



Founded 1850

Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

Pastor Mark's Musings

Here are two verses that come to mind as I write about the division/strife/name-calling/squabbling that continues to dominate how many see The United Methodist Church these days.

“There is no fear in **love**, but **perfect love** casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached **perfection in love**.” 1 John 4:18

“We know that all things work together for good for those who **love** God, who are called according to his **purpose**.” Romans 8:2

Most likely the UMC worldwide denomination of over 12 million members will spilt into two factions within a year or two: conservative and progressive/centrist . There is a lot of “red tape” that must be woven together, understood, and worked with, before the dust settles.

For some, fear rips away at a sense of community. What will Central UMC look like? What does this mean for my church family? I submit that even though we don't know the future, we do know love. Let us not seek to take sides to punish the “other.” **Instead, let us lead with love that casts out fear. Let us be people who have trust that “all things work together for the good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”** Central does not look the same, feel the same as it did in 1960. It will not look and feel the same in 2021. Change is inevitable.

Yet, God's unconditional love for all of creation never changes. “Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword... it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

Sometimes that means that division is necessary in order to develop a more God-like “heart,” life attitude, and actions that are pure and unadulterated love.

Whatever Central UMC might look like, let it feel like the spiritual home to us and to those not here yet. Let it be a place wherein we live out God's purpose as we declare in our core values: “Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God. Love God, with all of our heart, mind and soul, and our neighbors as ourselves. Treasure and support learning and growing in faith. Do our best to live out the healing work of Jesus in this broken world. Be thankful in all things. Welcome everyone. Treat everyone with respect, kindness and equality.”

Walking the Journey Beside You,
Pastor Mark

FEBRUARY



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Sunday, February 2

9:30am Coffee Fellowship
10:00am Worship Service
11:00am Coffee+/Snacks Fellowship

Tuesday, February 4

2:00pm Finance Committee

Thursday, February 6

6:30pm Spirit Singers rehearsal
7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sunday, February 9

9:30am Coffee Fellowship
10:00am Worship Service
11:00am Coffee+/Snacks Fellowship

Monday, February 10-14

Pastor away for continuing education

Tuesday, February 11

6:00pm Trustees

Thursday, February 13

6:30pm Spirit Singers rehearsal
7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sunday, February 16

**INGATHERING OF FOOD FOR South
Lansing Ministries**

9:30am Coffee Fellowship
10:00am Worship Service / MSU Children's
Choir leading worship
11:00am Coffee+/Snacks Fellowship

Wednesday, February 19

Day-Trippers Winter Stay-ca-tion

Thursday, February 20

7:00am Food Drop Off Ministry
6:30pm Spirit Singers rehearsal
7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sunday, February 23

9:30am Coffee Fellowship
10:00am Worship Service /Noisy Offering
11:00am Coffee+/Snacks Fellowship

Wednesday, February 26

6:30pm Council

Lenten Retreat
“Listen to Remember”
March 14, 9am - 3pm
Wesley Dinning Hall

Retreat Leader: Rev Galen Goodwin

Listen to the **Remembrance** of being God’s Children.
Listen and be **Awakened** to the Spirit of God
Dare to **Journey** like Jesus this Lenten Season



Lenten Series ~ Listen

Ash Wednesday, February 26
~ Palm Sunday, April 5 and
Holy Week

Ash Wednesday Service “*Finding Your Life: Listening Deeply*”

February 26, 7- 8pm Luke 1: 9-15

Imposition of Ashes, prayerful music, time for meditation

Labyrinth for meditation, in the Fellowship Hall

February 26 to 28, 9am to 2pm daily, 6:00 to 9:00pm February 26.

