



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

July 6, 2021

Join us for worship Sunday, July 11th @ 10:30am. Pastor Jack begins our summer message series, *Life-changing Decisions*, with "What's Your Story?"

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).

Please let us know you were in worship by filling out the connection card at www.WaterfordCUMC.org/central-connect/

Dear Friends,

This Sunday begins our summer message series, *Life-changing Decisions*. This series is designed to get us thinking about the decisions in our lives and how they change the trajectory of our lives. In these messages I will share with you the idea of writing the story of our lives, and how we imagine that story unfolding in the future.

I invite you, my church family, to participate in these summer messages by sharing a brief 2-3 minute story of faith or testimony that relates to the themes of each week. These stories can be shared live or pre-recorded to video. You can provide a recorded video or we can have the church staff record you.

There are seven themes for the messages—start, stop, stay, go, serve, connect, and trust.

- July 11 – Life-changing Decisions – What's Your Story? (Introduction of the Series)
- July 18 – Life-changing Decisions – Start
- July 25 – Life-changing Decisions – Stop
- August 1 – Life-changing Decisions – Stay
- August 8 – Life-changing Decisions – Go
- August 15 – Life-changing Decisions – Serve
- August 22 – Life-changing Decisions – Connect
- August 29 – Life-changing Decisions – Trust



So each week it will work in this way: If you have had to make a decision to **Start** a new job or project, or if you decided to **Stay** in a relationship or city, I want to invite you to share your story and how your decision changed your life. If you've been moved toward a specific opportunity to **Serve** or you were called to **Trust** God and others in a new way, perhaps you have a story to share.

Contact the church office or call me direct to offer your story on a week that would be meaningful for you. Remember, what I'm asking for is simply a 2-3 minute sharing of a story. If you need assistance, I can help to prepare you to share a life-changing story that could also be life-changing for others. I look forward to you contacting me.

In the meantime, God bless you and stay safe. I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,
-Pastor Jack

Check Out the Latest Central Dance Video

The Central Dancers recently produced a video to the song *New Day* by Danny Gokey. Due to Facebook licensing restrictions we're not able to stream it during worship, but you can check it out at <https://youtu.be/Ts2hEMkrm9w>. Enjoy!

Memorial Garden Benches Update

We are halfway to our goal of replacing the three benches in our beautiful Memorial Garden; the ones near the cross are no longer safe and have been removed. Thank you for your generosity! We are still accepting donations for new benches made from a maintenance-free material. The cost estimate to replace all three is \$1200—\$1500. If you would like to make a donation, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please make the check out to Central UMC and put "Memorial Garden Benches" on the memo line.

Thank you.
-Diana Carter

Song of the Week

As we just celebrated the fourth of July, I am hoping that all your celebrations are filled with joy and that you return to your routines safely, refreshed after having some time away from all the cares of the world.

As we celebrate freedom, though, I wonder what images that conjures, and what that celebration means to you. I feel very lucky to live in a country where freedom is a virtue, and that I don't have to worry about persecution for being who I am. However, I also am very aware that freedom is a carefully won construct that has been handed down to us over the course of history through building on higher ideals, including the dignity of each person, civil discourse, and a social contract to work together to maximize personal freedom through shared goals and limits. We know that unlimited freedom is chaos, and we can only enjoy peaceful growth together through a set of shared rules. That is a concept that I think is lost in the rhetoric of today. In many ways, we increase our freedom by agreeing on its limits.

We often don't think about how many freedoms we actually give up day-to-day to live together in harmony. And it's interesting to me because many of those rules were unpopular when implemented, but now we view them as so normal and logical that we wouldn't question them as restricting us at all. Part of this is because when society functions smoothly, we feel happier, our lives move easier, and we actually gain meaningful freedoms for having made the compromise.

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**

Cleaning Supply Donations

The Waterford Refugee Welcome Alliance is collecting cleaning supplies, baby food & diapers. Please place donations in the box located outside the Chapel. Learn more about the WRWA on their [Facebook page](#).

Central's Food Pantry

Your generous donations help keep food on the tables of our neighbors! Please [click here](#) for a list of pantry needs.

Chess Club

Sunday July 11, 2021, 3-6pm

All skill levels welcome!

First Family Playgroups at Little Sprouts

Beginning 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
littlesprouts@comcast.net**

Softball Schedule

Join Central's Men's Softball Team for an evening of fun.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Field</u>
7/12	7:30	Hope
7/19	7:30	Hope
7/26	6:15	Trinity
8/2	7:30	Hope
8/9	Rain Makeup	
8/14	TBD	Rotary
St. Trinity - 7925 Sashabaw, Clarkston		
New Hope - 8643 Sashabaw, Clarkston		

An easy consideration of this concept is the “rules of the road,” and Detroit was a leader in this fight. In the early 1900s, cars were considered a menace by many. Three-quarters of automobile accidents were from cars hitting pedestrians, and in the 1920s, sixty percent of accident fatalities were children. This was not freedom, but chaos. So some very restrictive rules were created over the course of the next 20 years to curb the tragedies, despite the fact that there were vocal outcries about the nature of the restrictions. Detroit developed two of the most significant advances in traffic safety: crosswalks at corners and stop signs. These two things are so ubiquitous today that we wouldn’t even conceive of them being a restriction on our freedoms. But at the time, crosswalks made pedestrians resent cars even more for the restrictions imposed upon them of having to be corralled to a corner. Most of our societal rules work exactly this way. It is an inconvenience that seems unnecessarily restrictive until everyone is in compliance, and then we can all see how it tailors our ability to move together and respect each other. Through that facility of functionality, we now love the freedom our cars bring to allow us to travel long distances to see our friends and family, make our commutes to work shorter and smoother, and allow us the freedom to choose where to live in relation to our workplace. The freedoms we give up to make that happen seem negligible by comparison.

As we contemplate our freedoms, I would like us to also contemplate our personal responsibility to one another, our community, and our world. A world that functions in kindness and courtesy has the potential to be the freest in which we’ve ever lived, and a society that values only an individual’s wants over our social contract to each other makes each of us less free, and civil discourse is the lubricant towards creating our shared values. Even as society periodically forgets this, let us all remember that with our freedom comes the responsibility to remind our nation that only through respect of one another can we find peace and truly live in freedom.

[People Got To Be Free - The Rascals \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVD5rYJSHcU\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVD5rYJSHcU)

With Love,

-Kevin

Connect with Central

Central’s Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/waterfordcumc>. Find the upcoming live stream worship service and recordings of previous services, faith development videos and daily inspirations.

Central’s YouTube Channel - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn5n6YzaUUu9lqei6z-bg_g. Find recordings of past services, choral and dance recordings, Pastor Jack’s weekly devotionals and more.

Central’s Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/waterfordcumc/>. A private group that allows members to support one another with posts and inspiration.

Central’s Website - <https://www.WaterfordCUMC.org>. Find recordings of sermons, upcoming events, the latest COVID re-opening plan, Central’s member directory (login code CUM51) and the worship attendance form