stunning performance will be followed by a great reception that's been prepared by the ringers, themselves. You are invited to bring as many friends as you'd like, knowing that the only "charge" is our accepting a free-will offering.

CHANGING IT UP! Remembering our traditional "Celebration of Music in Worship" experiences, you'll be delighted to know that, this year, the groups will be playing **their** favorites. While those will be appropriately placed within the context of a worship experience, extra titles will find their way into future services. Our parishioners love a rich mix of musical styles, and that will certainly present itself on **Sunday May 19**.

... and what follows on the heels of the May 19 service is the Music Department's well-established **spaghetti lunch fundraiser**. For an amount that's determined by you, you'll be given spaghetti sauce and pasta, salad, bread sticks, a beverage and dessert. Not only that, you may remember that take-out is available by reservation. Tickets will be "sold" beginning May 5, just so the cooks will know how much food is wanted.

SUMMER'S A-COMIN'! Our choirs will be off for the summer. That provides a wonderful opportunity for others to come forward and sing, play their instruments, dance, or design new liturgical experiences. If this appeals to your gifts, graces, and inclinations, please sign up in the third floor rehearsal room.

HYMN SINGS are a very popular launching into worship. This summer, we'll try to have one each month. Additionally, we're still introducing the concept of three hymns in succession at the beginning of worship. This can have the effect of warming and opening our hearts.

DO YOU HAVE WORSHIP AND MUSIC IDEAS? SEND THEM FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ENGAGING WORSHIP OR MUSIC COMMITTEE VIA bcaryn@aol.com.



Central Carllonneur ,Janet Geissler hosted a group of 11 carillon students from the University of Chicago on April 6th. The students were on a road trip to view and play four carillons in Michigan and Indiana. Each student played a piece on Central's carillon and climbed into the tower to see the bells.



“Rainbow Café” of Central United Methodist Church of Lansing, will be sending out a special invitation to the LGBTQ community and their allies in special consideration of Michigan Pride Week. All are welcome. Join us here at Central on Thursday, June 13th at 7:00 pm for a concert of Healing and Worship with the band “Ruach” and the music of Connie Schroeder. As followers of Jesus, this will be a time of reconciliation, encouragement and blessing.

We are still seeking band members. Please join us for a quick initial meeting at 11:15 in the 1st Fl. Lounge

Constance Schroeder

"Where there is great love, there are always miracles!"

Willa Cather



HEALING BROKEN HEARTS:

- Have people hurt you simply because of your sexual identity?
- Does the Traditional Church remain a source of rejection and wounding to you and your loved ones?

On Monday, May 13th Lansing Rainbow Café will host an open discussion and conclude with a time of healing prayer for those seeking **"heart repair"**.

Through God's strength and the support of others who relate, we at Rainbow Café believe that healing is possible. . .remaining a victim is NOT an option for us.

Lansing Rainbow Café meets from 6-8pm on the second Monday of every month. Light snacks and beverages are provided and donations will assist us in serving others. Central United Methodist Church in downtown Lansing **proudly** hosts these free events where all are welcome.

COME AND BE INSPIRED. . .

Denny Stoneman

Founder/Director Lansing Rainbow Café

Dennydds1@Yahoo.com

- please like us on Facebook for updates!



THE DESTINATION IS DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM!

Central DAY-TRIPPERS travel 4 times a year to an interesting site in Michigan or just outside our borders.

This next tour is set for the Detroit Historical Museum, where exhibits such as: Detroit: The Arsenal of Democracy, The Underground Railroad and Detroit, the Streets of Old Detroit, The Glancy Model Railroad Exhibit and much more will thrill us. Accessibility is no problem at Detroit Historical museum and this will be one of our signature tours for 2019.

Date: **May 23, 2019**

Time: 9:45 AM to 4:30 PM

Cost: \$49.00, including coach, lunch, museum, tips, everything...

Transportation by Dean's Coach (rest-room equipped).

