



Founded 1850

# Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

## ***Pastor Mark's Musings***

Central worshipping congregation gathering in the month of June in person, listening by radio, and/or watching on You Tube, were blessed to hear amazing preachers.

***Thank you*** to Dr. Susan Grettenberger, Dr. Rev. Russell McReynolds, and Constance Schroder for their ministry in in the pulpit.

It was wonderful to be assured that each one of them would be speaking from their hearts as they preached the word from their study, life experiences, and wisdom. The work of the Holy Spirit is strong in each one of them, hence my choosing to have them preach.

I spoke of the “freedom of the pulpit” in my sermon on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is a joy to see others present what is upon their hearts, trusting that they are led by the moving of the Holy Spirit speaking through them.

***Thank you*** to our Assistant Pastor, Rev. Bill Amundsen for the pastoral care and leadership that he has offered throughout the years, but especially in the last month.

***Thank you*** to the Staff Parish Relations Committee who has worked diligently over the past few months. Through the leadership of the Spirit, they have found persons to fill our staff positions with highly qualified persons who can empower Central to move into a new chapter of spiritual and numerical growth.

***Thank you*** hose who have taken the positions and welcome to each of them: Paul Walker, Facilities Manager; Jay Smith, Office Manager; Tyler Fox, Custodian/ Building Attendant, Fisher Welch, Building Attendant. It is great to add them to already amazing Staff of Central: Rev. Bill Amundsen, Assistant Pastor; Financial Secretary, Betsy Mauk; Webmaster, Renee Hall; Music Ministries and Worship Arts Director, Caryn Welter; Chancel Choir Director, Jack Rifkin; Chancel Choir Section Leaders: Soprano-Claire Kaiser, Tenor-David Miechiels, Bass-Cody Harrell; Bell Choir Director, Janet Geissler.

Each of the Staff, myself included, offer a heartfelt ***thank you*** to all the volunteers (100+) of Central UMC. Together we not only keep the doors open, but we are living into what Central can be at this time of history.

I am grateful to be the appointed pastor of Central UMC!

Peace,

*Pastor Mark Thompson*

*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.)

*July*



**1 Monday**

5:30pm Staff Parish Relations Committee

**7 Sunday**

**Holy Communion**

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship

9:30am Worship

10:30am Fellowship

**8 Monday**

6:30pm Rainbow Café

**14 Sunday— Noisy Sunday**

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship

9:30am Worship

10:30am Fellowship

**19 Friday**

7:00am Food Drop

**21 Sunday**

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship

9:30am Worship

10:30am Fellowship

**28 Sunday**

9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship

9:30am Worship

10:30am Fellowship

**SAVE THE DATE Wednesday, August 7, 2019**

Travel with Day Trippers to the Grand Rapids area for a Potpourri of Nature, Business, History and Lunch.

Details coming in July bulletins.

**4 Thursday**

CHURCH CLOSED—Independence day

**19 Friday 7am-9am**

Food Drop

Volunteers needed contact Amundsen's

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**JULY PARK POTLUCK**

**Wednesday, July 17 starting at 5:00 pm**

Doug and Mary Bowers and Bill and Joi Tennant invite you to a potluck at the lovely St. Johns City Park – Hainer Pavilion just west of the Fantasy Forest playground. Begin gathering at 5:00. Eat about 5:45. Beverages, table service and grilled hot dogs will be provided. Plenty of parking adjacent to the shelter. (Shady, and rarely any mosquitos!)

At 7:00 you may walk or drive over to the **free** concert in the park featuring the popular barbershop chorus, “Capitol City Chordsmen,” at the William Tennant Performance Shell. Bring folding chairs.

**Hear ye!! Hear ye!!**

Mark your calendars now. Beginning on Sunday, September 1, Central UMC church will begin at 10 AM. This will allow a bit more morning time for families to prepare for worship, perhaps encouraging a child to wear BOTH shoes. What a nice way to start the new program year!

**RSVP to the Tenant's at 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.”

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

### MUSIC AND WORSHIP NOTES FOR July, 2019

Kudos - to those who have served as liturgists, greeters, ushers, sound folks, and music providers in the first half of 2019. As other people are adding into each of these categories, there's a new energy they bring with them. It makes those who are exiting some of their responsibilities feel really great about leaving things in good hands. Whether you have been serving or are just beginning to serve, many thanks go to you for keeping the worship wheel "a-turning".

Beginning now, Leora Stutes will be arranging for Communion Stewards, taking up from where Mary Nesman has served valiantly for several years, including arrangements she has made through many parts of the remaining 2019 months. Should you be interested in serving as a steward (arranging the physical pieces of Communion prior to worship time), please call Leora at (517) 323-1847. Each month, we'll continue to need Communion Servers, as well.

