

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP (10:30am)

Fourth Sunday in Advent. Pastor Jack finishes the *Gift of the Nutcracker* series with "The Greatest Gift." Music by the Chancel Choir and YTCN Ringers.

When I was a youth, the deacon serving my home church, Rev. Carl Gladstone, encouraged me to get involved with district-level youth leadership. Carl and I would drive to the district meetings at the Krispy Kreme doughnut store each month. At the time, I loved contemporary Christian music—Toby Mac, Third Day, MercyMe. I thought their music was more sacred than anything you could find on the radio, but in Carl's car, he listened to a massive variety of music. I questioned why he wouldn't listen primarily to Christian radio. Carl replied that he enjoyed the challenge of finding God in all kinds of music, even when it wasn't apparent upon the first hearing. This conversation helped instill in me that God can be all around us—in music, art, movies, conversations, books, or media that might not seem very religious at first glance.

This year in youth group and confirmation class, I hope to share this same type of lesson with our youth. Like Trunk or Treat, our youth group has a Harry Potter theme for the year. What can a movie about wizards and magic teach us about God? We've had lessons about love, gratitude, boasting, identity, and more after connecting a movie clip to a passage from the Bible.

During our confirmation retreats, our three confirmands have also been learning about faith through art and movies. At our December retreat, we watched "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe." When I first introduced the movie, one confirmand

remarked. "Is this a Christian movie? I've seen it before and I don't remember anything about Jesus." However, after learning about the New Testament, we were able to connect some dots about how it relates to faith (the sacrifice of Aslan, the authority of Peter, the importance of children in God's kingdom.)



We also ventured to the Detroit Institute of Arts to view their religious art collection. Looking at the paintings helped us have conversations about faith. For example, we were amazed how many depictions of Madonna and Child were at the DIA. What does that say about Mary's importance in the gospels, or more so throughout time? Could it suggest the influence Catholicism has had on our religious art?

It's easy to go through life watching movies, listening to music, having conversations, and engaging in the world around us without engaging our faith. In my experience, however, going through the actions of life with a little bit of effort to find God in the midst of it can be immensely rewarding.

The Christmas story features many people who could have missed the signs that God was among them as a tiny infant. We too can miss God if we aren't looking and listening to the world around us with anticipation that God will be there. Where can you be on the watch for God this week?

Peace,

Rev. Cora

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 23rd & 30th—No Chair Yoga

Dec. 23rd, 6pm—Family Christmas

Dec. 24th, 8 & 11pm—Christmas Eve Worship Services

Dec. 25th—MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dec. 26th—No Central Cafe or Rehearsals

Dec. 31st—New Year's Eve

Jan. 1st—Office Closed; Happy New Year

Jan. 2nd—No Central Cafe or Rehearsals

Jan. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 8am—Thursday AM Fix-It Crew

Jan 4th, 6pm—Central Cinema

Jan 5th, 10:30am—Hymn Sing During Worship

Jan. 6th, 10am—Chair Yoga

Jan. 6th, 5pm—Cathedral of Valor Serving

Jan. 7th, 9:30am—Moms Connect

Jan. 7th, 7pm—Building Worship Bridges Meeting

Jan. 8th, 10am—Keller-Fitz Group

Jan. 9th—Central Cafe and Rehearsals Resume

CONNECT WITH CENTRAL

Web: waterfordcumc.org

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

Phone: (248) 681-0040

Address: 3882 Highland Rd.
Waterford MI 48328

The deadline for the Sunday, January 12th issue of *Chimes* is Tuesday, December 30th. Please send all of your articles, thank you notes and address changes to the church office or e-mail them to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org.

Why Did My Giving Envelope Number Change?

If you picked up your 2020 envelopes, you may have noticed that you have a new envelope number. In 2019 the decision was made to consolidate the envelope numbers so that we could purchase fewer envelopes. This eliminated throwing extra boxes away at the end of the year, saving the church over \$200.

Your 2020 envelopes are available for pick up in the Chapel hallway. If you don't anticipate using them, please let our bookkeeper, Sue Newill (snewill@waterfordcumc.org) know.

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to adjust our giving envelope ordering to the changing needs of Central church.



Cradle Roll

Harrison Joseph Kukuk
Born December 9, 2019

Son of Danny & Shelby Kukuk
Grandson of Margie England

—AND—

Cameron David Scafuri
Born December 1, 2019

Son of Bryan & Amy Scafuri
Grandson of Ralph & Kathy Scafuri

CONGRATULATIONS!

Christmas Services

Family Christmas

Monday, December 23rd, 6pm

An intergenerational, family-friendly "candlelight" Christmas service that is interactive and engaging.

Christmas Eve Services

**Tuesday, December 24th
8pm & 11pm**

8:00pm—Carols, Lessons & Candlelight Service. Featuring the Jubilate and Alleluia Dancers and Chancel Choir.

11:00pm—Carols & Communion Service. Featuring the Reunion Dancers and Chancel Choir.

Share the Greatest Gift Ever Given—Invite a Friend to Christmas Worship

Happy Anniversary!

In our November anniversary listing we omitted Richard and Joyce Lund, who will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on December 26th! Congratulations.



