



# THE FLAME

Monthly Newsletter  
for

Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches

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Editors: Barbara Larson and Sharon Jones

## DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021



### The Pastor's Perspective

Dear Ones in Christ,

Advent is here, and Christmas is right around the corner. This year we are leaning into the four traditional Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love more than ever (see below).

You/your family should have received an Advent wreath package compliments of the Worship Committee. In addition to two paper wreaths and candles, you will find an Advent daily reading booklet and instructions on using the wreath. We hope this will be something to help you connect to the Advent themes as we prepare for Jesus' birth.

Sunday morning worship continues to be broadcast on both Facebook pages at 10:00am. We hope you are joining us when you can. During Advent, you will see a variety of faces and families participating in our worship service. We are hoping this goes well and that we will be able to offer you something very special for Christmas Eve.

If you do not have a computer, do not watch via Facebook, or just want a different worship experience, join me via your phone every Sunday morning at 11:00am. Beginning Advent One/November 29<sup>th</sup>, I will lead a shorter version of the earlier service.

To participate in the conference call, go to a quiet place, get settled, and dial: (253) 993-3625. You will be connected directly to our group so announce yourself when you hear the beep. I will open the call at 10:45am and start promptly at 11:00am so please arrive early.

Christmas Eve services will be via Facebook Live at 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

(Pastor's Perspective continued on the next page)

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## Pastor's Perspective continued



May the peace that only Christ can give be with you and yours today and in the days ahead,

*Pastor Vickie*



### 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.*

**Gavin Povey**, grandson of Diana and Ron Morgan, is in his 2<sup>nd</sup> enlistment in the U.S. Air Force and is stationed in Montana. He is in the conservation section and tends to the Air Force horses.

**Sawyer Ball**, the son of Carl Ball and Marcia-Jenkins Ball, is with the U.S. Army and assigned to Fort Stewart, Georgia. He lives there with his wife Sherry and family.

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

**Command 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.

**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.

*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. Please make your editors or the church office aware of them.*

**NOTES AND NOTEWORTHY**  
**A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITORS**

We indicated in the Oct/Nov Flame that it would be our last issue; however, we have decided to remain as editors of “The Flame” as we feel this is a way we can contribute to much needed communication within our church family. As usual, this December/January edition is a 2 month issue. The Covid virus has made times very unusual, but we are anticipating our next issue will be the February 2021 issue. Yes!! Can you believe we are thinking 2021?! In the meantime, a very blessed Christmas and New Year to all.

*Barb and Sharon*

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**Please note: There will be no in-person worship through the end of the year.**

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**SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER**

**November 29, 2020** was the first Sunday of ADVENT. Advent traditionally means “arrival” or “coming,” especially of something having great importance. We now begin to look forward to the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**December 6** is the second Sunday of ADVENT

**December 13** is the third Sunday of ADVENT.

**December 20** is the fourth Sunday of ADVENT

**December 25** is Christmas Day. Have a blessed Christmas!

**January 1, 2021:** A Happy and Blessed New Year to all!

**January 3, 2021:** Epiphany. This comes from the Greek word which means “appearance” or “manifestation.” It refers to the Wise Men who saw the appearance of God in the infant Jesus.

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**CENTRAL’S OFFERING ENVELOPES** may be picked up this year at the Court Street entrance of the church on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. They will be on a table just inside the hallway. When you are out running errands, stop by the church, ring the bell and the office staff will buzz you in. You won’t even have to go upstairs or see anyone so it will be perfectly safe. It would be very expensive to mail the boxes, so we’re hoping you can help keep our costs down by picking them up.

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**Holiday Office Hours:** There will be regular office hours on December 21 and 23 (10:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) The office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years and will reopen with regular hours on Monday, January 4.

# News from Family Ministry

By Kay Miller, Family Ministry Coordinator

We enjoyed the Halloween party at the home of John and Bev Proulx at the end of October.

Beginning in-person Family Night was delayed due to the increase in Covid- 19 cases in our area.

At the end of November we presented Bibles to five of our children: Sienna Baker, Maryn and Jenna Arenivar, Devon Sherman and Duncan Roos. This took place outside at their homes with masks and social distancing.



