

October 2026



CENTREVILLE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

305 E. Main Street

Centreville, MI 49032

A note from Pastor Drew

There is an old question that is often used as a blunt way of assessing a church's effectiveness: "Who would miss your church if it were gone?" At Annual Conference this year, ten UMC churches were closed entirely. It is very likely that many in those communities did not even notice until the "For Sale" sign went on the church lawn.

Church vitality is something that I think about a lot. We do not define vitality based on attendance numbers or income figures (although those are certainly a factor), but instead on the impact that we have on what God is doing in our community. How are we living into Jesus' mission to: "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?" How are we fulfilling our particular church's mission to "Live and Share God's Love and Hope?" As I look through this month's newsletter, I am thrilled by the vitality and beauty of our church's mission and outreach.

Who would the schools turn to as a reliable partner in collecting hygiene kits for students? Who would host the Community's Trunk or Treat event that brings our village businesses together? Where would Hansel and Gretel form the next generation of our community? Centreville, and beyond, knows our church's reliability and commitment to our neighbors, and it knows that Jesus is the reason we do it.

Our church's impact is also felt in the money that we raise for our mission partners. I am always so amazed by how generous our church is. Through August, you have given \$18,769 for missions not including the missions we support through our Ministry Shares as well. Our mission partners, both local and around the world, rely on our church's support to accomplish their work.

These impacts are possible because of your faithfulness to God's call and generosity towards our church. Our Finance Committee, Trustees, as well as Tori and I work hard to be good stewards of the gifts you give. This is why we are hosting a clean-up day (October 3), and why we choose to create our own curricula (Bible-At-Home, Children's worship bulletins), so that we can provide formative, biblically grounded, and accessible options for people at every stage of faith development. We want Centreville to be a place where those outside of our walls are blessed, but so are those within our congregation as well. Over the next few months, I ask that you begin praying intentionally about your financial support of our church. With costs increasing for basic supplies and utilities and a commitment to maintaining cost-of living increases by our SPRC, our budget has been tightening over the past several years. Your generosity has helped us to continue to move forward with confidence and intentionality, and I am thankful for each of you who continue to support what we do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew", located at the bottom center of the page.

October Nurse's Notes

Spooky Season Safety Tips: We obviously don't need to be a child to enjoy Halloween, and the littles may need some extra supervision during this playful time. Well, probably some adults do too. When selecting a costume for littles or bigs, consider where and how they'll be worn. Make sure that costumes and accessories are fire resistant. Opt for non-toxic face paint rather than masks that can impair vision or interfere with breathing. Children should remove face paint and other makeup before bed to avoid skin and eye irritation. You should too, but, hey, you're an adult. More children are participating in Trunk or Treat events rather than going door to door. If trick or treat is still in your forecast, at least one responsible adult should accompany children. Warn children to not go into anyone's home or vehicle. Stick to familiar and well-lit neighborhoods. Instruct littles to not eat any of the candy until a trusted adult has a chance to look things over. For the rest of us, be extra aware when driving and watch for people (little and big) walking in or close to streets. Be careful entering or exiting driveways. If you are the treater in the situation, better to have two adults than one. Turn on your porch light. Give only individually wrapped candies and throw out anything that looks as though it has been unwrapped.

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Ladies, get those mammograms done and if anything is unusual request an ultrasound. Are you, women and men, doing monthly breast exams? Yes men can and do get breast cancer even though it's fewer than 1%. One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer over a lifetime. The two biggest risk factors are being a woman and getting older. There are other risk factors that we can't control, such as heredity, age that menstruation started and ended, as well as others. Things that are in our control are smoking, alcohol use and weight gain. Do monthly self exams for any changes, Look for usual size, shape, and color, but report skin dimpling, puckering, swelling, redness, or a newly inverted nipple. Check for any fluid leaking from the nipples. Contact your care provider with concerns. A family member reported changes, had a mammogram that was normal. Because of her own findings and self advocacy, an ultrasound was done which showed a mass. Know your body!

