

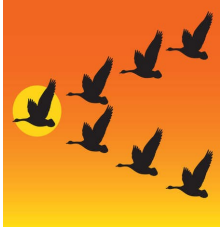
The Outlook

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

Volume 123 Issue 10

Are We Flying in "V" Formation?

~Juanita Joiner



I recently had lunch with a former student. Because I taught music, I had most students for up to eight years and therefore, I've always had a long-lasting relationship with them. After we caught up with family and yes, even grandchildren, out of the blue she said this... "Do you remember *The Goose Story* you always told us at the beginning of each year and how we had the class motto, *I Can, We Can, We Will?*" This caught me off guard but at the same time, I found this touching that after all these years, she still remembered how I started each year. However, it was her next comment that brought *tears to my eyes*..."Mrs. Joiner, I always told my own children that same story before they started each school year and now, I am telling it to my grandchildren." WOW...I'm one proud retired teacher.

This year, *The Goose Story* spoke to me in a different way...instead of students, I had in view our church and the direction Pastor Rob and the Church Council is leading us. After you read this story, I think you will agree that the direction we are heading is not only being led by Rob and the Council, but there is a need for each and EVERYONE of us to find our place in that "V" formation. **WE are definitely that flock of geese.** Here's that story.

"This Fall, when you see geese heading south for the winter, flying along in a V formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following it. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. **People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily, because they are traveling on the thrusts of one another.**

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone. It quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front of it. **If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are.**

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose takes over that point position. **It pays to take turns doing hard jobs.**

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. **An encouraging word goes a long way.**

Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshots and falls out, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay until the fallen goose can fly or until it dies, and only then do they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group. **If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.** " Author Unknown

Mary Oakes had no idea that she actually gave proof to the above story with her Centering Thoughts on September 17th. CUMC was that flock of geese for Peter and Mary. That was true for them and still true NOW! Here's her story!

"Peter and I came to Central United Methodist Church in January of 1986 looking for a church that would accept us and our understanding of God, Christ, and the love we were taught early in our faith journey. The night before that Sunday in January, Peter said to me, "Tomorrow, I'm going down to Central. I've been hearing good things from Jerry Bruining and I want to see for myself. If you don't want to come—that's OK—but I just have to go." So, early Sunday morning we trundled on down to attend the 8:30 a.m. Chapel Service hoping we could simply sneak in and slip out. We just wanted to get an idea of the church. Much to our surprise, when we walked in the doors of the Narthex, we were made very aware that the Holy Spirit was bouncing off the walls. And that was a warm and wonderful feeling. Then we went into the Chapel expecting ten or twelve people but found it very well attended. In fact, we had to sit down in front in order to find a seat! We settled down to sing and pray and hear a God directed sermon. **WE WERE HOME.** We stayed because of the depth of those who were worshiping at Central. We found that they have a deep awareness of God and Christ in their lives helping us to grow spiritually, and we found a deep love that they hold in their hearts. The love which causes them to share their love with others." (Editor's Note: And just like that, Peter and Mary became a part of that "V" formation...thank you Central!)

Why don't you spend time with the banner in the Narthex this month. Find your spot on a branch. (It's V shaped) "*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*" John 15:4-5

Mission Possible for October 2023

Oct. 1 — Mission of the Month
World Wide Communion

Oct. 8 — Local Mission
Mt. Zion Thanksgiving Dinner

Oct. 15 — Helping Hand Fund

Oct. 22 — Hunger/UMCOR
Blankets/Tools

Oct. 29 — Fifth Sunday Offering
Campus Ministry in Michigan

Monthly Pantry Donation
MAP Food Pantry

Mission Accomplished August 2023

Mission of the Month	
Red Bird School	\$360.00
Local Mission	
MHS Teen Clinic	\$215.00
Helping Hand Fund	\$ 30 .00
Hunger/UMCOR	
Solar Oven Project	\$295.00
Missionary Support	\$ 30.00
Pantry	
Hand2Hand	\$285.00



Central will celebrate World Communion on October 1st. This is a day to remember that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and that every Christian Church and any denomination that promotes Christian unity are one.

Join us for Oddities & Delights!

An exhibit tour at the Muskegon Museum of Art.
Also an opportunity to learn more about the museum's \$12 million expansion to promote women in art!

FREE ADMISSION
Thursday, October 19th
3:30-5:00 p.m.



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

HOME SWEET HOME

Muskegon is our home. For over 150 years families have found a home at our church in downtown Muskegon, so we know this community is a good place to grow deep roots. We are proud of our home, and grateful to live where we live.



We are not alone! Have you heard of the Livability Lab? This gathering of residents, neighbors, and community partners started as a grassroots effort to improve the lives of people living in Muskegon. For several years, teams have been working together to make our community a better place to live while celebrating the gifts and assets we already share.

