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2012

Winter Program Guide

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**For more information about Central Church,
please visit our website at
www.tcCentralumc.org**

From the Pastors

"Faith Grows best when we're together!"

Welcome to a new season of excellent Christian education offerings at Central Church. This is a new year. Some would argue it is lining up to be a frightening & perilous year what with the Mayan calendar predicting this to be the end of the world as we know it. However, if you browse the class offerings on the following pages, there is not one class designed to help you prepare for the end of the world. If anything, the church is about the business of helping you invest more deeply in the current world, to become of more use in this life as a spiritually enlightened person.

So please, read on. We are excited for this spate of offerings which range from drop-in classes on the parables, to retreats, to a running group who prays together, to parenting, to finance management, to stewardship of the planet, plus much more. More than information and concepts, the real treasure to be found here is in the community - the meeting of minds, hearts & intellects. We move toward spiritual maturity, in part, by working out the faith together. Faith grows best when we are together.

Our marching orders come from the vision statement of our worldwide United Methodist Church - "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world". This is why we offer each of these classes & conversations. Our hope, as your pastors who continue to be formed as well, is to see the fruits of faithful lives at work in our church.

Keep this booklet close at hand. Sign on for more than one class. Invite a friend to come along who might benefit as much as you. Let us mark the year 2012 as a great year, not to prepare for departure, but to invest more fully into life with God-loving neighbor, self, and Creation.

Excited for all that is to come,



Pastor Dale Ostema.



Pastor Chris Lane

Staff Directory

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Phone: (231) 946-5191
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Email: office@tccentralumc.org
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Pastors

Dale Ostema ext. 27 dale@tccentralumc.org
Senior Pastor

Chris Lane ext. 28 chris@tccentralumc.org
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Church Staff

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Office/Communications Coordinator

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Alline Beutler ext. 30 alline@tccentralumc.org
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Staff Directory, cont'd

Church Staff Cont'd

Brenda Ondrajka
Nursery Director

contact through church office

Jeff Cobb
Director of Music

jeffcobb@charter.net

Denise Edick
Website Administrator

daedick@charter.net

David Weeks
Lead Custodian

contact through church office

Bob McCutcheon
Assistant Custodian

contact through church office

Tom Bara
Organist/Choir Director

contact through church office

Chris Derks
Wedding Coordinator

contact through church office

Michael Coonrod
Choir Accompanist

contact through church office

Micha Bancroft
Youth Handbells/Choristers

micha.bancroft@gmail.com



Worship Points

Worship is Central to the faith journey. At Central Church, we offer three distinct Sunday morning worship services.

9:00 a.m. Early Traditional Worship

The early traditional worship service is held in the church sanctuary. This shorter service offers traditional liturgy, hymns and preaching. Holy Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the month.

11:00 a.m. Celebration Traditional Worship

This late morning worship service is held in the church sanctuary and offers traditional liturgy, hymns and preaching, along with the Chancel Choir anthem and a children's message. Holy Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the month.

9 & 11 a.m. Worship at The WELL

The WELL offers a casual and upbeat worship community. Music is led by our praise band. Along with preaching the service includes special moments of worship using video, drama, and other experiential components, which set the service apart from traditional worship.

Winter Message Series *in the sanctuary*

"Gospel Journeys"

1/8	Mark 1:4-11	New Creation on the Way
1/15	John 1:43-51	Come and See
1/22	Mark 1:14-20	Called to Follow
1/29	Mark 1:21-28	A New Teaching
2/5	Mark 1:29-39	Healing for All
2/12	Mark 1:40-45	Everyone is Looking for You
2/19	Mark 9:2-9	This is My Beloved Son
2/26	Mark 1:9-15	Journey in the Wilderness (First Sunday in Lent)
3/4	Mark 8:31-38	The Way of The Cross (Second Sunday in Lent)

Worship Points cont'd

Winter Message Series *at The WELL*

"God Makes Things New"

God is always in the business of bringing the new out of the old - in creation and in our lives. Come walk with us through Mark's Gospel as we consider the many ways Mark tells the story of God's anointed messenger who has come to usher in a new age. It can make us new once again.

- | | | |
|------|---------------|--|
| 1/8 | Mark 1:4-11 | A New Character Walks on Stage |
| 1/15 | Mark's Gospel | A New Prophet: Martin Luther King, Jr.
<i>(Guest Preacher: Dick Morrison)</i> |
| 1/22 | Mark 1:14-20 | A New Way to Fish |
| 1/29 | Mark 1:21-28 | A New Teaching |
| 2/5 | Mark 1:29-39 | A New Way to Charge Your Batteries |
| 2/12 | Mark 1:40-45 | A New Secret |
| 2/19 | Mark 9:2-9 | A New View of Your Old Life |

"Strong Medicine" (part 1 and 2)

- | | | |
|------|--------------|--|
| 2/26 | Mark 1:9-15 | Sometimes you have to enter Wilderness |
| 3/4 | Mark 8:31-38 | Sometimes you have to take on a Cross |

Lenten Questions: **Why?** *for all services*

- | | |
|------|--|
| 3/11 | Making Sense of God's Will: Questions on Suffering
(Third Sunday in Lent) |
| 3/18 | Making Sense of God's Will: Questions on Prayer
(Fourth Sunday in Lent) |
| 3/25 | Making Sense of God's Will: Questions on Direction
(Fifth Sunday in Lent) |
| 4/1 | Palm – Passion Sunday Worship |

Worship Points cont'd

Easter Sunday Worship Services

"Who Are You Looking For?"

