



# CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter August 9, 2021



**Join us for worship Sunday, August 15th @ 10:30am. Pastor Jack continues our summer message series with "Life-Changing Decisions: Serve"**

Worship will be in-person as well as Livestreamed. From your computer or smartphone, watch at [facebook.com/waterfordcumc/live](https://facebook.com/waterfordcumc/live) or at [facebook.com/waterfordcumc/events](https://facebook.com/waterfordcumc/events).

Please let us know you were in worship by filling out the connection card at [www.WaterfordCUMC.org/central-connect/](http://www.WaterfordCUMC.org/central-connect/)

## Dear Friends,

As I mentioned in a newsletter last month, I watched with great interest the 2020 Summer Olympics, of course, held this summer in 2021. At the time I wrote that letter, I was planning on watching the opening ceremonies. We watched a lot of anticipated victories and we watched a lot of unanticipated defeats. I watched some sports I have never seen before in the Olympics; skateboarding, surfing and canoeing, for example. They may have been part of past Olympics but I had not seen the actual competitions. There were 339 events scheduled these past two weeks plus a couple days; I would have had to take some vacation time to see them all!

The closing ceremonies of the Tokyo Olympics were amazing! 1800 drones flew into the Olympic Stadium and swirled to form the Olympic Rings. Very impressive. Those rings are the long-recognized symbol of unity that signifies the different people and countries of our world. The Olympics are where people of all races, creeds and backgrounds can come together to strengthen one another through competitive sports. I feel I would be remiss if I didn't mention that in a couple of weeks the Para-Olympics will be taking place.

In the messages for this summer we've been talking about life-changing decisions. As I say in the video that introduces our Sunday messages, our decisions act as the wind upon the sails of ships taking us in the direction we wish to go. We make life-changing decisions; some small daily choices and some really big, impactful resolutions. These decisions create the stories of our lives. The athletes who participate in the Olympics have made decisions that reveal their passions and dedication to be the best they can be. The hours and efforts they pour into their disciplines are not lost through competition but rather help to shape their lives in meaningful ways; in ways far beyond their sport.

I'm reminded of one of the scriptures in this summer's message series—Hebrews 12:1-3: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart."

While we may not be running a race that will shape our lives forever, we are encouraged to "lay aside" that which weighs us down; some translations say we are to cast off that which prevents us from being all that we can be for God's kingdom work. I hope you've been inspired by the Olympics and hope you are finding this summer's message series helpful.

One of the commentators said during the final ceremonies that with the uncertainty of the games due to the pandemic, we were celebrating just getting across the finish line. We're in the race with our eyes ever on that finish line also! As always, I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,  
-Pastor Jack

## It's Softball Tournament Time!

Central's Men's Softball team will be playing this Saturday, August 14th at 8am and again at 9:15am at Rotary Park in their end-of-season tournament. Come out and cheer on the team! Rotary Park is located at 5485 Tubbs Rd, Waterford Twp, MI 48327.

## Summer Full of Life Blood Drive

### Tuesday August 10th, Noon-6pm

Donate blood and save lives. Sign up for Central's next blood drive by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) and using the sponsor code centraluni. If you would like to volunteer to staff the blood drive, please contact Rachel in the church office at (248) 681-0040.

## Third Grade Bible Sunday

On September 19th, during worship we will be presenting our third-graders with their very own Bible. If you would like to sign your third-grader up to receive a bible, please fill out the form found at [bit.ly/3rdbible](https://bit.ly/3rdbible) or contact Rev. Cora at [CGlass@WaterfordCUMC.org](mailto:CGlass@WaterfordCUMC.org) by **Tuesday, September 14th**.

## Back to School Blessing

### Sunday, August 22nd

Join us at 10:30am for worship for a special Back to School Blessing for students, teachers and administrators. Bring your backpack, briefcase, or tote for a special blessing. After worship stick around to tour the newly renovated Little Sprouts classrooms, meet our new Little Sprouts directors, then meet outside for fun on a Slip 'n Slide and ice cream! It will be a fun morning for all, so gather your students and invite a teacher. RSVPs are appreciated! Email [CGlass@WaterfordCUMC.org](mailto:CGlass@WaterfordCUMC.org) by **August 18th** with your favorite ice cream flavor!

## Project Backpack 2021

Central will again be participating in the Project Backpack School Supply Drive to benefit local Waterford students. Please drop your donations off by **Sunday, August 22nd**. For a list of items to donate, visit [waterfordcumc.org/project-backpack-2021/](https://waterfordcumc.org/project-backpack-2021/).

## Introducing Central's Covenant Choir

Choir isn't going to look much different to the congregation this fall, but you will see us performing under the name Covenant Choir, and I want to let all of you know what has changed.

Covenant Choir is our interim choir and our response to the ongoing changing landscape of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have made a commitment to keep you and each other safe by being a fully vaccinated choir. Singing is still one of the most efficient ways to spread the virus, and it provides an extra risk for all of our singers. With the rise of the Delta variant, and until we have a handle on the spread, Covenant Choir will be committed to your safety. Chancel Choir will return when the extra safety measures are no longer needed for our singers, and will be open to everyone as it always has been. You will get to see our Covenant Choir for the first time in the next several weeks with a recording made during their tech rehearsal that was put together to make sure that our streaming quality with our choir is as good as sitting in a pew. Then you will begin to see them weekly, starting shortly after Rally Day.

### Summer Socials Schedule

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

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

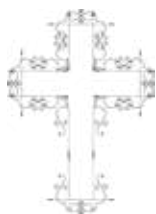
How can you get involved and join us? With any of our performing groups this year, please check with the director for protocols before showing up, but for Covenant Choir, all you need to do is contact me and confirm your vaccination status and what date you will join us so that I can have materials ready for you. Stay safe while singing, and see you in church!

With love and care,  
-Kevin

## Thank You

I want to thank my Central Family for helping me continue my education at Wayne State and all the growth and opportunities this church has provided me with in the past 18 years. It is truly a blessing to be a part of Central.

-John Pierre



## Born to Eternal Life

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### Jay Young

**June 9, 1928–August 4, 2021, Member Since March 27, 1994**

Our prayers are with Jay's children Jay (Marge) Young and Amy Moran and grandchildren Christie, Devin, Jamie, Kelsey, and Keegan, and his many family and friends.

### James E. Schilb

**July 28, 1924–August 7, 2021, Member Since November 19, 1972**

Our prayers are with James' children Ronald (Audrey) Schilb, Allen Schilb, Angel (Matt) Wasmund, Sharon Schilb and Judy Schilb and with his many 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](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.