



THE FLAME

Monthly Newsletter
for

Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches

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MARCH 2021

The Pastor's Perspective



Dear Ones in Christ,

After a week away, imagine my delight when I returned to see all the donated food on the table near the Court Street door. Sherry and I put everything that has been donated thus far on one table for reference (see below). This food will go to the Sault Area Jr. and Sr. High food pantries, where teens can pick up food for themselves and their families to help them get by for another day, another weekend. By the time of this printing, our outreach efforts will be completed. I'm sure there will be another table full of food donations to help our neighbors in need. Nice job everyone!!

LENT: The season of Lent began on February 17 and will run until March 28 (Palm Sunday). When you



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think of Lent, what comes to mind? Often it has to do with something focused on ourselves such as fasting, taking extra time for prayer and reflection, giving something up like candy or chocolate, slowing down a bit...

This year, as we begin to come out of our time spent apart, our time sequestered in our homes with the people in our bubbles, I invite you to reach out and do something for a neighbor. The prayers written and lifted up in the worship service on February 14th remind us of the difficult times we are living in and the tendency for us to believe that people are either good or bad, for us or against us, and our differences are a cause for concern and fear. It is unfortunate that we often think of different as something to fear or work against, when different is how God made us.

(Continued on the next page)

Pastor's Perspective continued:

Terri Bush said it beautifully when she prayed in her prayer for our neighbor, “*teach us to be a good neighbor... to see the best in people and want the best for all your precious children... that this might be a better and more caring world in which to live.*”

So this season of Lent, instead of giving something up and focusing on yourself, I invite you to **give of yourself in small and caring ways**. What we do, or don't do, in the course of a single day has an impact on people. We have the opportunity to shine the light of Christ's love into the lives of the people we meet along the way and send the darkness packing, just as Jesus sent the demons packing in his moments of healing.

We have so much to be grateful for and so much to share. May this Lent be about someone other than ourselves. May it be about giving of ourselves as Jesus gave of himself to demonstrate God's amazing love for us.

Your sister in Christ,

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, the grandson of Diana and Ron Morgan is in the Air Force and stationed in Montana. With this new posting he is no longer in the conservation section. His wife, Jewel, is also in the Air Force but is still stationed in California.

Sawyer Ball, the son of Marcia Jenkins-Ball and Carl Ball is with the U.S. Army and stationed at Fort Steward, 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.

<VISION FRAME VALUE>>

Building Connections

*demonstrated by
facilitating growth for
every body*

NOTES AND NOTEWORTHY

**DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD AN HOUR
BEFORE BEDTIME ON MARCH 13th!!!**

**Remember, Spring ahead, Fall back. Daylight Savings Time begins on
Sunday, March 14 2021.**

Please note the color of our "Flame" cover this month. It is a light purple (or lavender) as that is the shade traditionally associated with Lent. Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday, February 17 in 2021, through Holy Saturday, April 3 in 2021. It is a season meant to prepare for Easter Sunday.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: If you haven't yet picked up your offering envelopes, they are available at the Court Street entrance of CUMC. They are on a table just inside the hallway. Ring the outside bell on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday and the office staff will buzz you in. They are available for Algonquin UMC just inside their unlocked outer doors. It is quite expensive to mail these, so it is much appreciated if you would please try to pick them up.

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.



Attention, Families of Graduates

Do you have a **high school** or a **higher education graduate** in your family? If so, please be thinking ahead and submit some information on them so we can recognize them in an upcoming issue of "The Flame." Also include a photo of your high school graduate. You can phone me at 632-7958, or send your information via email to blarson1517@charter.net, or put it in the box marked for "The Flame" in the hallway outside of the church secretary's office.

Thanks in advance, Barb Larson

A REMINDER:

**The deadline for material to be submitted for our next *Flame*,
the April 2021 issue, is March 15, 2021 at noon.**

<<VISION FRAME VALUE>>

Christ-Centered Gratitude

*demonstrated by giving time
and talents through personal
service*



WE EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES.....

