



## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, November 28th, First Sunday of Advent and Baby's First Christmas. Pastor Jack's Message is "The Journey: Mary of Nazareth." Join us in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](http://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org).

## Dear Friends In Christ,

There are so many traditions that mark this time of year; from where families and friends meet to share meals to what you eat during those meals to traditions specific to my family and to your families. These traditions involve not just Thanksgiving and Christmas. I've observed that we have traditions beginning during Halloween and running through New Year's Day and possibly Epiphany. I shared an old tradition from our home during my message on Halloween, which occurred on a Sunday this year; Ruth and I use to bake deep-dish brownies to give to the witches, vampires, princesses and superheroes that visit us on that evening.

This past week our president pardoned a couple of turkeys. The history of this holiday photo op is unclear; however, a contemporary newspaper dispatch names Abraham Lincoln as the first president to grant a White House turkey a reprieve (his son Tad had taken a liking to the bird). John F. Kennedy did something similar in 1963, saying of one bird, "We'll just let this one grow." In 1987, Ronald Reagan was the first president to use the word "pardon" with respect to a Thanksgiving turkey. His successor, George H. W. Bush, established the annual White House pardoning-ceremony tradition. (From Domenico Montanaro, "The strange truth behind presidential turkey pardons," NPR, November 25, 2015. npr.org)

The Elf on a Shelf is among the newest of Christmas traditions, dating back only to 2005, with the publication of a children's book of that name. Packaged with the book is a small elf doll, designed to sit on a shelf in the child's bedroom. The story tells how Santa's elves are sent to observe the behavior of children in the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, reporting back to old Kris Kringle about who's been naughty and who's been nice. To the child's mind, the elf doll makes that message all too real. Sounds like the perfect Christmas tradition for our doorbell surveillance society; kind of creepy, though. Our children were too old for the Elf on a Shelf tradition and I thought that the elf figure was sort of like "Where's Waldo?" and the children were encouraged to find the elf each day.

What are the traditions that you hold near and dear to your hearts? What community traditions do you observe? What family traditions are very specific to your experience? What religious traditions do you observe? All these traditions hopefully lead to wonderful times of being together and celebrating the many blessings of the season!

Still, I have a challenge for you today. What new traditions might you want to begin? What practices would lead you to a greater appreciation of your family, your faith and our community? Traditions, by their very nature, are often viewed as old-fashioned and dated. But traditions are also meaningful in enhancing our lives and relationships. How might you honor the past and celebrate the present as a variety of traditions swirl around us, ushering in this wonder-filled and meaningful time of year? Anticipate blessings as we continue through this time of year. I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,

*-Pastor Jack*

## Advent Faith Growth Opportunities

### Advent Message Study

Wednesdays, 7–8:30pm

Sunday begins a new message series based on Rev. Adam Hamilton's book, *The Journey—Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. An Advent study based on this message series will begin the Wednesday after, on December 1st. The final message in the series will be offered on Christmas Eve, with the final study following on Wednesday, December 29th. Join us for any or all of these messages and studies. Studies will be conducted via Zoom so that you can join from the comfort of your home. Please contact Pastor Jack at [jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org).

### The Advent Experience

December 5, 2021, 3–4:30pm

This year, the women of Central UMC are leading an Advent Experience with some new twists:

- The event is in the afternoon to allow for more participation
- Childcare will be available, so plan to come and enjoy some time reflecting on the Advent season
- The event will be a takeoff of *The View*—we're calling it *The New View*—holding a panel discussion on Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.
- Our charitable partner this year is The Art Experience, a community art studio in Pontiac that supports the arts, as well as provides an art therapy studio.
- There will be an opportunity to support The Art Experience by purchasing items their clients have created.

While we aren't planning to have hostess tables due to COVID, there will be an opportunity to chat in the Narthex after the program. Please plan to attend and invite a friend!

### Advent Study: Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas

December 9th & 16th, 6:30–7:30pm

A time of stillness, reflection on an Advent hymn, and prayer as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. People of all ages can join us to use these spiritual practices! Come for one or both sessions. Contact Rev. Cora ([cglass@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:cglass@waterfordcumc.org)) for more details.

### Advent and Christmas Giving Opportunities

- **Clothe-A-Child.** Central is on track to clothe 250 children in the Waterford School District this year. The Clothe-A-Child program wouldn't be possible if not for the ongoing generous donations of our congregation. If you would like to make a



### Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 27th,  
9:00am

Help transform the church for Christmas. Please sign up outside the church office.



### Holiday Music

#### Jackson Chorale Concert

Saturday, December 11th, 7:00pm

A free evening of Christmas music with the Jackson Chorale. Visit [www.jacksonchorale.org](http://www.jacksonchorale.org) for more information.

