



CHIMES

Central United Methodist Church

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

FEBRUARY 3, 2019

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:15 am- The Conversation

10:30 am - Sanctuary Worship

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Pastor Jack will deliver the final movie message based on "On the Basis of Sex." Music by the YTBN Ringers and Chancel Choir.

Dear Central Family,

On February 23-26, United Methodists will hold a Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis to consider a proposal from our bishops designed to get us past our impasse on the issue of inclusion of LGBTQ persons. I've written about this in our newsletter and we've had three learning sessions this past summer at the church and in the community to discuss the issue. This issue has been hotly debated since I have been ordained—now 35 years. As your pastor, I want our members and friends to be aware of this special Conference that is coming up. I hope you pray about this issue, and discuss it with your family and friends. My prayer is that honest, open and loving conversations will happen and that the contentiousness that is so much a part of our culture is somehow alleviated, and that God's will be sought above all else.

It has been said that at the Special Session our denomination will decide who we are, and what we will become as a mainline denomination. Will we stay together, united in mission? Will we open our doors wider despite our differing beliefs? Or will we come apart at the seams over our differences?

Your guess is as good as mine. I do know that the day after the Special Session is over, the needs of the world will still be the same. There will still be racism that tears at the fabric of societies. There will be children right here in the Waterford area and across our nation

who will be hungry and malnourished. There will still be young people who feel disconnected and dispossessed by the church because of our struggles with sexuality. There will still be people dying too soon in hospital beds or in the streets because of addiction. There will still be desperate people stranded at the borders seeking asylum. There will still be young immigrants desperate to learn. There will still be homeless people in the shelters we support and people will still come to this building seeking help with rent and utility bills, looking for gas cards—and some will come just wanting to see a pastor for prayer.

My biggest concern has not been the actual decision of the Special Session. Yes, I have my opinions and thoughts on the issue, and do care about issues of inclusivity and hospitality. However, my biggest concern is how we live together despite our differences. The divisiveness that defines our culture has seeped into the church, and we are quick to choose sides and judge each other.

I am asking you to pray for the Special Session, and at the same time pray for one another. While I am concerned about what our United Methodist denomination will look like, my immediate concern is Central Church. Pray people, pray! I look forward to seeing you in worship.

In the unity of God's Holy Spirit,

Pastor Jack

The deadline for the Sunday, February 17th issue of *Chimes* is Wednesday, February 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.



- Feb. 1st & 2nd** - Confirmation Retreat
- Feb. 2nd, 6pm** - Central Cinema
- Feb. 3rd, 3pm** - Oakland County Chess Club
- Feb. 3rd, 6pm** - Super Bowl Party
- Feb. 9th, 6:30pm** - Youth Group Valentines Bake-Off
- Feb. 10th, 11:45am & 5:45pm** - C3 Study Begins
- Feb 11th, 6:30pm** - Finance Committee Meeting
- Feb. 13th, 7pm** - C3 Study Begins
- Feb. 14th, 6:30pm** - C3 Study Begins
- Feb. 17th, Noon** - All Church Potluck
- Feb. 15, 16, 22, 23, 7pm** - Lakeland Players Performance of "Stitches"
- Feb. 17 & 24, 4pm** - Lakeland Players Matinée Performance of "Stitches"
- Feb. 25, 7pm** - SPRC Meeting
- Feb. 26, 7pm** - Trustees Meeting

CONNECT WITH CENTRAL

Web: waterfordcumc.org

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

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

Phone: (248) 681-0040

Address: 3882 Highland Rd.
Waterford MI 48328

Thank You Micah 6 Volunteers

On Sunday, January 20th, 22 volunteers from Central and the Waterford area went to Pontiac to sand, tape and prep a home that will be rented affordably to a family in Pontiac. Thank you to the Youth Group and other volunteers who helped, and to Rev. Cora for coordinating the effort (and providing the pizza).

Our next volunteer opportunity will be on March 1, 3 & 4th when we serve dinner and facilitate intake at HOPE Shelter, so save the dates! We'll let you know when sign up becomes available.



Scout Sunday February 10th

We will be honoring our scouts and scouting families. Invite friends and family to church so that we can honor the Scouts in their lives.

2018 Contribution Statements

Are now available in the Chapel Hallway. If you have any questions, please contact bookkeeper Sue Newill Tuesday–Thursday at (248) 681-0040.



"Hidden Figures"

Three brilliant African-American women at NASA are key to the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race and galvanized the world.

February is Black History Month

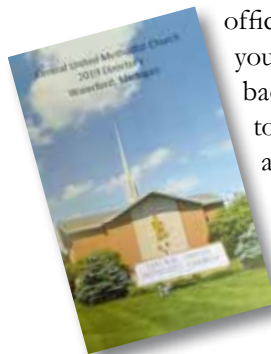
Special Music February 3rd and 10th, 10:30am Service

The music of the church is built on the shoulders of giants...Martin Luther, J.S. Bach, Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn, and so many more. But often overlooked when recounting the history of church music is the profound influence of our African, Caribbean, and Black American brethren. They suffered so much under the European expansion around the globe, and were introduced to and clung to Christianity as a way to hope for salvation in the glory land. Out of this tradition grew powerful music that speaks to all of our hopes for something more to come and comforts us in our daily lives. Join us in remembering and celebrating this tradition as various music program ensembles highlight spirituals during worship. Enjoy these works and let yourself be reminded of and comforted by the sacrifices we make for ourselves and others in order to make our home in heaven.



