



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

August 2, 2021

Join us for worship Sunday, August 8th @ 10:30am. Pastor Jack continues our summer message series with "Life-Changing Decisions: Go"

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/

Make a Joyful Noise!

Singing is back! Central United Methodist Church has always been a singing church, and we're well aware that singing has been sorely missed these past 16 months. Last Sunday, August 1st, we resumed singing during our worship service and it was truly joyful!

As Christians, we are called to care for our neighbors. With this calling in mind, we are asking that you plan wear a mask when singing. Doing so will prevent particles from flying through the air that could endanger fellow worshippers. We ask this because we have seen an increase in positive COVID-19 cases since the low we saw on July 5. While not remotely close to the peaks we saw last fall and this past spring, there is still an increase that concerns many medical professionals. So, please plan to continue wearing your mask while singing throughout the month of August. If cases flatten near their current level, we are hoping to remove masks completely beginning in September.

It's Time Again to Welcome Guests to Church!

Central has seen new faces every Sunday since returning to in-person Worship, and this Sunday (August 8th) the Welcome Table returns. There are opportunities for friendly individuals to greet visitors following worship on Sundays. We have gift bags that we pass out to first-time visitors. If you would like to be a part of this welcoming committee, we are looking for someone who could be at the table in the Narthex on the first Sunday of each month starting in October or would be willing to be a substitute. Please contact Rachel in the church office at (248) 681-0040, or Diana Carter at dianacarter@comcast.net. Thank you!

August 8th Summer Social Canceled

Please note that, due to a scheduling conflict, we are canceling the Sunday, August 8th Summer Social. Please join us tonight (8/2) at Waterford Oaks Paradise Peninsula or on August 16th at Indian Village in Pontiac for the next scheduled Summer Socials.

Summer Full of Life Blood Drive, Tuesday August 10th, Noon-6pm

Donate blood and save lives. Sign up for Central's next blood drive by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and using the sponsor code centraluni. If you would like to volunteer to staff the blood drive, please contact Rachel in the church office at (248) 681-0040.

Project Backpack 2021

Central will again be participating in the Project Backpack School Supply Drive to benefit local Waterford students. Please drop your donations off by Friday, August 20th. For a list of items to donate, visit [waterfordcumc.org/project-backpack-2021/](https://www.waterfordcumc.org/project-backpack-2021/).

Thank You

Thank You Volunteers

A special thanks to those volunteers who worked this past Saturday morning to remove the seats from the old North Star Theater room. The work was completed and the room is ready to be reset as our new Bell Choir room.

Dear CUMC Family,

Thank you for thinking of me during my graduation. Thanks for everything you guys have done.

-Daniel Tryon-Burby

Central UMC Church Family,

There are not words enough to express our thanks and gratitude for the many prayers, cards, calls, messages and gestures of care and concern during the illness and death of our sister, sister-in-law and aunt. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

The tornado of July 24 resulted in damage to our home and property. Thankfully we were not injured and clean up and repair work have begun. Again, the care and concern of the church family have been overwhelming. Many have offered assistance and many have called or sent messages. We are so grateful and appreciative. Thanks be to God for a loving, caring church family.

-The Hazens: Bruce and Cathy, Sara and Family, John and Family

Song of the Week

I am wishing the highest joys, deepest connections, and most thoughtful reflections for you as I write my last Song of the Week. I am extremely proud of how we have come together and negotiated our way through this pandemic. Bringing together a consensus around how to proceed amongst the many opinions and challenges would be a point of division in many places. But I see thoughtful discussions about how to come together, consideration of other viewpoints, and most importantly, continued support of each other in all that we do. We are a community first and foremost with deep commitments and connections to each other, and I love to see that honored in all of you. We still

Softball Schedule

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Field</u>
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 8/2**, 5-6:30pm @ Waterford Oaks Park, Paradise Peninsula playground
- **Sunday 8/8**, CANCELED
- **Monday 8/16**, 5-6:30pm @ Indian Village Park (Pontiac)
- **Sunday 8/22**, 11:30-1pm @ CUMC



Thanks to our volunteers, the theater chairs have been removed and the room is ready for bells.

have more challenges to navigate, but I remain confident that we will continue to rise up and prioritize each other over any one path.

As I step away from this Song of the Week article, I am reminded of our constantly changing callings in life. One of the concepts that brings me comfort in navigating my path is that I don't have to be all things to all people. Instead, I have the ability and responsibility to change throughout life and be what others need and what brings me peace. I am thankful to have been able to find Song of the Week over these past 16 months, but I am also grateful to be called back to my musical passions again. I can't wait to bring live music back to you this fall, and I find myself renewed in the music-making that is happening currently with bells and choir. It is my hope that over this past year+ that you have found a new calling or a renewal of one, as I have, through the many topics we have explored together. Some things that I already believed, I have found deeper nuance and understanding through researching and writing about them this past year+, some of you have given me great food for thought and forced me to think about topics anew in our discussions that stemmed from my articles, and I do hope that I have been able to do the same for you. Once you learn about something you hadn't known about or thought of before, there is no going back, nor should we want to. My eyes have been opened to a host of things over this past year, and I hope yours have as well. There is no return for us, but rather a new vision of the world that needs our good work to help it to heal. And I hope you have been able to see yourself in a role in that process. If you have, you have found a new calling, and I hope you will share it with me. Because even as I am called back to healing the world through music, I have new calls upon my conscience and a new vision of what we can be, and I want all of you to join me in working for a kinder world. I know I won't walk alone, and neither will you if you take up the call.

I thought I would share some music that truly excites me for this last article. If it wasn't already evident, I love musical instruments, and more specifically, traditional musical instruments of world cultures. Often, these instruments aren't treated with the same seriousness outside of their native culture, simply because the western musical world doesn't know how to incorporate them into our current musical ensembles. But they are all serious instruments and when expert players show their versatility, sometimes then our western musical tradition can see their beauty. As a result, I find myself easily excited by groups, such as this one, which blend cultures and show the beauty of their cultures to our western ears. If you have taken one thing from my writings, I hope it is that we are at our best when we honor each other and blend our cultures...that we are better together, and this music is a natural extension of that idea. I hope you enjoy this, and that you are inspired to listen to many other ensembles from around the world that give us new perspectives into what it means to come together and create beauty in this world.

[Africa - Azumi Yamano, Kanami Takeda, Maico Miyamoto \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twka_AKnrVs\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twka_AKnrVs)

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 and the online Connection Card.