



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

June 28, 2021

Join us for worship Sunday, July 4th @ 10:30am. Pastor Jack's message is "Power and Places," based on Mark 6:1-13.

Worship will be in-person as well as Livestreamed.

From your computer or smartphone, watch at [facebook.com/waterfordcumc/live](https://www.facebook.com/waterfordcumc/live) or at [facebook.com/waterfordcumc/events](https://www.facebook.com/waterfordcumc/events).

Dear Friends,

As I wrote in a letter that accompanied the worship resources that are sent out each Friday, a group of church leaders, including three of our staff, met to discuss our new protocols as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic. The discussion reflected the desire to care for everyone and yet relax our restrictions so that we can be in ministry and worship in ways that honor our past and move us forward in our future ministries. Below is the summary that came out of that meeting:

- As stated in our Covid Comeback Plan, if you feel ill and have any symptoms of illness, or have been around anyone testing positive for Covid-19, please stay home and watch our worship services from the safety and comfort of your home.
- Small in-person meetings and studies will decide their own set of rules for interacting with one another. This is true for both our own ministry groups as well as other organizations that use our building. Our fellowship gatherings during the summer are held outside where no masks are required.
- We will be removing the ribbons that restrict seating from the front half to two-thirds of our Sanctuary. This will leave the back seating area of our sanctuary for folks who would like more structured social distancing and can enter and leave our Sanctuary with minimal contact with other worshippers.
- Wearing masks during worship is optional. The Center for Disease Control states that unvaccinated people should wear masks. We would like to add that anyone feeling safer while wearing a mask should feel free to do so and we urge anyone not vaccinated to strongly consider getting vaccinated.
- All special music performances during the summer will continue to be pre-recorded.
- Bulletins will be available beginning on July 4.
- Congregational singing will resume on August 1. Also on August 1, any tables with ministry information, sign-ups and sales may also return in the Narthex and adjacent hallway.
- There will be no coffee fellowship during the summer months.

The group of leaders that created this protocol will be meeting again on Monday, July 26, to see how we've done through the month of July and hopefully ease restriction even more as we enter August. The plan above, like all prior plans during the Covid-19 pandemic, is contingent on the number of new Covid-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths remaining low to very low. We will be paying very close attention to those indicators during the month of July, after the July 4 weekend celebrations—the first fully unrestricted holiday since the pandemic began in March 2020.

Again, remember our goal is to be kind to all people as we emerge from this pandemic. We want everyone to feel safe and cared for as we prepare to be the church through our pre-pandemic practices, as well as new and fresh expressions of our faith and care for others. Our Sunday services will continue to be streamed through Facebook, and you are always invited to be a part of our community through that venue. I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,
-Pastor Jack

Servants Needed!

Article by Pastor Jack

It seems that everywhere I drive, there are "Help Wanted" signs hanging in restaurants and shops of all kinds. I listen to newscasts that bemoan the fact that people just don't seem to want to go back to work. I realize that there are both legitimate and not-so-noble reasons for not seeking employment. As a member of the Rotary Club, an organization primarily made up of local business people, I hear their stories of wanting to hire workers.

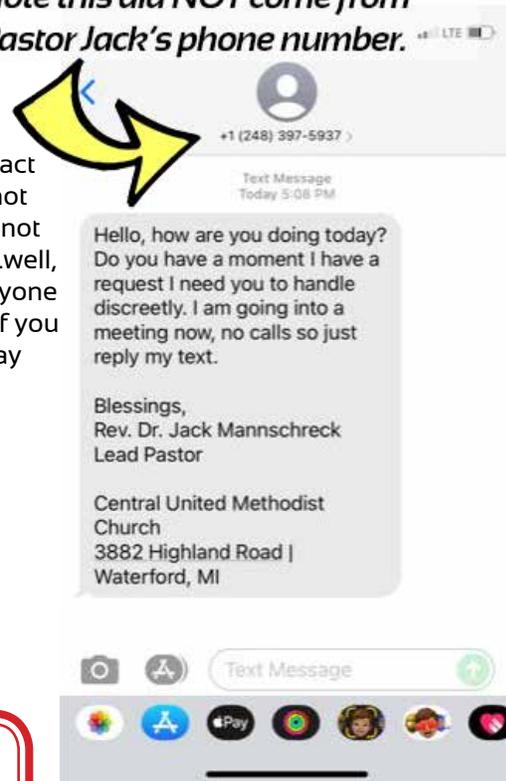
As I reflected upon those stories, I realize that we have had a deficit also in our church "workforce." No doubt, part of that deficit reflects the comfort level of some of our members and friends. We have been very fortunate pre-pandemic that we had a good number of volunteers to facilitate the missions and ministry of Central Church. However, our numbers have dwindled, and we can use more people responding to God's call to be in ministry as we emerge from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Please prayerfully consider serving—even before being asked to serve!
Our "Servants Needed" sign is hanging in our "window!"

Note this did NOT come from Pastor Jack's phone number.

That Text is NOT from Pastor Jack!

