

The Outlook

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Volume 123 Issue 3



Hearing Jesus Within OUR Hearts

~Juanita Joiner

I love fabric so much that I actually believe it speaks to me. The more abstract the design...the louder it speaks. I've been known to drape fabric from the very top shelf to the floor at the store pretending it was a church banner only to stand back with a picture of the beautiful stained glass above the altar in view. And yes, I've even asked people to stop and pass judgement for me. I had purchased the fabric for our new banner long before I knew where Pastor Rob was taking us during Lent. I only knew that this fabric would guide us from Advent (blue) to Lent (purple) and would be held together with loads of LOVE (pink). It would assure us that love came down at Christmas and that love took Jesus to the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. I also knew it would look simply beautiful with Sally Peterson's paraments she purchased after her

husband, Paul passed away. I was a happy lady as I said to the clerk — "I'll take five yards just to be safe; this fabric is going to tell a story to the people at CUMC."

However, when I looked at Pastor Rob's Lenten Series (Hearing Jesus) and the titles for his sermon's during Lent, I immediately had an additional interpretation for this fabric. I saw paths that God traveled, paths that we as Christians must travel, paths that our church must travel **and** all these paths were created by the **VERBS** in Pastor Rob's sermon titles. And what are those verbs? ... **Join, Stay, Be, Put, Face, Tell, Live** and guess what? **These seven verbs will all be held together with yet another verb, HOPE. Why? Because He lives!**

Let's visualize our beautiful fabric just like it is made in the factory...Pastor Rob's verbs will be the **warp**; the thread that runs up and down on the loom. The purpose of the warp will not only give **STRENGTH** to the fabric but also provide something for the **weft** to weave in and out of. It is the weft that brings beauty to the fabric as it's woven; without the warp this would never happen. Here's another way to think about it. The warp represents God, and **WE and** the church are the weft. Without God providing us with strength, love, forgiveness for our sins, **and** the verbs chosen by Pastor Rob, we could **NEVER** become whole...like a piece of fabric after it has been woven. The banner fabric certainly shows us that solid warp displayed in blue, purple and pink...but look at the weft...it also shows that when we weave ourselves in and out of God's love and strength, the result is **ALSO** blue, purple, and pink. Yes, this banner truly solidifies that **LOVE** came down at Christmas, **LOVE** was given on the cross, and **WE and our church** must cling to the warp (God) that provides us a place to act upon those verbs. Our world is hurting; our world is constantly betraying people; our world sometimes acts like it is asleep to all the hurt that's happening around us; our world needs to be healed from all the violence we witness on a daily basis; our world needs people who can face their Daniel and tell the truth. If we **LIVE** as Christians, **WE and OUR CHURCH WILL NEVER DIE**. This is a promise from God...who is our warp, who is our strength and who loves each and everyone of us.

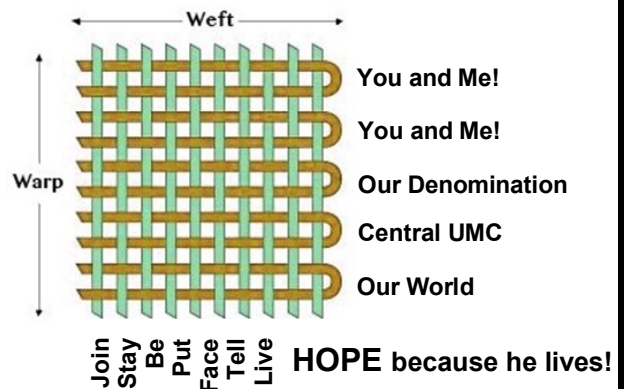
May you find **HOPE, LOVE** and **STRENGTH** in this banner. Each week let Pastor Rob's words allow you to weave yet another thread into your section of fabric on this banner. And when Lent is over, may the words of his favorite hymn be present in **your** heart and **securely woven** into our banner.

HE LIVES

(found on page 310 of our UMC Hymnal)

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him He's always near.

