



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

July 19, 2021

Join us for worship Sunday, July 25th @ 10:30am. Pastor Jack continues our summer message series with "Life-Changing Decisions: Stop"

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,

There are many reasons to grieve over the losses of the past year and a half; the COVID-19 pandemic has affected so many through the loss of loved ones, the loss of businesses, the lost momentum in the church and life in general. Add to the raw nerves from the pandemic the loss of the lives of our black siblings through violence at the hands of police officers and the further marginalization of those in the LGBTQIA community, and there is so much that weighs upon our minds and hearts.

One loss that the world seems to be trying to grasp and reclaim is the Olympic Games, postponed from last summer. The opening ceremonies of the Tokyo Olympics are this Friday evening. In the midst of rising numbers of COVID-19 illnesses and deaths worldwide, primarily due to the Delta variant, the world seems desperate to come together.

I plan to watch the opening ceremonies with a sense of hope for the nations and individuals that will be represented in this year's contests. In recent years I watch the Olympics much differently than when I was younger. In the past I reveled in the wins for Team USA and, to be fair, I rejoiced when surprise performances and unexpected victories occurred. To be honest, though, it was about winning. Now I watch with interest the interaction between competitors, trainers and coaches. A quick Internet search introduced me to the Olympic Creed. The Olympic spirit is best expressed in this Creed: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

We have struggled this past year and a half, but—by the grace of God—we are still in the contest! We have and will continue to do our best to conquer whatever challenges we will face in the days, months and years ahead. As we move forward, I don't want us to forget the losses we've experienced. There has been some interest expressed in a Service of Lament sometime this fall. As Rev. Cora and I have discussed this possibility, we've also been made aware that this September will be the twentieth anniversary of 9/11 and the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the crash of Flight 93.

I am thankful for those who have mentioned this idea of a Service of Lament. We are putting that together for sometime in September. It may be a Sunday morning service or a special service at another time. I welcome your input, as lament is very often a community process and need.

For now, I give thanks to God for another opportunity for our world to come together in the spirit of building goodwill towards all humanity through the Tokyo Olympics! As always, I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,
-Pastor Jack

Wanted: People with Tools and Time

In an effort to better facilitate the use of space in our building, we need a team of people to "deconstruct" the North Star Theater on our lower level. That room will become our new Bell Choir room. On Saturday, July 31, we need a crew

of people to come between 9am and noon to help with this project. We hope to salvage much of the wood and materials from that room for future projects.

Even if you don't have tools, we could use your help! Don't miss this opportunity to work with others in our church with the possibility of making new friends and doing something to better the use of our wonderful building! Please contact Trustee Chair, Ken Cortese, through the church office (248-681-0040) and let him know you can be a part of the team!

Wednesday Evening Study with Pastor Jack Returns!

Beginning this Wednesday (July 21) Pastor Jack will host a study based on the message from the previous Sunday. We will be delving deeper into the practice of Testimony as a way of responding to God's call in our lives. The scriptural basis for each session will be the scripture from the previous Sunday, and the message notes from that same Sunday will provide a template for our discussion.

Join us for these times of study and fellowship. These sessions will start at 7pm and end at 8:15pm. This will be a Zoom class for the convenience and inclusion of participants. The schedule, topic and scriptures are:

- July 21 – Life-Changing Decisions: Start (Daniel 6:1-10)
- July 28 – Life-Changing Decisions: Stop (Exodus 18:5-22 and Hebrews 12:1-2)
- August 4 – Life-Changing Decisions: Stay (Ruth 1:1-18)
- August 11 – Life-Changing Decisions: Go (Genesis 12:1-9)
- August 18 – Life-Changing Decisions: Serve (Romans 12:1-8)
- August 25 – Life-Changing Decisions: Connect (Acts 4:32-5:10)
- September 1 – Life-Changing Decisions: Trust (Mark 4:35-41)

Come join us for a time of fellowship, study and fun! While learning is always our goal, laughter is always welcomed. Email Pastor Jack (jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org) for the link.

Memorial Garden Benches

We reached our goal! Thank you to those who made contributions for the new benches in the Memorial Garden. They have been ordered and will arrive in September.

Sympathies

Marjorie Dixon, June 16, 1943–July 17, 2021

Our heartfelt condolences to the Hazen family on the passing of Marjorie Dixon, sister of Cathy and Bruce Hazen, aunt of Sara and John Hazen and great-aunt of Aubrey and Ashley Gibbs and Hannah and Harrison Hazen. Our prayers are with Marjorie's many family and friends.

Dan Deiterick

Our condolences to Central staff member Adam Deiterick on the passing last week of his father Dan, and to Adam's mother Lisa, and his sister. Our prayers are with the Deiterick family.

