



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

July 26, 2021

Join us for worship Sunday, August 1st @ 10:30am. Pastor Jack continues our summer message series with "Life-Changing Decisions: Stay"

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,

During yesterday's service we had the privilege of hearing a couple of testimonies. Katie Barton has been a part of our church for a little over two years and offered her story reflecting her desire to start new disciplines in her life. She came to Central Church seeking community and to learn more about our scriptures and faith. I want to thank Katie for sharing her story in connection with our summer message series, *Life-Changing Decisions*.

Towards the end of the message yesterday, I re-introduced Gary Miracle to our congregations. Gary is the grandson of one of our members, LaVonne Long. On New Year's Eve 2019 Gary went into the hospital after being ill for a bit. That trip to the hospital began a year-and-a-half journey that involved the amputation of his lower arms and hands and his legs below the knees. Gary has been on our prayer chain many times during this past year-and-a-half, and in January of this year I interviewed Gary speaking openly and honestly about his experience. The theme of the worship service was Kintsukuroi Christianity. Kintsukuroi is the practice of repairing broken pottery with gold so that you not only see where the pottery was broken, but the repair is literally illuminated by the gold.

Kintsukuroi Christianity does not deny the traumas and brokenness of our lives, but rather recognizes them as critical elements of our humanity and life. Gary's body bears the scars that will always remind him and others of the challenges he's faced in the last 19 months. But, as you witnessed on Sunday and last January, Gary's faith is sustaining him and he is whole in a way that is not related to his body at all! He is fully a child of God, beloved and cherished by his Creator and those who know him best and love him most. Gary is a Kintsukuroi Christian!

We all have stories to share—testimonies if you will. Your stories could make a difference in the lives of others in ways that would go beyond your imagination. Thank you Katie and Gary for sharing your stories!

I want to end my letter to you this week by sharing a resource that can help you recall and write the chapters of your life, that if you shared them they could make a big difference to others. It is a "Chapters of Life" worksheet created by Rev. Cora that was inspired by Dr. Randy G. Litchfield's "Journey Through Places in Life Reflection" worksheet from a Christians Engaged in Faith Formation workshop October 2018. If you are thinking of offering a testimony or a chapter of your life that could make a difference in the life of another, this worksheet can help you begin that experience and journey. You can access that worksheet at www.waterfordcumc.org/weekly-newsletter-july-26-2021/.

While I want to say that I hope you are enjoying the summer, I am well aware of local people, some of our members, that are dealing with the effects of violent storms, flooding and other damage to their homes. I am thankful that there have been very few injuries and death due to the storms. Let's pray for our neighbors as we inquire about how we can help them.

I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,
-Pastor Jack

Wanted: People with Tools and Time

In an effort to better facilitate the use of space in our building, we need a team of people to “deconstruct” the North Star Theater on our lower level. That room will become our new Bell Choir room. This Saturday, July 31, we need a crew of people to come between 9am and noon to help with this project. We hope to salvage much of the wood and materials from that room for future projects.

Even if you don't have tools, we could use your help! Don't miss this opportunity to work with others in our church with the possibility of making new friends and doing something to better the use of our wonderful building! Please contact Trustee Chair, Ken Cortese, through the church office (248-681-0040) and let him know you can be a part of the team!

Daily Devotionals

Pastor Jack records a daily video devotional as a companion to the Sunday message and printed devotionals distributed with the Sunday order of worship. To view these devotionals, visit Central's [Facebook group](#), [Facebook page](#), or [YouTube channel](#). Subscribe to our YouTube channel to get notifications when new devotionals are posted.

Wednesday Evening Study with Pastor Jack

It's not too late to join Pastor Jack for a Wednesday evening study based on our *Life-Changing Decisions* message series. The sessions start at 7pm and end at 8:15pm. This will be a Zoom class for the convenience and inclusion of participants. If you would like to attend, contact Pastor Jack (jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org) for the Zoom link.

