



THE FLAME

Monthly Newsletter
for

Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches

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The Pastor's Perspective



Dear Ones in Christ,

Spring is in the air! I don't know about you, but I'm ready to welcome Spring! Warmer winds, iceless roads, and even the brown lawns are welcome signs that Spring is close at hand. While most other parts of the nation are experiencing tulips, daffodils, and crocuses, up here in Sault Sainte Marie, the ground is still frozen solid. So we temper our excitement while also being on the lookout for the glimpses of Spring that are present to carry us through the transitional month of April, especially if we are able to get out into nature and look around.

We are gathering in person again. It brings me such joy to see all of you who are attending worship in person! As we come up out of these darker times, Easter couldn't be more perfectly placed than April 4th. We are ready to welcome you back to worship as we gather to celebrate Jesus' resurrection this year. Easter reminds us to look to the light and welcome the new beginnings that are happening all around us.

One aspect of new beginnings is moving to a new town. As someone who moves frequently, being welcomed into a new community is a blessing that leaves a lasting impression. You all were wonderful to me during my move here. Remember my possessions did not arrive until the end of July? Both congregations rallied around me providing paper goods, coffee pot, dishes, towels, homemade food and more! It was a welcome I will never forget!

Every year, Coast Guard families transition in and out. In consultation with the Coast Guard, we have started a new ministry—Welcome Baskets—for each new Coast Guard family who moves to the area. The basket contains: local information booklets & brochures, lists of doctors & schools, maps, and gift certificates to a couple local businesses.

In addition, we are including homemade items—homemade bread and cookie mix in glass jars. Would you like to help by making bread or providing a cookie mix for upcoming welcome baskets this spring and summer? We are also looking for homemade items such as pot holders, dish cloths, etc. that we could include. Is this something you would provide? Please get in touch with myself, Janet Rogers, Charlene DeWitt or Missy McLean if you would like to help with this new ministry.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Vickie

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A BLESSED EASTER TO ALL!!



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 is stationed in Montana. With this 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 and Carl Ball is with the U.S. Army and assigned to Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he lives with his wife Sherry and family..

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.

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.

The 1437th Sault Bridge Engineering National Guard Unit is now back home (as are all Michigan Units) from their active deployment to guard our capitol building at Washington, D.C. They were there for 2 ½ months. They send their thanks for the prayers and support they were given during this time.

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

General Conference (the decision making body of the United Methodist Church) was scheduled to meet in the fall of 2021. This body is made up of United Methodists from around the world. Because of the uncertainty about Covid 19, General Conference has been postponed. It has been rescheduled for August 22 to September 6, 2022.

Submitted by Pastor Vickie

Attention, Families of Graduates

Do you have a high school or a higher education graduate in your family? If so, please submit some information on them by April 15th 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 email me at blarson1517@charter.net.

Submitted by Barb Larson

EXCHANGE STUDENT HOSTS NEEDED (How big is your heart??)

I am the coordinator for a company called “The Council for Educational Travel, U.S.A.” In short, we call it CETUSA. We are looking for families that might be willing to host one or two students for the 2021-2022 academic school years. Families can host for one semester or the entire school year. If you would like further information, you can visit our website at www.cetusa.org or call 1-888-238-8721. If you would like more information or to host a student, you can also contact me at (906) 379-7936 or email me at arowell@eupschools.org.

Submitted by Angela Rowell

A REMINDER: The deadline for material to be submitted for our next “Flame,” the May 2021 issue, is April 15th, 2021, at noon.



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.

<<VISION FRAME VALUE>>

Christ-Centered Gratitude

*demonstrated by giving time
and talents through personal
service*



United
Methodist
Women

CENTRAL'S BAZAAR WORKSHOP

The bazaar workshop started up again on Wednesday, March 12, from 9 a.m. to noon. We invite anyone who can sand, cut patterns, paint background colors or just visit, to come and have an enjoyable morning with us. If you have craft ideas we would love to hear about them.

Jackie, Lori, Lois and Debbie

THE REBECCA CIRCLE will resume meetings at the church starting on April 19 from 1-3 p.m. Coffee and dessert will be served and we will discuss what our plans are for the coming year. Anyone interested in joining is very welcome.

