



# THE OUTLOOK

Central United Methodist Church

Volume 125 Issue 9

## Wheat versus Weeds

**“Let both grow together until the harvest.”**

Matthew 13:30

~Juanita Joiner

Weeds are relentless...at least they were for me this year. No matter how hard I worked pulling them up by the roots, the weeds just didn't stop growing back. I began to dislike weeds when I was a child living in a house with a huge yard and tons of gardens. My Dad loved to keep his daughters busy outside not playing but working. We had to earn that \$.25 weekly allowance after all!

There's something about weeds. They always grow back. But if we pulled petunias, zinnias, or even lettuce, they never return unless we plant them again. Just think...weeds have been around forever! Even back in the time of Jesus, people were frustrated by weeds. Both the *plant-type* weeds that trouble the gardens but also the *human-type* weeds that trouble us on a deeper and more complex level.

Our world is overflowing with human-type weeds. We have both good and bad growing together all around us in our neighborhoods, our places of work, in our society and even in our government...things that are both constructive and destructive. If we think about it, these things have always existed together and have always shared the same soil. Like plants and weeds that draw nourishment from the same soil, they have become completely intertwined at their roots. Sometimes I have found that they aren't clearly distinguishable.

This is bad gardening advice...don't bother pulling the weeds. Let both our plantings (things we are excited about in life) and our weeds (those things we need to care about in life) grow together. Co-exist. I think we can liken weeds to people we need to help, people we need to open our church doors to, people who need some help finding a place to sleep and food for their table, people who need to know the world isn't against them or not caring. All the pulling and digging will not uproot and eliminate those “bad” weeds, but it just might make it obvious to others that we are trying to make a difference just like Jesus did when he helped the poor, when he prayed for those who were sick and homeless, and when he walked the walk by loving everyone...even those who were different than he. Weeds will be weeds! No matter how passionate we are to try to eliminate them by spreading love and acceptance, offering a willing hand, and praying for those we don't even know. But staying attentive to the weeds will help us look like God's people who truly care...even to those who don't.

Sometimes I wonder if we just might feel lost **to** the weeds. Most times however, I feel like we might feel lost **in** the weeds. Getting lost **in** the weeds means we're paying too much attention to unnecessary details and getting overwhelmed and bogged down and falling behind on what God placed us here to be, to do, and to become.

When we are bogged down **in** the weeds, not caring by what is happening in the weeds—maybe to the point of being overwhelmed by what is happening in our world around us, that's the perfect time to remember these words: “relax and return to your soul, for it has always been known as your home.” Because whenever we're lost and overwhelmed, that's exactly when we need to care for our soul so we can open-up to those who need to see a true soul that cares.

So, with the grim reality of the persistence of weeds (our mission field), I encourage each of you to dig deep into your soul. It is there that you just might hear the beauty and promise of one of the parables in the Bible: *Even though the weeds are left to grow until the harvest, they do not prevent the wheat from growing—it continues to grow and bear fruit. In fact, it is not until it begins to bear fruit that it becomes recognized as the good stuff.* Our mission is to tend to the weeds but allow the wheat (you and me) to thrive.

We may be living with weeds, there may be those around us who need our help, but when we live inside our heart we will continue to grow, and we will bear fruit **AND** we will guide others on their way to their own giving heart.

*“Never place a period where God has placed a comma.”*

**"God is still speaking"**

Let's be open to hearing God's voice in our lives, in our church, and in our community.

**Mission Possible for  
September 2025**  
(Weekly offerings)

♥ **Mission of the Month**  
**CROP Walk**

This is a perfect time to support the food pantries in our area and around the world. No one should be hungry. Additional information on page 4.

♥ **Helping Hand Fund**  
(Supporting people in need.)

**Mission Accomplished  
July 2025**

**Mission of the Month**  
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene  
\$1,095.28

**Helping Hand Fund** \$565.00



**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

**CUMC GROUPS ARE OPEN  
FOR YOU TO JOIN**

- ♥ Called to Prayer
- ♥ Going Deeper
- ♥ Mobile Food Pantry
- ♥ Beyond the Walls
- ♥ Book Club
- ♥ Kids' Food Basket

Always check the calendar for dates and times. You can also call the church office for more information.



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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

11:00 A.M IN THE CHAPEL

SHARING OUR GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR!

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SUNDAY**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 WORSHIP 11:00 BBQ AT THE CORNER

APPRECIATING OUR ENTIRE CONGREGATION!