To sign up: Contact the Church Office (517.485.9477) Sign up in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, or call Rev. Bill Amundsen (517.323.2445), or Leora Stutes (517.323.1847) Welcome Aboard!

**A “Guided Prayer” Gathering
Beginning May 1**

“Prayer changes things.”

That’s what the words on the little Hummel-type figurine reminded my family when I was growing up. There is power in prayer. We all need prayer. Let us come together to undergird our church and our world with prayer!

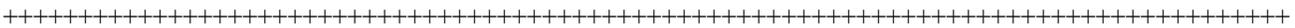
You are invited to gather with others in our Mary Sabina Chapel every Wednesday in May for 5 evening prayer services from **5:45 to 6:30**. We will open the chapel to the public, too, opening the gate and the outside chapel door.

You will receive a handout with printed prayers, inspiring quotes, and scripture for your silent meditation when you arrive.

There will also be a time for people to share prayer requests and pray together.

Won’t you join us for this strengthening time together!

Doug Lounsbury at his Spring Fashion Show.



Palm Sunday Service



Events and Happenings at CUMC

Leslie and John Prame put the finishing touches on the Easter Baskets for the children.



Dozens of Cinnamon rolls and hard boiled eggs featured at the Easter Breakfast



Doug Lounsbury, Bill and Faye McCracken and Faye's sister, Janet Geissler and Bill Tennant at the Easter Breakfast



Events and Happenings at CUMC cont...

Julie Cooper with Kelsey and grand baby



Little Tilly chooses an Easter basket



Choir people enjoying their Easter breakfast.



Events and Happenings at CUMC cont...

Murray and Elaine Brown Easter morning.



Xan and Finney choosing a basket.



Pastor Mark talking to the children about Easter eggs and Jesus

Easter worship service.



Mission News

THANK YOU for your gifts to:

The UMCOR Sunday offering. The total was \$720.00. As you know, your gifts to this offering allow UMCOR to respond immediately to emergency/disasters around the world.

Years ago, Rev. Frank and **Win Anderson** were UM missionaries in Belize. Central's missionary Mbwizu Ndjungu and her husband Nkemba Ndungu, were moved last year from Cameroon to Belize. Win has corresponded with them in Belize. When you see Win, ask her about her recent cruise where she was able to stop in Belize. She and her daughters went to the UM District office and left a letter of greeting from Central UMC. Truly, we are all connected as brothers and sisters in Christ. (See Mbwizu's most recent newsletter elsewhere in the Central Journal.)

COMING: May 5 - NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY SUNDAY - Your gift to this offering encourages leaders within the Native American Community, helps educate seminarians and fosters outreach within the Native American Culture.

Cathy Amundsen
for the Mission Commission

Echoes of Belize

A Parade of Ecumenical Witness

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!(Mark 11: 9b- 10)

Sunday, April 14, 2019 was Palm Sunday. It was an occasion for Catholics, Methodists and Anglicans here in Dangriga, Belize, to witness together for our Christian faith by conducting an ecumenical parade. For many years, the three churches - Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Epworth Methodist Church and Christ the King Anglican Church - have conducted this joint parade as a living witness of our ecumenical bond.



Getting in line to begin the parade

The parade began at one of the strategic places of the town called “**Drums of our Fathers**”. Members of the three churches assembled at this place early in the morning. At 8:00am we had a short service there that included singing, the blessing of the palms by Father Oscar Rojas of the Catholic Church and a short meditation delivered by the Reverend Doctor Nkemba Ndjungu, the Methodist minister. Other celebrants included Reverend Barbara McBride, the Anglican priest, and the Reverend Canon Jerris Valentine (retired Anglican priest).

