

The Outlook

The Outlook is published monthly by Central United Methodist Church, 1011 2nd Street, Muskegon MI 49440.

Volume 123 Issue 9



LOVE ONE ANOTHER...AS GOD LOVES US

~Juanita Joiner

When I was a child, I LOVED to read stories that started this way ... *Once Upon a Time!* I decided to start this month's editorial out with those exact words. Sit back and relax, pour a cup of coffee and read this heartwarming story.

Once Upon a Time during the early 1960's, there were two ladies who loved to write. Gladys lived in Springwood, Australia on a farm with her husband and they raised sheep; Martha and her husband lived in Central Illinois where they were teaching. Both ladies were born in 1927 but never knew each other until Martha decided to find a *pen pal*. Little did these ladies, now in their 30's, ever think this would end up being a life-long friendship, but it did. And their friendship also remains

in the minds and hearts of their children.

By now you have probably guessed that the Martha in this story is our very own Martha Jacobassi. The Martha that turned 96 on August 27. The Martha that has blessed so many of us with her lovely handwritten notes. Now back to the story because it's not over yet.

After I put a request for yarn in a past Outlook for Mary and Blake Duram to use for the hats they make for the school children, I was gifted two bags of yarn from Martha. The first bag contained perfect yarn for these hats, but when I opened the next bag, my jaw dropped and my hands touched a note written in Martha's beautiful penmanship. The note said this: ***Yarn from Gladys in Australia and spun by Martha.*** I immediately called Martha and asked for the story...and a story she shared. After that first call, I told her I would make her something special with her yarn and it too would tell a story. Martha responded by saying...*Oh I wish Gladys was still alive so I could share this with her.* (No, I didn't give this yarn to Mary and Blake; I think they will also be touched by what I did with that yarn.)

Gladys raised sheep and when you have sheep you need to shear them at least once a year, sometimes even more. The wool is then washed, carded and made into roving. The roving is then spun into yarn. Gladys had gifted Martha with lots of roving from her sheep. Martha told me she taught herself to spin using a spinning wheel she purchased just for that project. This yarn was rustic yarn...some of it was what we call in the knitting world, wooly wool and sometimes referred to as sticky yarn...other yarn was soft and gentle. In all, she had included yarn from seven different breeds of sheep...all the enclosed yarn was different colors...different textures.

I decided to find a pattern that would retell that friendship that grew as they aged and went through each stage of life as mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers and yes, even widows. A shawl seemed fitting because a shawl will warm your shoulders and actually can feel like a hug. I can only imagine their last visit and that parting hug...I bet each lady couldn't wait to put pen to paper and record those memories. These two ladies actually traveled to opposite hemispheres to connect in person. Even after these visits, letters (and I mean long letters) continued. They continued writing until the June of 1998 when Gladys's daughter wrote Martha to tell her of her passing. This would end their 38+ years of friendship, of visits and those dearly loved letters.

Martha's shawl tells a story of two ladies living in different hemispheres by the two visible sides to the shawl; the passing of time by the change in the color and texture of wool; the friendship that only grew over the years by the increase in size and shape; the beginning and ending that is a repeat of the same color of yarn showing that Martha and Gladys *together* built this touching story...a story that will have no ending because like I said, Gladys planted memories in Martha's children and Martha planted memories in the children of Gladys.

There is a lesson to learn from these ladies...a lesson for our church. Pastor Rob said it beautifully in his closing remarks on August 20th. *After all these years, we have learned to love others as God loves us. That's our purpose as God's people. That's our future as a church. We are going to go on loving one another, and we are going to love the people God calls us to love, with no expectations. We are going to love the people beyond these church walls, even if they don't join us here. We are going to love them where they are, and how we find them, because that's how God loves us. So, let's do what we do best as a church. Let's go on loving one another, with no expectations. Let's love one another in the same way God loves us...Amen.*

May these words guide us as we face our Horizon, Mountains, Road and even our Road Sign. (See page 2)



