



CHIMES

Central United Methodist Church

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

VOLUME 74 JANUARY 7, 2018 NUMBER 1

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 am - Chapel Worship
10:00 am- The Conversation
10:30 am - Sanctuary Worship

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday we celebrate Epiphany. Pastor Jack's message will be "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star..."

Little Sprouts 2017 a Great Success

Church Ministry Thriving Under New Leadership

This year brought many changes to Central's Little Sprouts Preschool, including new leadership, expanded hours and a new child-centered learning methodology. Little Sprouts is unique in that it offers many benefits that aren't available in other preschool and day care programs, including:

- A child-centered approach to learning and care that is welcoming and considers the specific needs of individuals.
- Extended hours and flexibility to accommodate the area's working families.

- Chapel time—similar to Central's Children's Time—in which concepts of love and the grace of God are reinforced.

This fall saw enrollment of 24 children in the program, with families coming from Waterford, Pontiac and White Lake.

There was much fun this year as our Little Sprouts learned about God and the world. A typical day includes morning message, small group, work time, large group, snack time, and time to play outside. During the fall the Sprouts took a trip to Spicer's apple orchard, where the kids went on a wagon ride, picked an apple and pumpkin, and enjoyed cider and donuts.

Special holiday parties included a gathering in Fellowship Hall for Halloween, where families were able to enjoy games and activities with their little ones. During Thanksgiving they had a "concert" for parents, which featured all of the Little Sprouts' favorite Thanksgiving songs. At Christmas they enjoyed pajama/movie day, and made individual gingerbread houses.

All of the Little Sprouts and staff thank you for your support of this ministry that provides an opportunity for us to serve our neighbors and provide an important service to the community. If you enjoy working with children Little Sprouts is always looking for additional volunteers to read, craft, or to even just sit and listen to the little ones (they love to talk!)



Little Sprouts and Rev. Kathy during weekly Chapel Time.

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: [cumcconversation](https://www.facebook.com/cumcconversation)

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, January 21st issue of *Chimes* is Wednesday, January 10th. 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



The Chancel Choir, Kevin Naeve, Myra Trask and special guest musicians performed a wonderful and uplifting Christmas Cantata, "For Us A Child Is Born," by Johann Kuhnau.

Thank You

Methodist Children's Home

Our amazing congregation has once again helped the boys at the Methodist Children's Home in Redford see their Christmas wishes come true. Each of the 58 boys received an item from their wish list and a \$25 gift card (gift card total was \$1450!). The staff was delighted when we delivered the gifts, knowing the boys would be so excited on Christmas morning. They were so appreciative with all the gifts! Your gift cards purchased from our Scrip table also benefited Central. A double blessing! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Diana Carter for the Eschtruth Circle

Staff Love Offering

The staff of Central thanks you for the generous love offering that you gave for us this Christmas season. We are blessed to be working with and for you at this wonderful church. We're looking forward to 2018, sharing the love of Christ and the joy of service with all of you.

The Staff of CUMC

Christmas Giving

Thank you to everyone who gave of their time, talent and treasure to make Christmas at Central a very special time.

Rev. Kathy's Corner

On January 2nd, Rev. Kathy began a six week Formation and Spiritual Growth Renewal Leave. She is completing online classwork that specifically relates to our Faith Growth Pathway and taking time for spiritual renewal and rest. Rev. Kathy will provide weekly updates for us to keep in touch, and will return to us on Tuesday, February 13th. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Pastor Jack or a member of the Leave Team.



Address Changes

Please note there is a new mailing address for:

Jessica LaCroix
27022 Meadowood Dr.
Apt. 101
Wixom, MI 48393-3268

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.

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!

Have You Been to Central's Website Lately?

Updates Make the Site More Usable

If you haven't been to Central's website lately, check it out. It is updated regularly with information about events, ministries and special services. A few areas of interest:

Events

Church events are added to the event calendar regularly, which is found at:

Events=>Calendar

Two weeks out events are also added to Upcoming Events, which can be found at:

Events=>Upcoming Events

Check these sections if you are looking for information about an event at Central.

News

Central UMC news, announcements and time-critical information is posted in the **NEWS** section of the site, so make sure to check that regularly.

