

# THE FLAME

Monthly Newsletter  
for

Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches

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Editors: Barbara Larson and Sharon Jones

## FEBRUARY 2023

### REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR

*You have a great BOD!*



It's a cold, dark mid-January morning as I sit in my office to type this article. Suffice it to say that during this time of year my thoughts often turn to sunshine, sand, and rolling waves coming ashore. Yes, I'm thinking of the beach and of all that goes with it: sunscreen, volleyball games, building sandcastles and looking for shells near the water's edge. I also think of hearing shouts of glee and catching bits of conversations as people pass by. A phrase I've heard on occasion goes something like this, "Wow, he/she has a great bod!" I should note that those words have *never* been directed to me but I am going to suggest that they should be....and that they should be directed to you as well. Simply put, we have a great BOD! Of course, I'm talking about our *Book of Discipline*. This is the book that sets forth the laws, plan, polity, and process by which United Methodists govern themselves. It's been around 200+ years and defines what is expected of us as we seek to be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ in the world. In today's article I want to share two of the basic Christian affirmations that we confess. \* I'll share more affirmations and about our Wesleyan distinctives in future articles.

**We hold in common with all Christians a faith in the mystery of salvation in and through Jesus Christ.** That means that the heart of the gospel of salvation is God's incarnation in Jesus of Nazareth. Holy scripture points to the redeeming love of God in Jesus, in his life, teachings, atoning death, and resurrection. God loves us in spite of our willful sin and calls us to repentance. Through God's grace we are pardoned and given hope of life eternal.

A second affirmation is that **we share the Christian belief that God's redemptive love is realized in human life by the activity of the Holy Spirit, both in personal experience and in the community of believers.** This community is the church (that's you and me!). Our ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit is to bring about the healing of the nations. Because of Jesus, we are forgiven, reconciled, and transformed as people of the new covenant.

I think you'll agree with me, these are wonderful affirmations and there's more to come. In the meantime, feel free to greet each other with the words, "you have a great BOD!"

Blessings to you! *Pastor Marty*

\*This information is taken directly from ¶102 in our Book of Discipline.

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# ALGONQUIN AND CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES MISSION: CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE TO GOD BY BUILDING BRIDGES OF CARING, OUTREACH AND ACCEPTANCE



## PRAYER WHEEL FOR OUR MILITARY

*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, has completed 8 years in the Air Force as of January 9<sup>th</sup>, so he is now out of the Air Force, and he and his family have moved to Tennessee.

**Sawyer Ball**, the son of Carl Ball and Marcia-Jenkins Ball, is with the U.S. Army and assigned to Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, Colorado where he lives with his wife Sherry and family..

**Captain Brent Johnson** is a pilot stationed at Dover, Delaware with the U.S. Air Force. He is married to Catherine, who is now retired from the Air Force. 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. We welcome anyone to make your newsletter editors or our church office aware of them.

## MISSIONS/OUTREACH



**The Mitten Tree** (also known as the Mitten & Sock Tree) is located just inside the Court Street entrance by the elevator on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Central UMC . The tree has recently been emptied and items brought to the Lincoln, Bahweting and Washington schools. They were very happy to receive them. The tree will remain up for the season so we urge that it be refilled with your donations. (Please note that we do **do not need any baby sizes**.) A suggestion: very gently used and clean items would also be welcomed! So, come and refill the tree!! It is much appreciated!

Submitted by Diana Morgan

## NOTES AND NOTEWORTHY



Wednesday, February 22, 2023 is Ash Wednesday and the first day of Lent, and it is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40 day season, not counting Sundays, leading up to Easter.

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE FOR BOTH CHURCHES

#### ALGONQUIN UM CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023

6:30 p.m.

**A HUGE THANK YOU:** We would like to send out a huge thank you to **Robin Myers**, who, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, has stepped up as interim Administrative Assistant in our church office. Robin kept things running very smoothly during our very busy Christmas season and into the new year, and it is so much appreciated. She has also trained our new hire, Kimberly Clark.



### NEW MEMBERS AT CENTRAL

We welcomed new members on January 8, 2023, **Joe and Sue Anne Bartelsmeyer**, who transferred their membership from Cape Girardeau, Missouri to CUMC. As was written in an article in our December/January "Flame," Sue Anne is the new Anchor House director at Lake Superior State University and Joe had previously been to Sault Ste. Marie while he was in the Air Force and at the Raco missile site, plus they had also vacationed in our area in the past. Welcome, welcome Sue Anne and Joe!

