



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

July 12, 2021

Join us for worship Sunday, July 18th @ 10:30am. Pastor Jack continues our summer message series with “Life-Changing Decisions: Start”

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).

Please let us know you were in worship by filling out the connection card at www.WaterfordCUMC.org/central-connect/

Dear Friends,

Storytelling is a part of every culture and of every age that humanity has been on earth; from the cave drawings in Lascaux in France, estimated to be 20,000 years old to the oral traditions of many societies (including the ancient Hebrew people) to the stories of authors from William Shakespeare to Garrison Keillor to any number of comedians whose style is storytelling. Our Christian scriptures are also stories of God’s interaction with humanity, inclusive of Jesus’ parables, other teachings and the way he lived his life.

This past Sunday, we introduced the messages series titled *Life-Changing Decisions*. We focused on Psalm 107 that provides a template for sharing stories of redemption and transformed lives. Both Rev. Cora and I provided patterns for how to structure a story from our lives that can make a difference in the lives of others. Rev. Cora shared a pattern of telling how our lives were *before* something happened, then tell the story of *what happened* and third, tell how that event *changed* your life.

I shared a pattern that is typical of redemption stories told in scripture and found in Psalm 107. There are four short vignettes that illustrate a four-fold pattern. First, there is a description of the nature of the distress—from being lost in a wilderness, imprisoned or experiencing a storm. Secondly, a prayer of desperation is offered, asking for God’s help. Third, there is an account of how God delivered them from their trouble. Finally, those who have been rescued, redeemed and restored express their thanksgiving and love for God.

These patterns of testimony can be summed up in an even simpler description; my life was one way and now it is this way thanks to God! These next seven weeks offer the opportunity for our members and friends to share a story of God’s goodness in their lives—whether you follow a three-, four- or two-fold process!

The topics of our summer message series can be summed up in one-word subtitles: Start, Stop, Stay, Go, Serve, Connect and Trust. If you have had to make a decision to **Start** a new job or project, or if you decided to **Stay** in a relationship or city, if you’ve been moved toward a specific opportunity to **Serve** or you were called to **Trust** God and others in a new way, you have a story to share! Please let me know if you would like to share a testimony that might just make a difference to another person!

In the meantime, God bless you and stay safe. I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,
-Pastor Jack

Wednesday Evening Study with Pastor Jack Returns!

Beginning on Wednesday, July 21, Pastor Jack will host a study based on the message from the previous Sunday. We will be delving deeper into the practice of Testimony as a way of responding to God’s call in our lives. The scriptural basis for each session will be the scripture from the previous Sunday, and the message notes from that same Sunday

will provide a template for our discussion.

Join us for these times of study and fellowship. These sessions will start at 7pm and end at 8:15pm. This will be a Zoom class for the convenience and inclusion of participants. The schedule, topic and scriptures are:

- July 21 – Life-Changing Decisions: Start (Daniel 6:1-10)
- July 28 – Life-Changing Decisions: Stop (Exodus 18:5-22 and Hebrews 12:1-2)
- August 4 – Life-Changing Decisions: Stay (Ruth 1:1-18)
- August 11 – Life-Changing Decisions: Go (Genesis 12:1-9)
- August 18 – Life-Changing Decisions: Serve (Romans 12:1-8)
- August 25 – Life-Changing Decisions: Connect (Acts 4:32-5:10)
- September 1 – Life-Changing Decisions: Trust (Mark 4:35-41)

Come join us for a time of fellowship, study and fun! While learning is always our goal, laughter is always welcomed.

Summer Social—Change for Next Monday’s Event

Our summer socials have been great times to connect with others, hear a bible story, and participate in something fun! Next Monday, July 19th, our Summer Social will have a change of plan. We'll be connecting with our Central Church Men's Softball team at New Hope Church at 8643 Sashabaw Rd. in Clarkston instead of meeting at Depot Park. Join us at 6:30 pm at New Hope Church on July 19th for snow cones and games and then stick around at 7:30pm to watch our softball team in action. Thanks for your flexibility and we hope you'll join us for a fun evening!

Online Church Directory

Central's directory is no longer online, as the company that hosted the directory has gotten out of the church directory business. We are evaluating alternative solutions to replace the online directory. Until we've found a suitable replacement, please contact the church office for the most current addresses for church members.

Thank You

To Our Office Angels,

The staff of Central Church extends grateful thanks to the volunteers who manned the phones and kept the church office open while Rachel was on vacation. You are truly a blessing.