Mission Possible for September 2023

Sept. 3 — Mission of the Month
United Methodist Community House

Sept. 10 — Local Mission
Boys and Girls Club

Sept. 17 — Helping Hand Fund

Sept. 24 — Hunger/UMCOR
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Monthly Pantry Donation

\$§ for Kids' Food Basket

Mission Accomplished July 2023

Mission of the Month
Justice For Our Neighbors \$385.00

Local Mission
Hope Project \$235.00

Helping Hand Fund \$453.00

Hunger/UMCOR
Mobility West Michigan \$365.00

Missionary Support \$ 40.00

Pantry
Deodorant/Shampoo for MAP \$ 50.00

A total of 14 bottles of shampoo and 10 bottles of deodorant were also donated.

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



As We Start the New Year

Join Our Journey!

- *Picture our priorities.
- *Work together to pursue goals.
- *Take action steps.
- *Lend your prayers.
- *Lend your voice.
- *Lend your efforts to our cause.

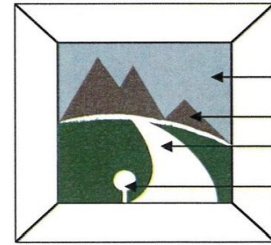


“Creating safe spaces
for growth and community
in Christ.”

*May the road rise up to meet you...
(Traditional Irish Blessing)*

The road ahead for our church is full of promise! Last month, we gathered in the chapel for a congregational meeting led by members of our Leadership Council. We shared our hopes and plans for the coming years, and the steps we hope to take in the coming days to realize God's vision for our church. By “picturing” our priorities as a congregation, we will work together to pursue goals and take action steps. You can help! Notes from last month's congregational meeting are available upon request by calling the church office. Please consider lending your prayers, voice, and efforts to our cause.

We SO appreciate your prayers and support as we walk this road together. Thank you for joining us on the journey!



5 Years
3 Years
1 Year
90 Days

Horizon (5 Years)

Our vision is to be a *spiritual hub* partnering with our diverse community.

Mountains (3 Years)

Identify Needs
Determine Resources
Build Relationships
Communication

Road (1 Year)

More people
More partners

Road Sign (90 Days)

Explore a New Ministry
Communicate New Ministry
Affordability of Two Buildings
Muskegon Methodist Ministries

TIME FOR ANOTHER CHALLENGE?



Many of you will remember that in the past I suggested people hop on the “challenge wagon” and write “new words” for a familiar hymn. The text could be inspired by scripture, your personal thoughts about our church or even an event that is happening in and around the world. I think our past sermon series (Questions Jesus Asked) would make great inspiration for your hymn. Read the last paragraph on the front page...those thoughts would be PERFECT!

I'm now officially proposing a “Hymn Challenge” for 2023 and would love to have YOU participate. If you need some inspiration...here are some great hymn tunes that are very familiar to the congregation: UMH 660—**God Is Here**, UMH 577—**God of Grace and God of Glory**, and UMH 545—**The Church's One Foundation**. Let's aim for entries to be submitted by **October 15th**. I can hardly wait to read and eventually share your submissions. Your hymn text, along with info on what provided your inspiration, should be sent to me using this email address: jjoiner@muskegoncentralumc.org

To God Be the Glory (UMH 99) ~Juanita Joiner

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 — Heather Krol
6 — Marian Davis
8 — Andrew Youngquist
13 — Julie Husted, Tammie Smith, Julie Wierenga
20 — Keegan Obenauf
26 — Ron Vanderwest
28 — Nancy Crandall
29 — Joyce Lewinski, Andrew Lofgren
30 — Tom Maycroft



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11 — David & Lynn Wendtland 1965
18 — Wade & Sheila Justice 2004
21 — Jim & Elizabeth Johnson 1991
Kyle & Karen Pallasch 2019



Cody's Place Rededication September 10th

Cody's Place has now been relocated to our library.

This special library will be rededicated on September 10th at 11 a.m. and you are all cordially invited to join the family and be part of this dedication.

