



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, December 12th, Third Sunday of Advent. Rev. Cora continues *The Journey* Message series with "The Journey: Mary's Cousin Elizabeth." Join us in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org.

Dear Friends In Christ,

It has been a difficult week. The gun violence at Oxford High School about seventeen miles to our northeast has not only shocked the members of that "close-knit community" but the surrounding area as well. Our own Waterford Schools as well as other school districts in the area have closed their buildings as well. There have been threats aimed against some of these schools.

I became very emotional this past Sunday as I explained that I had been the Pastor of Oxford United Methodist Church for ten years, 1992-2002. Oxford is our children's "first home town" in a very significant way; the first community they remember living in. If my ministry is 40 years long, then a quarter of that my ministry will have happened in Oxford. That's a significant portion of my time in ministry. I spoke to a few friends from Oxford and with voices breaking with sorrow they shared with me what was being done by various faith communities to meet the needs of the community at large. One of the students shot, hospitalized and thankfully now released is the daughter of a member of our youth fellowship at Oxford UMC while I was there.

On Tuesday as the events of this senseless violence unfolded, I was texted by one of our youth who was concerned and wanted to make sure Oxford is in our prayers. I told her that I had been a pastor in Oxford for ten years and she was very compassionate in asking how I was doing. Little did we know that her school would be closed until after Monday, December 6.

During our prayer time this past Sunday, I said we need to be more than pray-ers, we also need to be say-ers. We need to offer a bold witness and speak out against violence while at the same time support our young people to learn how to appropriately deal with negative experiences and responses to it. I said something that I'm sure is an exaggeration as I was inviting us to lift up the Oxford Community in prayer: I said it is easier to get a gun in this country than it is to get a dog at the pound.

Following the service, I had a few people say they are ready to do something about gun violence in school. One person texted me, "I'll do my part to stop the violence. Just let us know where and when." I thought I need to study this issue but then with all the studies out there and all the programs put in place, there is still gun violence happening from time to time in our schools.

What I have are questions. Just how easy is it to get a handgun in America? It is my assumption that handguns are the problem and not rifles—is that true? Is there a curriculum in schools about mental health and appropriate, non-violent ways of expressing ourselves? How do bullying and marginalization of students contribute to violence in schools? How do we support families in making their children feel safe and cared for? How can communities of faith help families and communities in understanding the dynamics of violence in our society?



Please keep the families of the victims and the entire community of Oxford in your prayers.

These questions are my contribution to beginning conversations to address the issue of violence and gun violence in particular. Who will help me answer some of these questions and who will help me discover other questions?

As we celebrate the birth of our Prince of Peace, I invite you to have conversations with me and each other. What organization do we need to create or what organization do we need to join in asking questions and discerning answers? Please join me in this journey toward peace and understanding in our world. I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,

-Pastor Jack

Advent Faith Growth Opportunities

Advent Message Study

Wednesdays, 7–8:30pm

Our Advent message series is based on Rev. Adam Hamilton's book, *The Journey—Walking the Road to Bethlehem*. The Advent study based on this message series will continue through Christmas Eve, with the final study following on Wednesday, December 29th. Join us for any or all of these studies, conducted via Zoom so that you can join from the comfort of your home. For the Zoom link, please contact Pastor Jack at jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org.

Thursday Evening Advent Study

December 9th & 16th, 6:30–7:30pm

Join Rev. Cora in the church parlor for a time of preparation for Christmas. Each session will include times for prayer, reflection, music, and silence based on Kate Bowler's Advent Reflections, "The Season of Almost." Each session stands on its own, so come for one or both evenings. Contact Rev. Cora (cglass@waterfordcumc.org) for more details.

The Advent Experience

If you were unable to attend The Advent Experience on December 5th, you can view the livestream recording at <https://vimeo.com/waterfordcumc/advent-experience>. Share it with a friend.

Have Someone On Your List Who Is Hard to Buy For?

Consider sending a child to school for a year!

Did you know that a donation of \$300 will send a student to the C. W. Duncan School in Liberia for an entire year? This Christmas, give a gift that will change a life. Waterford Central UMC provides

Holiday Music

Jackson Chorale Concert

Saturday, December 11th, 7:00pm

A free evening of Christmas music with the Jackson Chorale. Masks are required.

Tuesday Musicale Concert

Tuesday, December 14th, 7:30pm

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

Carols & Beer

Friday, December 17th, 4:30pm at Rustic Leaf Brewery in Waterford

Due to a scheduling conflict, we are changing the time for this event. Join us for Happy Hour!



Thank you for 34 units of life-saving blood collected during our most recent blood drive.

CONNECT WITH CENTRAL

Website: 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

Phone: (248) 681-0040

Address: 3882 Highland Rd.
Waterford MI 48328

scholarships for 12 boys and 12 girls annually. These scholarships cover the cost of tuition, books, fees, supplies, and uniforms for each student. So this year consider making a difference by donating in honor of a loved one. Mark your donations "C. W. Duncan Scholarship." Cards are available in the church office to give your honoree on Christmas morning.

Smaller donations (\$5 and up) can also be made thorough Central's Compassionate Christmas Card program. Donations of \$50 and over will be matched.

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 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.**
- **Hats and Mittens/Gloves.** Donate a matched set of a hat + mittens/gloves throughout 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.

Youth Group Bake Sale

Central's Youth Group will sell holiday cookies on Sunday, December 12th before and after worship. Proceeds will support the Oxford Community Memorial and Victims Fund established by Oxford Bank, Oxford Community Schools, and the Oxford DDA (<https://www.oxfordbank.com/donations>). The Village of Oxford and the Oxford DDA will administer all funds in partnership with Oxford Community Schools. Donations will go to families and victims first, then a memorial. Please come grab a sweet treat and share a donation for the community of Oxford.

Youth interested in participating in our baking night on Saturday, December 11th should contact Rev. Cora at cglass@waterfordcumc.org.

Elementary Advent Packages

This week Rev. Cora delivered advent packages to nine Central Church families. Packages included *Twas the Season of Advent: Devotions and Stories for the Christmas Season* by Author Glenys Nellist and illustrations by Elena Selivanova. Nellist attends Dearborn First UMC where her husband is the Lead Pastor. This

2021 Memorials

Thank you to those who have given in memory of:

John Pagen; Mary Wilhoite; Vivian Eddy; Sue Pearsall; Dan Aldrich; Charles Steeber (Food Pantry); Debra Shear; Louise Fortier; Dan Hosler; Jared Behmlander; Annabelle Closson; Jay Young; James Schilb; Eric Gay; Gary Greene (Memorial Garden); Judy and Lewis Bradbury.



beautiful book and accompanying activity packet is a great resource for elementary-aged families in this season of preparation. If your elementary family was overlooked or you are interested in a copy, Rev. Cora would love to hear from you. Advent devotional resources for individuals and families of all ages are also available on the table outside the chapel.

Congratulations to Our Baby's First Christmas Children

On November 28th we were blessed to recognize four children who are new to our Central family: Noah Lockhart, Amelia Habba, Aidyn Stepp and Cameron David Scafuri (born December 1, 2019).

Offering Envelopes are Available

They are located on a table in the Narthex. Please note that some assigned numbers have been changed for 2022 and may not be the same as they have been in the past. Thank you for your generosity.

Address Change

There is a new address for Nancy Simoni; 4427 Westover Dr., West Bloomfield, MI 48323.

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>.



A special thank you to John Deszell for creating our commemorative "Baby's First" ornaments.