

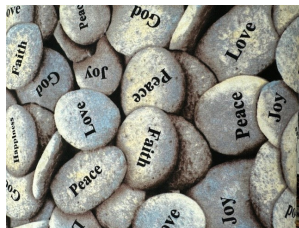


# THE OUTLOOK

Central United Methodist Church

Volume 125 Issue 5

## I Am the Church — You Are the Church — We Are the Church TOGETHER ~Juanita Joiner



Lent is a time for introspection and self-reflection, encouraging Christians to ask themselves questions about their faith, actions, and relationship with God, aiming for spiritual growth and renewal. And Lent at Central was exactly that! It was filled with questions! Bishop David Bard started us out with this question on Ash Wednesday: *Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?* Pastor Rob's entire Lenten Series was entitled: *How is it with your soul?* Even Rob's sermon title on April 6 was a question: *What Do You Want Me to Do For You?* When I was a little girl I disliked all the questions my Mother would keep asking: *Where have you been? How was school today? Why did you do that?* I'm sure you will agree that questions are important in our lives. Questions make us think, search and hopefully, find!

There is one question I've been asked over and over these past few months by people in this church: *How is the banner coming? When will it be finished?* Well, for those of you who have asked...I have an answer for you. It is finished! Yes, FINISHED!

Just like any journey we take in life, it took loads of time, tons of energy and every bit of strength I could muster to reach the finish line. *Was it worth it?* (Sorry, another question.) Without blinking an eye or questioning my answer I will give you a resounding, YES!

**We Are the Church** is a "one of a kind" banner...never to be duplicated! It has a story to tell and if you bear with me, I'll share some of this journey with each of you now...how I took the words **I am** the church, **You are** the church, **WE are** the church **TOGETHER** and by pouring your love and our ancestor's love into hundreds of hours, I was able to make a banner that was handstitched from beginning to end using these four words as my motivation: *faith, hope, love and joy*. These four words have served as the foundation for our church from 1856 to 2025. (And I believe will be in the future.) If my calculator is correct, that's 169 years! What a history we have had in those 169 years. Not all were without people asking a simple question... "*What are we going to do?*" If you read the wonderful book, *The Builders...The Identity and Witness of Central United Methodist Church of Muskegon, Michigan* by Thomas F. Begley, you'll know why that simple question was asked so many times and why during the past 169 years we as a church have relied on our faith, our love, our hope and yes...even celebrating our joy to *survive!* That's right. Survive!

It would have been so easy to have given up with all the devastating events that happened...the many times people were digging in their pockets for a penny or two to keep things afloat. Not only were there financial problems that would rock the city and country, they also rocked our existing building during the Great Depression. And what about our history of always doing and giving to our community? Always being there for others even when we were struggling. What made that possible? It was our ancestors FAITH, HOPE, LOVE and JOY that filled every part of their mind, body, and soul. I like to think that those four words have been permanently cemented into the foundation of this church. I love that verse in Matthew 16:18 when Jesus declares to Peter... "on this rock I will build my church." The phrase "upon this rock I will build my church" signifies that the church will be built on a solid foundation, a foundation that will withstand any opposition. I also placed each piece of fabric shared with me on another piece of fabric to represent that solid foundation. Hymns like *How Firm a Foundation*, *The Church's One Foundation*, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* have been sewn deeply into the fabric. Scriptures like *Philippians 4:4-7* and *Psalms 46* have also been lovingly stitched into the fabric. And to finish it off, I sewed on the binding while singing these words: "*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love*". Yes, 169 years of love!

I not only felt the words from hymns and scripture, but I felt your loving stories about your fabric. I held fabric that was used to make a dress for a daughter's doll, fabric used to create a last quilt at the age of 101+, fabric that was from a dress worn for a Daddy Daughter Dance at school, fabric that declared your faith, fabric that would honor someone special or your time spent in the military, and even fabric for a Contemplative Prayer project at Central. Thank you for giving me the honor to take your *I am and You are* fabric and make it into our beautiful **We Are the Church Together** banner. I felt so much love as I stitched during these past months. In fact, I was sad to see the end when I snipped that last thread.

So, when do you get to see the banner and *hear* the "rest of the story"? I'm only going to say this: it will be one Sunday in May! Just make sure you attend each week during May. Until then...

**I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!**  
**All who follow Jesus, all around the world!**  
**Yes, we're the church together!**  
 UMH 558

## Mission Possible for May 2025

**May 4 — Mission of the Month**  
Peace with Justice

**May 11 — Local Mission**  
Immigration Law and Justice MI

**May 18 — Helping Hand Fund**

**May 25 — UMCOR/Mission**  
International Disaster Respose

**Monthly Pantry Donation**  
\$\$ for Hand to Hand

## Mission Accomplished March 2025

<b>Mission of the Month</b>	
UMCOR Sunday	\$675.00
<b>Local Mission</b>	
Read Muskegon	\$305.00
<b>Helping Hand Fund</b>	\$310.00
<b>Hunger/UMCOR</b>	
Love Beyond Borders	\$405.00
<b>Pantry</b>	
\$\$\$ For Embrace Books	\$330.00
<b>Firth Sunday</b>	
UM Camping	\$20.00

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



American Guild of Organists  
Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter

## In Memoriam

A Members' Recital

In Loving Memory of  
Troy Carpenter and Susan Emmons

Celebration of  
Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter's  
65th Anniversary



Sunday, June 8, 2025  
3:00 PM

Central United Methodist Church  
1011 Second Street — Muskegon, MI

A reception will follow the recital in Parish Hall.



