

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DALE



Dear Friends,

How quickly time passes. A new year has already begun. In an age of uncertainty one thing is for certain, time waits for no one! Given the pace of the days in which we live, we are wise to have a guide as we move through life. The season of Epiphany, which we now enter, reminds us that there is such a guide and a bright unmistakable one at that. Epiphany means “revelation” and what we celebrate this season is that the light of Jesus Christ was revealed for all. As the wise ones of old followed the light of a special star to the Christ child, we too have a light which guides us to him. The light of his Spirit shines for all who seek him today. The good news of Epiphany is that no darkness can overcome the light of Christ. Matter of fact darkness and gloominess can even work to our advantage, for in it Christ’s light shines all the brighter!

Harold Kohn writes: “Only in the darkness do we see the stars; and when the night is darkest, stars shine most brightly. It was the darkness of their times that made it possible for wise men to follow the star to the manger of Bethlehem where they found the Christ. Wise men of every age learn how to use darkness to find light and gloomiest times to find God.”

As we look forward to a new year of ministry together, it’s a good time to remember our Values & Vision Statement which reflects where we feel God’s light is leading us as a church.

Central United Methodist Church Core Values and Vision Statement

As a Christ-centered congregation, we strive to:

- Be shaped by the historical Wesleyan emphasis of a vital personal faith, social justice, ecumenism and a global concern.
- Provide excellence in worship, education, local service and worldwide missions.
- Nurture an inter-generational community.
- Welcome all people to an open and friendly downtown church.
- Respect diverse perspectives, while uniting in Christian essentials and resolving to love.
- Standing upon these core values, we step into the future with the hope of becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Since adopting this statement 2008 we have worked at living out these values and the vision it inspires. As I look back on the past year I am grateful for all we have accomplished together. You are an awesome congregation! But we also know we are on a journey, that we are still growing as disciples of Jesus and as friends along the way. I encourage you to take some time to read through this statement prayerfully and with one question in mind: “God, how are you calling me to live these values and help my church fulfill this vision?”

As we enter a new year together, may we chart our way by the light of the Bright Morning Star. For no other light will lead us in God’s path like Jesus.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Dale

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you, for a wonderful 2011!

As I reflect on 2011, I'm thankful for many people who gave the gift of their time in leading Adult Christian Education classes at Central Church. The wider variety and number of programs we offered last year could only happen because so many people said 'yes' to leading a class. In recognition of their service, I've donated 3 books to our church library in honor of the leaders of adult Christian education programs at Central Church in 2011. The titles and short descriptions are below. Please think of our church library the next time you are looking for a book to read. You might be surprised by the number of titles that are a part of our collection.

Speaking Christian by Marcus Borg. This recent book focuses on words in the Christian tradition that have been narrowed in understanding through the years of Christianity and reminds us of their original meanings in Scripture.

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand. This inspiring, true story tells of one man's unbelievable adventures during WWII.

Left Neglected is a novel written by neuroscientist, Lisa Genova. In the story, a young woman suffers a head injury in a car crash which leaves her with a neurological syndrome. The book tells about her process of recovery.

Alline Beutler,
Director of Adult Christian Education
alline@tcCentralumc.org or 946-5191



NEW for ADULTS in January

Family Love Letters

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. This two-part workshop is a great companion to the 5 Wishes Workshop. Please sign up in the church office.

Financial Peace University

January 18-April 18 (No class March 28)
 6:30-8:30 in the chapel

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

Dave Ramsey's financial class 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 or on the Dave Ramsey website, www.daveramsey.com.

NEW for FAMILIES in January

Kid Unique

Leaders: Beth Footh and Dori Gillings

January 11-February 15
 6:15-7:45 in room 106

Parenting on Point
 January 8-March 11
 9:45-10:45 in room 301

Family Sunday School (New class this winter!)
 For little ones and their parents
 Jan 22, Feb. 12, Feb 26, March 11, April 22, May 13
 9:45-10:45 in room 104

For more info on these Building Faithful Families opportunities, visit tccentralumc.org/families.

What else is happening in January?

- Faithlink
- Nooma
- Justice for the Poor
- A Conversation about Ethics
- Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Presentation
- Evergreen Bottle Company Presentation

Find out more at tccentralumc.org/adult.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

There was so much to celebrate in 2011!

Central has grown in space and in spirit, in little smiles in the halls and filled classrooms full of laughter and prayer. The Holy Spirit is no doubt at work here, and as I reflect back on 2011 in praise and thanks, I also get a glimpse of improvements to be focused on in 2012. Please join me in using the celebrations of 2011 as a launching pad for growth in 2012. I welcome your input and value your opinions, so please contact me with your thoughts!

Just a few of 2011's celebrations:

- Reclaiming the Lower Level to create a Family Ministry Wing
- 19 Faith in the 8th Confirmation students
- The formation of the intergenerational Mission Possible team
- Many new summer offerings for children
- The deepening of family ministry with the Little Bracha group
- Beautiful new Senior high youth room
- Many new faces and smiles at Twin Lakes Park for VBS, some hearing about Jesus for the 1st time

Ideas to continue Christ's work here at Central in 2012:

- Seek out valuable continuing education opportunities for myself
- Growth in our nursery through staff training, programming and parental input
- Offer additional training to all volunteers to deepen faith and support their work at Central
- Strengthen current programming at Central, instead of adding additional dates to already busy schedules
- Develop ways to incorporate families as a whole into Central's offerings
- Explore additional ways to get children and youth involved in mission based activities in our community and beyond
-

Ann Porter, Children's Education Director
ann@tcCentralumc.org



Sparrow story time

For preschoolers and their adult companion
 Each Friday
 9:30-10:30 AM
 Room 104

Little Bracha playgroup

For parents with their infant and toddlers
 Celebrating the Chinese New Year
 January 15
 4:00
 Room 106

Parents' Night Out

Fellowship for kids of all ages
 January 20th
 6:00-9:30
 Fellowship Hall

Dave Ramsey's Next Generation Class for Teens

Wednesdays, January 18 – February 8th
 6:30 – 8:00
 Senior High youth Room

**Mark your calendar for Family movie night,
 Friday, Feb. 10th!**

Coming Events:

MISSIONS MINISTRIES



Our Mission Ministry team hopes that by becoming aware of all that is being done to help others locally and globally, that opportunities to work together will strengthen our efforts in our local and global communities. *Please join us.*



JANUARY MISSION PRAYERS

- **Henderson Settlement, Kentucky:** Pray for Henderson Settlement in its exploration to purchase and reopen the Frakes Medical Clinic.
- **Rio Colorado, Bolivia:** Pray for the students and teachers as the new school year begins.
- **Soaring Unlimited, Haiti:** Pray for the orphans in the area in which Soaring Unlimited is located.
- **Vietnam Initiative:** On December 4, Rev. Ut Vo-To (one of the missionaries we support) baptized 37 adults. Pray for them in these early steps of their Christian Faith.



CENTRAL MISSION PROJECT *Update*

JANUARY COIN OFFERING

The Mission Ministry Team has again designated Mission Possible – a CUMC intergenerational group serving Christ through mission trips and local service – as beneficiary of the January coin offering. Last year, more than \$500 in coins were collected to support intergenerational trips to Washington D.C. and Eleuthera, Bahamas. This year, teams will travel to Joplin, MO March 23-30 for disaster relief and New York City June 15-22 for work with the homeless and hungry. Average cost per person is estimated at \$500. For more information on Mission Possible trips and service projects, contact Barb Kessel barbkessel@charter.net or Ann Porter ann@tccentralumc.org 946-4769.

