



The Herald

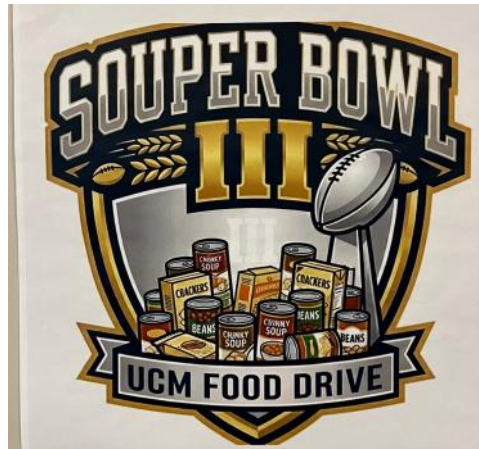
Volume XXXXXXI,
No 2


Welcome
glad you're here

Members and friends of Central Presbyterian Church welcome The Rev. Mark McDaniel (Pastor Mark) to our congregation as a stated supply pastor. More information about Pastor Mark and the work of our transitional pastor nominating committee is included in this newsletter.

Inside this issue:

Rev. Mark McDaniel/ Transitional Pastor Search	2
Christian Educator	3
Joint meeting/Lotus center	5
Session notes	6
Flower Order/OGHS	8
Calendar	9
Church Happenings	10



Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 8 following morning worship
service in fellowship hall

Our youth will also host their annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" fundraiser on Sunday, February 9. The youth will host a soup meal following worship and appreciate your donations of soup, rice and noodles to be donated to United Campus Ministries. On February 9 the youth also invite all to bring a crockpot of their favorite soup to contribute to the meal.



We welcome The Rev. Mark McDaniel (Pastor Mark)

At a session meeting on January 25, 2026, session approved a motion from the Interim Pastor Search Committee to appoint the Rev. Mark McDaniel as our Stated Supply Pastor to provide leadership and consistency while the search for an interim pastor continues. The Presbytery Committee on Ministry approved this arrangement and Rev. McDaniel began his time with us on February 1.

He will serve as Pastor and Head of Staff, conducting business primarily in-person, but possibly in a virtual capacity (he lives in Bloomington), and will work 18 hours per week. He will fulfill all the duties in the Presbytery's Stated Supply contract in addition to holding staff meetings and attending Deacon meetings. He will be in the pulpit each Sunday, will be available for pastoral care, will lead staff meetings, and will help us continue to plan during this search process.

Meet Pastor Mark

I grew up in Detroit, Michigan, but my family moved to the suburbs shortly after the 1967 race riots. We moved to the suburb of Fraser, where I attended junior and senior high school. I then attended Alma College, in Alma, Michigan, where I majored in Speech and Theater. After graduation I worked in hospital administration for ten years, when I began to strongly feel a call to ministry.

I attended Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and graduated with a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree in 1997. Since my graduation I have served 5 PC(USA) churches and 3 UCC churches – the last 5 churches as a Transitional Pastor.

I have been married to Connie for 45 years. We have 2 children – Jessica, who is married to Webb, and they have a daughter, Aspen; and Ryan, married to Valarie, and they have two daughters, Vanessa and Natalie, and another daughter on the way!

I enjoy watching sports on television, and I do quite a bit of reading – which is an occupational hazard for pastors! I also enjoy cooking when I get the chance.

Connie and I lived in Bedford, Indiana for 22 years, and we just recently moved to a condo in Bloomington.

I do plan to be at the church office on Wednesdays and Thursdays – usually between 9:30 am and 3:30 pm – weather permitting. And, of course, on Sundays for worship.

Update from the Transitional Pastor Nominating Committee

The Transitional Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to interview candidates while Pastor Mark serves as Stated Supply. Session approved a candidate in December and an invitation was extended, but the candidate felt a stronger call to another congregation. The PNC continues the work and extends thanks to all who have provided support, insights, and prayers during the process.

Christian Educator — Joy Sutter

CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

Lent 2026
Cultivate and Letting Go

Cultivate (verb): to prepare and use for the raising of crops; to foster the growth of; to improve by labor, care, or study; to refine; to further; to encourage.¹

“Faith is a place of mystery, where we find the courage to believe in what we cannot see and the strength to let go of our fear of uncertainty.”