Chimes Archive

Recent back issues of all church newsletters, including the *Chimes*, are available at:

Connect=>Newsletters

Sermon Archive

Sunday message recordings are posted online weekly by Wednesday. You can find these at:

Worship=>Sermons

Faith Growth Pathway

Information and materials for the Faith Growth Pathway can be found at:

Faith Formation=>Faith Growth Pathway

Special Services

Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and other special services are posted under the main **WORSHIP** menu item.

Ministries

All ministries are now found under the **CONNECT** menu item and are sorted by relevance to various groups. If you would like to update information on a ministry or change how it is categorized, simply send changes to Robin Danek at rdanek@waterfordcumc.org.

Mobile Ready

Our website is fully mobile compatible, which means you can access any of the information from your phone or tablet. You don't need to be at a computer to know what's going on at Central!

Social Sharing

On most pages of the website you will see social sharing icons. Simply click one of these icons to "share" a page of our website on Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus or other page or profile (by clicking the "+" icon).

So, if you want to let someone know about an event, service or ministry, use these icons to quickly get information to friends and relatives.



Social Sharing Icons



Opportunities to Serve & Grow

Thursday Evening Studies

6:30 - 7:25pm

Thursday Evening Studies will resume on January 11th, with a series on the book *Earn. Save. Give.* by John Harnish, which looks at how earning, saving and giving are important components of expressing and living out the Christian faith. The study will be led by Margaret Hazlett.

Disciple Fast Track

Sunday, December 31st @ 7pm

Disciple Fast Track will resume on Sunday, December 31st. We will be studying the New Testament over the next 12 weeks.

UMCOR ERT Training

Saturday, January 20th,
9am-5pm

Central UMC will be hosting an UMCOR Early Response Team (ERT) training session on Saturday, January 20th 2018. The cost of the training is \$35 per person, which covers your training manual, t-shirt, badge, lunch and snacks. If you are interested in participating in the training, please contact our church's Point of Contact—Robin Danek—at 248-681-0040 or rdanek@waterfordcumc.org, or sign up online at the CUMC website.

Men's Summit

January 26th - 28th,
Wesley Woods Camp,
Dowling Michigan

Please join the men of CUMC for study, fellowship and fun at this weekend retreat! This year's book study is *Man in the Mirror* by Patrick M. Morley. The cost is \$73 per person. Sign up outside the church office. For more information, contact John Pierre, Myke Robson or Mark Strobel.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

An important part of the church is outreach; reaching out to others with the love and grace of God found in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Part of Jesus' last words as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew were, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19) While the entire quote is longer (Verses 18-20) there are two crucial concepts contained in verse 19.

First, go! We do very little good sitting in our church building waiting for visitors to come and check us out. We are called to go out into the world with the transforming Word of God. The church is at its best when we are out in the world meeting people in the places and times of their greatest needs. The second concept contained in verse 19 is that of making disciples; sharing the love and grace of God and inspiring others toward loving, grace-filled acts. The second concept of making disciples is the more complex, and takes some training for people to truly be skilled at encouraging others

toward discipleship. The first concept is easy – GO!

So the week before Christmas a group from our church went to a couple establishments – Parker's Hilltop Restaurant and Brewery in Clarkston and the Rustic Leaf Brewing Co. on Highland Road in Waterford. Our purpose was just to be a presence in gathering places that would be busy as people began the festivities of Christmas. What fun! What an eye opener! What a great way to be God's people in a place where we usually wouldn't be, for the purpose of telling others about our church and sharing the gift of singing Christmas Carols with those present.

I played piano Friday night at the Rustic Leaf with Robin Danek, our Communications and Community Relations Staff member, who played guitar. There was a party with several children who joined us in singing Up on the Housetop, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Jingle Bells. Then we would sing some sacred songs. One little girl,

Mariah, sang every song with us that she knew; she particularly liked Do You Hear What I Hear. At one point in the evening, Robin said, "We're going to slow it down a bit and sing O Little Town of Bethlehem. Mariah asked, "What's that?" I shared with her that Bethlehem was the town where Jesus was born. Mariah ended up singing it right along with us!

I can't think of an easier or more natural way to proclaim the good news that God loves us so much He sent Jesus to tell us about that love, and how we should love others. It is my prayer in the New Year of 2018 that we gain the skills to make more disciples through our church – but first we must be willing to go! To go to the place where people are gathered and we can speak to them about our faith – through music or any way we're gifted to do so! I look forward to seeing you in church!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack