



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, February 20th, Pastor Jack continues our *For the Love of God* message series with *Physical Touch and Gifts*. In-person worship resumes, or worship online at: Live.WaterfordCUMC.org.

Dear Friends,

Depending on whom you ask, and if only for a moment, all is well with the world. Former Detroit Lions quarterback, Matthew Stafford, led his L.A. Rams to a Superbowl win! The bone-chilling temperatures will become more moderate this week, Russia has not yet entered by force the sovereign nation of Ukraine, the Olympics are progressing well, it's Valentine's Day and Central United Methodist Church is once again opening for in-person worship this next Sunday, February 20th.

Of course, we know deep down that not all is well with all people. Covid-19 still looms large in the news from local coverage to concerns about the Olympic athletes halfway around the world, people's lives are still fragmented by the violence experienced in their schools, and people suffer the loss of loved ones.

How dare anyone say, "all is well?" It is said that when Horatio G. Spafford penned the words to the beautiful hymn, *It Is Well with My Soul*, he was on a ship bound for Europe. At the time of that writing, Spafford's ship was directly above the shipwreck site where his four daughters drowned when their ship collided with another. Horatio and his wife, Anna, had five children; their son died of pneumonia in 1871. Spafford was a successful lawyer and businessman in Chicago and his wife and their four daughters had sailed to Europe where Horatio was to join them later. As it turned out, Spafford was on his way to Europe to console his wife and grieve together the loss of their daughters.

As the ship he traveled on was at the place where his daughters perished, Horatio Spafford wrote, "When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul."

How dare anyone say, "all is well?" Perhaps I should qualify that phrase with the words, "with my soul." Despite the many concerns of this world—and they are many, as well as frightening and depressing—it is well with my soul. I found great respite this past weekend watching the Superbowl with my family, enjoying some yummy food and feeling blessed as we await the news of the birth of our fourth grandchild. (No baby yet!) I also enjoy sharing with our virtual congregation the fact that we will be worshipping in person this next Sunday, February 20th.

I'm not ignoring the troubles of this world friends, but along with Horatio Spafford, I remember,

CONNECT WITH CENTRAL

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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

In-Person Worship Returns February 20th!

Please continue to wear a mask and social distance if you attend in-person worship.

On Thursday, March 3rd Central Cafe, choir, dance and bell rehearsals resume.

Worship will continue to be live streamed at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Blood Drive Results

Last week's blood drive had 45 presenting donors and resulted in 39 units of blood collected. Thank you to everyone who gave!

"Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul." Jesus has regarded our helpless estate so that we may know peace that attendeth our souls.

Look over the articles in this issue of the Chimes to learn about how we are coming back to worship in person as well as making a difference in our world so others might know "all is well." I look forward to being with you in worship.

Because of Christ,

-Pastor Jack

Reconciling Church Team

I ask you to prayerfully consider volunteering to lead a short project task force in our church whose goal is to understand what "reconciling" means to Waterford Central United Methodist Church.

At the 2021 planning/visioning meeting we identified the need for a small team to explore what it would mean for WCUMC to become a Reconciling Church. A Reconciling Church within United Methodism is a church that equips and mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. Furthermore, a Reconciling Church is one that adopts, believes, and practices the following statement from the Reconciling Ministries Network:

"We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed."

Our task force is not automatically assuming we will become a Reconciling Congregation. This short project's mission is to understand what is required to be a Reconciling Ministry, understand how other churches have approached it, and determine what reconciling means and should look like for WCUMC. The task force will then make a recommendation to the church council and then to the congregation.

A lot of work has taken place already. We have already attended webinars on the subject and have met with one local church. This team needs someone to take over the reins for the next few months and help it complete its work.

If you would like to volunteer for this position, or if you would like to learn more prior to making a decision, please contact Mark Strobel (gobluemws@att.net) or Pastor Jack (jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org).

Blessings to you and your family,

-Mark Strobel

Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess

Thursdays, March 3rd–April 7th, 6:30–7:30 pm in the Parlor

Often we make a mess of our lives and wonder if there is any redemption. In this six-week study, pastor and author Tom Berlin helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ to find redemption

and restoration. Rev. Cora will moderate this study. Follow along in the book, available for \$10 in the church office, or use each week's short video lesson to join in our discussion. Masks are strongly encouraged. Please email Rev. Cora (cglass@waterfordcumc.org) your interest in the class to get the latest details.

Lenten Prayer Packets for Families

Sign up to receive a Lenten prayer packet. This includes a pack of 40 prayers you and your family can pray together and postcards that you can use to send a friend, family, or your church as you pray for them. This resource was designed with elementary students in mind but can be used by people of all ages. To sign up to receive a packet, visit <https://bit.ly/cumclent2022>.

Little Sprouts Awarded Grant Money

Little Sprouts is thrilled to have been awarded a Child Care Stabilization Grant through the state of Michigan in the amount of \$59,000. Spending must take place by the end of April, and funds must be spent on reimbursement for expenses incurred during closure due to Covid-19 and improvements and materials that enhance our indoor and outdoor school environment. This will enable us to continue providing a safe, supportive learning experience for Waterford-area children and families.

Directors Mary and Monica began planning with the CUMC Little Sprouts Board and Trustee Chair, Ken Cortese, last week to make the best decisions regarding spending and purchases that will directly benefit both Little Sprouts and Central United Methodist Church. These grants are part of a nationwide initiative to increase federal and state funding for high-quality early childhood programming, and to help keep the doors of licensed centers open so they are able to focus on what matters most—supporting children and families!

Camp Scholarships

Summer camp registrations at Michigan Area United Methodist Campgrounds and Lake Louise Camp are open! Waterford Central is proud to offer camping scholarships to children, youth, and adults interested in taking part in UMC-related camps. Check out camping options at umcamping.org or lakelouisecommunity.org. Find the scholarship form on our website at waterfordcumc.org/forms/ or in the church office. Contact Rev. Cora (cglass@waterfordcumc.org) for more information.

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Our Members Who are Turning 80+:

- Donna Ritchie – 3/4
- John Sawyers – 3/12
- Marjorie Frazier – 3/13
- Richard Britton – 3/23

And Happy 50+ Year Anniversary to:

- Walter & Doris Cortese – 3/23, 67 yrs.

Thank You

Dear Central UMC,

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.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

All the church family for your kind and thoughtful prayers, cards, calls (great fun), and yummy dinners, food, and flowers.

You all helped me get over the surgery and some complications in fine shape. Now on to some further, less intensive therapy refreshed by your love.

Thank you.

-Bob Swartz

Address Change

There is a new apartment number for Phyllis Liming. Her new address is Lockwood Sr. Living, 1407 Skipper Dr #320, Waterford, MI 48327.

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 and information, 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, February 24th. The deadline for our next bi-monthly email-only newsletter is Thursday, February 17th.