



Founded 1850

# Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

## *Pastor Mark's Musings*

It's the end of the month, year, decade... December 31, 2019...that I am writing this article. It will get into the January 2020 Journal in the nick of time, albeit well beyond the Central Journal deadline; position has its privileges!

It has been a privilege to serve along beside of you in the past year +. As I review the chapter of 2019, it has had some challenges amid some profound growth. That growth has come in the form of awakening to the realities among us. The reality of God's unconditional love, life's joys, challenges, and changes have led us, pulled us, prodded us forward toward the new chapter of 2020.

One of my favorite set of bible verses is Lamentations 3:22-24 (NRSV)

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, [God's] mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in [God]."**

I have used this verse to remind people, parishioners, homeless, troubled souls, joyous folks alike, that new mercies come each day. The mercies given to us to undergird our joys, help us make it through the next day or minute are not yesterday's or tomorrow's mercies. Those mercies of yesterday/yesteryear might not be enough for today.

I am reminded repeatedly that as we slow down and contemplate God's work in and through us in any given moment, we do find that we have enough...for this moment.

**As we see the changes and challenges that face our beloved Central UMC, State, Nation, World, our ground water, fresh water lakes and streams, our borders, skies, houses of worship and schools, our streets and homes... as we seek decay highlighted in real time via media...may we find hope in knowing that mercies will be present in each situation.**

**Such hope gives us the courage to speak up, stand up, create safe spaces, join movements that move our human family and all of creation forward so that the "kingdom of God" might indeed come to "earth as it is in heaven" more in the new chapter of 2020 than it ever was in 2019.**

May God's unfailing mercies empower growth in this new year.



Central !

**Sunday, January 5, Epiphany Communion**

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

**Monday, January 6**

- 6:30pm Rainbow Café

**Thursday, January 9**

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

**Sunday, January 12**

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

**Tuesday, January 14**

- 6:00pm Trustees

**Thursday, January 16**

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

**Sunday, January 19**

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

**Thursday, January 23**

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

**Sunday, January 26**

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

**Tuesday, January 28**

- 6:00pm Finance Committee

**Wednesday, January 29**

- 6:30pm Council (New Start Time)

**Thursday, January 30**

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

“We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched.

Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives...not looking for flaws, but for potential.”



**Central UMC Temple House is used by Hundreds!**

Central UMC Temple House was dedicated on March 31, 1923. Through the generous donation of Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Scott, it was dedicated “to this community for the purpose of assisting in the development of physical, intellectual, social and spiritual life in the likeness of Christ.”

So, this north part of the Central UMC building is remarkably maintained to serve the congregation and the community.

nity.

**Here are a few examples** of the meetings that take place within its confines. (This listing does not include gatherings in the “older” part of the building which includes the sanctuary, library, chapel, etc.) These groups used the Conference Room, one of the Lounges, Gym, Fellowship Hall, or Wesley Dining Room. Estimates of over 800 people entered the Temple House during the months of November and December.

Central UMC After Service Fellowship Gathering

Central UMC business groups:

Board of Trustees

Mission Commission

Council

Finance Committee

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Nominations Committee

Central UMC Music groups rehearsals

Judy Circle

Central UMC Vespers Group

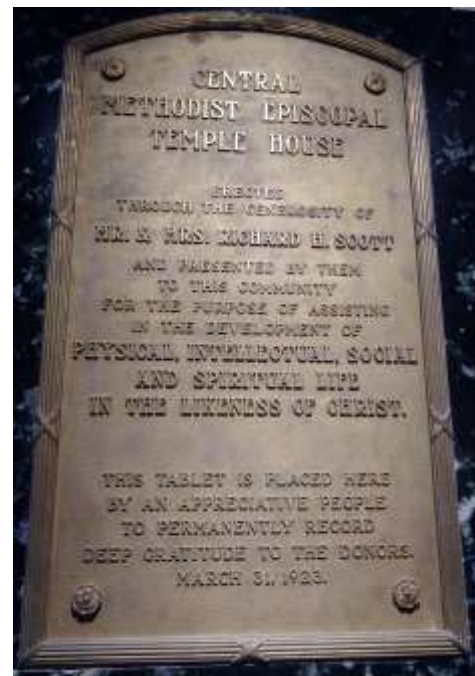
Sistrum Music Group

5 Alcoholics Anonymous groups

Peppermint Creek Theater

Ten Pound Fiddle

3 basketball groups



Lansing Longsword Guild

S'Moves Dance group

Shalom Center

Looking Glass Music and Arts Association

**Some** of the Groups that met in November and/or December 2019:

Central UMC sponsored events:

Silver Bells Concert/Open House

Christmas Cabaret

## Sermon Series for Epiphany “Wholly Human, Holy Divine”



In the Sundays after Epiphany the narrative points us to the identity of Jesus. Having proclaimed the entry of light into the world at Advent and Christmas, we begin to discover yet again just who Jesus was. So too with the early church.

In the 5th century, the Council of Chalcedon declared the teaching that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine.

In this series, we will explore this belief and see Jesus as a mirror reflecting our own deeply human nature and our own imago dei—that spark of God residing within us. In what feels like finite human circumstances, can we see that there is always something more? This is the ground of our hope and the source of our call as Christians.

### **January 5 Epiphany Sunday / Epiphany Communion**

Matthew 2: 1-12 “Looking for Jesus Christ”

### **January 12 Recommitment Sunday / Celebration of Ministry**

Matthew 3: 1-17 “Beloved of God”

### **January 19**

Matthew 4: 1-17 “Not by Bread Alone”

### **January 26**

Matthew 5: 1-20 “Light for the World”

### **February 2 Holy Communion**

Matthew 6: 7-21 “On Earth as in Heaven”

### **February 9**

Matthew 14: 13-33 “All Will Eat and Be Filled”

### **February 16**

Matthew 16: 24 – 17:8 “Lose Your Life to Save It”

# Church Ladies



We will meet **January 22nd at 5:00 p.m. at Coral Gables in East Lansing**

*Thank you*

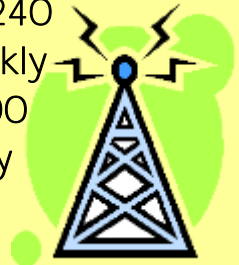
Thank you to everyone who has prayed for me, sent cards or asked about me. I am living with my nephew, Ken. He is taking very good care of me. I love my church family very much.

My phone has been moved and my new address is:

Loraine Metzger  
1700 Shady Oak Ln  
Lansing MI 48906  
517 482-1221

**Additional hearing aids** are available on loan during the Worship Service. Ask an usher if you need one. These new devices are in memory of Marion and Rolin Stutes and Donald McLaughlin.

Central LIVE on the Airwaves  
WJIM-AM 1240  
Broadcast weekly  
10:00—11:00  
Each Sunday  
Moring



Sponsor a radio broadcast in memory or honor of a loved one...or just because...!  
Call 485-9477

We frequently hear stories from many folks who say that Central's Radio Broadcast is:

A  **blessing**  to those who are not able to attend.

A  **witness**  to the community.

A  **comfort**  to those who are honored.

A  **privilege**  to carry on the tradition.

You are invited to participate individually or by partnering with others in continuing to bless others via Central Live on the Airwaves!

Contact the Office for available dates and indicate who is being honored or remembered. (485-9477)

You may also contribute towards the radio ministry without sponsoring a specific broadcast.

The cost is \$250 per week.



Coming: **January 19, 2020 Human Relations Day offering.** This special offering is the Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. This offering was established in 1972 to promote support for Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. These Christ-centered projects give teenagers a chance to succeed.

Check out the "Shadow Box" bulletin board across from the first floor men's room. There you will see some of the areas where YOU have helped to share Christ's love in 2019.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR CARING AND SHARING IN 2019.