This will be the last "Nurses Notes". I'm letting my nursing license expire and officially retiring from nursing. I will do "Health Notes" until the end of the year.

Blessings,

Christy Friedel, R.N., Spiritual Director

269-535-1032 | cjfriedel918@gmail.com

Office hours 10-2 Tuesdays at Building Hope Free Store

October Birthdays

10/15 - Natalie Hansson 10/26 - Becky Schneider
 10/17 - Don Eby 10/27 - Mary Martinson
 10/23 - Aidan Schrock 10/30 - Ron Santoro
 10/24 - Michelle Brokaw 10/31 - Lynda Hart
 - Pat Easterday

October Anniversaries

10/15 - Chris & Leannah Carpenter
 10/17 - Bill & Michele Cripe
 10/20 - Jim & Bev Michels
 10/27 - Vince & Annette Mifsud
 - Daniel & Dora Stephenson

October Meetings

10/6 - Trustees Committee - 6 pm
 - SPR Committee - 7 pm
 10/13 - Finance Committee - 6 pm
 - Worship Committee - 7 pm
 10/20 - OPEN Church Council - 6 pm

FREE Community Dinner



October 14
October 28



November 11
November 25



Church Office Hours

Pastor Drew: M/T/TH: 11:30-2:30
 or available by appointment
 Friday: Sabbath

Tori: Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Friday 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Financial Update

August 2026

Operations Financial Summary

Income	*August	Year To Date
Pledged Income	\$12,595.00	\$88,140.80
Non-Pledged Income	\$1,754.00	\$19,481.40
Endowment - Gen.	\$0.00	\$3,102.51
Building Use	\$150.00	\$800.00
Other	\$20.00	\$4,832.62
Total	\$ 14,519.00	\$ 116,357.33
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	\$9,050.82	\$78,840.11
Ministry Shares	\$0.00	\$8,588.00
Property and Utilities	\$873.47	\$16,279.52
Administrative	\$236.19	\$4,535.76
Worship	\$212	\$2,394.62
Program and Education	143.50	1,572.73
Other	38.97	2,324.27
Total	\$ 10,554.69	\$ 114,535.01
Net:	\$3,964.31	\$ 1,822.32

Missions Income	\$1,318.01	\$ 18,769.58
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As always, if you have questions or want full financial reports, contact the office, Michael Davis - Finance chair, or Pastor Drew.

*These are the approved numbers by the Church Finance Committee at the September meeting

Electronic Giving

Online giving: general ministry budget, and any of our mission partners, special Sundays & projects. Automatic recurring donations are also available for your convenience.

Please scan this QR code or go to: givebutter.com/centrevilleumc to check it out.



reposed
refreshed
recharged
 - Tori will be out of the office on Friday, October 4 for her annual Church Admin Retreat.

Capital Campaign Update

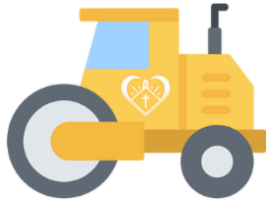
Laying a Foundation of Love & Hope (2026-2028)

September 30, 2026

Pledged: \$161,370

Goal: \$150,000

39 pledges Given: \$121,810



CENTREVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

As you can see from the chart above, we have reached 75.48 % of our Capital Campaign goal. What an exciting milestone! With our physical projects completed, we are now looking ahead to the final phase of the campaign: establishing our Endowment Fund.

An Endowment Committee is included on the nominations docket for Church Conference, and once that team is in place, we will begin the process of opening the fund. It is exciting to see the vision and ideas that launched this campaign moving into their final stages. Thank you for your continued support, generosity, and commitment to our church's future! 🎉💙



Church Yard Cleanup & Landscaping Day 🌻🍂

The Trustees invite everyone to join us for a Church Yard Cleanup and Landscaping Day on Saturday, October 3. As we prepare our church grounds for the coming winter months, we need many helping hands to help keep our property looking its best.

