



# CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Weekly Newsletter



June 1, 2021

**Join Us for Sunday Worship on June 6th @ 10:30am.**

**Pastor Jack's message is "Crazy! Right!"**

**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 mentioned in worship this past Sunday, it seems that emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic is as confusing as when we entered—are we wearing masks? Are we social distancing? Different rules for vaccinated people opposed to non-vaccinated people? Right now, we are still asking people attending worship in our Sanctuary to wear masks and social distance. I know many businesses, churches and other organizations have put a date on when they will no longer require masks. We hesitate to do that when we are currently caring for children who have not yet been vaccinated and for the 3% of our population who cannot be vaccinated. If an individual chooses not to be vaccinated, my understanding of the State of Michigan guidelines is that they are encouraged to wear a mask.

Again, the issue is caring for others. I believe we are called to care for the elderly, children and vulnerable adults in our community. Wearing a mask is still a simple and effective way to keep everyone safe. I donated blood to the Red Cross yesterday, Memorial Day, and the nurse facilitating my donation said she wished everyone would wear a mask more often. She plans to wear a mask for a very long time yet. We talked a bit more, she making the observation that a lot of upper respiratory diseases were lower this past year; wearing masks not only protects people from the Covid-19 virus but from all types of airborne disease!

This summer will no doubt be a summer of increasing freedom as we learn to come together again in worship and work toward a worship experience that is meaningful for both our in-person congregation as well as our online congregants. Let's be responsible with that freedom and seek the wellbeing of each other for as long as it takes people to be comfortable in our post-pandemic world. We will keep you posted through this weekly newsletter and the Friday worship email that sends out information in preparation for Sunday morning worship service. In the meantime, it is great to see you on Sunday, whether here in the Sanctuary or streamed into your home! Either way, I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,  
-Pastor Jack



**Little Sprouts Toy Sale**

**Thursday, June 3, 8am–Noon**

**Everything must go, and everything is \$1!**

## Opportunities to Serve and Grow

### Trustee Church Clean-Up Day

**Saturday, June 5th, 9am–Noon**

Please join us for a morning of fun and work. There are several jobs that need to be done to make CUMC and the grounds look good, and we can use as much help as possible. To view a list of jobs and sign up, please visit [waterfordcumc.org/trustees-spring-clean-up-day/](https://waterfordcumc.org/trustees-spring-clean-up-day/) or call the church office at (248) 681-0040. If you're not sure of your availability at this point, you can just come on clean-up day and we'll have something for you to do! We are looking forward to seeing you on the 5th.

### Spring Lay Leadership Retreat with Rev. Cora

**June 11 & 12 (6:30pm Friday until 12:30pm Saturday)**

The Michigan Conference has put together a series of events this spring for you to grow in your faith. The final offering is an online rest and renewal retreat with Rev. Cora. You can sign up for just \$15. For more information and to register visit: <https://michiganumc.org/laity/laity-events/>.

## Introducing "Summer Socials!"

### Bring a meal, socialize, hear a bible story, and play!

Join Central Church this summer for fun, multi-generational outdoor gatherings at our playground and local parks. Each gathering will open and close with 30 minutes to play/eat/fellowship and have 30 minutes of programming (a bible story for all ages and craft/game).

Sunday Summer Socials will take place after church from 11:30-1:00pm behind the church at our playground and grassy areas. These will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays: 6/13, 6/27, 7/11, 7/25, 8/8, 8/22.

Monday Summer Socials will take place at parks around the area from 5:00-6:30pm on the first and third Mondays.

- 6/21 - Hess Hathaway Park
- 7/19 - Depot Park (Clarkston)
- 8/2 - Waterford Oaks
- 8/16 - Indian Village Park (Pontiac)

Sign up at <https://wcumc.simplechurchcrm.com/external/form/72843231-cb3f-42ec-b26a-768024bb06cc> for updates on summer socials and to receive notifications if events are canceled or relocated. Volunteer to help greet, lead an activity, or tell a bible story at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c45aba62ea0fe3-summer>.