[Watch THIS VIDEO to learn all about the history of Muskegon's Livability Lab!](#)

We commend those who have been working to improve the lives of those living in our community. And we hope to join them! Our worship series in October will celebrate all we love about our home in Muskegon. We will discern in worship and prayer how God is leading us as a congregation to improve the lives of those living in our community. And we will work on ourselves! We will hold two Churchability Labs in our Chapel at 11:00 a.m. on October 8th and 22nd. These labs will help us work on our ability to *Invite and Welcome* people to join us in our fellowship, ministries, and efforts as a congregation.

Please join us! We have so much to love about our home together in Muskegon. So let's share the love, and continue to make Muskegon a home for us all.

Log

CHURCHABILITY LABS

**Please join us on
October 8th and 22nd
at 11 a.m. in the Chapel**

**We have so much to love
about our home *together* in
Muskegon, Michigan.**



EMAIL SCAM WARNING from UMC Michigan Conference

We have become aware of an email scam that is specifically targeting United Methodist churches in Michigan. The emails appear to be from Conference Chief Financial Officer Angie Anger with the subject line, "**ACH Remittance Advance**".

This email **should** be considered malicious. **Do not click on the link.** If you have, please reset any password you provided immediately.

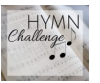
We do not know how wide-spread the attack is. We have worked to secure this issue and apologize for any inconvenience. We do not know how wide-spread the attack is. ~UMC Michigan Conference

Editor's Note: Our financial Administrator at CUMC has been made aware of this issue. We are asking each of you to keep watch of your own personal email accounts and this email scam warning. ~Juanita



HYMN CHALLENGE DEADLINE

**For those participating in this year's Hymn Challenge,
entries can be submitted anytime or by October 15th.**



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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 — Luke Lofgren
- 3 — LeighAnn Mikesell
- 4 — Cavan Berry
- 8 — Dale Beattie
- 10 — Lynn Wendtland
- 14 — Sally Peterson, Wesley Tyler, Van Ulrich
- 17 — Eric Cotner, Sarah York
- 20 — Andrew Twork
- 21 — Ann Martinez, Jordan Parisian
- 24 — Basil Lang, Shirley Saylor
- 28 — Jenny McNeill
- 30 — Cecilia Mikesell
- 31 — Diane Lindstrom



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 24 — Billie Joy & Tommie Thomas 2015

STAY CONNECTED TO CUMC

The Communication Committee at CUMC is encouraging you to sign-up for our weekly emails. These emails are a wonderful way for YOU to stay connected with what is happening in and around our church. If you aren't receiving these emails, you can subscribe by calling the Church Office and we will be happy to add you to our data base.

Mary and Blake Duram want to thank those who donated yarn for their *hats for the schools* project. You can always donate yarn during the year for their next year's donation. Again, CUMC knows how to walk the walk! 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.**

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 **Jean Larson**, who passed away on September 5. Her celebration of life was held on September 24 at the Vikings Linne Lodge #57.

Share their joy:

- ♥ Congratulations to Stephen Wei who has been accepted into the Hope College/Western Theological Seminary program for a Bachelor's degree. He will be working on a Liberal Arts degree with a Theology Major. Steven feels blessed because he has already been working with fellow inmates for years in studying the Word and remaking his own life and influencing the lives of those around him. Steven is the son of the late, Brenda Wei. *CUMC is proud of you, Steven!*

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 1 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
CROP Walk 12 p.m.
Going Deeper 5 p.m. (Parlor)
- 2 — Joy Bells Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 3 — Staff Mtg. 11 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 6 — Supper House 3:45 p.m.
- 8 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Churchability Lab 11 a.m. (Chapel)
- 9 — Joy Bells Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 10 — Book Club 9:30 a.m. (Conference Room)
MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 12 — Romeo's 8:30 a.m. (Carmen's Café)
Red Letter Christians 10 a.m. (Parlor)
Blood Drive 11 a.m. (The Corner)
MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 15 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Going Deeper 5 p.m. (Parlor)
Call To Prayer Small Group 11 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 16 — Mobile Food Truck 4:30 p.m. (4 p.m. if working)
Joy Bells Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 17 — Outlook Deadline
Building Team Mtg. 11 a.m. (Conference Room)
Kitchen Crew Mtg. 4 p.m. (Parish Hall)
- 22 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Churchability Lab 11 a.m. (Chapel)
- 23 — Joy Bells Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 24 — Outlook Mailed
- 25 — Leadership Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m. (The Corner)
- 26 — Red Letter Christians 10 a.m. (Parlor)
Blood Drive 11 a.m. (The Corner)
- 29 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Call To Prayer Small Group 11 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 30 — Joy Bells Rehearsal 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)

Central

United Methodist Church

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Muskegon Central United Methodist

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Have news for the Outlook? See page 3 for submission addresses. Next Outlook deadline is **October 17**. Thank you!

CUMC Walks the Walk

We believe in helping others by *working* at our monthly Mobile Food Pantry and walking in the yearly CROP Walk.
Together we are making a difference for our neighbors and community.



thank you!

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Muskegon
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 01, 2023

MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

thank you!

TEAM CENTRAL: McNeill-Berry Family, Ben Clarke, Kay Fairfield, Carol Higginson, Julie Husted, Lisa Lively, Pastor Rob, Linda Roberts, Diane VanWesep and Sue Zack