

THE FLAME

Monthly Newsletter

for

Central and Algonquin United Methodist Churches

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FEBRUARY 2025

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR

A Year of Growth and Hope



As we step into 2025, I find myself reflecting on the many blessings and hopes that lie before us as a church family. The closing of 2024 was marked by a moment of joy as I had the privilege of baptizing two precious infants. What a beautiful reminder of God's grace and the new life He offers! My prayer for 2025 is that it will be a year of growth—in faith, in service, and in our connection to one another.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us, *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16). This call to shine our light resonates deeply as we consider how we can grow individually and as a community. Growth isn't just about numbers; it's about allowing God's light to shine through us in new and transformative ways.

I also want to take a moment to extend a heartfelt invitation to those who may identify with our church but, for various reasons, have not been attending regularly. Please know that you are missed, and we would love to reconnect with you. Whether you've been away for a while or are simply seeking the right moment to return, let this be your invitation to join us again. There is a place for you here, and we look forward to worshipping alongside you.

My hope for 2025 is that it will bring more baptisms—not only of infants but also of youth and adults. Each baptism is a celebration of faith and a commitment to live as disciples of Christ. I also hope that our churches, Algonquin and Central, will become home for new people seeking a place to belong. Let us actively pray for opportunities to invite others into our worship and fellowship, trusting that God is already preparing hearts to hear His Word.

This past year, we've seen exciting growth in our youth ministry. I pray that this momentum continues and inspires even more young people to deepen their relationship with Christ. Additionally, I hope that we can grow in our service and outreach—both to one another and to our broader community. The words of Galatians 5:13 remind us, *"Through love, serve one another."* May this be the heartbeat of our ministries. One specific area of ministry that I hope to see revitalized is the Anchor House Ministry.

This vital outreach has made a difference in so many lives, and I pray for God's guidance in finding a new director and a new church representative to serve on its board. I also hope to see the renewal of our men's ministry, providing opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth among the men of our congregation.
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The Pastor's Perspective continued:

In all these hopes, we are encouraged to be expectant—not because of anything we can achieve on our own, but because of God's blessings poured out through Christ. With open hearts and willing hands, let us seek how God will use us to be a blessing to others. Together, let us lean into the promise of Ephesians 3:20, which says that God *"is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us."*

I believe that 2025 holds incredible opportunities for growth, service, and joy. Let's step into this year with trust and anticipation, ready to see how God's light will shine through us and in us.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Marty



PRAYER WHEEL FOR OUR MILITARY

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Brent N. Johnson is a pilot stationed at Dover, Delaware with the U.S. Air Force. He is married to Catherine, and she is also in the Air Force, in Intelligence. His grandparents are Gayle and Bob Johnson.

Sgt. Sawyer Ball, the son of Marcia and Carl Ball, remains stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado with the U.S. Army.

CW4 Sam Morgan is stationed in Savannah, Georgia and he is the commander of a Black Hawk helicopter. His parents are Virginia and Terry Morgan and he is the nephew of Tom and Harriette Robinson.

Sgt. Christopher Larson is with the U.S. Army National Guard and is with the 107th Engineer Battalion forward support company in Marquette, Michigan. He was recently promoted to Staff Sgt. He is in the ROTC program at Northern Michigan University. He is the son of Kevin and Kathy Larson and the grandson of Barbara Larson and Freida Cox.

We would like to extend prayers and recognition beyond our church family to anyone who would like their loved ones, friends or acquaintances mentioned for special prayers in this space. We welcome anyone to make your newsletter editors or our church office staff aware of them.

ALGONQUIN AND CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES
MISSION: CONNECTING ALL PEOPLE TO GOD BY BUILDING
BRIDGES OF CARING, OUTREACH AND ACCEPTANCE

NOTES AND NOTEWORTHY

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 14: Valentine's Day

Looking Ahead:

March 5: Ash Wednesday

Central's monthly SOUP LUNCHEON will be held after the morning service on **February 2, 2025**. Join us for a great time of good food and fellowship. If you are able to bring soup or a dessert, please feel free! Help is always appreciated in the kitchen too.