*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!!*



## WE EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES.....

**Donna Bourque** passed away on November 26, 2022, at Cedar Cove Assisted Living in Cedarville. She was born in Gary, Indiana on February 7, 1932 and was 90 years old. She married Emil Bourque on November 3, 1952 in Sault Ste. Marie. Donna was a Boy Scout and Camp Fire leader, a member of Central United Methodist Church and a Lifetime Member of the War Memorial Hospital Auxiliary (My Michigan Medical Center). Remarkably, she sang in Central's Chancel Choir for 62 years!

Donna and Emil had three children: Bruce (Susan) of Atlanta, Michigan, Barbara Lemmen of Coopersville, Michigan and Beverly (John) Proulx of Sault Ste. Marie. They had eight grandchildren, among them Mallory Baier and Mackenzie Gimpel, and 15 great grandchildren, among them Nora Baier.

The Memorial Service was held on December 3, 2022 at Central UMC, presided over by Rev. Marty Johnston. Memorials can be left to the Cedar Cove Unit, P.O. Box 586, Cedarville 49719 or the CUMC Chancel Choir.

**Vernus Kelly** passed away on December 16, 2022 at My Michigan Medical Center-Sault . She was born in Pickford, MI on June 1, 1929 and was 93 years old. She married Donald Kelly in Pickford . Vernus was a long-time employee of Michigan Bell and was a member of the Telephone Pioneer Club, K.I.T. Club and the Red Hat Society.

She is survived by Michael (Doris) Kelly, Christine (John) Newton, Candace (Alan) Pike and Cathy (James) DePlonty, 14 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

A private family viewing was held, with graveside services to be held in the spring at Fairview Cemetery.

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

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## CENTRAL'S REBECCA CIRCLE

Central's Rebecca Circle met on December 19th at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and wrapped gifts for the two families adopted for Christmas. I'm sure there were four very happy children on Christmas morning as we were given a list of what they wanted and tried to fulfill their wishes. Doris Kelly also made a beautiful quilt, pictured here, to give to one of the families with a single dad. Also, a week's worth of groceries were provided to each family. Rebecca members also brought cookies, and plates of goodies were made up for the two families, plus we also got to enjoy them as our snack for the day. We are only able to do this because of the generosity of our church members at our pie sale. We use the funds raised for this purpose. Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 20th, 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our video program will continue with the theme ""As sweet as honey: wonderful ways to use your words." All women of the church are invited to attend.

Submitted by Sharon Jones



# Best Wishes



## WEDDING BELLS

Karen Morley Harlukowicz and James Aikens were married on December 10, 2022 at Central United Methodist Church. Rev. Marty Johnston officiated. Karen is the daughter of Dorothy and the late Francis Morley. The couple will reside in Sault Ste. Marie.



Iylee with her big brother, Devin



**Iylee Joy Grav-elle** was born on January 16, 2023, which was her great-great-grandma Benny Zarzeck's birthday. She weighed 8 lbs, 15 oz and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Kerry & Gene Gravelle and she joins her brothers Devin and Gene Jr. Terry & Robin Myers are her grandparents and Bob & Jackie Willey along with Lee Myers are her great-grandparents.

## CENTRAL'S 2023 STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS FINAL REPORT

The figures below show a comparison of the years 2021,2022, and the final numbers for 2023.



	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Number of pledges	59	57	48
Pledged to General Fund	\$106,280	\$112,416	\$102,030
Pledged to Building Fund	\$ 17,762	\$ 11,722	\$ 9,932
Pledged to Apportionments	\$ 8,640	\$ 10,900	\$ 6,892

Central's Finance Committee has completed the 2023 budget based on the figures above and presented it to the Administrative Board for approval. .

This year will be challenging for the Finance Committee, our Church employees, committee members and the congregation. The total amount pledged for 2023 is \$13,828 less that of 2021 and \$16,184 less that of 2022. With the loss of income and the increases in some expenses, particularly utilities, there is a significant deficit in the budget. The Administrative Board and the Finance committee will work together throughout the year to consider what decisions are necessary to keep our bills current. The Finance Committee will also make quarterly reports to the congregation in the Flame.

