



The Fellowship and Care Committee would like to give a HUGE shout out of thanks to everyone who made it possible for Central Church to participate in the Lakewood Area Chamber of Commerce Easter Egg Hunt on April 6th!

✿ Lori McNeill and family for refurbishing our wheel.
 ✿ Everyone who donated prizes or money for the purchase of prizes.

✿ Penny Thelen, Shelly Reiser, Thelma Curtis, Britny and Brooke England for transporting everything and running the event.

✿ Rev. Paul for being in charge of the wheel during the event in his Easter Bunny costume!

This event wouldn't be the success it is every year without the support of everyone at Central Church!

~The Fellowship and Care Committee



PASTORAL REFLECTION

Greeting friends in Christ,

Each time I sit to write a letter to you all, I find the previous month has passed more quickly than I would have thought. April has been a month of transitions as our Leadership Selection Team named nominees for the Governance Board and the Leadership Development Team in the new single-board model we are creating together. As a reminder, the Governance Board is at the helm of the church, directing it and steering it toward the vision God has placed on our lives. They work together to equip the pastor to empower ministries that the church has created to live into its call from God. Leadership Development is a team that creates new leaders, grooming the future of the church's governors and ministers. Our ministries and our leadership developers are accountable to the pastor, the pastor is accountable to the Board, and the Board is accountable to the whole church.



We are intending to bring several items to you for an official vote on June 9, 2024 at 11:00 AM, where our District Superintendent, Rev. Dwayne Bagley, will join us once again to have us take a vote on these official motions:

- Official transition to the one-board model (Simple Accountability Structure)
- Voting on candidates for the Governance Board (6 total) and Leadership Development Team (3 Total)
- An update to the Central Church Vision Statement

Your presence is vital, as these changes cannot happen without your consent or your voice. Your vote **matters**. And you will shape the future of this church with the power you hold as members of Central Church.

Likewise, through the end of April and into the month of May, we are continuing a series titled The First Bible, a phrase that I have borrowed from Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM to describe the natural world around us, as well as God's omnipresence beyond and including the walls of the church. He posits the question, "where did the first people of God's world learn about God?" The answer is in the nature - the First Bible. Within God's world are evidence of God's grace, which we Wesleyans understand to be abundant and ubiquitous. Through the experiences of The First Bible, our faith ancestors wrote the books of religious history, vibrant and meaningful myth, poems, lamentations, and artistry to make sense of their experiences with God. And the best is that we still have access to this First Bible, we can experience what our faith ancestors experienced. Let's look for it together.

I am blessed to be serving at Central Church in this time of sacred change, to see your hopes rekindle, and to be witness to your holy laughter. May Spring remind you of the blessings of living in this world God has given us.

In Christ,

Rev. Paul Reissmann

Are you doing some Spring Cleaning or decluttering?



The Ionia County Habitat for Humanity accepts donations of furniture, appliances, building supplies, etc. Donations are sold at the ReStore and go directly into their programming to help build homes, hope and community, and negate homelessness.

Ionia County residents can have their donations picked up for **FREE!**

Call to inquire about donating and pick-up services at
616-841-9202

Central United Methodist Church is located in downtown Lake Odessa at 912 4th Avenue. Contact us at 616-374-8861 or info@centralchurch-lakeo.org.

Check out our Facebook page for weekly sermons, current activities, and other events. Central United Methodist Church—Lake Odessa



Financial Report as of March 2024

March Income: \$13,297.51
 March Expenses: \$15,782.02

Thank you for the generosity you give to further Christ's mission in our community.

March Contributions for Designated Ministries

General Missions: \$130.00
 Helping Hands: \$420.00
 Human Relations Day: \$50.00
 March's Noisy Offering for I/M SAFE: \$37.73
 Thursday Community Dinners: \$1,016.30

Thank you to those who purchased a Spring plant for Easter Sunday in the memory or honor of a loved one. We had 15 beautiful plants of daffodils, tulips and hyacinths decorating the altar.



We also thank those who gave a monetary gift to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) World Hunger Fund in memory or honor of a loved one. The total of your gifts was \$96.00.



**May Noisy Offering
 May 26**

Our Noisy Offering for May will support Manna's Market.