MISSIONS

The elementary school project has been very successful. The schools are good right now on clothing. The big need now is food and snacks. If you want to pick up a few things, they can be left in the tubs, both upstairs, outside the elevator, or the tub in the Fellowship Hall.

They need things like easy mac and cheese bowls, ramen noodles, pop tarts, oatmeal packs, granola bars, fruit cups, cracker packs, canned vegetables and soups.

Also much needed are head lice kits, any brand. If it is easier to purchase a gift card at Meijers or Walmart, they can be placed in the offering plates or left at the church office. We will then use them to purchase things needed.

Thank you for your wonderful support on this project. The schools very much appreciate it.

Submitted by Barb Carlisle

WORSHIP WORK AREA

BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE: A special baptismal remembrance was held on Sunday, January 12, 2025 in celebration of those who have been baptized.

THANK YOU! Those who lit the Advent candles and did a reading during Advent were Sara and Rayka Devaprasad, John and Beverly Proulx, Mallory and Nora Baier, Lori Horner, Terri Lanoreaux, Jim and Kathy Bankson, Jackie Willey and Robin Myers. We thank them for their service.

We also thank all of those who assisted in decorating the sanctuary for Christmas and those who helped take the decorations down at the end of the season. It was truly appreciated.

Robin Myers, Worship Committee Chair

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS GIVEN AT CENTRAL UMC

IN MEMORY OF:

Dale Hoornstra by Rhonda & family
Dale Hoornstra by Bob, Kirstyn, Brynn and Iyla
Bernard Beaulieu by Bob, Kirstyn, Brynn and Iyla
Keith & Betty Rutledge by Norla, Nicole & Natalie
Shelby Myers by Terry & Robin Myers
Joanne Sweeley by Gary Sweeley
Aunt Vera Spence by Terri Bush
Aunt Zena FitzGerald by Terri Bush
Gus & Benny Zarzeck by Bob & Jackie Willey
Howard & Gladys Morgan by Ronald & Diana Morgan
Our Parents, Margaret & Robert Proulx, Donna & Emil Bourque by Bev & John Proulx

IN HONOR OF:

Our Grandchildren by Colleen & Bernie Arbic
Our Children & Grandchildren by Ben & Sharon Jones
Gary Sweeley by John & Cathy Wilkinson

FOR THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS:

Lori & Gary Horner
Kristin Donarski
Carl Ball & Marcia-Jenkins Ball



Remember to keep up with your pledge and your giving to our two churches.

*Your continued faithfulness will help us keep current with
our bills and obligations!!*

ALGONQUIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1604 W Fourth Avenue
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783

Our Worship Servants for this month are:

February 2: Communion Steward, Bernita Sibbald and Greeters are Mary Beth and Todd Vollick

February 9: Liturgist, Bev Atkins and Greeter is Sharon Bennett

February 16: Greeter is Rachel Pratt

February 23: Greeter is Bev Harwood

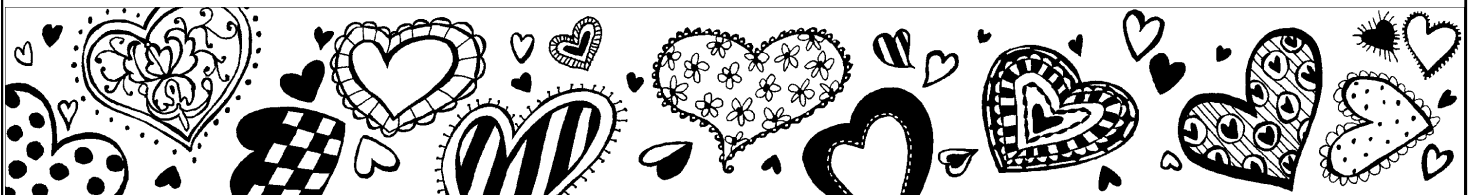
News To Share:

Pictured here are all the donations the congregation collected in December for the Compass Pregnancy and Family Resource Center, as well as \$172.00 from our Change Jar.