Sympathies To

The family and friends of Linda Lu Vest, who passed into eternal life on December 6th, 2019.

The family and friends of Mary Biggs, who passed into eternal life on December 9th, 2019.

Our prayers are with you.



Carols & Beer

Friday, December 20th, 7pm

It's time again for our annual holiday sing-along at Rustic Leaf Brewing Co. in Waterford. Bring friends and a dish to share with one another and other patrons.



Thank you to everyone who has given a memorial gift in honor of beloved friends and family who have passed on, including:

- Ruth Denyes
- Rev. Dr. Bill Cooper
- David Humphrey
- Sally Hon

★ ★ ★
Central Cinema
"Pick of the Litter"

190712

**Saturday, January 4th
@ 6pm**

This documentary follows five spirited Labrador Retriever puppies from the moment they're born to becoming guide dogs for the blind. Our film has been chosen especially to honor our Central Leader Dog families. Not rated.

There will be no chair yoga on Dec. 23rd & 30th. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT CENTRAL CHURCH!

Happy Birthday to Our Members Who Will Reach 80+ Years This January

- Marlene Fisher, 1/2
- Tom Laing, 1/2
- Ethel Sinclair, 1/5
- Donald Osborne, 1/9
- Marcy Dennis, 1/10
- Fran Amos, 1/12
- John Ostrander, 1/14
- Daniel Hosler, 1/14
- Shirley Tindall, 1/15
- Mary McLintock, 1/21
- Glenna Mae Cox, 1/24
- Stephanie Shawl, 1/25
- Ruby Rickard, 1/28
- Lorna Pierre, 1/31



The first annual Advent by Candlelight provided a relaxing evening for the women of the church.

The Clothe-a-Child team hard at work packing clothing for delivery to local elementary schools.



Address Changes

Please note there is new contact information for:

Lewis & Judith Bradbury
2620 N. Milford Rd
Highland, MI 48357




Central's Chancel Choir, organist and Music Director delivered yet another spectacular Christmas Cantata.



And don't miss the nutcrackers in the Sanctuary, provided by the talented Tribe of Daniel team.

JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Central Café Schedule 4:00–5:00pm Alleluia Dancers 5:00–5:45pm Good News Ringers 5:15–6:30pm Dinner served 5:30–6:00pm Carol Choir 5:45–6:25pm YTBN Bell Ringers 6:25–7:15pm Agape Ringers 6:30–7:30pm New Joy Choir & Singers 6:30–7:30pm Jubilate Dancers 7:30–9:00pm Chancel Choir	Support Groups Alcoholics Anonymous: Mon. 11am, Wed. 6pm & Fri. 7:30pm Food Addicts in Recovery: Sat. 9am Nar-Anon: Thurs. 7:30 pm Narcotics Anon: Thurs. 8pm & Sat. 7pm Lyme Disease: 2nd Tues. @ 7pm	1 	2 8am - Fix-It Crew NO CENTRAL CAFE OR REHEARSALS	3 Church Office Closed	4 6pm - Central Cinema–Pick of the Litter	
5 10:30am - Worship and Hymn Sign 5:45pm - Youth Group	6 10:30am - Chair Yoga 5pm - Cathedral of Valor Serving 7:30pm - Boy Scouts	7 9:30am - Moms Connect 7pm - Building Worship Bridges Mtg.	8 10am - Keller-Fitz 7pm - Leader Dog Training	9 8am - Fix-It Crew 4 - 9pm - Central Cafe Schedule	10 Church Office Closed 10am - Unhanging of the Greens	11
12 10:30am - Worship 11:45am - Built on the Rock Rehearsal 5:45pm - Youth Group	13 10:30am - Chair Yoga 6:30pm - Finance Committee Mtg. 7:30pm - Church Council Mtg. 7:30pm - Boy Scouts	14 7pm - Building Worship Bridges Mtg.	15 10am - Keller-Fitz 6:30pm - Girl Scouts	16 8am - Fix-It Crew 12pm - Harvesters 4 - 9pm - Central Cafe Schedule 5:30pm - C3 Class	17 Church Office Closed 6pm - Youth Group Service Weekend	18 Youth Group Service Weekend
19 10:30am - Worship 11:45am - Built on the Rock Rehearsal 3pm - Youth Group Service Weekend Ends	20 10:30am - Chair Yoga 7:30pm - Boy Scouts	21 9:30am - Moms Connect 7pm - Building Worship Bridges Mtg. 7pm - Leader Dog Training	22 10am - Keller-Fitz	23 8am - Fix-It Crew 4 - 9pm - Central Cafe Schedule 5:30pm - C3 Class	24 Church Office Closed 4pm - Men's Summit @ Judson-Collins Center	25 Men's Summit @ Judson-Collins Center
26 10:30am - Worship 11am - Men's Retreat Ends 11:45am - Built on the Rock Rehearsal 5:45pm - Youth Group	27 10:30am - Chair Yoga 7pm - SPRC Mtg. 7:30pm - Boy Scouts	28 7pm - Building Worship Bridges Mtg. 7pm - Trustees Mtg.	29 10am - Keller-Fitz	30 8am - Fix-It Crew 4 - 9pm - Central Cafe Schedule 5:30pm - C3 Class	31 Church Office Closed	