



The Heart of Christ in the Heart of Lansing

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“SING GENTLY”

If you want some solace, and some sense of camaraderie, go to YouTube and pull up composer Eric Whitacre’s virtual choir performing “Sing Gently”. It will soothe your soul, and also help each of us to understand that by singing gently we can still sing meaningfully. We’ve been asked to be masked in worship, (except for Pastor Naylor who us our officiant) and to sing with our heads lowered. That’s a marked contrast with how we’ve become accustomed to singing the way that choir director Trey Jacobs used to encourage by shouting, “Sing out, Louise.” Again, “gentle” singing can be remarkably meaningful. Let’s try that, beginning this Sunday and going forward until we can once again raise our heads. Also, let’s stay seated during worship and take any trash with us when we leave.

LET’S HEAR IT FOR LANI KELLY!

A favorite oboist of ours will be playing at Central during worship this very Sunday, August 2nd. You may remember that, two years ago, Lani and her husband, Elden, played for one of our outreach concerts. Also, Elden’s jazz quartet has played for the last few Christmas Cabaret Benefits. Lani is equally talented and creative, and has credentials at least as long as your arm. I hope we can give her a warm welcome. Accompanied by someone whose favorite musical activity is accompanying, she will play pieces by Poulenc, Head, and Saint-Saens. Bring your masked friends and enjoy along with the rest of us.

ONE LAST EMAIL COURTESY

Thanks for limiting your use of “reply all”! For this edition, please remember when doing mass mailings: Put the addresses to which you are mailing in the bcc box so they are invisible to the individual recipients.

USHERS!

Thanks to all who have been serving in this important role! One of your main tasks is to help parishioners maintain social distancing. Remember the “crook” Shannon Branstner brought to help us eyeball what is six feet. Your biggest job is to lay bulletins (and, if needed, small pledge envelopes) on the small exit tables, one at a time, until worship begins. AFTER that, you may put offering plates on the small tables for people to use as they exit following worship. Hopefully, in the future we may add back in the Connect Cards.

CONNECT CARDS

We do care what you have to say. We're not using the cards now because we are minimizing the use of any paper products which might spread the Coronavirus. This does not mean your prayers, concerns, volunteering, and suggestions have no listening ears. Please feel free, for now, to send them to new Administrative Assistant, Ms. Gwynne Daugherty. Eventually, this will be further smoothed out. Inasmuch as we have a new Pastor and a new Administrative Assistant, let's remember that they are trying to acclimate to their new positions and can respond only to a limited number of inputs and questions.

Lansing Central UMC - 2020 Mission Offerings

January	Mission Support Mbwizu Ndjungu Belize #12909Z	\$1,000.00
	Mission Support Erika Fitzgerald Mexico	\$ 500.00
	Human Relations Day	\$ 200.00
February	Valentines for CWS Blankets	\$ 855.00
	Noisy Sunday	\$1,622.05
March	UMCOR Sunday (OGHS)	\$1,260.00
May	Camp Sunday	\$ 115.00
June	Bolivia—Urban Santa Cruz Children's Ministry	\$ 365.00

Missions— THANK YOU for your contributions of \$415.00 to the **Bolivia—Urban Santa Cruz Children's Ministry**. This ministry was started by our UM missionaries Walt and Susan Henry to help meet the needs of children in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Santa Cruz.

The Virtual Food Drive—While our building was closed and we were unable to collect food for the Food Bank you contributed \$1085.00 to our Virtual Food Drive. Others sent contributions for the Food Bank to the church. As millions in our country are out of work we know the need for food will continue. You may give to South Lansing Ministries Food Bank either by bringing non-perishable food will continue. You may give to South Lansing Ministries Food Bank either by bringing non-perishable food to the church, sending checks to the church or contributing online at Centrals website and directing your gift to South Lansing Ministries. Thank you.

Quiet Sunday (aka Noisy Sunday!) - Your gifts to the **Ministry of Kindness Fund** at Central totaled \$643.17 on July 19. This fund makes it possible for Pastor Naylo to respond to local needs as they are presented to him.

This is the time of year that Central usually collects school supplies for **Willow School**. We will be talking with Willow staff to ascertain what they will need this year as they work on reopening the school safely. **WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

The Mission Commission

Naylo's Note

It seems like just a few moments ago, I was driving around the busy highways of Washington, D.C., area. Now I am reacquainting myself with the Michigan highways. Let me tell you; there is an entirely different approach to the way we drive back here. One cannot survive on Washington, D.C., highways by driving like we do on Michigan roads. For example, here are High Occupancy Vehicle lanes, 3-4 traveling lanes, and 1-2 entrance/exit lanes. Drivers must watch all directions continuously.

Also, based upon the route and time of day, the traffic was often stop and go for miles. Other times it would creep bumper to bumper, at 30 mph. In less congested times, many drivers cruised along at 80 mph or higher! Finally, drivers regularly just merged or moved into other lanes by forcing their way in front of you. Rarely did I notice turn signals used, and just as rarely did anyone slow down to allow in-coming traffic to enter the freeway.

Timid drivers would never get into the flow of traffic. Instead, they would become a barrier to those behind them who wanted to move forward. What's more, those timid drivers would also become a source of irritation and agitation to others, as evidenced by the number of angry, blaring horns. Those who managed to get into traffic were soon left far behind if they didn't keep pace.

The traffic of the times today is moving at a faster pace than ever. Although Jesus is our way to salvation, there are more and more opportunities and ways for people to come to Jesus. To be an effective church in ministry and outreach today often means that congregations must adopt a new or different mindset about doing ministry. We cannot "drive" the Church the way we did before and expect to survive in today's world. Instead, the Church must move forward boldly and confidently. II Timothy 1:7 tells us, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."

When the Church acts too slowly, we've seen how other groups and organizations have forced their way into people's lives in the Church's place. When a congregation is too fearful of moving forward, we've seen how that congregation can become an obstacle and even a source of irritation and agitation to others within that same body of Christ. Those churches that don't keep up the pace once they do move forward will soon find themselves far behind everyone else, thus becoming less and less effective for Christ.

Here in Central United Methodist Church, let us continue to move into and reach out to our communities boldly and confidently in faith, trusting that God's Holy Spirit is working and moving among us, "driving" us forward. I am privileged to be serving with you as we strive to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Grace and peace,

Pastor Naylo

Senior Pastor

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