



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Weekly Newsletter

September 7, 2021

Join us for worship Sunday, September 12th @ 10:30am for a special Service of Lament. Pastor Jack's message is "The Longing of Our Souls." Invite a friend in need of healing and hope.

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,

Having gotten back a little over a week ago from a nearly two-week vacation, I'm still catching up on the news and all that is going on in our world. Frankly, it's overwhelming from a worldwide perspective, let alone all that is happening in our church family and staff. We've been hearing of the devastation from Hurricane Ida and the wildfires in California and Nevada, as well as the death of American soldiers as they help people, both American and Afghani, leave Afghanistan. Political opponents are pointing fingers at each other while the citizenry is continuing to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic. Young families are trying to keep their children safe as they prepare to go to school; some children woke up on the morning of their first day of school to learn that there is a mask mandate in place in their school district.

On top of that, our church community has plenty of concerns and happenings that also weigh heavy on our hearts and minds; from those who are in long-term therapy and treatment plans, to those having surgery to those in hospice care, our prayers are needed to lift those in our community who are in need of God's presence and peace.

It's overwhelming when you think of the sheer volume of need in our world, our nation, our community and our church. It makes us want to cry out, reminiscent of the cries expressed in laments found in our scriptures. In past years we've had Rally Days to kick off our fall programs and welcome people from their summer vacations and excursions; we've had special musical guests in the past, created some different types of worship experiences and have had fellowship and a meal together after worship.

We've been thinking of how we might move on this fall from our summer programming into our fall events and programs. We're going to have a Day of Lament next Sunday which is the day after the 20th anniversary of 9-11. Rev. Cora and I will have a joint message allowing us to recognize the cries of pain and suffering that we experience in our world. We will move through a Service of Lament this next Sunday so that we may fully feel the support and love of our Creator God.

I would want to share that our true lament involves moving from sadness and mourning to celebrating God's loving kindness and presence in our lives. I hope you will join us next weekend for this special service. As we move into the fall, may we be ever thankful for God in our lives and for the supportive presence we provide for one another. It will be a different kind of start to our fall schedule, but we believe it will be a meaningful service of worship. I hope you'll join us, in-person or online. I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,
-Pastor Jack

Wednesday Evening Study with Pastor Jack Continues!

On Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., Pastor Jack will host a study based on the message from the previous Sunday. There is a group of about nine people who would love for our numbers to expand to talk about the impact of our worship service—especially the scripture and message—on our lives.

Contact the church office to get on the weekly mailing list to join this Zoom Class.

CROP Walk 2021

Our 29th Waterford Area CROP Walk will be on **Sunday, September 26th, 2021** at Christ Lutheran Church. We will gather for a program at 1:30 pm and begin walking at 2:00 pm. Refreshments are provided during and after the walk. Our community goal for 2021 is \$14,000 which would bring our all-time total raised to over \$300,000!

Money raised supports Church World Services global outreach efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty, plus four local charities: Open Door Outreach Center, Meals of Wheels Pontiac, the Baldwin Center of Pontiac, and the Good Samaritan Food Pantry of Pontiac.

Online fundraising and walker registration can be done at CropHungerWalk.org/WaterfordMI. Click “Join or Start a Team” and then find the “Central United Methodist Church” team in the search bar. You can also sign up or donate at our CROP walk table after worship, or in the church office.

Online Worship

If you experience issues during online worship, please know that the tech team is monitoring comments. Once we receive a report of a tech issue it typically takes a few minutes to troubleshoot the issue and for the stream to catch up to real-time, so please be patient. Once a few people have alerted us to an issue we don't need continued notifications. Also, keep in mind that there are likely guests with us on the Livestream, even if they are not participating, so it is important to maintain a positive “tone” to any posts that are made in the chat. Thank you for your constructive comments and your timely feedback!

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 Sunday

Central's Youth Group will be starting the fall session this **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.

SCRIP Cards

The SCRIP table is back and you can order cards before and after worship on Sundays or from the office. Orders are placed with the Scrip Center Sunday evening and ready for pick up Wednesday during Central Church office hours. The Central ShopWithScrip gift card order form lists many popular gift cards and is [available on the forms page on Central's website](#).

WRWA Supplies Drive

The Waterford Refugee Welcome Alliance is currently collecting cleaning supplies, baby food and diapers. A collection box is located outside the Chapel. You can learn more about this Community Organization by [visiting the WRWA Facebook page](#).

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.

Sympathies

Our condolences to the Gay family on the passing of Eric John Gay, son of Pamela Coleman-Gay and brother of Alyson (Jeff) Schmidt, Adam (Carolyn), Katey, and Megan Gay. Our prayers are with his family and friends.

Address Change

There is a new address for Mary Lou McLintock, 4255 Fox Chase Way, Colorado Springs, CO, 80908.

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.