



THE OUTLOOK

Central United Methodist Church

Volume 125 Issue 7



But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. - Ephesians 4:15-16 NRSV

Annual Church Conference Report

Dear Church, from May 30th – June 1st we attended the annual conference in Acme Mi. by Traverse City. Here is a summary report. We had a wonderful time seeing the “Unfinished UMC,” catching up with friends, and meeting new friends.

Constitutional Amendments for changes to the Book of Discipline

These proposals have the support of the General Conference, the Council of Bishops, the Michigan Conference General Conference Delegation, the Connectional Table and others.

1. A set of amendments to create new regional conferences that will each have equal power to adapt portions of the [Book of Discipline](#) within their prospective regions. The United States would become its own Regional Conference, allowing it to make decisions that specifically address outreach and ministry needs within the U.S. context.
2. An amendment to add the words “gender” and “ability” to Paragraph 4, Article 4 of the constitution to categories that cannot be used to exclude membership in The United Methodist Church.
3. Updating an amendment to strengthen Article V of the UMC Constitution by explicitly recognizing the church’s role in combating racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy.
4. General Conference voted to amend Section VI, Article IV of the United Methodist Constitution, which establishes the educational requirements for clergy members of annual or provisional conferences who are eligible to vote for clergy delegates to the General Conference.

Resolutions

1. The 2025 budget for the Michigan UMC Conference was decreased by 5.2% and the Benefits budget was also decreased by 4%, both from the prior year.
2. Resolutions on past service rate, housing and rental allowance for retired or clergy on disability, and equitable compensation schedule all passed.
3. A continuation of our commitment was made to the people of Haiti through our long history with our Haitian partners.
4. Mandatory Protection Policy and Ethics training for clergy was passed.
5. A resolution Calling for Two States: Israel and Palestine was passed.
6. Holy Land Excursion boycott was passed.
7. A boycott against Chevron’s oil and gas production in Israel passed.

Please take time to watch the videos of Rev. Dr. Bishop Bard’s opening worship and Saturday’s Teaching Lesson by Rev. Jasmine Rose Smothers. These two videos were tremendously insightful and empowering.

Both these and the rest of the conference videos can be found on: [VIMEO page](#).

If you would like to know, more click on the following link: <https://michiganumc.org/>

Blessings,

Liz Krol Lay Member to Annual Conference and Keith Krol At Large Member to Annual Conference

Mission Possible for July 2025 (Weekly offerings)

♥ Mission of the Month UMCOR

Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene
Program (WASH)

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) are essential for good health and well-being. UMCOR-WASH implements projects through a network of partners in countries that have the highest levels of childhood diseases and death and the least access to basic WASH services. UMCOR and its partners are working on long-term solutions to start with communities' priorities and agendas. Partners are either national non-governmental organizations or local community-based organizations.

♥ Helping Hand Fund (Supporting people in need.)

Mission Accomplished May 2025

Mission of the Month

Peace with Justice \$500

Local Mission

Immigration Law and Justice \$365

Helping Hand Fund \$282.31

Hunger/UMCOR

International Disaster Response
\$420

Pantry

\$\$ for Hand2Hand \$335



Our Call for Others

Giving to missions is a way to partner with God's work around the world.

It reflects our desire to follow Christ's example of selfless giving. It's also a means of personal growth, fostering generosity, and strengthening our faith. ~ **Your CUMC Mission Team**



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

HYMNS, WORDS, AND PRAYERS

~Juanita Joiner

On June 8th, the power of words filled our service. Words that we sang, words that were read/spoken, and words that were prayed. There's power in words.

Our second hymn was a tune that was very familiar. It was based on a beautiful American folksong known as "O Waly, Waly." Hal Hopson wrote the version found in the UMH called, *Gift of Love*. The third verse is a call to each of us: ***Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every need; by this we worship and are freed.*** But the words we sang that Sunday were written in 2005...words that also speak loud and clear with that beautiful American folk song: ***May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit make us one. In holiness let us unite that we may know the risen Christ.***

The closing words from Pastor Rob's sermon only solidified the words we had already sung: *Despite all that divides us and all that tears our world apart, we are God's people. God uses our differences to create new life again and again and again. So, let that be our prayer on this Pentecost Sunday. Not that God will make us all the same, but that God will continue to make us different. Life in all its forms gives glory to one God and one Creator. Life in all its glory is meant to be one...Amen*

Finally, the prayer that Diane VanWesep shared truly bound us together in Christian love. Her well thought out words were unforgettable ... "O Lord, we ask you to hear these our prayers for members of our extended church family. But we know that you expect us to be your ambassadors to many outside of our immediate circle. So, we pray for those in our community who are experiencing food and/or housing insecurity. We pray for the institutions trying to provide them with meals and shelter. But, more than that, O Lord, we ask you to show us how we can help. We can feel so helpless when faced with hurting people standing on street corners with their cardboard signs bearing black marker pleas for help. Grant us the wisdom, the courage, and the empathy with which to decide on the most Christ-like response.