Submitted by Bernita Sibbald



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



We hope you will join us for Family Night!

5:30 pm till 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 19th



Be Strong and let your heart take Courage – Psalm 31:24

Children's Lesson based on Matthew 27:55 – 56 and Luke 24: 1-11

Adult Lesson based on Acts 6:8-7:2. 51-60

Our Fifth Session is "Be Courageous." Showing love and standing up for justice may sound good but how far are we willing to go to spread Godly love? The practice of loving God, neighbor, and enemy is always personal but communal as well. An act of courage takes one's own strength yet can be bolstered by others and on behalf of others. Children and Adults will hear of the courage it takes for people of faith to stand firm and insist on love.

This is a great series on Love God, Neighbor, Enemy, and all are welcome. We will enjoy dinner together at 5:30 and split into adult and children's groups for our lesson at 6:15.

CENTRAL'S 2025 STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS FINAL REPORT

Central's Finance Committee is currently developing the 2025 budget based on the following figures. Upon completion it will be presented to the Administrative Board for their consideration.

The numbers below show a comparison for the years 2024 and 2025.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Number of pledges	51	50
Pledged to the General Fund	\$113,869	\$110,218
Pledged to the Building Fund	6,781	6,190
Pledged to Apportionments	15,849	13,390



The following is a breakdown of the proposed budget.

The General Fund has expenses which includes salaries, utilities and insurance for the church and parsonage, allotments to the various committees, professional services and office expenses.

The Apportionment figure is determined by the Michigan Conference, and this year it is \$17,209. The Building fund is not a part of the General Fund.

Again this year we will be operating with a deficit budget. The Finance Committee appreciates the faithfulness of our congregation for keeping their pledges up to date. This is a big help in keeping our obligations current.

The Finance Committee will keep the congregation updated with quarterly reports in the Flame.

Submitted by the Finance Committee

RECIPE ROUNDUP CORNER

(We know we have many wonderful cooks in Algonquin and Central churches. We invite the sharing of your favorite recipe. Just write them out, include your name, and turn them into the box marked for "the Flame" outside of our secretary's office, or email them to Barb Larson at blarson1517@charter.net. It can be desserts, entrees, beverages, appetizers, etc.)

Cherry Bars

(Here's a cheery, cherry red dessert very appropriate for Valentine's Day.)

1 cup butter 2 cups sugar 1 teas. vanilla 1 tsp. almond extract 4 eggs
3 cups flour pinch of salt 1 can cherry pie filling



Combine butter and sugar, add eggs, vanilla and almond extract and mix well. Mix in flour and salt. In a buttered 9x13" pan put in 3/4 of the dough, patting evenly over the bottom. Spread the cherry pie filling over the top and drop rest of the dough by spoonfuls over the pie filling. Bake at 375 for 40 minutes.

Submitted by Jackie Willey (see another recipe from Jackie on the next page)

BAPTISM

Isabella and Sophia Povey, the twin daughters of Gavin and Jewel Povey, were baptized at Central United Methodist Church on December 15, 2024. They were born on April 5, 2024 and have an older brother, Eli, who is 3 years old. Their grandparents are Valerie and Rob Povey and their great grandparents are Diana and Ron Morgan. They were born in Kingsport, Tennessee. The top picture features Isabella and Sophia, and the bottom picture is of the whole Povey family.



Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirits sign,
with this water God has sealed you
into love and grace divine.