The New Directories are Here

If you had a photo taken or submitted a photo, your new church directory is available for pick up from the Chapel Hallway or the church office. Please note that your name is on the back, so make sure to take your copy and not someone else's. If you would like us to mail yours, please contact the office.



If you did not get a photo taken but would like a directory, we have a limited number available for \$10. Contact the office if you're interested.



February Fun and Games!

Don't let winter get you down. Join us for fellowship and fun.

Oakland County Chess Club

Sunday, February 3rd,
3-6pm
All skill levels welcome!

Super Bowl Party!

Sunday, Feb. 3rd @ 6pm

Join us for an evening of football and board games. Main dish provided; please bring a dish or snack to share. It's an all-ages party and everyone is welcome, so bring family and friends.

All Church Potluck

February 17th, Noon

We haven't had a potluck in a while, so let's get together for lunch. Bring your favorite dish to share.

Harvesters Game Day

Thursday, Feb. 21st @ Noon

Join us for lunch and an afternoon of games. Cost is \$5 for lunch. Sign up outside the office. Everyone welcome!

Memorial Giving

Thank you to everyone who has given memorial gifts in honor of beloved friends and family who have passed on. Gifts may be given during worship, via mail or online.



CREATING A CULTURE OF CALLING

Creating a Culture of Call (C3) Studies Will Begin the Week of February 10th

We are offering small group book study opportunities based on the book *The Stories We Live*. Sign up today outside the office or online at waterfordcumc.org/join-a-c3-study/ for the class that best fits your schedule.

- Sundays after worship from 11:45am–12:45pm
- Sundays from 5:45pm–7:30pm (includes dinner)
- Wednesday from 7:00pm–8:30pm
- Thursdays from 6:30pm–7:30 pm
- There will be online options for young adults/college students and snowbirds (time TBD by interested participants).
- An alternative option is *The Stories We Live* two-session retreat, which will meet on Saturday, February 23rd and Saturday, March 9th from 9am–1pm.

Three Ways to Welcome Guests to Central

“Warm and Friendly Encounters”

In a recent study of households in the neighborhoods surrounding Central,* 80% of people ranked “warm and friendly encounters” as #1 for what they expect from a church. So, what are some ways we can welcome our neighbors to Central?

“Guests” not “Visitors”

We’re changing the way we think and refer to first- or second-time attenders. Visitors are unexpected and—depending upon when they arrive—may be inconvenient. However, a “guest” is someone we’ve planned for and are anticipating. Maybe we’ve stocked their favorite food...cleaned the house...made a nice meal. You get the idea. It’s our job to not only refer to new people as “guests,” but also to plan for them and be on the lookout to welcome them when they arrive.

Meet New People

Five minutes before service starts and/or within five minutes after it ends, try to connect with someone you don’t know. If someone you don’t know comes around you, invite them into your group. Then, once you’ve met them, introduce them to someone else near you.

If you see people who appear to be unsure of where to go or what to do, offer them assistance. Help them find the coat closet; explain how the service works, how the children’s message and Sunday school work. Offer to sit with them.

Fill Out the Connection Card

These cards are how we connect with one another—prayers, changes in contact information, interests, affinities, etc. When you fill out the card you not only help us know of changes in *your* life, you also set an example for newcomers so that we can understand their needs as well.

Hospitality is the lifeblood of any church, and making new people feel welcome is everyone’s responsibility, not just clergy. Help us make Central the friendliest church in Waterford!

Do you have a hospitality “best practice” that you’ve used? Share it with us by emailing it to Robin Danek at rdanek@waterfordcumc.org.

*MissionInsite, powered by data from Experian.

Jail Ministry Easter Baskets

The Harvesters will be collecting Easter Basket items for children of prison inmates. Please put new or gently used items in the bin in the Chapel Hallway between February 17th and March 31st.

Suggested items include:

- Baskets
- Small games
- Individually wrapped candy
- Small puzzles
- Art supplies
- Play-Doh
- Books
- Small toys
- Stuffed animals
- Bubbles
- Jump ropes

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.



Online Giving

Don't carry cash? Forgot your checkbook? No worries. Now you can give online. Here's how:

From Central's website—simply click “Give” at the top of the page (just below the search bar) and you can give securely using a credit or debit card.

From the GivePlus mobile app—download the app from Google Play or the App Store, select Central UMC as your church. With just a few clicks you can make a contribution.



With either of these methods you can give securely using a credit or debit card. You can also set up recurring giving through either of these methods.



Micah 6 volunteers enjoy social time after an afternoon of washing, sanding, taping and painting walls.

Thank You

To Everyone at Central United Methodist Church

Thank you all. Our family was so honored to receive one of your Poinsettia plants. It is beautiful.

—Love,
Sam and Donna Ritchie

Thank you to the church and the members of Caring Core, Purple Threads for their cards and notes and the other things they have done for me.

—Love and Light
Charmaine (Morden)

Dear Central Church Family,

For all the cards and emails from fellow church members, for prayers from Purple Threads, and for Phyllis and the Caring Core, thank you, thank you. I am definitely on the mend now, and I know that all my friends and, of course, God, are responsible for my fast healing. A special thanks to Pastor Jack for getting up so early to be with Bill and me to pray for a successful surgery. I have always felt a special kinship with Central, and now I know why: You are my family!

—With love and gratitude,
Christy Painter