

MARCH 2023

# CENTRAL JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

## RICH'S RAMBLINGS

WRITTEN BY REV. RICH BURSTALL

As you all are aware, the Ad Council has voted on a plan to move Central forward. This plan was developed by me over the last six to seven months. Today, I want to share it with everyone, let you know exactly where we are headed, and what will be taking place in the church. This plan was discussed, voted on, and passed by unanimous vote of the Ad Council.

Some of this may be a little challenging because 1) it goes against what a church "should do," 2) it might touch on things that are important to us but no longer serve their intended purposes, and it might be challenging just because it is change.

Please note that all of the details of this plan are not completely worked out but will be as the projects go along.

So here we go:

1) We will become a Reconciling Congregation. This means that Central will take the stance to become an open and affirming congregation for LGBTQIA+ members and visitors and welcome them into the full life of the church. You can find out more at <https://rmnetwork.org>.

2) Cleaning the façade of the building, new landscaping, lighting, and signage. There is mold growing on the building, and it is dirty from years of weather, smog, and age. These changes will make the building come alive and more visible.

### STAY CONNECTED

EMAIL:

ADMINASSISTANT@  
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FACEBOOK:

CUMCWHATSHAPPENING

PHONE:

517.485.9477

### UPCOMING EVENTS

BELIZE MISSIONS TRIP

APRIL 2023



### **RICH'S RAMBLINGS CONTINUED**

3) Kitchen remodel. This is already taking place. Paul Walker, Central's Facilities Manager, has been working on the structure of the rooms. New equipment has been ordered and received. This vision will not only allow the church to use it, but it offers the use to home bakers, caterers, food truck owners, and others. It will be rented out by the hour -- or however it is determined.

4) The Library will be transformed into a coffee shop, like Starbuck or some other group. The library itself will be either be moved or the books will be donated. The Chapel will be opened up by removing portions of the walls to allow those who come into the church to see it and use it for the intended purpose, and to prayer and rest.

5) Second Floor meeting rooms and Loft will be updated and aggressively marketed for an office or meeting space, through both social media and a realtor.

6) We are working on a new website. It is already live, but it needs a lot of work. We are working with Town Square Media, which is the group that owns the radio station we contract with. It should be noted that the focus of the website is not going to be us, but the people in the community.

7) We will also be using the gym on Fridays and Saturdays to raise money for the church. We will be starting an activity called Fowling, but we will call it Footbowl, because the former is a trademark name. Basically, it is taking a football and throwing it from 30 feet or so away at bowling pins placed on a platform. It sounds ridiculous (and it is!), but it is fun.

As always if you have questions feel free to contact me at anytime 734-915-6058

Peace,

Rich



*Rev. Rich Burstall, Senior Pastor of Central United Methodist Church*



# MSU SHOOTING SHATTERS MICHIGAN UMC

WRITTEN BY JAMES DEATON

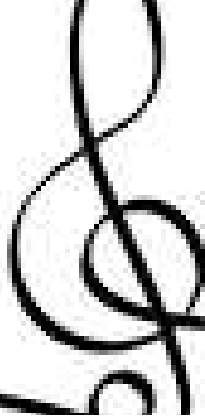
**Excerpts from the article of MSU Shooting Shatters Michigan UMC. United Methodist churches in the greater Lansing area grapple with the Feb. 13 mass shooting on the campus of Michigan State University.**

LANSING, Mich. — “Ash Wednesday has come early,” said Bishop David Bard as he stood from the pulpit of Okemos Community Church, a federated United Methodist and Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation less than three miles from Monday night’s horrific mass shooting at Michigan State University. He joined clergy and community members Tuesday evening at a prayer vigil less than twenty-four hours after the tragedy shook the state.

The East Lansing university and surrounding neighborhoods were put on lockdown Monday, Feb. 13, around 8:20 pm, when a lone shooter entered buildings on the north side of campus and opened fire, killing three students and critically injuring five more. Police found the gunman three hours later; he had died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Donning a Michigan State University Spartan tie, Bishop Bard stood in solidarity with those gathered and pointed to the ritual of marking foreheads with ashes in the shape of the cross that many Christians, including United Methodists, will participate in next Wed. as the Lenten season begins.

“[Ash Wednesday is] that reminder that we are finite. That life can come to an end so quickly. And it’s come early in a way we would never want, never hope to see,” said Bard. Ashes symbolize our human impermanence, that life is fragile, and the sudden death of three young adults in the prime of life has traumatized this university and everyone connected to it.



**Mark Mitchell Director of Music and Worship**

# FELIX COMES TO CENTRAL!

**WRITTEN BY MARK MITCHELL**

I am proud to announce that **Central will be hosting internationally renowned concert organist Felix Hell on Sunday, September 24, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.** This is the first time in over 20 years that Central has hosted an internationally known concert organist, and the event promises to be an exciting opportunity for us to experience top-notch talent.

A native of Germany, Felix Hell is one of the most sought after concert organists in the world. He has been featured as a recitalist and concerto soloist in more than 1000 concerts throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. The American Organist raved that he “sets standards that older and honored players would struggle to equal.”

