

The Outlook

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Volume 123 Issue 5



Lodged by Robert Frost

The rain to the wind said,
'You push and I'll pelt.'
They so smote the garden bed
That the flowers actually knelt,
And lay lodged--though not dead.
I know how the flowers felt.

I am enamored by this Robert Frost poem. I often wonder how many people I see every day know how those flowers felt. How do they get along being pelted and pushed. I wonder too how the poet himself mitigated life's daily pelting and pushing. I want to tell everyone who find themselves in that assaulted and smitten garden bed something I learned from a Missouri pastor. His name is Adam Hamilton. He wrote a book a few years ago titled **WHY?**. Adam is an United Methodist Pastor at the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood - Kansas City. Our pastor, Rob Cook has recently accessed Reverend Hamilton's recorded wisdom in helping our congregation mitigate some the questions connected to the future of our denomination of Christians known as the United Methodist Church. The book **WHY?** invites the reader to engage with a handful of topics surrounding questions of theodicy – (God's will – "Why do bad things happen to good people?") and questions that plague all of us from time to time; questions of disappointment, fear, anxiety, depression, and anger. A take away from the book that has been helpful and one that has stuck with me for the past few years is this: (not a direct quote, but something that I assimilated)

'The worst thing that could ever happen is not the last thing that will happen.'

For a large part of my life, I was involved in helping my employers avoid the consequences of unwanted and unplanned events (accidents and injury). We put policies and procedures in place that we hoped would reduce the risk of doing harm to ourselves and others. The practice of carrying out these plans determined the success or failure of our efforts. The plan always was to end the day with quality and profit; however, as many of you know, "things" happen.

We do not live in a perfect world. Our expectations aren't always met. It seems that our hopes and dreams often remain unfulfilled. And when I find myself staring into the face of such negativity; perhaps uncertain as to how to press on through a 'dark-night-of-the-soul' experience; when these days are upon me, I long to gather around the campfire and warm my knees with people who know the stories of God, people who have been pelted and smitten, people who hear that voice that says: "Be not afraid." And "In this world you will have trouble, but, take heart; I have overcome the world."

So, I pray the prayer the disciples asked for: "Our Father..." And, I go to sleep and rise in the hope and promise of God's abiding love.

~ Rev. Bill Dye

Mission Possible for May 2023

May 7 — Mission of the Month
Peace With Justice

May 14 — Local Mission
1M Project

May 21 — Helping Hand Fund

May 28 — Hunger/UMCOR
Red Bird Clinic

Monthly Pantry Donation

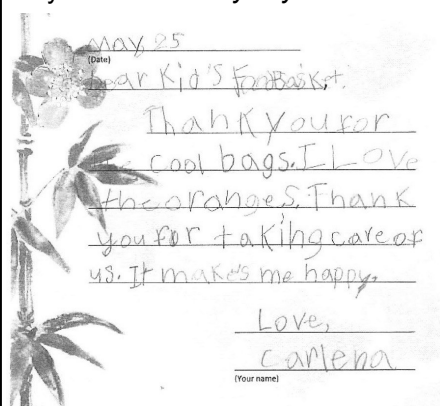
Toilet Paper for MAP

Mission Accomplished March 2023

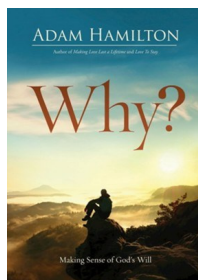
Mission of the Month	
UMCOR Sunday	\$328.00
Local Mission	
Read Muskegon	\$345.00
Helping Hand Fund	\$245.00
Hunger/UMCOR	
Love Beyond Borders	\$225.00
Missionary Support	\$ 25.00
Pantry	
Kids' Food Basket	\$265.00

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

This sweet note was inside a "Thank You" from Kids' Food Basket for making a difference for the children they service! *It truly says it all!*



WHY? by Adam Hamilton



Did Bill tweak your interest in wanting to read **Why?** by Adam Hamilton? Here is a book review for this 99 page book. Perhaps you will want to order it from Amazon.

Where is God when tragedy and suffering strike?

When the ground shakes, and a poor nation's economy is destroyed; when the waters rise, washing away a community's hopes and dreams; when a child suffers neglect and abuse; when violence tears apart nations; where is God? If God is all powerful, and if each one of us is a beloved child of God, then how can God allow tragedy and suffering to infest his creation? In **Why?**, best-selling author Adam Hamilton brings fresh insight to the age-old question of how to understand the will of God. Rejecting simplistic answers and unexamined assumptions, he lays out core ideas for comprehending God's plan for the world, God will not take away our free will, even when we use it to grieve him. God will never abandon us, especially in the midst of our suffering. While God is not the author of suffering, God will bring blessing out of tragedy.

What a confirmation about our mission statement: "Creating safe spaces for growth and community in Christ."

Are you listening? Can you see what the spirit is doing at The Corner?