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives: **He lives within my heart.**



Mission Possible for March 2023

March 5— Mission of the Month
UMCOR Sunday

March 12 — Local Mission
Read Muskegon

March 19 — Helping Hand Fund

March 26 — Hunger/UMCOR
Love Beyond Borders

Monthly Pantry Donation

Kids' Food Basket — Go Orange

Mission Accomplished January 2023

Mission of the Month
Solid Rock Housing Support \$295.28

Local Mission
Clark Retirement Home \$310.28

Helping Hand Fund \$381.28

Hunger/UMCOR
New Life Center Zambia \$320.28

Pantry \$ 60.00
Hamburger Helper for MAP
We also had 33 boxes donated.

Reminder...mission offerings can be given any time during the month even though we list our offerings by the week.

Join us for our Lenten series! Hearing Jesus...



Conspiracy. Betrayal. Denial. So many human failures led to the cross, and yet through it all Jesus speaks to us quietly and forcibly. When we hear the words of Jesus, we *take action*. We commit ourselves to be his followers and work for his reign in our hearts and in our world. Throughout the season of Lent, we will be hearing the words of Jesus, and responding. Every week there will be an action we can take or a commitment we can make as we answer Jesus' call to love all. Together, we will share opportunities to advocate for full inclusion of LGBTQ persons, fight childhood hunger, recognize bias and racism, end gun violence, and welcome our future as a church and denomination. The good news of Easter gives us all hope, not only when we hear the words of Jesus but when we live them. Peace,

Log

Our Monthly Pantry for March



Let's Raise Awareness and Resources for Childhood Hunger!

List of Needs for Muskegon County:

- ♥ Nutri-Grain bars
- ♥ Fruit cups
- ♥ Cheerios
- ♥ Raisin boxes
- ♥ Cheez-It crackers
- ♥ Goldfish crackers

Any brands in bulk are welcome!

Poster can be found on bulletin board by Chapel.
Let's fight Childhood Hunger together.

Go Orange — Go Kids' Food Basket!

Hear Jesus...and Respond!

Click these links to learn more...

- ♥ Pray about the [CommUnity Pride Project](#).
- ♥ [Go Orange](#) to support Kids' Food Basket.
- ♥ Do [Anti-Racism Work](#).
- ♥ Attend [Advocacy Day](#) on March 22 in Lansing, MI
- ♥ Be [Proud to be UMC](#)

If for some reason these links do not work for you, they will also be placed in our weekly email in the weeks ahead. *Thank you*



THANK YOU, CENTRAL!

Thanks to all the people who have given to the Endowment Funds since they were established. Our 5% withdrawal from these funds has generated \$135,000 to be used to support the budget for 2023.

If you are interested in making a contribution, please contact Dale Beattie or Huey Husted.

~ The Planned Giving Committee



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Central UMC is no stranger to this Outreach Program. In fact, many of you have put your entire heart and soul into it each month by working along side of our friends at St. Paul's and Mount Zion. Our community is also appreciative each and every month when we distribute healthy food for their families; each bag filled with Christian love and given out with a smile.

We are happy to announce that Sally Peterson and family will now be funding this program for Central. It's people like the Peterson family that have shown us what it means to give from the heart so others may receive our love.



"Creating safe spaces
for growth and community
in Christ."

The Outlook is posted on our website for those that want to click on active links within this publication. (MuskegonCentralUMC.org)

Worship at Central

Available online: **LIVE**

<https://www.facebook.com/muskegoncentralumc>

And on our YouTube Channel: **LATER IN THE DAY**

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZUQe2i7Fzj_tcwwSG7Ednw/videos?view=2&flow=grid

