



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, May 19th is Pentecost and Volunteer Sunday. Wear red! Pastor Jack continues our *Ever Wonder Why?* message series with *Why Can't I Stop?* Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Church Family,

I remember a cartoon in a ministry magazine long ago (when there were actual paper magazines) in which a clergyman wearing a clerical collar looks over the edge of his child's bassinet. He is smiling wide and the caption below read, "And how is my little sermon illustration today?" There is more truth in that cartoon than I might want to admit, and I know if you asked my children they would tell you that they absolutely would pop up in my messages as illustrations. And though I would like to say that I always asked my children and Ruth, my wife, for their permission to mention them in my messages, I know that hasn't always been the reality.


Yesterday, I became a personal illustration of stress as I admitted that I had forgotten to pick up the flowers for our Mother's Day worship service. I said yes to picking up the flowers, and then it went out of my mind! I ran a late afternoon errand, passed right by the flower shop, came home, ate dinner, watched the end of a TV program, read part of the novel I'm currently enjoying, and went to bed early.

I was preparing for church, thinking through the day in general and the worship service specifically, and I began to shout, "Oh no! Oh no! Oh no!" I might have also said something else but I have since repented. I found an open flower shop and bought the flowers we needed and all was well an hour before the worship service was to begin. I had called the original flower shop from whom we ordered the flowers in the first place. I left two messages. As worship was beginning, a member of the church brought up the flowers from that shop. So, we had plenty of flowers to give away, and we celebrated our mothers in fine fashion!

The irony of yesterday for me is that this is Mental Health Awareness Week. Mental well-being can be affected a lot of conditions: fear and anxiety, stress, loneliness, coping with loss and other life challenges, as well as generally feeling good about ourselves and functioning well on a daily basis. I was stressed! Fortunately, I had the resources to deal with my stress; I had a vehicle to drive to the second flower shop and the personal funds to buy flowers and (eventually) a calm spirit to deal pleasantly with the people helping me to secure that batch of flowers.

Some people do not have the resources they need to deal effectively with mental health issues they face. Yesterday, I mentioned the concern of one of our church family about the funding of programs

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Saturday, June 1st @ 6pm
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty

When both he and a colleague are about to lose their jobs, Walter takes action by embarking on an adventure more extraordinary than anything he ever imagined. PG

for children 0-6. As we continue through this week and the rest of the month of May, be mindful of both your needs and the needs of others seeking mental health resources to navigate the challenges of life. Avail yourself of the resources we've introduced to our members and friends, and be blessed with the assurance of God's love and the presence of our church family to support you. I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

Spring Clean Up This Saturday

Spring clean-up has been postponed to this Saturday, May 18th. Please sign-up outside the office, or just show up to help. Bring your favorite gloves, rakes, chainsaws, etc. If you have any questions, please see Ken Cortese.

Gift Cards Are Great for Birthdays, Graduation, Teacher Appreciation and More

Central sells gift cards through the Michigan-based RaiseRight company and earns a small rebate on sales. Gift cards can also be used on a regular basis to purchase groceries (Meijer), gasoline (Shell, BP, Mobile) and restaurant meals (Panera, McDonalds, Red Lobster & more). Order your cards on Sunday from the RaiseRight table and they'll be available for pickup from the office the following Thursday or from the RaiseRight table the following Sunday. A web portal or smartphone app is also available to order or reload gift cards. It's an easy way to earn money for Central Church! See Debra Hayden-Schmid at the RaiseRight table before or after Sunday worship to purchase cards.

Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School

June 24th - June 28th, 9am - Noon

Camp Firelight VBS is just around the corner! VBS will be a week of fun with zany skits, dance parties, singing, worship, prayer, Bible adventures, cool crafts, crazy science projects, energetic games, tasty snacks and lots of FUN & LAUGHTER. Plan to send your kids and grandkids to this awesome summer camp adventure with God.

To register, visit bit.ly/Central-VBS-2024.

Readers to Leaders Thank You

Thanks so much for supporting the Michigan Conference Readers to Leaders Program. Your generous bake sale donations totaled \$692 and we surpassed our \$600 goal. Central is a blessed congregation; thank you for continuing to be a blessing to others.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:

- Carol Nelson, 6/4
- Joyce Delamarter, 6/10
- Gay Crump, 6/12
- Marilyn Sue Waltz, 6/15
- Lavonne Long, 6/21

HAPPY 50+ ANNIVERSARY TO:

- Marvin & Mary Jane Jewell, 6/11, 70 yrs.
- Stephen & Nancy Albery, 6/14, 55 yrs.
- Larry & Barb Spiece, 6/14, 55 yrs.
- Bruce & Beverly Lax, 6/16, 62 yrs.
- Neil & Beverly Currie 6/17, 52 yrs.
- Ronald & Barbara Newman, 6/28, 55 yrs.

PIZZA PARTY MEET & GREET

Sunday, June 2nd Following Worship

WHO'S INVITED?
New Members, Old Members, Members to Be & Spectators!

PLEASE SIGN UP:
By placing your name in the Meet & Greet box in the narthex.

HOSTED BY:
Arlene Taylor & Friends

Graduation Sunday June 9th

Attention graduates! We will be honoring your achievements on Sunday, June 9th. Please share a photo and a brief summary of your future plans by Monday, May 20th. You can learn more and submit your information online at waterfordcumc.org/graduation-sunday-june-9th/.

Memorial Day Parade Planning

Central will be taking a hiatus from this year's Memorial Day Parade as we rethink our participation in this community event. If you would like to help us plan for next year's parade, please contact Robin Danek at rdanek@waterfordcumc.org.

Thank You

Dear Friends at Central,

Thank you so much for the prayers, the cards, calls, texts and emails over this past year while I've been undergoing cancer treatment. Your support has been encouraging and helpful. Special thanks to my beloved choir; my amazing book group, Keller-Fitz, and Purple Threads. For now, the doctor has proclaimed me cancer-free! God is good, all the time...

See you in June. Love,
-Barb Laing

Sympathies

To Andrew Myers on the death of his mother, Linda Myers on May 7th, 2024. Linda was the widow of former pastor Dick (Richard) Myers. Our prayers are with Linda's family and friends.

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated June 2nd.
Please submit articles by Thursday, May 23rd.



A special thank you to all of our military members and their families for their service and sacrifice.

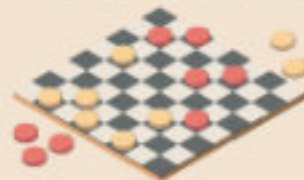
The office will be closed on Monday, May 27th. The Chimes will go out on Tuesday.

Softball Schedule

5/13 – 6:15pm – Waterford Rec.
5/20 – No Game
5/27 – No Game
6/3 – 6:15pm – Waterford Rec.
6/10 – 7:30pm – 1st Missionary
6/17 – 6:15pm – 1st Missionary
6/24 – 7:30pm – Waterford Rec.
7/1 – 7:30 – 1st Missionary
7/8 – 6:15pm – 1st Missionary
7/15 – 7:30pm – 1st Missionary
7/22 – 6:15pm – St. Trinity
7/29 – 7:30pm – Waterford Rec.
8/5 – 6:15pm – 1st Missionary
8/10 – Tournament



PRIMETIME GIGGLES & GAMES



**WEDNESDAY,
MAY 15TH
2:00PM - 4:00PM**

Bring your favorite board game and a friend. Beverages will be provided. All ages welcome!