



# CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

January 11, 2021

## Human Relations and Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday: Pastor Jack Continues Our *Doxology* Message Series with "Obey and Trust."

From your computer or smartphone, watch at [facebook.com/waterfordcumc/live](https://facebook.com/waterfordcumc/live).

There is no call-in number for this service. The call-in number for worship was a function of Facebook, and has not been available for the last few weeks. If this functionality returns we will reinstate the call-in feature.

Please note that the church office will be closed Monday, January 18th  
in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

### Dear Central Church Family,

We've begun this year with a series of messages titled *Doxology*. When you hear the word doxology you probably think of the brief hymn sung as the offering is brought forward during the worship service to be blessed. The words are familiar: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below, Praise Him above the Heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen." It was sung to the tune that was called Old 100th for centuries and in 1989 the United Methodist Hymnal included an alternative musical setting that had been in use but was not officially in our hymnal. It incorporates "Alleluias" in the words above and changes "Holy Ghost" to "Holy Spirit."

The doxology is more than just that one brief hymn; a doxology is actually a literary device in ancient writings offering a majestic declaration of praise to God. We find doxologies sprinkled throughout our scriptures. Doxology literally means the study of praise; "ology" means study and "doxo" means opinion or glory. Doxologies have become short hymns of praise, usually from the scriptures, and are often used as benedictions at the end of worship services.

The Doxology which is the foundation for our messages beginning this year was written by the Apostle Paul: "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21) As we enter 2021 with renewed hope for our lives, our church, our nation and world, it seems fitting to remember that our God "is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine."

More than that, we must remember the first part of this passage, "Now to him who by the power at work *within us* is able." God is able because of the power that is already at work within each of us. Paul was fond of calling the church "the body of Christ." We must remember that we are called individually and collectively to be the body of Christ in the world today; we are to carry out the mission and ministry that Jesus began.

With all that concerns us today—from the COVID-19 pandemic to violence surrounding our election process to economic woes, all while attempting to seek justice and inclusion for all people (but specifically for black and LGBTQIA persons)—it is an overwhelming responsibility to be Jesus in the world today! The purpose of the messages beginning this year is to continue meaningful conversations about God's call and desire for all people to be whole and valued. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Our God is able. Our God desires to work in and through us—the church. I guess the question for each of us to answer is, "Are we able?" I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,

-Pastor Jack

## Human Relations Sunday Offering

On Human Relations Day, celebrated this Sunday, we join other UMC congregations in a special offering to 1) support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers; 2) support community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services, and 3) work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Please prayerfully consider giving to this special offering. Send checks to the church office with "Human Relations Day" marked on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

## Help Us Design Our Lenten Studies!

Last week we sent out a survey via email to determine what topics and formats to offer for our Winter/Lenten studies. Please take a moment to fill out the survey (it's only four questions). You can find it at [bit.ly/SG-winter2021](https://bit.ly/SG-winter2021). Please let us know your thoughts by January 15th. If you have already filled it out, please do not fill it out a second time. Thank you!

## Advent and Christmas 2020 Recap

Thank you to everyone who donated time, talent and money to make Central's not-so-normal Advent and Christmas a wonderful time!

### Advent by Candlelight

Thank you to Rev. Cora, Kathy Chao and the Advent by Candlelight hostesses for a successful virtual ABC. Two versions were made; one to be hostess-led and a self-directed version that was publicized outside of Central Church. This year's charity was the Methodist Children's Home Society, and \$225 in donations was raised.

### Compassionate Christmas Cards

This annual program allows members and friends to purchase Christmas cards for a \$5 donation to one of Central's missions. This year, 86 cards were purchased for a total of \$430 going to missions, including \$75 to Baldwin Center, \$85 to Blessings in a Backpack, \$145 to Clothe-A-Child, \$70 to Knit for Kids, and \$55 to Liberia Missions. Thank you to everyone who purchased cards.

### Christmas Eve Blooper Reels

This holiday brought a new way of worshiping through Advent and Christmas. Hours of footage was shot and well over 100 videos were produced by staff and volunteers over the season. Just for fun, the church videographers put together short blooper reels of outtakes from the two Christmas services, and music director Kevin Naeve created a humorous version of the staff carol "Joy to the World." To view these videos, visit Central's YouTube channel and view the [Christmas 2020 Fun](#) playlist.