Sunday, March 5, Communion for Lent

“Finding Your Cave: Listening Spaces” I Kings 19: 11-12

Sunday, March 8, “Finding Your Breath: Listening to our Bodies”

Romans 8: 26-30, 38-39

Saturday, March 14, “Listen to Remember” Lenten Retreat

9am—3pm, light lunch served, Retreat Leader, Rev Galen Goodwin

Sunday, March 15, “Finding a Word: Listening to the Texts”

Proverbs 1: 20-23

Sunday, March 22, “Finding Your Power: Listening for Healing”

Mark 5: 24-34

Sunday, March 29, “Finding Your Mystic: Listening Beyond the Voices”

Romans 12: 2-12

Palm Sunday, April 5, “Finding Your Purpose: Listening to Your Heart”

Matthew 26: 36-46

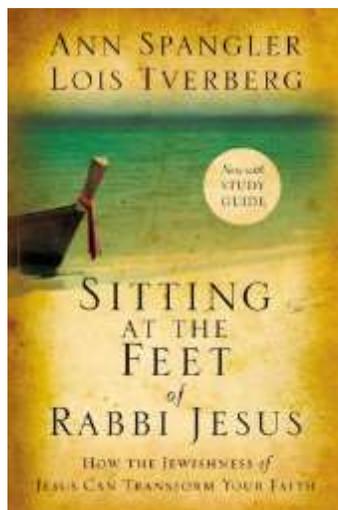
Holy Week Focus: “Hearing the Still, Small Voice: Finding Your Own”

Readings from John 17-19

Maundy Thursday Dinner/Service April 9, 6:00

Central UMC Wesley Dinning Hall

Good Friday Service, April 10, 12:15 to 1:00pm, Sanctuary



Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus How the Jewishness of Jesus Can Transform Your Faith

By Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg

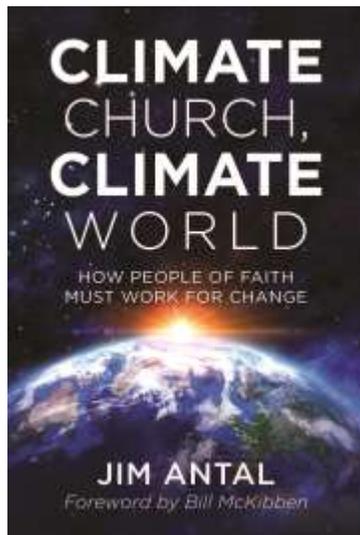
**New Winter Small Group Study
Begins Thursday, Feb. 20, 10:30 AM
At Central UMC**

I would like to recommend this book as an excellent study for your Lenten journey. As you read you will step into powerful scenes from Jesus' ministry and the Jewish world of Jesus, and immerse yourself in the prayers, feasts, history, culture, and customs that shaped Jesus and those who followed him. You will hear the parables in new ways, as they must have sounded to first-century Jews—powerful and surprising. You will watch with new understanding as the events of Jesus' life unfold, and as your mind is newly awakened to the deep roots of our Christian faith. This is a captivating journey into the heart of Judaism, one that is both balanced and insightful, helping us to better understand and appreciate our own faith.

Stop by our “Small Groups” table in Fellowship Hall after worship, where you can take a look at the book, and also sign up to join in this 7-week study which will begin the week of February 16.

The books are \$13, (or whatever you can afford.)

Joi Tennant, group leader



Climate Church, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change

By Jim Antal

Central's Board of Church and Society invites you to join in this 7-week evening book study, led by Rev. Ellen Zienert.

Rev. Jim Antal has been an environmental activist since the first Earth Day in the 1970's, and grew to understand that global warming threatened the whole planet. He presents a compelling case that it's time for the church to meet this moral challenge, just as the church has addressed previous moral challenges.

“Here is a book that has the power to awaken communities of faith to their high calling: to lead the way in preserving the web of life and averting climate chaos... It gives us straight talk about the climate crisis, faces the terrifying facts without flinching, and provides its readers with the moral grounding, motivation, and tools for faithful and effective action.... [Antal] skillfully articulates our moral and ethical responsibility and offers a humble, brilliant, and provocative reflection on the nature of hope.”

(Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullit-Jonas)

This study group will meet on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings beginning the week of February 16. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the Church Office (517-485-9477). Chose your day and starting hour preference. Location will be decided according to the desire of the group. Cost of the book is \$25.00 or whatever you can pay.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NOTES FOR FEBRUARY, 2020

On February 16, the **MSU Children's Choir**, under the direction of our former Chancel Choir Director, Alison Geesey, will present Francisco Nunez's "Misa Pequena para Ninos" at our 10:00 a.m. worship service.



The theme for **Lent** will be "**Listening**" and services will be designed, once again, by a thoughtful team.

Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, and will include a service at Central, beginning at 7:00 p.m. A room sized **labyrinth** will be in Fellowship Hall for people to experience before or after the service, and will also be available for two days afterwards.



Under the direction of Janet Geissler, **Central Bell Ringers** will begin their next set of rehearsals on Thursday, March 5, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Newbies are welcomed.

Holy Thursday, April 9, will see a **dinner** and the **seder** elements set forth at Central, with our hosting the congregants from St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Christ Community Church. If you would like to provide food for the dinner, please sign up at the front desk, or contact Jessica Randall, chairperson.

Good Friday service, on April 10, will be held at 12:15 p.m., to accommodate community people who are walking from downtown responsibilities.

On **Easter** morning, April 12, the Judy Grove Circle will host a continental breakfast in Fellowship Hall from 9:15-9:45 a.m.

Many thanks go to our parishioners for their unflagging efforts in creating meaningful music and worship experiences.

Food for thought:

According to Vince Wilcox on October 10, 2017, 37 % of mainline churches continue to use choirs. He says that the evidence seems pretty convincing that there are "seven reasons a choir can be vital to your church."

Choirs are biblical.

Choirs encourage excellence in worship.

Choirs celebrate the human voice.

Choirs can inspire and lead worship.

Choirs can be redemptive communities. Often they are a "ministry within a ministry."

Choirs make us work together.

Choirs can encourage musical diversity.



Central UMC Bell Choir

Are you interested in trying out ringing bells for worship?

Little or no experience needed... learn as you go. Music selections are meant for all who can keep a beat!

We're planning to play in the services on April 5 (Palm Sunday) and May 3 (Celebration of Music in Worship).

For April 5, we'll rehearse March 5, 12, 26 and April 2 (no rehearsal March 19).

For May 3, we'll rehearse April 9, 16, 23, 30. Note that Central is hosting a Holy Thursday dinner at 6 p.m. April 9, so we may try to start rehearsal early that night if people want to attend the dinner.

Please let Bell Choir Director, Janet Geisler know if you'll be ringing with us for one or both sessions. She needs to know by Feb. 24 for the April 5 session and March 23 for the May 3 session. This will give her time to select and prepare the music.

Feel free to invite others to ring with us! The more the merrier!

Thanks,
Janet Geisler, Central Bell Choir Director

THANK YOU for: 82 items on the Mitten Tree! You gave hats, mittens, scarves, gloves. **Central's children and teachers made 12 fleece scarves.** Most items were delivered to **Willow School** the first week of January. The items that were too large for the children there were taken to **South Lansing Ministries**. When folks come in to pick up a box of food they have the opportunity also to pick out personal needs items and when available mittens, hats, etc. Now that we have winter, these are much appreciated.



THANK YOU for your support of the Baby Box project for Haiti. \$551.00 was collected for this special program which supplies a safe place for babies to sleep. These boxes are given to mothers in the Soaring Unlimited Medical Clinic Birthing Center Program.



Coming, Be Alert, Watch for: **Valentine Sales. Feb. 2 and 9 Missions will be selling hand made Valentines, Thank You notes and Birthday cards.** Each sells for \$5.00. Every \$10.00 received buys a **Church World Service blanket.** These blankets are given to those in need in the US and around the world. It may be after a national disaster, such as a hurricane or flood. Blankets are used to carry belongings as people flee to safety. They are used in refugee camps for comfort and privacy. CWS buys blankets as close to the distribution point as possible. This cuts down on shipping costs and also provides work for those in the areas served. **During the first 6 months of 2019 CWS gave 21,574 blankets in the US and 175 blankets to Ecuador.**



Noisy Offering
Sunday, February 23rd

Help us Help Others through giving
to the "Friend in Need" Fund

Please join Central UMC's own Media and Outreach committee to share ideas and input after church on February 2 (after you get the forecast from the Ground Hog, of course!). We are in a time of great opportunity for growth so let's make good progress.