Past venues include Disney Hall in Los Angeles, Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York, the Esplanade in Singapore, Dewan Filharmonik Petronas in Kuala Lumpur, Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, Great Philharmonic Hall in St. Petersburg, National Center for the Arts Weiwuying in Kaohsiung, National Theatre and Concert Hall in Taipei, as well as Yongsan Art Hall in Seoul. Furthermore, Mr. Hell has performed in the cathedrals of Berlin, Regensburg, Riga, Bogota, Reykyavik, Munich, Ulm, Speyer, Worms, and Passau.

Mr. Hell has been concerto soloist with the Baltimore Symphony, Kaohsiung Symphony Orchestra, Busan Philharmonic, McGill Chamber Orchestra, Charleston Symphony Orchestra, New England Conservatory Orchestra, Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, National Academy Orchestra of Canada, Jacksonville

Symphony Orchestra, Pfalztheaterorchester Kaiserslautern, and the Deutsche Streicherphilharmonie.

Felix Hell's discography includes 12 CDs. His most recent recording titled "Poetic Visions" features Romantic Organ Music by German Composers, and is published by MSR Classics. It was recored on the historic 1902 E.F. Walcker Organ in Lüdenscheid, Germany and includes works by Reger, Mendelssohn, Rheinberger, Brahms and Liszt. His recordings are frequently broadcast throughout the United States and across the world; he has appeared on television globally.

Felix Hell is known for his diverse and innovative programming, drawing upon a repertoire encompassing five centuries. Furthermore, he has received global recognition for his marathon performances of the entire organ works of J.S. Bach, which encompass about 250 compositions and close to 20 hours of performance time. He has since performed the complete Bach cycle four times, most recently in 2013 in Seoul, Korea.


Mr. Hell is an avid supporter of new music for organ and frequently collaborates with composers.

Felix Hell studied at the Juilliard School in New York, the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia (BM), the Peabody Institute in Baltimore (AD, MM, DMA). In 2007, he received Johns Hopkins University's prestigious Outstanding Graduate Award.

For more than 20 years Mr. Hell was Organ Artist Associate at Saint Peter's Lutheran Church in Manhattan. He is currently Artist in Residence at the United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg. In 2011, Felix Hell was appointed Distinguished Visiting Artist at Kosin University in Busan, South Korea.

Tickets for the concert will go on sale in the coming months.

You can read more about Felix at his website [www.felixhell.com](http://www.felixhell.com)



“Go into all the world and proclaim  
the gospel to the whole creation.  
Mark 16:15

## MISSION TRIP TO BELIZE

## SOUTH LANSING MINISTRIES

### UPDATE:

**We thank the congregation for the \$900 donated at the January pancake breakfast!**

The mission trip is currently planned for this coming April.

There remains a shortfall of \$7,000 to build one (1) school room, using a Mennonite prefabricated structure. This one addition would allow students (who currently have no access to school) to attend.

If the Lord is moving you, and you would like to contribute financially, checks can be made out to Central UMC with a note of "Belize Mission Trip" in the memo portion of the check. Blessings for those who will be praying for us and this endeavor.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed for the garden. In 2022 the South Lansing Ministries garden produced 640 pounds of fresh produce for our clients. This is a wonderful addition to the food boxes that we are able to give. Our lead gardener is retiring and will only be available occasionally. If you like playing in the dirt, and then picking fresh produce, we have the perfect deal for you. Please call Cathy Amundsen at 517-285-8289 for more information.



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*Thank  
you*

Thank you to my church family for all the prayers and cards during my mom's, **Lois Jenkins**, strokes and passing. Haven't set a date yet for her Celebration of Life but will let you know when we have the date and location.

*Linda Towsley*

## Special Offering March 12, 2023



Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. **For this one Sunday offering, the amount received underwrites UMCOR's "cost of doing business," allowing UMCOR (formerly called One Great Hour of Sharing) to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go towards that project and not administrative cost.**

UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities and to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times. Also, UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR builds relationships and helps communities rebuild, in the years following a disaster.

UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters (recently Turkey and Syria), addresses diseases and poverty, assists refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and works to reduce hunger. **UMCOR would be unable to do this work without your support.** From training Conference Disaster Coordinators and Early Response Teams to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly to disasters.

If this opportunity is of special interest to you, you can donate online at <http://www.lansingcentralumc.net> (with funds designated for UMCOR) or checks may be made payable to Central UMC, with "UMCOR" written on the memo line, and mailed to Central UMC, 215 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Offering sponsored by Central's Missions Committee

# Connect Fellowship Grow



## ART CLUB

**MEETS EVERY WEEK AT 11:15 A.M. IN THE BOOK ROOM OFF FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Art Club meets on Sundays from 11:15-noon in the book room off from the fellowship hall. David will teach photography on the 1st Sunday of the month and Sue will teach arts and crafts on the other Sundays.