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.**

Church Office Hours

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

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 **Laurie DeHaan**, niece of Don VanderLaan who passed away on July 17.
- ♥ Family and friends of **Jennette Swenson Reeves**, cousin of Lora Swenson who passed away on July 26.
- ♥ Family and friends of Sean and Rachel Meade who recently lost their grandmother.
- ♥ Family and friends of **Genevieve Potter**, mother of Marie Rood who passed away on August 14. The service for Genevieve was held on August 23 in Coopersville, MI. Marie is our Financial Administrator at Central UMC.

Share their joy:

- ♥ Congratulations to Dexter and Abby Larabee on the birth of their daughter, Sutton Raine. This bundle of joy weighed in at 7lb 2 oz. and was 20" in length. Brad and Katie Cotton are proud grandparents and Mary Oakes and Donna Cotton are Sutton's great-grandmothers.
- ♥ Congratulations to Carol Cross on the birth of her great niece, Bennon Honor Cross Stock. Bennon was born on August 8 weighing 6# and was 19" in length.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 — Supper House 3:45 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 3 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Going Deeper 5 p.m. (Parlor)
- 5 — Staff Mtg. 11 a.m. (Conference Room))
- 7 — Red Letter Christians 10 a.m. (Parlor)
Blood Drive 11 a.m. (The Corner) Appointment required
- 10 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Call To Prayer Small Group 11 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 12 — Book Club 9:30 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 14 — Romeo's 8:30 a.m. (Carmen's Café)
- 17 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Going Deeper 5 p.m. (Parlor)
- 18 — Mobile Food Truck 4:30 p.m. (4 p.m. if working)
(Now being held in the CUMC Parking lot)
Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 19 — Outlook Deadline
Building Team Mtg. 11 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 21 — Red Letter Christians 10 a.m. (Parlor)
- 24 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Call To Prayer Small Group 11 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 25 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 26 — Outlook Mailed
MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 27 — Leadership Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m. (The Corner)

Central

United Methodist Church

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



Muskegon Central United Methodist

Central Staff

- Rev. Rob Cook, Senior Pastor
rob@muskegoncentralumc.org
231-722-6545 Ext. 4
- Connie Jones, Office Coordinator
connie@muskegoncentralumc.org
231-722-6545 Ext. 1
- Marian Davis, Parish Visitor
marian@muskegoncentralumc.org
231-722-6545
- Juanita Joiner, Newsletter Editor
jjoiner@muskegoncentralumc.org
231-722-6545 Ext. 2
- Dan Melinn, Facilities Coordinator
dmelinn@muskegoncentralumc.org
231-722-6545
- Carl Chapman, Custodian
office@muskegoncentralumc.org
231-722-6545
- Marie Rood, Financial Administrator
marie@muskegoncentralumc.org
231-722-6545 Ext. 3
- Cavan Berry, Church Treasurer
cumc@muskegoncentralumc.org
- Colin Berry, Video Technician
colin@muskegoncentralumc.org
- Carolyn Buboltz, Financial Secretary
cumc@muskegoncentralumc.org
231-722-6545 Ext. 3

Have news for the Outlook? See page 3 for submission addresses. Next Outlook deadline is **September 19**. Thank you!

CROP WALK 2023 OCTOBER 1, 2023

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Muskegon
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 01, 2023

MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

The need is even GREATER than it has ever been due to war and natural disasters.

Central needs even more walkers this year, so please make this the year you return as a walker, you can sign up for your first time or celebrate your 25th time as a walker.

It's not hard. If you aren't into asking people for pledges, get an envelope and put your donation in and walk as far as you can. Every little bit helps. You can even have people pledge online.

See **Kay Fairfield** or **Carol Higginson** for an envelope or for more information. This year your envelope will come to either Kay or Carol the **day of the walk or as soon as you get all your pledges. You will turn in your list of people who have pledged when you register on the day of the walk. You will also need a list to keep if you are not able to turn your envelope in the day of the walk.**

This sounds like a lot of information, so contact Kay or Carol with your questions and any clarifications you may need. We are here for you.

**LET'S MAKE THIS THE BEST CROP WALK
CENTRAL HAS EVER HAD!**