Many of us are nurses and health care professionals, and we are planning a gathering to share experiences and give input into the future of health care. Please share your interest on the contact card at church or contact Mary.

Do you love Central and enjoy putting that love into action?

Some of us are scheduling "Cleaning and maintenance gatherings" at the church. We will start and end the time with prayer and snacks will be available. Please contact Mary Boudreau if you would like to participate and coordinate a time.





**Next gathering for Church Ladies is
February 12th at 5:00 p.m.**

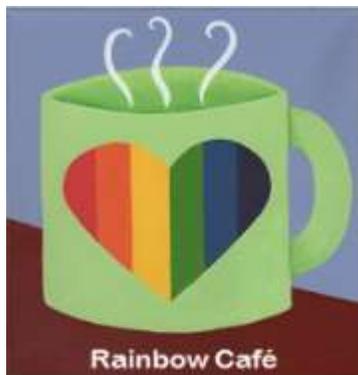
We will be dining at Logan's Roadhouse located at
5800 W. Saginaw, Lansing.



Judy Grove Circle will not be meeting in February...
we had a busy January meeting and decided we needed a
break!!

Our next meeting is March 16th at the Church. After our
potluck we will be working in the kitchen and planning the
Easter breakfast.

Please join us!



ALL PAINTS DAY - The Promise Room

Think of this event like Spring cleaning without the Spring. On Monday, February 10th, from 6:30 - 8pm we will be celebrating our new home with a fresh coat of paint and stain as well as starting some of our 2020 projects. We need your help for a few hours in making a rooma **HOME**.



We are a safe and inclusive gathering of people who identify as LGBTQ+, their families and allies. In a casual setting, our goal is to "inspire" lives through connection, fellowship and presentations.

Our meetings, held on the second Monday of each month are proudly located at Central United Methodist Church in downtown Lansing.

Denny Stoneman, Facilitator

Dennydds1@yahoo.com

Facebook: Lansing Rainbow Café





**Central UMC broadcasts
each Sunday morning service
AM radio (1240 WJIM).**

Person who tune into the weekly broadcast live in nursing home, are homebound due to illness, troublesome weather, or other causes, driving (even to another church for worship!), etc.

We are touching the lives of unknown numbers each week with messages of God's grace, justice, and peace.

We, Central UMC, has to sign a yearly contract to ensure these broadcasts. The contract requires us to pay \$250.00 each week.

We greatly appreciate persons who sponsor a Radio Broadcast. They do so to honor a loved one (birthday, anniversary, just because) or to remember a loved one who has passed on to heaven.

Have you considered sponsoring a Sunday's Broadcast? You can contribute the full \$250 or part of it.

Your name and the name of the loved one you are honoring/memorializing and the reason for your sponsorship will be listed in the bulletin and announced on the radio the day of your sponsorship.

In the event that no person sponsors a Sunday Broadcast, we have to rely on General Church budgeted funds and the Rowe Endowment Fund. Both streams of revenue are limited in funds.

We do appreciate any and all Broadcast Sponsorships.

Please email the church office: jay.office@lansingcentralumc.net with your inquires and/or notification of sponsorship. Checks need to be made out to Central UMC, memo line: radio broadcast for – (specify date you wish to sponsor) and mailed to the office, brought into the office., or put in the Sunday morning service Offering Plate.

Jalal Smith is no longer serving as our paid Office Administrator. Please keep Jalal in your prayers as he faces the probability of major back surgery.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has interviewed persons and will be hiring a new persons asap. Please pray for guidance as we seek to employee a person to help move Central forward in grace and strength.

**Building an Inclusive Church
Training Event
University United Methodist Church
1120 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing**

Saturday, February 15, 10am – 4pm

Tickets \$0.00 - \$100.00

eventbrite.com/e/building-an-inclusive-church-workshop-lansing-mi-tickets-83033141361?aff=efbeventtix

Do you want to help increase the number of Reconciling churches, communities and campus ministries?