- 4/8 7:00 am Sunrise Worship
(at Greilickville Park Shelter, next to marina)
9:00 and 11:00 Worship at The Well
9:00 and 11:00 Worship in The Sanctuary

Spring Message Series *for all services*

"The Seven Next Words:

Finding Hope in the Resurrection Sayings"

- 4/15 The Seven Next Words: Don't Be Afraid
4/22 The Seven Next Words: What Are You Concerned About?
4/29 The Seven Next Words: Peace Be with You
5/6 The Seven Next Words: Go Into The World
5/13 The Seven Next Words: Have You Caught Any Fish?
5/20 The Seven Next Words: Wait for the Gift
5/27 Pentecost Power: The Gift is Given

Starting Points

Starting points are places on the journey that are intended to help guests begin their connection at Central, and in some instances, their journey in Christ.

Information Points—Welcome Sessions

One-hour Welcome Sessions will meet on the following Sundays at 12:30 p.m. (following morning worship, child care provided):

- February 5
- March 4
- April 1
- May 6



On the above dates, the Pastors will host a brief information sharing session for church guests. This is an opportunity to hear the pastors' vision for the church, ask questions, take a tour of the building and meet new friends.



Starting Point Groups

Starting Point Groups are an opportunity to learn about the church and make connections with others who are exploring deeper involvement at Central. These easy entry two-week groups offer guests a way to make friends and learn about Christian community. Participants are then invited to attend the next Merging Point Membership Session. Sign-up in the church office, child care provided.

Winter Starting Points group sessions:

- Session One:
February 1 and 8, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Session Two:
April 11 and 18, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Merging Points

These sessions are designed for guests wanting to join Central Church as members. The two-week classes focus on sharing information about Central Church and your place in it.



Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be observed on the following Sundays:

- February 19
- April 15
- May 27

If you are interested in Baptism into the Christian faith, please contact the church office in advance.

Membership Sessions

Membership Sessions meet on the following Sundays at 12:30 p.m. (following morning worship):

- Session One:
 - February 12 and 19 (classes)
 - February 26 (reception)
- Session Two:
 - May 13 and 20 (classes)
 - May 27 (reception)

On the reception Sundays, new members will be presented to the congregation during the 11:00 traditional worship service.

Merging Point Ministry Match Interviews

Ministry Match interviews are an opportunity for new members to meet with a "ministry coach" in order to help them determine points of study and service to which they are called. Contact the church office for more information.

Connecting Point Groups

Connecting Points are places on the journey for members and friends to move deeper into their relationship with God and the faith community.

For complete descriptions and contact information for each group, go to the church website at www.tcCentralumc.org, click on "Get Connected", and follow the links, or contact Alline Beutler, Director of Adult Christian Education at 946-5191 or Nan Horstman, Connection Team Coordinator at 946-9314.

JUNCTION GROUPS



Where people meet to grow in the spirit of Christ.

These groups focus on fellowship, spiritual growth and study.

Current groups include:

- Women of Grace
- Journey
- Yokefellows
- Women's Retreats
- Memory Keepers
- The Men's Room

Based on Central Church's commitment to small group ministry, we hope to expand the number of groups focusing on fellowship, spiritual growth and study. Maintaining an ongoing, but flexible structure, each group will identify its own particular emphasis and direction, with assistance from church leaders if desired.

VIEW POINT GROUPS *are Bible or thematic studies for the purpose of spiritual growth and equipping persons for the Christian journey. Participants will be able to make friends, explore their faith, and be exposed to different perspectives.*

Groups include:

- Adult Education Classes
- Disciple Bible Study classes
- Thematic Studies
- All-Church Reads
- Faithlink Discussion Groups



Connecting Point Groups cont'd

ACTIVITY POINT GROUPS *are activity and fellowship based groups.*

Current groups include:

- Book groups
- Sports groups (golf, volleyball, softball, hiking)
- Dinner groups
- Needlework groups
- Table/Card game groups
- Parents (and children) Together Having fun (PaTH)



SERVING POINT GROUPS *provide opportunities for ministry and mission in the church and community.*

Current groups include:

- Adventurers
- Administrative Boards and Teams
- Worship and Music
- Education Teams
- Communication and Cyber Teams
- Welcome Team
- Connection Team
- Mission Team and Hunger Teams
- Caring Ministries Teams
- Kids Hope
- Community Outreach Teams
- Community Meal Teams
- Reconciling Ministries Group
- Creation Stewards
- Cookie Baking Team
- United Methodist Women
- Men's Breakfast Group
- Photographer group



Adult Connecting Points

The POINT is to grow!

Adult Christian Education is an important ministry of Central United Methodist Church. Whether you have been in Sunday School your whole life or you are new to faith, our classes and groups will challenge and stretch you on your spiritual journey. You will find examples of Starting Points, Junction Points and View Points groups highlighted.

Refer to our church website: www.tcCentralumc.org
for the most up-to-date information.

