



THE FLAME

Monthly Newsletter
for

Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches

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MAY 2021

The Pastor's Perspective



Dear Ones in Christ,

April showers bring May flowers... I had to make a quick trip to Detroit mid-April and did I have spring envy!! Flowering trees, shrubs, trees turning green and beautiful lush green grass was everywhere! As you all know so well, Spring is a long time coming up here! As I walk Mack, I see glimpses of spring, especially in the flower beds and in lawns--purple or white bursts of little spring flowers showing off.

Can it be May already? It is. And what will May bring this year? Maybe a better questions is this. **What are our hopes this May?** Do we dare have any? By the time you receive this, we will be half way through our Easter Worship Series: Daring to Hope!! The series began on April 11th and will take us to Pentecost Sunday on May 23rd.

It is based on the book of Jeremiah and the writings of Melissa Spoelstra "Dare to Hope: Living Intentionally in an Unstable World" (written 2019) and Rev. Timothy Keller "Hope in Times of Fear: The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter" (written 2020). We can never talk about hope too much, especially right now. You will find the worship services on either of our Facebook pages or our website—www.cumcsoo.org.

Here is an outline of our series in case you missed any of it or wish to review:

1. Surrender to God. Jeremiah 15:16-21; John 20:19-29
2. Reject Counterfeits. Jeremiah 10:1-10; Luke 24:36b-48
3. Listen for His Voice. Jeremiah 23:1-4, 16-22; John 10:11-18
4. Check Your Heart. Jeremiah 3:12-24; John 15:1-8
5. Take Responsibility. Jeremiah 14:8-10; John 15:9-17

Pursue Intimacy with God. Jeremiah 31:31-37;

As Christians our hope is grounded in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. With Jesus as our guiding light, as communities of faith and individually, we can continue:

- **GROWING** in our spiritual expression of what it means to be a follower of Jesus;
- **GIVING** of ourselves from both our abundance and our deep need;
- **GATHERING** to celebrate the presence of God in our midst and to study Jesus' teachings and share their influence on our lives.

Grateful to be with you on this journey!

Pastor Vickie

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**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY ON MAY 9TH TO ALL OF THE
MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS OF
ALGONQUIN AND CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES!!**

**IN-PERSON SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE HELD AT 9 A.M. AT ALGONQUIN
UMC AND 10:30 A.M. AT CENTRAL UMC. Masks are required and we ask that you
congregate to visit outdoors only.**

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.

THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DAY IS MAY 15, 2021.

Please keep the people serving our country in your thoughts and prayers.

Gavin Povey, the grandson of Diana and Ron Morgan is in the Air Force and stationed in Montana. His wife, Jewel, is in the Air Force and is now also in Montana..

Sawyer Ball, the son of Marcia and Carl Ball is stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he lives 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

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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 May 15th so we can recognize them in our next 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. We have recognized some higher ed graduates in this May issue, but we can also include more in our June issue. We will recognize high school graduates in our June 2021 issue.

Submitted by Barbara Larson

THERE WILL BE A WORK BEE FOR CAMP MICHIGAMME on Saturday, May 15, 2021. This will be a Volunteer Work Day for all ages and all skill sets. It will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and lunch is included. An over night stay is available for those who are traveling afar. Inquire at director@campmichigamme.org. If you are interested in going, please get in touch with our camp liaison, Angela Rowell, at arowell@eupschools.org or at 906-379-7936. Angela is coordinating ride shares.

CENTRAL’S UMC WORSHIP SERVANTS

Liturgists: May 2 - Marcie Gleason May 9 - Ray Bell May 16 - Terri Bush

May 23 - Ron Hutchins May 30 - Marcie Gleason

On line Host - Cathy Wilkinson

We send a big thank you to Tom Brown and Norb Bennin, who have been our ushers!

Here is an upcoming opportunity to join our team and volunteer in our community:

City Wide Clean Up - May 15, 2021 9:00 a.m. – Noon

Register by May 10- at 906-440-0667
or at 8:30 a.m. on May 15th at the Fire Hall Parking Lot.
We'd like to go as a group (And wear our T-Shirts).



WE EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES.....