Just a note: During the pledge drive, children attending Sunday School and our Family Night activities, made a few "Thank You" cards for families and individuals who turned in their pledges. Unfortunately, the cards could not be mailed so they were distributed at coffee hours on Sundays. Their expressions of gratitude in the cards echo the thoughts of those serving on the Finance Committee.

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS GIVEN AT CENTRAL UMC

### In loving memory of:

John Bath by Ginger Bath  
Albert and Lorraine Cheney by Ray, Diane, Nick and Carissa  
Joanne Sweeley by Gary Sweeley  
Alvin and Marguerite Ball by Carl Ball and Marcia Jenkins-Ball  
Joel Arbic by Bernie and Colleen Arbic  
Emil and Donna Bourque by John and Bev Proulx  
Kimberly Ann Rogers by Larry and Janet Rogers  
Keith and Betty Rutledge by Norla, Nicole and Natalie  
Our parents by Barb and Jerry Cook  
Ivan Hartman by Kristen and Grady Hartman  
Shelby Myers by Terry and Robin Myers  
Aunt Vera Spence by Terri Bush



### In honor of:

Our grandchildren by Ben and Sharon Jones  
Gary Sweeley by John and Cathy Wilkinson  
Our grandchildren Courtney, Megan, Rowan and Remy by Bernie and Colleen Arbic

### For the Glory of Christmas by

Hazel and Hollis Taylor  
Ron and Sherry Hutchins

*No Tech-Knowledge-y Required*

*I'll never understand those phones  
That buzz and beep and blink.  
And videos and all those cords  
Make me too confused to think.  
In spite of what the kids say  
I may never learn to text*

*Or talk into computer-screens  
Or whatever trend comes next.  
It seems a bit impersonal  
To communicate by e-mail,  
But I know just how to talk to God  
cause I'm sure that He loves knee-mail!*

# ALGONQUIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1604 W Fourth Avenue  
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Our Worship Servants for this month are:

**February 5:** Liturgist Bev Atkins      Communion Steward Sharon Bennett  
Greeter Bev Harwood

**February 12:** Greeters Sam and Marcia White      Coffee Hour Bernita Sibbald

**February 19:** Liturgist Marcia White      Greeter Sandy Gaus

**February 26:** Greeters Todd and Mary Beth Vollick

To our very generous congregation, **THANK YOU** for your donations to our mitten tree! In addition to several pairs of mittens and socks, there were donations of hats, 8 pairs of snow pants, 6 pairs of boots, 3 jackets, children's underwear, and 7 pairs of sweat pants. A generous amount of food items were also donated. Washington School was very appreciative!

We were able to purchase 7 gift cards from our October and November Change Jar offerings, and the gift cards were distributed to families that could benefit from a helping hand. Again, many thanks to the congregation for their generous donations. The Change Jar offerings from January and February will be donated to Camp Michigamme for plumbing renovations.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AT ALGONQUIN WERE DONATED IN MEMORY OF:

Ken and Alma Fowler, Jim Wilson and Richard Scott by Lillie Dost and Janice Wilson

George and Laura Rousseau and Louis and Jesseamine Knoll by Ed and Grace Rousseau

Vangel Perroy by Bev and Jim Atkins

Randy Bennett and Guy and Lorayne LaCross by Sharon Bennett

Howard and Maizie Atkins by Sam and Marcia White

Ronald Harwood and Howard and Maizie Atkins by Bev, Jerry, Jackie and Ashley Harwood

Howard Vollick and Tom and Alice O'Neil by Todd and Mary Beth Vollick

Aunt Jeannie O'Connor by Becky, Peter, Ryan and Abby

Lorne and Bev Sibbald and Arthur and Donna Greinier by Bob and Bernita Sibbald

Submitted by Bernita Sibbald



**A REMINDER: The deadline for material to be submitted for our next "Flame," the March 2023 issue, is noon on February 15, 2023.**

## BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS AND WISHES

### Central Birthdays

February 1 - Jerry Bell

February 4 - Pat Bennin

February 12—Robin Myers

February 13—Carissa Bell

February 14—Kathy Larson

February 14—Barara Larson

February 17—Tom Harris

February 24—Kim Harris

### Central Anniversaries

February 10—Diana and Ron Morgan (64th)