Opportunities during the week:

The Men's Room



A Junction Points Group

Leaders: Pastor Chris and Bruce Falconer

Thursday evenings through the school year (starting on January 5, 2012)

7:00 - 8:00 in the Chapel

Join our lively discussions on what it means to be a man seeking to have a Christ like character. We'll base our discussions on wisdom from scripture and life experiences. Copies of the book, "God's Man" will be available, which we'll use as a jumping-off point in our discussions. Some of the areas covered include: relationships, the church, work, community, time, finances, emotions, problems, and one's body. If you are open to explore a deeper faith life, alongside other men, please join us.

Winter Women's Retreat



A Junction Points Group

Leaders: Rabbi Chava Bahle and Pastor Robin Long

The evening of January 27 – mid afternoon on January 28

Location: Omena House Retreat Center

A wonderful program is planned for us on the topic of Reconciliation. This is sure to be a fun time of discussion, fellowship, good food and laughter. The fee for the retreat includes all meals and the program. \$85 is the fee for women staying the whole weekend and \$50 for women who would like to attend the Friday evening and Saturday sessions without staying overnight. Please sign up in the church office, space is limited.

Adult Connecting Points cont'd

Proverbs and Parables

A View Points Group



Leader: Alline Beutler

Mondays mornings January 30-March 5

9:30-10:30 in Fellowship Hall

Here is a new way to see the Bible. It is amazing to discover how the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament fit together, this study does a great job of connecting the parables that Jesus told with the wisdom of the proverbs. Whether you have studied the Bible for years, or would like a place to get started, this class will be meaningful to you. This study meets during community outreach. Allow this study and experience to stretch you as we connect with our community outreach guests.

Prayer that Means Something

A View Points Group



Friday mornings March 2-30

11:00-noon

Join Pastor Chris and others for study and discussion on the transformative power of prayer. We will hear from a variety of wise authors, including the Companions in Christ workbooks. This class is designed for anyone desiring to deepen a prayer life, and "enlarge our toolbox" for sources of prayer for ourselves and others.

Run For God



An Activity Points Group

Leaders: Ann Porter, Matt Johnston, Denise Edick and Emily Taphouse

Tuesday evenings starting on April 17 & continuing 13 weeks

5:30-7:00 p.m. (meet in the church lounge)

This program is designed for all levels of runners, even those who have never run before. Participate in the program to learn about the parallels in enduring a sport like running and enduring your faith. It should be a great balance of fellowship, devotion and physical exercise. Plus, you get a cool t-shirt! We will finish by running the Cherry Festival 5K together on July 14.

Spring Women's Retreat



A Junction Points Group

Leader: Ruth Jones

April 27 & 28, an overnight retreat at Lake Louise Camp

This spring, we'll join the district UMW spring retreat at Lake Louise. Ruth Jones is sure to provide an inspirational and thought provoking program. As we get closer, more details will be available in the church newsletter and bulletins.

Adult Connecting Points cont'd

Justice For Our Neighbors Workshop



A View Points Group

Leaders: Liz Balck & Laura Rampersad from JFON West Michigan

April 20

7:00-8:00pm in the church lounge

Join us for "Immigration 101". This presentation will provide a basic overview of current immigration laws and how they effect our community. This is also an opportunity to learn more about how Justice For Our Neighbors provides direct services, education and advocacy on the topic of immigration around the country.

Justice For Our Neighbors Citizenship Clinic



A Serving Points Group

Leaders: Liz Balck & Laura Rampersad from JFON West Michigan

April 21

Fellowship Hall

Times and further details to be announced soon. This is an opportunity for some residents of Northern Michigan to receive services to support them on their citizenship process. Volunteers from our congregation and Traverse City community will be trained that morning and the clinic will run for several hours after the training. Please watch the News and Events and bulletin for more information.

Sunday Morning Opportunities:

Faithlink



A View Points Group

Various leaders on a rotating schedule

January 8-May 20 (no class March 25, April 1 or April 8)

9:45-10:45 in Room 305

This class looks at current events in our world and applies Christianity, and more specifically United Methodist views, to connect life and faith. A Faithlink article is published weekly and emailed on Tuesdays. If you would like to be added to the group that receives this weekly article, please email Alline Beutler (alline@tccentralumc.org).

Foundations Class

This weekly class provides opportunities for participants to read and discuss the Bible. Whether you are new to faith, or have studied the Bible for years, we hope, through a variety of studies, we can support one another as we move down the road of our own faith journey. Most sessions stand alone, so come when you can.

Adult Connecting Points cont'd

Nooma



A View Points Group

Leader: Kathy Gray

January 8-February 5

9:45-10:45 in the Church Library

Nooma is a series of short videos by a pastor named Rob Bell from Mars Hill Church in Grand Rapids. They are very well done and thought provoking, which leads to good conversation. Join us as we watch a Nooma video and discuss it each week.

Parables and Proverbs



A View Points Group

Leaders: Katy Ramsdell and Nancy Perry

February 12-March 18

9:45-10:45 in the Church Library

Here is a new way to see the Bible. It is amazing to discover how the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament fit together, this study does a great job of connecting the parables that Jesus told with the wisdom of the proverbs. Whether you have studied the Bible for years, or would like a place to get started, this class will be meaningful to you. Each of these lessons stand alone, please come when you are able, even if you can't commit to a 6 week class.