MISSION POSSIBLE NEWS

Rebuilding Joplin, Wed. Jan 11: Learn more about the resilient people and community of Joplin, MO and their struggle to rebuild lives after one of the nation's most deadly tornadoes. We'll hear from a Joplin resident and learn about projects and the fun planned for the March 23-30 Mission Possible trip. The presentation will start at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Jan. 11 & 18 Wonderful Wednesday Meals will be served by youth and other members of Mission Possible – a CUMC intergenerational group serving Christ through mission trips and local service. Money raised will go toward trips to Joplin, MO March 23-30 for disaster relief and New York City June 15-22 for work with the homeless and hungry.

NEW MISSIONARIES.

Central will begin supporting two new missionaries in 2012:

- Dieudonne Karihano: He is serving in community development in Mozambique.
- Charissa Shawcross: She works in United Methodist medical facilities in Detroit.

We will provide biographical information and describe their ministries in future issues.

These additions come as missionaries we have supported in recent years are now back living in the United States and not serving as missionaries: John and Suzanne Funk, Lori and Mike Tupper.

We will continue our support of Karen and Ut Vo-To in their vigorous ministries in Vietnam.

GIFTS WITH A MISSION

Sales for water bottles, t-shirts, coffee mugs, and other items with the John Wesley quote: "DO ALL THE GOOD... YOU CAN" will continue on January 11 and 18 during the Wonderful Wednesday meals.

Proceeds support Mission Possible intergenerational mission trips and local service projects.

**DO ALL THE GOOD
BY ALL THE MEANS
IN ALL THE WAYS
AT ALL THE TIMES
TO ALL THE PEOPLE
FOR AS LONG AS
YOU CAN**

-JOHN WESLEY

PARISH NURSE NOTES & STEPHEN MINISTRY

CONGRATULATIONS, BETH!

On November 12, Central's Parish Nurse, Beth Whiting, completed the Parish Nurse/ Faith Community Nurse course sponsored by the International Parish Nurse Association at Calvin College and, with six classmates, prayed to God for "encouragement in caring for each person in their journey toward health and wholeness" during their dedication service.



"The First Christmas Without Him"

And it hurts.

The family gathered 'round the tree
is smaller now.

You keep thinking of the way it was last year.

You miss him.

At this difficult time, a Stephen Minister would like to care for you. Your Stephen Minister will listen while you work through your sorrow and pain.

If you wish more information about this ministry, contact one of the following Stephen Leaders:

To learn more about this ministry contact one of the Stephen Leaders.

Marlene Steider	922-2183
Karen Mars	590-2551
Carol Winegar	271-2372
Will Poland	922-0836

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT:

- The UMW would like to thank all those who so generously provided us with the cookies to make our Cookie Walk on Advent Night a great success. Many hands were at work to make it happen. Thanks so much for all the special help we had including our maintenance people, Dave and Bob, and the UMW ladies who worked that evening. We couldn't do it without the entire Church Family.
- A lovely brass cross is missing from the UMW closet between the Junior and Senior rooms in Fellowship Hall. Possibly someone has used it or knows about it's location. We would be most grateful for any information given us.

LINDA POINDEXTER - 2011 WOMAN OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations to Linda Poindexter, who was chosen as the 2011 Woman of the Year! Linda was presented the award at the December UMW Christmas Tea. Linda has been extremely active in many mission projects of Central Church and the community, and has served on many mission teams, especially to Haiti, where she's help build houses, a medical clinic, and serves on the board of Soaring Unlimited. Two years ago she filled in for missionary Dorothy Fredrickson in Haiti, while Dorothy was recovering from surgery in Lansing. Linda's compassionate, loving heart has touched the lives of folks in Africa, Mississippi, Tennessee, Haiti, and here in Traverse City. Congratulations, Linda!!