**District Conference + Hospitality Workshops: Sept. 27**

**The Western Waters District Conference is scheduled for  
Saturday, September 27 at Ludington UMC.**

Rev. Tom Arthur is leading a morning and afternoon  
workshop for clergy and laity,  
with the District Conference business meeting in between  
(tentative timeline 9:30am-2pm).

**Please save the date! More info and registration coming soon!**

**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

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 — Heather Krol
- 6 — Marian Davis
- 8 — Andrew Youngquist
- 13 — Julie Husted, Tammie Smith, Julie Wierenga
- 15 — John Schrader
- 26 — Ron Vanderwest
- 28 — Jeanne Coulon, Nancy Crandall
- 29 — Andrew Lofgren
- 30 — Tom Maycroft



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 22 — Jim & Elizabeth Johnson (1991)
- Kyle & Karen Pallasch (2019)

### Share their grief:

- ♥ Family and friends of **Lois Krol**, stepmother of Keith (Liz) Krol who passed away on July 7 in Pennsylvania. Please keep the Krol family in your prayers as they continue to adjust to their loss.



### MEMORIAL SERVICE

The family of Martha Giacobassi has planned a memorial service on **September 6 at 2:00 PM** in our sanctuary to honor her life. Martha passed away peacefully on December 15 in MN.

There will be a reception held in Parish Hall following the service for friends and family.



### 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!**

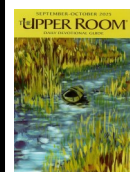
Click [HERE](#) to learn how to setup and use this app.

### Church Office Hours

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

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 3 — Staff Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 6 — Memorial Service for Martha Giacobassi 2:00 p.m.
- 7 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)  
Focus Group 11:00 a.m. (TBD)  
Going Deeper 5:00 p.m. (Conference Room)
- 9 — MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 11 — Romeo's 8:30 a.m. (Carmen's Café)  
Juliet's 9:00 a.m. (Cherokee Restaurant)  
MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 14 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)  
**Congregational Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Chapel)**
- 16 — Outlook Deadline 8:00 a.m.  
Book Club 10:00 a.m. (Library)  
Building Team Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 21 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)  
Beyond the Walls Packing 11:00 a.m. (Parish Hall)  
Going Deeper 5:00 p.m. (Conference Room)
- 22 — Mobile Food Pantry 4:30 p.m. (CUMC Parking Lot)  
Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 22 — Outlook Mailed 9:00 a.m.  
Custodial Crew Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 24 — Leadership Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m. (Conference Room)
- 25 — Volunteer at KFB **10:00 a.m. (2330 Barclay Street)**
- 27 — District Conference (see information on page 2)
- 28 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)  
**Volunteer Appreciation BBQ 11:00 a.m. (The Corner)**
- 29 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 30 — Leadership Council Mtg./ Jodi Flessner 5:45 p.m. (Zoom)
- 31 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)



### NOW AVAILABLE!

Your September/October Upper Room is now at the Welcome Desk.

What a wonderful way to start EACH Day.  
**Pick up your copy NOW!**

### 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  
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231-722-6545  
MuskegonCentralUMC.org



MUSKEGON CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST

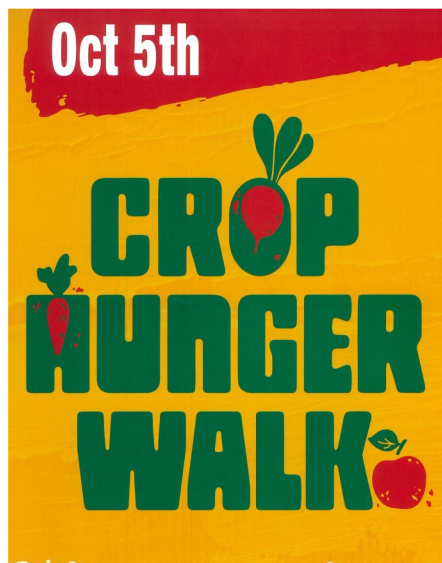
For faster and more  
convenient giving.



## Central Staff

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



## CROP WALK 2025

It's time to start training for  
the 2025 CROP Walk  
on  
Sunday, October 5

No one in this world should ever be hungry. That's why the Muskegon CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a gathering of people in a place. We're part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds together to provide meals for those in our own community who need them - and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world. Please join us in the fight against hunger. The steps we take and the funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others.

Questions? Contact Kay Fairfield  
or Carol Higginson



MuskegonCropWalk.com