NOVEMBER 2026

THE OUTLOOK

Central United Methodist Church

Volume 126 Issue 11

Editor's Note: This is a reprint from our November 2018 Outlook! I think it is the perfect time to read it again, not because I wrote it, but because the "vision" I wrote about still needs our attention.

The Power of a Vision

~ Juanita Joiner



Last month as I was beginning to prepare for my November article, I received an email from Bonnie Borgeson asking if I ever accepted unsolicited articles for the Outlook. Since I had been in a personal slump and even in my own personal church slump, I immediately responded and said … *always.*

The rest is history. Her words were what I needed to read. Words we needed to read as a church. Bonnie was right. I (we) need a Barnabas in our life just like Paul. We need that person who will speak words of encouragement, not words of discouragement. That person who will build us up and not tear us down. People who will build and strengthen the church. That person who would keep our vision crystal clear on what our beliefs are and the long history we have and will continue to have because of that history. Someone who makes sure we don't give up on our dreams. Yes, I need a Barnabas. Our church and each of you also need a Barnabas.

One day when I was backing out of the church, my side mirror on the car captured the tower of the church. I stopped the car and took a picture. Yes, a picture of my side mirror. Just that morning I had read a quote written by Saint John Vianney, "We are each of us like a small mirror in which God searches for His reflection." There in the parking lot of CUMC I had captured in my mirror God's church … our church. The church that is the light along the shoreline. The church that must continue to show His reflection. The very church where the people are to be God's mirror.

I haven't been able to get that picture out of my mind or the quote that said we are like a mirror that should reflect His love and His church. While quietly knitting one day I thought of Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I went back to that picture again and what I was thinking and feeling as I snapped that picture. Without taking away from the original meaning of that verse, I found myself repeating it differently. This time it read like this. ***"For I know the plans I have for CUMC,"*** declares the Lord, ***"plans to prosper and not harm, plans to give CUMC hope and a future."*** Was this my Barnabas whispering in my ear? Was God telling me that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose? Was HE telling ME to be a reflection for HIS church?



I went back two weeks later to a different parking lot to see if I could capture yet another image in the side mirror of my car. From that location God spoke to me differently. The second picture still captured the beauty of our church, but this time fall leaves were now framing the picture. God had one more statement for our church … fall should be our reminder that what was true in the past can and will be replaced with new growth, new beauty and new ideas. Perhaps next spring will prove to be even more beautiful for our church … for each of us when new growth and new ideas immerge. Continue to be a Barnabas, continue to be that mirror that reflects God's church, continue to support each other in positive ways but most importantly … continue to **work together** for the future of CUMC.

Bonnie, thank you for being my Barnabas. Thank you for reminding me that each of us needs support and encouragement in life. Just like Paul.

I CAN! — You CAN! — Together WE CAN!

Mission Possible for November 2026
(Weekly offerings)

♥ **Mission of the Month**
Next Generation Ministries

This mission is a beacon of hope to marginalized families near Jeremie, Haiti. This mission partners with Jeremie Rising to support an orphanage, scholarships, mobile clinic, and even building shelters.

♥ **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

The Soul Box Project

The Mix and Match Team offers a huge thank you to all of you!

The Soul Box Project was a huge success! Through the process of organizing, networking, marketing, and inviting, Central magnified gun violence awareness in our community and beyond.

This event could not have happened without your support and participation. You came, you pondered and prayed; you helped spread the work, and you hosted many guests throughout the time the display was in our sanctuary. Thank you!

Bless Our Saints



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

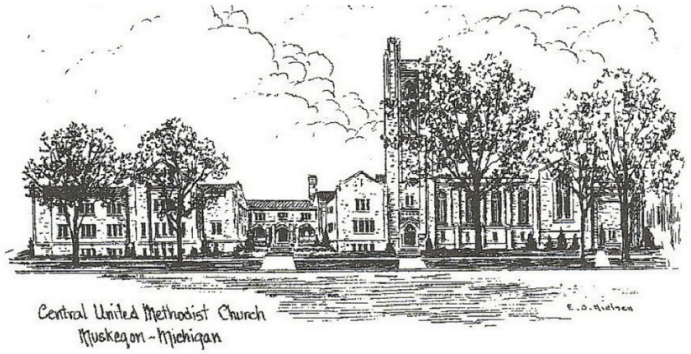
"Creating safe spaces for growth and community in Christ."

Let's Congregate!

Congregational Meeting!
Sunday, November 1
11:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Join us as we discuss the vision and direction of our church. We will receive updates from our Leadership Council, review the reports prepared for our Annual Church Conference, and hear more about our proposed housing development project. Next steps for our discernment on housing will include focus groups led by Ryan Kilpatrick of Flywheel Momentum, later in November and/or December (dates and times TBD). Please prepare for these focus groups by watching the following tours!