Special thanks - go to those who have, so far, volunteered to provide summer music: Janet Geissler, Susan Grettenberger, Sandy Humphrey, Mary Boudreau, Renee Fink, Constance Schroeder, Betsy Reynolds, David Miechiels and Maria Schoon. Please email [bcaryn@aol.com](mailto:bcaryn@aol.com) or call (517) 285-0140 to indicate your availability and interest.

Hymn Sings - So far, we've had just one, but plan to have another in July and again in August.

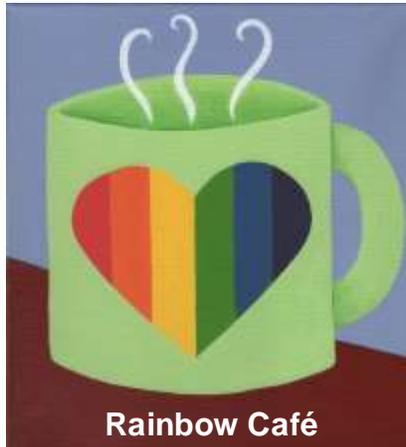
The Jaeckel organ - At the time when our organ technicians were servicing the Jaeckel organ, they located some difficulties that were somewhat apparent from outside appearances, but clearly evident from behind the scenes. They submitted a proposal for removal of the pipes, packaging them and sending them to Pennsylvania for appropriate repairs, returning them to Lansing, and tending the surfaces in a way that will present them in the same way as the other pipes. To these ends, the pipes will be removed on July 8. The remaining pipes will still be operative.

The new Chancel Choir Director - is Jack Rifkin. Jack comes to MSU and Central from Abingdon, Maryland, and is excited about working with the folks at our church. Outside his teaching job, in which he has grown programs and developed new ones, Jack serves on the board of the Maryland Choral Educators Association (MCEA), as both the Maryland all-state mixed choir manager and the tenor / bass demonstration chorus manager. Further, he has hosted and directed events which draw over six hundred male singers from his county for a day of singing. His love of teaching, combined with his widespread knowledge in the field of choral education make this announcement a true pleasure.

COME ONE; COME ALL - If you are looking for ways to serve at Central, please notify the office (485-9477) and Central's staff will help you. If you feel in any way limited in your ability to serve, there are lots of things that can be done from your home and by phone

DO YOU HAVE WORSHIP AND MUSIC IDEAS? SEND THEM FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ENGAGING WORSHIP OR MUSIC COMMITTEE VIA [bcaryn@aol.com](mailto:bcaryn@aol.com).





Denny Stoneman, Founder and Director of **Lansing Rainbow Café** since 2016, will be a guest presenter at the Sunday July 14, *Still Beloved -Worship Gathering* in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

Denny Stoneman has been sharing his inspiring story of God's unconditional love for with those who identify as LGBTQIA+, their Families and Allies. His journey as a Gay Christian reminds each of us that God's message has ALWAYS been one of inclusion and grace, no matter what voices speak differently.

**Lansing Rainbow Café** meets at Central United Methodist Church in downtown Lansing where Denny is a proud member. In a safe and inclusive setting, our goal is to inspire fulfilling lives through connection, fellowship and presentations. This is a free monthly event meeting on the second Monday from 6:30-8pm with light snacks provided. All are encouraged to attend and be INSPIRED.

**Plan on attending! Sunday, July 14, 6-9pm**



Denny Stoneman, Founder/Director  
Lansing Rainbow Café  
[Dennydds1@yahoo.com](mailto:Dennydds1@yahoo.com)



■ ■ ■ MI PRIDE 2019 REMEMBERED ■ ■ ■

What a great success for our local LGBTQIA community as well as Lansing Rainbow Café.

Last year was our first year to participate, and we had 7 advocates and marchers. This year brought 11 marchers and 8 support totalling 19. The positive feedback was overwhelming.

We added several events throughout the week including the Shower of Stole tour, 100 clergy stole displayed at Lansing Central United Methodist Church.

We also included a candlelight tribute to the 49 victims of the Orlando Pulse nightclub murders. Volunteer from Rainbow Café painted a crosswalk rainbow colors and supplied 200 bottles of water, information, stickers and over 500 HUGS at our Rainbow Hug Tent. Proudly, we doubled our Facebook friends from 60 to 120 and reached over 1100 people through Facebook and PRIDE week.

Thank You to all who volunteers and LGBTQ community who continue to support what we are doing at Rainbow Café.

