



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

August 30, 2021

Join us for worship Sunday, September 5th @ 10:30am. Pastor Jack's message is "Making Yourself Useful."

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).

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

Dear Friends,

The people known as Methodist are a singing people! John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the Methodist family of denominations, including the United Methodist Church, together wrote over 12,000 hymns! They wrote hymns to teach theology—our understanding of God—and to create a community that encouraged people to follow the teachings of Jesus the Christ and support one another in their pursuit of faith and discipleship. Along with other Methodists, Central United Methodist Church has always been a singing church.

I have shared that thought with you all through the month of August. I shared with you that Central Church has missed singing these past 17 months. I have also shared, "As Christians, we are called to care for our neighbors. With this calling in mind, we ask that you wear a mask while singing. Doing so will prevent particles from flying through the air that could endanger our fellow worshipers. We ask this because we have seen an increase in positive COVID-19 cases since the low we saw on July 5. While not remotely close to the peaks we saw last fall and this past spring, there is still an increase that concerns medical professionals. We will continue to wear masks while singing throughout the month of August. If cases flatten near their current level, we will remove masks completely beginning in September."

I will be speaking with leaders and staff of our church this week to determine if we will remove masks to sing in our in-person worship. Our approach throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic has been to protect the collective health of our congregation. Having communicated that approach continuously since the beginning of the pandemic, I want to make it clear that worship has a profound impact on our health.

Christian blogger, Catherine King posted in February 2020, "Praising God when you sing physically raises your endorphins and oxytocin in your body resulting in a much better feeling in your entire body! TIME online has an article talking about singing and research showing this. Physically we change when we sing but we can't just sing any song to renew our mind. Sure singing fun songs that make us want to bust a move changes our mood but it is not necessarily renewing our mind. When we verbally proclaim God's glory, character and faithfulness, it does a work deep in our mind and deep in our soul. We get the best of both worlds. We sing to God in response to His love for us and all the while it benefits our mind and body!"

I am so glad to hear this affirmation of what I always believed to be true: Worship is good for us! I'm thankful for our staff and volunteers who make our worship services possible to share online and safely now in-person.

We will keep you informed of how our worship life together is changing and evolving toward some type of normalcy. In the meantime, why not sing a bit in your car, in the shower, or while you're making dinner! Be

healthy, take care of one another, and I will “see you” in worship on Sunday!

Because of Christ,
-Pastor Jack

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**.

Youth Group Is Starting Soon

Central’s Youth Group will be starting the fall session on **Sunday, September 12th from 5:45-7:30pm**. Come for dinner followed by a time of fellowship. Youth Group is for students entering 6th through 12th grades this school year. We have a fun year planned, with several special events, including Crop Hunger Walk on September 26th, the haunted tunnel overnight for Trunk or Treat on October 23rd–24th, Christmas caroling on December 19th, an Easter sunrise service on April 17th and our end-of-year party on June 12th. For more information, visit Facebook.com/CentralYouth1 (that’s a one). To sign up for Youth Group email Rev. Cora at cglass@waterfordcumc.org.

Blessings In a Backpack Packing

School will soon be beginning in Waterford and so, too, will another year of packing food for Blessings in a Backpack! Last year we were fortunate to be able to pack at Riverside Elementary during the last half of the year with a limited number of packers and many safety precautions. We expect some of that to remain this year as the pandemic continues to be present in our community.

Our first packing day at Riverside will be September 15th. If you would like to join in this ministry, please contact Rev. Cora at cglass@waterfordcumc.org. Your time and help will be greatly appreciated by many families at Riverside Elementary.

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.

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/waterfordcumc/>. 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.

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.