

**UPCOMING IN WORSHIP
(10:30am)**

Pastor Jack begins a new message series, *Making Change*. Music by the Chancel Choir and Good News Ringers.

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter the year 2020 I am doing what I usually do early in the year—make a plan for the year regarding goals and a vision of where I would like to be towards the end of the year. Just the name of this year inspires me toward some lofty ideas and perhaps unobtainable goals. Of course, creating goals that are realistic and measurable is necessary to reaching those goals. One thing I learned this past year is the concept of CANEI. The Rev. Dr. Nelson Searcy writes that there is great wisdom in utilizing the concept of CANEI: Constant And Never Ending Improvement. So the goal is never to increase or decrease one's ability, attribute or a certain number (weight, number of times at the gym per week, paying off debt) by 75%, 50% or even 10%. CANEI suggests trying to improve just 1% through constant and never ending efforts.

In my State of the Church report at our Annual Conference this past November, I shared some thoughts on 20/20 vision in connection with the year 2020. 20/20 vision is a term used to express normal visual acuity (the clarity or sharpness of vision) measured at a distance of 20 feet. If you have 20/100 vision, it means that you must be as close as 20 feet to see what a person with normal vision can see at 100 feet. If you have 20/20 vision you can see something clearly at 20 feet that can also normally be seen by others at 20 feet.

As we enter the year 2020, I want for us to have clarity about our mission

and ministry at Central Church. I like the idea of having 20/20 vision in the year 2020; however, I am concerned with the idea of being “normal,” as 20/20 vision suggests. In a recent conversation in our Staff Parrish Relations Committee we lamented together about the national trends in most, if not all, church denominations. Membership and worship attendance is in decline in churches across the United States. I do not want us to settle for “normal” as we enter the year 2020. I want for us to embrace the idea of CANEI; to improve consistently; to obtain measurable and realistic goals.

Here are a few goals that I believe reflect CANEI: We will have regular new member classes, welcoming new people into our church family. We will offer more programming that will welcome new people into our building and community (for example Financial Peace University). We will launch a new worship service in the fall—late September or early October.

I have some personal goals that I am developing and I encourage you to develop some ideas about how you may improve your personal life—spiritually, relationally, physically, financially, career-wise—whatever is important to you. Remember CANEI and the importance of 1%. I will close with the words of the angel Gabriel to Mary, the mother of Jesus: “For nothing will be impossible with God.” (Luke 1:37) I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

The deadline for the Sunday, January 26th issue of *Chimes* is Wednesday, January 15th. Please send all of your articles, thank you notes and address changes to the church office or e-mail them to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org.



- Jan. 9th**—Central Cafe and Rehearsals Resume
- Jan. 10th, 10am**—Un-Hanging of the Greens
- Jan. 12th, 11:45am**—Built on the Rock Rehearsals Resume
- Jan. 13th, 20th & 27th, 10am**—Chair Yoga
- Jan 13th, 6:30pm**—Finance Mtg.
- Jan 13th, 7:30pm**—Church Council Meeting
- Jan 14th, 21st & 28th 7pm**—Building Worship Bridges Mtg.
- Jan 15th, 22nd & 29th 10am**—Keller-Fitz Group
- Jan 16th, 23rd & 30th, 8am**—Thurs. AM Fix-It Crew
- Jan 16th, 12pm**—Harvesters
- Jan 16th, 23rd & 30th, 5:30pm**—C3 Class
- Jan 24th–26th**—Men's Summit
- Jan. 27th, 7pm**—SPRC Meeting
- Jan. 28th, 7pm**—Trustees Meeting

CONNECT WITH CENTRAL

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The Holidays at Central



The Harvesters have fun during their December luncheon and gift exchange.



Central's first Advent by Candlelight was well attended by the ladies of the church.



The Chancel Choir and guest musicians awed us with another spectacular choral cantata.



Rev. Cora and the kids present the Christmas Story during Family Christmas.



A contemporary take on candlelight "Silent Night" at Carols & Beer.



The congregation welcomes the Christ Child on Christmas Eve.



Happy New Year from the Staff of Central Church!



