

The Outlook

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Volume 123 Issue 6

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.

HOPE Comes When WE Have PEACE

~Juanita Joiner

I don't know about you, but I'm still thinking about Bill Dye's wonderful article in our May Outlook. The Robert Frost poem, *Lodged*, has NOT left my heart.

Nor has Bill's final paragraph: *"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."

I've read and reread his final paragraph this past month and as I've watched TV and read about MORE unrest in our world, our country, our state and even with our neighbors, I also long to gather around Bill's campfire. Like Bill, a verse in the Bible popped out one morning as I was having my morning coffee: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, PEACE, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."* Galatians 5:22

In the September 2019 Outlook my opening paragraph was this: *Recently my daily devotions have started out with these three words: **Come To Me!** But one day what came after those three words jumped out at me. **Big Time!** "Come to ME when you are weak and weary. Rest snugly in My everlasting arms. Rather than struggling, allow Me to bless you richly through it."*

That publication in 2019 was titled: **"Are WE Thirsty for Some Good Old Fashion Lemonade?"** I featured thoughts from a former student. Here's an excerpt from that publication: "I first met Renee when she was a fifth grader; I had her in choir till she graduated in 1988. That was a total of 8 years! My life became richer when she walked through the door of my classroom in 1980 and I must say, continues to stay rich because she continues to be a part of my life. Last week she posted this "gem" on Facebook and, with her permission, I'm sharing it with each of you. She too had words pop off the page during her daily devotions. You see...like me, Renee never stopped believing even though the grove of lemons kept getting bigger. The disappointments kept happening while inward faith remained solid and secure even after being filled with our share of lemons."

"When life gives you lemons, what do you do with them? The expression says to make lemonade. I have been puckered up and in the process of making my own lemonade today, till the Lord opened my eyes to some things... Have you ever googled the small, sour, cheery yellow fruit? Have you ANY idea how many uses, cures and benefits this little dynamo has the bragging rights to? I encourage you to check it out.

God has shown me the blessing of lemons. They are cleansing, healing, refreshing and nourishing. They are small, with a tough skin and juicy, soft insides. You would never know what they are capable of. Their sunny yellow color disguises the tart, sticky fruit. That juicy fruit is the basis of some delectable beverages and desserts when the right ingredients are added. So many analogies for life there.

I have a whole new appreciation for lemons; literally and figuratively. I'm thankful for God's steadfast love and grace and for the insight to understand their appeal; to embrace them with "zest." Confident that God has sweet things ahead for me...for you!"

Like me...like you...like *our church, the world, the country, our state, and yes, our neighbors*, Renee has experienced her share of hurts, discouragements and setbacks in her life and yet, it was during these "down" times she learned that her faith was still strong. There were times I'm sure she could have walked away, but the God she loves and depends faithfully on has always blended the right ingredients into those sour lemons. The same ingredients that sweetened my life's lemons, Renee's lemons and perhaps the lemons our church has and is experiencing will be just what we need to embrace life's challenges with new "zest." That we will be confident that God has sweet things ahead for me...for you...for Renee...and for our church, and yes, even our neighborhoods. ***Don't lose your "zest" for life...HOPE comes when we have PEACE!***

~ Excerpts from the September 2019 Outlook.

Mission Possible for June 2023

June 4 — Mission of the Month
Henderson Settlement

June 11 — Local Mission
Every Women's Place

June 16 — Helping Hand Fund

June 25 — Hunger/UMCOR
World and Poverty

Monthly Pantry Donation

Dish and Laundry Soap for MAP

Mission Accomplished April 2023

Mission of the Month
Native American Ministries \$335.00

Local Mission
Fresh Coast Alliance \$300.00

Helping Hand Fund \$ 95.00

Hunger/UMCOR
Mobile Food Pantry \$320.00

Missionary Support \$ 00.00

Pantry
St. Gianna Baby & Toddler Pantry \$ 75.00

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

"My Father's house has many rooms..." John 14:2 (NIV)



We have many rooms in our church, but few are as busy as our church office. So many people visit or call our church throughout the week, and so many of them are warmly greeted by Patty Dahlman. Patty has been the face of our church for over a decade. Her bright smile, big heart, and steady attention to our church have been a Godsend to us. Working in the heart of a church like ours can be stressful at times, but through thick and thin Patty persevered and cared for the good people of Central. We will miss her as she

retires, and we hope and pray that she, her husband, Bruce, and all their family will experience many joyful days in the years ahead.

And now a new chapter begins! We are pleased to welcome **Connie Jones** as the newest member of our church staff. Connie will be serving as our Office Coordinator, a new position combining the responsibilities of Patty Dahlman (our retiring Office Manager) and Sean Meade (previously our Technology Coordinator). Please note the change in Connie's job title! Rather than *managing* a church office, Connie will be *coordinating* the administrative and communication functions of our church. Her administrative responsibilities will include coordinating the church calendar, managing rooms and resources, and working with all the partners and community organizations who use our facilities. Her communication responsibilities will include coordinating the content of our digital publications, maintaining the information on our church website, and sharing the slides we use for worship and our outdoor sign.

