



THE FLAME

Monthly Newsletter

for

Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches

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The Pastor's Perspective



Dearest Ones in Christ,

As I sit here at the cottage in Petoskey, I look out into beautiful woods. I enjoy springtime

because the woods come to life—the hardiest of flowers and grasses start poking up through the dried gray and brown ground covering adding a green sparkle to the forest floor. The buds on trees and increased animal activities signal the waking up that is happening all around us. It is an exciting time in the Midwest.

We've been waiting for winter to end so we can do all those things we love to do when the snow is gone and the warm air beckons.

However, this year is different. Even if we are getting outside (and I hope you are!), our excitement is dampened by our current situation of sequester. Not to mention the uncertainty of when things will get “back to normal.” Many of the experts are telling us that our “normal” may not be coming back anytime soon, if at all. This idea, along with our current situation could be a cause for discouragement, disappointment and depression. How do we deal with these difficult times?

There is a message in creation for us, especially for those of us who live in the north and are blessed to see the changing of the seasons. What looked dead and lifeless is coming to life right now, maybe in ways we might not expect or imagine. Sometimes we just don't see the new life because we aren't looking. Maybe we have specific places we like to go, so we don't go to new places and see the new life happening there. Or maybe we are so busy with our lives that we don't even see the larger picture—the new life that is taking place all around us. Every spring, new life comes forth. Even if the winter is extremely long and spring is the blink of an eye, God's creation is alive, growing, giving birth to the new.

I'm attending a four-week webinar that is encouraging the participants to look for places where God is at work doing a new thing right now. Instead of lamenting what is not happening, we are

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Pastor's Perspective Continued:

being encouraged to focus on and celebrate what is happening! If you have been getting my weekly letters, you know that there are some signs of new life happening in our community! New outreach is happening, things we would not have been doing if not for the events that are taking place. I celebrate that, and encourage you to also.

The Prophet Isaiah reminded the people during difficult times:

*"...forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.
(Isaiah 43:18-19 NLT)*

Let us be people who trust God is at work; God is with us; and God is doing a new thing right here, right now. In fact, let us be people who join with others in a new mission that is taking place. Or maybe God is trying to show you something new that you have the gifts and skills to try. Please share with me what you are doing or what others are doing for their neighbors. Let's help each other see the new things God is doing in our midst so we can celebrate together!

I am grateful for your support of our Facebook Live Streaming Worship services on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. EST! I feel all of you as we gather, and I definitely feel God's Spirit connecting us through the virtual medium available to us today—hey, a new thing birthed during this time to honor and celebrate God!!

Stay healthy—in body, mind, and spirit,

Pastor Vickie



WE EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES.....

Our condolences go out to the friends and family of **Inez Bennett**, who passed away on April 24, 2010, at the age of 102, at the War Memorial Hospital Long Term Care Unit. Inez was born in Sault Ste. Marie on September 4, 1917. She graduated with the Sault High School class of 1936 and began employment immediately at Barish Brothers store. She worked there through four generations of ownership, from selling to ordering merchandise. She was a member of Central United Methodist Church and The Friends of Bayliss Library. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clayton Bennett. Memorials in her name may be left to the War Memorial Long Term Unit for their excellent and compassionate care given to her for the last seven years.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes....Revelation 7:17b



PRAYER WHEEL FOR OUR SOLDIERS

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Petty Officer 3rd class Christopher VerHaagh, the son of Loretta and Mike VerHaagh, is an aviation electrician in the U.S. Navy. He is assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-83m where he works on F-18 Super Hornets. He lives in Virginia Beach with his wife, Alexis.

Gavin Povey, the grandson of Diana and Ron Morgan, is in his 2nd enlistment in the Air Force and is stationed at Vandenberg Air Base in California. He is in the conservation section and tends to the Air Force horses.

Sawyer Ball, the son of Marcia and Carl Ball, is with the U.S. Army and assigned to Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he lives with his wife Sherry and family..

Samantha Huhtala is a Sergeant (6174 Marine crew chief door gunner) on a HueyVenom gun ship in the U.S. Marine Corps, currently stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA. She is set to be discharged this fall and will enroll in college for aeronautical engineering to become a fixed wing and rotary wing pilot. She is the daughter of Sheila and John Huhtala, Jr., the granddaughter of Rev. John and Karen Huhtala and the niece of Kara LaLonde.

Brent Johnson is stationed at Dover, Delaware with the U.S. Air Force. He is married to Catherine, who is also in the Air Force and is in Intelligence. His grandparents are Gayle and Bob Johnson.

