



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

May 10, 2021

Join Us for Ascension Sunday Worship on May 16th @ 10:30am

Pastor Jack's message is "Buckle Up and Listen for Instructions."

Worship will be in-person as well as Livestreamed.

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

Dear Friends,

Well! We've made it through our first in-person worship experience while also livestreaming. Our staff likes to dream together and a few of us made guesses on how many would be in attendance in person. Those estimates ranged from 35 to 60. For our first in-person worship service yesterday, we had an attendance of 72. We had a steady attendance of just over 60 online with a total of over 90 who logged on and stay connected with our service for over a minute! All in all, it was a beautiful Sunday! It was Mother's Day, fairly nice weather, and lots of support and clapping for all that Central Church is about.

There were a few celebrations that added to the festivities of our first time back in the Sanctuary that I want to mention in this letter. There was the celebration of our Tech Team that has done a great job over the past year in keeping us connected through online worship. We celebrated the work of Rustyn Robinson who headed up our Tech Team and we introduced Adam Deiterick as our new Tech Support staff member. I might add once again that we are thankful for the work of Robin Danek who has also kept us connected through her work with this weekly newsletter as well as working with the intricacies of putting together our worship experiences. We also recognized the fact that we have hired co-directors for our Little Sprouts Preschool program. On top of all that, our Men's Softball Team began their season with a 16-3 victory a week ago today.

There have been so many great moments of blessing that just make me shake my head in amazement and say, "It makes me wonder what God is doing." I said yesterday, "Here's what I do know. That we have the staff, the members and the will to move into whatever future God intends for us." Yesterday's worship service reminded me that as we do new things or return to old practices, there will be some missteps and a little "clunkyness."

I am asking for your patience, prayers and support as we move forward beyond this pandemic to the future that I am sure God is shaping for God's glory and our benefit! Whether you will join us in person this next Sunday or from home, I look forward to "seeing" you in worship!! God bless and stay safe.

Because of Christ,

-Pastor Jack

Introducing Our Little Sprouts Co-Directors

The Little Sprouts Board is excited that Mary Boynton and Monica Hungerford were hired as our new Little Sprouts Co-Directors last week. Welcome, Mary and Monica!

Monica approached Central UMC last month after learning we had suspended operations of Little Sprouts and needed a new director. Mary and Monica taught preschool and family groups at Waterford Public Schools for many years, Monica since 1991 and Mary since 2014. Covid provided challenges for their family-based programming in the Waterford School District. However, with a spirit of innovation, they have led an all-outdoor preschool program at Hess Hathaway Farm over the past year. They are passionate about taking children outside and find the idea of co-directing

Little Spouts exciting, especially given all the fantastic nature surrounding our building and our great playground. They plan to provide half-day preschool and family group programs this fall. Stay tuned for registration forms and additional opportunities to support our re-start of Little Sprouts. Please give a warm welcome to Mary and Monica at littleprouts@comcast.net or if you see them in the preschool hallway.

Memorial Garden Flower Planting

Tuesday, May 25th at 10am

The Memorial Garden was established in 1995 to provide a place for the ashes of loved ones as well as a place of peace and beauty. A committee of volunteers plants the flowers and maintains the garden. Individual names plates of the deceased are placed on the bronze wall plaque. Placements may be pre-arranged and a brochure with details may be found in the church office or on the church website. Gifts to the Memorial Garden are welcomed to help maintain the garden and may be made in memory of a loved one. Please make checks out to the church and put Memorial Garden on the memo line. Envelopes may be found on the counter in the church office.

If you are able to help with this year's planting day, please contact Diana Carter at dianacarter@comcast.net.

Blessings, Diana

Blood Drive

Tuesday, May 25th, Noon - 6pm

Give blood and save lives. We're looking for donors and volunteers for our next blood drive. If you would like to donate, please visit RedCrossBlood.org and use code centraluni, or call the church office. If you can volunteer by helping check-in donors from noon-1pm, please contact Rachel in the church office at (248) 681-0040.

Trustee Church Clean-Up Day

As Proverbs says "Many hands make light work."

The Annual Trustee Church Clean-Up Day is scheduled for **Saturday, June 5th from 9am-12pm**. Please join us for a morning of fun and work. There are several jobs that need to be done to make CUMC and the grounds look good, and we can use as much help as possible. To view a list of jobs and sign up, please visit waterfordcumc.org/trustees-spring-clean-up-day/ or call the church office at (248) 681-0040. If you're not sure of your availability at this point, you can just come on clean-up day and we'll have something for you to do! We are looking forward to seeing you on the 5th.

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!

<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/.

Song of the Week

I hope this week finds you well and in good spirits. But if you need a pick-me-up this week, try watching this promo for Unlikely Animal Friends:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HMe_kOWdQg

Did that help? If you're like me, you've found comfort in many animal videos over the turbulence of the last year. Cute animals, cool animals, animal facts, but my favorite ones are those that show the special connections we can make with animals in need such as this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWhyGI7q8Xk>

There is a purity to the interactions in these videos that I think we struggle to connect with sometimes in our human interactions, but I believe it is our nature to offer help purely for the reward of helping. And it is on full display in these videos. These people never help an animal with an expectation of anything in return. They simply see someone in need and know that they have the ability to do something to help. They don't wonder if they will get anything in return, they don't worry about being taken advantage of, they help and they find joy in the act. Now, many animal rights groups will tell you that we connect more easily to the furry and cute animals and that is why you see them promoted regularly by great organizations like the World Wildlife Fund. But just because we are predisposed to connect to animals that we are more familiar with doesn't mean those are the only animals we can connect with. We usually think of sharks as cold killers, but take a look at this special bond:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPGb9FMLI8g>

The act of offering help is transformative. Two lives are changed at that moment and if we are lucky, a truly special moment comes out of it that will change our perspective of the world. I love animals of all shapes and sizes, but one of the things that I love most is how they allow us to be our authentic selves. Taking hours or even days to free an elephant has an active cost to those who commit to the task, but you see a person's heart if they are moved to act with nothing to be gained. Well, not nothing, they know the reward resides in our souls, and isn't that where our real treasures lie? I think sometimes when we think about who 'deserves' help in our society, we are imposing a problematic question upon our nature. Everyone deserves help. And it is in our nature to help those in need. But our social constructs often take us through a line of thinking that prioritizes a fear of giving freely because of abstract constructs like being taken advantage of, a scarcity mindset, prioritizing profit margins, or even the insidious idea that 'greed is good' leading to a caution and callousness in our interactions with our own species. We all know that on a team, we are better when we strengthen the weakest link. We all know the joy in being able to offer help to those who need it, and we all know that being deeply caring is within all of our capacities. Why then, do we make so many hurdles to being our best selves and creating our best world? Surely, the animal kingdom doesn't feel it necessary to have a connection before they offer help. They know that the bond is made in the helping.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTw8MR67xv8>

And there couldn't be a better song about the bond between animals and humans than *Times Like This*. Enjoy!

[Times Like This from Lucky Stiff - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INA7tBzHcMA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INA7tBzHcMA)

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.