Mbwizu is a Global Mission missionary in Belize



The meditation was drawn from the gospel of Mark, chapter eleven, verses one through eleven. In this text Jesus enters Jerusalem riding a colt. People threw their cloaks and branches that they had cut in the fields on the road for Jesus to walk on. And they shouted: “**Hosanna**”, which means “**save**” or “**rescue**” or “**deliver**”. Israelites had been under the dominion of Romans for a long time and they had always been waiting for a political Messiah who would rescue them. When they saw Jesus entering triumphantly in Jerusalem, they thought that he was the one they had been waiting for. The time has come to drive Romans out of their territory. But they missed the point, because Jesus was riding a donkey which is the symbol of peace, not the horse, the symbol of war. Just as to those people of the old, Jesus wants to bring peace in our lives, our families, our communities and our societies, not war.

Politics these days in Belize are dominated by “**land dispute**” between Belize and Guatemala. Guatemalans claim that the land of Belize belongs to them. That it had been given to them by the Spaniards. Belizeans argue that this is an independent and sovereign country. Belizeans have suffered bad treatment sometimes at the Guatemalan border because of this dispute. To settle the issue, the governments of Belize and Guatemala have agreed to take the matter to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). But, before that, each of the two countries should get the approval of its citizens through a referendum.

Guatemala has successfully conducted its referendum and had obtained a resounding “yes” of its people. Referendum in Belize was scheduled on Wednesday, April 10, 2019. But, it did not happen. The opposition Political Party has gone against it in court, and they have won the case.

Now, many people fear that Belize may lose the case because the ICJ may condemn them *in absentia*. The message of this day pointed out that Jesus may not fix our land dispute issue; but he can bring peace and reconciliation in another way if we turn to him for a true solution.

Cynthia Villagran is Belizean and member of the Epworth Methodist Church in Dangriga

The parade marched down the main street of Dangriga



After that short service, we walked down the main street of Dangriga, stopping twice on the road to do the **prayer for peace** at the North Stann Creek River bridge, and the **prayer for the family** at Harlem Square. The musical accompaniment for the parade was professionally performed by the **Belize Defense Force Band (BDFB)** that we have invited for the occasion. Each participant had a dozen of palms in her/his hands to hand out to people that we met on the way. Many people came out of their homes to watch us as we marched down the street made of boutiques and supermarkets. The BDFB went in front of the marching crowd dropping each group members at their church: Catholics first, followed by Anglicans and Methodists last.

Hosanna! Deliver now!

Mbwizu Ndjungu, Advance # 12909Z Nkemba Ndjungu, Advance # 12910Z
The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas PO Box 4 Dangriga, Stann Creek District, Belize
Phones: (501) 606 4982 / (501) 606 4024
Email: ndjungunkemba@yahoo.com ; mbwizun@gmail.com

CUMC News and Events:

Wonder what is happening in the Michigan Conference UMC? Go to <https://michiganumc.org/> to read daily updates.

SIGN UP FOR MICONNECT!

The weekly e-newsletter with inspirational stories of mission and ministry, resources and information from the Michigan Conference.

Go to: <https://michiganumc.org/> scroll down toward the bottom of the page to fill out the form.

Wonder what The UMC is up to? Want ideas for programs, publicity, mission outreach, and so much more? Go to <http://www.umc.org/> for details beyond what you could ever use in a life time.



Thank you so much to everyone at CUMC for always being so kind and trying to make this job easier on me. I appreciate everything you guys have done for Ross and myself over the past year. It's tough to be leaving on such short notice and not being able to say good-bye to all of you. Thanks again for making this one of the best jobs I have had. I wish everyone the best!

Thanks, and best regards,
Cameron Brown

I would like to thank all who have sent cards and messages for the loss of Frank. We were at Central during a special time in our lives-when we had few other obligations and could devote our time to church and its related programs.

Dan and I are enjoying the beautiful Spring-time In Nashville with its flowers and green trees.

The Remembrance Service for Frank will be June 1st at 1 pm in Goodrich Chapel in Albion. ~Joyce Joranko

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*

Paul Walker, *Facility Manager*

Vacant, *Custodian/Building Attendant*

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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



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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