CW4 Sam Morgan is stationed in Savannah, Georgia and is the commander of a Black Hawk helicopter. His parents are Virginia and Terry Morgan and he is the nephew of Tom and Harriette Robinson.

Sgt. Major John Todd Lutz is stationed at Fort Bragg in Fayette, N.C. He is the son of John Lutz and the late Carol Lutz and the nephew of Tom and Harriette Robinson.

Mike Worley reports that his former service unit, **The First Battalion, IV Marines**, are now back in the U.S. after a deployment to the Mid-East.

We would like to extend prayers and recognition beyond our church family to anyone who would like their loved ones, friends or acquaintances mentioned for special prayers in this space, to please make your editors or the church office aware of them.

REMINDER: The deadline for material to be submitted for our next *Flame*, the **July/August 2020** issue, is due on **June 15, 2020 at noon**. Please note that this is a two month issue, so with this in mind plan ahead for any articles you wish to be included.

NOTES AND NOTEWORTHY

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITORS

Hello to our church families at Algonquin and Central United Methodist churches. Because of the Covid 19 virus and the limitations it placed on our church activities and staff, we did not print April and May "Flame" issues. We are happy to be back with our June issue, and hope it will help bring you up to date as much as possible with what is happening in our two churches. We have missed being able to make our monthly connection with you.

Things are still very uncertain of course, but your church leadership is doing its best to plan ahead in these unsettling times. It has helped a great deal to have Pastor Vickie do her 10:00 a.m. Sunday video church services. We thank her for that and also a big thank you to Dan for leading our hymns with his guitar and voice. Thanks also go out to the Wilkinsons for their musical contributions.

In the meantime stay well and safe and God Bless.

Barb and Sharon, your editors

NEWS FROM CENTRAL'S BAZAAR WORKSHOP

The bazaar workshop will be doing projects from home, and we are talking about ways we might advertise and sell on line, maybe?? We are still collecting patterns and deciding on a bazaar theme. We love what we do, so we plan on "keeping on!!"

Submitted by Jackie Willey

NOTE OF THANKS....

I would like to personally thank everyone for the cards, prayers, flowers, calls and just thinking of me during my hospital stay and my ongoing recovery at home. It was very kind and thoughtful.

Dale Hoornstra

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY ON JUNE 21ST
TO ALL THE GENTLEMEN OF
ALGONQUIN AND CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES!**

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

We send congratulations to our **Central UMC family** for recent donations. The UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) collection taken on Sunday, March 8th for the Tennessee tornado victims totaled \$325. The Ice Cream Social, also on that Sunday, raised \$209 for the Backpack Program, and the March Love Offering, which also went to the Backpack Program, was \$407. We can't thank you enough for your generosity.

Pastor Vickie



We congratulate the **John Lutz family** upon the promotion of John Todd Lutz to Command Sergeant Major in the U.S. Armed Forces. John hopes to attend his son's ceremony in May at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Congratulations to the Sault High girl's basketball team and its junior guard, **Haleigh Knowles** and its video coordinator, **Ben Deatruck**. The team is the champion of the District Division Two. They had a win streak of 16 games. **Haleigh** was also named to the ALL-Defensive Team in the ALL-SAC.

THE NAVAJO NATION AND COVID 19

Charlene and I have a vested interest in the Navajo Nation as it is affected by Covid19, as our son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter are right in the middle of it. We talked to Paul in early May and he said the situation there was not good. Charlene checks on the situation daily, and at that time, the Navajo "Times" reported that there were 2,474 cases of Covid, or 1.5% of the population. The Navajos have administered 13.3K Covid19 tests with 9.2K registering negative. Native American tribes across the country are hurting.

In the southwest, including New Mexico, Utah and Arizona, there are many tribal members that still live in hogans. Some have as many as 8-12 family members to a hogan. Many do not have running water, are off the grid, and the only contact they have with the outside is when they congregate with other members of the tribe.

We totally support the effort of the United Methodist Conference to help in this cause. However, we invite you to visit the following two websites: "The Navajo Times" and "Navajo Nation Covid 19 Relief Fund." The second site (*Please see further information at the end of this article) gives you a way to donate with non-monetary donations of materials, plus financially and directly to the area where Paul, Laura and Amelia have made their home and give of their time and support, and literally where they are putting their lives at risk. Thank you for your consideration in this matter and I am sure that you will do what feels right for you.

Submitted by Marv DeWitt

*Gifts by check can be made payable to the Navajo Nation. Please include "Covid19 Response Donation" in the memo section of your check and mail it to: Navajo Nation Office of the Controller, P.O. Box 3150, Window Rock, AZ 86515. The website also gives information on an electronic fund transfer, or a Go Fund Page or details about non-monetary donations of homemade fabric masks or an assortment of other materials.