“Creating safe spaces  
for growth and community  
in Christ.”



## CUMC Reaches Out “Beyond Our Walls!”

CUMC has taken the words “love your neighbor” to heart. Each month we are involved in projects *outside* our church that share our Christian love, our time, and our financial support. We can’t thank you enough for supporting our calling.

Here’s a list of some of the places CUMC lovingly support on a regular basis. May our arms continue to reach out even more in the months ahead.

We Are the Church TOGETHER!

1M, 211, Hope Project, Kids’ Food Basket,  
MAP Clothing Pantry, Helping Hand Fund  
Mobile Food Pantry, Muskegon HS Health Clinic  
Supper House, Embrace Books, Read Muskegon  
Beyond the Walls Team at CUMC

LOVE, JUSTICE, and SERVICE is our FOCUS.  
Good job, Central!

## LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE—Mark your calendars NOW!



## LET’S PREPARE FOR PENTECOST June 8, 2025

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people

were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.



## Join the Mix and Match Team for brunch following worship on Sunday, June 8th.

Liz and Keith Krol will provide a short program on their recent trip to Tanzania.

Come and see the work your prayers have supported “Beyond the Walls” of Central.

ALL Are Welcome!



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



# Central Cares

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 — Jan Schiller
- 5 — Liz Johnson
- 6 — Beth Adkins, Elizabeth Lofgren
- 9 — Michael Belt
- 11 — Sharon Bradfiled,
- 13 — Amy Devitt
- 18 — Dollie Hippchen
- 19 — Kay DeMoss
- 20 — Lora Swenson
- 25 — Mary Oakes
- 29 — Cindy Belt



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

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



**From the bleak midwinter,  
SPRING is starting to emerge.  
Hallelujah!**

Calling all gardening enthusiasts to reach out to Lisa Lively to keep our gardens "glorious" ALL season.

**See Lisa at Coffee Hour or call the Church Office.**



**Experience Clearer Sound in the Sanctuary  
Using AudioFetch!**

1. Connect to our Guest WiFi (Password: Welcome!)
2. Download the AudioFetch App (Apple and Android)
3. Connect your hearing aids or headphones to your phone or tablet.
4. Open the AudioFetch App and start listening!  
**Works GREAT!**

Click [HERE](#) to learn how to setup and use this app.

**Hearing loop also available on the main floor.**

## Church Office Hours

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

## MAY CALENDAR

- 4 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)  
Going Deeper 5:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 6 — Staff Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 8 — Romeo's 8:30 a.m. (Carmen's Café)  
Juliet's 9:00 a.m. (Cherokee Restaurant)  
Blood Drive 11:00 a.m. (Lower Level)
- 11 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)  
Call to Prayer 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 12 — Mobile Food Pantry 4:30 p.m. (CUMC Parking Lot)
- 13 — Planned Giving Mtg. 5:15 p.m. (Conference Room)  
Finance Team Mtg. 6:15 p.m. (Conference Room)
- 18 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)  
Going Deeper 5:00 p.m. (Conference Room)
- 20 — Outlook Deadline 8:00 a.m.  
Book Club 10:00 a.m. (Library)  
Building Team Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 22 — Volunteer at Kids' Food Basket 9:30 a.m. (1537 S. Getty)
- 25 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
Call to Prayer 11 a.m. (Conference Room)  
Mix & Match Team Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Library)
- 27 — Custodial Crew Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 28 — Leadership Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m. (Conference Room)

## Share their grief:

- ♥ Family and friends of Tom Hippchen, husband of Dollie, who passed away on April 17. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers. Service information is not available at this time. We will keep you informed.



## DATES STILL AVAILABLE

**May 4 and 18  
June 8, 15, 22, and 29**

Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the Chapel. *Thank you!*

## Special Request:

- ♥ Please keep Connie 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
- ♥ Connie Jones for the Church Calendar:  
connie@muskegoncentralumc.org

# Central United Methodist Church



1011 2nd Street  
Muskegon MI 49440  
231-722-6545  
MuskegonCentralUMC.org



MUSKEGON CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST

For faster and more convenient giving.



## Central Staff

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- Colin Berry, Video Technician  
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- Carolyn Buboltz, Financial Secretary  
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Have news for the Outlook? See page 3 for submission addresses. Next Outlook deadline is **May 20**. Thank you!



**Kids' Food Basket**

**BOWLING FUNDRAISER**  
**BENEFITTING THE**  
**MUSKEGON COUNTY**  
**KIDS' FOOD BASKET**

SCOTCH DOUBLES BOWLING




**FUNDRAISER**

**\$50**  
per team

50/50 drawings  
raffles  
& more!

Register Today!



**Two people bowl under one name, alternating shots for 3 games. Shoes included. 1 person throws first ball, other person picks up their spare.**

**3 May 2025**  
5:00pm registration  
6:00pm start



**1751 Evanston**  
Muskegon, MI 49442