



# CHIMES

Central United Methodist Church

*Connecting with God,*

*Connecting with Others,*

*Changing our World with Christ's Love*

VOLUME 74

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Dear Friends,

Deadlines!! They are such a necessary part of life – whether we like it or not. I suppose without deadlines nothing would get done. Makes sense doesn't it. Douglas Adams, author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, wrote, "I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by."

There are "hard deadlines" when something absolutely must be done and there are "soft deadlines" when some extra time is negotiable. For the past few months I have felt a deadline bearing down on me as the Lead Pastor of Central Church. It is actually a deadline for our United Methodist denomination. In February of 2019 United Methodists from all over the world will gather to decide "A Way Forward." That phrase "A Way Forward" is the name of the initiative to study and arrive at a proposed stance on the rights and inclusion of members of the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) people in our churches, and in ministry.

Debate and changes in the language used to include or exclude LGBTQ people from our churches has raged since I became a pastor 34 years ago. Much of the language of the United Methodist stance on homosexuality (as it was called 30 years ago) was introduced into our Discipline in 1972. The Book of Discipline constitutes the law and doctrines of the United Methodist Church. It provides the foundational guidelines through which our denominations, including local churches, govern themselves.

There are several possible outcomes for the decision to be made in February of 2019. As your Lead Pastor, I want to make you aware of this important issue in our denomination. My goal, as that February 2019 deadline approaches, is to have meaningful conversations concerning this divisive issue. Regardless of our various feelings, emotions and attitudes on the issue, I want our local congregation to be well-informed.

Therefore, I—along with Rev. Cora Glass—will be facilitating three four-week studies utilizing materials from the United Methodist Church. There will be three timeframes and three venues when and where we will have these conversations. Each session will last approximately an hour and all are welcomed. We will meet on Wednesday nights (July 18 and 25, August 1 and 8) at the Rustic Leaf Brewing Company (7200 Highland Road; Waterford 48327) at 7 p.m. We will meet on Thursday mornings (July 19 and 26, August 2 and 9) at Tim Horton's (180 N. Cass Lake Road; Waterford 48328) at 10 am and Sundays (July 22 and 29, August 5 and 12) in the church parlor at 11:15am.

Again, these meetings are meant to inform our members and friends, and my expectation is that we will all be respectful of our differences in approaching this issue. Although we may be diverse in many ways, may we always seek to be united in our love for God and each other. I look forward to seeing you in church.

Because of Christ,

*Pastor Jack*

The deadline for the Sunday, July 22nd issue of *Chimes* is Wednesday, July 11th. Please send all of your articles, thank you notes and address changes to the Church office or e-mail them to [rdanek@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:rdanek@waterfordcumc.org).

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 am - Summer Worship

## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Music Director Kevin Naeve will be leading an old-time hymn sing Sunday July 8th during Pastor Jack's absence, so brush up on your favorites so you can request them!

**July 7th, 7 pm** - "Band of Misfits"  
@ Rustic Leaf Brewing Co.

**July 9th, 9 am** - Little Sprouts camp  
"Robots"

**July 9th, 6:15 pm** - Men's Softball  
@ New Hope

**July 16th, 7:30 pm** - Men's Softball  
@ St. Trinity

**July 17th, 7 pm** - Purple Threads  
summer gathering

**July 17th, 7 pm** - "Band of Misfits"  
@ Rustic Leaf Brewing Co.

**July 28th, 10 am** - Vocal workshop

**July 30th, 7:30 pm** - Men's Softball  
@ Clarkston Community

**July 31st, Noon-6 pm** - Red Cross  
Blood Drive

Several of you have requested Rev. Kathy's new address, so here you go!

Rich & Kathy Pittenger  
4551 Seneca Dr  
Okemos, MI 48864

The July 9th church council meeting will be a call-in meeting. Contact the church office for info.

**CONNECT WITH CENTRAL**

**Web:** [waterfordcumc.org](http://waterfordcumc.org)

**Facebook:** [waterfordcumc](https://www.facebook.com/waterfordcumc)

**Twitter:** [@waterfordcumc](https://twitter.com/waterfordcumc)

# The Life of the Church

## Annual Conference Was EX....

...HILIRATING...HAUSTING...CITING!!

The 2018 Michigan Area Annual Conference was all of these things and more for Rainy Stephenson, Christy Painter and Francie Bauer. The three of us roomed together, worshiped together each day, attended legislative committee groups and acted upon legislation brought before us during multiple plenary sessions. The days were long and began with worship in the morning and continued late into the evening. Our shortest day ended at 9 pm; one night it was 11 pm before we returned to our room.

