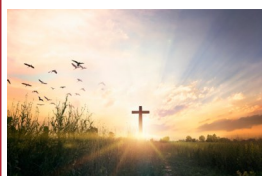




THE OUTLOOK

Central United Methodist Church

Volume 125 Issue 4



Resurrection Don't Come Easy

~Bishop David Bard (2023)

Many of you know I enjoy music, and for Lent 2021, I engaged in a unique discipline by putting together a playlist, a song each day from Ash Wednesday through Easter. I chose songs from my own music collection. I chose songs thinking of their themes or what they evoked, yet I chose them as they came to mind.

For those of us alive during that time, we will never forget the shock, pain, and tragedy of September 11, 2001. Following that tragedy, American composer John Adams was commissioned to write a piece of music. The result was [On the Transmigration of Souls](#). The composition was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2003, and the premiere recording with the New York Philharmonic received the 2005 Grammy for Best Classical Album. I've listened to that piece every Good Friday, the day we recall the death of Jesus, because, in the Christian faith, the death of Jesus is more than the brutal, violent death of a person. It signifies and symbolizes so much more. (Click on the above link to listen.)

Throughout Christian history, the precise meaning of the death of Jesus has been debated, but there is common agreement that something about his death heals, frees, and redeems. More fully, we are healed, freed, and redeemed through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This death of Jesus, symbolizes injustice and cruelty. One can symbolically pour into this death all the destructiveness, violence, and tragedy in our world. When we are honest with ourselves, we know that we have caused harm, we have failed to do the good we can do, and we have been cruel or callous. The cross—Good Friday—invites me, and it invites us all to look at the worst humans can do. It asks us to look realistically at our world and see where there is damage, cruelty, and indifference.

What I think is vitally important is that we hold Good Friday and Easter together. To know the full joy of Easter is to understand the horrific events of Good Friday. Good Friday invites us to look honestly at injustice, cruelty, indifference, callousness, and the world's brokenness. Crucifixion reminds us that God takes all that in. We cannot hide our brokenness and the world's brokenness from God. God sees, knows, and takes in our world—and then, there's resurrection! No matter the cruelty, callousness, injustice, indifference, pain, or damage, God is not done with us, and God's grace and love will rise up to heal, free, and redeem.

Because God raised Jesus, we know forgiveness and new beginnings; we live more lovingly; we live courageously toward a newer world and a more just and beloved community. Yes, we see discouragement and hope. We see ugliness and cruelty but end up with wonder, beauty, and mystery.

Friends, these are difficult days—an ongoing war in Ukraine, heartbreaking gun violence, persistent hunger and poverty, and denominational dissension. I invite you to feel, know, and experience Easter deeply and profoundly. Know it, feel it, and experience it in the deepest parts of your hearts, minds, and *souls* as to live as God's Easter people." Amen

On March 9th Pastor Rob shared these words in his sermon. "So why are we dealing with the theme '*How is it with your soul*' during Lent this year? We need to find new ways of growing together, spiritually. Especially in these days leading up to Easter—the season we call Lent. We need to find sacred times and safe spaces in our lives so we can pause and reflect and support one another. We might be too busy, too much of our lives. Or even if we do have time on our hands, we might not be taking the time to hear our hearts or tend to our souls. So, throughout this season of Lent, however you choose to give yourself that time, I want to ask one question of you (and I want you to ask this one question of yourself): *How is it with your soul?*"

The Editor has decided to create a playlist not only for herself, but hoping that during the month of April, you too will choose to click on some of these links and receive food and nourishment for your souls just like Bishop Bard did. These songs have been sung many times by our Sanctuary Choir lead by Troy Carpenter and John Mattson. You will find my list on page 4 of this newsletter. Please forgive me if an ad pops in at the beginning of any of these wonderful songs...it's a YouTube thing.

