



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 23rd, Pastor Jack's message is "Soul Soil." Worship is online until further notice (no in-person worship).

Please join us at:
Live.WaterfordCUMC.org.

Dear Friends,

I have mentioned in recent messages that the United Methodist Church is moving toward a split. I guess I could call it a schism, but this division has been planned for some time, and our denominational leadership is expecting the split to happen in the fall of this year. The crux of this division centers on the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons in our church and ministry. This is an issue that has been debated my entire ministry—nearly 38 years. I do not live with the delusion that this split will end the debate in the near future; rather I hope and pray that we can move on to become known as a church that is loving, kind and accepting of all who are created in God's image—and all means all. I have, on several occasions, expressed my belief that we should be inclusive of all people who proclaim their belief in God and center that belief through the life, ministry and redemption offered through Jesus the Christ.

So that our church will be fully informed on this issue I will offer four Wednesday evening sessions based on a book by Steve Harper, a retired United Methodist elder in the Florida Annual Conference. He also taught seminary classes in spiritual formation and Wesley Studies for thirty-two years. The name of his book is *Holy Love—A Biblical Theology for Human Sexuality* and was published in 2019. I've known of a few other United Methodist churches that have used this resource for speaking openly and honestly about the issue of LGBTQ+ inclusion.

The Biblical perspective that Harper offers is in line with my thinking that scripture is still the foundational source for our faith and life together. He addresses what is commonly known as the "clobber passages" in our scriptures that appear to denounce homosexuality and other sexual preferences. He honors marriage, love and sexuality in this very readable book.

These sessions will be held via Zoom on Wednesday nights in February (2, 9, 16 and 23) beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending at 8:30 p.m. Contact me directly (jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org) or call the church office at 248-681-0040 to get on the list to receive the email prior to each session. We are in the process of ordering the book and making it available to our members and friends. It is also available on Kindle for \$8.35.

If you are not able to meet on Wednesday evenings, I am open to suggestions on when to offer another alternative. I am planning to offer a second series of sessions when we are able to come back to in-person worship, most likely on Sunday morning before or after worship. I will also be exploring having in-person sessions during the summer.

Let's be informed about what is happening in the United Methodist denomination and explore the possibilities for our future. I look forward to being "with you" in worship.

Because of Christ,

-Pastor Jack

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

Men's Summit Canceled

It is with sadness that we believe it best and safest to once again cancel this year's Men's Summit. We do have a date for next year's summit—the weekend of February 3-5, 2023. We will save the resources from this year's gathering to use next year. We also hope to have a men's gathering this spring to keep us connected—it's simply too long to go another whole year without a gathering. We will keep you posted for that event.

Holy Love—A Biblical Theology for Human Sexuality

Wednesdays in February, 7–8:30pm via Zoom

As mentioned in his letter, Pastor Jack is offering four sessions on Wednesday evenings in February to discuss LGBTQ+ inclusion in the United Methodist church denomination and at Central United Methodist Church. The book, *Holy Love—A Biblical Theology for Human Sexuality*, will provide the basis for these conversations. The book will be available in our church office by the end of this week. Our first session will be February 2, and an email will go out on January 31 to those who express an interest in these Zoom sessions. That pattern of Zoom links going out on Monday for the Wednesday session will follow throughout February. Come and join Pastor Jack in a discussion of Holy Love.

Please Update Your Online Giving App by January 31st

If you give online through the GivePlus App, please be aware that Vanco (the app developer) is retiring that app on January 31st, 2022 and moving to a new app. Before that date, please download and install the new app. To get it, go to Google Play (Android) or the App Store (Apple) and search for "Vanco Mobile." Download the app called "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement." If you have been giving through GivePlus you will already have an account, although you will have to login and re-select "Central United Methodist Church." There are a few churches named "Central United Methodist Church," so make sure to select the one at 3882 Highland Rd in Waterford. If you can't remember your password use the password reset option to change it. You can continue to give online at Central's website and through text-to-give. If you have questions or are having issues, please contact Robin Danek (rdanek@waterfordcumc.org). If you are new to mobile giving, watch this short video at vimeo.com/waterfordcumc/vanco-mobile.

