



CHIMES

Central United Methodist Church

*Connecting with God,
Connecting with Others,
Changing our World with Christ's Love*

VOLUME 73

DECEMBER 3, 2017

NUMBER 20

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 am - Chapel Worship

10:00 am- The Conversation

10:30 am - Sanctuary Worship

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent.
Pastor Jack will begin his *Redemption of Scrooge* sermon series.

Methodist Children's Home Christmas Gifts

Since 2011 Central has been providing Christmas wishes for the boys at the Methodist Children's Home, and once again Eschruth Circle will be coordinating this gift giving. To donate, pick up a snowman ornament from the Narthex windows. On them you will find one of the names of the 58 boys and an item from their wish list. If you purchase a gift, please bring it to the church unwrapped and put it in the collection box in the Narthex.

Debra and Rainy also have gift cards for the boys; please purchase them from the Scrip table in the hallway. To purchase a gift card, simply take a snowman to the Script table, purchase the card and we will take care of turning them in.

The deadline to drop off gifts or purchase gift cards is Sunday, December 10th by noon. The gifts and cards will be delivered on December 11th. Your generosity toward this wonderful program is greatly appreciated, as it really brightens Christmas for these boys.

Peacemakers Advent Event

December 3rd, 5—7:30 pm

Are you mindful of the violence and lack of peace in our world? Do you

wonder how to talk with your children, grandchildren, or friends about peace? Do you wonder how you can be a peacemaker in your world?

The Peacemakers Advent Event features a potluck dinner and stations to learn about:

- Peace
- Peacemakers
- Global migration
- Advent
- And more

All ages are encouraged to attend.

If you have a student/adult prayer partner, invite him/her to come with you and participate together. Sign-up outside the church office or contact Rev. Kathy for more information.

Welcome New Members

We're pleased to welcome several new members to Central UMC. Please make sure to introduce yourself.

- Derek Mann
- Jane Ellen Bussard
- Mike Jacobson
- Virginia Hudnell
- Carol Richardson

Advent and Christmas

For all the events and happenings visit our website at:

News=>2017 Advent & Christmas
Programming

All Church Directory Survey

We are planning the next full church directory. So that we can best meet the needs of the congregation we'd like to get your thoughts on the most useful combination of print and online. Please give us your thoughts by filling out the survey form found on our website at:

News=>2018 Directory Survey

Or, contact Robin Danek at (248) 681-0040 or rdanek@waterfordCUMC.org with your preference. Thank you for helping out!

Baby's First Christmas

December 10th, 10:30 am Service

Help us celebrate this special season with our youngest members.

CONNECT WITH CENTRAL

Web: www.waterfordcumc.org

Facebook: [waterfordcumc](https://www.facebook.com/waterfordcumc)

Twitter: [@waterfordcumc](https://twitter.com/waterfordcumc)

eNewsletter: Sign up at www.waterfordcumc.org or email rdanek@waterfordcumc.org.

The Conversation

Facebook: [cumconversations](https://www.facebook.com/cumconversations)

Twitter: [@conversationumc](https://twitter.com/conversationumc)

Help us save on printing and mailing costs. Sign up at our website to receive *Chimes* via email.

The deadline for the Sunday, December 17th issue of *Chimes* is Wednesday, December 6th. Please send all of your articles, thank you notes and address changes to the Church office or e-mail them to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org.

The Life of the Church

Thank You

Blood Donors and Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who donated blood during our holiday blood drive. 20 pints of life-saving blood were collected, which will help 60 patients. Thank you also to the volunteers and those who donated food.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for sending me the wonderful care package of cookies. I always look forward to receiving them. My roommates and I enjoyed them very much! As a Senior this year, the cookies from Central are one thing I will miss next year.

Thank you,
Abby DeBano

Dear CUMC Friends and Family,

I am writing to say “thank you” for the wonderful cookie care package! They were a nice treat to have during midterms week! It is great to have such a wonderful church family thinking about those away at school. Thank you again!

Blessings,
Anna Kuhn

Good Evening!

I just wanted to say thank you for the cookies! I got them a couple weeks ago and I totally forgot to send a message, I'm sorry. The cookies were well loved by my classmates. They came in perfect time to be a nice snack and stress reliever before a big exam. I enjoyed a few and also walked around the study rooms at school handing them out.

We all thank you for the treats! And thank you for your continued support through school.

Much love,
Robyn Mark

Advent Services

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 3rd

8:30, 10:00 and 10:30am Worship

Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 10th

8:30, 10:00 and 10:30am Worship

Baby's First Christmas
at 10:30 worship.

Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 17th

8:30, 10:00 and 10:30am Worship

Christmas Cantata
“For Us a Child Is Born”
at 10:30 worship.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 24th

10:00 and 10:30am only Worship

Sacrament of Baptism at 10:30
worship.

Christmas Services

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 20th, 7pm

A service of remembrance and
encouragement.

Family Christmas Service

Saturday, December 23, 6:30 pm

An intergenerational, family-friendly
“candlelight” service.

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

8:00pm—Carols & Candlelight

11:00pm—Carols & Communion

Hanging of the Greens

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season!



Stewardship 2018

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge to the church. We have received several additional pledges and are happy to report that we are within 10% of last year's pledges. If you haven't made a pledge, please prayerfully consider regular giving to support the mission and ministry of the church.