#### Tuesday Musicale Concert

Tuesday, December 14th, 7:30pm

A free holiday concert by the Tuesday Musicale Chorus and Adele Thomas Bell Ensemble.

#### Carols & Beer

Friday, December 17th, 7:00pm

Enjoy a festive Christmas carol sing-along at Rustic Leaf Brewing company in Waterford.

### CONNECT WITH CENTRAL

Website: [waterfordcumc.org](http://waterfordcumc.org)

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

YouTube: [waterfordcumc](https://www.youtube.com/waterfordcumc)

Vimeo: [waterfordcumc](https://vimeo.com/waterfordcumc)

Email: [info@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:info@waterfordcumc.org)

Phone: (248) 681-0040

Address: 3882 Highland Rd.  
Waterford MI 48328

donation to the Clothe-A-Child program please make checks out to CUMC with "CAC" on the memo line.

- **Food Pantry Reverse Advent Challenge.** Pick up a calendar and collect one item each day in December, then donate them in January to Central's Food Pantry.
- **Compassionate Christmas Cards.** Purchase Christmas cards through **Sunday, December 19th** for a \$5 per card donation. Donations will go to the Central mission(s) of your choosing. Cards can be purchased in the Chapel hallway or from the church office.
- **Jail Outreach Ministry.** This year Central will collect rolls or sheets of "Forever" stamps for the families of prisoners. Please drop donations of stamps off in the church office by **December 12th.**
- **Christmas Wishes for Methodist Children's Home.** Once again Central will be donating Scrip gift cards so the Cottage parents can purchase gifts. Please give in denominations of \$25 at the Scrip table on Sundays, or drop off or mail a donation to the office by **November 28th.**
- **Hats and Mittens/Gloves.** Donate a matched set of a hat + mittens/gloves after December 1st and through the cold months to go to Waterford School children through the Clothe-a-Child program (please no scarves).
- **Clothing Drive for Refugee Families.** During December the Waterford Refugee Welcome Alliance is collecting new and clean, gently used winter clothing for area refugees. Coats, hats, gloves, scarves and mittens are all welcome. Place donations in the box outside the Chapel.

## Scrip News for the Holidays

It's hard to believe that the holidays are fast approaching! CUMC can help you shop for loved ones, teachers, mail and delivery people, health care workers, service workers or anyone else on your list (special low denomination cards are available). We participate in a Scrip program through which you purchase retailer gift cards from us. The retailer donates a percentage (determined by them) of your purchase to Central (you get the full value of the gift card). This is a win-win for you and the church.

Many of you have probably experienced delivery delays of goods due to supply chain interruption. Gift cards from our Scrip program will avoid those headaches. Over 700 retailers participate in the Scrip program; our Scrip form lists some of the more common cards that we routinely order for members and friends. There is an alphabetical list of all participating retailers at the Scrip table.

You may also want to support Christmas fundraising for the Methodist Children's Home. Call Deb Hayden-Schmid at 248-705-8546 or Rainy Stephenson at 248-202-8243 for more details. For a Scrip order form, visit [waterfordcumc.org/forms/](http://waterfordcumc.org/forms/).

## Knit for Kids Update

Thanks to our Central knitters, we have shipped a total of 84 sweaters, 81 baby caps, 7 baby blankets 148 kids hats and 100 pairs of mittens just this year! This makes a grand total of 1627 sweaters, 990 baby caps, 97 baby blankets, 447 kids' hats and 235 pairs of mittens since the project began in 2005! We ship the items to World Vision and they send them all around the world, most recently to Afghanistan, Armenia, Chicago Storehouse, Lesotho, Malawi, Pacific Northwest Storehouse, Somalia, Swaziland and Zambia. We received a thank you note expressing their great appreciation for the "beautiful handmade items and all the love and effort that went into making them".

If you wish to participate, the knit and crochet patterns are available on a table near the Brides' Room beyond the Narthex or contact me and I will email or mail them to you. Free yarn is also available under the table. Full skein yarn donations are also appreciated.

We count on monetary donations to cover the shipping costs. One way you can help is to purchase Compassionate Christmas cards, which are available each Sunday and in the office during the week. Or you may include a donation with your offering and indicate it is for Knit for Kids. Thank you for your support with this project.

-Diana Carter (dianacarter@comcast.net, 248-309-2490)

## Sympathies To

- **Tammy Booker and family** on the passing of her brother Harry Booker on November 12th, 2021.
- **Gay Crump and Ladessia Franklin and families** on the passing of Gay's sister and Ladessia's aunt, Bettie Zink.
- **Lori Bradbury-Schwartz and family** on the passing of her mother, Judith Bradbury on November 17th, 2021. Judith was a former staff member at Central Church.

Our prayers are with the families of these Saints who have passed on to eternal life with the Lord.

## Phone Number Change

There is a new phone number for Jeff Murphy. He can be reached at 248-785-7415.

## 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>.