### Algonquin Birthdays

February 28—Sam White

### Algonquin Anniversaries

February 14—Woody and Laura Anderson

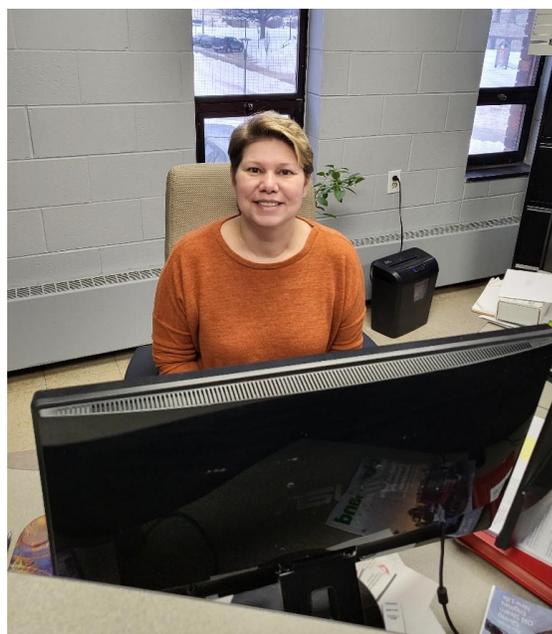
## Introducing our new Administrative Assistant, Kimberly Clark

*My name is Kimberly Clark and I am delighted to be the new Administrative Assistant at Central/Algonquin United Methodist Churches. I have over 25 years experience in the administrative field and look forward to applying my skills to this position.*

*I was born on July 4<sup>th</sup> and grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. I am married to Tony and have 2 wonderful daughters, Sarah and Cassandra. We also have 2 amazing granddaughters, Lilyanna and Aroura. My husband is an Iraq veteran and we have had many wonderful experiences living in Georgia, Colorado, Wisconsin, Kansas and now Michigan. My hobbies include kayaking, snowshoeing, puzzles and games with my family. I love to cook, garden and read, but most of all I love spending time with my grandchildren.*

*I look forward to getting to know the Central/Algonquin United Methodist family, so please stop by and say hello.*

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## Introducing our new Family Ministries Coordinator, Jenny Shelley

*Hello! My name is Jenny Shelley and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as your Family Ministry Coordinator. My husband, Stephen, our son, Aidan, and I, traded in our flip-flops for winter boots when we moved to Sault Sainte Marie from Saint Augustine, FL in July 2021. My husband has been in the United States Coast Guard for 18 years and we are fairly seasoned when it comes to moving, but it's safe to say we have never lived anywhere with as much snow and freezing temps as we get here in the Soo.*



*I'm originally from a small town in Western North Carolina and was an active member of the United Methodist Church in my hometown. My dear mother is an amazing pianist and organist and she has been the Director of Music in the Methodist Church for as long as I can remember. Growing up with parents who are such dedicated servants to the Lord has undoubtedly laid the foundation for my own Faith.*

*I told my parents that after I graduated high school I was going to attend college somewhere near the beach, and I did exactly that. I graduated from Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, FL with a Bachelors Degree in Exercise Science. Prior to moving to Sault Sainte Marie, I was the Operations Manager at Sawgrass Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach for the Aquatics, Recreation and Fitness Department. I have a passion for helping others feel better physically and in turn watching them gain mental and emotional strength they may have forgotten they even had.*

*I met Stephen while I was living in Jacksonville and we were married a couple of years later. The last nine years of his USCG career we have moved from St. Marys, GA to Key West, FL and back to Jacksonville, FL. Our son Aidan was born in Saint Augustine, FL in 2018. We just celebrated Aidan's fourth birthday at the end of December.*

*Since our arrival in Sault Sainte Marie, I have been a stay-at-home-mom to Aidan. We have been enraptured with the beauty the Upper Peninsula possesses and have gotten to explore as far west as Copper Harbor. We love Grand Sable Dunes and the Sable Falls hike down to the beach. We also thoroughly enjoyed our coldest hike to date to the Eben Ice Caves.*

