



Founded 1850

Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

Pastor Mark's Musings

When Joi Tennant, our Small Group Ministries Coordinator, asked me what book I wanted to do a book study on, I chose "Love Wins (A Book About Heaven, Hell, And The Fate Of Every Person Who Ever Lived)" by Rob Bell. I recall when it came out in 2011. I was serving a church in Grand Rapids at that time. The conversation created by this work rocked the Christian Reform Church in Grand Rapids and beyond.

Bell founded the Mars Hill Bible Church in Grand Rapids and was its pastor until 2012. "He later said that his book *Love Wins* had led to a fallout with the congregation and forced him on a "search for a more forgiving faith." (Wikipedia)

The conversation among some of my colleagues and friends was that his book presented what we had held as truth for years. Not everyone agreed with us. I purchased one of the books for the church library and it disappeared. After purchasing four more, I found out that a person from the Reformed tradition who attended the church was throwing them away! The book is a good discussion starter. It's not a highly theological treatise, nor a complicated philosophical work. It is a presentation based on scripture, tradition, reason, and human experience that is easily processed.

"Time and again, Bell challenges the reader to be open to surprise, mystery, and all of the unanswerable contained within the 'wide stream' called Christianity."

(Christian Century)

"Bell's book is provoking an overdue conversation...[W]orth engaging."

(The Wall Street Journal)

I will be leading a lively interactive discussion on this book at my home. All are invited. We will make room for any and all. The first four Thursday of August (1, 8, 15, 22) 5:45 – 7:30. Light dinner of finger food will be offered. Books (\$10.00) can be purchased from the display in the Fellowship Hall or through the church office.

Let me know asap if you plan to attend one or all of these evenings. It will be wonderful to share a chapter in moving on to perfection with as many as possible!

*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.)

August

- 1 Thursday**
5:45pm Book Study: Love Wins
- 4 Sunday**
Holy Communion
9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship
9:30am Worship
10:30am Fellowship
- 5 Monday**
5:30pm Staff Parish Relations Committee
- 9 Thursday**
5:45pm Book Study: Love Wins
- 11 Sunday**
9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship
9:30am Worship
10:30am Fellowship
- 12 Monday**
6:30pm Rainbow Café
- 13 Tuesday**
6:00pm Trustee Meeting
- 15 Thursday**
5:45pm Book Study: Love Wins
- 16 Friday**
7:00am Food Drop/volunteers needed
- 18 Sunday**
9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship
9:30am Worship
10:30am Spaghetti Fundraiser
- 22 Thursday**
5:45pm Book Study: Love Wins
- 25 Sunday**
9:00am Pre-Worship Fellowship
9:30am Worship
10:30am Fellowship
- 27 Tuesday**
6pm Finance
- 28 Wednesday**
7Pm Council



Upcoming
Events

**Backyard Summer
Potluck Meal**

**Sunday, August 18
Following worship**

**Pastor Mark's Home
2828 Woodview Drive, Lansing**

Grilled hot dogs, brats, hamburgers
coffee, water, punch
Available
12PM

Coming This Fall:

Church Service changes to a start time of
10:00 am

Welcome Home Sunday - September 15th

All Church Study of "The Book of Forgiving"
by Desmond Tutu and Mofu Tutu



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 mem-

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

Music and Worship Notes presented to the June Administrative Council (revised):

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 or call (517) 285-0140 to indicate your availability and interest.

Hymn Sings - So far, we've had two, and plan to have another 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.



July Church Potluck Picnic in the St. Johns City



The day was hot, but the pavilion in the shade and a nice breeze combined to make for a very comfortable place for the summer picnic, hosted by the Bowers and the Tennants. It was great to be together and share the conversation and wonderful food. We celebrated 3 birthdays: Win Anderson, Mary Jessup, and Leora Stutes! And afterwards we walked over to the Performance Shell for the Lansing Barbershop Chorus Concert.



love
always
wins

LOVE WINS. . . . AGAIN AND AGAIN.

Rev. Mark Thompson. . .Monday, Aug. 12

In a time of extreme division and hatred, the idea of LOVE can feel very distant and hopeless. So why is it still relevant and how does it relate to me?

You may have heard about him, read a local feature on him or know him as your Pastor at **Lansing Central United Methodist Church**.

For several years now, Rev. Mark has been fighting for God's message of **LGBTQ+ inclusion** to be heard within the United Methodist denomination.

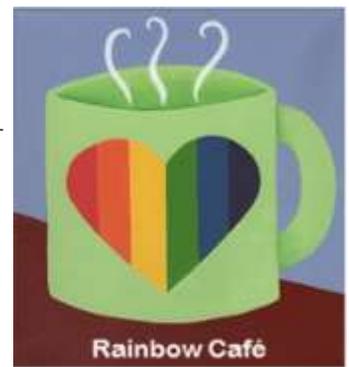
So, who is this man that God is using to open doors that were often closed?



Lansing Rainbow Café is honored to present as guest speaker, Rev. Mark Thompson. Mark's inspiring story of being a pioneer pastor who identified as gay is relevant today more than ever. This is not a sermon. . .this is not a board meeting. . .this will be Mark sharing up close and personal. We will have a question and answer period at the end of the evening.