Central Cares

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 — Ben Clarke, Jake Lofgren
- 6 — Sheila Justice
- 8 — Tom Cotner
- 11 — Bill Dye
- 16 — Sue Brookstra, Jim Johnson, Tim Lundholm
- 17 — Joshua Cherry
- 19 — Jean Anderson, Cathy Brubaker-Clarke
Kevin Youngquist
- 23 — Nick Baker
- 24 — Darlene Johnson
- 25 — Lori Arthur
- 26 — Carol Higginson, Kathy Hines
- 30 — Bryan Clarke, Leah Neal
- 31 — Abby Larabee



United Women in Faith Financial Report

Beginning Balance January 1, 2022	\$589.85
Pledge paid 12/2022 to West Michigan District	\$550.00
Pledges given by UMW members	\$475.00
Mission Mart Income	\$132.00
Ending Balance December 31, 2022	\$646.85

The 2022 Financial Records for CUMC-UMW were audited by Jane Cater and found to be in order.

Thank you for your support.
Erika Paulson, Secretary/Treasurer

The American Red Cross is requesting that you schedule an appointment with them if you are wanting to donate blood. **Call 1-800-Red Cross for an appointment.**

Special Request:

- ♥ Please keep Patty in the church office updated on any of the prayer requests you have made on behalf of your friends and family.
- ♥ **Where to send important information!**
Please send to all addresses.
- ♥ Juanita Joiner for the Newsletter:
jjoiner@muskegoncentralumc.org
- ♥ Patty Dahlman for the Church Calendar:
pdahlman@muskegoncentralumc.org

Church Office Hours

Our regular office hours at the church.
Tuesday — Thursday 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.

Share their sorrow:

- ♥ Family and friends of **Normajean Carlson**, wife of Gunnar and sister of Beth Adkins who passed away on January 26. The Memorial Service will take place on March 4...visitation at 10 a.m., service at 11 a.m. and luncheon at 12 p.m.

Share their joy:

- ♥ Congratulations to Chris Twork on becoming a proud grandma to Willow Marie born on February 8 to her parents, Crystal & Drew Miller.

MARCH CALENDAR

- 2 — Red Letter Christians 10 a.m. (Parlor)
- 3 — Supper House 3:45 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 4 — Memorial Service for Normajean Carlson (CUMC)
10 a.m. visitation, 11 a.m. service and 12 p.m. luncheon
- 5 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Call To Prayer Small Group 11 a.m. (Parlor)
Going Deeper 5 p.m. (Parlor)
- 6 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
Women's Ensemble 6:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 7 — Book Club 9:30 a.m. (Conference Room)
Staff Mtg. 11 a.m. (Bell Room)
- 9 — Romeo's 8:30 a.m. (Carmen's Café)
Blood Drive 11 a.m. (The Corner) *Appointment required.*
- 12 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
YBUMC Class 11 a.m. (Chapel)
- 13 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 14 — Corner Connect Team Mtg. 9 a.m. (The Corner)
MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 16 — Red Letter Christians 10 a.m. (Parlor)
MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 19 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Call To Prayer Small Group 11 a.m. (Parlor)
Going Deeper 5 p.m. (Parlor)
- 20 — Mobile Pantry 4:30 p.m. (3:30 p.m. if working)
Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
Women's Ensemble 6:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 21 — Outlook Deadline
Building Team Mtg. 11 a.m. (The Corner)
- 22 — Leadership Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m. (The Corner)
- 23 — Blood Drive 11 a.m. (The Corner) *Appointment required.*
- 26 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
YBUMC Class 11 a.m. (Chapel)
- 27 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
Women's Ensemble 6:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 28 — Outlook Mailed

Central

United Methodist Church

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Muskegon Central United Methodist

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Have news for the Outlook? See page 3 for submission addresses. Next Outlook deadline is **March 21**. Thank you!

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

It was a special day for Central United Methodist Church on February 12 as we welcomed six new members.

"We thank God that you have chosen to join CUMC. We hope that your time with us offers you the chance to explore and deepen your faith and enrich the love you have for the Lord."



Standing from left to right:
Pastor Rob, Dennis Hartman, Barbara Van Westrienen, Bill Dye,
Tom Maycroft, Christine and Gaylord Stanton