**Everyone enjoyed the cake walk!**

candles or glow sticks ready for when we sing

The “A Message for Young Christians” videos are now being imbedded in the Sunday morning worship services. They will also continue to be posted separately on the church’s Facebook page.

Our families from both churches will participate in lighting of the Advent

candles. Families will video this at home and the videos will be imbedded in Sunday morning worship. As we get closer to Christmas, other video items from the families will be posted on the Facebook pages.

Each week during Advent, projects and activities will be delivered to family homes or be available to be picked up at the church.

The Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church has produced a virtual children’s Christmas Eve service. We are excited that Central’s Seth Baker family was part of this production. This service will be incorporated into our 5:00pm service on Christmas Eve. Have your



**Micah enjoyed the cake walk!**

## MISSIONS/OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our church is providing for 26 backpack families. Only two of them requested Thanksgiving dinners.

Requests will be soon sent out for who would like them for Christmas.

The Mitten Tree is up, so please be generous with your gifts of mittens, hats and socks. The schools have been very happy to receive donations from our church in past years.

We have started sending birthday greetings to members of our congregation with a special treat inside! Submitted by Kristen Donarski

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We are always looking for any flavor of “Special Music”— someone who would be willing to offer instrumental, vocal, families, children only, solos, etc. Also, there will be no poinsettias this year, and anyone that has already ordered one will be contacted.

Submitted by Cathy Wilkinson

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER

On October 19, 2020 we welcomed **Sherry Ingham** as our new administrative assistant. Sherry is married to Randy, and they recently moved back to Michigan from Virginia when he retired in August. She had been the office manager at a Presbyterian Church in Blacksburg, Virginia for the last 14 years. Sherry and Randy have 3 adult children and 9 grandchildren spread out in Michigan, Virginia and Tennessee. They love the water and have become “Boat Nerds” and feel blessed to be in the area! She looks forward to getting to know everyone at CUMC and Algonquin UMC.



(Sherry’s office hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. However, this might be subject to change during the Christmas and New Years weeks.)

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## A FOND FAREWELL

We bid a reluctant but a fond farewell to **Linda and Bob Beaumont**. They have moved to the Grand Rapids area to be closer to their sons and their families. We are sad to see them leave, but we certainly wish them well in their new home. We will be keeping them in our prayers.



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## Vision Framing Team Report



This simple logo was developed by the 2020 Vision Framing Team to represent our mission of connecting **ALL** people to God through a “Gathering, Growing, Giving” manner. The circle design allows for the process to begin or continue at any point.

Please begin thinking about where your spiritual walk aligns with these words and how you see yourself as a ‘Gatherer, Grower, Giver.’



## ALGONQUIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1604 W Fourth  
Avenue Sault Ste  
Marie, MI

The **Algonquin Lenten project for 2020** was to collect sweatpants to donate to the local elementary schools. Twenty-three pair of sweat pants were collected, and then when the pandemic hit and church services stopped, they were tucked away. Recently we were notified that the Washington School clothing closet was completely empty. The sweatpants were taken out of storage and immediately donated. Thank you to the Algonquin congregation for their generosity! The school staff was very appreciative!

With the **September Change Jar offering**, and a donation from the **Algonquin United Methodist Women**, \$280.00 was recently sent to Sheriff Michael Bitnar. Our donation was able to provide safety and violence awareness educational material to 100 preschool and elementary children in our community through the Child Safety of America, Inc. Program.



Sweatpants collected and donated

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**Offering envelopes** may be picked up at Algonquin Church on Tuesday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. If those dates aren't convenient, call Bev Harwood at (906) 440-0707 to make other arrangements. They are very expensive to mail so we appreciate your help in keeping costs down by picking them up.

Our **on-line hosts for the Algonquin Face Book page** are the following: December 6 is Jeannie O'Connor; December 13 is Bev Atkins; December 20 is Bernita Sibbald; December 27 is Rachel Pratt. January 3 and 10 is Bev Atkins; January 17 and 24 is Bernita Sibbald and January 31 is Rachel Pratt.

