



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

August 23, 2021

**Join us for worship Sunday, August 29th @ 10:30am. Good Sam Sunday.
Pastor Jack concludes our summer message series with
"Life-Changing Decisions: Trust"**

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/

Trying Something New

"What if?" was a statement I heard a lot at the campus ministries where I served prior to Central UMC. Sometimes the "What if?" was followed by something crazy, like "What if we built an adult-sized ball pit," and others were pretty logical, "What if we did an all-nighter but everyone also went home to sleep in their dorm?" Since moving back to the local church, I don't hear "What ifs?" as often. When I do, it's mostly out of caution or concern. "What if someone gets hurt?" or "What if we are over our room capacity?"

This summer it became clear to me that we weren't likely to have enough children to pull off a Vacation Bible School with the kind of quality we enjoy. So I posed a "What if?" I asked our key volunteers if they would entertain some outdoor gatherings throughout the summer with a short drama and low-key activities. I'm grateful our staff, along with volunteers like Jannette Deszell, Sally Hart, Steve Krupa, and Angela Miller, were willing to give my "What if?" a chance. Thus, our Summer Socials were created.

Did they live up to what I imagined? Not quite. But neither did the ball pit or the all-nighter. Instead of the outreach to young families that I'd imagined, Summer Socials mostly attracted adults, friends of church members, and softball competitors. We adjusted for weather, vacations, and crowd size. Almost all "What ifs?" turn out a little different than you hoped and you learn a lot for next time around! To everyone who came out to socialize, play, eat, and hear a bible story at a Summer Social, I want to express my gratitude for participating in our "What if?" I'm looking forward to the "What if?" that innovates our next new offering!

-Rev. Cora

Good Samaritan Sunday, August 29th

This upcoming Sunday is a fifth Sunday and, as is tradition, we will be taking a special offering for Central's Good Sam program. Good Sam (short for Good Samaritan) is one of our ministries at Central Church. The program is funded by a special offering taken each month there is a fifth Sunday (four to five times a year). The funds are used to help neighbors with utilities, rent, car payments, etc. By helping people make their regular payments we help them remain in their homes, keep the lights on, or keep or find employment with a now-working automobile.

Recipients of Good Sam funds must apply through the church office, be specific about how the funds are to be used and provide documentation of their need. If their payment exceeds the amount of Central's assistance (most is \$150 or under) they must also provide documentation of where the remainder of the

payment will come from. Checks are cut directly to the biller (e.g. utility company, landlord, etc.), not to the individual. Use of funds is approved by the Pastor and Program Administrator and reported to the Ministry Coordinator.

This mission is open to everyone to donate. To make a contribution, mark your payment "Good Samaritan Fund." You are able to make Good Samaritan contributions via check (please mark checks on the memo line), at our website, or through the GivePlus app; just select "Good Samaritan" as the fund if giving electronically. Thank you for helping neighbors in need.

Daily Devotionals by Pastor Jack

Each week Pastor Jack records five devotionals that are posted to Central's YouTube channel. These devotionals build on his message and, like his printed devotionals you find in the Order of Worship, are designed to help you "unpack" the information and grow further in your faith. To view these video devotionals, visit Central's YouTube Channel at [YouTube.com/WaterfordCUMC](https://www.youtube.com/WaterfordCUMC).

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**.

Ushers Needed

We have openings on the usher teams for 1st, 3rd, and 4th Sunday. Your commitment would be one Sunday a month plus one 5th Sunday a year. If interested, please contact the church office at (248) 681-0040.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide altar flowers for any given Sunday there is a sign-up binder at the usher station in the Narthex, or call the church office at (248) 681-0040.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Our Members Who are Turning 80+:

- Nancy Radenbaugh – 9/5
- Paul Blomquist – 9/10
- Bruce Lax – 9/29

And Happy 50+ Year Anniversary to:

- Wilbur & Linda Meadows – 9/3, 54 yrs.
- Don & Mary Lou Osborne – 9/30, 65 yrs.

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

Sunday, September 12, 2021—Invite a friend to worship as we remember 9/11 and look to the future in a service of Lament and Hope.