I have also placed a recording of *Summer Day* by Mary Oliver that Bishop David Bard quoted and based his entire Ash Wednesday message on. You will find that on page 4. If you were unable to attend this wonderful service, there is also a link to that service. It can also be found on our website: <https://www.muskegoncentralumc.org/>

Mission Possible for April 2025

April 6 — Mission of the Month
Native American Sunday

April 13 — Local Mission
Health West

April 20— Helping Hand Fund

April 27 — Hunger/UMCOR
Red Bird Clinic

Monthly Pantry Donation
Beyond the Walls \$\$\$\$

Mission Accomplished February 2024

Mission of the Month	
Water for Life	\$506.00
Local Mission	
Solid Rock	\$391.00
Helping Hand Fund	\$316.00
Hunger/UMCOR	
UM Rural Development	\$336.00
Pantry	
St. Gianna Baby Pantry	\$247.00
MAP	\$415.00

Reminder...mission offerings can be given any time during the month even though we list our offerings by the week.



During April **Call to Prayer** will focus on effectively praying for

others, our families and the many non-believers in our world.

This group meets the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. in the Conference Room. This group truly is a perfect way to feed the soul.

We would love to have you join us. All are welcome!

~ Dollie Hippchen, Group Leader



“Creating safe spaces for growth and community in Christ.”



Join Us for Holy Week!

Palm Sunday, April 13th

Worship at 9:30 a.m.
In-person and live-streamed

Holy Thursday, April 17th

Mediterranean Potluck at 6:30 p.m.
Please bring light fare food to pass.

Mediterranean Suggestions: Fresh vegetables (carrot/celery sticks, cucumber slices, cherry tomatoes, pepper slices (green, red, yellow), olives (black/green, stuffed or not), humus, cheese (cubed), pita bread (cut for dipping), smoked fish, eggs (hard-boiled, deviled), dried fruits (dates, figs, apricots), crackers, yogurt, fresh fruits (grapes, melon, pears), spinach dip, pomegranate juice, falafel... **these are just a few suggestions.**

Worship and Communion in the Chapel at 7:15 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18th

Worship at Community UMC at Noon (1614 Ruddiman Drive-North Muskegon)

Easter Sunday, April 20th

Worship at 9:30 a.m.
In-person and live-streamed

Central Is Busy Feeding Souls

Central does not lack in opportunities to feed the souls of others. We have an active “**Beyond the Walls Team**” whose focus is: Love, Justice and Service. This team makes Emergency Dinner Bags that get delivered to CUMC and Kids’ Food Basket. They have delivered 125 hats to two local elementary schools. Two bags of hats, gloves, socks, coats and boots have been delivered to 1M. The Fruitful Orphanage & Day Care Center in Africa also received candy, underwear and feminine products. The Shine English Medium School received pens and pencils. Want to help? See Keith and Liz Krol...they would love to talk with you.

And what about our **Mobile Food Pantry**? In March there were so many cars in our parking lot...some even waiting on the street to receive boxes filled with fresh potatoes, carrots, apples, grapefruit, soup, pasta, turnips, and even a gallon of milk. We have a faithful group of people who want to “feed” our community. Guess what? They also feed these people’s souls. The result? Their our soul is also fed!



GOING DEEPER

As one of Central’s small groups, Going Deeper focuses on book studies, usually with an accompanying video. We try to alternate studies of the Bible with those on topics of Christian living. Discussion leaders revolve every week, with all of us taking our turn.

We meet in the church conference room on the first and third Sunday evenings at 5:00, for 1-1 ½ hours. We generally take summer months off.

Equally as important to us as the study we’re involved in is the support and deepening of friendships among members. We learn from each other and care for each other. We would welcome new members, as we want to share the benefits we have found in the small group experience to as many people as we can.

~ Bonnie Borgeson, Small Group Leader

Worship at Central

Available online: **LIVE**

<https://www.facebook.com/muskegoncentralumc>

And on our YouTube Channel: **LATER IN THE DAY**

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZUQe2i7Fzj_tcwSG7Ednw/videos?view=2&flow=grid



Central Cares

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 — Brad Cotton
- 8 — Donna Koches
- 11 — Susan Every
- 13 — Lynn Lively
- 19 — Garry McKeen
- 24 — David Paulson
- 27 — Betsy Decker



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 — Lynn & Lisa Lively (2002)
- 5 — Basil & Sharon Lang (1975)



JOY BELLS BRINGS "JOY" BEYOND OUR WALLS

On March 9 the Joy Bells traveled down the street to Bethany Church and performed for their morning service. Liz, Sue, Carolyn, Susan, Brenda, Katie, Bonnie, JoLayne,

Brad, Julie and Mark (not pictured) believe that it's important to perform not only here, but "beyond our walls". We are so fortunate to have this wonderful group at Central. Bethany can say the same. Three of our ringers are from Bethany.