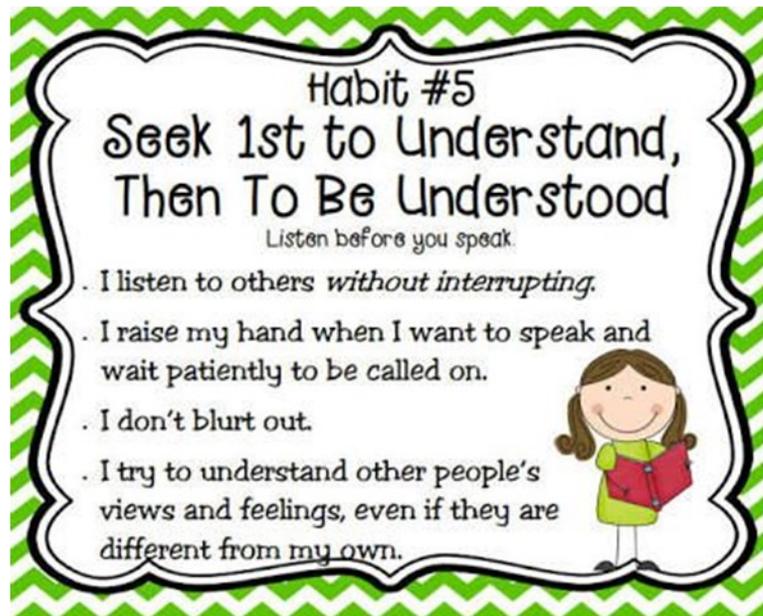
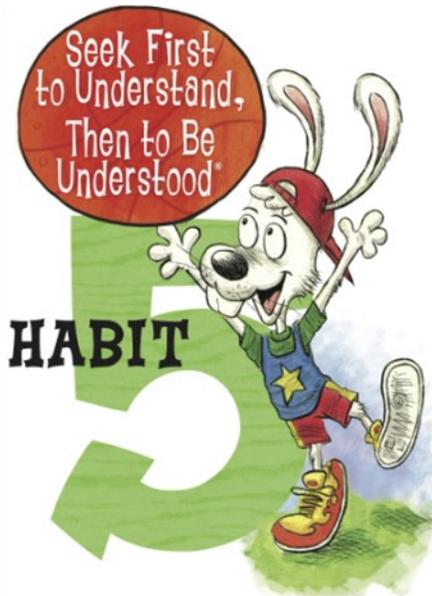
*I sincerely look forward to meeting everyone and getting to know you and your families.*

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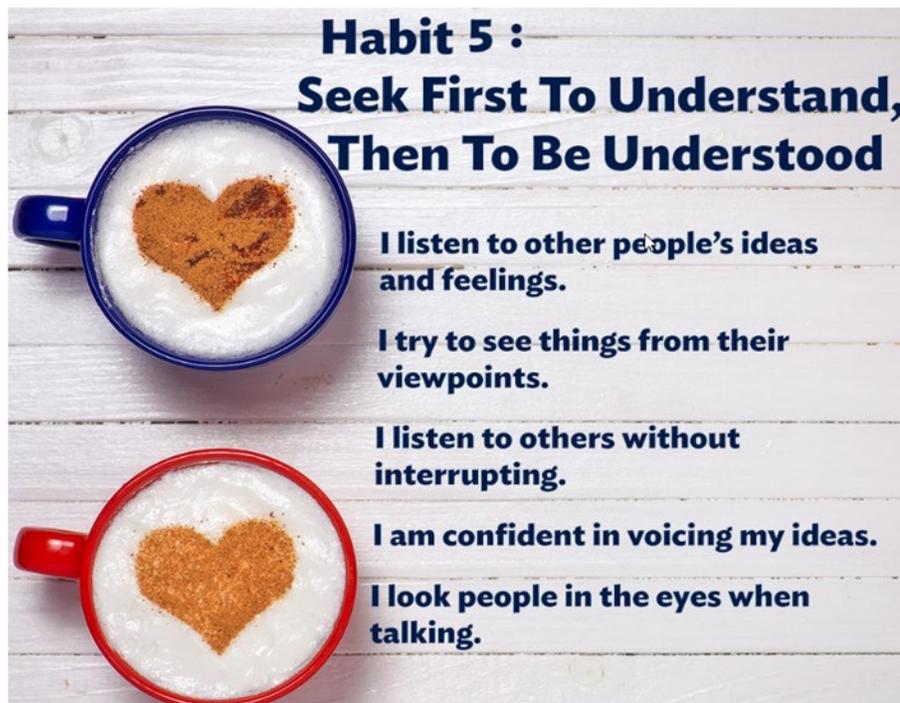
**On-Line Giving** - Did you know that Central has On-Line Giving for your convenience It can be accessed on Central's Website : [www.cumcsoo.org](http://www.cumcsoo.org) or during the Sunday morning broadcast. It's very simple to use.