...Barbara Campbell passed away on January 22, 2021 at War Memorial Hospital. She was born on August 3, 1942 in Lansing, Michigan. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Central Michigan University and taught at Washington School for 31 years. She was a member of Central United Methodist Church where she played in the Handbell Choir and was a member of the Rebecca Circle Barb was also a member of the War Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and volunteered at the Chippewa County Health Department and at Hospice. She married Bruce Campbell on June 28, 1986. She is survived by Bruce, her daughter Kathy and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter Heather.

....Bob Beaumont passed away on January 25, 2021 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, surrounded by his family. He was born on May 22, 1945 in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. When he was 8 years old the family moved to East Grand Rapids, where he graduated from high school and then attended Ferris State College, majoring in Business. He also earned an Associate Degree in Culinary Arts from Grand Rapids Community College, graduating magna cum laude. He and Linda were married on November 6, 1971 in Sault Ste. Marie. They had two sons, Jeffrey (Sarah) and Andre (Jennifer) and four grandchildren. His sisters-in-law are Fran Pruess and Andree Watson. He and Linda retired to Sugar Island, where he served for 3 years as President of the Sugar Island Lion's Club. Bob was a member of Central United Methodist Church.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

....Alainey Kennedy who was named Sault High's Career Center Outstanding Student of the Month in Drafting & Design. She is the daughter of Diana Kennedy and Randy Kennedy and the granddaughter of Evelyn and Pete Bush.



From the Mail Bag.....

Paul and I would like to say "thank you" for the prayers and get well cards we received when we had Coronavirus. Also, we would like to thank all for the sympathy cards we received when Paul's brother, Verne, died. We really appreciate all of your kindnesses and hope to see you all soon.

Thanks again, Paul and Lu Coutant

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

THE BACK PACK PROGRAM has added one more family, putting us up to a new high of now caring for **33** families from the upper elementary school grades at Lincoln School. Each Friday children from these families are sent home with backpacks of food to help tide them over the weekend. Diana and Ron Morgan & Brenda and Jamie Coullard unload Central Church's food portion from the Feeding America truck. This food is purchased. If you would like to support this program financially, just make your check out to Central UMC, mark it "Back Pack Program" and bring it or mail it to the church. Donations are always welcomed.

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 It can be desserts, entrees, beverages, appetizers, etc.)

(March might show on our calendars as spring beginning, but here in the north country we still have lots of snow and cold. Thus, this still qualifies as "hot dish weather," so we offer the following for those cold "spring" days.)

CORN SOUFFLE

1 (15 oz). can corn, with liquid 1 (15 oz.) can creamed corn, with liquid
1 (8.5 oz.) box Jiffy corn muffin mix, unprepared
1 cup sour cream ½ cup melted butter



Preheat oven to 350 degrees and lightly grease a 9" square baking dish. In a medium sized bowl, mix all ingredients together and bake for 50-60 minutes or until souffle is nice and golden brown and the center is set. Serves 8.

This can be doubled and baked in a 9x13 baking dish. Just make sure to bake it for 10-15 minutes longer or until the center is not jiggly. Some call this creamed corn casserole, spoon corn, or corn pudding, but any way you name it, it is delicious!

Submitted by Pastor Vickie Hadaway



<<VISION FRAME VALUE>>

Foundation of Tradition

*demonstrated by maintaining
the legacy while embracing
God's vision for the future*

ALGONQUIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1604 W Fourth Avenue
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Our **online hosts for March** are: March 7th - Mary Beth Vollick, March 14th - Rachel Pratt, March 21st - Bev Atkins, and March 28th - Bernita Sibbald.

Taylor Pratt, Sault High Junior, was accepted into the National Honor Society. Taylor, also a member of the Business Professionals of America (BPA), recently placed 2nd in district competition and will move on to compete in the state competition on March 13th held in Lansing. This event will take place via Zoom. The mission of BPA is to develop and empower student leaders to discover their passion and change the world by creating unmatched opportunities in learning, professional growth and service. Taylor is the daughter of Peter and Michele Pratt, the sister of Taryn and the granddaughter of Rachel Pratt of Algonquin UMC.