Thank You

Dear Everyone at CUMC,

Thank you for the Amazon gift card! I'm incredibly thankful for all of the hard work you all do and have done to help shape my future!

-Jacob (Joyner)

Dear Friends at Central United Methodist Church

Thank you so much for your very generous gift to help those we shelter at HOPE. This has been an especially challenging year for us as a shelter, and even more so for those experiencing homelessness. Your gift makes such a difference—thank you so much for being our partner in our quest to move people quickly from homelessness to homes

Softball Schedule

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

Date	Time	Field
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

Summer Socials Schedule

Multi-generational events to play and learn! Join us for the next summer social, and bring a friend!

- **Monday 7/19**, 5-6:30pm @ New Hope Church Ball Field
- **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

of their own while maintaining a safe and COVID-free shelter environment. From the bottom of my heart I thank you for your support. Your gift is changing lives for the better.

Sincerely,

-Elizabeth Kelly
Executive Director/CEO

Song of the Week

I have been reflecting this week upon the past 16 months of Songs of the Week. I have greatly enjoyed letting you see some of what I'm passionate about, but as much as I choose to be an ally of all of the groups I have spoken about, I don't directly identify with any one of them. Instead, I believe in their message and value because I believe that we are all better when we lift each other up, that everyone must have a seat at the table for decisions regarding their lives and respect for those decisions, and that representation matters. So, I thought I might share how I identify this week along with how I came to find this path.

I identify as an intersectional feminist more than I do with any other group. The intersectional part of that is important as it recognizes that we are all interconnected, and I think you can see this thread running through my life philosophy and my convictions as you have read what I have had to say over the past year+. I grew up wanting to change the world, as I think many of us do, and that feels big and overwhelming at first, even if your convictions are strong. It wasn't until I saw how our actions influence and affect one another that I was able to see the mark I make on my path. And when you see lives changed by your deeds, it gives you a clarity of vision for what you put into the world. Love is transformative (as you hear me repeat frequently), but so is hate. Every day then becomes a choice of who you want to be and what your legacy is in the world. But there is also another beautiful part of this picture, and that is the ability to see the good you do and how it blossoms forth in others. We all have a greater effect on the world than we give ourselves credit for, but when you truly connect with people, create safe spaces for their well-being, and show them a path to do the same, they start letting you know, through their words and actions. Being able to see that is the gift that many of us miss. You are already changing the world, but do you realize how and where you are having an impact? That is the source of joy in my opinion, and it comes through being open to the great thread that runs through all of us and the world.

The other part of this identity is feminism, and even though that word held stigmas during my formative years (as it still does for some), I grew up in a time when the idea of a strong female character was gaining traction in media. I had icons such as model Grace Jones; musicians Sinead O'Connor, Annie Lennox, and Pat Benatar; movie leads Sarah Connor in Terminator, Ripley in Aliens, and Princess Leia in Star Wars, as well as many strong and capable women in my own family, to model a world where women and men were on equal footing. Pushing back against the idea of man as breadwinner and protector over women and towards a concept of men and women being equally capable partners in their struggles and triumphs. The feminism of my youth seems small and archaic now, but the representation matters. Growing up with strong women role models allowed for a generation of capable women (and men) to grow and to pass on the ideals of equality and respect to new generations. It allowed feminism to grow from a binary fight into a movement of greater inclusivity. And when it is at its best, it is part of the growing force of good in the world that seeks to lift each other up both within its ranks and without. If we can merge the good of all the groups seeking mutual respect for all, there would be an unstoppable force for good in this world. And this movement allowed me to build a relationship based on equality and openness that lets my wife thrive in her graceful and capable brilliance. I want that for every wife and daughter in this world. I don't know how that's not already the case, but that is where all of us come in. Representation matters. And if the characters of my childhood can have this influence on my life, how much more important is it that the young people of today see themselves as heroes and heroines in movies and media in the beautiful diversity of their identities? We can and should embrace a diverse cast of heroes in our lives and open our hearts to the concept of anyone being able to embody what the world needs at any moment. If nothing else, hasn't the pandemic taught us that our heroes and heroines come from everywhere?

There has been one female icon that has kept my spirits up and my focus strong throughout this pandemic. More than anyone else, this is the anthem of my pandemic life through all of its challenges, and I wanted to share it with you. One of the most prolific and influential female artists, she was only inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame this year. I have been listening to her constantly over the last year and her songs have brought me comfort, joy, and strength when I needed them. But none more than the song *Invincible* which steels my soul against every impossible problem in the world, and reminds us that 'with the power of conviction...we will be invincible'.

[Invincible - Pat Benatar \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QEtoDaDdec\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QEtoDaDdec)

With Love,
-Kevin