Manna's market is a nondenominational, faith inspired, non-profit Michigan corporation serving Barry County and the communities of the Lakewood School District including Vermontville and Mulliken in Eaton County. They extend a helping hand and provide food, clothing and baby pantry items for those facing dire circumstances beyond their control.

Prayerfully consider giving on **May 26**. Your change could change a life.



Online Giving

This QR code will take you to our electronic giving platform. Thank You for all your continued support for our ministries here at Central Church!



If you like to encourage the spiritual education in the next generation, why not volunteer to help with Vacation Bible School!

Dates: **June 16 5:30—7:00 pm** Ice Cream Sundae Kick-off Night
June 17—18, 2024 5:30—7:45 pm
 (dinner served Monday and Tuesday from 4:45—5:20 pm)

Ministry Opportunities:

Group Leader	Music Leader	Kitchen Help	Registration
Storytelling	Decorations	Crafts	Recreation Leader

Contact Jane Kostanko for more information or to volunteer your talents!

family build nights
Central Church

A new family ministry will be beginning this fall! We will be inviting families to join us for a free night of family fun building with Legos.

This ministry was recently rewarded a \$1500 grant from the Michigan Conference Christian Ministry to purchase start up supplies. But there can never be too many blocks! So, if you have Mega Bloks, Duplo Blocks or Legos that your kids or grandkids no longer use, please consider donating them to the Family Build Nights. There will be other volunteer opportunities available and will be announced soon. See Jackie Spagnuolo for more information.



The Church is looking for vendors for a **Farmer's Market** this summer! The Farmer's Market will be located in our parking lot. It will run every **Saturday** between **June 8 and September 28** from **9 am to 1 pm**. Vendor participant fee is \$25 a week and all proceeds benefit Manna's Market of Lake Odessa.

If you or someone you know is interested in being a vendor, please contact the Church Office for more information.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Community Respite 1-4 pm Free Dinner 4-6 pm	3	4
5 	6	7 Fresh Food Truck 2 pm Admin Council 7 pm	8	9 Community Respite 1-4 pm Free Dinner 4-6 pm	10	11
12 Ascension Sunday 	13	14 Worship Comm. 2 pm Fellowship & Care 6 pm	15	16 Community Respite 1-4 pm Free Dinner 4-6 pm	17	18
19 Pentecost Choir Call Down	20	21 Staff-Parish 10 am Finance 7 pm	22	23 Community Respite 1-4 pm Free Dinner 4-6 pm	24	25
26 Worship begins at 9:30 am Noisy Offering- Manna's Market	27 Church Office Closed 	28	29	30 Community Respite 1-4 pm Free Dinner 4-6 pm	31	

*Dates and Times subject to change

Sunday School—Sundays at 9:30 am thru May 19
Worship—Sundays at 10:30 am thru May 19
 Belding Adult Education Classes— (last day May 8)
 Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9 am—12 pm
 Honeybee Fitness Class—Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Upcoming EVENTS



The Church Office is
CLOSED

Monday, May 27
 in observance of Memorial Day.
Wed., June 5 thru Wed., June 12
 while Jackie is on vacation.

Join us during worship on **May 19** for the Choir Call-Down! We will be singing **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee verses 1,2,4, #89** from the hymnal.

All are welcome to sing! All you need is your voice, a hymnal and a joyful spirit!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 05/04 Jackie Spagnuolo
Brandon Spagnuolo
- 05/08 Cadance Jackson
- 05/11 Matt June
- 05/13 Brady Acheson
Mark Corston
Helen Good
- 05/25 Sharlene Goodemoot
Leona Rayner
- 05/27 Jean Faulkner

Anniversaries

- 05/06 Randy & Judy Freidhoff—24 years



WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM
 BEGINNING MAY 26

Central Church and Zion Lutheran
 present



at Central Church
 Pre-K thru 6th Grade

June 16th
 Ice Cream Sundae Kickoff
 5:30—7:00 pm

June 17th & 18th
 Dinner served at 4:45 pm
 Program 5:30—7:45 pm

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
at Central Church
Monday, June 3
12 to 5:45 pm