Linda, with daughter Tina and granddaughter, Maddie



JANUARY GATHERINGS

Lunch Bunch

Jan. 4 at Noon in the Church Lounge

Phoebe Fellowship

Jan. 19 1 p.m. in the Church Lounge

Service Fellowship

No meeting in January

**All women of the church
are invited to attend UMW
gatherings!**

QUESTIONS? WANT MORE INFO?

email: cplough@charter.net

call: Corinne at 922-4978

CARE NOTES

THANK YOU

Special thanks to all the wonderful people who shared their time during the Thanksgiving weekend to help beautify the church in "Hanging of the Greens". We are so grateful to chairperson, Linda Button for her knowledge, leadership and yummy snacks. Thanks to Eldon Horner who assembled and decorated the gathering-place Christmas tree; to Bob Deneen, Jeannette Tavener, Byron and Georgina Hosmer for coming in a day early to distribute the supply boxes; to Dan, Joyce and Chris Ahrns, Carole Brinkman, Irene Brown, Linda Deneen, Ike and Carolyn Dunnuck, Julie Falconer, Phyllis Garn, Gary Horn, Phil and Margaret Knapp, Gene Sinclair, Joy Smeltekop, Stacy Stewart, Steve Tavener, Arno von Walhausen, Sally Warner, Dave, Beth, Rachel and Cate Young for having everything in place before a 12:00 wedding. Special thanks to our custodians Dave Weeks and Bob McCutcheon for all your help.

The Worship Team

The Christmas for Children and Parent's Night Out event was a huge success! Thanks to all who gave generous donations of gifts and supplies. We also want to thank all of the wonderful volunteers that donated their time. Thanks to you, we were set up ahead of time and the night's activities ran smoothly. A special thanks goes to the 38 children and their families who participated. We enjoyed all of the children, we laughed a lot and certainly created a night of moments to remember! *Thank you* for sharing your precious time during the holidays with your Central Church family!

The Nursery Staff

Dear Central United Family,

I am finally home and recuperating slowly. Further treatments will not begin for a few months. Here, all my lovely cards from friends and my Central United family are on display. Everyday, they make me smile. Please know that your support, good thoughts and prayers gave me a feeling of safety and comfort, even in the most painful moments at the hospital. Thank you all so much!

Evelyn Petersen

I want to *thank* the church for the beautiful plant. I do enjoy them every year.

Ruth Hagaman

Dear Central Church Family,

Thank you all for your thoughtful cards and calls but especially your prayers during my operation and recovery. Your prayers were the food for my soul.

Gratefully,
Donna Anderson

I really appreciate your wonderful support of our work in Haiti. You have enabled us to touch the lives of many persons there. *Thanks* so much. May God richly bless you during this Holiday Season.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Frederickson-
Soaring Unlimited

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

LeeAnn Fountain-home recovery

Sonia Olson-home recovery

Reva Bales-home recovery

Ed Brown-home recovery

Paul Schneider-hospital

Joanne Fasing-hospital

Linda Button-bereavement on the passing of her brother-in-law

Carol and Tom Peck-bereavement on the passing of Carol's mother

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITTLE BRACHA POTLUCK-This group is made up of families that have babies and toddlers. Join our next potluck supper on January 15 at 4:00pm in room 106 as we ring in the Year of the Dragon. The January potluck will have a Chinese New Year theme and Jojo Atkinson will share some of her family traditions that are a part of this important celebration in China. Call the church office to sign up. If you have questions, please contact Micha Bancroft (micha.bancroft@gmail.com).

GOOD NEWS FROM THE FINANCE

COMMITTEE- Your recent generous support allowed us to narrow a deficit in giving and finish the year 2011 strong. We went into December with a \$35,000 deficit, but were able to finish closer to an \$11,000 deficit although the final number may be less. Thanks for your support! We hope for a strong year of giving in 2012. The Staff Pastor Parish Committee is planning to add a part-time youth coordinator staff position. We are excited about this possibility which will allow us to better meet the needs of our growing youth program. If you are looking for a way to give over and above your 2012 pledge, this would be a great opportunity and a way to support youth ministry here at Central. The Administrative Council will vote on the 2012 budget at their January 16th meeting.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS ARE NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

January 22, February 5, March 18 and March 25. Sponsoring altar flowers is a great way to honor or remember loved ones. Cost is \$25. Please contact the church office to reserve your date, 946-5191.

