



# Living Water *Living Way*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN FREE METHODIST CHURCH | SEPTEMBER 2017 – VOLUME 1  
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## The New Look of CMFMC's Newsletter

*Check out the new look of Central Michigan Free Methodist Church's newsletter, not only with a new fresh look, but articles that are new and relevant to today.*

IT'S FINALLY OUT! The new look of Central Michigan Free Methodist Church's newsletter is finally out in print! As you can hopefully see, this newsletter has a definite fresh new look to it – with a few new parts to it. On the front page you'll notice a list of ministry events to place on your calendar. This should give you an idea of what MAJOR events are coming to CMFMC.

You'll also notice a few articles spread throughout this newsletter. These are for your information. Some of these articles will point out certain events that are coming (such as the CCN Mobile Food below), or they will highlight past events or ministries and a major opportunity they have had to

minister.

There is also a page written from our pastor, continuing to challenge us, whether he continues his discussion of a sermon series, or some specific topic relevant to today's time and community.

The final page lists MAJOR announcements and highlights some MAJOR upcoming events for our church.

Above all, we want this newsletter to be able to be handed to individuals who DON'T necessarily make CMFMC their home – as an evangelistic tool to invite individuals to our church.

## Ministry Events

- **Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> – KMotion Kickoff**
- **Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> – Men's Retreat**
- **Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> – CCN Mobile Food**

**Hosted by Central Michigan  
FMC**

- **Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – CMFMC Campfire**
- **Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – Crop Walk**
- **Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – Family Fun Night**
- **Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> – Women's Retreat**
- **Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> – Men's Breakfast**
- **Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Party**
- **Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> – Prayer Service**

## Local Missions: CCN Mobile Food

**Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017: 8am-12pm at Central Michigan FMC**

Come connect and be a part of an amazing opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ to individuals and families in our community. There are many opportunities to serve – from handing out food at stations, to pushing carts for individuals, to helping with breakfast, to setting up and tearing down, to sitting with individual guests and interacting with them. For questions or more information, please call the church office.



# Hurricane Irma Update: Pray and Give

from FMCUSA website

As Hurricane Irma nears Florida, Free Methodists are praying for protection for the residents of the affected areas and giving through the Bishops' Crisis Response Fund to support relief efforts.

Free Methodist Southeast Region Superintendent Darrel Riley, many of our pastors and church members are right in the middle of Irma's projected path. While some have been able to leave, others are volunteers at shelters and everyone is on high alert, preparing for the worst and praying for the best. Riley writes, "Once Irma makes mainland landfall, we ask for continuous prayer for both coasts and 'up the middle' of Florida. We will keep everyone informed as to aftermath opportunities for tangible help with work teams, etc. For now, prayers for our congregations, government and health officials, and first responders are most needed." As the winds begin to beat around those who are in Florida, please join us in prayer for their physical and spiritual safety. The God who redeems will redeem, even in middle of the storm's violence. Pray as though you were there.

Whoever does not bear his  
cross and come after Me  
cannot be My  
disciple...whoever of you  
does not forsake all that he  
has cannot be My disciple.  
*Luke 14:27, 33*



Free Methodists in Haiti are thanking God that although Hurricane Irma caused damage in some areas, the hurricane was not as devastating as they feared it would be. Haitian Free Methodist Bishop Eliodor Desvariste reported, "We are OK. Only in the north we have damages. Some members' houses' roofs are gone, not church or school buildings. Some farms are devastated. As far as we know now, our pastors, families, students and teachers are OK. Our school directors are preparing to feed the kids. Please continue to pray for us."

In the last available report from the Grace & Peace Wesleyan Free Methodist Church in Nassau, Bahamas, Pastor Leonard Roberts said the church is "hunkered down" awaiting Irma. "We do not expect a direct hit, but there will be damage. We just completed repairs from Hurricane Matthew (2016) damage." According to news reports Saturday morning, the damage in the Bahamas was not as extensive as originally predicted.

The Free Methodist Church will mobilize and use its resources to assist where most needed in response to Irma. If you'd like to contribute even now, please do so through the Bishops' Crisis Response Fund at [fmcusa.org/bfund](http://fmcusa.org/bfund). Don't forget to continue to pray for and support people affected by the recent Hurricane Harvey.

The Bishops' Crisis Response Fund is the first line of rapid response to aid Free Methodists affected by natural disasters, famine and persecution. It is a means for the U.S. church to provide immediate, focused assistance through our church's local, international and missions infrastructure.





# *On the Journey*

## *with Pastor Gordy*

*Listening to the news these past few weeks, our kids have learned more about hurricanes, destructive forces of nature, and various ministry opportunities to help the victims of these than I can ever remember learning at their age. Looking at these natural disasters happening – hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, floods – the question of “Where is God?” has come about. How would you answer that question?*

Sixteen years ago on September 11<sup>th</sup>, Heather and I lived in San Jose, California – she was the new kindergarten teacher at the Christian school at the church where I was the new College Pastor. I was to meet all the Bay Area Pastors that day, my first official meeting as a pastor – and our church was hosting it. However, we both woke up to the news that planes had hit the World Trade Center in NYC – and from that time on, nothing was the same. I watched in our conference room of our church as both towers collapsed, and watched as parent after parent picked up their kids in total panic. By the time that next Sunday came around, our church had grown about 50-60% with people who were “coming back to Jesus”. Many, however, were asking, “Where is God during this time? Is God judging us? Is it the end of the world?”