Primetime Parables



A View Points Group

Leaders: Lois and Nick Edson, Char and Fred Hoxie

April 12-May 20

9:45-10:45 in the Church Library

You won't want to miss this fun opportunity to watch clips from favorite TV shows like "I Love Lucy" and "The Andy Griffith Show". Looking at Scriptural references, the moral of various episodes will be discussed in terms of Christian faith. The class is sure to be a combination of laughter, fellowship and Biblical foundation.

Adult Connecting Points cont'd

Building Faithful Families

*"Point your kids in the right direction—when they're old, they won't be lost."
Proverbs 22:6 Don't you wish you had some help living out this timeless proverb?
At Central, we hope to provide support to parents of children at home, through
classes, discussions and activities. Come to connect with other parents and talk
through some of parenting's biggest questions.*

Parenting on Point



A View Points Group

January 8-March 11

9:45-10:45 in room 301

Based on the book, Parenting On Point: Leading Your Family Along God's Path, this class is planned for parents who have children birth through high school. In each lesson, there is an opportunity to gain strategies to keep your family anchored to important values while keeping God the center of your lives. Another benefit is the chance to connect with other parents in our church family.

Go Green, Save Green



A View Points Group

April 12-May 20

9:45-10:45 in room 301

The weekend of June 10, 2012, we have the wonderful privilege of inviting author Matthew Sleeth to Traverse City and Central Church. His calling is teaching about being good stewards of God's earth. Join us on Sunday mornings in the spring as we look at a book Go Green, Save Green by Matthew's wife, Nancy Sleeth. You will come away from each class with new, practical ideas about how you and your family can make changes in your home and lives to "Go green" and put your faith into action.

Family Sunday School (New class this winter!)



For little ones and their parents

A View Points Group

Jan 22, Feb. 12, Feb 26, March 11, April 22, May 13

9:45-10:45 in room 104

Take this opportunity to recall Bible lessons or to learn them for the first time along with your toddler or preschool child. Enjoy hands on activities that bring these important Bible stories to life for your child and you at the same time. Make connections with other families and allow yourself this opportunity for your own spiritual growth.

Adult Connecting Points cont'd

Wednesday evening Opportunities:

Young Adults of Central and Beyond



A Junction Points Group

Leader: Aaron Edick

The First Wednesday of the month at 7:30

This group consists of 18-25 year olds that come from different backgrounds and faith histories but share the common thread of trying to make their way in a world that promises much but sometimes fails to deliver. The group is encouraged to share life experiences and to build relationships that are positive and inclusive. They usually meet at Horizon Book Store in downtown Traverse City. For more information, or to be added to the group list for upcoming meetings, please contact Aaron bigguy12321@gmail.com.

Justice for the Poor



A View Points Group

Leader: Allen Horstman

January 4-February 8

6:30-7:30 in room 305

This study recaptures the biblical vision that links poverty with justice. Jesus' life and teaching shows a deep compassion toward the poor and marginalized. His messages often highlight the injustices done to the poor and the prejudices the well-off have against them. How can we learn from the poor? What is our responsibility to care for the poor and to advocate for justice on their behalf? Leave this class with the feeling of empowerment to take action.

Financial Peace University



A Junction Points Group

Leader: Keith Gillings and Joe Durocher

January 18-April 18 (No class March 28)

Preview sessions January 4 at 6:30 and January 8 at 12:30 in the chapel

6:30-8:30 in the chapel

Dave Ramsey's financial class that teaches how to manage your money in order to pay off debt, start or increase a savings account and budget to give money to your church and community.

Class members purchase a kit for \$93, including a workbook, CDs and Dave Ramsey's best selling book. Sign up in the church office.

Adult Connecting Points cont'd

Cabin Fever Fun Night

An Activity Points Group

February 15

6:30-7:30 in various locations throughout the church

You won't want to miss this intergenerational night of fellowship in midwinter, just as we are feeling antsy for spring. Activities are sponsored by the Health Ministry Team and will focus on wellness, health and fun!



Why? Making Sense of God's Will

A View Points Group

Leader: Pastor Dale

February 29-March 21

6:30-7:30 in room 305

Using the book Why? by author Adam Hamilton, this class will address those persistent "God questions" that disturb us when problems and suffering come. Topics include, "Where is God when my prayers go unanswered?" "Why is God so hard to understand?" "Where is God when the innocent suffer?" When easy answers fail us and long held beliefs have left us empty, Hamilton's thoughts will lead us to find God's presence and help.



Like Meets Like -- Progressive Christians Dialog

A View Points Group

Leader: Karen Mars

April 4-May 9

6:30-7:30 in room 305

This class provides a chance for Progressive Christians to talk about our beliefs in a comfortable environment. Some subjects to be shared are Resurrection, Divinity of Jesus, Jesus' Main Message, Atonement, Salvation and more.



Serve God, Save the Planet

A View Points Group

Leaders: John Flesher and Darcy Dewling

May 2-May 23

6:30-7:30 in room 305

This June, we will welcome author Matthew Sleeth to our church and community. In preparation for his visit, join the Creation Stewards for this class based on one of Sleeth's books. In Serve God, Save the Planet, we learn about how our own personal responsibility, living simply and taking care of God's Creation, can go a long way towards making positive change in our environment. This class is sure to provide, hopeful, inspirational discussion and practical strategies we as the church can use as we work together to head God's word.



Adult Connecting Points cont'd

Building Faithful Families

"Point your kids in the right direction—when they're old, they won't be lost."