## OUTREACH

### SEEKING YOUTH ALUMI

Do you know of a young adult who was connected with Lansing Central UMC? We are working on a social event on "Easter Saturday" April 8th. If you have a loved one or family member you would like to invite. please contact Mary Boudreau (boudreau.mary1231@gmail.com) or Bob Pena (penarobertorlando@gmail.com) or leave a message at the church office.



*We believe  
love in action  
can change  
the world.*

## JUDY GROVE CIRCLE

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

This circle meets the third Monday of the month (no June or July meetings) in the second floor lounge at 12:30 p.m. for a potluck lunch prior to the meeting at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting is March 20th.

If you are interested in meeting with us, or have questions, please contact Edie Robinson 517.881.8963.

## RAINBOW CAFE

### PROMISE ROOM

Rainbow Cafe is a support group for LGBTQIA+ people and allies. We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month from 7-8:30pm in the Promise Room at Central United Methodist church. We serve warm drinks, veggies, blond brownies along with warm loving fellowship.

## 1.29.23 Pancake breakfast fundraiser photos



Volunteers: Mary Boudreau, Joe & Nancy O'Shea



Joe O'Shea, Steve Hicks, and Mary Boudreau making pancakes and serving sausage patties

# PHOTOS



Beth Zetterholm making sure beverages are in good supply.

**Fundraiser is for a working mission trip in Belize. Traveling to Dungriga will take place in April 2023**

Fresh fruit and other desserts to compliment the pancakes and sausage



Church families enjoying food and each other's company.



Devin Dudley busing dishes with his cheerful smile!



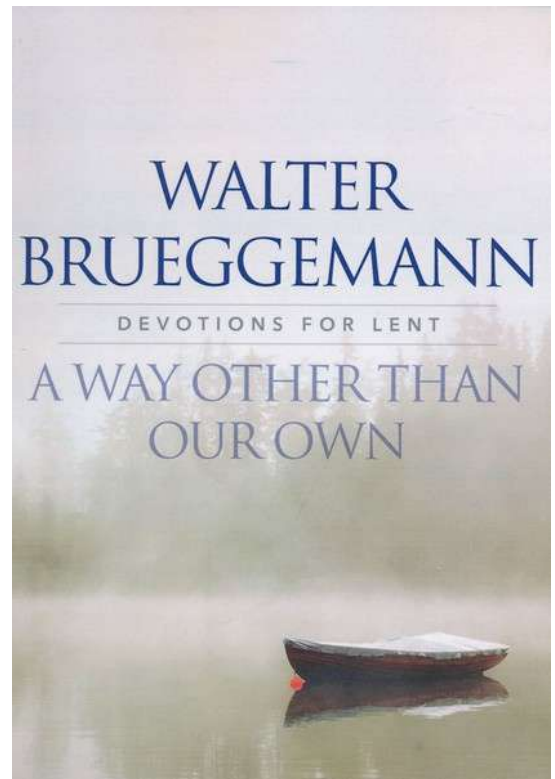


# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## EVERY SUNDAY FOR ALL CHILDREN

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN of all ages meets in the Rainbow Room every Sunday during worship, after the children's story.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.



## LENTEN BOOK STUDY

You are invited to join in a Lenten Book Study. We will begin on Ash Wednesday (February 22nd) and continue all the way to Easter Sunday. We will gather on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. at Midtown Brewery, 402 S Washington Sq., Lansing, to unpack the week. **The first meeting is changed to March 7th.**

You do not need to be a part of Tuesday night group to participate. If you want a copy to read and study for yourself, please let Pastor Rich know. Each book is \$10.00, scholarships are available if needed.

Some books are ordered and should be in soon, and we can order more if needed. To receive a copy contact Pastor Rich at 734.915.6058 or [rich.pastor@lansingcentralumc.net](mailto:rich.pastor@lansingcentralumc.net).

# Community Lenten Services

## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22

Lansing Central UMC - 12 Noon

Grace UMC - 7PM

Rev. Leslee Fritz preaching

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 6

University UMC - 7PM

Rev. Nancy Fancher preaching

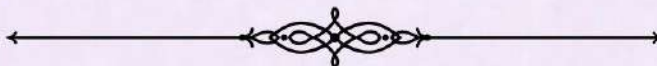
## GOOD FRIDAY

April 7

Lansing Central UMC - 12 Noon

Mt. Hope UMC - 7PM

Rev. Melanie Carey preaching



### Lansing Central UMC

215 N. Capitol, Lansing 48933

[lansingcentralumc.net](http://lansingcentralumc.net) (517)485-9477

### University UMC

1120 S. Harrison Rd., E. Lansing 48823

[UniversityChurchHome.org](http://UniversityChurchHome.org) (517)351-7030

### Grace UMC

1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing 48910

[lansinggrace.com](http://lansinggrace.com) (517)482-5750

### Mt. Hope UMC

501 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing 48910

[mthopeumc.org](http://mthopeumc.org) (517)482-1549



Join us for Lenten  
services leading  
up to Easter.

All are welcome.