Connie brings a wealth of experience and an eager heart to begin serving with us at Central. We are grateful for her presence, just as we have been grateful for Patty's faithful presence for the past 11 years. Please pray for them both in this newest season in each of their lives. God's house has many rooms, and thanks to the welcoming spirit always found in our church office, God makes room for all who enter here.

Log



"And with prayer, you can contact God 24 hours everyday, including weekends ... and there are NO roaming charges!"



WE ARE FAMILY DOING GOD'S WORK!



Our **Monthly Mobile Food Pantry** continues to be a total success.



We are now operating from CUMC's parking lot. Many hands are still helping our neighbors who visit and we are a blessing for the heart of Muskegon. **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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

7 — Hans Paulson
10 — Bruce Privacky, Robert Fountain
14 — Carl Chapman
17 — Jenna Terpstra
19 — Beth Cotner, Liz Krol
20 — Colin Berry, Karen Pallasch
25 — Doris Coles
27 — Lucas Cook, Karen Wallace
28 — Pam Price
30 — Carol Cross



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

2 — Don & Nancy Crandall 1962
7 — Gaylord & Christine Stanton 1975
12 — Jack & Marcy Cooke 1964
18 — Huey & Julie Husted 1982
19 — Van & Joanne Ulrich 1960
20 — Dale & Sue Beattie 1986
22 — Andy & Beth Lofgren 1985
25 — Bill & Erika Paulson 1955

A Word from Our Master Gardner ~ Lisa Lively

SPRING is here! We are already *springing into work*! 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. I have placed a sign-up map in Parish Hall for you to select a "section" of our gardens to adopt. 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. Let's keep our gardens beautiful. **Thank you**

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 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

Share their sorrow:

- ♥ Family and friends of Violet Lanning, mother of Lori (Harry) Arthur who passed away on May 3. A service for Violet was held on May 10 in Fenton, MI.

JUNE CALENDAR

- 2 — Supper House 3:45 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 4 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
- 6 — Book Club 9:30 a.m. (Conference Room)
Staff Mtg. 11 a.m. (Lab)
MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 8 — Romeo's 8:30 a.m. (Carmen's Café)
Blood Drive 11 a.m. (The Corner) Appointment required
MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
Red Letter Christians 10 a.m. (Parlor)
- 11 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Call To Prayer Small Group 11 a.m. (Parlor)
- 18 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
- 19 — Mobile Food Pantry 4:30 p.m. (3:30 p.m. if working)
- 20 — Outlook Deadline
Building Team Mtg. 11 a.m. (The Corner)
- 22 — Red Letter Christians 10 a.m. (Parlor)
Blood Drive 11 a.m. (The Corner) Appointment required
- 25 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Call To Prayer Small Group 11 a.m. (Parlor)
- 27 — Outlook Mailed
- 28 — Leadership Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m. (The Corner)

A REQUEST FOR YARN



It takes **LOTS** of yarn to knit all the beautiful hats Mary and Blake Duram donate to the church for distribution to the children in our local public schools. This loving ministry they do **EACH** year simply cannot end! So if you have some **WORSTED WEIGHT** (it will say 4 on the label) yarn laying around and it needs a new home, bring it to the church office and we'll see that these two "knitting angels" get your yarn.

Carol Higginson and Kay Fairfield spent a day in January delivering hats to several Muskegon elementary schools. God's hands...God's WORK!



Church Office Hours

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

Central

United Methodist Church

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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 **June 20**. Thank you!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AT CUMC!

Did you know that YOU have THREE opportunities to JOIN a prayer group at CUMC?

- ★ If you contact Mary Oakes, she would be more than willing to add you to her weekly Wednesday email. You will receive a devotion plus the names of people who have requested prayer.
- ★ If you would be interested in joining the Zoom Prayer Time each Tuesday at 10 AM, please contact Pastor Rob for the link. This group is very faithful and would welcome others who believe in the power of prayer.
- ★ Dollie Hippchen leads our *Call To Prayer Small Group* that usually meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the Parlor at 11 AM. This group welcomes others to join. As Dollie says: **"There is power in prayer"**.

Call the church office if you need to make contact with Mary, Rob, or Dollie.

WHO DO WE PRAY FOR?

A prayer for the man who
fell upon the street.
For the son who walks alone
and lives behind the library.
For the child who cries
when she is away from
home.
For the lonely ones and for the
ones who don't look lonely, for
sometimes they are the loneliest
of all.
For the love that lashes out
when it does not know the
way.
For the tired and the sick and the
ones who weep and for the ones
who pray.

~ Deanne Fitzpatrick