



APRIL 2020

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
322 SOUTH LINCOLN ROAD
ESCANABA, MI 49829
REV. ELISE LOW EDWARDSON/PASTOR

CHURCH PHONE: (906) 786-0643

EMAIL: churchoffice@escanabacentral.org

WEBSITE: www.EscanabaCentralUMC.org

OFFICE HOURS

M, W, Th, F - 9:00 - Noon

Tuesday - Closed

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 A.M.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 8:30 A.M.
(Ludington Park Beach House area)

COFFEE TIME: 10:00 A.M.

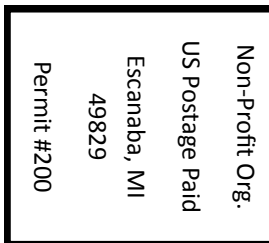
(no Coffee Social in June-July-August)

WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.

EDITOR: Bonnie Cowell

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CURRENT RESIDENT or



On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. -John 20:19-20



My dear friends, how quickly our world has changed. Just a few weeks ago, we were carrying on with our normal routines – our kids were in school, we gathered in the sanctuary for worship, we went to work as usual. I didn't think twice about a trip to the store or a gathering with friends. Now, in the midst of a pandemic, everything is put in a whole new perspective. An invisible threat keeps most of us hunkered down, while those most essential brave the frontlines. Perhaps you were one of the many Christians who gave up something for Lent, but now we have all given up far more than chocolate, meat, or wine. We've given up daily rhythms, the ability to gather with friends and loved ones, the sense of security that perhaps we didn't even know we had.

Lent, in the Christian tradition, is a time when we confront our own mortality and our deep need for God. Lent helps us find honest words for our grief and our lament before God. Lent helps us see our limits as human beings, and invite God into our own insufficiency. As the pandemic has unfolded, I half-jokingly told my husband Ryan that "this is the Lentiest Lent we have ever Lented!" We laughed, feeling the truth beneath the humor. Soon, we will walk through Holy Week, feel the sting of the cross, wait in the grief-soaked darkness of Holy Saturday, and rise Easter morning.

This Easter will look different than any other Easter we've celebrated as a congregation. We will not be able to gather in person in a sanctuary donned with glorious lilies, the organ music rising to the rafters. We will, however, remember where the disciples were that first Easter: locked in a room, huddled together in grief, and in fear. There, where they were hiding away from the threats of the world, the risen Lord found them. "Peace be with you," Jesus proclaimed, standing amongst his dear friends, sheltering-in-place. This Easter, perhaps we will live into the story in ways we never have before. I pray we experience the resurrection, hope and deep peace of Jesus this Easter in ways we never have before. No matter where we are, no matter what we're going through – God's love will find us. God's hope will sustain us. God's peace will go beyond our own understanding. After all, those are the things that God does best.

Let's be the Church, right where we are,

Pastor Elise

**CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
10:45 a.m. Children's Church

NURSERY CARE

Children ages 4 and younger are invited to join Erin Linderoth any time on Sunday mornings from 9:00 thru the 10:30 worship service.

ELEMENTARY

(Readiness Kindergarten - 5th grade)
Sunday school teachers Pat & Pat Rogers will lead students in Bible Study along with playing games, creating crafts, or making a treat. Students will meet in Room 7.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP

Wendy DeRouin and Lee Anderson will guide these students through their transition from child to teen with games, discussions and mission projects. This class meets in Room 8 at 9:15 every Sunday morning and is for students grades 6 - 8.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Holly Hamilton invites those of you in grades 9 thru 12 for a fun morning of Christian education and an open discussion about teen topics every Sunday morning at 9:15 in Room 8.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join the Women's Group in Room #9 on Sunday mornings at 9:15.



CONTACT INFORMATION

The church office is currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The best way to reach Pastor Elise is via email (reveliselowedwardson@gmail.com) or by calling the parsonage at 906-789-1874. Mail is still being checked regularly. Office Manager Bonnie Cowell can be contacted at 786-9435.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM


Pastor Elise is leading Bible Study via Zoom – a video conferencing/conference call platform. You can join on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 by going to zoom.us or by calling 1-253-215-8782 and entering Meeting ID 513 429 952. Call Pastor Elise if you have questions or technical issues!

CONNECT ON FACEBOOK!

