



MARCH/APRIL 2023

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.EscanabaCentralUMC.org
OFFICE HOURS
M, W, Th, F - 9:00 - Noon
Tuesday - Closed

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 A.M.
COFFEE TIME: 10:30 A.M.
WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

EDITOR: Bonnie Cowell

SOUP and VESPER

Join us Wednesdays in Lent for Soup and Vespers! We'll share a supper of soup and bread at 6:00pm in Room 9.

At 6:30pm, we'll move to the sanctuary for simple evening worship service of music, prayer, and reflection. Come be a part of this simple, meaningful way to embrace the Lenten journey.



LOVING FINGERS QUILTERS

The Quilters meet in Room 9 from 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. It is wonderful to see everyone and to make quilts together again. Join us!

MARCH LITURGISTS

- 3/05 Kittie Bone
- 3/12 Bob Hamlin
- 3/19 Erik Barnhart
- 3/26 Marilyn Trudgeon

APRIL LITURGISTS

- 4/02 Gabe Kluka
- 4/09 Deana Robinette
- 4/16 Gregg Bruff
- 4/23 Melissa Kressin
- 4/30 Kittie Bone



To Rocky Blixt's family for the memorial donation! It has been used to purchase a twelve foot Christmas tree for the sanctuary in his memory.

National Women's Month. Let's Celebrate it by doing justice to them!

From BCE to 2023, due to social perennial issues, from patriarchy to misogyny, women have been objects of injustice. Patriarchal societies downplayed the role of women at all levels to the point of giving them limited mention in their achievements as individuals, daughters, wives, mothers, grandmothers, siblings, professionals, leaders, influencers, activists, and the like; including what everyone can learn from Christian Sacred Scriptures. Due to such limited injustice, gender bias, and lack of viable resources, women in general had, and continue to bravely fight for their own development and enrichment; for even formal education was denied to them for centuries. Thanks to such "fights" during the last few centuries some advances have been noticed. The creation of agencies, movements, and advocacy are giving a strong voice to women, but we still don't hear much about many of them.

Nevertheless, as mentioned before, there have been some achievements. March has been named the National Women's Month in the United States. There is an institution supporting and empowering women to let their voices be heard. It is the National Women's History Alliance. This is part of what they have recently shared:

"The National Women's History Alliance, which spearheaded the movement for March being declared National Women's History Month, has announced the women's history theme for 2023, "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." Throughout 2023 the NWA will encourage recognition of women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling including print, radio, TV, stage, screen, blogs, podcasts, and more. The timely theme honors women in every community who have devoted their lives and talents to producing art, pursuing truth, and reflecting the human condition decade after decade. As in previous years, the Alliance, which is centered in Santa Rosa, California, will encourage local communities throughout the country to use the year's theme to guide their own celebrations . . . Today and over the years ahead, their dedication and shared desire to give voice to the voiceless are critical to keeping us informed, entertained and aware." (<https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/2023-theme/>)

Now, what is it that the local church is doing on trying to do justice to oppressed women in our midst? I have heard stories about ethnic groups located close to Escanaba where there are numerous women suffering domestic and financial violence, to name a couple issues. In other words, this is a problem called: "Feminization of Poverty." Feminization of poverty is a contested idea with a multitude of meanings and layers. Marcielo M. and Joana C. define feminization of poverty in two parts: feminization and poverty. Feminization designates gendered change; something becoming more feminine, by extension more familiar or severe among women of female-headed households. Poverty is a deficit of resources or abilities.

An opportunity for a program enabling women to balance their self-esteem, develop job skills, leadership, and empowerment as businesswomen while caring for the spirituality of women is called: WHEN (Women Holistically Empowered and Nurtured). Women 12 yrs. and up can be a part of it. They meet for fellowship, develop friendships, learn or develop the abilities to create handcrafted products, go through orientation sessions on how to start a small business, and most importantly: care for their spirituality. To learn more about WHEN contact Pastor Laura at (615) 218-8187.

Are you sensing God's call to do justice to the oppressed women in your midst? Do not stay silent. Let us talk about what we, together, can do on behalf of this marginalized sector in our community.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:15 a.m. No Sunday School
10:00 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 services with our caregiver, Katy Bunch. Coloring pages, books, and stuffed animals are available in the gathering space for children worshipping with their families.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday evening Bible Study does not meet during Lent. Bible Study will resume again after Easter. Watch the bulletins for the date.

UMCOR SUNDAY

Sunday, March 19th 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you wish to sponsor flowers for Sunday Worship please call the church at 786-0643 or sign the sheet in the Narthex.

Cost is \$18.00.

MARCH FINANCE STEWARDS

3/05 Cheryl Swanson, Sue Gaudette
3/12 Lois Lavelle, Jackie Johnson
3/19 Janet Snowden, Bev Ladin
3/26 Laura Kluka, Arleen Martin

APRIL FINANCE STEWARDS

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4/23 Janet Snowden, Arleen Martin
4/30 Laura Kluka, Jackie Johnson

RADIO BROADCAST



WDBC Radio 680 am airs the 10:30AM Worship Service each Sunday. If you are interested in sponsoring a 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. We have many open dates in 2022.

MEETING NIGHT

Thursday, March 16. Committees at 6pm, Council at 7:15pm.



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.

THOUGHT:

There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love.

Thornton Wilder



Daylight Savings time begins **March 12, 2023**. Spring forward one hour before retiring for the night on **March 11th**.

HELPING HANDS

Please remember our Helping Hands Fund during these difficult economic times, 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 Laura for assistance.

FOOD PANTRY

Ideas for March/April include disinfecting wipes, cleaners, bleach, laundry soap, dishwashing soap/detergent, sponges and scrub brushes.



PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

The Palm Sunday Service will be Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at Central. Palms and celebrations will begin Holy Week.

HOLY WEEK

11:00 A.M. Palm Sunday Service
April 2, 2023

6:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday
First United Methodist
Thursday, April 6, 2023

12:00 Noon Good Friday
Bethany Lutheran
April 7, 2023

8:30 A.M. Sunrise Service
at the beach

10:00 A.M. Easter Sunday Breakfast
Central UMC Fellowship Hall

11:00 A.M. Easter Sunday Worship