## Join the Fun! Family Night – February 15, 2023 at 5:30 pm

A great dinner, fellowship and learning about the 7 Habits of Happy Kids & Highly Effective Families. It's never too late to start



Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood® is the habit of listening to other people's ideas and feelings. It's trying to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. It's about being confident in voicing your ideas. It's about looking people in the eyes when speaking. Habit 5 is a timeless principle we all strive to teach our kids; it teaches them to be confident when speaking to others while also teaching them the importance of listening to others when they are speaking.



## **Habit # 5 Seek first to Understand, Then to be Understood**

# Listen Before You Talk!

*“Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.” —Stephen R. Covey*

### **STEPS**

1. I listen to others without interrupting.
2. I listen to other people's ideas and feelings.
3. I look other people in the eye when listening.
4. I try to see things from other people's viewpoint.

### **COMMON LANGUAGE**

Point of view

Attitude

Reflective Listening

## **Family Activity**

List as many words as you can in 30 seconds related to the word “family.” The goal is for everyone in your family to list as many of the same words as possible. You get one point for each word every member of your family has in common, but you can't discuss the word or share your answers until time is up. If there are family members who can't write, have them team up with a parent.

How many points did you get? Why do you think you got the score you did?  
Repeat the activity using the word “love.”

How many points did you get this round?

Was your score higher?

Why is it difficult to get a high score?

## **WHY IS LISTENING ESSENTIAL TO A FAMILY?**

We all see the world differently. The problem is, we think we see things the same way others do. Communication is important to achieve understanding because no two people see, think, or experience the world the same way. Therefore, there is a great need, especially in families, to seek first to understand and talk second so we understand one another's point of view.

## RECIPE ROUNDUP CORNER

*(We know we have many wonderful cooks in Algonquin and Central churches. We invite the sharing of your favorite recipe. 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 desserts, entrees, beverages, appetizers, etc.)*

### Macaroni and Cheese Casserole

Make a roux with the following: In a large frying pan melt 3 tbsp. oleo, add 3 tbsp flour, salt and pepper to taste, and 1 1/2-1 3/4 cups milk.

Heat through and add 1-1/2 cups cheeses (various kinds, such as cheddar, pepper jack, mozzarella). Stir until cheeses are melted

Stir together cheese mixture with 1 package (6-8 oz.) cooked creamettes.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pour into a greased 9x13" baking pan. Bake for 30 minutes or until cheese is melted.

This freezes well. Refrigerate until firmly set, cut into squares and freeze.

Submitted by Marge Tomlinson

(This is an excellent winter "comfort food!")



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### SCRIPTURE CAKE

There are many versions of Scripture cake. Homemakers had to know the Bible well to figure out what ingredients to use, as well as a solid foundation in cake baking since some Bible passages contain more than one ingredient. Also, the foods mentioned can be interpreted in different ways. Examples: Jeremiah 6:20 says "calamus" which we can figure to mean differently, as does Judges 5:25 says "curdled milk!"

1/2 cup Judges 5:25: softened butter      1/2 cup Jeremiah 6:20: light brown sugar

2 Jeremiah 17:11: eggs      1 cups I Kings 4:22: flour

1/2 teaspoon Amos 4:5: baking soda      1/4 cup Exodus 16:31: honey

3/4 cup Judges 4:19: milk      1/2 cup Nahum 3:12: chopped figs

1/2 cup I Samuel 30:12: raisins      1/2 cup Numbers 17:8: sliced almonds

1 teaspoon II Chronicles 9:9: spices. Use 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon and 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves

Heat oven to 350 degrees and flour a 9" square pan. In bowl beat together butter, brown sugar and eggs until light. Add flour, soda, honey and milk all at once and beat until just smooth. In a medium bowl toss together figs, raisins, almonds and spices. Fold into cake batter and turn into prepared pan. Bake until center springs back when gently touched, about 45-50 minutes.

Submitted by Sharyn Faunt

(Editor's Note: I didn't want to try baking this cake, but it can be a good mental exercise to use these ingredients as a Bible study and look up all of the Bible references!) -13-

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**February 2023**

**“God’s LOVE is Deeper than this Snow.”**

**(The above was seen this winter on the street sign at Algonquin United Methodist Church)**

**“For your LOVE is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.” Psalm 26:3**

**“But I will sing of your strength, In the morning I will sing of your LOVE.” Psalm 59:16**

**“LOVE the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and  
with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30**

**“LOVE your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27**