Proverbs 22:6 Don't you wish you had some help living out this timeless proverb?

At Central, we hope to provide support to parents of children at home, through classes, discussions and activities. Come to connect with other parents and talk through some of parenting's biggest questions.

Kid Unique



A View Points Group

Leaders: Beth Footh and Dori Gillings

January 11-February 15

6:15-7:45 in room 106

Are you a parent of children in middle and high school? The Kid Unique program equips parents to help their children to grow into who God made them to be. Cost of the class is \$15/person or \$20/couple to cover the cost of the materials.

Parenting is a Journey



A View Points Group

February 20-May 23 (No class on March 28)

6:30-7:30 in room 105

These Wednesday evening discussions will focus on a variety of topics that are helpful to parents of children at home. This will be a great follow up to the Becoming a Love and Logic Parent class, as some of the resources we will use are from the Love and Logic Institute, though the class is not a pre-requisite. Join us for this new opportunity to be in conversation with other parents facing similar joys and challenges as you.

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent



A View Points Group

Leaders: Kelly and Matt Johnston

April 4-May 23

6:15-7:45 in room 106

Come away from this class with some specific strategies and practical suggestions to lower stress and make parenting more enjoyable. Class size is limited, please call the church office to sign up. A fee of \$12/person or \$20/couple is charged to offset the cost of materials. Financial assistance is available.

Adult Connecting Points cont'd

Wednesday Evening Presentations

A Conversation about Ethics



A View Points Group

Leader: Corey Sanderson, professor at NMC

January 4

6:30-7:30 in the church lounge

Today we are confronted with a vast array of choices: from stem cell research to gay marriage, from Physician-Assisted Suicide to the legalization of marijuana. How do we decide? Watch the news and it seems as if lying, cheating, dishonesty and scandals have become the norm. Why is it that our weaknesses seem to win out? This evening's discussion will offer some tools to make sense of these new situations as well as point to what 'a good life' looks like.

Corey J. Sanderson holds a B.A. in Philosophy, a M.Div. in Religious Studies and a S.T.M. in Theology, Philosophy and Ethics. He has been teaching Ethics, Philosophy and World Religion courses at Northwestern Michigan College since 2005.

Grand Traverse Bay Watershed



A View Points Group

Leader: Maureen McManus, Program Associate

The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay

January 11

6:30-7:30 in the church lounge

Join us to find out about the Watershed Center including it's missions, goals, and objectives. We will learn about the Watershed's major Programs that benefit our community: watershed planning, Baykeeper program, and water quality monitoring.

Evergreen Bottle Company



A View Points Group

Leader: Lisa Carlson, Owner of Evergreen Bottle Company

January 18

6:30-7:30 in the church lounge

Come to this presentation about a local new company that cleans and reuses wine bottles in Traverse City. You will learn about interesting and enthusiastic ways they are finding to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Adult Connecting Points cont'd

Family Love Letters



A View Points Group

Leaders: Vicki L. Beam and Matt Breimayer, Representatives of Fortitude Wealth Planners, LLC

January 25 and February 1

6:30-7:30 in the church lounge

The Family Love Letter booklet is a lasting and important gift to your family, all the vital information your loved ones need in the event of your death or incapacitation. Come to this two part program and you will be well on your way through the process of creating this important file. This is great step to take before or after you've done the 5 Wishes Workshop.

Estate Planning: Following your life through General Estate Planning, Assisted Living- & Long-term care planning

A View Points Group

Leader: Jeff Wingfield, Elder Law Attorney



February 8

6:30-7:30 in the church lounge

Estate planning is something important for all of us, but is one of those things that seems to always be put off for another time. Jeff Wingfield gives us important information about getting this process started or updating what we have in place. For those in our congregation who attend the presentation, Jeff is offering free will drafting.

Boardman River Restoration Project



A View Points Group

Leader: Frank Dituri, Project Manager for the Boardman River Restoration Project

February 29

6:30-7:30 in the church lounge

Come to learn about the Boardman Dam removal and the restoration of the Boardman River Watershed.

Adult Connecting Points cont'd

Transition Coaching

A View Points Group



Leader: Grant Porteous, Pine Rest

March 7

6:30-7:30 in the church lounge

Come for a fun, interactive evening and learn how to make major changes in your life one small step at a time! Using tools and principles from the fields of Life and Executive Coaching, this workshop will teach you to: Rank the key areas of your life right now; clarify changes you would like to begin making; and identify steps to start taking your life from the ordinary to the extraordinary!

Justice For Our Neighbors

A View Points Group



March 14

6:30-7:30 in the church lounge

From Leviticus 19: 33-34 "Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God." Join us as we continue to explore the possibility of starting a ministry at Central Church, providing immigration assistance to our neighbors from other countries. Bring your questions and come hear from a representative of Justice For Our Neighbors.

Protecting yourself from potential scams

A View Points Group



Leader: Detective Sgt. Derek Sutherin

March 21

6:30-7:30 in the church lounge

Unsolicited phone calls asking for money can be hard to refuse. Learn from Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department Detective Sgt Derek Sutherin how to handle such calls and other potential scams common in the Traverse City area.