~Julie Husted, Director



Experience Clearer Sound in the Sanctuary Using AudioFetch!

1. Connect to our Guest WiFi (Password: Welcome!)
2. Download the AudioFetch App (Apple and Android)
3. Connect your hearing aids or headphones to your phone or tablet.
4. Open the AudioFetch App and start listening!

Click [HERE](#) to learn how to setup and use this app.

Hearing loop also available on the main floor.

Church Office Hours

Our regular office hours at the church.
Tuesday — Thursday 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.

APRIL CALENDAR

- 2 — Staff Mtg. 10:30 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 3 — Red Letter Christians 10:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 6 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Going Deeper 5:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 7 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
Women's Ensemble 6:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- 10 — Romeo's 8:30 a.m. (Carmen's Café)
Juliet's 9:00 a.m. (Cherokee Restaurant)
Blood Drive 11:00 a.m. (Lower Level)
- 13 — **Palm Sunday** 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Call to Prayer 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 14 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
Women's Ensemble 6:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- 15 — Outlook Deadline 8:00 a.m.
Book Club 10:00 a.m. (Library)
Building Team Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 17 — Red Letter Christians 10:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
Holy Thursday 6:30 p.m. (Parish Hall, 7:15 p.m. Chapel)
- 18 — **Good Friday Service** 12:00 p.m. (Community UMC)
- 20 — **EASTER Service** 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
- 21 — Mobile Food Pantry 4:30 p.m. (CUMC Parking Lot)
Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
Women's Ensemble 6:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- 22 — Kitchen Crew Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Parish Hall)
- 23 — Leadership Council 5:30 p.m. (Conference Room)
- 24 — Volunteer at Kids' Food Basket 9:30 a.m. (1537 S. Getty)
Blood Drive 11:00 a.m. (Lower Level)
- 27 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Call to Prayer 11 a.m. (Conference Room)
Beyond the Walls Work Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Parish Hall)
Mix & Match Team Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Library)
Going Deeper 5:00 p.m. (Conference Room)
- 28 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)

Special Request:

- ♥ Please keep Connie in the church office updated on any of the prayer requests you have made on behalf of your friends and family.
- ♥ **Where to send important information!**
Please send to all addresses.
- ♥ Juanita Joiner for the Newsletter:
jjoiner@muskegoncentralumc.org
- ♥ Connie Jones for the Church Calendar:
connie@muskegoncentralumc.org

Central United Methodist Church



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MUSKEGON CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST

For faster and more
convenient giving.



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Have news for the Outlook? See page 3 for submission addresses. Next Outlook deadline is **April 15**. Thank you!

LET'S FEED OUR SOUL WITH WORDS AND MUSIC

Juanita's Playlist for Lent:

[Be Still My Soul](#) (Vocal)
[Be Still My Soul](#) (Instrumental)
[It Is Well with My Soul](#)
[Beautiful Savior](#)
[Abide with Me](#)
[God So Loved the World](#)
[I Believe](#)

*I believe in the sun, even when, even when it's not shining.
I believe in love, even when, even when I don't feel it.
I believe in God, even when, even when God is silent.*

[Were You There](#)
[What Wondrous Love](#)
[Hallelujah Chorus](#)
[A Compilation of Hymns Played at Downside Abbey](#)

Why don't you created your own "playlist" using poems, scripture verses, pictures, or your choice in music. Anything that will "feed your soul". Amen

[Summer Day](#) read by Dr. Richard Deming. This poem leaves open many possibilities. Above all, "The Summer Day" challenges people to live with passionate purpose—whatever that purpose may be. ***"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"*** (Mary Oliver)

[Ash Wednesday Service at CUMC](#)

Bishop David Bard — Message: "It's Alright, Ma"