Taylor Pratt



Madelyn Collia

On January 6, 2021 the Lake Superior State University Nursing Program Pinning Ceremony was held for the 2020 nursing graduating class. In that ceremony the Tempie Dubow Award was given to **Madelyn Collia**, BSN. This award is given to the nursing student who exemplified the spirit of nursing. Madelyn is the daughter of Becky (Chris) Meicher and Jeff Collia and she attends Algonquin UMC. Madelyn is currently employed as a labor and delivery nurse at Traverse City Munson Medical Center.

Submitted by Bernita Sibbald

For this place and this time, we the members of Central & Algonquin UMC's define our mission as

Connecting all people to God by building bridges of caring, outreach, and acceptance.

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS AND WISHES

CENTRAL BIRTHDAYS

March 2 - Jerry Cook

March 6 - Ray Bell

March 8 - Jim Arfstrom

March 12 - Audrey Gillette

March 23 - Tom Brown

ALGONQUIN BIRTHDAYS

March 18 - Jeff Collia

March 25 - Emily Anderson (19th)

CENTRAL ANNIVERSARIES

March 1 - Julie and Dennis Hill (41st)

March 18 - Kathy and Kevin Larson (26th)



VISION COMMITTEE "HANDS ON"

The "Hands On" team of the Vision Committee has been finding ways to build bridges of opportunity and participation between our church and our community. February 10th was one such opportunity. Sponsored by the United Way, a truck load of food from Grand Rapids for the "Feeding America" program arrived in Kinross and needed volunteers to pack food into boxes, distribute to people, and take down information as to whom it was going. The cars began lining up at 2:00 p.m. with distribution not happening until 4:00 p.m.

Barb Carlisle, Art Smart, Lori Horner, Terri Lamoreaux, Steve and Judy Furr and Bob Willey were my willing volunteers there as well as others that United Way recruited. We worked in 14 degree weather from 2:00 p.m. until it finished at 6:00 p.m. We provided food to 373 families. It was cold but very satisfying to help people who are suffering through very difficult and challenging times. Thank you to my crew of dedicated and caring people who hung in there all afternoon. You are absolutely the BEST!

Submitted by Jackie Willey for the Vision Committee

<<VISION FRAME VALUE>>

Cultivating Relationships

demonstrated by trust, intimacy and non-judgmental interaction



God's Country Cooperative Parish

The United Methodist Church

Serving Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula

Engadine | Germfask | Grand Marais | Hulbert-Tahquamenon | McMillan | Newberry | Paradise



Central and Algonquin United Methodist Church

will be partnering in October 2021 with

God's Country Cooperative Parish

for a Volunteers in Mission Hands-on Mission Project

We will be part of their **Warm Clothing Give Away**

Last October God's Country Cooperative Parish served 750 children and adults with jackets, blankets, and warm clothing in a 2-day event. On the first day they provide items for children, and the second day is family day where they also serve adults. Leftover racks of children's jackets are distributed to the seven schools in the area for students. They provide winter coats, waterproof mittens, hats, socks, underwear, and blankets.

In October 2021, Central and Algonquin UMC will be asking volunteers from our congregations to support a warm clothing donation to collect items needed. So if you enjoy clearance shopping and have storage, now may be a good time to pick up jackets & mittens to donate in the fall.

Also, members have the opportunity to travel to Newberry to help with the event. Randy Hildebrant encouraged that this would be an excellent way for our congregations to meet the people GCCP serve and see how GCCP's mission work is making a difference in their community.

The God's Country Cooperative Parish covers a 2500 square mile area from Engadine to Paradise at Whitefish Bay, to Grand Marais and encompasses McMillan, Germfask, Newberry and Hulbert. The isolation, extremely harsh long winters, and scarcity of jobs bring real challenges to these churches and the communities they serve.

Submitted by Terri Bush

FROM THE VISION TEAM

John and Cathy are members of the Visions Team that has been meeting for the last year.