Waterford Township Citizens Emergency Response Team

Waterford is forming an emergency response team made up of adults that live and/or work in the community. Members of this team may be called upon to provide assistance with downed wires, traffic control, light search and rescue and other activities as directed by Waterford's Emergency Management Coordinator. If you are interested in becoming active in this group, please contact EMC Brendan Brosnan at bbrosnan@waterfordmi.gov. For more information, visit Central's website at [News=>Waterford Township Citizens Emergency Response Team](#).

Thank You

Thank you everyone at Central United for a wonderful memorial to my wife Louise. Pastor Jack was really wonderful with the service and having people share their memories of Louise. The help Rachel provided with the details and specifics was terrific; it made things so much easier for me. The tech people were great, as was the pianist. And thank you to the person or people who set up and took down the tables and chairs in the banquet room.

-Dennis Fortier

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Our Members Who are Turning 80+:

- Walter Cortese – 8/1
- Barbara Jacobson – 8/2
- Richard Donner – 8/4
- Virginia Abney – 8/8
- Marvin Jewell – 8/10
- Richard Lund – 8/10
- Lewis Bradbury – 8/10
- Sally Kuhn – 8/11
- Larry Payne – 8/20
- JoAnn Fedison – 8/24
- Doris Hays – 8/25
- Maurice Grant – 8/27

Softball Schedule

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Field</u>
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

Multi-generational events to play and learn! Join us for the next summer social, and bring a friend!

- **Monday 8/2**, 5-6:30pm @ Waterford Oaks Park, Paradise Peninsula playground
- **Sunday 8/8**, 11:30-1pm @ CUMC
- **Monday 8/16**, 5-6:30pm @ Indian Village Park (Pontiac)
- **Sunday 8/22**, 11:30-1pm @ CUMC

And Happy 50+ Year Anniversary to:

- Andrew & Pamela Gustafson – 8/9, 52 yrs.
- Gary & Ruth Greene – 8/15, 57 yrs.
- Bill & Velette Svenkesen – 8/20, 60 yrs.
- Donald & Diana Carter – 8/26, 54 yrs.
- Paul & Beatrice Blomquist – 8/27, 66 yrs.

Song of the Week

I'm wishing you lots of love and deep connections with the many people that are important in your life. You are all important in mine. And it is with some sadness, lots of reflection, and the conviction of being the best I can be in my commitments to you that I will be ending the Song of the Week. Know that even though my focus needs to be on reviving our vibrant Arts Department, I will still be with each of you in spirit whether I see you in person or virtually in the coming weeks and months.

Back when I started Song of the Week, I had only envisioned a pick-me-up letter to keep people in my thoughts and reminded of their connections to each other during the time apart at the beginning of Covid. I certainly didn't expect to still be writing these 16 months later, and I had no idea all the challenges that would present themselves to us over this last year. But I want to thank all of you for finding meaning in my words and building our community in ways that show your commitment to not only each other, but to being forces of love and kindness in the world. I was nervous to speak my thoughts to you after George Floyd last year, not knowing how my comments would be taken, but only knowing that I couldn't be silent. You rose to meet my words and further challenged me over the course of this whole year. I was thrilled to see your convictions in our conversations and emboldened to continue speaking my mind. And I have been met by nothing but a commitment to justice and self-improvement in each of you even as you require me to think about my own. I feel I've seen the best of humanity through you over this pandemic, and it has not only kept me motivated and connected to my personal mission, but I am thankful for the many new friendships and deepening of old ones that I have found along the way. I feel thankful for an opportunity that I wouldn't have found if not for this chance to be connected to you in new and meaningful ways, and to make new friendships that might not have had the chance to develop otherwise. Thank you for being you and know that you are all thought of with much affection and appreciation.

Last week, I shared how Pat Benatar has been the main source for my pandemic soundtrack, and I'd like to share the other song that has kept me company, given me strength, and honed my focus over this time apart. *We Belong* is a song that was written by two estranged friends who came together to write this in an attempt to rebuild their friendship. Perhaps none of us were ever estranged, but it certainly feels like we are coming together again in little ways as we assemble in person, navigate our new social norms and expectations, and try to create a space that feels comfortable for everyone to be together. It is slow in coming, but I have never doubted that it would come...because "we belong together."

[We Belong - Pat Benatar \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFi-UoBu2Ow\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFi-UoBu2Ow)

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.