



MARCH 2019

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.
COFFEE TIME: 10:00 A.M.
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.

EDITOR: Bonnie Cowell

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On Wednesday, March 6th, we will enter together into the season of Lent. The season of Lent is marked by realizing our own humanity before God. We fall short. We miss the mark. We hurt others, we hurt God, and we hurt ourselves. We enter into Lent, taking time to realize the depth of our need for God's grace and our need for the redemptive love of Jesus. Lent is a time where we examine ourselves and seek to walk more closely with Jesus, even on the path to the cross.

This Lent, we will follow the travels and teachings of Jesus, considering the ways that Jesus is calling us not to be stagnant in our faith, but on the move. Jesus didn't stay in one place for long; he was constantly on the move in his earthly ministry, moving from one place to another. He also moved through the highs and lows of the human experience: temptation, joy, struggle, the ups and downs of relationships, even death. In the story of Jesus, we find holy glimpses of our own story. We will follow Jesus into the desert, and see how we too might find something holy in the parched, dry seasons of our lives. We will listen for the wisdom of Jesus, we might find ourselves being in a direction we never would have been brave enough or wise enough to take up on our own. When we see the depth of God's love for us, when we pour ourselves out at the feet of Jesus, when we follow our Lord to the cross, to the tomb, and to the depths of humanity - we just might discover anew the power of resurrection, God's ability to take even our dust and make something beautiful.

I invite you to make intentional room in your life in this Lenten season to follow Jesus more closely. Some folks chose to give up something as a reminder of our humanity and a frequent reminder of our need for God's sustaining grace. Some may choose to add a practice to their lives – committing to daily Bible reading, devotional time, or renewed intentionality in prayer. I encourage you to find a way to mark this Lenten journey in your own everyday life. Together, we'll worship Sunday mornings at 10:30, and on Wednesday nights during Lent for a soup supper at 6 and a short vespers worship service at 6:30.

I invite you to come, and bring your whole self, as we journey to the cross together. God's grace has a way of not leaving us where it found us, and I wait with hope to see where God will lead.

Deep peace,

Pastor Elise



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 Miss Erin at 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 in 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. Come in and check it out.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Each Tuesday morning a Bible Study Group meets in the Lounge from 9:30-10:30 a.m. All are welcome to check it out.

MARCH USHERS

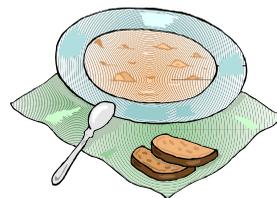
- 03 Richard Blixt, Pat Rogers
Arleen Martin, Melissa Kressin
- 10 Lee/Verna Anderson
Bob Hamlin, Wendy DeRouin
- 17 Anna Morse, Harry Badge
Erik Barnhart, Bev Ladin
- 24 Gregg Bruff/Mimi Klotz
Laura Kluka, Richard Blixt
- 31 Beth Peterson, Pat Rogers
Kaylan Thorbahn, Janet Snowden

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

There will be **NO** Sunday School on **March 24th or March 31st** due to Spring Break.



Daylight Savings time begins March 10, 2019. **Spring forward one hour before retiring for the night on March 9th.**



SOUP & BREAD

Soup/Vespers will begin on **March 6th** and will continue thru April 10th. We meet at 6:00PM in Room #9 for home made soup and delicious breads. These suppers are open to all.

VESPERS WORSHIP SERVICE

"Vespers" is a time of evening prayer. It is a time to pause and give thanks to God for the day that is ending. Songs are sung, scripture is read, and prayers are shared by the community. The service lasts about a half hour. Lent is here — soup is on. Join your Central family as we invite God's presence to dwell in and among us. The service will last approximately a half hour. Join us Wednesdays, at 6:30PM in Central's Chapel.

MARCH FINANCE STEWARDS

- 03 Laura Kluka, Connie Duchaine
- 10 Lois Lavelle, Arleen Martin
- 17 Janet Snowden, Sue Gaudette
- 24 Cheryl Swanson, Bev Ladin
- 31 Laura Kluka, Arleen Martin

MARCH GREETERS

- 03 Lois Nordin, **Volunteer**
- 10 **Volunteer, Volunteer**
- 17 **Volunteer, Volunteer**
- 24 Bob Hamlin, **Volunteer**
- 31 **Volunteer, Volunteer**



RADIO BROADCAST

WDBC Radio 680 am on your dial airs the 10:30 a.m. Worship service each Sunday. If you are interested in sponsoring a radio broadcast, there is a sheet to sign in on, if the date is available in the Narthex. Cost for this service is \$100 per week. You can donate the \$100 or any part of it.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember all those who are home bound and those in nursing homes in your prayers for healing, gaining strength, and courage. 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.



UMCOR SUNDAY

(formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) Sunday, **March 31st** is designated as "UMCOR Sunday". Proceeds collected help people in America and around the world who suffer as a result of natural disasters, famine, civil wars, infectious diseases, etc. Maybe we can't help in person, but we can help through our gifts. When trucks arrive bearing provisions and help, it's evidence of our gifts in action. Envelopes are in your box for this.

MEETING NIGHT

The next meeting night is Thursday, **March 21, 2019** with the Committees meeting at 6:00PM followed by the Council at 7:15PM.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to sponsor flowers for Sunday Worship should call the church at 786-0643 or sign the sheet in the Narthex. Cost is \$18.00.