Residential Tree Care

A View Points Group



Leader: Tom Deering, Certified Arborist

April 4

6:30-7:30 in the church lounge

This presentation will give home owners information about taking care of the trees on our property. Come to hear specifics pertaining to trimming and removal, storm damage repair, tree health care, fertilizer, insect and disease control, and tree transplanting. Tom also has information about using mulch products and compost.

Adult Connecting Points cont'd

What Has Formed Me: Interview about Faith and Life

A View Points Group

April 25 and May 23



6:30-7:30 in the church lounge

We have all been influenced by our life experiences. Each of us has important stories to tell. Join us on these two Wednesdays as we hear the stories that have shaped the faith of a few friends in our congregation.

“A Day Apart” Prayer Retreat



A Junction Points Group

Leader: Pastor Chris and Nancy LeValley

April 28, 2012 at the Presbyterian Church of Traverse City

9:30 AM until 3:00 PM

Format: Walking indoor canvas labyrinth, silence, discussion, meal, worship

Cost: \$15 to cover meal and materials

Join other churches for a brief prayer retreat within the city, using an ancient prayer form, the labyrinth. Our theme for the day “Embodied Prayer” will be led by Jane Vernon from Kalamazoo First UMC who has studied in Chartre, France the ways the Christian Church has adopted the labyrinth as a way to pray.

When and How to use the Emergency Room



A View Points Group

Leader: Dr. Dale Blum

May 16

6:30-7:30 in the church lounge

When you are sick or hurt, do you ever wonder if you should go to the emergency room or wait to see your family doctor? This discussion will describe the conditions and situations where an emergency room is the facility that can make an important difference in the outcome of different illnesses and injuries. The reasons for not utilizing the emergency room for less urgent medical needs will also be discussed as well as alternative choices to obtain this level of care.

Children & Youth Connecting Points

At Central Church we are committed to creating the best environment possible for faith in Christ to be formed in a child. Beginning with baptism, to Sunday school classes, to Confirmation year, to youth group discussions, to mission teams, liturgist and leadership opportunities, there is a lifespan to growing a faith as one grows toward adulthood.

Nursery

Our loving nursery staff is committed to providing for 0-5 year old children in a safe and caring environment for all Sunday worship services, Sunday school and Wonderful Wednesday classes. If child care is needed for additional church events, arrangements can be made in advance. Please call the church office. Our nursery is located on the lower level, off the Cass Street foyer and offers newly refurbished areas for infants, toddlers and preschool aged children. For parental comfort and constant contact throughout the church, a pager system is utilized.

Worship Opportunities

Children's church

Following Children's time during the 11:00 services

Leaders: Paula Blank and Laura Oblinger

3-4 year old children Room 104 Lower nursery level

Kindergarten-5th grade Room 302 3rd floor

Children at Central are encouraged to worship in many ways and age appropriate practices can be found in Children's Church! Children will explore the same topic the adults are hearing about, in ways they can grasp and use in their lives; through games, activities, crafts and music. Goals include memorizing scripture, helping with community outreach projects and making new friends in the spirit of Christ. Children will join the congregation on Communion Sunday, the first Sunday of the month, to participate in that tradition with their families.

Children & Youth Connecting Points

Children's Ministries *for those enrolled in pre-school through 5th grade*

Education Opportunities

Sunday school

Sunday mornings, 9:45 – 10:50

No class on Jan 1, March 25, April 1, April 8. Last class day is May 20

- Pre-school Room 104 Lower nursery level
- K-1 Room 105 Lower nursery level
- 2-3 Room 309 3rd floor
- 4-5 Room 308 3rd floor

Sunday school is a welcoming and loving environment where all children can learn the joy, love and forgiveness that are offered to them through Jesus and their faith in Christian community. Central uses the Live Big Curriculum where each lesson is based on three BIG truths: God is a great big God, God loves us with a great big love, and we are part of God's great big world.

Each week K through 5th graders meet at 9:45 in room 306 as a large group to worship with song and dance. At 10:00, students will disperse into their individual classrooms to focus on the weekly bible story through media, art, lesson books, games and skits. To learn more about the Live BIG program, you can visit www.ilivebig.com.

Friends are always welcome at Central, but planned "bring a friend to Sunday school" days are designated by donuts, juice and special activities. Grab a BFF and share your Sunday school experience February 26th and April 22nd!

Family Sunday School (New class this winter!)

For little ones and their parents

A View Points Group

Jan 22, Feb. 12, Feb 26, March 11, April 22, May 13

9:45-10:45 in room 104

Take this opportunity to recall Bible lessons or to learn them for the first time along with your toddler or preschool child. Enjoy hands on activities that bring these important Bible stories to life for your child and you at the same time. Make connections with other families and allow yourself this opportunity for your own spiritual growth.

Children & Youth Connecting Points

Fun and Fellowship

Hero's Elementary Youth Group

Wednesdays, 6:15-8:00 PM

Room 301

Leader: Ann Kalat

Bring a friend and come on down to the youngest youth group around!!!

1st to – 5th graders are invited to enjoy fun, fellowship, games and spiritual growth after the Wonderful Wednesday meal. The Fruit of the Spirit Self Control is the common thread that links all the gatherings this year and it's amazing to see how kids take to activities that develop this trait! Heroes allows children to experience the love of God, the warmth of friends and a mid-week "filling station" for their soul.