Another Recipe from Jackie Willey: **Chicken Corn Chowder**

3 slices bacon, diced 1 cup chopped onion 1 leek, white & lt. green parts only, sliced
1 clove garlic, minced 4 cups chicken stock 2 lg. Russet potatoes, peeled and diced
1 rotisserie chicken, meat picked off & chopped 1 teaspoon dried thyme
salt & pepper to taste 1 cup diced ham 1 can (15 oz.) creamed corn 1 diced zucchini

In a large pot, over med. heat, cook bacon to crisp. Remove bacon, leaving drippings in pan. Add leeks, onion and garlic and saute until tender. Add stock, potatoes and zucchini, bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, until potatoes are tender. Add chicken, ham, bacon, thyme, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil and then reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes. Add corn and simmer an additional 10 minutes. (At this point I thickened mine with equal amounts of butter and flour, 1/4 cup each. Add some broth to thin it out before adding to soup.) Stir until thickened..

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS AND WISHES

Central Birthdays

February 1 - Jerry Bell

February 4 - Pat Bennin

February 12 - Robin Myers

February 13 - Carissa Bell -Vicente

February 14 - Kathy Laarson

February 14 - Barbara Larson

February 17 - Tom Harris

February 24 - Kim Harris

Central Anniversaries

February 10 - Diana and Ron Morgan (66th)



Algonquin Birthdays

February 28 - Sam White

Algonquin Anniversaries

February 14 - Woody and Laura Anderson

UNITED METHODIST MEMBERSHIP VOWS

We vow to faithfully participate in the church's ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness; to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of the world, and repent of our sins; to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice and oppression to confess Jesus Christ as Savior, put our whole trust in His grace and promise to serve Him as our Lord; to remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world; to be loyal to Christ through the United Methodist Church and do all in our power to strengthen its ministries; to faithfully participate in its ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness; to receive and to profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the new and old testaments.

A Season of Love, Peace, and Joy

The annual bazaar for Women of Faith in November 2024 is in the books. It has been a pleasure to work with all of the women (and men) involved in the bazaar over the past two years. I am looking forward to working with these wonderful individuals in the coming years.

Reports of the income from the bazaar have been shared in church, but we wanted to give a final report of income and expenditures, putting a bow on the final wrap of the package.

This is the final report via Terri Bush, our Women of Faith treasurer.

Booth	First Day income	Second Day Income	Notes
Morning Coffee	\$ 23.00		
Cookie Walk	\$ 288.00		
Sewing/Knit	\$ 267.00	\$38.00	
Bake	\$573.00	\$ 131.00	
Attic Treasures	\$ 515.00		
Novelties	\$1041.00	\$155.00	\$45.00 on 12/16
Kitchen	\$ 132.00		
Tickets	\$ 764.25		
TOTAL	\$ 3,603.25	\$ 324.00	\$45.00
GRAND	\$ 3,972.25		

EXPENSES

EXPENSES		
Triple J Bakery	\$ 64.00	Bread
Groceries	\$100.00	Reimburse Terri Bush
Decorations, 2 new Christmas trees, paper products, center pieces	\$ 374.75	Reimburse Sherry Hutchins
Health Department	71.00	1-day license
TOTAL	\$609.75	

NET Profit 2024 = \$ 3,362.49

Submitted by: Sherry Hutchins and Diane Bell

A REMINDER: The deadline for material to be submitted for our next *Flame*, the March 2025 issue, is due on **February 15, 2025** at noon.

Central Child Care Center's Playground is being Repurposed.

When the childcare center closed its doors in March of 2020 due to the pandemic sweeping our nation, the childcare board faced a tough decision in regard to reopening once the pandemic was over. Through much research and contemplation, it was decided that the center would be closed permanently, almost 50 years after it was started as a mission to the Sault Ste. Marie community.

At the time of closure, the board made a commitment to follow through with a celebration of center, and under the leadership of Lori Horner, have been working on turning the center's playground into a park-like facility that can be used by the church and the community. Many of the updates to this point are not visible, but some are, and more visible changes will be coming.