From seeding new grass, trimming shrubs & overgrown spaces, to general cleanup and landscaping projects, there will be tasks for all ages and skill levels. Whether you can stay for an hour or the entire day, your time and effort will make a meaningful difference.

As the saying goes, many hands make light work! This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship, work together, & take pride in caring for the church property we all share.

All are welcome, and no special experience is required. Bring your work gloves, yard tools if you have them, and a willing spirit. Together, we can make our grounds beautiful and ready for the winter season.

We hope to see you there on Saturday, October 3! Thank you in advance for helping us care for our church home.

Hygiene Kit Update

Thank you for your continued generosity! The graph above shows the hygiene kit items that have been collected so far through our partnership with Centreville Schools. It is a true blessing to come alongside our community and help meet the needs of local students in this meaningful way. We are grateful for everyone who has donated and helped make a difference. Thank you for your support! 💙💛



CENTREVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Centreville Schools Emergency Hygiene Supplies

Body Wash	17	Toothpaste (full)	19
Shampoo (full)	11	Toothpaste (travel)	4
Shampoo (travel)	4	Toothbrush	18
Hairbrush	6	Lotion (full)	11
Combs	24	Lotion (travel)	7
Bags	16	Deodorant	29
Full Kits	18		

As of 10/1

2026 Church Conference

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
2:00 PM

Church Conference

On Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 p.m., our congregation will gather for our Annual Church Conference, an important meeting in the life of the church. The Church Conference is a gathering in which all members of the local United Methodist Church are invited to attend and are granted voting privileges. This meeting provides an opportunity for broad participation in the ministry and leadership of our church as members vote on matters such as pastoral compensation, membership actions, nominations, and other items

related to the work of the church. Our Church Conference will be presided over by our District Superintendent, Rev. Dean Prentiss. As part of the Greater Southwest District, our congregation belongs to Branch 11, which includes the churches of Bronson & Colon, Coldwater, Constantine, Mendon & Burr Oak, Nottawa, Sturgis First, Three Rivers Center Park, Three Rivers First & 9th Street, and White Pigeon. We are honored to host this year's conference and welcome guests from across our branch. Everyone is welcome to attend, and all church members are especially encouraged to participate and vote. We hope you will join us as we gather to celebrate what God has been doing among us and make important decisions for the ministry ahead.

Branch 11 Mission Project: UMCOR Layette Kits



Each year, our District Superintendent encourages the churches within each branch to work together on a shared mission project. Last year, Branch 11 came together to assemble 188 UMCOR Menstrual Kits, making a meaningful impact for people in need around the world. This year, our Branch 11 mission focus is UMCOR Layette Kits. These kits provide essential items for newborn babies and their families during times of hardship, disaster recovery, or displacement. By working together, our branch churches can help ensure that infants and caregivers receive much-needed support and care.

The photos included with this article list the items needed for each kit. For those who would like a convenient way to participate, a QR code is provided that links directly to an Amazon shopping list where items can be purchased and shipped.

Are you crafty? There are opportunities to contribute handmade items as well! Patterns and instructions can be found at:

<https://www.midwestmission.org/patterns>

If you plan to make any of the handmade items, please let the church office or Pastor Drew know. This will help us accurately track incoming donations and plan for kit assembly, since handmade items naturally take a little longer to arrive than Amazon's next-day shipping... and that's perfectly okay!

Thank you for helping us share Christ's love in practical ways through this important mission project. Together, we can make a difference for families welcoming a new child under difficult circumstances. Every item donated is a tangible reminder that they are not alone.

LAYETTE KIT SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ 6 cloth diapers*
- ☐ 2 gowns or sleepers*
- ☐ 2 onesies or undershirts
- ☐ 2 infant washcloths - no adult washcloths
- ☐ 6 diaper pins
- ☐ 1 sweater* or jacket - with front opening
- ☐ 2 receiving blankets - 28"x28" to 32"x32" (no fleece or thermal)
- ☐ \$2 donation for diaper cream



Items must be new and 0-6 month in size

Do not send items with camouflage fabrics

*To find patterns, visit [midwestmission.org/patterns](https://www.midwestmission.org/patterns)

2026 Branch 11 Layette Kits



Or go to: <https://a.co/0j5byz0k>

Voices of the Writer's Group

As the Advent season rapidly approaches, our annual booklet is once again occupying much of my mind. Our theme this year was inspired a little by Shakespear and a lot by Isaiah 9:6. I have been contemplating the names I have known Jesus by, which then led me to think about the names I have gone by. I am called among many other things: daughter, granddaughter, niece, cousin, friend, coworker, wife, mom, and now Mimzy.

So, what is in a name? In the name of Advent Booklet Editor I find honor, responsibility, legacy, and joy. Editing the Advent booklet is a labor and legacy of love started 16 years ago by then Pastor Karin and Writer's Group Chair, Donna Perkins Pierce. In that decade and a half, we shared stories as a congregation, gave each other the gift of connection through tales of our trials and triumphs. We have opened ourselves up and learned we are not alone. We have giggled and sniffled and gained appreciation for one another.

I hope you will consider joining us for one or both of our remaining workshops. Even if you choose not to submit to the booklet, come and see what Writer's Group is about. Maybe writer is not a name you have ever called yourself and that's okay. Whatever name you go by, you are called by Him who created you and your story is worth telling.

Namely yours,
Shone Rhyner

What's in a Name?

Advent Booklet Writing Workshops

Are you planning to contribute to the 2026 Advent Booklet? Join the Writer's Group for a series of workshops designed to help you brainstorm, write, and refine your submission in a supportive and creative environment.

Workshop Dates

 ~~Saturday, September 19~~

 Saturday, October 3

 Saturday, October 17

 3:00-5:00 p.m.

 Fellowship Hall

Whether you're just beginning to explore ideas or already have a draft in progress, these workshops will offer encouragement, feedback, and time to write alongside others.

Some food for thought until then:

Who is Jesus to you, Wonderful Counselor?
Prince of Peace? Teacher? Brother? Friend?

The Writer's Group is seeking submissions for this year's Advent book.

The theme for 2026:

What's in a Name?

focus verse:

Isaiah 9:6

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**"

Submissions may include essays, short stories, poems, photographs, drawings, etc.

Submissions are due by November 1
emailed to Shone (shonersbooks@yahoo.com)
or dropped off/mailed to the church.





Fair Luncheon Success



On September 22, we hosted our first Vendor Luncheon for the Skerbeck Company vendors. Guests enjoyed a delicious lasagna meal, complete with fresh garlic knots, crusty homemade bread, and homemade cookies packaged for an immediate treat or to enjoy later.

This event was truly a team effort, and we are grateful for everyone who helped make it possible. From the early planning stages and preparation days to the morning setup, serving the meal, and the cleanup afterward, so many hands came together to ensure a successful event. Thank you to all who generously gave their time, talents, and energy to extend hospitality to our guests and represent our church so well. This outreach event is an example of the types of outreach events that will fund the income generated by endowment funds.



Trunk or Treat



Mark your calendars for our annual Trunk or Treat on Monday, October 26, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The event will once again be held along Franklin Street on the west side of the church, providing a fun and safe evening for children and families in our community.

We are currently accepting candy donations, and a Halloween bucket will soon be available in Fellowship Hall for collecting contributions. If you would like to participate by decorating a vehicle and handing out treats, trunks are always welcome! Please plan to have your vehicle set up by 5:30 p.m.

Thank you for helping us make this community event a success. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Cathy Carpenter or the church office. We look forward to another great evening of fellowship, fun, and treats! 🎃 🍬 🧛

All Saints Sunday



As we prepare for All Saints Sunday, we invite you to help us remember and honor those who have entered eternal life during the past year. During this special service, we will give thanks for the lives of loved ones who have touched our hearts and left a lasting impact on our faith journey.