Lansing Rainbow Café meets from 6:30-8pm on the second Monday of each month. Light snacks and beverages are provided at these free events. Donations assist us in continuing to serve others. All are welcome with free parking after 6pm downtown.

COME AND BE INSPIRED. . .



Denny Stoneman
Founder/Director . . .Lansing Rainbow Café
Dennydds1@yahoo.com

• please like us on Facebook for updates •

Tilly Randall's baptism

Sunday July 14, 2019



Pastor Mark invited Tilly to put her finger in the water, too. She touched her parents' foreheads and Pastor Mark's finger with the water.

Noisy Sunday



July 14th was also "Noisy Sunday". Tilly and her little friend helped carry a pail of coins and dump them into the wagon. Thank you, everyone, for bringing your saved coins and paper money for this Ministry of Kindness





School Supplies for Willow School - Check out the display in the Library where you may leave the items you bring in for Willow School. See more information about this elsewhere in the Central Journal. School supplies collected will be dedicated August 18th during worship.

Near the display in the Library are Thank You notes from Willow teachers and staff for the dinner and breakfast provided during the school year. Dinner was during Parent-Teacher Conference Week and breakfast was for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Thank You for your gifts to the Noisy Sunday offering. The total for that offering was \$560.04.

We have received an email from **Nkemba Ndjungu**, the husband of our missionary Mbwizu in **Belize**. While returning from a church meeting on July 11 he was involved in a MVA. All involved are "OK" but his car was heavily damaged. This makes it difficult for him to supervise the 3 congregations and four schools that he is directly responsible for as well as fulfill his duties as the DS for that area. They ask for prayers for recovery of all and funds to repair or replace the car.

See how YOU are sharing the Love of God around the world--near and far.

Cathy Amundsen
for the Mission Commission

Haiti Baby Box & Soaring Unlimited Benefit



**Save Your Stuff
Donate Baked Goods
Volunteer
Come and Shop**

**Plumbers & Pipefitters Union Hall
5405 S. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Lansing, Michigan**

August 8 and 9 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday, August 10 9 a.m. - Noon

\$3.00 a bag on Saturday



Donations of gently used items accepted Monday 2-6, Tuesday, 9-6, and Wednesday, 9-noon, at the Union Hall. Baked goods can be brought on Wednesday or Thursday. For more information contact Dorothy: (517) 882-4609. To volunteer any day from Monday through Saturday, contact Pat: (517) 896-6980 or Jan: (517) 214-7517.



1. **Thank you** to everyone who supported and prayed for me during my recovery from surgery! It has been a challenging time that was so much better due to the love of God and friends!--Mary Boudreau

2. **Getting ready for "A perfect 10!"** --Central's Marketing and Outreach program.

As you know, Central is changing Sunday morning worship time to 10 am. This is a great opportunity to invite people to join us in worship. We are doing a number of outreach opportunities to help promote the new worship time, with the theme "A perfect 10" --like in some Olympic sports. Our goal is to raise Central's average attendance 10%!

You will see banners, advertising, posters etc. Your help is greatly appreciated! There are many ways to help:

1. take cards to promote the events to your friends and family
2. donate funds to enhance Central's limited advertising budget
3. take posters to work, clubs, bulletin boards, etc.
4. continue to pray for Central's growth!

3. **Central Gardens-**

Many people have commented on the wonderful gardens at Central. There is always more work to be done, and all help is appreciated. We hope to do more "wall-repair" and mulching this year with your help. We invite you to participate in "bring your plant or rock to church" this autumn. Many people have already "split" perennials to enhance our gardens, and we would like to add more. If you have plants you would like to bring in, or need help with them, please contact Mary Boudreau. We really need "shade" plants as well as more rocks to fill in spaces. Thank you!



Board of Trustees August, 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.

Comcast Proposal: The trustees have agreed to have phone and internet services from Comcast that are much better than our present services. As a security measure, we will also have cameras installed at several places inside of our buildings.

Financial Issues: The value of Central's endowment funds increased between January 1 and June 30 by more than ten percent.

Scholarships: Seven persons have received financial scholarships from our scholarship endowment funds.

Capitol Avenue Entry: There has been a concern for several years among members of the congregation and others regarding getting entry into the Temple House. A plan has been developed for a wireless system that would allow persons to make verbal contact from the Capitol avenue entry doors with someone inside Central. A person inside Central will be able to see the person at the door, via a screen, and to make verbal connection.

Parsonage Inspection: Members of Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and the Board of Trustees will make an annual inspection of the parsonage and submit a report to the Board of Trustees. The inspection report is to be submitted to the Board of Trustees by September 10.

Parking Lot Rentals and Signs: Additional parking spaces have now been rented. New signs have been ordered which will indicate what parking spaces will be reserved.

Submitted for the Board of Trustees by Larry Beckon

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*
- Rev. Dr. Russell McReynolds,**
Pastor Emeritus
- 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*
- Jalal Smith,** *Office Manager*
- Betsy Mauk,** *Financial Secretary*
- Paul Walker,** *Facility Manager*
- Vacant,** *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



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

The Central Journal is published monthly by
Central United Methodist Church,
215 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