Holland First UMC Tour
Roosevelt Apartments Tour
ICCF Tour



Congregational Celebration!
Sunday, November 22
10:30 a.m. in Parish Hall

Joins us following worship for a light meal and cake as we give God thanks for our gifts and offerings, appreciate our many volunteers, and celebrate the 170th anniversary of our congregation! Please RSVP by returning the commitment card included with our stewardship letter, contacting the church office, or writing a note on your Care Card in worship. Let's celebrate!

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/UCZUQe2i7Fzj_tcwwSG7Ednw/videos?view=2&flow=grid

Central Cares

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 — Dorothy Robbins
7 — Dan Melinn
8 — Eric Coulon
12 — Don Vanderlaan
14 — Huey Husted
15 — Val Lundholm
20 — Javan Terpstra
21 — Eileen Schrader
23 — Michael Potgeter
25 — Erika Paulson
27 — Doug Clarke
30 — Bill Brookstra



Coming up!

Advent is right around the corner, and you know what that means? It's time to honor the season by setting up and decorating the Chrismon Tree in the sanctuary. There are jobs for all, including "fluffing branches", unpacking the Chrismon ornaments, helping with the many strings of lights, and even supporting our ladder-climbers!

It's all hands on deck on Saturday, December 5th, at 9:00 a.m. Just want to watch? Not a problem! Please come and join the fun.

Please contact Julie Husted with questions or for other Advent decorating opportunities.

Grand Rapids Chapter — American Guild of Organists

Fall Festival

Monday, November 9, 2026

On Monday evening, November 9, two 30-minute organ recitals will be presented in conjunction with a meeting of the American Guild of Organists. The first program will begin at 6:45 pm in our sanctuary with organists John Deppe, Eileen Hoogterp and Ronald Krebs. The audience will then make their way across the parking lot to The Corner for a second program performed by Caron Farmer, Dr. Peter Kurdziel and Dr. Elizabeth West. All our members and friends are cordially invited to attend. ~Ron Krebs

Mobile Food Pantry NEEDS Extra Hands!

Are you looking for a place to be a blessing? Why not think about volunteering each month at our Mobile Food Pantry. Our needs are huge in our community and many hands will be so appreciated. Give this some serious thought. Thanks!

Church Office Hours

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

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

1 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)
All Saints' Sunday & Holy Communion
Congregational Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Chapel)
2 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
4 — Staff Mtg. 11 p.m. (Conference Room)
Going Deeper 1:00 p.m. (Conference Room)
8 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Beyond The Walls Packing 11:00 a.m. (Parish Hall)
Church Conference 2:30 p.m. (Community UMC)
9 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
Organ Recital 6:45 p.m. (Details on page 3)
10 — MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
12 — Romeo's 8:30 a.m. (Carmen's Café)
Juliet's 9:00 a.m. (Cherokee Restaurant)
MAP Clothing Pantry 12:30 p.m. (Temple UMC)
15 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual))
16 — Mobile Food Pantry 4:30 p.m. (CUMC Parking Lot)
Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
17 — Outlook Deadline (8:00 a.m.)
Book Club 10:00 a.m. (Library)
Building Team Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
Planned Giving Mtg. 5:15 p.m. (Conference Room)
Finance Team Mtg. 6:16 p.m. (Conference Room)
18 — Going Deeper 1:00 p.m. (Conference Room)
Leadership Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m. (Conference Room)
19 — **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 7:00 – 8 p.m.**
Congregation B'nai Israel — 391 W. Webster Ave.
22 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
Congregational Celebration 10:30 a.m. (see page 2)
23 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)
24 — Outlook Mailed 9:00 a.m. (Conference Room)
Mix & Match Team Mtg. 11:00 a.m. (Library)
26 — **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**
29 — Worship 9:30 a.m. (In-Person & Virtual)
30 — Joy Bells 5:30 p.m. (Choir Room)

BEYOND THE WALLS—

The first day of our Warming Center is November 15. We will welcome our unhoused guests to Abner Bennett Hall from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This gives them a much needed break from the cold on Sundays. Some may want to join us for the service, so please welcome them. If you would like to come down after church to meet our guests, please feel welcome. We still need donations of games, coloring books, paper cups and plates, packets of hot chocolate, and portable snacks such as protein bars. Homemade cookies would be appreciated also. ***~Liz & Keith***

Central United Methodist Church

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MuskegonCentralUMC.org

MUSKEGON CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST

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Have news for the Outlook? See page 3 for submission addresses. Next Outlook deadline is **November 17**. Thank you!

Mac n Cheese for the Rescue Mission





Also coming up!!!

On Saturday, December 12th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Mix and Match Team will be hosting guests from the Downtown Muskegon Cookie Crawl in our sanctuary. This is another great opportunity to welcome guests to our building during Advent. Community members who have signed up will be walking through downtown and visiting designated participating sites to collect holiday cookies.

Volunteer hosts and cookie-bakers will be needed.