### **New Web Page for Central UMC!**

Our Web Master, Renee Hall, has spent many hours and will spend many more, creating a new web page for Central. This "Front Door" of Central is used by most visitors before they come to a worship service or an event.



Look for this new look to be launched in January!

Special thank you to private donors who have supplemented her salary so



*Joy to the World... Indeed!*

With the help of many, over 100 volunteers and staff, Central Celebrated Advent and Christmas.

A special thank you to folks who decorated, hosted, sang, played instruments, led worship, ushered, created video and sound, choirs, bells, carillon, lit candles, created décor, performed dramas, led children's messages, bought poinsettias and trees, brought cookies and breakfast food, greeted the public, attended events, gave gifts of mittens, mission offerings, ... the list can never be conclusive, for there were many who did work of ministry in music, liturgy, speaking, hosting... much of the work of ministry done behind the scenes...!!!

Thank you to all the volunteers and staff that helped to create an memorable experience for all who entered Central for worship, fellowship, and/or events!



Leora Stutes stands next to our church Mitten Tree that is decorated with dozens of her hand-knitted mittens, as well as gloves and scarves donated by other church members. Thank you, Leora, for all the hours of love you have knitted to keep hands warm at Willow St. School!



Sistrum on  
Saturday, December 14





2019 was a full year for Judy Grove Circle!

We paid our District Pledge, sent in contributions for United Methodist Women's Call to Prayer, World Thank Offering, Missions, Gift in Memory and awarded a Special Mission Recognition to someone who have of themself to Central and her people.

We did Spring Cleaning of the Nursery, Narthex, small front bathroom and Library floor. We provided personal needs for the South Lansing food bank. We also bought Valentine and Christmas cards and paid to mail them out...with much hilarity around the table!! We did Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for two local families through Christian Services. We also do a book study each year.

John Houston was our Special Mission Recognition recipient. We honor him for his work on Central's History Room and his wonderful historic displays, along with his participation with the Bell Choir and volunteering at the Front Desk. John is a "child of the parish", growing up in the CEO Sunday School and singing in the Boys Choir. While John has moved on from Central his passion and dedication are a part of us always.

Judy Grove is a great support to one another. We meet the third Monday of the month from September through June at 6pm. We usually have a lot luck before our program. Feel free to contact one of us and check us out!

Sharon Doering, Julie Knop, Pat Mort, Mary Beth Pifer, Edie Robinson, Sue Strait, Linda Towsley, Deb VanNortwick, Caryn Welter



# Christmas Cabaret

CHRISTMAS CABARET



# Celebrating The First Sunday of Advent





Ricardo Muniz lit the Advent Wreath candle, and Faye McCracken helped the children to think about the stable where Jesus was born, on the 2nd Sunday of Advent.





## United Methodist Denomination News and Events:

Wonder what is happening in the Michigan Conference UMC? Go to [michiganumc.org](http://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](http://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](http://umc.org) for details be-

### Church Email Addresses:

Pastor Mark: [mark.pastor@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:mark.pastor@lansingcentralumc.net)

Office: [jay.office@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:jay.office@lansingcentralumc.net)

Music/Worship:

[caryn.music@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:caryn.music@lansingcentralumc.net)

Pastor Bill: [bill.pastor@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:bill.pastor@lansingcentralumc.net)

Facilities: [paul.building@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:paul.building@lansingcentralumc.net)

Finance: [betsy.finance@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:betsy.finance@lansingcentralumc.net)

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

You may email the church office at

[jay.office@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:jay.office@lansingcentralumc.net)

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

Our website is [www.lansingcentralumc.net](http://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](mailto: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, David Miechiels*

*Baritone, Carson Greene*

*Janet Geissler, Director, Bell Choir*

*Joi Tennant, Small Group Coordinator*

*Jalal Smith, 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](http://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.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

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