## Youth and Children's End of Year Party

**Sunday, June 6, 5:30–7:00pm**

Rev. Cora, Katey, and Kevin are hosting an outdoor party for the end of the school year. Youth and children are welcome to join us for food, games, and a fun craft on the patio outside the Fellowship Hall.

## Oakland County Chess Club

**Sunday, June 6th, 3–6pm**

Join fellow enthusiasts for an afternoon of chess. All skill levels welcome.

## Camp Scholarship Applications are Available

Because of the past generosity of this congregation and the cancellation of the 2020 summer camping season, we do not need to take a special camp offering this year. To apply for a scholarship to attend camp during the 2021 season, please complete the form found at [WaterfordCUMC.org/forms/](https://WaterfordCUMC.org/forms/).

## Song of the Week

I hope this week finds you feeling relaxed and joyful and able to be with those you most love.

Holidays that celebrate the military are always hard for me to navigate. I've never met my father. I have a great Dad, and don't feel an absence rather than a lost opportunity. My Mom has always told me what a great guy my father was and

how he was her best friend, but that he came back from Vietnam a different person. He suffered from flashbacks and paranoia, and frequently set up deadly booby traps around the house that she would dismantle after he left for work each morning. So when she became pregnant with me, and he couldn't find his way out of that place, she made the decision to ensure my safety rather than live with her best friend. He took it very hard, and cut off all contact between them. So I never knew my father despite being told that he was smart, strong, brave, and handsome. That he was kind, fun to be around, and had an easy charm about him. And I know I am not alone in a situation where complicated feelings surround these holidays of Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, and the Fourth of July. However, what I really have a hard time with is the rhetoric that surrounds these holidays or any celebrations that center on supporting the military. Not because I don't believe in the brave souls that choose their service, but because I think we fail those brave men and women when they exit their service due to rhetoric that disallows criticism of our armed forces and how their expertise is wielded around the world.

Which brings me to my topic for today, the homeless. Now, I love that we are a church that has a big heart for this issue. We have so many programs already in place to help people in need, and we are making a difference daily because of your generosity and empathy towards this issue and the people who are affected by it. But I am thinking of the roots of these problems today, and the first challenge of addressing this problem properly is the reporting of it, with estimates that range from 7% to 23% all homeless being veterans. That's a wide range for a population that gets tracked through both Veteran's Affairs offices and through shelters and other help programs across the nation. I think this gets to the heart of why this is such a difficult problem to tackle—because even if we understand the symptoms around the issue, we do not understand the problem. In addition to the homeless veterans though, another 1.5 million veterans are considered at risk of homelessness at any time through lack of support networks and substandard housing. When we consider that Veteran's Affairs offices help approximately 90-100k veterans a year, we can see how big of a problem this is compared to the resources available to them.

Adding to the issue is the statistic that as much as 42% of homeless individuals suffer from a mental disorder. And that the homeless physically have the health problems of those who would be about 15-20 years older, and we can easily see the toll it takes on an individual and how vital our role is in supporting individuals on a path to stability that can lead to real change in their circumstances. But many communities across the nation are treating homelessness like a sanitation problem rather than the very real plight of individuals that could be our neighbors and friends with just a little more support. Across the nation, multiple cities have enacted laws with punitive fines that make it illegal to share food with the homeless or for anyone to camp or sleep outside or even in a car overnight, and some have extended that to daytime hours as well. And in San Francisco, it is even illegal to sit or lie down on the sidewalk from 7am to 11pm. All this while housing costs spiral beyond the reach of lower-income families and subsidized and low-cost housing gets bulldozed in city revitalization efforts in favor of luxury housing, which in turn creates an ever-larger group of people that risk homelessness across the nation.

But if you ask any person you know, we love and support our military and dedicate a large budget to making sure it is the most powerful and technologically advanced in the world. But our veterans are often left out of that conversation. So, the next time we praise our military and profess our support, let's see the faces of those veterans who come back needing our support past their welcome home parade. And let's see those same veterans in every homeless man and woman and know that if we do profess to love our country, we will show it by supporting those who need us the most because they gave of themselves when we needed them.

[Even Flow - Pearl Jam \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdilH3K\\_gEs\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdilH3K_gEs)

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](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