



THE OUTLOOK

Central United Methodist Church

Volume 126 Issue 10

LESSONS WE LEARN

~Juanita Joiner

Even though I retired from teaching 24 years ago, teaching is still the love of my life. I am always drawn to the book of short essays Robert Fulghum wrote in 1986, *"All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten"* as school resumes each year. This well-known book reminds me of the fundamental life lessons I learned as a 5-year old and have still applied throughout my lifetime. I started thinking about other ways I've learned important lessons: attending Sunday School, reading the book, *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi, and even caring for my poinsettia.

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Sunday School. Yes, just like the basic rules for life our kindergarten teacher taught us, our Sunday School teachers did the same...almost following the same lessons given by Fulghum. Those basic kindergarten rules —share everything, play fair, don't hit people, and say you're sorry when you hurt somebody are viewed by Christians as solid foundations taught within the scriptures. All these lessons were taught by learning to pray, to love the church and love Jesus. Wouldn't it be a wonderful world if we all had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and learned to go out into the world and hold hands and accept everyone equally? That Golden Rule taught in Matthew 7:12 became my Sunday School pledge...*"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."* And don't forget the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned — probably the biggest word of all — LOOK! Hebrews 12:2 encourages us to keep our eye focused on Christ...*"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."*

All I Really Need to Know I Learned from Reading Allen Levi's novel, *Theo of Golden*. The main lesson from this book is that **presence and simple, quiet acts of kindness are far more powerful than perfection and grand gestures**. So, my lessons from the book? **Presence matters most!** We do not need all the answers to help someone, simply showing up for people consistently make a profound difference. **Listening is love!** Truly hearing another person without judgment offers deep healing. **Impact is quiet!** A meaningful life does not have to be loud or visible; it often unfolds through our everyday acts of compassion and kindness. **Home is an inner state!** The word "Golden" in the book's title represents a condition of the heart — a sense of peace and acceptance you carry and cultivate within yourself through how you treat others. Are you seeing the connection with attending Sunday School, reading Robert Fulghum's book and caring for a poinsettia? Oh...you need to keep reading for that!

All I Really Need to Know I Learned from a Poinsettia. A former neighbor left a lovely poinsettia on my back steps one wintery night when I wasn't home. While shoveling late that night, I found it totally buried in snow. I took it in the house and decided this 3-inch pot that my plant was in would become another opportunity to teach me more lessons. I would use Philippians 4:13, *"I can do all things through him who gives me strength."* as my inspiration. I decided I would text three friends every morning with words of encouragement, Bible verses that were special to me, and of course hymns that I dearly loved. They ended up texting me back sharing their special thoughts, prayers that were on their hearts and words of thanks. This became a win/win for my poinsettia, my friends and for me. Lessons? You bet! Here are a few: when we give to others we too are blessed; when we show love and kindness it is felt in everything we do. Those texts still continue today, the plant continues to grow even after transplanting it into a 6-inch pot, AND God's love continues to bless me.



I have an assignment now for each of you. Be sure to record the lessons you learn from using this prompt: **All I Really Need to Know I Learned at Central UMC!** You fill in the lessons learned as we continue to grow, share, accept change and look to our future...perhaps it will be a future filled with fear, perhaps it will be filled with grief, but this is for certain...God loves you, loves our church, and will love what we become because **"WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!"**

Now have some cookies and milk, hold hands and tell someone you love them!

Mission Possible for October 2026 (Weekly offerings)

♥ Mission of the Month World Communion

This United Methodist special offering funds scholarships, grants, and training programs for racial and ethnic-minority students and international students pursuing leadership and ministry.

♥ Helping Hand Fund (Supporting people in need.)

Mission Accomplished August 2026

Mission of the Month
Wesley Foundation CMU \$1,231

Helping Hand Fund \$467.95

Helping Hand Fund Distributions
Prevented two evictions \$800.00
Gift Card for food \$100.00



Dorothy Argue
Edwin Hendrickson
Donna Koches
William Demumbrum
Bruce Privacky
Randy Wightman

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!



"Creating safe spaces
for growth and community
in Christ."

Take a Tour With Us!

We are starting an important phase of our proposed housing development project! Weather permitting, we will be holding a straw poll on Sunday, January 24th at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel to gauge our interest in pursuing this project further. This poll will be non-binding, but pivotal. A second, binding vote would be needed at some point in the future to reach an agreement with a developer. But with two-thirds majority approval of all the responses received from members and constituents by January 24th (those not attending in person may submit responses by mail), we will move forward with engaging an architect, initiating conversations with our neighbors, and pursuing this project with congregational approval.