These last few weeks have reminded me of that overwhelming feeling, that helpless feeling – due to the devastation of two major hurricanes (3 if you count Katia (Mexico)), a major earthquake, and the forest fires in the Northwest U.S. Throughout social media, people have responded with questions that range from the attitude of where is God to the attitude and opinion that the U.S. is being judged for their sins – hence the harsh weather and destruction.

I found an article on Churchleaders.com that discusses and explores three ideas that God might be teaching us, and leading us, through tragedy. These three ideas are not only great in that they help us look at what God is teaching us in the present time, but also to help us examine past tragedies and what we can learn from them as well.

**Tragedy reminds us of life’s brevity.** “We may be strong and successful, and assume life is always going to be that way—but when disaster strikes, we realize this isn’t true,” Graham writes. “We can lose everything in only a few seconds, and perhaps for the first time we are brought face to face with the reality of death—and our need of God.” Tragedy brings us to a humble recognition that having control over life is an illusion, and we are desperately in need of the God who holds the world together.

**Tragedy reconnects us to community.** “Disasters also can remind us of our need to help others, and not just be concerned about ourselves and our problems,” Graham writes. “The Bible says, ‘Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ’ (Galatians 6:2).” So often tragedy breeds isolation. But one of the greatest gifts of Christian community is to be gently pulled out of isolation and into a loving group of people who weep and pray and can say “me too” in the middle of pain.

**Tragedy reveals God’s love.** This is the message of the book of Job or the story of Lazarus’ resurrection: tragedy happens, and it deserves to be mourned over (Jesus weeping at his friend’s tomb models this). The beauty of the gospel is not that tragedies aren’t tragic, it’s that—to paraphrase the poet John Donne—one day death will die. The hope is that even the most terrible tragedies can be weaved into God’s beautiful story of redemption.

*“We don’t necessarily know why God allows natural disasters to occur; sometimes Satan seems to have a hand in them... Is your faith and trust in Christ, and are you seeking to live for Him every day, no matter what happens.”*  
- Billy Graham



# Announcements

- **CCN Mobile Food Distribution:**  
*Saturday, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00am-12:00pm*  
We need “all hands on deck” as we host CCN Mobile Food Pantry. There are many ways to serve: pushing carts for guests, handing out food, serving breakfast, sitting and connecting with guests themselves, etc. For more information, please contact the church office.
- **Isabella County Crop Walk**  
*Sunday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup> starting at 1:00pm*  
*Millpond Park, Mt. Pleasant*  
Crop Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. Many churches are coming together to help sponsor this walk. If you are interested in walking, please pick up a sponsor sheet and envelope from the church office.
- **Central Michigan FMC Campfire**  
*Sunday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup> starting at 5:00pm*  
*Brent and Kristin Neubecker's House*  
*(351 Cedar Drive, Mt. Pleasant)*  
Come join us as we bring in Fall with our last campfire of the “summer”. Please bring a dish to share – the church will provide hot dogs/hamburgers.
- **Family Fun Night**  
*Wednesday, Oct 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00pm*  
Everyone is invited as we kick off our Family Fun Nights! Come join us as we eat, fellowship, play games, and overall live life as a community of believers. Be prepared to have FUN – and bring a dish to share!
- **Women's Retreat**  
*Friday, Oct 6<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, Oct 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00pm*  
*COST: \$45/One Day...\$55/Both Days*  
Calling all women! Come join the fun by spending two days of prayer and worship at *Evart Free Methodist Church in Evart, MI*. There are six workshops to choose from as Kristin Ulin speaks and challenges attendees to live Godly lives.
- **Men's Breakfast**  
*Saturday, Oct 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30am*  
Calling all men! Come join us at *Big Boy (1623 S. Mission, Mt. Pleasant)* for breakfast and discussion as we connect with God and with each other as Godly men. Feel free to bring friends!
- **Harvest Party**  
*Saturday, Oct 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:30pm*  
*Roger and Karen Brookens' Farm*  
*9200 S. Green Road, Shepherd, MI.*  
Bring your entire family and all of your friends out and enjoy the fun, Fall festivities – THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AND ALL AGES! Prizes will be awarded for those that make and bring their best chili or soup for our chili/soup cook off. Make sure to bid on the silent auction items and stay for the live auction. There will be games and hayrides... and did someone say pumpkin cannon?
- **Prayer Service**  
*Sunday, Oct 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm*  
Come join us as we lift up our church and community in prayer, and as we worship together.

## Upcoming Events

**The Art of Marriage:** *Fri. Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – Sat. Nov 11<sup>th</sup>*  
*COST: \$60/Couple – includes materials for the weekend!*  
“Marriage, the way God intended it to be, is a true art form. That’s why for more than 40 years, FamilyLife has been helping couples understand God’s plan for relationships. The Art of Marriage weaves together expert teaching, real-life stories, humorous vignettes, and more to portray both the challenges and the beauty of God’s design.”

**ICRH Homeless Shelter:** *Sunday, Nov 19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, Nov 25<sup>th</sup>*

During the months of November and February, CMFMC has the wonderful opportunity to host our homeless community for a week. During this time, we provide food, shelter, and a place to stay safe, as we also are able to build relationships with and minister to these wonderful guests. Come be a part of an amazing ministry, even if it’s only for a week – sign up forms will be up shortly, and times fill up quickly!

