



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, November 14th, Pastor Jack's message is "Our Mission: Connecting with Others." We will also be celebrating Founder's Day, honoring our 50-year members. Join us in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](https://www.Live.WaterfordCUMC.org).

Dear Friends,

This past Sunday I began a three-message series that revisits our Mission Statement at Central Church, which was created in 2015. From time to time our church leadership has looked over our Mission Statement and affirmed it in terms of relevance and integrity for the ministry and mission of our congregation. Now I believe it's time for our church together to consider our Mission Statement as we begin to emerge from the Covid-19 Pandemic within the next few months.

The three messages will focus on the three phrases that make up our Mission Statement: 1) Connecting with God, 2) Connecting with Others and 3) Changing our World with Christ's Love. This past All Saints' Sunday we considered what it means to connect with God. As we worshiped with those who have lost loved ones since the last time we observed All Saints' Sunday, I wanted us to consider how we connect with our loving God, who comforts us in our time of need and is present with our loved ones who are no longer by our sides. The Apostle Paul wrote that when we are absent from the body, we are present with the Lord (II Corinthians 5:8).

The scripture we focused on this past Sunday was John 15: 1-8 in which Jesus describes our connection with him as a vine with many branches. Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches." (Verse 5) The implication of Jesus' words is that we are to bear fruit for God's kingdom on earth, and we cannot do that unless we have a healthy connection with God through Jesus the Christ.

That healthy connection is created through pruning. The vine grower (God in this allegory) prunes back those vines which prevent the branches from bearing fruit. Dead vines and leaf-laden branches must be cut away to allow the energy of the vine to produce fruit. I suggested in the message that pruning involves studying the scriptures, being regular in our prayers and worshipping God both privately and with other disciples of Jesus.

Let me conclude this letter with a few questions. What are you doing to grow closer to God? What fruit do you desire to grow for God's kingdom on earth? (Hint: Read Galatians 5:16-26) What strength and guidance do you need from God in order to grow closer to God? Consider these questions and prepare to hear the next two messages as we focus on what it means to connect with others and change our world with Christ's love! I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,

-Pastor Jack

Advent Message Series and Study

Sunday, November 28 is the first Sunday of Advent and begins a new message series based on Rev. Adam Hamilton's book, *The Journey—Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. Our Advent study will

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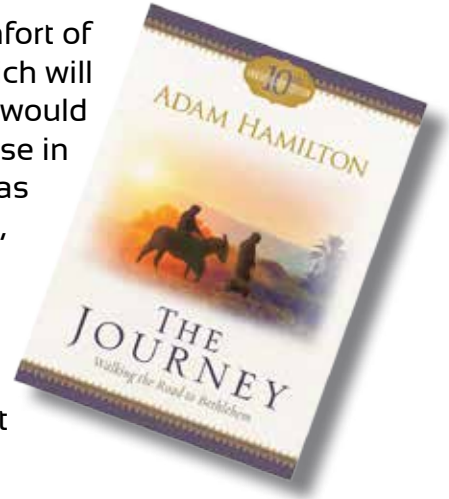
Phone: (248) 681-0040

Address: 3882 Highland Rd.
Waterford MI 48328

begin the Wednesday after, on December 1st. The final message in the series will be offered on Christmas Eve. Join us for any or all of these messages and studies:

- November 28 message – The Journey: Mary of Nazareth; Study Date, Dec. 1
- December 5 message – The Journey: Joseph of Bethlehem; Study Date, Dec. 8
- December 12 message – The Journey: Mary’s Cousin Elizabeth; Study Date, Dec. 15
- December 19 message – The Journey: Mary & Joseph’s Journey Begins; Study Date, Dec. 22
- December 24 message – The Journey: The Manger; Study Date, Dec. 29

Studies will be conducted via Zoom so that you can join from the comfort of your home. The studies will begin at 7:00pm, except December 15 which will begin at 8:15pm, following our Blue Christmas Worship Service. If you would like a copy of Adam Hamilton’s book, they will be available for purchase in the church office. Make this season of Advent and Christmas special as you join Pastor Jack on *The Journey*. For the Zoom link for the studies, contact Pastor Jack at jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org.