Submitted by Jackie Willey

FAMILY MINISTRY

Exciting news! We are going to meet in person! Nursery (age 0-3 years) and Sunday School (4 years-elementary age) will begin meeting during Sunday morning worship on **April 11th**, the Sunday after Easter. Starting time will be at 10:30 a.m., downstairs in some of the rooms that were being used for day care. We are moving downstairs to a bigger area so that we can spread out more, as per CDC guidelines and protocol. We will continue to connect to families who are not yet ready to meet in person.

Submitted by Kay Miller

<<VISION FRAME VALUE>>

Foundation of Tradition

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

.....We congratulate **Michael Arenivar**, who has been promoted to Master Chief of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Arenivar family, **Laurel, Michael, Ila, Peter, Maryn and Jenna**, will be moving to a new base this summer. We will certainly have some kind of a celebration before they go, so watch for more information in the coming months.

Submitted by Pastor Vickie



CENTRAL'S WORSHIP COMMITTEE

WE ARE IN NEED OF EASTER FLOWERS! We are asking people to donate flowers for this year's Easter service on April 4th---tulips, daffodils, mums, lilies—something cheerful and springy is the need! You can drop off your plant(s) on Friday, April 2, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Court street entrance. We are keeping it simple this year--no dedications or memorials.

Submitted by Cathy Wilkinson

ALGONQUIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1604 W Fourth Avenue
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Our Worship Servants for the month of April are:

April 4 - Liturgist - Shelley White Thomas, Communion steward - Bob Sibbald

Greeter - Sandy Gaus , Usher - Bernita Sibbald

April 11 - Liturgist - Marcia White, Greeter - Ed Rousseau

On-line host - Mary Beth Vollick

April 18 - Liturgist - Bev Atkins, Greeter - Jim Atkins, On-line host - Rachel Pratt

April 25 - Greeter - Bev Harwood, On-line host - Bernita Sibbald

Please note: Offering plates are set out at the entrance of the sanctuary in which to place envelopes.



Mackenzie Anderson, a Sault High junior, was recently inducted into the National Honor Society. **Kaitlyn Anderson**, a Sault High senior, is a 2nd year member of the National Honor Society. They are pictured here, Mackenzie on the left and Kaitlyn on the right. Both girls are members of Algonquin UMC and are the daughters of Laura and Woody Anderson, sisters of Emily Anderson and granddaughters of Lil Dost.

We have received a thank you from David Smith of the Sault Area Public Schools Board of Education, which reads, “Thank you for your generous donation of clothing, food, baby care supplies and grocery gift certificates for students at Washington School. Your support is very much appreciated!”

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

April 3 - Megan Bunker Moran

April 3 - Lisa Vincent

April 4 - Sue Mackie

April 7 - Peter Arenivar (7th)

April 22 - Norb Bennin

April 24 - Dennis Hill

ALGONQUIN BIRTHDAYS

April 8 - Frances Sylvester

April 10 - Bernita Sibbald

April 16 - Todd Vollick

April 27 - Jim Atkins

April 30 - Lillie Dost

April 30 - Leo Shea

CENTRAL ANNIVERSARIES

April 16 - Cathy and John Wilkinson



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.)

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

Spray a 9x13 baking pan with non-stick cooking spray. Butter bread and place buttered side down in the pan. Cover the entire bottom of the pan. Add any of the following ingredients of your choice: ground breakfast sausage, diced ham, canned mushrooms, onions or green pepper.

Add 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese. Butter more bread and place the buttered side up on top of all the ingredients, covering the entire top of the casserole. Mix 6 eggs and 3 cups of milk together and slowly pour over the top. Refrigerate over night. Bake 1 hour at 325 degrees.

Submitted by Bernita Sibbald

(This recipe is a family favorite.)



<<VISION FRAME VALUE>>

Cultivating Relationships

demonstrated by trust, intimacy and non-judgmental interaction

FROM THE VISION TEAM

Spotlight on Vision – Kingdom Concept

During our 4th session together, our visioning group worked on developing our Kingdom Concept.