....**Jeannie O'Connor** passed away on March 20, 2021 at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie. She was born on October 9, 1957 in Sault Ste. Marie to Eugene and Clara Atkins. She graduated from Sault High in 1976, received her Bachelor's Degree in history at Lake Superior State University, in teaching from Michigan State University in 1995 and her Master's Degree in 2006. She taught at the Sault Schools. She married John O'Connor on June 27, 1998, and they moved to Quincey, Massachusetts where she continued her teaching career. She was a member of Algonquin United Methodist Church. She is survived by her husband, brothers Bob (Bonnie), Jim (Bev), Bill and her sister Rachel Pratt. A private service will be held at a later date for the immediate family. Memorials are requested to go to Algonquin UMC or Quincy Community UMC.

....**Jeff Coullard**, the brother of Jim Coullard, passed away on March 26, 2021 at a Hospice care facility in Indiana. We extend our condolences to Jim, Brenda and their family.

....**Mary Woods**, the mother of Sherry Hutchins passed away after a long illness. We extend our condolences to Sherry, Ron and their family.

....**Rev David Liscomb** passed away on April 6, 2021 in Glendale, AZ, at the age of 88 after a long illness. He and his wife, Arlene, were the pastoral family for both Central and Algonquin Churches from 1992 to 1993. He retired in 1998 after 43 years in the ministry. He is survived by his wife, a twin brother, three children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held this summer in Crystal Falls, MI.

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

CONGRATULATIONS.....

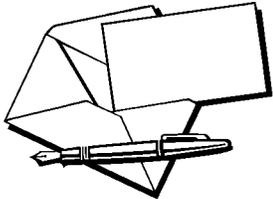
....Congratulations to **Haleigh Knowles** (Central) and to **Taylor Pratt** (Algonquin), who are on the Sault High basketball team which was chosen UP Division 1-2 Team of the Year. They finished 14-2 for the season, and for the past 2 years have a 35-3 record. Haleigh is a senior this year and Taylor is a junior.



PENTECOST SUNDAY is May 23, 2021. Please note the scripture verses on our address page of this month's issue. Pentecost is the great climax of the Easter season (Jesus' crucifixion and His wonderful resurrection and ascension, and then the sending of the Holy Spirit when the Spirit of God rushed from heaven and set aflame men and women waiting for the Spirit's touch). Also, this is from where we get the name of our newsletter, "The Flame." In observance of this special day, **we traditionally wear red to church services on this Sunday.** No red in your closet?? Then choose orange or yellow to wear, which are other flame colors. Our address page is in an orange color to also recognize Pentecost.

SUMMER RUMMAGE SALE

Dates have been set for Central's rummage sale, which will raise money to benefit our Back Pack Program. It will be held on **August 19, 20 and 21, 2021**. On the 19th and 20th it will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on the 21st it will be from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. We are giving everyone very advance notice so you can begin setting aside your items you choose to donate. You can bring your items, beginning on August 8, to the tables which will be set up in the Fellowship Hall. If needed, press the buzzer at the Court St. entrance for admittance. Workers are needed!! For further information, or to volunteer, please contact Diana Morgan at 632-2356.



TWO THANK YOU NOTES.....

.....Central UMC has received a thank you note from Jennifer Blair of the Sault High Food Pantry for all of the items they received from Central's recent food drive. She writes, *Thank you so much for thinking of our students. Your generosity and kindness will help so many kids in our district. Thank you.*

Dear Church Family,

I'm so glad someone said "it's never too late to say thank you!" because that's what I'm doing now. I have been the recipient of your prayers, thoughts, cards, well-wishes, and gifts for six months! Thank you, thank you!

They have been wonderful; both joyfully and sorrowfully received and felt. I have no doubt that it was because of all the prayers that so many things fell into place for us as we were struggling with the news of Bob's terminal cancer. It was actually Christmas Eve that we received a care package including two prayer shawls, the UpperRoom and the December newsletter with "Our Fond Farewell" message. All the thoughtfulness was very heartwarming and helpful, including Pastor Vickie's many lengthy texts of personal insights and similar experiences. I so appreciated it all!

I am also very thankful for the online Sunday morning services since some of the churches I want to visit here aren't open. It's so helpful to see the familiarity and beauty of our church from a distance during such a trying time. What a blessing this has been during COVID.

My new and final (I've had 2 others since I left) address is below. My phone number and email are the same so if anyone needs a place to stay on your way to the airport, medical reasons or anything, please let me know so I can return your kindness.

Thanks again for your love so warmly received.