Let's Get Floored Campaign Update

It's tax time and if you haven't had a chance to contribute to the Let's Get Floored capital campaign, consider donating a portion of your tax refund. To date, we have received 47 pledges for a total of \$20,320—we're less than \$5,000 away from achieving our goal! Thank you to everyone for your generosity to the Let's Get Floored capital campaign.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Our Members Who are Turning 80+:

- Janice Caldwell – 2/6
- Marshall Rice – 2/10
- Joyce Clarkson – 2/12
- Dawn Davis – 2/25
- Phyllis Liming – 2/25

And Happy 50+ Year Anniversary to:

- Russell & Barbara Jacobson – 2/12, 67 yrs.
- Larry & Doris Quick – 2/25, 61 yrs.

Thank You

Thank you to our congregation for your support. The following items were collected and distributed in December 2021 for the Waterford Refugee Welcome Alliance: 23 coats, 3 pairs of boots, 14 hats/caps, 38 sets of mittens/gloves, 19 scarves, and 42 training pants. We will continue to collect new and gently used winter coats, hats, gloves, etc. through February.

-Larry Speice

We wish to express our appreciation for the cards, messages, emails and phone calls showing your concern and support these past few months for us, my sister Cynthia Hockins, and her family, during her illness and passing. Having the support of our church family has meant so much and was greatly appreciated during this very difficult time.

-Diana & Don Carter, David Carter, Andrea & Hayden Baxter

Ed and Rosalie Snell would like to thank the congregation for the poinsettia they received at Christmas time.

Dear Friends at Waterford Central UMC,

Thank you for your donation of Amazon Gift Cards. Your kindness and generosity allows the children and families we serve to rewrite their stories. Because of your support, our team of essential heroes does life-changing work caring for those child victims of abuse and neglect, and working to prevent abuse and neglect in our local communities. You help us do work that keeps families together, creates forever families, creates a healing environment for children and adults, and so much more. We continue to look ahead to brighter futures, and we know that's made possible with the honor of having you in our corner. On behalf of our youth, families, board and staff, we thank you.

All my best,

-Kevin Roach, Chief Executive Officer
Methodist Children's Home Society

Dear CUMC,

On behalf of Waterford Youth Assistance (WYA), I would like to thank you for being a collection site sponsor for our annual shoe drive fundraiser. We surpassed our goal and collected 1,225 pairs of shoes beyond our goal! We appreciate your support of Waterford Youth Assistance, for without your support we would not have made our goal and would not be able to help these at-risk kids and their families.

Sincerely,

-Stacy Williams
Waterford Youth Assistance Case Worker

Dear Cora (Central UMC),

Thank you for already making an impact with your congregation's gift. As the Executive Director of The Art Experience, I would like to personally thank you for making our work possible. Your kindness supports our inclusive community art and art therapy studio's mission to improve lives through the arts.

The Art Experience has provided affordable access to quality art experiences for those of all ages and abilities

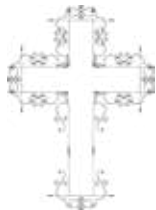


Students of The Art Experience display their work. The Art Experience was Central's designated non-profit for donations made during The Advent Experience.

for 25 years. The challenges of the past two years have helped society understand the importance of mental health and wellness, and because of your generosity, we are able to increase our ability to provide affordable access to our mental health services. Your gift was part of a crowdfunding challenge that raised more than our goal of \$3000. Additionally, because of our placement among other participating organizations, it enabled us to unlock an additional \$2500 gift for a total of \$5761.

With deep gratitude,

-Audra Pieknik
Executive Director, The Art Experience



Born to Eternal Life



Doris Hays

August 25, 1925–January 7, 2022

Member Since March 31, 1968

Our prayers are with Doris' family and friends.

Marcia Swartz

September 14, 1946–January 8, 2022

Member Since May 10, 1987

Our prayers are with her husband Bob, sons Matthew and David and her many family and friends.

Sympathies

Our condolences to Tim and Linda Taylor on the death on January 7th of his brother, Andy Taylor. Our prayers are with the Taylors and the family and friends of Andy.

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 27th. The deadline for our next bi-monthly email-only newsletter is Thursday, January 20th.