—
Brene Brown, *The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You’re Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are*

Lent is a season of spiritual gardening, of inviting God to unearth in us what lies fallow, what needs to be tended, and what needs to die for new life to emerge.

To cultivate a spiritual life we will journey through different ways to hear, experience, and journey with God each Sunday afternoon from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm. Locations will vary and topics covered. I encourage you to come and participate each Sunday. We will hopefully grow in our experience of faith together.

2/22 Breath of Life Class @ Common Ground Yoga Downtown lead by Joy Sutter

What is the connection of this living breath and our daily breath?
How is breathing a spiritual practice?
Can we connect with God in a new way just simply by breathing.

3/1 Good Grief @ Central Presbyterian Church lead by Mark McDaniel

This life is full of love, loss and sadness. Come learn and share how to sit with and feel. This time together is designed to provide a space to pray and reflect on your needs in your life, whether you are seeking healing or wholeness for yourself, or a loved one, or the earth.

3/8 Wisdom of the Fig Tree Painting Party @ Central Presbyterian Church in the Fellowship Hall

Can we cultivate the vision of the Great Gardener, the One who sees you for what you are becoming? The one who tends and prunes, nourishes and lets go?
Perhaps for us, the fruit is not the ending. The fruit is in the waiting, in the dead of winter, in the manure; the nurture, the rest, the darkness. The fruit is in all of it, sowing seeds we can't yet see.
Come paint and explore these ideas together. All abilities are welcome and encouraged.

3/15 Sacred Sound & Rest @ Central Presbyterian Church in the Fellowship Hall
Lead by Jaci Cooper

We invite you to join us for a quiet, restful experience known as a *sound bath*. *This is a peaceful time of rest where participants sit or lie down comfortably while listening to gentle, calming sounds from instruments such as singing bowls and soft chimes.*
The purpose is simple relaxation—much like sitting quietly in church while organ music plays, listening to hymns, or spending time in silent prayer.

Many people find this experience helps reduce stress and brings a sense of calm and renewal. You are welcome to pray silently, reflect, or simply rest.

All are welcome.

3/22 Labyrinth Walk @ Hawthorn Park Lead by Valeri Kershaw

Walking the labyrinth, you are entering a sacred space designed to quiet your mind and encourage you to journey inward. Labyrinths are a tool for calming the mind, finding clarity, and deepening your connection to the divine. This practice has been in use for thousands of years and is open to wheel chairs, walkers, strollers, all are welcome.

3/29 Journaling @ Central Presbyterian Church in the Fellowship Hall
lead by Jonathan Sutter

Journaling is a spiritual practice that brings water to our spiritually thirsty souls. Come put pencil to paper and connect with simple guidance and clear understanding to help grow journaling a part of your story of faith. Please bring your favorite journal you once thought you might use or use regularly. We will provide paper, pencils, and pens to use during the class.

Highpoint Youth

Highpoint youth continues to meet regularly at Central. Our youth director, Tim Ghogle, prepares a lesson that is studied each week. The middle school youth meet at 5:30. The whole group, middle & high school youth, meet together for supper at 6:15. At 6:45, the senior high youth meet to discuss the same lesson. All youth, from 6th grade through high school, are invited to attend this time of study each week. A lock-in is being planned for March. Watch for more details.

Joint meeting of session and deacons to happen Wednesday, February 11

All currently-serving elders and deacons and newly elected officers should plan to attend our annual joint meeting. We'll start at 5:30 p.m. We will be meeting in the fellowship hall. An agenda for the meeting will be emailed to all.

Lotus Center Donations

The Mission Committee is again trying to give assistance to the Lotus Center. In addition to providing short term housing and social services for our neighbors without reliable housing, the Center has become a warming center during this very cold weather. They are now serving nearly 75 persons per night. They also allow their guests to bring their pets.



Their needs are for:

- ☐ Money to buy food from Catholic Charities for pennies on the dollar
- ☐ Paper plates, bowls, plastic cutlery and trash bags
- ☐ Laundry detergent and hygiene items
- ☐ Pillows, sleeping bags and phone chargers (primarily C chargers)
- ☐ Pet food

Welcoming Our Children in Worship

We are deeply thankful for the life, curiosity, and joy our children bring to our church family. In the spirit of growing together as a community of faith, we are embracing a shared rhythm of worship that includes all ages.