Annual Conference gives clergy and laity an opportunity to conduct the business of the church and to hear what others in this great state are doing to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The business of the church included approving the budget, modifying the organizational structure of our new conference and [acting on a variety of resolutions](#). Our Bishop, David Alan Bard, was appropriately humorous and demonstrated the patience of Job while moving us through all the daily activities in a timely fashion using Roberts Rules of Order.

Worship at Annual Conference is an experience like no other. The theme of this year's Annual Conference was: Engage With. Engage with your neighbor, engage with strangers, engage with friends, engage with family. The music and preaching were outstanding and dug deep into the Good Samaritan scripture (think engage with a stranger). Preachers included our Bishop, David Alan Bard, Reverend Ben Bower and Reverend Kennetha Bigham-Tsai. Christy loved the preaching by Reverend Bigham-Tsai, who was motivating and inspirational about [doing more "to be a good neighbor."](#) Only gluten-free pita was offered for communion, which was very much appreciated. During Saturday's worship service, we were offered a hand-washing opportunity and a towel by the deacons. The towel quoted John Wesley: "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as you ever can."

Gathering with other United Methodists at Annual Conference is educational and inspiring. In addition to taking care of business, we heard nine Transformational Outreach and Ministry presentations (TOM talks) brought to us by the people intimately involved with those ministries. [Each TOM Talk](#) was 15-20 minutes long and showcased the ways some of our local churches and agencies are engaging in ministry with the most vulnerable among us.

We were impressed with how Michigan Methodists are making a difference in the lives of people in their communities, which we saw during several TOM Talks. Francie was especially moved by [the TOM Talk on establishing an off-site facility near a school with after-school and other activity options for youth](#). Rainy was very impressed with [the TOM Talk on Motown Mission](#). Our own Kathy Pittenger was part of a panel discussing how to Engage With schools.

We had the opportunity to attend focus group lunches and dinners. Christy went to a lunch with speakers from the Methodist Federation for Social Action and Reconciling Ministries committee. She was made aware of the Reverend Edwin Rowe's documentary "Do No More Harm". She also learned about Camp Beloved, an inclusive community for LGBTQ youth and allies to gather together in a safe space, celebrating the diversity and value of God's creation through a camping experience. Teens of all faith backgrounds—or none at all—are welcomed and loved at this Lake Louise facility. All three of us went to

## Band of Misfits Summer Tour

Join us this summer as "Band of Misfits" (the Conversation Band) plays in local Waterford venues.

**Saturday, July 7th @ 7pm** - Rustic Leaf Brewery (food truck night)

**Tuesday, July 17th @ 7pm** - Rustic Leaf Brewery

**Saturday, August 11th @ 7pm** - Rustic Leaf Brewery (food truck night)

Keep an eye on this section for more dates!



## Monday, August 27

We're renting a bus (special thanks to a generous donor) and have room for 56 people. The cost is \$43 per person which covers regular admission to the park.

### Space is limited so sign up soon!

You can sign up outside the office or online. Payment is required to reserve your spot. Make your check out to Waterford CUMC and bring it to the church office by August 15th.

(Annual Conference cont.)

the Kewadin and Northport Indian Missions dinner and festivities on Friday night. Rev. Terry and his wife Darlene painted a lovely picture of their congregation's experience on Sunday mornings. They even had us attempting to sing in their native language!

Rainy Stephenson, Francie Bauer and Christy Painter



## Summer Vocal Workshop

July 28th, 10am - 12:30pm

**Have you ever wanted to sing better, but didn't know where to start?**

Whether you have problems matching pitch, creating the sounds you've always wanted, or making your voice more free and easy as you enjoy your favorite music, this workshop is for you! Join operatic talent and vocal instructor Leslie Naeve as she takes you through the basics of vocal technique and proper sound production, addresses common vocal problems and how to work through them, gives you the knowledge of how to adjust vocal technique for any style of music, and gives you an opportunity for both group and individual instruction. Music is such an important part of our lives, and so many of us experience it daily for joy, enrichment, and growth. Come and grow your voice with us this summer!



## Blood Drive

July 31st,  
Noon-6 pm

Sign up in the Chapel hallway to donate or volunteer, or visit [Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code: centraluni.

Grace and Peace to You!

I am so grateful for the warm welcome I received this past week. Thank you to everyone who prepared for my arrival at the parsonage and the church. I am looking forward to getting to know you in the days, weeks, and months ahead. I believe what the children taught us on Sunday is true, "As we go through the waters, God is with us". With God by our side, I'm looking forward to the journey that lies ahead.