Denny Stoneman, Founder/Director  
Lansing Rainbow Café

[Dennydds1@yahoo.com](mailto:Dennydds1@yahoo.com)

4074620081 Denny Stoneman, Founder/Director

Lansing Rainbow Café

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**THE DROP AND GO**

Food collection

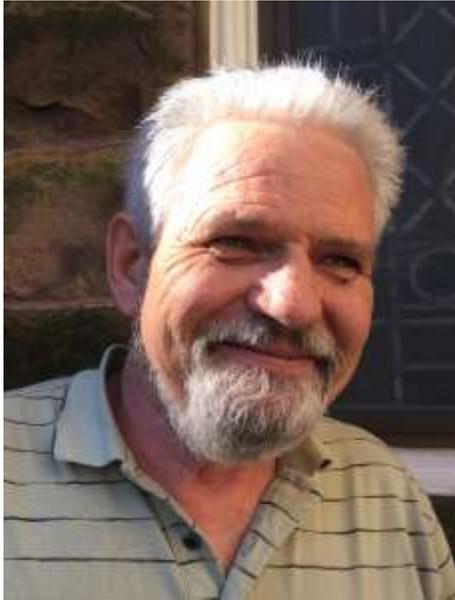
One of the ways Central UMC reaches out to the greater Lansing community is with the "DROP AND GO" food collection on the 3rd Friday of every month from 7 AM to 9 AM.

The food goes to the Food bank at South Lansing Ministries on South Waverly Road. They are part of the Greater Lansing Food Bank and project a 6% annual rise in need through 2015. They are really helping in a very needy situation in South Lansing. Cathy Amundsen and Rev. Dr. Russell McReynolds are both Board Members from our congregation.

This past June 21st, we had our best collection to date, both weather-wise and in the amount of food and money collected. If you have friends who need a time and place to give food, or time, tell them about Central's Drop and Go food collection. Remember, it's the 3rd Friday of the month, from 7 AM to 9 AM.

If you'd like to help, or you know someone who would like to help, call Pastor Bill





**Paul Walker**

Facilities Manager

Paul is an Army veteran and comes to us with over 20 years of experience. Paul and his wife, Amy, live together in Middleton with their two dogs, one cat and one bird.

**Tyler Fox**

Custodian / Building Attendant

Tyler and his fiancée, Maggie, have recently moved to Michigan from Washington state to be closer to family. They share their home north of Lansing with 3 cats; Jasper (aka Tubby), Zoey, and Joey. Their cats love watching the chipmunks but aren't too sure about the raccoon which showed up recently. Tyler enjoys working in a Christian environment



**Jay Smith**

Office Administrator

Jay comes to us from Lansing and has a cat, Frank Ocean, who thinks he is a dog because he loves to play fetch. Jay has a lot of experience with customer service, is studying psychology, and is looking forward to getting to know everybody.

# Mission Committee

Cathy Amundsen, Chairperson

## Collection of school supplies for Willow School! July 21 – August 18

Below is the list of supplies the teachers have requested:

Copy paper

Pencils

Construction paper

Hand sanitizer

Baby wipes

Tissues



There's a place designated in the church library where you can drop off your gifts for the teachers and students at Willow School. The staff is very appreciative of all Central's interest and help. Your gift can make a difference in the life of a child.

## 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.)

Thank You for your gifts of \$470.00 to the Native American Ministry Sunday offering and \$345.00 to the Bolivia - Urban Santa Cruz Children's Ministry. We appreciate your support of Mission projects close to home and around the world.



Cathy Amundsen  
for the Mission Commission



### Board of Trustees July, 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.**

**Sanctuary Organ Repairs:** Two organ pipes in the sanctuary are collapsing. We have contracted with a firm that will remove, repair, clean and reinstall the pipes. The work will be financed by the Swiss Endowment Fund which is used only for work done in the original church building.

**Plaster Restorations:** We are working with a contractor to schedule a date for having the contractor repair plaster in several places in the buildings, including the NE area of the sanctuary and the SW stairway to the sanctuary. The damage was caused by water entering the buildings. Water damage inside the buildings could not be repaired until repairs to the outside were made. The needed external repairs were made in 2018.

**Other Planned Work in the Buildings:** This is a reminder from an earlier Central Journal. Unless we incur significant damages, we do not plan to have major repairs or restoration done in our buildings during the rest of 2019.

**Supporting the General Fund Budget:** Each month at least \$5,000 from our endowment funds are being transferred to the general fund to support Central's operating budget.

**Social Hall Kitchen:** The trustees have decided to license the kitchen with Ingham County. The kitchen has been inspected and approved by the county as a food establishment. The trustees have drafted standard operating procedures for use by anyone who uses the kitchen. When the procedures are approved by the county, Central will pay a licensing fee and the kitchen will be available for use by organizations that have also been approved by the county to operate in a licensed kitchen.

## 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.



The Memorial Committee has received the following gifts since November in memory of Saints of Central with appreciation to the donors:

### Paraments in memory of Rev. Francis Anderson

(Paraments are ornamental ecclesiastical hangings or vestments to prepare a room for worship)

### Mary Sabina Chapel yard sign (made by Bruce Newton) in memory of Donald Keim

### Altarscape urns and floral arrangements in memory of Betty Corbishley

### Contributions in appreciation of playing basketball in Central's gym as a youth, and to the Building Fund in memory of Carolyn Schuurmans

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*

**Jay Smith** *Office Manager*

**Betsy Mauk,** *Financial Secretary*

**Paul Walker,** *Facility Manager*

**Tyler Fox,** *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  
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