Sparrow story time

Fridays, January 6th – June 1st

No gathering on March 2nd, March 23rd, March 30th or April 6th

9:30-10:30 AM

Preschool room 104

Leader: Ann Porter

Preschoolers and their adult companions are invited to explore God's creations through stories, snack, games, crafts and free play. Designed to open little eyes to all God has given us, as well as meet new friends and become comfortable in the preschool room.

Special Events

Parents' Night Out

Jan. 20th, Feb. 17th, March 16th, April 20th and May 18th

6:00-9:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

Leaders: Central's nursery staff

Imagine starting out eating pizza for dinner, creating something jazzy in arts and crafts, playing a few games then settling down to an age appropriate movie to end the evening. That's Parents' Night Out in a nutshell. An anticipated night for both parents and kids. Friends are welcome. Please visit the church website to reserve your spot now!

Children & Youth Connecting Points

Family Movie Night

February 10th

6:00 PM dinner, 6:45 movie

Fellowship Hall

Mark the date and enjoy a simple pizza and veggie dinner before settling in to watch a “newly released on DVD” rated G movie. Feel free to invite friends, wear lounge clothes and bring a pillow or blanket! Save room for popcorn, and plan on relaxing.

Palm Processional

Sunday, April 1st

Beginning of the 11AM Traditional Service

Gathering place

On the Sunday before Easter, all children are invited to participate in a short re-creation of Jesus entering Jerusalem by waving palms and joining the congregation in chanting “Hosanna”. Children will process to the altar from the Gathering Place to enjoy Children’s time with Pastor Dale.

Ministry opportunities

Acolytes

11:00 Traditional service

An acolyte carries the light into the sanctuary at the beginning of the worship service and carries it from the sanctuary at the end of worship. This training takes place during one of the Third Grade Bible classes and offers another opportunity for our children to be active participants in worship. If your child is interested in becoming an acolyte, please contact Ann Porter in the church office.

Scripture readers

9:00 and 11:00 Traditional services

Second Sunday of the month

Central encourages youth to be a part of our worship services and one of the more visual ways is reading the morning’s scripture reference prior to the pastors’ sermon. If your child is interested in becoming a scripture reader, please contact Ann Porter in the church office.

Children & Youth Connecting Points

Student Ministries *for those enrolled in 6th thru 12th grades*

Education Opportunities

Sunday School

Sunday mornings, 9:45 – 10:50

No class on Jan 1, March 25, April 1, April 8. Last class day is May 20

Friends are always welcome at Central, but planned “bring a friend to Sunday school” days are designated by donuts, juice and special activities. Grab a BFF and share your Sunday school experience February 26th and April 22nd!

6th - 8th grades

Rotating Leadership group

Fellowship Hall room B

Encouraged to explore Christianity, the Re:Form curriculum will challenge students to wrestle with the theological questions that they are yearning to ask, but not sure they should, in a safe and comfortable environment. A DVD episode will start off the lesson, and then move to hands on activities and discussion time.

9th - 12 grades

Leader: Aaron Edick

High school youth room off Fellowship hall

The LinC curriculum examines the latest music, movies, news, and current events through a biblical lens. Designed to engage the youth with a topic that they understand and that is relevant to their world, then, takes them deeper into Bible study, equipping them to evaluate their culture with a biblical perspective.

Wednesday evening opportunities

9-12th grades MLV

Leader: Pastor Chris

Each Wednesday except for Generation Change (see below) and March 28th

High School youth room Students consume 7.5 hours of music and media every day. Most of that media consumption involves music in one form or another: Songs. CDs. Downloads. YouTube. TV. Soundtracks.

InterlinC's Music Video Loop is used to discuss today's music in a Christian context, to reinforce the Biblical truths that Central is working to instill, instead of tearing it down. Eye opening, energetic and upbeat!

Children & Youth Connecting Points

Dave Ramsey's Generation Change

Leader: Zack Wessels

Wednesdays, Jan 25th – Feb. 15th

6:30-8:00

High school youth room

Generation Change is an entertaining, informative youth bible study that shows today's students how money really works, how God views money, and how to grow into responsible young adults who are ready to embrace all of God's blessings.

Fun and Fellowship

6th - 8th grades youth group

Leaders: Gary Dluge, Marla Gerber and Beth Footh
Ocean Room

Youth group meets Wednesdays during the school year following our church family meal. Activities include guided discussions, field trips, service opportunities, retreats and opportunities to develop one's Christian faith walk. For a detailed calendar, please see the Middle School page on our website.

9th - 12th grades youth group

Leaders: Tom and Leann Fountain and Pastor Chris
High School youth room

Sundays 6:30-8:00 pm during the school year

A mix of discussion, fun & service to others. For a detailed calendar, please see the Middle School page on our website.

Special events

Youth Winter Retreat

Chaperoned by Gary Dluge and Marla Gerber

January 13 – Jan 15th

Camp Barakel in Fairview, MI.

Join us for a weekend designed just for teens! Along with chapel sessions and breakout discussions, we will enjoy outdoor activities like tubing, cross-country skiing, skating and hockey. The fireplace and game room are bonuses!! Check out www.campbarakel.org for more info.

Children & Youth Connecting Points

Mission Possible Intergenerational Mission Trips

Spring Break: Joplin, MO Disaster Relief

Trip Leader: Kurt Pellegrino, 231-922-2997
keys-kurt@chartermi.net

Who: Anyone 14 or older or youth 8-13 with a family member

When: March 23-30, 2012

How: Travel via church van or arrange for private transportation

What: Assist in re-building efforts with side trips to area attractions including Branson!