Children will now join the full worship service on the **1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays**, while **Children's Worship** will continue to be offered on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** held in the lounge after the children's moment.

We warmly welcome our children into worship and cherish the opportunity to share prayer, music, learning, and sacred moments together. We look forward to growing in faith as one loving and connected community.

*A loving note for congregation and caregivers: Please know that children's quiet noises and movements are welcome in our worship space—they are signs of life and growth. **Activity bags are available in the back of the sanctuary** to help children stay engaged during the service. The nursery for birth through 4-year-olds is also available during worship for families who may find that helpful.*

The Herald

Session Notes from January for the February Herald

Session met on January 14 to hear reports and conduct business. Highlights from the meeting appear below.

Featured Report: Worship Commission

Alan Harder recognized the work of the five members of the commission during the eventful past year. The commission makes the sanctuary seasonally appropriate, prepares communion, and arranges for liturgists and children's moment presenters. They host the Christmas Eve service and this year's tone, attendance, and fellowship felt so good; we ran out of bulletins and candles! This year there has been extra work for the commission as they planned for supply of our vacant pulpit. The commission created the liturgy each Sunday, relying heavily on Presbyterian Outlook, and is grateful for all those who filled the pulpit as we look ahead to pastoral consistency.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bruce McLaren presented the December and year-end reports and noted the transactions that were done as part of the closing of the year. Expired continuing education funds were swept to cumulative maintenance, unused professional education funds were transferred to the continuing education fund, and the remaining year-to-date surplus was transferred proportionally to the Louise Danner and DeMarr funds to replace approximately 72% of what was borrowed to fund the former pastor's retirement payments.

Operating Fund Summary	Month of December Including year-end adjustments		Balance Sheet Summary	12/31/2025
Beginning of Month	\$67,942.95		Current Assets	1,043,074
Income	\$26,828.76		Fixed Assets	\$5,093,693
Expenses and transfers	\$72,047.14		Short Term Liabilities	\$3696
End of Month	\$22,724.57		Long Term Liabilities	\$103,847
			Net Worth (Fund Balance)	\$6,029,224

Christian Educator's Report: Joy Sutter reported that the children had delivered their offering to the Humane Society and had a wonderful time with the animals. Unhanging of the greens has been completed, and a written guide will be prepared for the future.

Reports and Action Items from Committees and Commissions:

Interpretation and Support: The revised budget, which reflects the corrected amount for the communications director and the transfer of additional funds to balance, was approved and will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 25.

Personnel: Rachael Spencer is attending staff meetings. The committee continues to do policy review in accordance with the Book of Order.

The Herald

Interim/Transitional Pastor Search Committee: The candidate to whom an offer had been made has graciously declined, so the committee will continue to search. Alan Harder reported that it may be possible to approach a retired minister in the area who has some interim experience to see if that person would be interested in serving while the committee continues its search. Having someone to provide a consistent presence on Sunday, as well as pastoral care and staff leadership, received a positive response from session.

Nominating: Steve Mead noted that the make-up of the nominating committee the last few years has not been in accordance with our bylaws and we should have three at-large members from the congregation, rather than two and a deacon. The committee will search for a third person to join the two already proposed.

New Business: Session addressed the question of divesting of the church bus. It has not been used in about a year, it needs work, and we have purposely let the insurance lapse. A motion to have the Facilities commission manage the sale of the bus and remove the church logo was

4 WAYS TO REMEMBER GOD'S LOVE IN FEBRUARY



01. Write a love letter from God.

02. Pray for your enemies.

03. Read 1 Corinthians 13

04. Notice God's love in nature.



Flowers for Easter

It has been our custom to place plants in the chancel area in memory or in honor of our loved ones to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Through a local florist, we can obtain any of the following:

Lilies	\$13.50 per plant
Tulips	\$9.00 per plant
Daffodils	\$9.00 per plant

ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, March 8

Let's make our worship space a blaze of color as we celebrate Easter.

