



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

May 17, 2021

Join Us for Pentecost Sunday Worship on May 23th @ 10:30am. Make sure to wear red! We will also be celebrating the baptism of Eve Shepherd.

Rev. Cora's message is "Happy Birthday, Church."

Worship will be in-person as well as 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).

If you are worshipping from home share a picture of your red outfit on our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/waterfordcumc>

Pastor Jack and Ruth are on a much needed-vacation, so enjoy the following article originally published by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

What Is Pentecost?

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called *Shavuot*, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In early Christianity, Easter Day was the primary day for baptisms. The newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White is also used because Pentecost was the major day for baptisms in the early church. Those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may be referred to as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."

The Season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

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Also enjoy this Pentecost video found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xv4CP4MzVBM&t=6s>, produced by *The Upper Room*.

Opportunities to Serve and Grow Memorial Garden Flower Planting

Tuesday, May 25th at 10am

We will be beautifying the Memorial Garden by planting flowers and doing light maintenance of the beds. If you would like to help, please contact Diana Carter at dianacarter@comcast.net.

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

Saturday, June 5th, 9am–Noon

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.

Spring Lay Leadership Retreat with Rev. Cora

June 11 & 12 (6:30pm Friday until 12:30pm Saturday)

The Michigan Conference has put together a series of events this spring for you to grow in your faith. The final offering is an online rest and renewal retreat with Rev. Cora. You can sign up for just \$15. For more information and to register visit: <https://michiganumc.org/laity/laity-events/>.

Where's the Directory?

When you visit Central's website you may notice that the church directory has moved. You can now find it under the "Connect" menu. The URL for the directory has not changed, however; you can still find it at <https://waterfordcumc.org/church-directory/>. The code is CUM51.

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/.

Thank You

To Our Church Family,

Many thanks for the prayers and thoughts we received from everyone for the sad loss we had of my sister, Pam Collins. God Bless!

-Greg & Lisa Kelley

Address Change

Please note there is a new address for Marlene Knaus: 1014 Oak Pointe Drive, Waterford, MI 48327.

Song of the Week

I'm wishing you lots of joy as the weather gets better and more of us are enjoying visiting safely in person. I know we have all been waiting a long time to see our friends and family, and I celebrate with each of you that are finding joy in being together recently and in the near future. But those of us who are still unable to find safe ways to be together

are in my thoughts as well. I appreciate that your safety is paramount and am wishing you joy and comfort in your time at home and connecting online. Friends, we are at yet another awkward transition throughout our shared Covid experience. This one will be no less challenging both in the pacing and the comfort levels of all of us. But we are all celebrating the fact that we are here. There is hope for us all in this time, even as we navigate the details of how to move through it with love and care for each other. You are all in my heart.

Did you know that there is a percentage of the population that has no inner monologue while most of the population has a verbal narrative of some kind inside their own head? And that neither of the two can even conceive of what the other's thinking process is like? How about the fact that different populations perceive color differently? We understand this in the form of color-blindness which affects about 8% of men and a small population of women. But even across sexes, perceptions of color can be different because the gene that codes the light receptor cones in our eyes is attached to the X chromosome. So, because women have two, they have a greater chance for the second chromosome to make up the deficiency to avoid color-blindness, but also have the possibility of having an extra type of cone that allows them to differentiate the color spectrum into more shades. This makes sense to us, but what about the idea that people who speak Russian understand more colors than English speakers or people that speak Vietnamese or Zulu perceive fewer. Or how about the fact that magenta as a color only exists in our minds and not in the world. It is a color that is created when the ends of the color spectrum (red and violet) are mixed in equal proportions and our brain has created magenta as a way to understand the mixture. The fact is, that we cannot fully understand another person's reality. And in many ways, we cannot even *begin* to understand it. What this means is that when someone says that they don't have an inner monologue, or that something we view as orange is distinctly red to them, we must trust them, even if we cannot understand them or we perceive it differently. But that moment of difference provides a profound opportunity to choose the path towards understanding another soul. And isn't this how we've chosen our best friends and spouses? How often do you say of those people in your life, 'they understand me.' And it is because at some point they chose to put forth the effort to do so.

You may already know that as recently as the mid-20th century, schools made a concerted attempt to teach right-handedness. From the early 19th century, left-handedness was viewed as a defect in children if not a moral failing, and so there was an attempt to make children 'better' by forcing them to write with their right hand. At its height, it was estimated that only 2% of the population was left-handed. But when the policies were removed and children were allowed to write with their preferred hand, that statistic 'soared' to about 10% of the population, where it stands today. The moral failure was not left-handedness, as I think we can now all agree, but the fact that people both judged and refused to trust how another person was made and what their reality was. And furthermore, they thought that imposing their own worldview upon another was not only a healthy choice, but a moral imperative. Why do we think we ever know more than the Divine about what perfection looks like? And could you imagine being a child and questioning your own reality because the adults you trusted told you there was only one way for the world to work?

So, why do so many aspects of our society continue to try to push us towards a goal of homogeneity rather than celebrate our different strengths and perspectives? And why do we so easily fall into that dichotomy when there are so many variations along a spectrum? If we rephrase the first fact, we could ask, did you know that there is a small percentage of the population that has a constant verbal narrative for all of their thoughts while the rest have multiple other ways of thinking through imagery, emotions, and sensory perception? We are all so vitally different that we cannot begin to understand each other's realities, but we all have the ability to choose to try. And every group of society has something beautiful to offer when we give them a chance to be themselves and show us their beauty. Whether it be left-handers, neurodivergent, LGBTQIA, ethnic groups, gender non-conforming, or your long-haired male choir director, everyone has a soul that will open up to those willing to see an individual for themselves. And isn't that connection the real beauty that we can offer our fellow beings? That no matter what path in life you walked, I trust that your reality is your own and that you chose your path for a reason. Give me the chance to find out why.

Frostiana: The Road Not Taken - Randall Thompson (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfAWONUlrA8>)

With Love,
-Kevin

**Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.
The newsletter will be published on Tuesday, June 1st.**