Accommodations: Area families and churches

Estimated Cost: \$500 (could be less; plan on 50% out-of-pocket)

Covenant: 25 hours group fundraising

Summer: NYC Hungry & Homeless

Trip Leader: Chris Lane, 231-313-4480
chris@tcCentralumc.org

Who: Anyone 14 or older or youth 8-13 with a family member

When: June 15-22, 2012

How: Travel via church van or arrange for private transportation.

What: Work with agencies that serve the poor of New York City

Accommodations: Area church

Estimated Cost: \$500 (could be less; plan on 50% out-of-pocket)

Covenant: 25 hours group fundraising

Leadership opportunities

We expect our youth to serve others as they are gifted. Sometimes this is behind the scenes; sometimes out front as leaders. Roles as worship leader, scripture reader, musician, members of various committees are a few examples where our youth serve the Church. If a leadership role is of interest to you, please speak to Pastor Chris or Ann Porter to find the right fit.

Music at Central

I would like to extend an invitation to YOU to join one of our music ensembles, everyone is welcome – and, as they say: “No Experience Necessary!” If you have any questions, please call me at 938-1591, or email me at jeffcobb@charter.net. More information about our ensembles is below.

Jeff Cobb

Director of Music

Chancel Choir

Our Chancel Choir is open to singers of all ages and rehearses Wednesday evenings at 7:45p.m. and sings at the 11:00a.m. service. We are always happy to have new singers join us! Please email Tom Bara at baratg@interlochen.org for more info.

Adult Handbell Choir

Our Adult Handbell Choir is open to any Adult with an interest in ringing Handbells. We rehearse every Wednesday evening at 7:00p.m. and perform throughout the year. New ringers are encouraged to come join us! We are a very supportive and patient group – if you’re interested in learning to ring, or have any questions, please email Jeff Cobb at jeffcobb@charter.net.

Youth Handbell Choir

Our Youth Handbell Choir is open to students in 7th-12th grade. We rehearse every Wednesday at 5:30p.m., and we perform throughout the year. If you’ve rung before, or are interested in learning how—we want you there! We have such an energetic and talented group—we hope you will come join us! If you would like more info, please contact Micha Bancroft at micha.bancroft@gmail.com.

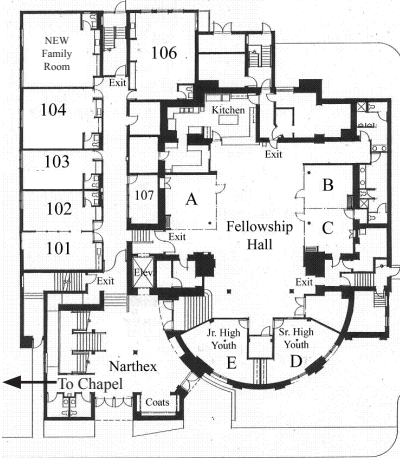
Choristers

Our Choristers group is open to all singers in 3rd-6th grade. We rehearse every Sunday morning at noon. (after the 11:00am service) We perform throughout the year, and our year culminates with a Musical that is performed for the entire church—one of the highlights of the year! If you’d like to join us, or need more information, please contact Micha Bancroft at micha.bancroft@gmail.com.

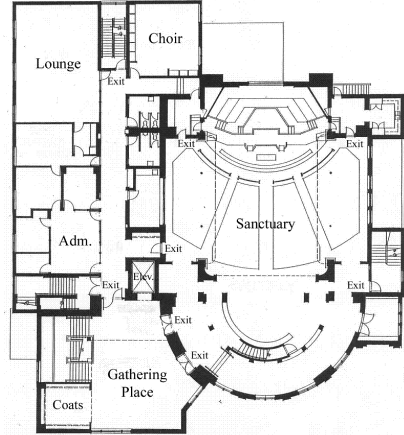
“The WELL” Music Ensemble

The WELL is our casual and up-beat service in the Chapel. We are always looking for new singers and instrumentalists interested in being a part of our services at 9:00a.m. and 11:00a.m. each Sunday. We have a wonderful core of musicians, but we’re always looking to expand our team. If you have questions, or would like more info, please email Jeff Cobb at jeffcobb@charter.net.

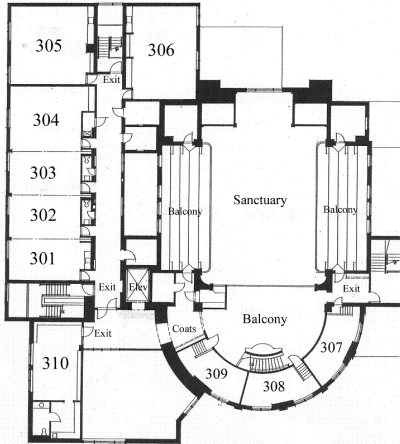
MAP of Central Church



Level 1



Level 2



Level 3

★ Additional information is available at our Welcome Center, located on the 2nd floor, just outside the Sanctuary.



CENTRAL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

222 Cass Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

Nonprofit Organization
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Traverse City
Michigan 49684
Permit 182

Please contact us with questions
or for more information.

t: 231-946-5191

e: office@tccentralumc.org

w: tccentralumc.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

To: