



# CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Weekly Newsletter

March 22, 2021

**Palm Sunday Worship, March 28th @ 10:30am. Pastor Jack's *Words To the Cross* message is "What Name Would You Shout?"**

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

### Dear Central Church Friends,

One of the joys of going to seminary in Boston was the consortium of 13 seminaries that cooperated in offering classes to the other school's students. I took a class on the Hebrew Book of Job, taught by a Jewish Rabbi at Boston College, a Jesuit school. Marina McCoy is currently an associate professor of philosophy at Boston College. Her main specialties are ancient Greek philosophy, especially Plato, and the intersections between philosophy, rhetoric, and literature. She is also interested in the topics of vulnerability, service learning, and social justice. Marina writes:

I'm often struck by friends who note how much harder it can be to "feel" Easter than to experience Lent. Somehow the reflection on sin and suffering comes more easily to many than experiencing joy and redemption. However, in this we are not alone: the disciples, too, have difficulty at first absorbing the fullness of resurrection joy.

In many resurrection scenes, we find Jesus offering reconciliation. In John's gospel, Jesus goes to the disciples who have locked themselves into the upper room. The disciples are fearful (John 20:19). Later, Jesus speaks to Thomas and to Peter, who each have their own kinds of difficulties with the resurrection: Thomas doubts and Peter is in need of knowing Jesus' love for him after his betrayals. Peter may have wondered: Why was I so afraid? Why did I go back on my promise to stand by Jesus? We, too, in our own lives may wonder: How did a perfectly good situation unravel into such difficulty? Often suffering, betrayals and other evils defy our attempts to give them logic.

No wonder, then, that Jesus' appearance to the disciples is not immediately met with a sense of "all is well."

(Marina McCoy, *Living Our Way Into Easter Joy*, [ignatianspirituality.com](http://ignatianspirituality.com))

While I certainly appreciate Professor McCoy's insights, I see "reflection on sin and suffering" and "experiencing joy and redemption" as two sides of the same coin that is the journey of Lent that ends with the Easter Festival. It is difficult to count ourselves worthy of the sacrifice Jesus made for us. It's difficult to realize and accept the depth of God's love and grace that is foundational to understanding Jesus' death and resurrection.

As we travel through these last two weeks of Lent, including Holy Week, be thankful for the reconciliation that God offers us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. And give thanks! I look forward to seeing you this next Sunday—Palm Sunday—as the final portion of Lent begins. I look forward to joining you in worship and want you to begin thinking about how your participation in our Holy Week Services may lead to your experience of joy and redemption. God bless you!

Because of Christ,  
-Pastor Jack

### Make a Paper Palm for Palm Sunday

We invite you to make a paper palm as part of our Palm Sunday celebration. [Check out Central's YouTube channel](#) for fun how-to videos.

## Family-Friendly Easter at Home

Is your family looking for a resource to help you prepare for Easter at home? Register to receive a Holy Week Box!

Holy Week remembers the days from Palm Sunday to Easter (March 28-April 4). In the Holy Week Box, families will find a short and very simple daily devotion guide adaptable for families with children from preschool to middle school. Each day, participants will read scripture, affirm a truth, embody a tangible ritual, wonder about the story, and pray. These acts can be done over a meal, as a morning daily ritual, or the final ritual before going to bed each day during Holy Week. The box will also include some small items to serve as symbols of the week. Delivery to families within 15 miles of the church will happen before Palm Sunday. A digital version will be emailed to those outside the delivery radius. [Sign up for your Holy Week Box \(http://bit.ly/holyweekbox21\)](http://bit.ly/holyweekbox21) by March 23.

## Scholarship Applications Are Available

Scholarships applications for high school, college, and skilled trade students can now be accessed on our church website at [WaterfordCUMC.org/forms/](http://WaterfordCUMC.org/forms/). The application deadline is May 3, 2021. These scholarships help Central Church members reduce the financial burdens of their continued education and are funded by memorial gifts and generous members. If you would like to establish a continuing education scholarship in your name, please contact the church office at [info@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:info@waterfordcumc.org) or (248) 681-0040.

## 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/](http://WaterfordCUMC.org/forms/).

## Song of the Week

I hope this week finds all of you well. I think we are all looking at a series of new transitions in the upcoming months in many aspects of our lives. Many of these we have looked forward to for a while, but transitions are messy, and they can be intimidating at the same time. Like most we do, we should be cautious in assessing, thoughtful in implementing, and forgiving in navigating these transitions. Humility is an often-overlooked virtue, but it is exactly that willingness to walk humbly that also allows us to walk surely into the next phase. It doesn't fit with our American narrative, but in my experience, the most humble individuals are also those who accomplish the greatest things.

To demonstrate that, I thought I might share one of the most influential women of history today, Hildegard von Bingen. Hildegard lived from 1098 to 1179 and has a legacy in a wide array of disciplines, including music. As an uneducated medieval woman, she entered the convent without expecting to have such a great influence, but through her humility, she was able to speak in her day on a wide range of subjects that were usually strictly the domain of educated men. Among her works are three volumes of visionary theology, nine volumes of scientific texts describing the scientific and medicinal properties of plants, animals, and minerals, two volumes on the subject of medicine which were remarkable for their practical applications as well as a greater view of a holistic treating of the body and spirit, an invented language, and correspondence with popes and emperors. She rose to the position of Prioress of the convent she was in and established two new monasteries, and as a musician, she has one of the largest preserved catalogs of the medieval period including 70 musical works among which are the earliest surviving non-liturgical music drama, *Ordo Virtutum* consisting of 82 original songs and texts as a morality play about the virtues. Her musical style was forward-thinking as well, anticipating the next trends of sacred music in their distinctiveness and usage of melismas. After her death, she rose to sainthood within the Catholic Church as one of the early inductees of the canonization process in the 16th century, however, it was not completed until 2012. She lends her name to various societies in music, medicine, and spirituality today as well as figures in artworks, movies, an off-Broadway musical; she has a planet named after her as well as a plant genus, and many musical works reference her contributions and genius in the arts.

Seemingly always in transition, but moving humbly and with purpose, Hildegard has marked our world with her knowledge, insight, compassion, courage, and creativity. Let us face our next transitions with the same purpose and presence and find ourselves better for taking up the task with the reverence it demands.

Invocation - Hildegard von Bingen (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49UrkumIFOY>)

With Love,  
-Kevin

## Address Change

There is a new address for Matthew and Catrina Nugent: 4600 Ridge Hwy., Britton, MI 49229-9752.