CELEBRATION OF THE FAMILY-On Sunday, January 29th we will be honoring families that have welcomed a child into their lives in 2011. A short ceremony, including the presentation of Desmond Tutu's children's bible to each family, will take place during the 9 a.m. WELL service and the 11 a.m. sanctuary service to celebrate the gift children are to all of us. If you welcomed a child into your family through birth or adoption in 2011, please contact Ann Porter or Beth Whiting in the church office to verify our information.



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Central Church News and Events may be submitted to kim@tccentralumc.org or to the church office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Meetings and Events

Thursday, January 5

1:00 PM Archive Workshop
6:00 PM Journey Group
7:00 PM Men's Fellowship

Monday, January 9

10:00 AM Women Who Wonder

Tuesday, January 10

9:30 AM Disciple III
12:00 PM Wills and Memorials
4:00 PM Staff Pastor Parish
5:00 PM Stephen Ministry
Supervisory
6:30 PM Garden Club
7:00 PM Family Partnership Class

Wednesday, January 11

9:30 AM Writing Group
4:00 PM Finance Meeting
4:00 PM Mahjongg Class
7:00 PM Central Volleyball #1
7:00 PM Central Volleyball #2
8:00 PM Central Volleyball #1

Thursday, January 12

9:30 AM Women of Grace
10:00 AM Central Comforters
7:00 PM Men's Fellowship

Friday, January 13

Noblesville Ski Group Overnight

Saturday, January 14

Noblesville Ski Group Overnight

Sunday, January 15

Noblesville Ski Group Overnight
12:00 PM Blood Pressures
4:00 PM Little Bracha Group
6:30 PM Justice and Joy Small Group

Monday, January 16

Noblesville Ski Group Departs
1:30 PM Service Fellowship
5:00 PM Board of Trustees
5:30 PM Mission Team
7:00 PM Administrative Council

Tuesday, January 17

9:30 AM Disciple III
10:30 AM Bridge
11:00 AM Family Systems Peer Group
5:00 PM Connection Team
5:45 PM Civic Prelude Strings
7:00 PM Book Women Group
7:00 PM Family Partnership Class

Wednesday, January 18

9:30 AM Rebekah Fellowship
10:00 AM Painting Group
12:00 PM Family Partnership
Mentor Meeting
4:00 PM Mahjongg Class
4:00 PM Memory Keepers

Thursday, January 19

12:00 PM Phoebe Fellowship
1:00 PM Archive Workshop
1:00 PM Stephen Minister Leaders
6:00 PM Cookie Bakers
7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 36
7:00 PM Men's Fellowship

Friday, January 20

12:30 PM Bridge
6:00 PM Parent's Night Out

Sunday, January 22

Food Pantry Sunday

Monday, January 23

10:00 AM Women Who Wonder

Tuesday, January 24

9:30 AM Disciple III
5:00 PM Stephen Ministry
Supervisory
5:45 PM Civic Prelude Strings-
Sectionals
7:00 PM Civic Chamber Strings-
Sectionals

Wednesday, January 25

4:00 PM Mahjongg Class

Thursday, January 26

9:30 AM Women of Grace
7:00 PM Men's Fellowship

Tuesday, January 31

9:30 AM Disciple III
5:45 PM Civic Prelude Strings

Every Week* at Central

Sunday

8:30 AM Disciple II
9:00 AM Traditional Worship
Worship at The WELL
9:45 AM Sunday School-All ages
11:00 AM Traditional Worship
Worship at The WELL
12:00 PM Choristers
5:30 PM Confirmation Class
6:30 PM H.S. Youth Group

Monday

8:30 AM Community Outreach
2:00 PM Study Group
6:00 PM GT Pipes & Drums
6:00 PM Trillium Singers
6:30 PM Dual Recovery Anonymous