A big thank you from the Finance Committee to members and friends of Central Church for faithfully keeping up with your giving of pledges and gifts. Because of your faithfulness we are able to keep current with our local bills and other obligations!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES

Eric Donarski will be graduating from the University of Michigan this summer with a degree in Biophysics. He will be moving to Virginia in July where he will be pursuing a Chemistry PhD. Eric is looking forward to a warmer winter!! Eric's parents are Kris and Dan Donarski and Karen is his older sister.

Ben Jones has graduated from Alpena Community College with an Associate of Applied Science-Utility Technician. His plans are to find work with a utility company as a linesman apprentice. This summer he is working at the George Kemp Marina. Ben's parents are Steven and Debbie Jones, and he has two older brothers, Kyle and Tyler. His grandparents are Ben and Sharon Jones, and he is the nephew of Kristen Hartman and cousin to Grady Hartman.

Alex Kennedy, son of Diana Kennedy and grandson of Pete & Evelyn Bush, graduated from Ferris State University spring 2020. Alex graduated with an Associate Degree in Welding Technology, and with a Bachelor of Science degree in Welding Engineering Technology. After interning the past two summers in Horicon, WI with John Deere, Alex accepted a position as a Welding Engineer with John Deere at their plant in Dubuque, IA. Due to Covid-19, Alex's start date of June 1st has been moved to August 1st.



Alex Kennedy

CENTRAL'S ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL REPORT

Central's Administrative Council met on May 19th. We celebrate the continuous connection we are experiencing throughout this time of sequester. Our financial situation is strong. Our endowment committee is taking requests for special, non-budgeted ideas that will spread the love of Christ in our community. Applications are at the church office. Get in touch with Corinne if you wish to offer a proposal.

We spent much of our time sharing our thoughts about when, and ideas of how, we would gather for worship again. The MI Conference of the UMC provided a 12 page document that we are using, along with other information that leaders brought to the table. In addition, we will be following Governor Whitmer's directives as to the number of people who can gather to worship at one time. A committee was formed who will come up with an action plan to present to the Ad. Council for their approval. We are also talking to you and are taking your input into account as we put together this plan. Once the plan is approved, you will be informed.

God's Spirit is at work among us, especially in these times of change and uncertainty. Trust in the Lord!

Submitted by Pastor Vickie

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Emily Anderson is a graduate of Sault High School. She is the daughter of Woody and Laura Anderson, the granddaughter of Lillie Dost, and the sister of Rachel, Kaitlyn and MacKenzie. She has been dancing with the Academy of Performing Arts for 13 years and has participated in many styles of dance. Emily plans to attend Lake Superior State University to major in nursing and minor in business. She attends church at Algonquin United Methodist. Her family says she is kind hearted, outgoing, smart and can always be found with a smile on her face!



Emily Anderson



Alyssa Morley

Alyssa Morley is a graduate of Sault High School. She is the daughter of Wayne and Symantha Morley and the granddaughter of Dorothy Morley and Carolyn Ayers and the late Frank Morley and the late Bill Ayers. She graduated in the top 5 of her class, was in the National Honor Society for her junior and senior years and a member of Students United for 4 years. She received the Gold Member Award, the Presidential Service Award and the Michigan Student Service Award. She was a member of the EUP Honors Choir, excelled at the state level in flute performance and is an active cantor in her church. Alyssa plans to attend Lake Superior State University to pursue a degree in Elementary Education and Psychology.



CENTRAL CHILD CARE CENTER

In March, when Bishop Bard asked the United Methodist Churches in Michigan to find other ways to worship because of the unfortunate national tragedy facing us, **Central Child Care Center** also closed its doors. The Board of Directors for the Center looked upon this closure as an opportunity to look deep within our program, and to fully review the internal operations and program sustainability. This need to assess and evaluate the continuation of the Center has been necessary since well before the pandemic, but with trying to keep the Center operating on a day-to-day basis, the Board was unable to clearly see how they were going to proceed with the review. With the forced closure caused by the pandemic, the evaluation is now being accomplished and will allow more senior church boards, as well as members of the congregation, the time needed to complete their subsequent review of the Board's findings.

As of this date, an initial assessment is nearly complete. It will help determine the feasibility of whether or not the Center should reorganize and reopen under new operating procedures, guidelines, staffing, and enrollment protocols, or whether the Center will be shuttered completely with no future plans to reopen as a mission of the church. One of the major hurdles the Board of Directors has been facing in overseeing the running of the daycare center is the lack of qualified personnel to work at the center. Despite continuous advertising over a three month period, we have been unable to hire a qualified director to run the center. That, and a lack of full time lead teachers in the various classrooms, has made the center short-staffed and led to compounded staffing problems and a feeling that the quality of the programming was suffering.

