



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

June 7, 2021

Join Us for Sunday Worship on June 13th @ 10:30am, featuring live organ music from our Sanctuary. Pastor Jack's message is "Forget About It!"

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,

I'm not good at Facebook; what I mean is that I do not often post on Facebook. I enjoy reading posts from time to time and occasionally comment. I do not often click the Like, Care, Angry or Sad symbols (or are they called emojis?). I am thankful for the few times I've reached out to my Facebook community for ideas, and Central UMC is certainly blessed with the ability to livestream our worship services through Facebook. It's just that when I get a yummy dessert or meet up with a friend for coffee (pre-Covid of course), it is not my natural inclination to let everyone know via Facebook. I'm not judging others who fully take advantage of Facebook. I'm just saying that it's not my practice.

Following the "Reading and Fixing of Appointments" by Bishop David Bard this past week at Annual Conference, many of my clergy colleagues celebrated the fact that they have been appointed "once again" by the Bishop to their current appointment. It was fun to read their celebrations.

You may or may not know that clergy in the United Methodist Church are appointed one year at a time. So, technically, I have not been appointed as the pastor of Central Church for eight years; I have been appointed nine times for one-year appointments. Rev. Cora has been appointed four times now as a Deacon serving Central Church.

And so I celebrate! I so enjoy being the Pastor of Central Church! I remember, early in my ministry, the first time I walked into our church building for a District Program. Rev. Herb Glen was the pastor at the time. I marveled at the beauty of the Sanctuary and remember looking out the window over the wetlands to the east and thinking, "Wow! This place is huge!"

But what I truly celebrate is the people of Central Church! I've enjoyed the diversity of our congregation and the many talents of our membership. I've enjoyed singing in the choir and developing friendships in addition to our pastor-parishioner relationships. As I've been in the community for eight years now, I have gotten involved in the Oakland County Retirees Golf League as well as the Waterford Rotary Club. I will be the President of Rotary beginning in July. I was the facilitator of the Ministerial Association, but have passed that responsibility to others.

I am thankful for the Bishop's new appointment for me to continue ministry with you through the rest of this year and the first half of next year. I celebrate that appointment. Please join me in that celebration. I look forward to seeing you in worship! God bless you!

Because of Christ,
-Pastor Jack

Spring Lay Leadership Retreat with Rev. Cora

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

Join Rev. Cora for an online rest and renewal retreat organized by the Michigan Conference. You can sign up for just \$15. For more information and to register visit: <https://michiganumc.org/laity/laity-events/>.

Summer Socials Begin This Sunday!

Summer Socials are multi-generational outdoor gatherings. Bring a snack or meal and join us for fun and fellowship. Here are a few details about our next two gatherings:

This Sunday, June 13th, 11:30-1pm at our church playground. Hear the story of Abraham and make giant bubbles!

Monday, June 21st, 5-6:30pm at Hess Hathaway. Hear the story of Israelites escaping slavery and paint giant fish for Waterford Township's Flying Fish Outdoor Art Exhibition On The Riverwalk.

Sign up for more information or last minute event changes at: <https://wcumc.simplechurchcrm.com/external/form/72843231-cb3f-42ec-b26a-768024bb06cc>.

Be a CUMC Fashionista



Central now has t-shirts available in all sizes from small through 3X. The cost is \$10 for S-L and \$12 for XL, 2X and 3X. So, if you've been wanting a CUMC shirt, but we didn't have your size, now is your chance to get a shirt while they last!

Camp Scholarship Applications are Still 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/.

Spend a Summer Evening with Central's Softball Team

Central's Men's softball team plays other church teams in a Monday night league. Everyone is invited to come out and cheer on the team!

Song of the Week

I hope you are all having a wonderful week and get a chance to enjoy the warmer weather. Leslie and I had a perfect walk yesterday, and here in Michigan we have few perfect days between bone-chilling and melting from the heat weather, but they might be better here than anywhere else. I hope you all get to take advantage of them while they last.

This week, I wanted to continue talking about homelessness because in my research for last week's Song of the Week, I found what I thought was a profound statistic, and with the start of Pride Month, I thought it was a perfect call to highlight it for you as well. Among unaccompanied homeless youth, as many as 40% of them identify as LGBTQ+. 40%! If we consider that among the general youth population, approximately 7-10% identify as LGBTQ+, then we can see how disproportionately this population is affected. It made me think that if we really wanted to make a huge impact on the population of homeless children and youth, that a targeted approach to this community would be a way to make a difference for a vulnerable population and really help some at-risk kids to know that people care, and further, hopefully change the trajectory of their lives for the better. But then I looked into some of the reasons behind the numbers as well and found some difficult truths relating to the larger situation. I want to warn you that the next paragraph will include some difficult and disturbing statistics, feel free to skip to the next one if you find yourself sensitive to them.

