

THE FLAME

Monthly Newsletter
for

Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches

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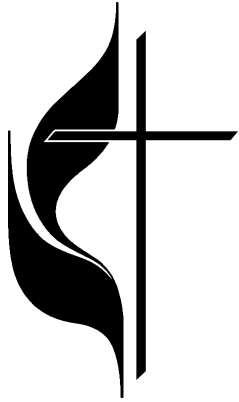
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OCTOBER 2023

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR



Do you have a favorite relative? That question was easy for me to answer for the first thirty-some years of my life. Without a doubt, it was my Uncle Curt, who was a world class story teller. Having made a career in the Navy, Uncle Curt traveled the world and experienced things that even now still defies my imagination. Because of this, he proved to be an expert on many of life's topics: travel, hunting, fishing, and the secrets to living a successful life. One conversation I'll never forget was hearing him comment on the fourteenth chapter of Romans, which says in part:

16 So suppose you know something is good. Then don't let it be spoken of as if it were evil.

17 God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.

18 Those who serve Christ in this way are pleasing to God. They are pleasing to people too.

19 So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another.

As a member of the military, my Uncle witnessed many battles. Unfortunately, he also witnessed many battles in the churches he attended. This chapter in Romans, while mainly concerned with food, drink, and observance of the Sabbath, speaks about the importance of peace. It also speaks of the importance of encouraging our fellow brothers and sisters. Uncle Curt said that he'd yet to attend a church that fully embraced this passage. As a pastor, I'll have to admit that I'm often surprised at how passionately some speak on a portion of Scripture while overlooking passages such as this.

Sadly, my Uncle Curt passed away at the age of 62. Although that conversation occurred decades ago, its message still rings true to my heart. Each day I ask myself if I'm doing all that I can to live in peace and if I'm laboring to encourage others in the faith. We live in a most contentious age. May the prayer of our hearts be to live into all that this passage urges to be, for the good of the church, and for the good of the world.

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Pastor Marty

**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.

Brent N. 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.



Sgt. Sawyer Ball, the son of Marcia and Carl Ball, is with the U.S. Army and stationed in Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He lives there with his wife, Sherry and family.

CWS 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.

Sgt. Christopher Larson is with the U.S. Army National Guard and is mobilized to Kuwait. He is with the Guard unit from the Marquette/Ishpeming/Negaunee area. Sgt. C. Larson is the son of Kevin and Kathy Larson and the grandson of Barbara Larson and Freida Cox.

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 staff aware of them.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Homecoming Sunday at Central will be October 8, 2023. Wear your favorite team apparel and come downstairs after church for apple cider and doughnuts.

We are always looking for Worship stewards – liturgists, communion helpers, ushers and greeters. Please see Robin Myers or Cathy Wilkinson if you are willing to serve in any of these jobs.

Submitted by Cathy Wilkinson

**REMEMBER: THE DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL TO BE SUBMITTED FOR
THE NOVEMBER 2023 *FLAME* ISSUE IS OCTOBER 15 AT NOON.**

NOTES AND NOTEWORTHY

UP-COMING DATES

Remember, October is Pastor Appreciation Month! When you see Pastor Marty be sure to thank him for his and Tina's service to our two churches.

October 1: World Wide Communion Sunday. Come and join your church family at morning services as we celebrate the Lord's Supper with Christians worldwide. **Central's Soup Luncheons** begin, so join us after church services for a time of good food and fellowship.

October 8: Central's Homecoming Sunday

October 22: Algonquin Soup/Chili Dinner at 5 p.m.

October 29: Stewardship Sunday at Central followed by a sub luncheon.

October 31 is Reformation Day. This commemorates Martin Luther placing his 95 prepositions on the church doors in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. He wrote the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" in 1529. It is on page 110 of our United Methodist hymnal.

Looking ahead: Central's Annual Christmas Bazaar is November 11, 2023.

A REMINDER FOR OUR SNOWBIRDS

Have you given Abby, at the church office, your winter address and the period of time you will be away? You won't want to miss any issues of "The Flame" or our other church mailings.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

BAZAAR UPDATE

Painting, cutting, sewing, knitting, mixing, baking.....many hands are busy preparing for the UMW's Annual Bazaar to be held **Saturday, November 11, 2023** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This year's theme is "**Over the River and Through the Woods.**" Morning coffee is back, from 9 to 10:30! Self-serve coffee, tea, muffins and breads will be available by donation. The ever popular luncheon with tea, sandwiches and specialty baked goods will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 and are available at the door.

If you have a craft that you think might be a hit, we have an area just for you. We invite everyone to get involved!

Contact Sherry Hutchins at 906-630-2207 or Bev Proulx at 906-440-7973 for more information.