Linda Beaumont

2542 McBrayer Ct.
Caledonia, MI 49316



ALGONQUIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1604 W Fourth Avenue
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Our Worship Servants for the month of May are:

May 2 - Liturgist - Bev Atkins, Communion Steward - Jim Atkins, Greeter - Sandy Gaus
Ushers - Todd and Mary Beth Vollick, On-Line Host - Bev Atkins
May 9 - Greeters - Todd and Mary Beth Vollick, On-Line Host - Mary Beth Vollick
May 16 - Greeter - Rachel Pratt, On-Line Host - Rachel Pratt
May 23 - Greeters - Bob and Bernita Sibbald, On-Line Host - Bev Atkins
May 30 - Greeter - Bev Harwood, On-Line Host - Bernita Sibbald

To our Algonquin and Central Families: *On behalf of the family of Jeannie O'Connor, please accept our most sincere thank you for your expressions of sympathy! To the Algonquin United Methodist Women, the food provided for the family luncheon was delicious! All of your kind words, cards, messages of sympathy, and prayers were very much appreciated!*

John O'Connor and the Pratt and Atkins Families.

Submitted by Bernita Sibbald

VISION TEAM'S "HANDS ON" FEEDING AMERICA

United Way sponsored another Feeding America truck from Grand Rapids to deliver food to the Kinross Recreation Center. The weather was more cooperative than in February, which we are all grateful for.

We had 16,000 pounds of food to distribute this time, and since we had some of the same volunteers it went very smoothly. I want to thank Art and Debbie Smart, Bob Willey, Gary Horner, Ron Hutchins and Tom Brown plus several that Tom enlisted from the Lions Club: Randy Suggitt, Craig Krouth and Gary Deuman. I am always so appreciative of how willing all the people I ask to help jump right in. What a great crew! Two other Feeding America trucks are scheduled for July and October. I will keep you posted.

Submitted by Jackie Willey

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.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

As a congregation, the United Methodist Church has designated 6 Sundays for us to collectively contribute to special funds that transform the world. This is called connectional giving, where thousands of congregations around the world give together affecting change beyond their communities. Covid 19 has impacted everyone and we need to be mindful of world wide concerns. We need to remember that suffering around the world is just as bad as across the street. It would be easy to think that the ills of the world are someone else's problems, but we are all affected by them.

By contributing to the Peace For Justice special Sunday offering we can effect change for the better. A couple of examples where funds have been used in the past are: Nigeria, a Peace for Justice garden for youth recovering from substance abuse, and in New Orleans, a laundry service for women experiencing homelessness. Offering envelopes will be available during the service on May 30, 2021. However, funds can be given at any time on line at umcgiving.org/give. If you would like additional information about Peace For Justice Sunday, please look at PWJS, the online resource at umcgiving.org.

Submitted by Kristen Donarski

WEAR RED (or flame orange or yellow) TO SUNDAY SERVICE ON MAY 23!!

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.)

PINEAPPLE CHEDDAR CASSEROLE

Ingredients: 24 Nabisco Ritz crackers, crushed 7 oz. white cheddar cheese, shredded
6 T flour 1 cup sugar 2 (20 oz.) cans pineapple chunks in juice, drained

Step 1: Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Coat 13x9" baking dish with cooking spray. Crush crackers (about 1 ½ cups) and shred cheese.

Step 2: Combine flour, sugar and cheese. Stir in pineapple until evenly coated.

Step 3: Bake 25-30 minutes or until golden and bubbly. Serve!

Submitted by Sharyn Faunt



HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES



Melina Talentino graduates on May 1st from Ferris State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations. She worked in Athletic Communications this past year, doing social media for Ferris sports teams. She is a staff writer for the school newspaper, "The Torch," and currently serves as president of Ferris' chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America. She was also resident advisor in the dorms for two years. Her dream is to pursue a career in broadcast journalism. Melina's parents are Susan and Tim Talentino, her brothers are Nicolas and Noah, and her grandparents are Evelyn and Pete Bush.

Andrea Jones graduated on May 1st from Lake Superior State University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, cum laude. She is a member of the nursing honor society, Sigma Theta Tau International. Her future plans are to eventually work in a hospital ICU. She will be getting married in January of 2022 to Eddie Barta, who is also a LSSU graduate and currently working in Alpena for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Andy is the daughter of Michael and Leann Jones and has an older sister, Beth. Her grandparents are Ben and Sharon Jones, and she is the niece and cousin of Kristen and Grady Hartman.

