



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 9th, Pastor Jack's continues our *Praying for Change* message series with "Break Me, Oh God." Join us in person or online at: [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](https://www.Live.WaterfordCUMC.org).

Dear Friends,

This past Sunday we embarked on a three-part series of messages on prayer. This idea came from the thought that our prayers are fairly safe—I won't go as far to say that our prayers are benign—but they are safe. We pray for God's healing for those who are sick, we pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones, we pray for those who have experienced natural disasters and for those who have experienced cruelty and violence from others. We pray for God to keep us safe, to protect us and to bless us; and to be sure these intercessory prayers are important, with the assurance that God hears and answers our prayers.

My desire for this series of messages to be about prayers that are different, prayers that are risky. How can we live boldly for God's purposes if our prayers aren't bold? And so I want to focus on three prayers that can be summed up in two words each: search me, break me and send me. These bold prayers allow us to deepen our relationship with God and others, as we seek God's will and direction for our mission and ministry.

I haven't always been a fan of New Year's resolutions; however, this year I'm setting some goals for my personal life, my ministry and the ministry and mission of Central Church. For about three years now, I've maintained a 25-30 pound weight loss, but my doctor would like to see me lose more and I'm in the mindset to accomplish that; my motivation is to avoid cholesterol medication. I'm setting goals to accomplish my work well in advance so that the staff can do their work effectively and efficiently without stress. I also want to work on the four initiatives our church set last January: 1) Engaging with Remote Worshipers, 2) Creating a Congregational Care System, 3) Improving and Expanding our Hunger Ministries and 4) Addressing the Issue of Including LGBTQ+ Persons in our Church and Ministry. With the help of some laity, I want to explore a new structure for Central Church, one that will allow us to be more nimble, accountable and missional. This means that we will be structured to better meet the ever-changing needs of our community.

What do your goals for 2022 look like? I'm going to push you a bit—if you haven't made some goals for 2022, why not? I have found it very easy to just utter one word in the last couple of years as an excuse for not getting some things done. That word is "Covid." The fact is, life has changed and we need to pivot to meet the changes and challenges of this pandemic era. While God's call upon our lives and church can be very specific, we all are ushered the invitation to care for others and seek what is beneficial for all in our communities.

Whatever your goals or resolutions, I want to invite you to begin with prayer; prayers that are bold, prayers that will open us up to God's leading in 2022 and beyond. I look forward to worshipping with you in 2022!

Because of Christ,

-Pastor Jack

CONNECT WITH CENTRAL

Website: [waterfordcumc.org](https://www.waterfordcumc.org)

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

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

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

Email: info@waterfordcumc.org

Phone: (248) 681-0040

Address: 3882 Highland Rd.
Waterford MI 48328

Men's Summit Fast Approaching

January 28th–30th, Skyline Camp

The theme for this year's Men's Summit is from Pastor Craig Groeschel's book, *Fight—Winning the Battles that Matter Most*. The Summit will be from Friday evening to Sunday morning. The cost is \$120 which includes lodging for two nights and four meals. We generally meet at the Camp (Skyline Camp; 5650 Sandhill Road; Almont, MI 48003) and then go out to dinner as a group at a local restaurant. In addition to the video-based program, there will be plenty of time for games, movies and great fellowship. Join us and experience this year's Men's Summit! Sign up outside the church office.

Rev. Cora's Thursday Night Study Returns next week with *Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith*

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

In his book, 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 is on sale for \$10 in the church office.

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. 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.

Thank You

Thank You for the Generous Love Gift

We are privileged to be part of the Central family and very much enjoy working with all of you to bring the love of Christ into the Waterford community.

-The Staff of Central Church

From Phyllis Liming

Thank you to all who prayed for me and sent cards while I recovered from the stroke. God still has

Central Cinema

Saturday, January 8th,
6:00pm

Yesterday

A struggling singer-songwriter wakes up after a freak blackout to discover that The Beatles have never existed. Performing songs by the greatest band in history to a world that has never heard them, Jack becomes an overnight sensation.

Bring a friend and a snack to share.

Un-Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, January
8th, 9:00am -
12:30pm

Please join us as we take down the Christmas decorations.

work for me, what about you?

-God bless you, love Phyllis

Pastor Jack and Mom's CUMC Family,

What a wonderful service—I know mom loved it! You all meant the world to mom and gave her much peace, comfort and purpose over her more than six decades of membership. We are all eternally grateful for your expressions of sympathy now, and caring over the years.

-The Family of Barbara Heichel

Dear CUMC Family,

Thank you for the beautiful sympathy cards and kind words on the loss of my mother. I'm lucky to have the support of so many people here at CUMC. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated during this very sad time. I hope 2022 will bring health and happiness to each of you!

-Fondly, Sue Newill

Thank You For Sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive,

We had a great day. Everything went smoothly and we enjoyed having this nice big room. Thank you for having us. Merry Christmas.

-Heather Lee, American Red Cross

Dear CUMC,

Thank you all for your love and support to provide clothes to our families this year (through Clothe-a-Child). Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Donelson Hills Elementary School

Greetings Everyone:

I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and enjoyed this special time with friends and family. As the year is closing down I wanted to thank each and every one of you for all of the time you have given to the Blessings in a Backpack program. Without you, this program would not be successful and we would not be helping so many children. Collectively, we will be providing close to one million weekend meals this school year. You are a blessing to your community.

-Cheryl Whitton, Blessings in a Backpack-MI

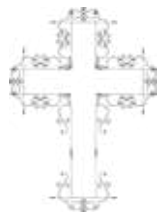


Born to Eternal Life

Marie Wilson

October 3, 1935–December 22, 2021

Member Since November 19, 1991



Our prayers are with Marie's family and friends.

Sympathies

Our condolences to Phyllis Liming on the death on December 26th of her sister, Marjorie Hicks. Our prayers are with Phyllis and the family and friends of Marjorie.

Address Changes

Glenna Mae Cox has a new address and phone number: 8534 Harbortown Circle, Clarkston, MI 48348, 248-707-6027.

Nancy Radenbaugh is now at Lourdes. Her new address is: Clausen Manor 2400 Watkins Lake Rd, Apt 18, Waterford, MI 48328. Please note that John is still at 9110 Sandy Ridge, White Lake, MI 48386.

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 services 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 deadline for articles for the next bi-monthly *Chimes* is Thursday, January 13th. The deadline for our next bi-monthly email-only newsletter is Thursday, January 6th.