Join us for a training designed to help participants coach ministries through the Reconciling process. The training will include skills building around topics common in the Reconciling process including: LGBTQ identities, framing, steps of the Reconciling process, graceful engagement, and conflict management.

Participants who desire to become Reconciling process coaches for their church or other congregations are invited too!

The workshop facilitator is Rev. Dr. Izzy Alvaran (Reconciling Process & Western Jurisdiction Organizer).

(from University UMC Facebook page: facebook.com/events/455385315168970/)

“A Building an Inclusive Church (BIC) training helps you design and implement a journey for your faith community to publicly and intentionally welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Building an Inclusive Church equips you with ways to create dialogue, deepening relationships throughout your faith community rather than sparking debate and division.

You will have opportunities to engage through a mix of presentation, hands-on practice, and small group discussion. Many of the tools you will learn come from faith-based relational organizing. Grounded in scripture and discipleship, this training allows you to explore your own Christian call to hospitality and evangelism. The training is centered on the Building an Inclusive Church Toolkit and includes the tools of Graceful Engagement, the One-to-One Visit, Setting the Frame, Strategic Storytelling, Scriptural Engagement, and Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression.

(from Reconciling Ministries Network webpage: reconcilingworks.org/bic/)

This article presented the Central UMC Council

ALEX SAYS, “WE’VE GOT THIS!”

Mention the word, “justice” and the first thing many think about is laws. But laws are not made for law’s sake. Laws are made for the well-being of people living together in community.

Raquel Owens, Site Manager for Justice For Our Neighbors’ Grand Rapids site, explains. “At the heart of all these cases are people, and it’s crucial that we recognize these individuals as such and not just their immigration status.” Raquel continues, “While an immigration status can define what types of legal remedies are available it does not define the person. The Grand Rapids office works with fathers, mothers, uncles, aunts, students, and children to name a few.”

Justice For Our Neighbors was organized by the United Methodist Committee on Relief in 1999. Today JFON National has grown into a network of 17 sites supporting over 50 clinics across the U.S. JFON-Michigan is one of those affiliates; its four sites operate out of Grand Rapids, Traverse City, Kalamazoo, and Southeastern Michigan.

So, JFON is about individual people but what else? Their website describes their purpose. “JFON is a faith-driven ministry originating from the United Methodist Church that welcomes immigrants into our communities by providing high-quality immigration legal services, education, and advocacy. We provide free or low-cost immigration legal services to those earning 200% of poverty or less.” Since 2004, JFON-Michigan has worked with over 3,000 clients from over 87 nations.

John’s story

Perhaps the best way to understand JFON’s ministry with people is to hear the story of a man named John, which is shared with permission.

John was brought to the U.S. in 2005 when he was 13 years old. Owens says, “When we first met John, he struggled to remember much of what happened to him during the years he lived with his uncle’s abusive family. After he arrived in the U.S., he was not allowed to go to school and was forced to work to pay off debts to his uncle.” When he was 16, John was able to move out of his uncle’s house to live with his brother, and he started school in the U.S. for the first time.

John first came to JFON-MI in 2014. “John’s case was complicated,” Owens observes, “because he did not have any evidence for his physical presence in the U.S. before he started school in 2008.” In addition, John suffered a work-related accident in 2014 which caused paraplegia. He was involved in a workers’ compensation lawsuit to help pay expensive medical bills, however, he could not collect any money without a social security number,” Owens adds.

With the help of the legal support of JFON—Grand Rapids, John was able to receive his DACA status. DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) allows some brought to the U.S. as children to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation. Owens reports, “John anxiously waited for over a year to finally get his DACA approved. Since we first met John, he has grown so much; his memory has substantially improved, and his confidence has grown exponentially.”

John now shares his journey at JFON events and is a supporter through giving.