Winter/Spring Creating a Culture of Calling (C3) Study

Thursdays, 5:30pm–6:20pm
January 16–February 20

This adult and youth study is a continuation of Central's three-year initiative to help us understand God's call on our lives. The study is based on the book *The Stories We Live: Finding God's Calling All Around Us* by Kathleen A. Cahalan. Books are free from the church office. Use your Connection Card to sign up or sign up online at: **News=>Small Groups Are Forming**
For more information, contact Rev. Cora at cglass@waterfordcumc.org

2020 Men's Summit

January 24th–January 26th
Judson Collins Camp & Retreat Center

Spend a weekend relaxing with friends and growing in your faith. This year's video study is *Goliath Must Fall—Winning the Battle Against Your Giants*.

Cost is \$100 per person and scholarships are available. Sign up outside the church office or contact Myke Robson, John Pierre or Mark Strobel for more info.



Dear Central Church Family,
Thank you for all that you did for us this holiday season, including the generous staff love gift, the wonderful breakfast and all of the many treats that you provided!

-The Staff of Central Church

To the Church,

We want to thank all of you for your prayers, your words of caring and the cards of sympathy.

-Brian, Joseph & Lynn Humphrey

To Our Friends at Central United Methodist Church,

Thank you for letting us use your parking lot for our senior day trips! We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

-WSC Staff

Thank you to everyone who provided gifts for the boys at the Methodist Children's Home in Redford. Wishes for all 60 boys were fulfilled. Gift

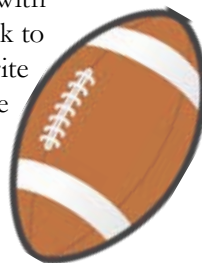
cards were also donated totaling \$1550. Those cards will be used for various programs during the year. The gift cards purchased from the SCRIP table will benefit Central, too! A double blessing. The Children's Home staff was so appreciative and delighted when we delivered the gifts knowing how excited the boys would be on Christmas morning. Central continues to be a giving and caring congregation.

-Diana Carter for the Eschtruth Circle.

Save the Date!

Super Bowl Party Sunday, February 1st, 6pm

Enjoy the big game with friends! Bring a snack to share and your favorite board game (if you're not into the football game).



The Thursday Fix-It Crew is Looking for a Few Good Fixer-uppers!

We present a simple format: These 'events' are optional—join us for either or both!

8am—Meet for breakfast at the Village Place at Cooley Lake and Elizabeth Lake Roads.

9am (or thereabouts)—arrive at church to do the fix-it jobs that we can handle. Often we're helping Jerry with something he's found or that needs an extra pair of hands.

No experience needed and no fancy abilities are expected. We just do what we can at a comfortable speed, and we're pretty loose and undemanding. That includes trying to have a good time doing whatever we actually do. We're usually done before noon.

No advance notice required; just show up and be one of the 'crew'. For more information, contact Bob Swartz at (248) 882-4301.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Un-Hanging of the Greens!

Spotlight on Ministry: Keller-Fitz Study Group

Keller-Fitz is an adult study group dedicated to continuing faith development and spiritual growth. The group studies 1-2 books during each semester. This winter's first study is based on *Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*, a timely book (published in 2019) about the different aspects of Jesus' character and what it means to be a Christian. The author, Jim Wallis, is a native Michigander, a globally respected writer, teacher, preacher and justice advocate. He is the founder, president, and editor-in-chief of *Sojourners*.

There are twelve chapters in the book, starting with Reclaiming Jesus. Jim Wallis asks specific questions, such as what it means to treat a neighbor like ourselves, how Christians should respond to the changing demographics of the United States and what should be expected of Christians in the current cultural and political environment. He then goes on to explore how we, as Christians, should respond to these questions. This year, we'll move on to other questions of fear, peacemaking and discipleship.

In this New Year, we wanted to rejoin the book in quoting Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King in a speech from 1967 titled "Where Do We Go from Here?"

“When our days become dreary with low-hoovering clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Let us realize that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

The Keller Fitz Book Group meets Wednesdays at 10am in the Parlor. If you are interest in joining Keller-Fitz, indicate your interest on your Connection Card or online at **News=>Small Groups Are Forming.**