



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

January 19, 2021

Sunday, January 24th, 2021

Pastor Jack's message: "Kintsukuroi Christianity," featuring an interview with Gary Miracle.

From your computer or smartphone, watch at facebook.com/waterfordcumc/live.

Dear Central Church Family,

I shared during worship this past Sunday that as I've watched the news stories about capital buildings being fortified with fencing and all the additional protection that is being placed around our nation's scarred Capitol building, my initial reaction has been anger. I don't believe I'm alone in feeling robbed of what should be another moment of celebration of our country's long-held tradition of peaceful transitions in the leadership of our nation. I remember as a child watching the proceedings of the inauguration and knowing that this was a wonderful day for our country and a wonderful part of our democracy. For the inauguration this week, in addition to anger, I am sad and fearful. I am sad that contrary opinions no longer lead to meaningful conversations, but to name-calling, conflict and violence. I am fearful for the safety of our leaders in Washington D.C. and anyone else in attendance—from the very few invited guests, to law enforcement, military personnel, and the press.

I know that my anger, while not inappropriate (even Jesus got angry), cannot remain on my mind and heart. That is why I am asking you to join me in prayer—prayer for all leaders in our nation, prayers that tomorrow's inauguration will be without incident, prayers for ourselves that we may be ambassadors of Christ' peace, God's wisdom, and the Holy Spirit's power.

Now, to be Christ's ambassador means more than praying; it means speaking up for peace with justice and trusting in the power our words possess. Jesus called his followers the light of the world and the salt of the earth. If we are to be the light of the world, we cannot be absent or silent. If we are to be the salt of the earth, then we need to realize the power of our influence.

After the worship service this past Sunday, after focusing on the mission and ministry of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., participants in worship and the tech team were talking about impressions and messages that last. A comment was offered that the names of those who perpetrated violence against those in the Capitol building, as well as the building itself, will be forgotten long after healing has occurred. But the peaceful and just message of Dr. King will endure, just as Jesus' message of love, peace, mercy and justice has prevailed for thousands of years.

Be blessed my friends and stay safe, knowing that through all that is going on in our world, God is with us! As we've lifted up in the messages this month, know that our God is able. (See Ephesians 3:20-21) Our God desires to work in and through us—the church—to bring healing and peace to our nation and world. I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,

-Pastor Jack

Winter Coat Collection to Benefit Refugees

Waterford Central, in partnership with the Waterford Refugee Welcome Alliance, is collecting new and gently used adult and kids winter coats, hats, scarves, and gloves. Donations will be taken through March and can be placed in the blue collection tub in the Chapel hallway. Thank you for helping local Waterford-area refugee families.

Outdoor Prayer Service

Thursday, January 28th at 7:15 pm

In response to this month's violence at the Capitol, political unrest, and racism throughout our country, we will gather for a short service of prayer in our parking lot. Come park and worship from the comfort of your car. We will broadcast the service to your car radio so you can hear clearly. During the service, we will lift up concerns, lament, share joys, and hear scripture's words of hope for the future.

Knit for Kids Update

A big thank you to everyone who helped provide warm clothing through the Knit for Kids program. I just mailed a box of items last week. Since the program started in 2005 we have sent in 1,558 sweaters, 913 baby hats, 94 baby blankets, 336 kids hats and 138 pairs of mittens. The items are sent to World Vision, who then ship them to children in the US and around the world. World Vision has recently shipped items to Appalachia, Bosnia, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Chicago, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras Lesotho, Malawi, Nicaragua, Niger, Pacific Northwest, Somalia, Swaziland and Zambia. They expressed their thanks in receiving the handmade items and all the love and effort that went in to making them.

If you wish to participate, the knit and crochet patterns are available on a table near the brides room beyond the Narthex, or contact me and I will email or mail them to you. Once your projects are complete, you may place them on the table or contact me for pickup.

The postage to mail the boxes comes from donations. We received \$70 from the Compassionate Christmas Cards which will allow us to mail two boxes this year. (We mailed four last year.) If you wish to donate to the Knit for Kids postage fund, you may include it with your offering and indicate it is for Knit for Kids.

Thank you,

-Diana Carter, dianacarter@comcast.net - 248-309-2490.

Song of the Week

I write my Song of the Week every Tuesday, and as I watched events unfolding last Wednesday, my thoughts turned to all of you immediately, and my already outdated Song of the Week. All week, it was on my mind that I should rewrite it all to send you a more timely message, but those words didn't come. It has taken me this week to process what I witnessed happening at the Capitol building, and what we are continuing to watch unfold. I am sure you are having quite a time processing it as well, especially as we see more warnings of what may be yet to come in the next few weeks. I wish I had better words of comfort for you in this time, but this is not a time of comfort. Don't look away from the news over these weeks, it is important that we all provide witness to this moment. It will pass, but only if we learn from it and choose a better path.

So often I have watched in amazement as Christians vote by party and politics over quality of character. And I think we should all be paying close attention to that at this moment. Who are those leaders and politicians who have acted with integrity regardless of whether we agree with them politically? I am going to call out two easy examples by name. Rep. Andy Kim, NJ can be seen after the assault on the Capitol going beyond his duties as a lawmaker to help clean up the building after the attack. I can't imagine being put through the stresses of this harrowing day in which an officer of the law is beaten to death and the entire legislature is evacuated to a wait out an attack and decide not to go home, but instead to stay and clean the building before a late night session to continue the work of the day. Whereas WV State lawmaker Derek Evans is now under arrest for choosing to travel to Washington to participate in the assault and looting of our Federal government. I ask you...who has their priorities in the right place? Who do you want to ensure the safety of your family in your town? Who do you want deciding how your schools will be funded, your tax money spent, or your city, state, and country to run smoothly and justly? Who will you trust, when the moment comes, to be able to choose between the good of everyone and their own enrichment?