It began with our local predicament – our unique needs and opportunities where God has placed us in Sault Ste Marie

Included our Collective Potential – What are the unique resources and capabilities that God brings together in us at Central and Algonquin.

And Apostolic Esprit—what most energizes us as a church

The Kingdom Concept answers the questions,

“What do we at Central & Algonquin United Methodist Church do better than 10,000 other churches?”

“How do we at Central and Algonquin Glorify God and Develop Disciples for Christ?”

Our Kingdom concept was the foundation for our Vision Framing process

Our first step was to develop our Signature Story and it started with :

“We believe every person can make a difference no matter what gifts they have been given. “

We listed examples:

The bread ministry which reached out to all new people who attended for the first time.

The Christian Child Care Center which reaches out to all families in our community

The shawl ministry which reaches out to all those in need of comfort

The Backpack ministry which feeds hungry children

YOU CAN BE THE ONE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Key Scripture verse we chose was Ephesians 2:19-22:

So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, build upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; In whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Our second step was to write an Amplified Sentence – which is our Kingdom concept summary:

Central and Algonquin UMC exists to glorify God and develop disciples by leveraging mature and experienced Christians in continuous generous outreach in a culture of welcoming and acceptance; Into a community with social isolation and poverty that leads to marginalization, helplessness, And lack of opportunity and lack of awareness of substance use, abuse, and addiction; With a deep passion for building bridges connecting people to God and reaching out and caring for our congregation, community, and the world.

From that we developed a Short Phrase: *Connecting our community congregation and world to God through building bridges of caring, outreach and acceptance*

And finally, we agreed on One Word: Connecting

I am proud of how our Team worked together and I think we all felt God’s guidance through this process. Though we had many different ideas and different perspectives, it was a wonderful experience how through our conversations in small and large groups we all arrived at the same vision for our churches.

Submitted by Terri Bush

FROM THE VISION TEAM

Spotlight on Vision—Hands On Team

You have heard from members of our Vision team over the last couple of months, sharing a vision for our two churches. This sharing is to inform you, interest you, and we hope excite you.

I am part of the “Hands On” portion of the Vision Team, along with Terri Bush and Ray Bell. I made the decision to serve on the Vision Team because I felt strongly that we needed to bring life and purpose back to our church, not just maintain what we have. No matter who we are, we all matter, we are all needed and we all bring something important to the table. We would like to explore those things and find ways to use them. What can we do to move beyond where we are and grow our church? You have heard from others about “building bridges.” We actually have one very good example of that with Diana Morgan and the Backpack Ministry. She has been feeding hungry children for years with that program through the Missions Committee. But what does “building bridges” mean for you, for me, for our church? It means not becoming so comfortable in our routines that we forget we can do more, be more. It means responding to the needs of our church and community. It means identifying and creating opportunities for all of us. As part of the “Hands on Team” we are exploring those opportunities. It might be shoveling snow for the elderly or handicapped, mowing lawns in the summer, working in United Way’s Victory Garden that supplies vegetables to the Food Pantry. It might mean volunteering to stuff envelopes, distribute fliers, read stories that are taped and distributed to local elementary schools, which 8 of us will be doing and being taped by David Brey of United Way.

All these things help build bridges of caring here and in our community. Through this “vision” for our churches, we have faith that we will grow in numbers, but more importantly, we will grow spiritually as people of God.

I would like to share Matthew 5:16—*Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

Quoting our Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman: *For there is always light if only we’re brave enough to see it, if only we’re brave enough to be it.*

If we are, this is where people will want to be!

Submitted by Jackie Willey

Thank you to Terri Bush, Kay Miller, Robin Myers, Ron and Sherry Hutchins, Bev Adkins, and Lori Horner for volunteering to read stories that will be distributed to our elementary schools through United Way. Another way are “Building Bridges” in our community! Thank you all from your Vision Team.

Jackie Willey



Central Child Care Center, Final Update

On March 20, 2021 it will be one year since the Central Child Care Center Board of Directors closed the childcare center, first because of Covid 19 and the Governor's stay at home order, and ultimately completed a permanent closure because of the assessment undertaken after closing for Covid 19.