EASTER LILIES

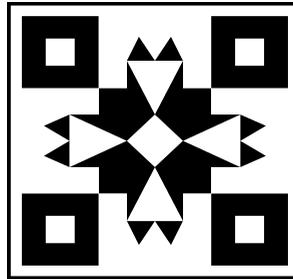


Easter Sunday is **April 21, 2019**. Easter Lilies will again be available for the Easter Service. If you would like to purchase one in honor or in memory of a loved one, order forms will be available in an upcoming bulletin.

Orders should be in by April 10th.

The backstitcher

Our church quilters were a lovely group of elderly ladies. They met each Wednesday and quilted until noon when I, as their pastor, joined them for lunch.



When I observed their love for each other and the harmony in their group, I could not help but remember

the words of the old hymn: "What a fellowship, what a joy divine ..."

As far as I could see, they had to deal with only one problem. They had a backstitcher in their group who sewed opposite of everyone else. Dear old Mrs. Bee was the guilty party.

Others in the fellowship tried to gently show her how to quilt correctly, but she never got the hang of it. She kept right on moving the thread incorrectly.

The group loved her and never considered banning her despite her backstitching. You see, they knew she needed the group. Quilting was about the only fellowship Mrs. Bee had in her life.

The problem with her stitching was handled lovingly. After each session, the leader of the group, Mrs. Hood, gathered up the quilt, took it home, removed every backstitch and put the thread back in the right way. Mrs. Bee never knew about this act of grace.

So, who makes things right for me? And for you?

—Charles Ferrell



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 Larry & Arleen Martin, Lynn Blixt, Lois Lavelle, Connie Duchaine and Barb Kubont for serving coffee and snacks in January & February.

LOVING FINGERS QUILTERS

The Loving Fingers Quilters continue to meet in Room #9 on Tuesday from 10 AM to 3 PM. They make quilts for Escanaba and Marquette Hospice and members of our church or anyone we know who would find a little comfort in a quilt. Our group is made up of young and old, sewers and non-sewers. Please join us for a day, a morning, or an afternoon of good friendship.

HELPING HANDS

Please remember our Helping Hands Fund during these difficult economic time, especially with the cold weather we have endured this year. The funds are for Central members who are facing urgent financial challenges and are in need of assistance. All help is strictly confidential.

Please see Pastor Elise for assistance.

APRIL PASTY SALE

Our next pasty sale will be Friday, **April 12th**. Thursday, April 11th, volunteers are needed



at 8:00AM to make dough and peel potatoes, carrots, & onions. Friday at 8:00AM we need help grinding vegetables, mixing ingredients, making dough balls and rolling dough.

Help is always needed both Thursday and Friday to clean-up and assemble items for the next sale.

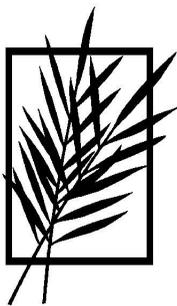
Call your orders into the office at 786-0643 or Arleen at 233-9194. Orders must be in by 9:15AM on Monday, April 16th. Cost is \$4.00 for regular or rutabaga pasties.

FOOD PANTRY

Last month we toasted the cold weather by donating items for a warm, filling breakfast. Suggested items included oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, Malt o'Meal, grits, poptarts, boxed/bagged cereals or breakfast bars, hot cocoa, coffee, and instant breakfast drinks.

Thanks to all who donated, and watch for this month's suggestions.





PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

The Palm Sunday Service will be Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at Central. Palms and celebrations will begin Holy Week.

HOLY WEEK

10:30 A.M. Palm Sunday Service
April 14, 2019

7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday Service
First United UMC - 302 South 6th St.
Thursday, April 18, 2019

12:00 Noon Good Friday Service
Bay de Noc Community College
April 19, 2018

9:30 A.M. Easter Sunday Breakfast
Central UMC Fellowship Hall

8:30 A.M. Easter Sunrise

10:30 A.M. Easter Sunday Worship



HAPPENINGS AT CENTRAL

Join us **Wednesdays** during Lent at 6:00pm for a Soup & Sandwich supper followed by Vespers at 6:30pm in Central's Chapel.

On Wednesday, **March 13**, students in grades 10-12 are invited to join Pastor Elise and the Kitchen Crew for a great lunch and good fellowship!

Sunday, **March 17**, the children will be collecting your change during the Noisy Offering.

Thursday, **March 21**, is Meeting Night with the Committees meeting at 6:00PM followed by the Council at 7:15PM.

The **Youth Group** will meet in Room 8 from 7:00-8:30PM on Sundays. Join Pastor Elise, Pastor Ryan and friends.

On Monday, **March 25**, we will prepare and serve a Taco Bar to Bay College students.

ROSES & THORNS



If you have a concern or compliment to pass along to the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), 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.



Please note that all doors **except** the front doors will be locked 10-15 minutes after church begins for safety concerns.

Make a SPRING TREE

Celebrate the season by creating a one of a kind spring tree.

What you need:

- ✿ Container (such as an empty coffee can)
- ✿ Construction paper or wallpaper scraps
- ✿ Glue
- ✿ Small fallen tree branch
- ✿ Sand
- ✿ Easter grass
- ✿ Poster board
- ✿ Scissors
- ✿ Marker
- ✿ Hole punch
- ✿ Ribbon



How to make it:

1. Use the container as a base. Decorate it by gluing construction paper or wallpaper scraps to it.
2. Place the fallen tree branch in the container and pour sand around it.
3. Place Easter grass on top of the sand.
4. Cut out of the poster board shapes that remind you of spring (eggs, rabbits, birds, butterflies, flowers, etc.). Use the marker to add details.
5. Punch a hole in each shape. Use ribbon to tie the shapes to the branches.