The need for re-visioning or re-imagining the role of Algonquin and Central Churches could not be more obvious. Attendance and membership have been in a state of decline, finding connections to the current younger population, embracing technology are all issues both congregations face. Some sort of self-examination and plan for the future is truly necessary.

This vision process has many components that combine to form a framework to navigate through a living organism that uses both leaders and followers together to shape the future. Our immediate goal is to communicate our excitement for the possibilities that lie ahead. This journey is not singular, but rather collective and the more involvement, the more discovery is found. Pastor Vickie stated last week in her sermon that 'life is not a destination, but a journey' and the Vision Team proposes some pathways for self-discovery and servant ministry.

We are currently part of a sub-committee with the task of creating communications to the church members. We want to explain the activities, conclusions, and the plans for moving in some new directions. In order to achieve this, we will have every other week 'Spotlight on Vision' such as this one, articles in the FLAME, and information on the church website. In addition, Pastor Vickie will offer several sermons relating to our new path. Building bridges and creating new pathways is an intentional step in our visionary journey. We welcome your questions and curiosities about the journey that we all have begun.

The aim of this vision framing process is to create a vibrant, exciting feeling about our church, to foster your personal growth as a Christian and to assume a greater role of leadership and presence in our community.

Submitted by John and Cathy Wilkinson



Dreams without goals are just Dreams. Denzel Washington

Commit your work to the Lord and your plans will be established. Proverbs 16:3

What is the vision team? Simply put, it is a group of people who learn how to lead and set goals for the church. As a former coach and business leader, I love to set goals and plan for the future. It wasn't simple, but it was very rewarding. We wanted to get a variety of people from the church on the team— young and old, new members, long-time members, this side of the church and the other side. I was excited about the opportunity to be part of the Vision Team. The past year we have worked through a process to set goals for our church. We have discussed our churches, past and present, our surrounding community and its' needs, our missions and worship, experiences and our dreams. This has helped us learn about what makes our church unique, so we can make goals that fit us. I was amazed at how similar our thoughts were on all the different topics. When there were differences, we could find the common good. We have discussed in both small and big groups to come up with our goals. All of us had an equal part in this process. Pastor Vickie did a great job of making sure everyone's voice was heard. We had excellent leadership by Pastor Jim who guided us on our journey and made sure we all agreed before moving on to the next stage.

Our Mission Statement is: *Connecting all people to God by building bridges of caring, outreach and acceptance.* We are working on improving our communication to our church about opportunities for worship, Bible studies, mission opportunities, fellowship and leadership opportunities. Now more than ever is the time to reach out with kindness and compassion to our community. *Gathering, Giving, Growing* is our strategy. I will end the way I started with a quote by Robert Lewis: *The true measures of a church are not **How Many** but **How Loving**, not **How Relevant** but **How Real**.*

Submitted by Ray Bell

News from Family Ministry

By Kay Miller

We have not been able to meet in person, but we are staying connected.

Having children at home with on-again, off-again school at home cannot be easy for parents, many of whom are also working. Parents are doing a wonderful job keeping their families growing and moving during these trying circumstances. To celebrate parents, members of Central gave them a break from preparing supper and brought each family a meal either in January or February. A big “Thank You” goes out to all who helped!

The Education Committee put together Lenten baskets with at home activities for Ash Wednesday and for each week during Lent. The baskets were delivered to each family.



The Education Committee , Sherry Hutchins, Kay Miller, Bev Proulx, Terri Bush, and the Lenten baskets.

On Valentine’s Day, John and Bev Proulx hosted a winter outdoor party for the children and their families;



Nora resting after climbing back up the hill.



Nora and her cousin painting in the snow.

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

Return Service Requested
DATED MATERIAL

March 2021

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

SAULT STE. MARIE, MI

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<<VISION FRAME VALUE>>

Sincere Welcome

*Demonstrated by everyone in
family*

MARCH

Bless to us, O God
The moon that is above us,
The earth that is beneath us,
The friends who are around us,
Your image deep within us.

(Traditional Celtic prayer)