In that year board member Lori Horner lent her expertise to the rest of the board and walked us through the many steps involved in closing the center that had been open for 49 years. Following are some of the steps that were taken:

- A complete, full, and detailed assessment of the Center and its basic core operating systems was undertaken and presented to the Administrative Council and Board of Trustees for approval in June 2020.
- All employees and parents were notified that the 4 C's would be closing indefinitely. All qualified employees were compensated for balances of leave and severance pay. All outstanding balance bills were distributed to parents. This all occurred in June and July 2020.
- By August 2020, all operating funds had been validated and inventory and liquidation of 4 C's property was commenced.
- In September, October, and November 2020 sales of 4 C's property to church members, daycare businesses, and the public were scheduled, advertised, and accomplished.
- In December 2020, the 4 C's cleared all final monetary operating debts, including the payment of 2020 facility rents due to CUMC.
- Additional efforts to sell remaining material properties continued, on-line, in January and February 2021.
- On March 10, 2021, a consensus of Board Members present at a meeting agreed to donate all remaining material property to the Education Committee for use in the Sunday School program of the church.
- Following the donation of material properties to the Education Committee, Lori Horner from the Board of Directors of Central Child Care Center made a motion to disband the Board of Directors of the Center. There is no further work that can be accomplished with the Board of Directors remaining as an entity. The motion to disband was seconded by Sherry Hutchins and passed unanimously by all members of the board.

As you all might imagine, in addition to all of the life changes everyone has gone through because of Covid 19, this past year has been a difficult one for all members of the 4 C's Board of Directors. There have been many tears shed, some high-fives when certain goals in closing were met, and (breaking all social distancing rules) a few hugs shared amongst Board Members as they worked on the closure of the center and stumbled because they remembered a special event, a child who was thrilled with one of the toys or conversed with a previous employee.

We have closed the Center and taken care of all of the closing details that needed to be done. The space in the Education wing of Central United Methodist Church is ready for new programs and new adventures. We ask that you be in prayer that the facility be used for God's glory as it has been, through the daycare center for the community, for the past 49 years.

God bless!

Sherry Hutchins, Board Member



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

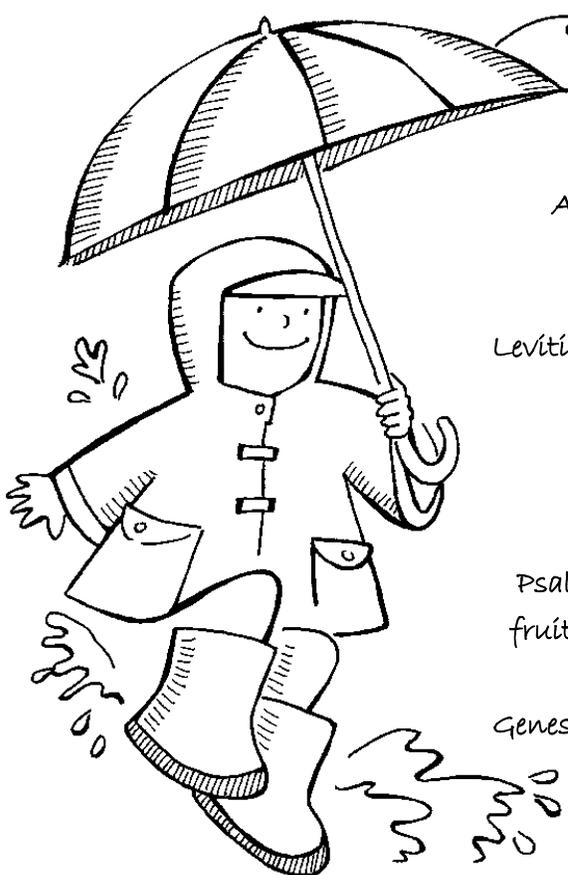
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April 2021



HAPPY SPRINGTIME!!

An old fashioned saying, but still relevant today is "April showers bring
May flowers."

Leviticus 26:4 "I will send you rain in its season and the ground will yield
its crops and the trees of the field their fruit."

Psalms 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

Psalms 1:3 "He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yield its
fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

Genesis 8:22 "As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold and
heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."