Well, the scammers are at it again. This past weekend we received reports of folks getting a text message, allegedly from Pastor Jack, asking them to contact him; to the right is a screenshot we received. This is a scam; these texts did not come from Pastor Jack (it wasn't his phone number). Also, Pastor Jack would not text you to contact him...or to purchase anything...or to transfer money...or to...well, you get the idea. As with any of these scams, whether from Pastor Jack or anyone else, *do not* reply to the message. If in doubt, just give him a call (as several of you did, and thank you for alerting us to this). Remember, practice caution and stay safe out there!



July Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Our Members Who are Turning 80+:

- Marian Hansen – 7/3
- Bonnie Byadiah – 7/14
- Virginia Hudnell – 7/16
- Velette Svenkesen – 7/19
- James March – 7/23
- Walter Fedison – 7/27
- Barbara Burns – 7/28
- James Schilb – 7/28

Chess Club

Sunday July 11, 2021, 3-6pm

All skill levels welcome!

Summer Socials Schedule

Summer Socials are multi-generational events to play and learn! Join us for the next summer social, and bring a friend!

- **Sunday 7/11, 11:30-1pm @ CUMC**
- **Monday 7/19, 5-6:30pm @ Depot Park (Clarkston)**
- **Sunday 7/25, 11:30-1pm @ CUMC**
- **Monday 8/2, 5-6:30pm @ Waterford Oaks**
- **Sunday 8/8, 11:30-1pm @ CUMC**
- **Monday 8/16, 5-6:30pm @ Indian Village Park (Pontiac)**
- **Sunday 8/22, 11:30-1pm @ CUMC**

First Family Playgroups at Little Sprouts

Beginning the Week of
September 13th

These playgroups are a first "school" experience for children ages birth to three and their caregivers. Designed to nurture the cognitive, physical and social-emotional growth of infants and toddlers.

Now registering for fall. Call (248) 895-3683 or email littlestprouts@comcast.net

Song of the Week

As Pride month comes to an end, I'm wishing all of you reasons to celebrate this month and throughout this next year.

If you have never been to a Pride parade or festival, it can be an eye-opening experience. There is often constant music and dancing, a freedom of public affection that isn't normally seen day to day, lots of colorful outfits, many booths for political organizations, and probably a handful of things that might make some people feel awkward if they haven't encountered that subculture or style of dress before. However, if you can find the wholesomeness in the freedom to be yourself unapologetically, then you will also find a camaraderie, acceptance, and support celebrated for everyone who attends. We often don't think about the narrow definitions of acceptance our culture has until we come into contact with those who don't fit those roles, and we may wrestle with our own comfort level at seeing them discarded. When you face that moment and realize that there can be beauty and love in the rejection of cultural and societal norms, then you become an ally.

Many of you know the letters of Pride, LGBTQIA+ and what they mean (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual), but today, I want to talk about the +. The acronym has shifted over time from LGB in the 80s to LGBT in the 90s and a few iterations that became encumbered as they tried to give each identity a letter before settling on LGBTQIA+ currently as a form that was better suited to inclusivity, because the + could represent those who weren't covered by the other letters, regardless of how small or large a group they were. But I think there is a great lesson to be learned in this evolution as we see that, though it isn't perfect, it has always been a striving for greater representation and inclusivity of all identities within the community. So, what does the + represent currently? Ally, Pansexual, Androgynous, Genderqueer, Two-Spirit, Demisexual, and Polyamorous.

I want you to look back at that list again, though. Right at the beginning is a special term, Ally. In fact, in an iteration of the acronym from not so long ago, it was LGBTQQIAA with the second A standing for Ally. One of the beautiful aspects of this community is that they actively make space for Allies and want them included. And all that you have to do to join that community is to respect that they are living their truth and deserve the autonomy and dignity to do so. And this is also my experience in the safe spaces of any minority group, actually. The only difference is that for Pride, all you have to do is show up to be accepted. And I think this is a powerful lesson for how to create safe spaces and promote goodness in the world. Much of the language in the music surrounding the Pride community is about either overcoming adversity with dignity or else finding solidarity in being one large group that is accepting of everyone. I think we can all relate to those sentiments and find the beauty in a community that is ever-welcoming of all who wish to be a part of it. After all, isn't that what we strive for? I find it one of the mysterious wonders of the world that a group that is most often oppressed on religious grounds may be exactly who we need to teach religious institutions how to live out their own ideals. For churches are known for wanting to be a family, but we may still need to learn that when you are an Ally, you are family. So take a moment this week to review the letters, know your place within them, and realize that they need not be confusing, but rather, knowing the letters is a powerful way to let someone know that you see their identity. And people have to first be seen in order to feel safe. By recognizing others for who they are in this simple act, we take a step towards creating safe spaces all around us.

[We Are Family - Sister Sledge \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyGY2NfYpeE\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyGY2NfYpeE)

With Love,
-Kevin



The church office will be closed on Monday, July 5th. The newsletter will be published on Tuesday, July 6th. Have a wonderful holiday weekend!