With a closure, the area that is currently being used as the day care center could be repurposed into something else that could also be a mission of the church. As you might imagine, this has not been an easy task for the members of the Central Child Care Board, nor do we foresee the forthcoming decision making process to be an easy one for the church membership as a whole.

Central Child Care Center has a long history in our community. It was established as a mission of the church in Sault Ste. Marie in 1971 when it was the first and only childcare organization developed in the area. Today there are many other daycare facilities, although Central remains as one of the only centers that accepts infants as well as low income families where childcare is billed to the state for payment instead of the parent. Most daycare facilities do not want to be "bothered" with the additional paperwork that goes with the process.

The Board of Directors for the Center is well aware that our community has changed since 1971 when the daycare was established. Our church membership has also changed, as have the missions and priorities for the church. Regardless of the outcome in the next few months, we can all rest assured that **Central Child Care Center** has worked hard to provide one of the best possible childcare and preschool education programs in the community during all our years of operation.

Submitted by: Sherry Hutchins
4 C's Board of Directors: Ginger Bath, Linda Beaumont, Diane Bell, Lori Horner, Sherry Hutchins, and Janet Rogers

Family Ministry

Oh, my! Where do I start?

What we are doing and have done since the Stay At Home Order.

1. **Weekly Zoom meetings with our families.** We play games, sing songs and learn about the Bible. We would welcome more families in our Zoom meetings and on the Central Family Ministry Facebook page. I would need to take referrals and send email invitations to the parents of the children referred. I think this could be a great way to grow our Family Ministry, but at the same time, we need to practice online safety for our children.
2. **Sunday Young Christian Message on Central's FB Page**
3. **Central Family Ministry Facebook Page.** A private Facebook page for families has been set up. We use this page to share information that pertain only to our families and to post things that are not able to be put on the more public church Facebook page because of copyright laws. We would welcome more families on this page and in our Zoom meetings. I would need to take referrals and send email invitations to the parents of the children referred. I think this could be a great way to grow our Family Ministry, but at the same time, we need to practice online safety for our children.
4. **Mailed out and dropped off materials at children's homes.** Items for Easter and Mother's Day cards and crafts were sent to the families. Also the items for Books of the Bible lap books. With these lap books, children are creating a resource for learning the books of the Bible. Videos for this book have been posted on the Central Family Ministry page.
5. **Drive-by Family Night.** Bev Proulx and I drove to the homes and sang a couple of songs from the street. We wore masks and had the words on posters. (See pictures on the next page.) We also dropped off a loaf of frozen bread dough to use with a video on making "Prayer Pretzels".

Kay Miller, Family Ministry Coordinator
Email: klcmiller53@yahoo.com

FAMILY NIGHT MINISTRY CONTINUED:



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HAS BEEN
CANCELED FOR THIS SUMMER.

Instead of VBS this year we will be sending home packets of Bible games and activities for the children. Watch for more information as it becomes available.



Drive-by Family Night singing, "God's not dead. He is alive!"

BELATED BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS AND WISHES

Our belated Happy Birthdays go out to the following at Central:

April 3, Megan Bunker Moran April 3, Lisa Vincent April 4, Sue Mackie
April 7, Peter Arenivar (5th) April 22, Norb Bennin April 24, Dennis Hill

May 2, Lois Horner May 4, Ron Morgan May 7, Nora Baier
May 11, Shelby Mackie May 30, Jeanne Tubman

Happy belated Anniversary to Cathy & John Wilkinson on April 16
Larry & Jan Rogers (45th) on May 10
Charlene & Marv DeWitt (49th)
Linda & Jerry Bell (56th) on May 29

Our belated Happy Birthdays go out to the following at Algonquin:

April 8, Frances Sylvester April 10, Bernita Sibbald April 16, Todd Vollick

April 27, Jim Atkins April 30, Lillie Dost April 30, Leo Shea

May 2, Bev Harwood May 7, Taylor Pratt (16th) May 18, Becky Meicher
May 18, Erv Price May 20, Mindy Wilson May 26 Sherri Voegtline

Happy belated Anniversary to Jody & Ed Schopp (12th) on May 9
Shelley White-Thomas & Eric Thomas (26th) on May 20
Connie & Erv Price on May 26.

The congregations of both Algonquin and Central send belated birthday blessings to Pastor Vickie for her May 31st birthday!!