If you have lost a family member or loved one within the past year and would like their name included in our All Saints remembrance, please notify Pastor Drew or the church office by the evening of Wednesday, October 28. We look forward to sharing this meaningful time of remembrance, gratitude, and hope together as a church family.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

50% of your donation funds scholarships for undergraduate or graduate students of color pursuing ministry

35% of your donation funds training grants for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity and access

15% of your donation funds leadership development grants in partner churches

Your support funds several significant educational initiatives

UNITED IN IMPACT

World Communion Sunday Sunday, October 6

World Communion Sunday celebrates the unity and diversity of the universal Christian community. As we gather around the Lord's table, we recognize our unity in Christ, joining with others worldwide in Holy Communion. Embracing this commitment, United Methodists nurture diverse leadership by supporting scholarships and training for under-represented students — extending Christ's table so that all may find a place and a purpose. Together, we are united in impact.

Contributions fund scholarships for U.S. and international students, as well as grants for global inclusion, diversity, equity and access training.

For information on applying or to learn more, email scholars@umcmmission.org.



Cookies & Conversations

It's time once again for Cookies & Conversations with Pastor Drew! Join us on Sunday, October 25 at 11:00 AM for delicious baked goods and a relaxed time of conversation.

Whether you're interested in learning more about our church, exploring membership, growing in your faith, finding ways to get involved, or simply sharing ideas that have been brewing, this gathering is for you. Come connect, ask questions, and discover ways to be part of our life together.

Mark your calendar and join us! 🍪☕️✨



Cookies & Conversation

Where faith meets fellowship over a warm cup and a baked treat

Sunday, October 25, 2026
11:00 - 11:30 am

CENTREVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Hansel & Gretel Updates

Our Hansel & Gretel Preschool students are off to a wonderful start this school year! The first month has been filled with smiles, learning, and new experiences. Best of all, the first week of school brought very few tears, which is always a huge win for both students and parents!

The preschoolers also enjoyed their annual trip to the County Fair, creating fun memories while exploring all the sights and activities. In addition, the school's first fundraiser of the year, the Fall Mums Sale, was once again a great success thanks to the support of our preschool families and church community.

We are grateful for such a positive beginning to the school year and look forward to all the exciting things still to come for our Hansel & Gretel Preschool students and staff. 🌻📚🍎



October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Tori gone for retreat →	2 Food Pantry 10 am	3 Church Yard Clean-up Writer's Workshop 3-5 pm
4 JSU 9 am Worship 10 am World Communion Sunday 	5	6 Trustees 6 pm SPRC 7pm	7	8 BHFS 6 pm	9 Food Pantry 10 am	10
11 JSU 9 am Worship 10 am	12 ARF Meeting 7-8:30 pm	13 Finance 6 pm Worship 7pm	14 Community Dinner 4:30-6:00	15 Kinship Care 6 pm	16 Food Pantry 10 am	17 Writer's Workshop 3-5 pm
18 JSU Class 9 am Worship 10 am	19	20 OPEN Church Council 6pm	21	22	23 Food Pantry 10 am	24
25 Cookies & Conversation 11 am Church Conference 2 pm	26 Trunk or Treat 6-7:30 pm 	27	28 Community Dinner 4:30-6:00	29	30 Food Pantry 10 am	31  HAPPY HALLOWEEN

October Song Leaders

10/4 - Michelle Brokaw
10/11 - Shone Rhyner
10/18 - Bev Michels
10/25 - Michelle Brokaw



October Liturgists

10/4 - Michelle Brokaw
10/11 - Shone Rhyner
10/18 - Carmita Hunter
10/25 - Cathy Carpenter



October Children's Moment

10/4 - Carmita Hunter
10/11 - Pastor Drew
10/18 - Shone Rhyner
10/25 - Steve Clark

