



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, December 26th,
Pastor Jack's message is
"Working Out in the New
Year." Join us in person or
online at:
Live.WaterfordCUMC.org.

Dear Friends,

As a holy day and a holiday, Christmas is an amalgam of the traditions of a half-dozen cultures, accumulated over centuries. The idea to celebrate the Nativity on December 25 was first suggested in the fourth century in the hope of eclipsing the December 25 festivities of a rival religion that threatened the existence of Christianity. The celebration of Christmas took permanent hold in the Western world in 337, when the Roman emperor Constantine was baptized, uniting for the first time the emperorship and the Church. Christianity became the official state religion, and in A.D. 354, Bishop Liberius of Rome reiterated the importance of celebrating not only Christ's death but also his birth. (Source: Charles Panati, *Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things*, Copyright 1987, Page 67-68.)

Many customs have arisen from the celebration of Christmas. The celebration of Advent, whether with wreaths in church or calendars at home, is among these customs. On the one hand, it's one of the major seasons celebrated by most Christian churches in the Western tradition: Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Episcopalians, Lutherans, and many additional Protestant churches mark the roughly month-long period with special observance. Advent has become a period of preparation for Christmas. It has also become the inspiration for elongating the season and festivities to include gift-giving, thought to be inspired by the gifts the Magi brought to Jesus after his birth.

The 12 days of Christmas is the period in Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December 25 (Christmas) and runs through January 6 (the Epiphany, sometimes also called Three Kings' Day). The four weeks preceding Christmas are collectively known as Advent, which begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on December 24.

Over the years, I have been absolutely startled as the abruptness of the Christmas Season ending on midnight, December 25. But Christmas is a season just like Eastertide. Often I have declared that we, as followers of Christ are "Easter People." I've been thinking about what it would mean to compliment that proclamation with the similar "We are Christmas People!"

To say we are "Christmas People" is to say that we are generous

Christmas Worship

Family Christmas

**Thursday, December
23rd, 4:00pm**

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

Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, December 24th

**8:00pm—Carols &
Candlelight**

**11:00pm—Carols &
Communion**

All worship services are
in person and online at:

Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Please note that Christmas
Eve worship will NOT be live
streamed to Facebook.

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

as our loving God, blessed as the Holy Family, and humbled and lifted up as the Shepherds and Magi. As Easter People, we look to life eternal; perhaps as Christmas People we look to life abundant. I want to thank you, my Waterford Central Church Family for your generosity to our church and to our staff. Even though the past couple years have been difficult, we are still doing the work of God here in Waterford and around the world. Your tithes and offerings make our ministry and mission possible. Your generous giving to our Staff Love Offering is also appreciated as a sign of approval of the good work our staff is doing—especially through the Covid-19 Pandemic. I believe I am not in error in interpreting your generosity in these ways. May God bless us as we approach the celebration of God's entry into human history through the Christ Child! I look forward to seeing you in worship! Hope, Love, Joy and Peace to you all!!

Because of Christ,

-Pastor Jack

Thursday Night Study Returns in January with *Courage*

Thursdays, January 13th–February 17th, 6:30-7:30pm

Join Rev. Cora in the parlor for our next study, *Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith*. In *Courage*, pastor and author Tom Berlin challenges us to unlock the courage that we already possess as Christ-followers. By examining the life of Christ, we will begin to understand what true courage is and how God works in the lives of Christ-followers as they exhibit a brave faith. Once we have eyes to see and ears to hear what Jesus is showing us, we can begin to find the remarkable life Jesus offers us. This six-session study is based on Berlin's book, which will be on sale for \$10 in the church office in January.

Pastor Jack's Message Study Continues

Wednesdays, 7:00–8:30pm

Join Pastor Jack for a weekly deep dive into the previous Sunday's message. We'll look at the scripture, review key points of the message and discuss how it applies to our lives as followers of Christ. There are two more studies (December 22 and 29) for the Advent Series, *The Journey* and then we begin a new series in January on prayer. Currently, there is a group of about seven people who would love for our numbers to expand to talk about the impact our worship service, especially the scripture and message, has on our lives.

Join us for any or all of these studies, conducted via Zoom so that you can join from the comfort of your home. For more info, please fill out the Connection Card on Sunday morning (available in-person and [online](#)) or contact the church office to get on the weekly mailing list for the Zoom link.



**From your friends at Waterford
Central UMC**



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.

Opportunities to Grow and Serve

- **Christmas Offering.** 20% of this year's offering will be tithed to local missions The Baldwin Center and Jail Outreach Ministry.
- **Clothe-A-Child.** Central provided clothing to 250 children in the Waterford School District this year. 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.
- **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.

January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Our Members Who are Turning 80+:

- Tom Laing – 1/2
- Ethel Sinclair – 1/5
- Don Osborne – 1/9
- Lois Banick – 1/12
- Fran Amos – 1/12
- John Ostrander – 1/14
- Shirley Tindall – 1/15
- Mary McLintock – 1/21
- Charlotte Keller – 1/21
- Mary Jane Jewell – 1/21
- Glenna Mae Cox – 1/24
- Stephanie Shawl – 1/25
- Ruby Rickard – 1/28
- Lorna Pierre – 1/31

Sympathies

Condolences to Diana and Don Carter on the death on December 15th of Diana's sister, Cynthia Hockins. Our prayers are with the family and friends.

Our condolences also to Central staff member Sue Newill on the death on December 15th of her mother, Joyce Turner. Our prayers are with Sue and her family.

Thank You

From Caring Core

The members of the Caring Core would like to thank everyone for the cards and notes of appreciation you have sent to us. We are glad that our prayers and calls have been helping you through difficult times.

The Methodist Children's Home

A special thank you to everyone who contributed towards the gift cards for the 47 boys at The Methodist Children's Home in Redford. Don and Diana Carter delivered the \$2,200 in Amazon gift cards to the home last Friday. The staff was delighted and mentioned they would be able to fill many of the boys' Christmas wishes and other needs they may have this coming year. Once again

the Central Church family has been very generous! Thank you for helping to make Christmas a special time for the boys.

Life Line Screening

Thank you for opening your doors for our community health screening in your area. It is because of your generosity that Life Line Screening is able to bring these health screenings into your community and for that, we are very appreciative.

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>.

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 27th, and Monday, January 3rd in observance of the holidays.