I'm seeing something at The Corner that I've not witnessed before...God's people coming together from several different churches. On April 17, 2023, 1M started a class on evangelism at the Corner. We are being ignited and equipped to share the gospel. In this class we are reading the book, "The Art of Neighboring" by John Ortberg. I can now see more clearly why God sent me to THE CORNER. I needed to help in this ministry of sharing the gospel outside the walls of the sanctuary!

Last night there were over 25 people from several different churches at "The Art of Neighboring" class! **We will be meeting and reading the book each Monday from 6pm to 8pm.** Please come and get ignited and equipped. Would you like to learn the art of neighboring? *Loving your neighbors as Christ commanded us to do?* It's time that we learn to do this! ~Dollie Bacon-Hippchen



A Word from Our Master Gardner

~ Lisa Lively

SPRING is here! Or is it? In our minds we are ready to *spring*! Let me plant this seed for you to consider helping out in the garden this year by adopting a bed/zone as partners with me in keeping our grounds free of garbage, weeds, and over growth. Be on the look out for the sign-up map in Parish Hall or you can let me know ahead of time.



Feel free to be in touch with any of your questions. Call the Church Office and I'll return your calls as soon as possible. Thank you!



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

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 — Jan Schiller
- 5 — Stephen Brozek, Liz Johnson
- 6 — Beth Adkins, Elizabeth Lofgren
- 9 — Michael Belt
- 11 — Sharon Bradfield, Dona Hettle
- 13 — Amy Devitt
- 18 — Dollie Hippchen
- 19 — Kay DeMoss, Laura Kahler
- 20 — Lora Swenson
- 21 — Annika Cotner
- 23 — Jessica Brozek-Silva
- 25 — Mary Oakes
- 26 — Joann Johnson
- 28 — Allison Mikesell
- 29 — Cindy Belt
- 30 — Timothy Richards



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 — Garry & Julie McKeen 1974
- 20 — Kip & Tammie Smith 2017
- 31 — Tim & Val Lundholm 1986

GO ORANGE—Total Success!

Central UMC made a difference. *Thank You!*

- Cheerios — 8 large boxes
- Cheez It — 90 small pouches
- Fruit Cups — 52 cups
- Apple Sauce — 30 cups
- Nutri Grain Bars — 256 bars
- Raisins — 38 boxes

TOTALS — 294 ITEMS = 52 pounds!



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

Note of thanks:

Karen Wallace sent a card of thanks for not only the lovely Christmas card Marian sent to them, but for the *loving* support given to her when Dick passed away.

MAY CALENDAR

- 1 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
1M Evangelism 6 p.m. (The Corner)
Women's Ensemble 6:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 2 — Book Club 9:30 a.m. (Conference Room)
Staff Mtg. 11 a.m. (Adult Life Lab)
- 4 — Red Letter Christians 10 a.m. (Parlor)
- 5 — Supper House 3:45 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 6 — Memorial Service for Ted Elwell 1 p.m. visitation,
2 p.m. service, 3 p.m. luncheon
- 7 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Call To Prayer Small Group 11 a.m. (Parlor)
Going Deeper 5 p.m. (Parlor)
- 8 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
1M Evangelism 6 p.m. (The Corner)
Women's Ensemble 6:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 9 — Corner Connect Team Mtg. 9 a.m. (The Corner)
- 11 — Romeo's 8:30 a.m. (Carmen's Café)
Blood Drive 11 a.m. (The Corner) Appointment required
- 14 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
- 15 — Mobile Pantry 4:30 p.m. (3:30 p.m. if working)
Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
1M Evangelism 6 p.m. (The Corner)
- 16 — Outlook Deadline
Building Team Mtg. 11 a.m. (The Corner)
- 18 — Red letter Christians 10 a.m. (Parlor)
- 21 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Call To Prayer Small Group 11 a.m. (Parlor)
Going Deeper 5 p.m. (Parlor)
- 22 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
1 M Evangelism 6 p.m. (The Corner)
- 23 — Outlook Mailed
MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 24 — Leadership Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m. (The Corner)
- 25 — Blood Drive 11 a.m. (The Corner) Appointment required
- 28 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
- 29 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)

Church Office Hours

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

Central

United Methodist Church

1011 2nd Street
Muskegon MI 49440
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MuskegonCentralUMC.org



Muskegon Central United Methodist

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Have news for the Outlook? See page 3 for submission addresses. Next Outlook deadline is **May 16**. Thank you!

Bless Thou the Gifts

On Sunday, May 19th, 1929 the Cornerstone for our new church was placed with these words engraved in stone:

***"The Foundation of God
Standeth Sure!"***

When we look at the previous dates also engraved in stone, we will agree that these six words were *perfect*. The foundation of God is still standing sure for CUMC in 2023! Praise God!

This year, on the 3rd Sunday of May, let's pledge ourselves to keep the words of a wonderful song found on page 587 in our UMC Hymnal.



***Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought;
bless thou the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
the rest, O God, is in thy hand.***

Words by: Samuel Longfellow, 1886