Prayer for Aging Gracefully

*Create in me a happy heart,
preserve my memory safe and sound-
May all my aches be little ones,
and let the things I lose be found.
Send me, I pray, my daily smiles,
a serving, too, of prunes and bran-
Help me accept my graying hair,
and keep the most of it I can*

*Remind me to forgive myself
when senior moments come along-
Provide a time for exercise
so these old bones stay fit and strong.
Lord, keep my attitude upbeat,
and free from worry, cares and fears-
Each day, help me appreciate
the gift and goodness of my years. Amen.*

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS AND WISHES

CENTRAL BIRTHDAYS

June 2 - Bob Noble (95th)

June 7 - Marv DeWitt

June 11 - Hollis Taylor

June 14 - Sharon Jones

June 16 - Cathy Wilkinson

June 24 - Charlene DeWitt

June 26 - Bob Johnson

June 27 - Emily Baker

June 29 - Gayle Johnson

CENTRAL ANNIVERSARIES

June 9 - Arla and Russ McDowell (66th)

June 20 - Sharon and Ben Jones (61st)

June 21 - Sue and Tom Brown (45th)

June 21 - Marge and Chan Huff (51st)

June 22 - Hazel and Hollis Taylor (62nd)

June 28 - Barb and Bruce Campbell (34th)

June 29 - Kay and Dale Miller

June 29 - Lisa and Bob Vincent (6th)



ALGONQUIN BIRTHDAYS

June 1 - Debbie Wilson

June 4 - Bev Atkins

June 4 - Madison Atkins

June 5 - Jim Wilson

June 17 - Joyce Craven

June 22 - Taryn Pratt (14th)

ALGONQUIN ANNIVERSARIES

June 2 - Becky and Chris Meicher

June 2 - Sarah and Ryan Atkins (13th)

June 6 - Bernita and Bob Sibbald (33rd)

June 27 - Jeannie and John O'Connor (22nd)

RECIPE ROUNDUP CORNER



know we have many wonderful cooks in Algonquin and Central Churches. We invite the sharing of your favorite recipes. Just write them out, include your name, and turn them into the box marked for "The Flame" outside of our secretary's office, or email them to Barb Larson at blarson1517@charter.net It can be desserts, entrees, beverages, appetizers, etc.)

CARDAMOM LIME SWEET ROLLS

DOUGH:

1 package yeast
¼ cup warm water
½ cup sour cream
1/3 cup sugar
¼ cup melted butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
¾ teaspoon salt
1 large egg lightly beaten
2 1/3 cups flour (divided)

FILLING:

½ cup brown sugar
1 tablespoon grated lime rind
1 to 1 ½ teaspoon cardamom
2 tablespoons melted butter (divided)

GLAZE: (see note at bottom)

1 cup powdered sugar
3 tablespoons lime juice

TO PREPARE DOUGH: Dissolve yeast in warm water in a small bowl. Let stand 15 minutes. Combine sour cream, sugar, butter vanilla, salt, and egg in a large bowl. Stir. Gradually add yeast mixture into sour cream mixture. Lightly spoon 2 1/3 cups flour into dry measuring cups, level with a knife. Only add 2 cups of flour to sour cream mixture. Stir to form soft dough. Turn dough onto lightly floured surface. Knead about 8 minutes until smooth and elastic. Add enough of remaining flour 1 tablespoon at a time to prevent dough from sticking to hands – dough will feel slightly sticky.

Place dough in large bowl coated with spray or grease. Turn to coat dough. Cover and let rise in warm draft free place about 1-2 hours or until doubled. Gently press 2 fingers into dough, if indentations remain, dough has risen enough.

FILLING: Combine brown sugar, rind and cardamom. Divide dough into 2 portions. Roll 1 portion to a 12x10 rectangle. Brush with 1 tablespoon butter. Sprinkle ½ of filling over dough. Beginning at long side, roll up dough. Seal seams, but not ends. Repeat with the other portion. Cut each roll into 12 1 ½ inch slices. Place in 13x9 greased pan. (I have used a round cake pan too.)

Cover and let rise 30 minutes or until double. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes or light brown. Cool in pan for 5 minutes on a wire rack (see note below concerning time).

GLAZE: Combine powdered sugar and lime juice. Stir until smooth. Drizzle glaze over warm rolls. (see note below)

YIELD: 24 rolls

(NOTE: I usually wait until the rolls are cooler – about 15 minutes or more, and make the glaze **thicker** and then drizzle it on, that way it stays on the rolls instead of running off. It is more like a frosting that way – yum at our house!)

Submitted by Charlene DeWitt