In these challenging times, we are finding new and creative ways to connect with God and one another. Our worship service continues to be broadcast on WDBC (680 AM/94.5 FM). You can also join our video broadcast every Sunday morning at 10:30 by going to facebook.com/escanabacentral. You do not need a Facebook account to watch! You can find live evening devotions from Pastor Elise and Pastor Ryan every week night at 7 pm on the Central UMC Escanaba Facebook page.

Virtual Youth Group

Our youth are connecting on Sunday nights at 7 pm via Zoom! All teens are welcome to join us for a time of games, catching up, and finding God in the midst of the chaos. Zoom meeting ID: 814-916-297



Just for KIDS

Thank God for Rain

Each spring the Lord sends April showers to water the earth. Without rain to nourish our trees, plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables, there would be a poor growing season and very little to harvest. Thank God for rainy weather!

Write the words from the raindrops on the numbered lines below. Read the Bible verse.

1 gives

2 storm

3 the

4 in

5 Lord

6 field

7 men

8 clouds

9 He

10 Ask

11 is

12 to

13 everyone

14 who

15 makes

16 the

17 plants

18 rain

19 Lord

20 showers

21 and

22 the

23 rain

24 to

25 of

26 springtime

27 the

28 for

29 it

“
 _____ 10 _____ 16 _____ 5 _____ 28 _____ 18
 _____ 4 _____ 22 _____ 26
 _____ 29 _____ 11 _____ 3 _____ 19 _____ 14 _____ 15
 _____ 27 _____ 2 _____ 8
 _____ 9 _____ 1 _____ 20 _____ 31 _____ 23
 _____ 12 _____ 7 _____ 21 _____ 17 _____ 25
 _____ 30 _____ 6 _____ 24 _____ 13
 _____ ”

Zechariah 10:1 (NIV)

Answer: "Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone." Zechariah 10:1



PRAYER LIST

Please remember all of Central's shut-ins and those in nursing homes as they are in need of your prayers for healing, gaining strength, and courage during an illness or injury. May God bless them and keep them in His loving care during this time of illness and concern and may they know that our thoughts and prayers are with each of them.

RADIO BROADCAST

WDBC Radio 680 am airs the 10:30AM worship service each Sunday. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast, there is a clipboard to sign in on the date you prefer in the Narthex. Cost for this service is \$100 per week. You can donate the \$100 or any part of it. There are many openings for 2020.



HELPING HANDS

Please remember our Helping Hands Fund during this difficult economic time. The funds are for Central members facing urgent financial challenges and in need of assistance. All help is strictly confidential.

ROSES & THORNS

If you have a concern or compliment to pass along to the SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee), please fill out a card and let us know your thoughts. Cards can be found in the church pews. Your opinions are important to us and we will address each and every concern and or compliment.

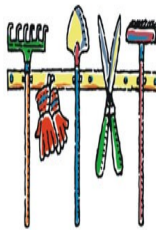
GIVING ONLINE

We now have a new online giving option for our tithes and offerings! Go to this website, and select "Escanaba Central" to give securely via PayPal. We are also still checking the mail if you prefer to mail your tithes and offerings. Thank you for supporting the ministry of Central during this challenging time.

<https://michiganumc.org/stewardship/local-church-online-giving/>

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Keep your eyes open for the date for our annual spring clean-up. Bring rakes, shovels, brooms and gloves as we give our church grounds some spit and polish. Watch future bulletins for the date.



LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

Pastor Elise and the crew want them to know they are cared about here at Central and that this is a safe place whatever the need. See you next year!

COFFEE TIME

Each Sunday members of Central serve coffee and provide a treat from 10:00-10:30am. It's a time to talk and share with friends. Thanks to all who have donated goodies over the past year.



Looking forward to the time when we can meet again!

FOOD PANTRY

Prayerfully consider bringing weekly food donations to help out the Salvation Army food bank at this time. Think Easter dinner: canned veggies, canned fruit, scalloped potato mix, canned ham, French's onions.

APRIL MINISTRY MEETINGS

Our next meeting night is postponed until further notice.

Council meeting are always open to all Central members. Check them out to see what's happening in our church.



PALM SUNDAY SERVICE
Be part of our virtual Palm Sunday parade by checking your email and following the instructions.

HOLY WEEK

10:30 A.M. Palm Sunday Service
on the radio and at facebook.com/escanabacentral

April 5, 2019

7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday
online at facebook.com/escanabacentral

Thursday, April 9, 2020

12:00 Noon Good Friday Service
online at facebook.com/escanabacentral

April 10, 2020

10:30 A.M. Easter Sunday Worship
on the radio and at facebook.com/escanabacentral