In August or September of 2025, we would like to have a large celebration of the Central Child Care Center in the courtyard. We will be inviting everyone from the church, the local community, past center personnel, parents of children who attended the center, and the children who attended the center. We are also planning on having artifacts from the center on display that day.

Obviously, this involves a lot of planning. We have individuals who are researching old records for information. We have individuals who will be searching for artifacts, and others who will be creating and writing invitations to the many individuals being invited to the celebration.

I am reaching out in this issue of the FLAME to ask for your help. I found this picture of children who attended the center in 1983/1984 (shown on the next page) (yes, these children are all in their 40's now). Do you have similar pictures from other years that I could copy to use at the celebration? I would be delighted to do so.

What are some of the other ways you can help? I'm so glad you asked!

- If you were a member of the church committee who organized the Central Child Care Center to open as a mission to the community, I would welcome a chance to bend your ear about everything that went into the process.
- If you were a member of the Central Child Care Center Board of Directors over the course of the center's tenure, I would welcome information from you about the goings on/special events at the center while you were on the board, names of employees, etc.
- If you were an employee of the center over the course of the center's tenure, your information about happenings at the center, special events, and names of your fellow employees would be very helpful.
- If you were a parent of a child at the center, what do you remember about the center? Why did you bring your child to the center? Who was your child's favorite teacher? What events/activities did your child particularly enjoy? Please feel free to contact me and let me know!
- If you were a child at the center (and I know some of the children started as toddlers and continued coming to the center as kindergarteners, and even older through summer activities), and have some special memories, please share them with me!

As you can see, there are many, many ways that you can be a part of this special recognition of the Central Child Care Center and it's almost 50 years as a mission to the community.

Please send pictures, your written thoughts and memories (please be sure to add your name so I can contact you for any clarifications I might need to do), names of employees, etcetera, to hutchinssh@gmail.com or give them to me in person. You can also mail your contributions to me at 904 Court Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Thank you (in advance) for your contributions to the celebration!

Submitted by Sherry Hutchins

Church Tour by Michigan Historic Preservation Network

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network has requested a tour of our church on the afternoon of **May 15, 2025**. Many individuals from the church are working behind the scenes to ready the church for the visitors.

Lori Horner, Sherry Hutchins, and others are looking for ways to decorate the church and display some of the many uses of our church, both from today and the past.

One of the ideas we discussed was showcasing activities that happen or have happened in the church. This led to us talking about the many uses of room 101, and the fact that we had ladies from the church and the community who would meet in room 101 weekly to hand quilt quilts that the ladies had made.

We would love to have one or two of those many quilts to display during the tour of the church by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. Do you have one of these quilts in your home? If you don't own one, might you know someone who does that we could contact?

If you can help us find a quilt or two, we would be most appreciative. Please give Lori (906) 630-3328 or Sherry (906) 630-2207 a call so we can follow up!

By the way, the group will be having a "break" period while at the church. In true UMC fashion, we will be looking at providing a "snack" for our visitors. As the date nears, you may be approached to bring cookies or bars to the church for the occasion. More on this aspect of the visit later!

Thank you, in advance, for your help!
Sherry Hutchins

CENTRAL CHILD CARE CENTER CHILDREN FROM 1983-84



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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SAULT SAINTE MARIE, MI 49783-2189

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MIRACLE

DO NOT PRAY FOR EASY LIVES;

PRAY TO BE STRONGER....

DO NOT PRAY FOR TASKS EQUAL TO YOUR POWERS;

PRAY FOR POWERS EQUAL TO YOUR TASKS.

THEN THE DOING OF YOUR WORK SHALL BE NO MIRACLE,

BUT YOU SHALL BE A MIRACLE.

EVERY DAY YOU SHALL WONDER AT YOURSELF,

AT THE RICHNESS OF LIFE WHICH

HAS COME TO YOU BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

FROM "GUIDEPOSTS" MAGAZINE

Rejoice
LORD!
IN THE