Rev. Cora

## It's Time for a New Church Directory!

We will be putting together a color church directory this fall, and you're invited to come have a professional photograph taken! We are working again with Lifetouch for the photography and directory production. There will be times available in September for you to come to the church for a photo session. Or, if you prefer, you can submit a photo for use in the directory. We will also have the option of having a staff member stop by to shoot a photo of our homebound members.

Every family that comes for a photo session will be given a complimentary 8x10 and the option (but no obligation) to purchase photo products directly from Lifetouch. Since we'll be doing this in the fall it will be great timing for holiday gifts!

Please plan to participate in this new directory. There have been many changes at Central. This book will reflect us as we are today, but we need you!

We are looking for volunteers to help; please see the sign up sheet outside the office.

Watch for more details on when to sign up for the photography session. You don't have to be a member of the church to participate!

## Thank You



### Thank You!

To everyone who lent a hand in cleaning and repairing the associate parsonage in preparation for Rev. Cora's arrival.

As summer approaches and thoughts turn to warm weather fun and vacations, please keep monthly pledge contributions up to date so that we can meet our monthly budget! Thank you.

Dear CUMC,

We are so grateful that you again hosted the awesome 4-H Fashion Show! Your stage, large area to eat and changing room made this a cool event.



Sincerely,

AJ, Aniya, Bella, Braylee, CC, Dana, Evaiah, Gillian & Jayne

Open Door Outreach Center  
Thanks You...

For your gift as a Julie Run contributing sponsor. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Geri Batt

## Little Sprouts Scholarships

Thank you to everyone who has given to the Little Sprouts scholarship fund.

## Opportunities to Serve & Grow

### Donate to Central When You Shop!

Keep Central in mind as you're shopping. If you're planning to purchase gift cards for graduations, consider purchasing them through Central's Scrip program. Or, if you're purchasing from Amazon.com, start your shopping at Amazon Smile. And don't forget that Central participates in Kroger Community Rewards. We receive funds from all of these great programs. For more information, visit

[krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)

or

[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

or

[shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com)

or pick up a Scrip order form in the office or online.

### Donate to Central's Food Pantry

We have helped over 90 local families so far this year. Help us help others by donating to the food pantry. We are always in need of tuna, canned fruit and soup (not cream of).

### Give Blood

Our next blood drive is July 31st. Please consider donating or volunteering.

### Read the Book of Hebrews

Pastor Jack's summer sermon series is based upon the New Testament Book of Hebrews, so take time to review the Book of Hebrews as part of your Faith Formation.

## Another Terrific VBS!

A HUGE shout-out to everyone who help with this year's Rolling River Rampage VBS. Thank you to Director Charlotte Murphy, all of the youth and adults that helped during VBS as well as everyone who donated supplies, food and funds. And a special thanks, as always, to Central's Tribe of Daniel team for all of their creative talent.



Summer is here and I'm already missing the joys of rehearsing with our music department. We had such a wonderful first year together with a quick turnaround on a choir cantata as soon as I arrived. We found our stride in the new year as we led to a very fun Easter Sunday and laughed with the children's cantata a few short weeks after. Our dancers and bells showed their talents in excellent performances every time they had the opportunity. And I finally got to know some of you who are outside of the music program (as you got to know me) with my sermon on the

history of church music. It was a whirlwind year for me, and I'm sure many of you as well, but we accomplished so much. I had so much fun, and I hope it was evident each week.

Now that the pace has slowed, however, I get to reflect upon what went well and what I hope for us to accomplish over this next year. This starts with our summer vocal workshop on July 28th. I specifically set this to be an opportunity for not just our choir, but our congregation at large. It is important to me to build the musical life and community of our church, and so I hope you will consider attending this workshop designed to help improve our ability to raise our voices in praise. If you ever wanted to improve your singing skills, this workshop is for you. This fall, I am working to start a concert series. We are currently in the stages of forming our committee, and if you feel called to help us present our church to the community, then I would love to have you join us in making this a reality. If either of these interest you, please call or email me directly. And of course, I haven't forgotten about Rally Day and the excitement of our regular calendar of musical events. I'm not ready to announce anything yet, but I am already looking forward to getting back to making beautiful music with our choirs, bells, and youth...and I hope some of you might join me in song in our second year together. September is a great time to try something new with the church, and I would love to welcome you into our music program!

Kevin Naeve