



**DECEMBER
2022
CARILLON**

**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
322 SOUTH LINCOLN ROAD
ESCANABA, MI 49829
REV. LAURA FELICIANO/PASTOR**

**CHURCH PHONE: (906) 786-0643
EMAIL: churchoffice@escanabacentral.org
WEBSITE: [www.Escanaba CentralUMC.org](http://www.EscanabaCentralUMC.org)
OFFICE HOURS: M, W, Th, F - 9:00-Noon**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 A.M.
COFFEE TIME: 10:00 A.M.
WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 A.M.
EDITOR: Bonnie Cowell**

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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 concern and/or compliment.

DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY

Help others to celebrate Jesus' birthday thru donations to the Salvation Army Pantry. Suggested items for the celebration include cake mixes, frosting, jello mixes, cupcake liners, and new birthday candles. Did you know that 1200 cupcakes can be made from 40 pounds of cake mixes? Monetary donations can be dropped in the Sunday collection or mailed/brought to the office.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias to decorate the church altar and to honor or remember your loved ones will be available again this season. Cost per plant will be \$18-\$20. Order forms were in last week's bulletin. Please fill out the names of those you wish to honor or remember and return the form in the collection or to the office **by December 19th.**



HELPING HANDS

Please remember our Helping Hands Fund during difficult economic times. The funds are for Central members facing an urgent financial challenge and in need of assistance. All help is strictly confidential. See Pastor Laura for assistance.

Christ-mas Is Around the Corner

It is the most wonderful time of the year, you may have heard for years and years. It sounds really nice. What makes it wonderful to you?

Christianity.com published an article where Heather Riggleman explains Christmas is one of the most important Christian and cultural holidays of the year; but what is the true meaning of Christmas? For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

How true is that for you, especially in a commercialized culture like ours in the United States of America? How true is it that we prepare with great expectation for the celebration of the birth of our Messiah, or is it to put up the Christmas tree, lights, decorations, exchange gifts, or enjoy family get-togethers and festive gatherings?

The Christmas season, especially in the West, is a mix of pre-Christian, Christian, and secular traditions. What's interesting is the etymology of the word Christmas. It literally means Christian Mass. It's a shortened form of Christ's Mass.

Christmas is a time of spiritual reflection on the important foundations of the Christian faith. It's also a celebration. It's when Christians celebrate God's love for the world through the birth of the Christ child: Jesus. The Bible tells of his birth hundreds of years before, fulfilling prophecies.

John 3:16 New International Version: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

This is the very foundation of Christianity. Our Heavenly Father loves us to the point of giving his only begotten Son to become flesh, coming into this imperfect and lost world, to pay with his life for our sins so that we can be saved. Are you a parent? How would you feel if your child is set to be killed in rescue of criminals? Unspeakable, right? Jesus came as flesh into this world, as an innocent baby, suffered under religious people, and died on the cross of Calvary for the whole of humanity so that we can be free and move from darkness to The Light. That's the real reason for the season.

May we take intentional time to reflect, give thanks, and honor our Lord this wonderful time of the year, and every single day of our lives on earth.

.Advent blessings,

Pastor Laura



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

NURSERY CARE

Nursery care is available for children four and under during Sunday morning worship and at our Christmas Eve services with our caregiver, Katy Bunch. Coloring pages, books, and stuffed animals are available in the gathering space for children worshipping with their families.

WORDS OF WELCOME

A joyous welcome to all who have come to celebrate the birth of our Lord! However dark or cold it may be out in the world, wherever Christ is present and praised, there is the warmth of heavenly light and glad tidings for all! Let us, therefore, draw near to one another as friends and families to share in the glorious Good News of Christ's birth.

2023 GIVING ENVELOPES

2023 Giving Envelopes will be available soon. **Please put your name on the envelope as it facilitates correct posting.**

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship and discussion. We are still reading "Stranger in the Lifeboat" by Mitch Albom. We will meet November 30th, December 7th and 14th, before taking a break for the holidays.

RADIO BROADCAST

WDBC Radio 680 AM on the dial airs the 11:00 a.m. worship service each Sunday. If interested in sponsoring a broadcast, sign the sheet in the entry or call the office. Cost for this service is \$100 per week and you can give the full \$100 or any portion of it.



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Please note that the Office will be closed from **Thursday, December 22nd thru Monday, January 2nd**. Phone messages and mail will be checked.

Tax deductible donations for 2022 must be in by December 26th. PLEASE be sure to mark it as a 2022 donation.

DECEMBER FINANCE STEWARDS

04 Lois Lavelle, Arleen Martin
 11 Cheryl Swanson, Sue Gaudette
 18 Janet Snowden, Jackie Johnson
 24/25 Lois Lavelle, Bev Ladin

PASTY CREW HOLIDAY LUNCH

All who worked on the Pasty Crew are invited to enjoy a delicious meal, fellowship & some Christmas fun on Tuesday, December 13th at 12 Noon in Room 9. RSVP to Lois Lavelle or Arleen Martin or sign the sign-up sheet.



CHRISTMAS EVE

Our Christmas Eve Service will be Saturday, **December 24th** at 7:00 pm.

Candles will be lit, there will be special music, Christmas hymns sung, and a special message from Pastor Laura. We hope you can join us.

DECEMBER MINISTRY NIGHT

There are **NO** Ministry meetings this month. We will meet again Thursday, **January 19th** with the Committees meeting at 6:00pm and the Council at 7:15pm.

LOVING FINGERS QUILTERS

The Loving Fingers Quilters will meet in Room #9 on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays from 9 a.m.—2 p.m. beginning in January.

HOPE AT THE INN

We are hosting Hope at the Inn **December 18th-24th**, providing a safe and welcoming shelter for those who are experiencing homelessness. Volunteers are needed for set-up, tear down, preparing and serving dinner, working intake and overnight shifts, and doing laundry after the guests leave. This is a powerful way to put faith into action this Advent season. Sign up at hopeattheinn.org or in the gathering space. See Kerry Madalinski or Pastor Laura for more information.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all of you who joined us on Sunday, November 27th after the worship service for the "decorating of our Christmas tree." You are appreciated!



Hat & Mitten Tree

Boots and socks are the items most needed to warm the hearts and hands of the needy children in our community.

Paper mittens on the tree will have a gift wish to purchase and return to the church **unwrapped**. Gifts need to be returned by Wednesday, **December 14th**. If you have an idea not included on one of the mittens, please take it upon yourself to donate your gift idea. For questions please contact Janet Snowden at 786-3638.

Unwrapped please!

PRAYER LIST

Please remember all of those in need of prayers for healing, strength, and courage during an illness or challenging time. Also all those in nursing homes and those who are homebound. God bless you and keep you in His loving care knowing our thoughts and prayers are with each of you.

Contact Diane Bennett (786-4069) Leona Williams (786-1730), or Pastor Laura with your prayer requests.

YEAR END STATEMENTS

End of Year giving statements will be ready to pick up in mid-January.