Submitted by Bev Proulx

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS AND WISHES

Central Birthdays

October 1 - Myles Moral (5th)

October 3 - Diane Bell

October 5 - Angela Smart

October 7 - Bob LeCureux

October 8 - Bev Proulx

October 10 - Chris Larson (25th)

October 18 - Gary Horner

October 19 - Ben Jones

October 19 - Sarah Shadnaw

October 20 - Mark LaRoue

October 23 - Matthew Shadnaw

October 26 - Alex Rowell

October 28 - Sienna Baker (13th)

October 31 - Christine Smith

Central Anniversaries

October 5 - Barb and Jerry Cook (60th)

October 20 - Debbie and Art Smart (50th)



Algonquin Birthdays

October 5 - Marcia White

October 17 - Brad Crabb

October 19 - Mackenzie Anderson (19th)

October 21 - Michele Pratt

October 24 - Laura Anderson

October 25 - Abby Atkins Bloomquist



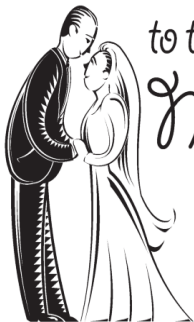
WEDDING BELLS



Courtney Arbic and Nick Coullard were married at Central United Methodist Church by Pastor Marty Johnston on August 5, 2023. Courtney's parents are Kim and Dan Arbic and her grandparents are Colleen and Bernie Arbic. Nick's parents are Elena Rasaiah and Jon Coullard.

Courtney and Nick will be making their home in Sault Ste. Marie.

Best Wishes
to the
Newlyweds



BAZAAR WORKSHOP

We have a month to go before our annual bazaar. Lori is back from vacation and is busy cutting wood for crafts. We have been busy creating beautiful ornaments, centerpieces and wall hangings.

The next 3 ½ months are a busy and exciting time in the life of the church, so join a women's circle, a Bible study, bazaar workshop or a church committee and you will be glad you did!

Jackie, Lori, Terri, Sharon, Debbie and Harriette

REBECCA CIRCLE

The Rebecca Circle meets on the 3rd Monday of the month, so in October, we will meet on the 16th. We will be continuing our video series, "Listen, Love, Repeat." We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. for refreshments, discussion and planning for the coming months. All women are welcome to join us. The top of our agenda will be our annual pie sale. This is our only fundraiser that enables us to buy gifts and groceries for families at Christmas and Easter. More information will be found by reading further in this newsletter.

Submitted by Jackie Willey

UPDATES ON ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THE ANCHOR HOUSE

Central's Adult Sunday School class has begun a new study on "The Chosen" television series. "The Chosen" is a seven season show that focuses on Jesus through the eyes of His followers. Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30 on each Sunday morning in the lounge next to the Fellowship Hall.

Lake State students have returned and Anchor House is learning to adapt to the changing schedules. Moving from Monday nights to Wednesday nights will allow last years members to attend and encourage continued growth in building a safe community to learn about Jesus. The new book study for this fall is based on Max Lucado's new book, "God Never Gives Up On You" that takes a look at the life of Jacob in the Old Testament. Sometimes we need the reassurance that God loves us in spite of the mistakes we make.

Submitted by Sue Anne Bartelsmeyer

THE CHURCH

If you go to church looking to become offended, you'll succeed.
If you go to church looking for places where people fall short, you'll find them.
If you go to church looking for imperfection, you'll see it.
But, if you go to church looking for an opportunity to worship alongside broken people (just like you), you'll find it.
If you go to church looking for a place to serve, you'll find one.
If you go to church to love people like Jesus, you can.
10/10 times...you find what you're looking for.
Look for Jesus!



Central United Methodist Church
FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesday, October 20, 2023

5:30-7:00 pm

*Join us for dinner and fellowship as we continue an 8-part multigenerational practice on what it means to **Make Peace.***

Upcoming Fall Family Night Dates:

October 20- Peacemakers Take a Step Back

November 15- Peacemakers Seek to Understand Others

December 13- Peacemakers Are Brave

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9)

*Once everyone has finished dinner, children and adults will separate for their lessons. Nursery is provided for those who are under four years old and may not be engaged in the lesson.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Fall Church Family Outing at Ditmyer’s Red Barn Farm
Sunday, October 8, 2023 2:00-4:00 p.m.
2664 W. 5 Mile Rd, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Pumpkins, Apples, & Hayrides, Oh My!

Gather with your Church family at this fun, Fall party located at Ditmyer’s Farm. There will be farm grown pumpkins, hay wagon rides, farm animals, corn field trail, pumpkin painting, corn sandbox, pumpkin bowling and smashing, apple slingshot, Pumpkin Plinko and more! All are welcome to attend this Church family gathering. ***Family admission and 2 activities per child will be provided by the Church.