Submitted by Bernita Sibbald and Bev Atkins

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## CONGRATULATIONS....

....**Haleigh Knowles** had a fantastic cross country season for Sault High! She received the Most Valuable Player award, was team captain, on Straits Area Conference 1<sup>st</sup> team, All-Upper-Peninsula All-State, and All-State Academic. This is the last of her xcountry career, but she is looking forward to the basketball and track seasons. Good going, Haleigh!



....**Jeanne Tubman** acted as curator for the Alberta House October "New and Emerging Artists Show." Jeanne has been teaching art for around 40 years, and several of her students (past and present ones) had paintings entered. **Ian Wilson** received Best of Show and **Gwen Worley** received 1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention in the adult category for her oil painting of the Pictured Rocks. **Mark** and **Matt LaRoue** had paintings entered in the youth division from when they were 9-11 years of age. Mark received 1<sup>st</sup> place in the children's division and Matt in the youth division. We offer big congratulations to all of them!

## CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



United  
Methodist  
Women

**Bazaar Report:** This year has been a trial! The workshop has been going well and we have produced so many nice crafts. Our hope was to have an on-line bazaar. We advertised on Facebook and Brimley Sales, thanks to Robin Myers. Lori Horner designed beautiful posters, and it all looked very promising. However, Covid-19 found Chippewa County, and in order to keep everyone safe we thought it best to close down the bazaar and put our efforts into next year. It will be a wonderful reunion of friends, shoppers, music, unbeatable sandwich loaves, baked goods, cookies and good cheer. On a positive note, we did make \$781.00 with our sales before

our shut down. See you next year!!

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Submitted by Jackie Willey and Diana Morgan, bazaar co-chairs

**UMW Rebecca Circle:** The Rebecca Circle has met only once and will discontinue meetings until it is safe. At our meeting we started with a devotion called "Faith, Fear & Wisdom in the Pandemic." Sharon Jones showed a video called "Let it Go," followed with a discussion. We discussed our plans for the year, including our annual pie sale, this year by pre-order only. We took 18 orders and made \$259.00 to add to our treasury, which we use for families in need at Christmas and Easter. I will be contacting the Community Action Agency to find out who can use our help this year.

We pray everyone will stay safe and keep in contact by email, texting and Facebook.

Submitted by Jackie Willey

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## LSSU ANCHOR HOUSE

Dear Friends at Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches,

Thank you for your continued partnership with Anchor House campus ministry! A special thanks as I received your annual gift when I recently met with Pastor Vickie. Your financial help is so important to allow us to provide a spiritual home for our LSSU students. This year, due to Covid-19, we are not able to have our annual banquet which raises almost a third of our budget, so your gift is especially timely. Thank you!

For a quick update: Last spring when campus closed, we were able to move online and continue with weekly Bible study and worship. This fall the semester started early, and we have been able to meet every week outside for worship. We also have a Bible study and prayer meeting weekly. As the weather begins to turn, we will be prepared to go online if needed. We are also making plans to continue to minister to students during the long December and January holiday break.

For Christ His Kingdom,

Marty Feldhake, Anchor House Director

# BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS AND WISHES

## CENTRAL BIRTHDAYS

December 1 - Earl Tomlinson

December 15 - Mary Arfstrom

December 16 - Mike Arenivar

December 20 - Dorothy Morley

December 25 - Lynn LeCureux

December 27 - Kristen Hartman

January 1 - Marge Tomlinson

January 3 - Kathy Packman

January 4 - Bruce Campbell

January 4 - Doris Kelly

January 12 - Ilah Arenivar (4<sup>th</sup>)

January 27 - Joan Shadnaw

## CENTRAL ANNIVERSARIES

Doris and Mike Kelly (49<sup>th</sup>)

January 2 - Evelyn and Peter Bush (61<sup>st</sup>)

January 10 - Diana and Ron Morgan (61<sup>st</sup>)



## ALGONQUIN BIRTHDAYS

December 6 - Shelly White Thomas

December 14 - Jaiden Porcaro (17<sup>th</sup>)