Tuesday

8:30 AM Community Outreach
4:30 PM Pilates
7:00 PM Civic Chamber Strings

Wednesday

8:30 AM Community Outreach
10:00 AM Painting Group
12:00 PM AA Meeting
5:30 PM Youth Handbells
5:30 PM Wonderful Wednesday Meal
6:15 PM Education Classes
Heroes Group
6:30 PM H.S. MVL Discussion
6:30 PM M.S. Youth Group
7:00 PM Adult Handbells
7:45 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday

8:30 AM Community Outreach
12:00 PM Community Meal
4:30 PM Pilates
6:30 PM Boys of OZ
6:30 PM Dual Recovery Anonymous
7:00 PM NA Meeting
Boy Scout Troop 36
8:00 PM AA Meeting

Friday

8:30 AM Community Outreach
9:30 AM Sparrow's Story Time
12:00 PM Open Prayer

Saturday

No Regularly Scheduled Events

***All Events Subject to Change**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 1

Alex Hawke

JANUARY 2Ike Dunnuck
Gini Kelly**JANUARY 3**Donna Anderson
Aaron Edick
Britt Husted
Andrew Simmons**JANUARY 4**Don Pratt
Julie Runstrom**JANUARY 5**Kelly Johnston
Grace Oblinger
Dale Ostema**JANUARY 6**Marc Hunt
Cierra Tomblin**JANUARY 7**Tanja Burfiend
Cadence Irish
Jessica Unger**JANUARY 8**Nate Michno
Sawyer Schlarf**JANUARY 9**Dan Beutler
Kathy Brown
Donna Cameron**JANUARY 10**Milz Bowden
Ruth Epting
Reid Klintworth
Deb Korreck
Ben Saunders
Nicholas Spala
Augustus Veith**JANUARY 11**Donald Belyea
David Grewe
Fran Sperry
Vivian White**JANUARY 12**Kathie Herkelmann
Bette Wattles-Williams
Ellen Whiting
Marilyn Wilmot**JANUARY 13**Bill Beall
Chelsea Edgecomb
Chris Oblinger
Carol Peck**JANUARY 14**Marc Kropf
Reed Shea**JANUARY 15**Ted Foley
Ryan Johnston**JANUARY 16**

Kaelan Burkholder

JANUARY 17

Carolyn Grigereit

JANUARY 18Marilyn Amidon
Jackson Hall
George Lombard
Dave Rosa
Pam Wakefield
Laurie Zachritz**JANUARY 19**Michelline Coonrod
Robert Cozad
Isaac Deneen**JANUARY 20**Ron Culp
Vera Gould
Mary Kay Grewe
Carol Holdredge
Vera Naymick
Tom Sabin
Amanda Wyskochil**JANUARY 21**Maggie Cooney
Stephanie DeVries**JANUARY 22**Peter Colombo
Noah Fowler
John Leahy
Todd Millar**JANUARY 23**Leslie Falconer
Maddison Medler
Ben Raguse
Tamara Williams**JANUARY 24**Diane Lirones
Carla Roberts
John Rockwood**JANUARY 25**Karl Anderson
Helen Broadfoot
Peg Featherstone
Marilyn Sisk
Dave Steider
Allison Taphouse**JANUARY 26**Onlee Bowden
Katy Ramsdell**JANUARY 27**Irene Brown
John Crane
Fred Linsell
Julie Maxson**JANUARY 28**Diane Denoyer
John Hall
Jeanne Harbold
Lynne Lombard
Marshal Mast
Emma Togrul**JANUARY 29**Carson Bourdo
Michael Girardin
Michael Lemcool**JANUARY 30**Dallas Lemcool
Annabell Stricker**JANUARY 31**Collin Gray
Karl Schneider
Lucy Wessels

RADIO MINISTRY

Can't be with us on Sunday Morning? Tune in to our LIVE worship broadcast on WCCW-AM 1310 at 11:00 a.m., sponsored by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City.