Mark LaRoue graduates from Alma College on May 1st with a Bachelor's Degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. He plans to pursue employment in fisheries. He is the son of Cathy Wilkinson and the grandson of Gary Sweeley.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Help is needed during the Sunday morning worship services. Whether you are attending church from home watching the live-stream or coming to in-person worship, help is needed. The in-person services need ushers, greeters, liturgists and video operators. For the on-line services, a weekly host is needed. A large time commitment is not necessary—agreeing to do any of these jobs once a month would be extremely helpful. Training for running the video has been offered by Bob Vincent, and directions for any of the other jobs can easily be given. Don't wait to be asked, please consider stepping forward and volunteering. Phone 906-632-8672 or email the church office centralumc632@gmail.com.

Take your Spiritual Gifts Assessment: The Assessment is designed to help give a picture of our congregation. The questions and your responses enable us to understand the skills and interests of our membership. There are no "wrong" answers. There is no need to stress over any responses you might select. Please make a gift of your time and effort for the benefit of all.

Our **Bell Choir** has begun rehearsing again. It is truly a blessing to get together again, and we look forward to sharing a musical offering during a church service in May.

Submitted by Cathy Wilkinson

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.



2021 Annual Conference Offering

2021 Annual Conference Offering. Each year the Michigan Area Annual Conference takes up an offering for a mission selected by the resident bishop. Usually, we would give you an opportunity to support this one Sunday in worship. Then, our annual conference delegate would take the offering to the opening worship service as our congregation's contribution. This year annual conference will be via zoom, not in person, on June 3-6. Things will be done differently.

For 2021 Bishop Bard has selected covenant partners who are working in Michigan, Haiti, and Liberia to relieve child hunger and food insecurity. **Haiti:** Haitian Assets for Peace International (HAPI) (Advance #3020490) will receive 45%. HAPI empowers women and girls by providing health services, maternity care, and vocational training to alleviate poverty and save lives.

Liberia: Bishop Judith Craig's Children's Village (Advance #11820A) will receive 45%. The remaining 10% will be distributed to all annual conference districts in **Michigan** through agencies that work specifically with child hunger relief.

If you are passionate about child hunger and food insecurity, we invite you to send a check to: Central UMC, 111 E. Spruce, SSM, MI 49783, designating 2021 Annual Conference Offering in the memo line. We will take donations until May 15th. Then a check will be sent to the Annual Conference in the name of BOTH churches.

Call Sherry Ingham at the office, 906-632-8672, if you have any questions about this.

SCRIPTURE PROMISES

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”

Jeremiah 29:11-12

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord, who had compassion on you.”

Isaiah 54:10

“He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.” Psalm 91:4

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:8

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

II Timothy 1:7

WEAR RED (or flame orange or yellow) TO SUNDAY SERVICE ON MAY 23!!

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS AND WISHES

CENTRAL BIRTHDAYS

May 2 - Lois Horner

May 4 - Ronald Morgan

May 7 - Nora Baier

May 11 - Shelby Mackie

May 15 - Terri Bush

May 18 - Marli Moran

May 30 - Jeanne Tubman

CENTRAL ANNIVERSARIES

May 10 - Jan and Larry Rogers (46th)

May 22 - Charlene and Marv DeWitt (50th)

May 29 - Linda and Jerry Bell (57th)



ALGONQUIN BIRTHDAYS

May 2 - Bev Harwood

May 7 - Taylor Pratt (17th)

May 18 - Becky Meicher

May 18 - Ev Price

May 20 - Mindy Wilson

May 26 - Sherri Voegtline

ALGONQUIN ANNIVERSARIES

May 9 - Jody and Ed Schopp (13th)

May 26 - Connie and Ev Price

May 28 - Shelley White-Thomas and Eric Thomas (27th)

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

A REMINDER: The deadline for material to be submitted for our next Flame, the June 2021 issue, is **May 15, 2021 at noon.**

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

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Pentecost Sunday is May 23, 2021

Here is a very relevant scripture of what the disciples witnessed:



When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. Acts 2: 1-3



PENTECOST

The logo features a stylized flame above the word "PENTECOST" in a serif font. A horizontal line with a small flame-like shape at its right end is positioned above the text.