And we pray for our country, O Lord. There is so much divisiveness, separation and rancor...when compromise and bridge-building and kindness are so badly needed. Please open our ears and our hearts to listen to the opinions of those with whom we disagree. And, when we open our mouths to speak, may we be motivated by the desire to find common ground...even when that means agreeing to disagree. Help us remember that just as a forest is healthier and stronger when it possesses many different species of trees, so too are we as a society healthier and stronger when we possess persons from many different ethnicities and cultures and religions and gender identities.

And we pray for our world, knowing that you hold the whole world in your hand. We grieve for the people in Ukraine as the war with Russia goes on and the number of the dead increases. We weep for the people in Gaza as the Israeli/Palestinian conflict rages and people are not only killed in battle, but die of starvation or while trying to get food. O Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on the leaders of those countries as well as ours and guide them to find solutions that honor all sides and lead to lasting peace with dignity.

Indeed, Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on all of us. Melt us, mold us, fill us and use us to further the coming of your kingdom." Amen

**O breath of God, come fill this place; revive our hearts to know your grace;
and from our slumber make us rise that we may know the risen 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZUQe2i7Fzj_tcwwSG7Ednw/videos?view=2&flow=grid)



Central Cares

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 — Diana Case
- 2 — Jeanne Cotner
- 5 — Harry Wierenga
- 7 — Carol Tompkins
- 8 — Nova Fry
- 12 — Linda Roberts
- 13 — John Frisinger
- 20 — Sue Beattie
- 21 — Shirley Privacky
- 24 — Harry McKinley
- 26 — Bill Paulson
- 27 — Don Crandall
- 28 — Randy Dahlquist
- 29 — Debra Dahlquist
- 30 — Kelsey Cook



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 — Dexter & Abigail Larabee (2015)
- 13 — Larry & Sharon Bradfield (1965)
- Randy & Debra Dahlquist (1986)
- 26 — Hank & Sue Zack (1975)

JULY CALENDAR

- 2 — Staff Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 6 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
- 7 — Romeo's 8:30 a.m. (Carmen's Café)
- Juliet's 9:00 a.m. (Cherokee Restaurant)
- 13 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
- Called to Prayer Group 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 15 — Outlook Deadline 8:00 a.m.
- Book Club 10:00 a.m. (Jean Anderson's home)
- Building Team Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 20 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- 21 — Mobile Food Pantry 4:30 p.m. (CUMC Parking Lot)
- 22 — Outlook Mailed 9:00 a.m.
- Kitchen Crew Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Parish Hall)
- 27 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
- Called to Prayer Group 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- Beyond the Walls Packing 11:00 a.m. (Parish Hall)
- 29 — MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 31 — MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)

NOW AVAILABLE!

Your July/August Upper Room is now at the Welcome Desk.



Pick your copy up NOW!

Anam Cara



Two "Soul Friends" classes are being schedule for July and September. If you are interested in joining either of these two groups, please contact Sue Zack for additional information.



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.

Church Office Hours

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



Dollie's Personal Invitation!

I'm hoping you will feel welcomed to attend our *Called To Prayer Group*. We feel called to pray without ceasing as Jesus commanded.

We use the Mom's in Prayer International method of conversational prayer method and agenda of praying on one accord. Acts: 2:1

When: We meet each 2nd and 4th Sunday unless there is a conflict for the same time or space.

Where: Conference Room

Time: 11:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

We would love to see you on July 13 and 27. Questions? See me after church at Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall.

~ Dollie Hippchen

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



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MUSKEGON CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST

For faster and more
convenient giving.



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Have news for the Outlook? See page 3 for submission addresses. Next Outlook deadline is **July 15**. Thank you!



All Things Bright and Beautiful... the Lord God made them all.

The garden is calling, but life leaves the willing hands unable to keep up. Hired help is needed! Any financial support you can provide to help support the garden will be greatly appreciated.

There are projects you might not be aware of that need regular attendance:

- ★ Garbage patrol in bushes.
- ★ Weed spraying the parking lot.
- ★ Shoveling up the dirt and weeds in the parking lot.
- ★ Loading wheel barrows of mulch.

And there are jobs that need our regular attention:

- ★ Weed the flower beds.
- ★ Trim and groom the plantings and bushes.
- ★ Provide your LOVE!

Please reach out to the office to be in touch with Lisa. (231-722-6545)

Helping with church gardens can be a wonderful and rewarding experience, offering both personal benefits and positive contributions to the church and the broader community.