Clothe-a-Child is Off to a Great Start!

Our intrepid shoppers have been taking advantage of holiday sales to purchase clothing for Waterford school children. This year, 390 children will be helped. There's still time to brighten the holidays for a family in need by making a donation. Just put a check in the offering plate and mark it with “Clothe-a-Child” in the memo. Thank you for your generosity.

We will be going to an all-digital *Chimes* in 2018. If you would like to continue to receive the print version, please contact the church office.

Back issues of recent *Chimes* newsletters are available on our website at:

Connect=>Newsletter

Upcoming CUMC Events

Peacemakers Advent Event

Sunday, December 3rd,
5–7:30pm

Bring a dish to pass for this time of fellowship and faith growth. After dinner we will learn more about Advent, peacemaking and global migration.

Advent Study

Thursdays 11/30 – 12/21,
10:30 am & 6:30 pm

Based on the book *Faithful* by Adam Hamilton, which examines the Christmas story from the viewpoint of Joseph.

Brunch and Conversation

December 3rd, 9:30 am

Join us for a discussion of *The Redemption of Scrooge* during The Conversation worship experience. A light brunch will be served at 9:30.

Harvesters Christmas Outing

Saturday, December 9th, noon

Join the Harvesters for an outing to see *The Polar Express* at Redford Theater. Sign up outside the church office.

Jackson Chorale Concert

Saturday, December 9th,
7:30pm

Enjoy an evening of Christmas music with the critically acclaimed Jackson Chorale. Visit www.jacksonchorale.org for ticket information.

Tuesday Musicale Concert

Tuesday, December 12th,
7:30pm

“Come to the Manger,” a free Christmas performance by the Tuesday Musicale Chorus and Adele Thomas Bell Choir. There will be an afterglow immediately following the concert.

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 17th at
10:30 am Worship

Enjoy “For Us a Child Is Born,” an uplifting cantata performed by our Chancel Choir during the Sanctuary service. The performance will also feature three soloists and accompaniment by Myra Trask.

All Church Caroling

Sunday, December 17th, 5pm

Share Christmas cheer with our homebound members. All are invited. Sign up outside the church office or contact Rev. Kathy for more info.



Opportunities to Serve & Grow

Donate to Clothe-a-Child and help provide winter clothing to Waterford students. Donate through Gifts to Missions Christmas Cards, or write a check to CUMC with “Clothe-a-Child” in the memo line.

Purchase Gifts to Missions

Christmas cards beginning November 29th for a \$5 per card donation. Cards can be purchased in the hallway or from the church office.

Donate Christmas Cards for prisoners to send to family and friends. Please include a stamped envelope with each card. Olive Mae Glenn Circle will collect and deliver the cards. Please place donations in the Chapel hallway by December 10th.

Give a gift to a boy in the Methodist Children’s Home. Take a snowman ornament from the window in the Narthex and bring new gifts to the church by Sunday, December 10th.

Donate a matched set of a hat and mittens/gloves to go to Waterford School children through the Clothe-a-Child program (please no scarves).

Give to Central’s Christmas offering. Central will tithe 10% of this year’s offering to our global missions in Liberia—the C.W. Duncan School, St. Mark Church and Wells for Liberia.



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Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the years during this time you will often see reminders about the deeper meaning of Christmas. You'll see billboards with "Keep Christ in CHRISTmas" written on them. An oldie but goodie is "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." (I have that one on a coffee mug that I use during this time of year.) Perhaps you've seen some of these reminders already this year. I'm not maligning these annual prompts to seek a connection with the child born in Bethlehem. In fact there are times when I can use a reminder of the real reason for all the hustle and bustle that will occur over the next few weeks.

Deepening our connection with Christ and our loving Creator is always a good thing. I commend spiritual practices and disciplines toward the purpose of growing our faith and being healthy – not only spiritually but physically and mentally. Besides our daily prayers and devotions, weekly worship and time spent in fellowship with others serve

to strengthen our relationships with our loving Creator and each other. There is also much to be gained by an extended period of time spent in prayer and meditation, as well as continuing education. Reading and learning from others feeds your soul and helps to focus your ministry.

An email notice went out a few weeks ago informing our congregation that Rev. Kathy Pittenger has been granted six weeks leave January 2nd – February 11th for formational and spiritual growth. A formational and spiritual growth leave is provided for in our United Methodist Denomination.

During this, Rev. Kathy will complete two on-line courses from Vibrant Faith University that she has been working on for some time, and as much of a third class as possible (which begins in January). As part of that coursework, Kathy will be working on our Faith Growth Pathway with ideas around experiential faith formation, digital enabled ministry, mission-related elements, and intergenerational

experiences.

Kathy and I have been working out the details of insuring that her ministries within our church continue during her absence. I fully support—and invite you to support—her efforts to continue her work at Vibrant Faith University as she seeks spiritual renewal. I take continuing education very seriously and applaud efforts to expand one's understanding of ministry and the development of skills for ministry.

In fact, I want to challenge you to seek your own methods of spiritual growth and renewal as our church supports Rev. Kathy's efforts towards that end. Use these days when it's best to be inside where it's warm to work on your inner life; through reading scripture, prayer and meditation and reading the works of those who have traveled pathways of spiritual growth. Be reminded of the "Reason for the Season" of Christmas, and embrace that reason each and every day.

I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Pastor Jack