December 19 - Emily Wilson

December 24 - Macy Collia (12<sup>th</sup>)

January 3 - Melissa Wilson

January 4 - Rachel Pratt

January 16 - Eric Thomas

January 24 - Joshua Collia

January 30 - Corrine Meicher

## ALGONQUIN ANNIVERSARIES

December 22 - Frances and Jim Sylvester

January 8 - Grace and Ed Rousseau (54<sup>th</sup>)





## ALL SAINTS' DAY

Since the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the Christian church has been setting aside a time to remember those who have passed on. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, All Saints' Day, the following from Central and Algonquin Churches were remembered at Central United Methodist Church:

Kim Leslie, friend of Bev Atkins  
Inez Bennett, Member  
Ron Buckler, Member  
Jim Casler, brother of Mary Woods  
Stan Cousino, father-in-law of Sherry and Ron Hutchins  
Lila Furnish, friend of Raegan Holek  
Marcia Harris, great aunt of Raegan Holek  
Cleva Ingham, mother-in-law of Sherry Ingham  
Ida Kraft, Member  
Virginia Loomis, great grandma of Raegan Holek Dorothy Ollock  
Mil Sharkey, friend of Barb Nagle and Pastor Vickie  
Jim Smith, great uncle of Raegan Holek  
Chuck Spencley, friend of Barb Nagle  
Dorothy Tournageau, friend of Larry Morde of Avery Square  
Mary Wilt, friend of Lisa Vincent  
Alvin Woodgate, Member



Submitted by Barbara Carlisle

### WE EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES.....



.....**Russell McDowell** passed away on November 1, 2020 at home, surrounded by his family. Russ was born in Pickford on October 15, 1930 and raised on the family farm on Pealine Road in Pickford. He graduated from Pickford High School in 1948. He and Arla married on June 9, 1954. Their family was Betty MacDonald of Sault Ste. Marie, Alan McDowell of Pickford and Evan McDowell of Boyne City. He was preceded in death by a son, Larry McDowell in 1968 and a granddaughter, Renee McDowell in 1981. Their other grandchildren are Jana Copenhafer, Alisa Davis, Scott McDowell and Craig MacDonald, plus four great grandchildren, Kyla, Mya, Owen and Henry. He and Arla moved from their farm into Sault Ste. Marie in 2008, and he was a member of Central United Methodist Church. A private family service will be held at a later date.

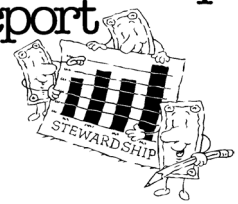
....*And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes...* Revelation 7:7b

**Celebrate Christmas Eve with your church family on Facebook Live  
at either 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.**

## Central UMC Stewardship Campaign

This year's stewardship emphasis focused on Gathering, Growing, and Giving as people of God, using the logo developed by the Vision Framing Team. It was a shortened, simplified campaign due to Covid 19. At this time we have received 55 pledges, of which 2 were new and 13 members have increased their commitment for the year 2021.

## Stewardship Report



We have pledges to the General Fund, which includes apportionments, that total \$110,670, and the amount committed to the building fund is \$17,522. We are down about 18% in the general fund so we are hoping there are still some pledges yet to come in.

Your finance team and leadership are grateful for your continued faithfulness to the mission and ministries of Central UMC! Thank you!!

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

## HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATE



On November 21, 2020 **Deana LaLonde** graduated from Central Michigan University, Magna Cum Laude. She graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Arts Degree in Fashion Merchandising & Design, with a concentration in Fashion Design. She also obtained a minor in Visual Merchandising. During her time at school she held leadership positions on the E-board of

the Fashion Association of Merchandising & Design. She also designed for the student led Thread Fashion Show for the past two years. Over the summer Deana had the opportunity to intern for the Women's Design Team at Kohl's. Following graduation, she will be relocating to Kohl's Corporate headquarters in Wisconsin where she has accepted a full-time position as an Assistant Designer for the company.