This article was created by Kay DeMoss, Senior Content Editor, Michigan Conference UMC news outlet (michiganumc.org/alex-says-weve-got-this/)



Keep Making Peace Events

Friday, April 3, 2020

7:00—9:00pm

(Location TBD)

Sponsored by Shalom Center

Featuring John Pavlovitz

Christian pastor and author
known for his social and political writings from
a liberal Christian perspective

Blog: “Stuff That Needs To Be Said”

Sat, April 4, 2020

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM EDT

**University United Methodist Church
1118 S Harrison Rd**

Humble Courage, Fierce Love and Prophetic Zeal

This year’s event features
John Pavlovitz, Robyn Henderson-Espinoza and Bishop David Bard



Central United Methodist Board of Trustees

As many of you may know Larry Beckon has been recovering from Brain surgery, in his absence I have assumed duties as Acting Chair. These are very big shoes to fill and I realize how much time and effort it takes to do this job. Not only as Trustees Chair but member of the Finance Committee, Ad Council and Leadership team.

Let's remember Larry and Jean through this recovery and the steps and treatments that may lie ahead.

The Trustees met for our first meeting on January 14, 2020 we were not able to elect our Officers for 2020 due to not all members present. We will try again February 11, 2020. The coming year will be an exciting and interesting year and we look forward to having a clearer picture after our February meeting.

Some things we are working on for 2020, will be repair to valves and traps in the steam system, as well as a sewer leak problem due to cracked sewer pipes. The kitchen and apartment will be top priorities this year as well, in June we have Central's Anniversary celebration and we hope to help in other ways.

We look forward to hearing thoughts and suggestions from you the Central Congregation throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,



United Methodist Denomination News and Events:

Wonder what is happening in the Michigan Conference UMC? Go to 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: 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 umc.org for details beyond what you could ever use in a life time.

Church Email Addresses:

Pastor Mark: mark.pastor@lansingcentralumc.net

Office: jay.office@lansingcentralumc.net

Music/Worship:

caryn.music@lansingcentralumc.net

Pastor Bill: bill.pastor@lansingcentralumc.net

Facilities: paul.building@lansingcentralumc.net

Finance: betsy.finance@lansingcentralumc.net

Central's FAX number is (517) 485-9772

You may email the church office at

jay.office@lansingcentralumc.net

Pastor Mark's cell phone - (269) 591-0731

Our website is www.lansingcentralumc.net

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

The **February** deadline is **January 20th**. Please submit your article to the editor at

jay.office@lansingcentralumc.net
by that date.

Thank you for participating in

Church Directory

Church Directory

Rev. Mark Thompson, Senior Minister

Rev. Bill Amundsen, Assistant Pastor

Rev. Dr. Russell McReynolds, Pastor Emeritus

*Caryn Welter, Director, Music and
Worship Arts, Organist*

*Jack Rifkin, Director, Chancel Choir
Soprano, Claire Kaiser*

Alto, Sin Tung Ng "Kylie"

Tenor, Carson Greene

Bass, Lammar Jones

Janet Geissler, Director, Bell Choir

*Joi Tennant, Small Group Coordinator
Office Manager*

Betsy Mauk, Financial Secretary

Paul Walker, Facility Manager

Conner Welch, Custodian/Building Attendant

Office Phone: (517) 485-9477

Hours: M-F 9am—2pm

Office Fax: (517) 485-9772

Website: lansingcentralumc.net

Facebook: Lansing Central United
Methodist Church

Coffee Fellowship 9:30

Sunday Worship – 10:00 AM

Fellowship Hour – 11:00 AM

The worship service is broadcast live
On **Radio** at 10:00 AM on WJIM-AM (1240)
radio

Delayed television telecast on
Lansing Comcast Cable channel 16, check
listing on channel for broadcast times

For publication in the next Journal send



The Heart of Christ in the Heart of Lansing

lansingcentralumc.net

215. N. Capitol Ave, Lansing, Michigan 48933
517.485.9477

Join Us Every Sunday

9:30 AM Coffee Fellowship

10:00 AM - Worship Service

11:00 AM - Fellowship Coffee Hour

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