### Youth Group Christmas Party

This Christmas the youth group gathered on Zoom for a gingerbread house building competition. Youth were given a half hour to build their gingerbread house and commentary was provided by Anna Tompkins and Jason Foster. Guest judges Kathy Pittenger, Jack Mannschreck, Joe Humphrey, and Jill Leek then joined in for judging on five categories: Best in Show, for the all-around favorite house; Sweetest, for the best use of candy; The Bob Ross, for the most creative; Innovation, for the best use of unconventional materials; and Nailed It, for a house that had great potential. All participants who cleaned up to the satisfaction of their parents won a pair of fuzzy holiday socks. To watch highlights from the event, visit the [Christmas 2020 Fun](#) playlist at Central's YouTube channel.

## Song of the Week

I hope you are all coming back from the holidays refreshed and ready for a new year. I know I was able to spend five days where I avoided work and news and focused on my family and what brings us joy. It was just the break I needed after this last year. We have all gone through many challenges, but here we are surmounting every one of them as we start 2021. Though we may not have wanted all of our experiences of the last year, I hope you have found things to celebrate that have come from each of those struggles. I know that I am finding much to be appreciative of as I reflect back upon 2020.

But now, our days are starting to get longer, even if we are continuing in much the same way in January that we were in December, and there are things to look forward to. I have noticed it in my conversations with people over this last month that there is a little relief in their voice, a little more appreciation in their words, and although there are many things we are still lamenting, we see a light coming over the horizon and feel our darkest days are behind us. As we start this new year, I hope each of you also has a renewed hope, renewed strength to face our challenges,

and a renewed appreciation for what brings us together both weekly in service, and also daily in our thoughts and connections that run so deeply that even a global pandemic cannot keep us from our work in the world and the meaning we bring to each others' lives. As we let the Christmas season pass, be reminded that hope is reborn into the world.

[Here Comes the Sun - The Beatles \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQetemTIsWc\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQetemTIsWc)

With love,

-Kevin

## Thank You for the Love Gift

The staff wishes to thank everyone for the very generous Love Gift that you shared with us this holiday season. It is truly a joy to be part of Central Church's work to bring the good news of Jesus Christ into today's world, and we are honored to be part of your mission.

## Thank You to Central's Tech Team

The tech team of Central Church has been incredibly resilient in 2020 in adapting to a new way of bringing worship not only to the Central congregation, but to the world. None of it would be possible without the expertise of the volunteers that commit hours every week to running the tech for Central's worship services. Special thanks to Rustyn Robinson and Matt Berg for spearheading these efforts, and to Rustyn for editing together Central's 8pm Christmas Eve service!

## Cradle Roll

Congratulations to Andrew Stepp and Heather Marks on the birth of their son Aidyn Andrew Stepp on January 6, 2021, and to grandmother Vanessa Marks.

## Born to Eternal Life

**John Pagen, December 27, 1926—January 4, 2021. Member Since November 25, 1973.**

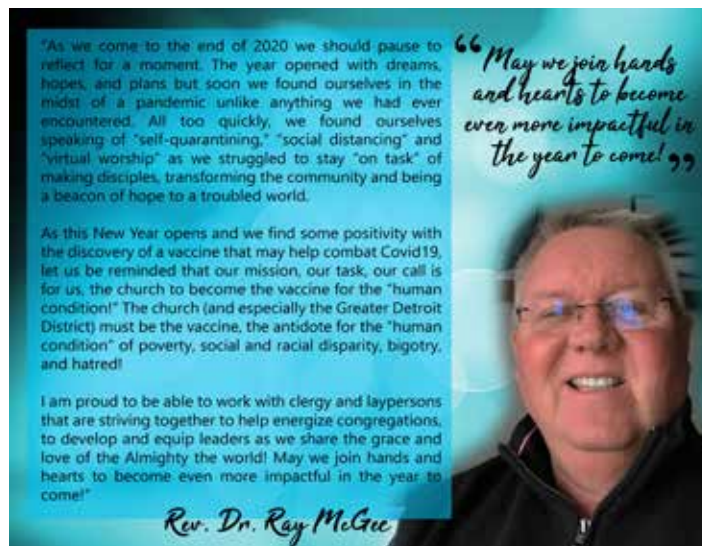
Our prayers are with John's wife Mary Lou, son John Robert Pagen, daughter Mary (Paul) Barghahn, and his many grandchildren and friends.

## Our Deepest Sympathies

To Mary and Steve Landry on the passing of Mary's sister, Sue Cruguer.

To Larry and Doris Quick on the passing of their granddaughter, Amanda Mills.

Our prayers are with the family and friends.



*This Week's 2021 Inspiration, Courtesy of the Michigan Conference, comes from Rev. Ray McGee.*