2022 Generosity Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge to Central’s 2022 budget. We are still collecting Generosity Cards. Please turn them in at your earliest convenience, or pledge online at bit.ly/2022-pledge.

Baby’s First Christmas

We want to again celebrate those new babies’ first Christmas this year! We will be presenting a gift to each family commemorating this milestone during worship on Sunday, November 28th. If you have a child or grandchild celebrating their first Christmas that you’d like us to recognize please let us know by filling out the form at <https://bit.ly/1st-christmas-2021> by Monday, November 22nd. If you have additional questions, please contact Rev. Cora at cglass@waterfordcumc.org.

CROP Walk Update

Thank you to all who participated in this year’s CROP walk! As of today, Waterford Central UMC has donated \$1,142 towards our walk total of \$9,342! Those funds will be shared locally and globally to reduce hunger and poverty. We’re still collecting and counting our donations made in-person and online at crophungerwalk.org/waterfordMI. Our CROP walk is looking for additional leaders to help plan and represent Central UMC in 2022. If you would like to help lead our next CROP walk, contact Rev. Cora at cglass@waterfordcumc.org.

Thank You

Thank you for your support with Project Backpack. It is extremely appreciated.

-Lori Holland

Thank you for your cards and prayers during Gary’s illness. We appreciated the visits from Pastor Jack; they were very comforting.

-Ruth Greene and Family

Dear Central Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cookie package! I was so excited to see it in my mailbox and they have been delicious. My roommate and I have been enjoying them!

-Love,
Emily (Cornish)

Dear Central Church,

Thank you for awarding me a scholarship to continue my education. This truly means a lot to me and it was a great honor. Also, thank you for the goodie bag full of treats! They were delicious.

Thanks again,

-Josh Kuhn

Opportunities to Grow and Serve

- **Believe in Baldwin.** Support neighbors by donating funds between October 24th and November 22nd for gift cards for the Baldwin Center. They will distribute the cards for families to purchase Christmas gifts. To donate, mark your check or envelop with "Baldwin Gifts."
- **Food Pantry.** Your generous donations to Central's food pantry help keep food on the tables of our neighbors! Please see the [Food Pantry Needs flier](#) for a list of requested items.
- **Shoe Drive.** Central has teamed up with Waterford Youth Assistance as a drop-off location for their Shoe Drive. You can donate gently worn, used, and new shoes now through December 3rd. A donation box is located in the chapel hallway.
- **Supply Drive for Area Refugees.** The Waterford Refugee Welcome Alliance is collecting cleaning supplies, baby food & diapers. The collection box is located outside the Chapel.

It's Poinsettia Time!

Please use the form below to order Christmas Poinsettias.



Poinsettia Order Form

As part of our Advent/Christmas celebration, we will be ordering Poinsettias to use as part of the decorations in the sanctuary. These plants will be in six-inch pots with gold wrappers. If you wish to place an order, please fill out the information below and return it to the Church Office with your payment. **(Please print your information)**



DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: **November 19, 2021** COST PER PLANT: **\$6.50**

Name of Donor(s) _____

Phone: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

I will take **after** the 11:00 p.m. service on December 24th _____ OR Please deliver to a shut-in _____

Amount enclosed: Number of plants _____ x \$6.50 = _____

If you place your order in the offering basket please make sure to mark your check or envelope "Poinsettia Order". Thank you

I am interested in delivering a Poinsettia to a shut in.

Connect with Central

Central's Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/waterfordcumc>. Find recordings of previous services, faith development videos and daily inspirations.

Central's YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/waterfordcumc/>. Find Pastor Jack's weekly devotionals, recordings of past worship services and more.

Central's Vimeo Channel - <https://www.vimeo.com/waterfordcumc/>. Find recordings of past services and music and dance recordings. Past recordings of service can be found at <https://vimeo.com/waterfordcumc/MM-DD-YY> (month, day and year of the service).

Central's Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/waterfordcumc/>. A private group that allows members to support one another with posts and inspiration.

Central's Website - <https://www.WaterfordCUMC.org>. Find recordings of sermons, upcoming events, information on events, the latest COVID re-opening plan and the online Connection Card.

Online Worship - <https://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org>.