The primary statistic that kept coming up was that 50% of youth who come out as

Summer Socials Schedule

- **Sunday 6/13**, 11:30 - 1pm @ CUMC
- **Monday 6/21**, 5-6:30pm, Hess Hathaway Park
- **Sunday 6/27**, 11:30-1pm @ CUMC
- **Sunday 7/11**, 11:30-1pm @ CUMC
- **Monday 7/19**, 5-6:30pm @ Depot Park (Clarkston)
- **Sunday 7/25**, 11:30-1pm @ CUMC
- **Monday 8/2**, 5-6:30pm @Waterford Oaks
- **Sunday 8/8**, 11:30-1pm @ CUMC
- **Monday 8/16**, 5-6:30pm @Indian Village Park (Pontiac)
- **Sunday 8/22**, 11:30-1pm @ CUMC

Softball Schedule

Date	Time	Field
6/7	6:15	Hope
6/14	7:30	Trinity
6/21	7:30	Hope
6/28	6:15	Hope
7/12	7:30	Hope
7/19	7:30	Hope
7/26	6:15	Trinity
8/2	7:30	Hope
8/9	Rain Makeup	
8/14	TBD	Rotary

St. Trinity - 7925 Sashabaw, Clarkston
New Hope - 8643 Sashabaw, Clarkston

LGBTQ+ face negative reactions from their parents and 68% of LGBTQ+ youth who end up homeless got there because of rejection from their families. But LGBTQ+ youth also experience more abuse and violence if they stay at home, with verbal abuse and harassment at higher rates than their peers, and physical and sexual abuse at disturbingly high rates as well. The Hetrick-Martin Institute in New York found that 50% of the 13-15 year old girls that they took in were fleeing corrective sexual abuse at home and overall, 58% of homeless LGBTQ+ youth report being sexually victimized during their lives. Life outside of the home also has more risks for LGBTQ+ youth than their heterosexual peers. Finding shelter can be more difficult, as revealing their orientation can be a cause for which they are asked to leave a shelter due to complaints from others. They endure more harassment, stigmatization, and abuse from peers and shelter workers, and as a result are more likely to be living on the streets, compared to the heterosexual homeless population. Due to this, LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to live a transient lifestyle, have less access to healthcare, suffer from a greater prevalence of mental illnesses with 62% attempting suicide, and engage in prostitution in exchange for basic needs. All of which is a tragic series of events for an under-served and under-supported community.

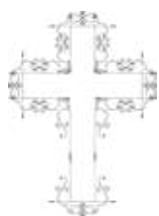
This is why I believe that enthusiastic acceptance is a transformative and radical act of love in our world. And this is one of the most frequently mentioned aspects of Jesus in the Bible, but perhaps one that is least explored. Why was Jesus able to change the ancient world so profoundly? Acceptance of everyone. By being an example of selfless love in the world, because that kind of love is transformative. The willingness to trust that someone is beautiful for who they are and giving them the support they need to be their best selves has far-reaching consequences for the world. We like to talk about being a family in the church, and it is because family is important, but we all know that the family we choose is as important as the one we are born into. For at-risk youth, and especially LGBTQIA+ youth, imagine what offering a family to them might look like and how that might change their world. Imagine the vibrancy of a church that opens its heart as freely as Jesus did. And imagine how many lives may be saved from real trauma if we were able to fulfill that vision.

That may be just a dream and beyond the scope of one congregation to make meaningful steps towards, but I also believe that having a heart for the world is transformative in itself. However, there are a few organizations that work on this issue who may be better equipped to make the kind of change we may only dream of, and one of them is right here in Detroit.

The Ruth Ellis Center is one of less than a dozen services nationwide that specialize in helping homeless youth who identify as LGBTQ+. I have worked with this organization, fund-raised for them, and I know people personally who may not still be here if it weren't for their life-changing work. This Pride Month, I am supporting the Ruth Ellis Center once again, and I'd like to invite you to join me in that act. Because we are all beautiful when we move with love, and these kids and youth deserve to see some of that in their world.

[True Colors - Cyndi Lauper \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ecaYj14z3M\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ecaYj14z3M)

With Love,
-Kevin



Born to Eternal Life: Annabelle Closson

May 6, 1934–June 4, 2021, Member Since June 27, 2010.

Our condolences to Annabelle's daughter Leah (Steven) Halpin, son Mike (Nancy) Closson, sister-in-law Janice Caldwell and grandchildren Maggie Halpin and Brice Closson. Our prayers are with her family and friends.



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