Please RSVP to Family Ministry Coordinator, Jenny Shelley, at 904-466-1847, or send her an email at jennyshelley13@outlook.com.

CENTRAL UMC 2024 STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

During the month of October the Finance Committee will be providing information on the annual stewardship drive. The theme this year is taken from the hymn “What Gift Can We Bring.” There will a short presentation each Sunday using the four verses of the song. The first theme is about gifts and will explain how the process will proceed. The second verse is about the past, and the speaker will discuss his history with the church. The third verse is about the future, and a new member of Central will review his experiences since joining our congregation. The fourth Sunday, Pastor Marty will conclude the process, and the members and friends of Central will have the opportunity to present their pledges at the altar.



With the early results of the Stewardship drive last year showing a significant deficit in the budget and the necessity of having a "Second Mile" campaign, the Finance Committee decided it necessary to provide more information regarding the finances of the church, so updates on the financial condition will be regularly printed in the Flame. Another change that will be obvious to those looking at the pledge card is that behind the General Fund line there will be a number that shows the budget figure for that account. Also, the Apportionment line will indicate the dollar amount the church has been assigned by the Conference.

The Finance Committee asks that those who responded to the "Second Mile" prayerfully consider maintaining that level for the 2024 budget. The committee also asks that if a commitment was not increased this year, consideration be given to doing so for 2024.

The Finance Committee thanks all members and friends of Central for their continued support of the programs of our church, which are so important to our community.

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY!!

Art and Debbie Smart will celebrate their golden 50th anniversary on October 20, 2023. They were married at Central United Methodist Church by Rev. Ted Doane. Roberta Worley, Debbie's godmother, was the singer. Best man, Art's brother, Robert Smart, and Bridesmaid, Betty Smart, Debbie's sister-in-law, were the attendants. The reception was held at the Christopher Columbus Hall. Art and Debbie have a daughter, Angela, and a grandson, Alex Rowell.



ALGONQUIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1604 W Fourth Avenue
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Worship Servants for the month of October are:

Oct 1st - Communion Steward: Bernita Sibbald, and Greeter is Sandy Gaus

Oct. 8th - Liturgist Bev Atkins , Greeters are Bob & Bernita Sibbald, Coffee Hour is Sue Belleau

Oct. 15th - Greeter is Sue Belleau

Oct. 22nd - Liturgist is Bev Atkins, and Greeters are Mary Beth and Todd Vollick

Oct. 29th - Greeter is Ed Rousseau

News to Share:

Algonquin Women of Faith will be hosting a **Soup/Chili Dinner** on Sunday, October 22, at 5 p.m.

Algonquin Church received a couple of thank you notes for donations made from our Change Jar collections. They were from:

Families Against Narcotics - "Thank you so much for thinking of us and supporting our effort to help in Chippewa County."

UMCOR - "The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their responses would be "Thank You"."

Submitted by Bernita Sibbald

RALLY SUNDAY and hot dog luncheon was held on September 10th. There was also the Blessing of the Backpacks. Here are pictures of the event, thanks to Tom Robinson, photographer.



Blessing of the Backpacks

Enjoying the Feast



The grillers—Robin and Terry

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

Pumpkin Pie Dessert Squares

Crust: 1 box yellow cake mix (reserve 1 cup), 1/2 cup melted butter, 1 egg.
Mix well and press into a 9 x 13 pan

Filling: 1 lb 14 oz can pumpkin pie mix (3 c), 2 eggs, 2/3 cup milk.
Mix until smooth and pour over crust.

Topping: 1 cup cake mix, 1/4 cup sugar, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1/4 cup melted butter.
Mix and sprinkle over filling. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes.

Submitted by Kristen Hartman



REBECCA'S ANNUAL PIE SALE

On October 8th, following the church service, Rebecca Circle will hold their annual pie sale. We will do our best to create as many delicious pies as possible. Featured will be standard size pies, tart size pies and tart size chicken pot pies. And as we always do with the proceeds, they will be used to provide gifts and groceries for families at Christmas and Easter.

Pie Quotes:

1. "Family is like pecan pie, something sweet holding all the nuts together."
2. "You are the apple of my pie."
3. "Cherry pie is like duct tape, it fixes everything."
4. "Chicken pot pie, three of my favorite things."

Submitted by Jackie Willey



Giving statements will soon be sent out reporting what you have given to the church. Look them over carefully for any discrepancies, and call the church office if you find a mistake.

This will give you time to catch up on your pledge by the end of the year if you have fallen behind.

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

Return Service Requested
DATED MATERIAL

October 2023

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

SAULT STE. MARIE, MI

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**"AUTUMN LEAVES FALL,
BUT THE SON RISES "**

**This was on the street side of the sign board
at Algonquin United Methodist Church**

A blessed autumn to all of our church family!