I ask this because I believe that all of politics comes down to character. Here in America, we don't have a competitive third political party, which makes all elections seem like a binary choice in a fight to get 'our' way imposed on the other side. But I have never viewed politics like that, and I think we have suffered under that perception for far too long. We aren't enemies, but friends. We just have to take a look around our congregation to see that. Or, for a higher profile picture of it, read about the touching friendship between Supreme Court Justices Scalia and Ginsburg. Fiercely opposed in viewpoints, but neither lost sight of the fact that what connects us is more important than what divides us. I look across our country and feel embarrassed to see a large group of lawmakers that have tried to undermine democracy over this last month. I feel disheartened to see a crowd of people able to be egged on to violence by a lame-duck president trying to reject our American values and cling to power. And I feel ashamed that we have gotten to a place where we are so divided that violence seems like a viable political action to some. But I also feel confident I know the

solution, if enough people will join in. Pledge to vote for character first and politics second. I like having people in office who agree with me because I believe I have a valid and kind political agenda. But I am always more concerned with putting in those people who will compromise for the betterment of all of us. People who won't sell out for a few perks in office. People who recognize the good and bad on both sides of an issue and thoughtfully weigh the outcomes. People who choose taking care of our national institutions, values, and people as the greatest good. I think the cynics in all of us may easily say that there aren't many of those people in politics right now. But look at Andy Kim. They exist, and furthermore, we can demand that those who are already in office live up to our expectations. They are our representatives, and it is one of our great institutions that they serve the will of the people. But it is also up to all of us to own the failures of the current political system and take responsibility to change the political climate by raising our voices and demanding that our legislators live out the values that we live. This week observe, persevere, and commit yourself to be part of the solution.

[Sunday, Bloody Sunday - U2 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQZLPV6xcHI\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQZLPV6xcHI)

With Love,
-Kevin

Born to Eternal Life

Mary Elizabeth Wilhoyte, November 30, 1930–January 13, 2021. Member Since December 26, 1993.

Our prayers are with Mary's children Sally (Michael) Tucker, Richard (Nancy) Bennett, Robert (Susan) Bennett, Kathryn Bennett, Ruth, Mary, William, and her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family, and friends.

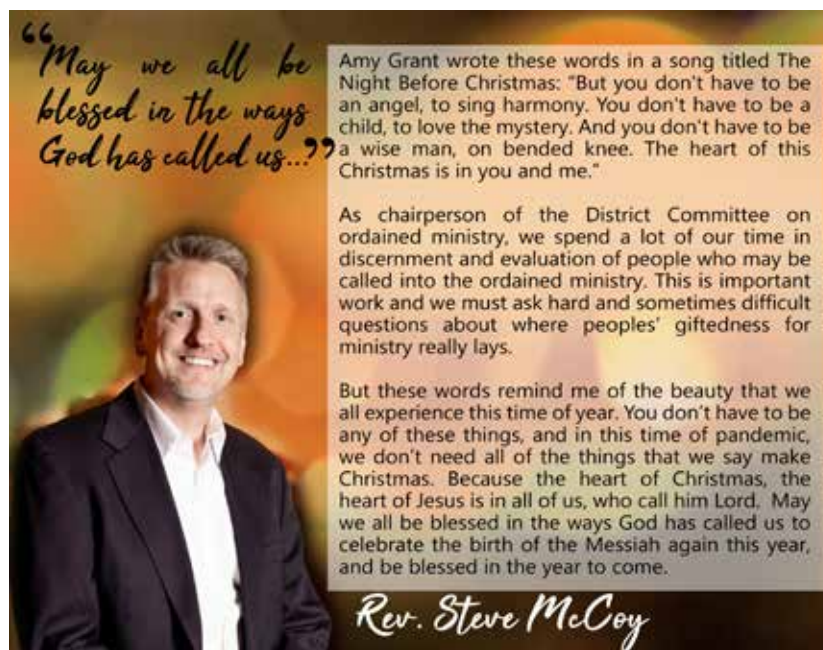
Vivian Hardy (Osmun) Eddy, July 26, 1922–January 11, 2021. Member Since November 24, 1996.

Our prayers are with Vivian's children, Diane (Antonio) Aguleria and Denny (Louise) Hardy, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family, and friends.

Thank You

Thank you so much for your donation of soap and stamps for our Jail Ministry. God's blessings come in many different forms!

God Bless and Keep You Healthy,
-Sr. Peggy DeVaney



"May we all be blessed in the ways God has called us...?"

Amy Grant wrote these words in a song titled The Night Before Christmas: "But you don't have to be an angel, to sing harmony. You don't have to be a child, to love the mystery. And you don't have to be a wise man, on bended knee. The heart of this Christmas is in you and me."

As chairperson of the District Committee on ordained ministry, we spend a lot of our time in discernment and evaluation of people who may be called into the ordained ministry. This is important work and we must ask hard and sometimes difficult questions about where peoples' giftedness for ministry really lays.

But these words remind me of the beauty that we all experience this time of year. You don't have to be any of these things, and in this time of pandemic, we don't need all of the things that we say make Christmas. Because the heart of Christmas, the heart of Jesus is in all of us, who call him Lord. May we all be blessed in the ways God has called us to celebrate the birth of the Messiah again this year, and be blessed in the year to come.

Rev. Steve McCoy

This Week's 2021 Inspiration, Courtesy of the Michigan Conference, comes from Rev. Steve McCoy.