Figure 17 Deana

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

## Fresh Expressions

Central/Algonquin have started a Fresh Expressions team. Our primary focus is to look for new opportunities to walk with people in our community. We are listening and asking questions. We are building relationships. We will be working with people as soon as the pandemic is lifted. In the meantime, we have the opportunity to help in this one area.

The Fresh Expressions team would like to provide support to the Great Lakes Recovery Center's New Hope Houses for both men and women. The Great Lakes Recovery Center has purchased a building on Easterday, across from the recycling center. The project on Easterday is currently in the fundraising stage. They may need volunteers to help with the renovations at some point (painting/landscaping/etc.), but they are not quite there yet. With the pandemic situation, they are not currently allowing any volunteers to interact with their clients, though they have done that in the past.

How can we help? A donation of personal items is always extremely helpful to both New Hope Houses!! Here is a list of things their residential clients typically need:

1. Full size toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
2. Masks
3. Socks
4. Twin size bedding (regular, not XL), pillowcases
5. Bath towels
6. Casual clothing, T-shirts, sweats
7. Backpacks or totes; many of the residents arrive with nothing but a garbage bag to carry their belongings.
8. The women's house allows clients to have their children with them, so diapers and gently used clothing for babies and children are always appreciated too.

If you would like to help the Fresh Expressions team provide support to the New Hope Houses, please consider purchasing any items on the list. If you want to make purchases online, you can have them shipped directly to Marcia Jenkins-Ball, 4004 S. Ridge Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. For example, Dollartree.com has toiletries available in cases of 6 or 12 items at \$1.00 each. (If you are purchasing a larger number of an item, contact Marcia to be sure we do not have too many of any one thing.) Items can also be dropped off at Central UMC. Please indicate on them that they are for New Hope.

Cash donations can also be made. Make checks out to Central UMC and indicate "New Hope" on them. We will use the cash to purchase items from the list to round out the donations.

Contact Marcia at (906) 322-0290, or [mjenkinsball@gmail.com](mailto:mjenkinsball@gmail.com) for more information, or to notify her of donations you are making. Please prayerfully consider supporting this effort. This is an opportunity to demonstrate the love of God to others in our community.

Fresh Expression team members: Pastor Vickie Hadaway, Emily Anderson, Kaitlyn Anderson, Mackenzie Anderson, Seth Baker, Brian Hall, Marcia Jenkins-Ball, John Lutz, and Cathy Wilkinson.

Submitted by Marcia Jenkins-Ball

**It's not too late to make a pledge to the 2021 Stewardship Campaign. Just fill out a Faith Promise Card, and either mail it to the church or turn it in at the church office!**

## RECIPE ROUNDUP CORNER

*(We 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](mailto:blarson1517@charter.net) It can be deserts, entrees, beverages, appetizers, etc.)*

### Chocolate Fudge Pudding

1 cup flour 2 teaspoons baking powder

½ teaspoon salt 2 tablespoons cocoa

2/3 cup sugar

2 tablespoons melted butter

½ cup milk

1 teaspoon vanilla

½ cup chopped nuts

1 cup brown sugar and another 3 tablespoons cocoa



1. Mix dry ingredients----- (the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 ingredients)
2. Add butter, milk, vanilla and nuts. Mix only until smooth
3. Put in greased 8x8 pan
4. Mix brown sugar and 3 tbsp. cocoa and sprinkle on top of ingredients in pan
5. Pour 1 1/2 cups boiling water over the top.
6. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

Submitted by Barbara Carlisle

(This was originally Ruth Brown's recipe - Barb's mom. The Browns were our pastoral family from 1967 to 1972, so many in our congregations will have warm memories of Ruth. Barb also recalls that her dad had a very sweet tooth, so their family always had dessert and she has many of her mom's recipes.)



**REMEMBER to keep up with your pledge and your giving to our two churches. Your continued faithfulness will help us keep current with our bills and obligations.**

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
111 EAST SPRUCE STREET  
SAULT SAINTE MARIE, MI 49783-2189

Return Service Requested  
DATED MATERIAL

**Dec. 2020/Jan. 2021**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

SAULT STE. MARIE, MI

**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**

**PERMIT NO. 223**



“For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us;  
Authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty god,  
Everlasting father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6-7