



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

May 3, 2021

Happy Mother's Day! Sunday, May 9th @ 10:30am We Will Return to In-Person Worship! Pastor Jack's message is "Faces Only a Mother (and Jesus) Could Love."

Worship will also continue to be 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).

Dear Friends,

I have often written and spoken the words that no one wants to come back to in-person worship more than me. And now—here we are!! I am glad that we are moving forward to be together in worship, although it will be very different from what our worship together has been in the past. I want to thank the many people involved in creating our [Covid-19 Come Back Plan](#); from the other churches and individuals who have shared their plans to those in our church leadership who have honed the plan to our particular needs.

The plan has been posted on our website and there is a brief article following this letter with highlights of what to expect when we return. I want to share a few ideas of my own and offer some ideas that may further our efforts in keeping everyone safe.

Safety should be our primary concern, however, respect also needs to be a part of our approach for caring for one another. Each person will have to make a decision to attend either our in-person worship service or continue to watch from home. No judgment should be made against anyone who makes a decision different than yours. Saying the words, "You shouldn't feel that way," or "Don't worry—it's really safe," are not helpful. One thing we should all learn from this pandemic is that we are all different and have the right to approach our safety, our mourning and our peace in a number of ways, as long as it doesn't harm others.

There will be no singing during our worship service, which initially will look very much like our streamed service in format. That format keeps the service at a shorter length. No offering will be physically taken, no passing of the peace, no bulletins or Connection Cards will be distributed, and there will be no gathering in the narthex or hallways of the church building. That's a lot of "No's" but it means saying yes to care and safety.

Several have asked if we are taking registration for worship. The answer is "No." We believe we have the capacity in our Sanctuary to gather while maintaining distances that promote safety. We will be asking attendees to continue recording their attendance online.

Finally, there is a questionnaire concerning Covid-19 symptoms that originally asked that you "carefully consider your decision to worship in our Sanctuary and continue to worship online." To say this more strongly and clearly; if you have **any** symptoms of **any** illness, please stay home and enjoy the service online.

That's a lot of directives and I hope you receive them with grace and attentiveness to the care of others. Whether you will join us in-person or from home, I look forward to "seeing" you this next Sunday!! God bless and stay safe.

Because of Christ,

-Pastor Jack

Returning to In-Person Worship

Central will be returning to in-person worship this Sunday, May 9th. If you are planning to attend in-person worship we ask that you [download and read Central's Come Back Plan](#). A few key points to know before you arrive:

- Only those feeling comfortable to attend should come. Online worship will continue. While we encourage everyone to get a vaccine, **we are not requiring proof of vaccination to attend in-person worship.**
- Masks covering the nose and mouth must be worn at all times while in the building.
- At all times please maintain a six-foot distance from others, unless you are immediate family living together.
- Please do not sing as it spreads particulates much like a cough or sneeze. Feel free to hum with your mask on.
- Do not use the closets; keep coats and wraps with you.
- Do not congregate in the narthex (lobby); move directly into the Sanctuary and prepare for worship.
- Offering baskets will be available at the entrance to the Sanctuary. You can also give electronically or by text.
- Pencils, Bibles, hymnals, bulletins, handouts, etc., will not be available. Feel free to bring your own Bible and/or bulletin. Bulletins may be printed from www.waterfordcumc.org (go to the calendar). If you bring a bulletin with you, please take it when you leave.
- Please be respectful of others; no physical contact (hugging, handshaking, etc.). Greet others with a wave, a sign for "I love you" or the "Sign of the Cross," etc. Maintain social distancing, and depart immediately after the service.
- Restrooms will be open, however, please limit the usage of our restrooms if possible.
- No children's Sunday school or nursery care will be available. Children must stay in the pews with their families during the entire worship service.
- Please continue to register your attendance online at www.waterfordcumc.org/central-connect, or use the QR code found on the signs in the narthex.

We are looking forward to seeing some of you this Sunday, and in "seeing" you virtually for those continuing to worship with us online.

Welcome Adam Deiterick

Last Sunday Central's new tech guru, Adam, was at the tech desk learning the ropes. Adam will be handling all things tech, including acting as lead during worship, recording and editing video, managing the Livestreaming of worship and providing IT support to the staff.

Adam is a long-time resident of Waterford, has a strong background in information technology and is studying to become an Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) Technician for autistic children.

Watch for Adam at the tech desk as we return to in-person worship and take a minute to say "hi."



Calling All Graduates!

We will be celebrating your accomplishment during worship on Sunday, June 13th. Please share your plans and a photo with us. Use the form found at WaterfordCUMC.org/grad2021/ to submit your information. **Please have your information to us by May 31st.** Thank you!

VBS and Summer Programming Surveys

Thanks to all who have submitted feedback about our summer programming for children. If you have young children or enjoy volunteering with children this is your last week to share your input.

Volunteers who enjoy working with preschool and elementary-aged children. Please help me know what you feel able and safe helping with this summer by completing the following survey: <https://forms.gle/NHddBIFbRCZN4rMU9>

Parents and Caregivers of preschool and elementary-aged children. We are looking for your input on programming to help us plan a summer that best serves our community. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey: <https://forms.gle/hv94LLq422GuDCGW8>

I'm thankful for your input and hope to find safe and fun ways to connect this summer.

- Rev. Cora

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/](https://www.waterfordcumc.org/forms/).

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Our Members Who are Turning 80+:

- George Johnston - 5/2
- Ronald Newman - 5/4
- Annabelle Closson - 5/6
- Ken Paul Bowers - 5/7
- Dee Bowers - 5/9
- Helen Beason - 5/18
- Mary Ellen Brown - 5/18
- Mary Lou Pagen - 5/29

And Happy 50+ Year Anniversary to:

- Ernie & Francie Bauer – 5/29, 50 yrs.

Born to Eternal Life

Daniel Hosler, January 13, 1934–April 30, 2021. Member Since March 9, 1980.

Our prayers are with Dan's children Lisa (Terry) Grossebauer, Linda (Rick) Skelton, Michael (Mary) Hosler, Lori Hosler, Elizabeth Korey, and his many family and friends.

Louise Fortier, August 9, 1960–April 21, 2021. Member Since November 27, 2005.

Our prayers are with Louise's husband Dennis and her family and friends.

Thank You

Thank you, everyone, for your prayers, kind words and cards during my back surgery and recovery.

-Jerry Paquette

Thank you very much for the caring cards and well-wishes as we recovered from Covid. Robin is fully recovered, and Sue is on the mend. Your caring and compassion helped very much in keeping our spirits up!

-Robin Danek and Sue Newill

Song of the Week

I'm wishing you lots of love and care this week, and I'm hoping you are finding ways to stay connected and engaged with each other whether that be through our virtual service and small groups, old fashioned phone calls, or if you've been able to get vaccinated and have the joy of visiting in person again. It's important that we remember what brings us together.

Have you ever looked at the news and thought to yourself that, over the years, there is a growing callousness and casual nature about reporting on violence and tragedy? This is a thought that I've had many times over my life, and I think if you are old enough to have engaged in the news cycle more than ten years that it is evident. So I decided to look into some national tragedies of our past this week and see if my perspective was the rosy lens with which we view the past or if it is really the case.

In 1900, a huge hurricane hit Galveston, Texas, and these are some of the headlines from the next day: The Fate of Galveston; 10,000 Lives Lost, 700 Bodies Found; Thousands of Corpses Float on Galveston Bay.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and the greater gulf coast, and this is how it was led on ABC news the next day and in newspaper headlines: Hurricane Katrina seems destined to be the mostly costly natural disaster in American history; Gulfport Mississippi: 3/4 of Buildings Damaged; Hurricane Triggers Devastation in Dixie.

I think it is easy to feel the difference in reading those statements. The first one centers on human lives, and even as we read it, we are still horrified by the images and language that it presents. After Katrina, we are given property damage as a gauge of the large-scale destruction of the storm. However, we don't empathize with property damage. It may be representative of some things we may empathize with, but a dollar figure doesn't and shouldn't stir our heartfelt feelings in the same way that real human tragedy does. But in our news cycle and love of numbers, it is a quick answer to immediate reporting, as dollar estimates are easy to come by and widely palatable while stories and images of human loss are more nuanced, and often not shown because the grim images are deemed 'too graphic' when they are shared. In fact, there is a particular desensitizing and numbness created in us through the use of monetary

equivalences to human tragedies. It has been studied significantly because it was part of the propaganda cycle of Nazi Germany used to desensitize the public as the Holocaust began. And we can see it used on a smaller scale today when property damage is used to muddy the emotional waters in an argument about human rights. Objectively, there should be no equivalent, but most, if not all of us, have felt and had to navigate that murkiness where property damage is weighed against human tragedy. It takes courage and conviction to wade through the reporting, however, to see the value of human life and empathize with other humans suffering, especially if it is not our own cause or demographic.

To give a more recent example to track whether this progression has happened recently, I also looked up one of the great tragedies of my childhood, the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger in 1986. Headlines from the time read: Shuttle Explodes; Teacher, Crew Die; We Mourn 7 Heroes; A Nation Prays and Asks Why; Grief of a Nation.

Again, there is centering on the human cost of the incident despite the high price tag that I'm sure accompanied the mission. The headlines invite us as a nation to grieve together for our scientists, a teacher, and so much hope that a young boy obsessed with our space program had on that flight as we watched it happen that morning in school. Empathy allows us to come together. It is how we rise to challenges in the face of tragedy. And our current reporting is just a barometer of our nation as a whole. But we must develop the skills to see through it to the heart of the issues. As we see the many divides in our nation that seem insurmountable, we can see the lack of empathy as a key factor in that struggle. As we move through the ninth-largest pandemic in human history (and will likely be the eighth soon), we have seen the difficulty that people have in stepping outside of themselves to appreciate the challenges of each other, and their inability to address each other's concerns and situations in the process. This is not how we should treat each other, and not how we keep one another safe (physically, mentally, and economically) through major challenges. But we do know that empathy and love is how we break this cycle. And if our government and media can't provide it, we must have the courage and the strength to find it for ourselves and model it for others. And I have seen your concern for each other over this past year, so I know that you can be that light.

[Comfortably Numb - Pink Floyd \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpqjEnRU6uM\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpqjEnRU6uM)

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, Central's member directory (login code CUM51) and the worship attendance form.