



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

August 16, 2021

Join us for worship Sunday, August 22nd @ 10:30am. Pastor Jack continues our summer message series with "Life-Changing Decisions: Connect"

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,

Through the Covid-19 pandemic there has been a phrase many leaders have had to use and it's not exactly a phrase that instills a great deal of confidence in those who are being led. That phrase is "until further notice." Citizens of communities and members of organizations have had to hear that phrase countless times as they have asked how long lock-downs would last, when a vaccination would be available, when will we return to worship in the Sanctuary, when can we sing, etc. Believe me when I write that I know it's frustrating. We like to have at least a modicum of certainty when it comes to returning to "the way things used to be."

As the pastor of Central Church, along with the staff and lay leadership of our church, it feels as if we are approaching that "until further notice" uncertainty once again. We have staff trying to create programs that we're not sure people are willing to risk participating in. The delta variant of Covid-19 has many concerned about how to keep safe, as this pandemic has lasted almost two years in some parts of the world. Of course, the staff and lay leadership are concerned with keeping everyone safe as well.

I am reminded of a plaque I saw hanging in a colleague's office in the church she served. It read, "As followers of Christ we are to live with confidence, not certainty." We actually debated a bit about that idea; a friendly debate to be sure (or certain). We discussed if it was necessarily a bad thing to be certain about issues of faith and relationships rather than confident. We even mused that the words "confident" and "certain" are used interchangeably at times.

All this is to say that, even if we enter another "until further notice" time and we once again become uncertain of what the near future holds for our Central Church family, I am certain and confident about a few things. I am certain our staff will do their very best in keeping our church connected and moving forward. I am certain that God will be with us through this time, just as God has been with us since the beginning of the pandemic. I am confident that Central Church will emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic with strength and great purpose. I am confident in the blessings that are coming our way as we seek God's guidance for our church and community.

By the way, my colleague and I decided that it's not a bad thing to have both confidence and certainty because there are unique nuances in both concepts. In the meantime, we will keep you informed about the programs we will be offering and the schedules we are creating. Of that, you can be certain...or confident. As always, I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,
-Pastor Jack

A Word of Thanks

By Pastor Jack

As we've wrapped up another season of Men's Softball, with the regular play concluded and the tournament over, we want to thank Matt Berg for his leadership of the team. Matt has been the "coach" of our team for ten years now, attending the team meeting at the beginning of the season, creating the line-up, assigning positions each week and generally communicating with the team on a week-to-week basis.

As Matt passes this ten-year milestone he is ready to pass the mantle of coach to someone else. Matt will continue to play with the team and enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship of our Monday evening games, which brings up two calls to action for our church.

First, give Matt a word of thanks for his service in this fellowship. It is a fellowship of men that I have personally enjoyed for my nine seasons with the team. Second, we will be looking for a coach for our team in the spring. Some of the players have wondered whether or not there may be someone in our faith community who doesn't necessarily play softball but might like to be our coach and organizer. So, we are putting forth a call for this opportunity within the men of our church as we end this season.

Thanks, Matt, for all your work and the great job you did in leading us; a job that sometimes received little thanks. You've helped to create a fellowship within the church that is important to this pastor and many of the men of our church.

If you would like to be a part of the team next summer, look for notices in the early spring. The season runs from May through early August.

Church Rummage Sale

We regret to inform you that, after much thought and discussion, we have decided to cancel our upcoming fall Rummage Sale. Many factors went into making this decision; rising Covid-19 cases and the safety of our volunteers and shoppers top the list. Our plan is to reschedule the Rummage Sale for the spring of 2022.

If you have been saving items to donate to the sale and can no longer store them, it's completely understandable and we invite you to donate your items elsewhere. Some places to try would be Salvation Army, Rescued Treasures, and Oakland HOPE.

Blessings and Peace,

-Rachel and Shiela - Rummage Sale Co-chairs

Summer Full of Life Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated blood during last week's blood drive. 40 units were collected from 45 donors, which equates to 120 potential lives saved! You are a blessing. Special thanks to Sally Hart for serving as hostess and representative of Central.



Central Men's Softball Team

Top row (l. to r.): John Pierre, Joe Humphrey, Moriah Jade, Jordan Shultz, Andy Stevens. **Bottom row (l. to r.):** Matt Berg, Jon Mannschreck, Jack Mannschreck, Rustyn Robinson, Les Finkelstein, Mike Jacobson. **Not pictured:** Paul Wright, Kyle Breining, Jim Hinsberg.

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

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 or contact Rev. Cora at CGlass@WaterfordCUMC.org by **Tuesday, September 14th**.

Back to School Blessing

Sunday, August 22nd

Join us at 10:30am 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 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/.

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.

The Church Office Will Be Closed Monday, September 6th for Labor Day.