Dear Church,

Thank you so much for the nice card, gift card, hymnal and scholarship. All of those things will be useful to me as I prepare for college, and I have switched over from my mom's old hymnal to my new one when playing piano. Thank you for supporting me all my life!

Love,

-Emily (Cornish)

Born to Eternal Life: Mary Ellen Brown

May 18, 1930–July 9, 2021. Member Since October 26, 1979

Our condolences are with her sons Scott (Cindy) Clymer, John (Laurie) Clymer, her sister Ann, stepchildren Bonnie (Bob), Beth and Barbara and grandchildren Tim, Sarah, Lauren, Julie and Andre. Our prayers are with her many family and friends.

Cleaning Supply Donations

The Waterford Refugee Welcome Alliance is collecting cleaning supplies, baby food & diapers. Please place donations in the box located outside the Chapel. Learn more about the WRWA on their [Facebook page](#).

Central's Food Pantry

Your generous donations help keep food on the tables of our neighbors! Please [click here](#) for a list of pantry needs.

Softball Schedule

Join Central's Men's Softball Team for an evening of fun.

| Date | Time | Field |
|------|-------------|---------|
| 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

Summer Socials Schedule

Summer Socials are multi-generational events to play and learn! Join us for the next summer social, and bring a friend!

- **Monday 7/19**, 5-6:30pm @ New Hope Church Ball Field
- **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

Song of the Week

I'm hoping that you are feeling well both mentally and physically this week as we get into warmer weather and the joys and challenges therein.

Perhaps you have heard of the Shopping Cart Theory. It's an interesting thought exercise whereby it is suggested that we can tell who is a good person and who isn't by who will take the extra moments to return their shopping cart. You can read more about it at <https://www.boredpanda.com/return-shopping-cart-theory-ultimate-litmus-test/>.

I suspect your reaction to the validity of that statement has something to do with your tendencies, but what I find fascinating about this is that each of us had to choose at some point which one we would be. Are we a cart returner or a cart abandoner? At some point in our life, we were early on in our independent grocery shopping experience, and we had the choice to take the cart back or leave it while we drove away. And regardless of what we chose, after a few more similar choices, we probably have rarely deviated from that choice for most of our lives (there is a third category of "social pressure" returners as well). If you chose to return it, you probably thought it was the right thing to do, had examples among the adults in your life that modeled that behavior, or actively thought about the people you were helping by returning it. If you didn't return it, you probably didn't think of it as a moral decision, didn't have adults who modeled that behavior, or thought that it was someone else's job to collect the carts. And again, regardless of your decision, no one has probably praised or punished you for it. But, one is pro-social behavior and one is not.

So, why does this little decision matter? The workers who collect the carts are doing their job, but couldn't their work be better utilized in making the store cleaner, stocking shelves, or picking up litter in the parking lot? Don't we prefer to visit a store that is clean, safe, and stocked? And what about how loose carts create hazards for cars on windy days or take up a spot and create a more chaotic parking lot for all? We have all been to those stores and we prefer the ones where everything is in its place and runs smoothly. Which makes this a decision about what kind of store we want to have in our community, what our personal responsibility is to keep our community nice, and our connection to the social contract each of us makes to each other both within our community and in our world.

Something small like this then becomes an important decision on a larger scale because of how it influences adjacent behaviors. A 2008 study published in *Science* illustrated this through a series of tests, one involving shopping carts. Researchers utilized a parking garage adjacent to a grocery and a gym. They set up one scenario with four loose carts around the lot and one where all were put away. They then left fliers on each person's car. When the carts had been put away, 30% of the population littered, but with just four carts about it almost doubled to 58%! I think it is easier to make a moral judgment on littering and see that something small like leaving our carts about influences other behaviors to such an extent. (You can read more about the study here: <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/anthropology-in-practice/why-dont-people-return-their-shopping-carts/>). In this and other tests, the researchers demonstrated how there were significant swings away from pro-social behaviors if there was already an example to follow, and far greater conformity to pro-social behaviors if that was the example to follow. I think we know this inherently, that our example of behavior in the world makes a significant impact on the people we know. But it is harder to realize how the little things we do in the world create larger effects among people we have never interacted with. In fact, our actions have the power to change the world and they don't have to be grand gestures. The little behaviors we choose, whether consciously or by habit, become our lifestyle. By influencing our shared social contract, we will either create a happier life for ourselves and those around us, or we may inadvertently be driving others towards more antisocial behaviors in little ways. And all of those ways add up. So, when did you choose whether you would return your shopping carts? And what will you choose tomorrow?

[Immigrant's Daughter - Margaret Becker \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFderlrYNLw\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFderlrYNLw)

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 and the online Connection Card.