Together, we will have several opportunities to prepare for this crucial meeting and straw poll. In October, we invite you to join us for these tours hosted by our consultants and partners:

First United Methodist Church Midtown Apartments Holland

Thursday, October 8th 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Meet at the Church @ 8:30 a.m.
Return to the Church by Noon

Roosevelt Apartments Muskegon Heights

Saturday, October 17th 10:30 a.m.-Noon
Meet at the Church @ 10:15 a.m.
Return to the Church by 12:15 p.m.

ICCF Community Homes Grand Rapids

Thursday, October 22nd 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Meet at the Church @ 8:30 a.m.
Return to the Church by Noon

We will carpool from the church together at the designated times, or you may contact Pastor Rob for directions if you would like to meet us at the site(s). All are welcome to attend any or all of these tours! We hope seeing these housing developments and hearing the stories of our consultants and partners will help us visualize how our own property might be used for housing.

Stay tuned for more opportunities for discussion and discernment! We will be holding a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 1st at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel to hear your feedback on our congregation's current goals and direction, followed by another round of focus groups to discuss this proposed housing development project.

Please join us! We know this decision weighs heavily on us, even as we imagine new possibilities for using our church to serve our community. We pray God will help us love our neighbors, hear one another, and find our way together.

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!

Want to hear more about what's happening?

Regular reports from Leadership Council — including minutes and financial statements — are now available in the church office.

Contact Juanita in the church office to learn more!



Worship at Central

Available online: **LIVE**

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

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZUQe2i7FzjtcwwSG7Ednw/xideos?view=2&flow=grid>



Central Cares

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 — LeighAnn Mikesell
- 4 — Cavan Berry
- 8 — Dale Beattie
- 14 — Van Ulrich
- 17 — Sarah York, Eric Cotner
- 21 — Ann Martinez
- 24 — Basil Lang, Shirley Saylor
- 28 — Jenny McNeill



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 24 — Tommie & Billie Joy Thomas (2015)

Share their grief:

- ♥ Family and friends of Judy Hoezee, sister of Don Vanderlaan who passed away on July 27. Please continue to keep Don in your prayers during this time of loss.

Soul Box Project Update from the M&M Team

Thank YOU for your support of the Soul Box Project! This congregation has stepped up to help with publicity and welcoming guests, as we knew you would. You made this possible.

Keep up the good work! Our Soul Box display will continue to be available for viewing on multiple dates and times this month, concluding with worship on Oct 11th.

If you haven't yet invited your friends and neighbors, children and grandchildren, now is the time to do so. Flyers with the viewing schedule are still available in the church office and in the sanctuary. Take some and share.

Let each of us be a spark to ignite a conversation with others on gun safety!



Experience Clearer Sound in the Sanctuary Using AudioFetch!

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

Works GREAT!

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

Church Office Hours

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

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 4 — Worship & Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)
CROP Walk 12:30 p.m. (Parish Hall)
- 5 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 6 — MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 7 — Staff Mtg. 11 p.m. (Conference Room)
Going Deeper 1:00 p.m. (Conference Room)
- 8 — Romeo's 8:30 a.m. (Carmen's Café)
Juliet's 9:00 a.m. (Cherokee Restaurant)
Take a Tour With Us! 9:30-11:00 a.m. (See page 2)
MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
- 11 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Beyond the Walls Packing 11:00 a.m. (Parish Hall)
Beyond the Walls Meeting will follow packing.
- 12 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 17 — **Take a Tour With Us! 10:30 a.m.-Noon (See page 2)**
- 18 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- 19 — Mobile Food Pantry 4:30 p.m. (CUMC Parking Lot)
Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 20 — Outlook Deadline (8:00 a.m.)
Book Club 10:00 a.m. (Library)
Building Team Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
- 21 — Going Deeper 1:00 p.m. (Conference Room)
- 22 — Volunteer at KFB 9:30 a.m. (2330 Barclay St.)
Take a Tour With Us! 9:30-11:00 a.m. (See page 2)
- 25 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
- 26 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
- 27 — Outlook Mailed 9:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
Kitchen Crew Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Parish Hall)
Mix & Match Team Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Library)
- 28 — Leadership Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m. (Conference Room)



Save This Date — December 12th

Central will again participate in the Downtown Muskegon Cookie Crawl. This wonderful event was a total success last year, so please be ready to volunteer to bake cookies and/or be a greeter. ~Cookie Crawl Committee

Special Request:

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

Central United Methodist Church



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MUSKEGON CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST

For faster and more
convenient giving.



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Have news for the Outlook? See page 3 for submission addresses. Next Outlook deadline is **October 20**. Thank you!

Thank You Volunteers! Muskegon Methodist Ministries Packed 14,000 Blessing Bags for Midwest Mission