Donors: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

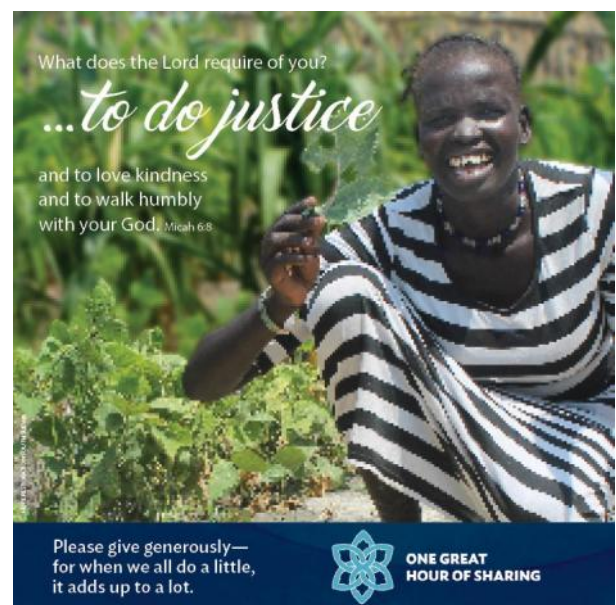
Flowers must be paid for when ordered. Please leave orders in the church office or place in offering plate.

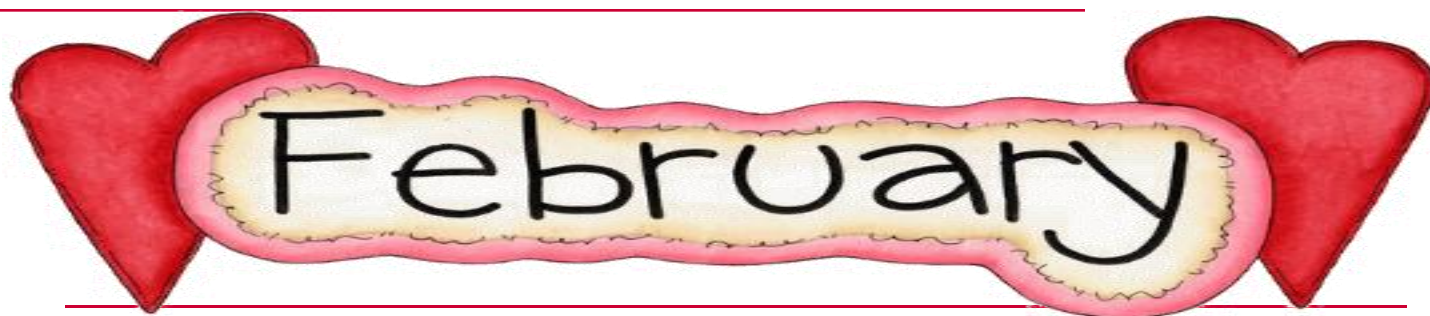
One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering will be received on Easter Sunday,

April 5

More information about this important offering will be published in the next edition of the Herald.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Youth 5:30	2	3 	4 Bible study and brew @ Moggers 7:30	5 Women's Book Club 2:00	6	7
8 Souper Bowl Caring Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30	9	10	11 Joint meet- ing of Elders & Deacons 5:30	12	13	14 
15 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Youth 5:30	16 Office Closed! 	17 Commis- sion/ Committee meetings & meal	18 Bible study and brew @ Moggers 7:30	19	20	21
22 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Youth 5:30	23	24 	25 Bible study and brew @ Moggers 7:30	26 Seekers & Searchers Bible study 10:00	27	28

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**Next Herald
Deadline —**

Feb. 25, 2026

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Mark McDaniel, Stated Supply Pastor

Sarah Kelsheimer, Church Secretary

Joy Sutter, Christian Educator

Church Happenings

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will be meeting on February 5 at 2:00 in the fellowship hall.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, February 26 at 10:00 a.m. All women are invited to the study of *From Widows to Warriors, Women's stories from the Old Testament*.



February birthdays

1—Susanne Hawk, Bruce McLaren

4—P. J. Ekstrom

6—Kevin Christ

7—Rowyn Holder

8—Ryan Giltner

10—Danny Rader, Grace Ann Spencer

15—Lilly Guell, Pam Quiroz

17—Cora Glenn, Robert Symon,

19—Hannah Marlow-Spiedel

22—Anna Tilstra-Smith

25—Susan Bough, Margaret Clem, Marcella Guthrie

27—Liv Judge, Linda Riggins, Fred Simmons,

Benjamin Spencer