



## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

October 16, Pastor Jack continues our *God's Generosity and Ours* message series with *The Joshua Imperative*. Join us in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](http://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org).

## Dear Friends,

I just finished my State of the Church report that I write each year for our annual Church Conference. If I were to give my report a theme, I would call it "A Plan Towards a New Normal." I am very much aware of the desire of many of our members and friends to return to "normal," meaning life as it was before the pandemic. As I wrote in my report, there is evidence that we are making strides toward traditions and activities that reflected our lives before Covid-19. I'm not sure that I would call that evidence simply a return to "normal." That is because we may never fully return to life as it was before the pandemic. Rather, we need to move forward with new and innovative ways of living our lives for the balance of 2022 and into 2023.

I've also wondered about the lessons we've learned from the pandemic, of which there are many. I'd like to share just a few. The first is that we need to love and care for one another. Our new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Darryl Totty, gave us a theme scripture for this year's Church Conference. It is John 13:34-35:

*"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

I was proud of our church as we checked in during the pandemic with members and friends, making sure they were safe and had access to food, toiletries and other necessities.

Second, we learned to ask for help. Our staff quickly met and made plans for our worship and praise of God, keeping us connected with one another and with our loving Creator. If not for the technical expertise of our staff and volunteers and great communication among those people, we would not have been able to continue our worship life at Central Church. Now, I count our online worship service as one of the best I've seen. I had to ask for help constantly as I was taught to use new technology. Others had to ask what needed to be done, then explore how to best utilize their gifts and talents.

The third and final lesson I believe we learned from the Covid-19 pandemic is that life is precious. That may seem trite to some; however, it bears repeating. Life is precious. I know plenty of people who are bitter and resentful at the loss of loved ones to whom they were not able to properly say goodbye. I found myself telling people that I loved them when that would not have been

## CONNECT

-  [waterfordcumc.org](http://waterfordcumc.org)
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-  [waterfordcumc](https://twitter.com/waterfordcumc)
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-  (248) 681-0040
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Waterford MI 48328



part of a normal conversation. I told people I loved them to fill the void of not being able to demonstrate my love for them.

These lessons are just three of hundreds of lessons we've learned from the pandemic. They are cyclical in nature. Because we love each other, we care for each other and we ask for and offer help to one another. As we move into a new future I want to assure you of two things: God loves you, and I love you. I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,

*Pastor Jack*

## Bible Journaling with Martha

Thursdays at 10am, beginning this Thursday (10/13)

Bible journaling allows you to combine your love of God and your creative talents. You will read Scripture and respond to it by writing your thoughts and feelings and creating drawings using markers, watercolor pencils, and embellishments. Books will be provided. Although some art supplies will be available, participants are encouraged to bring their own colored pencils, markers, etc. If you would like to join this group, contact Martha ([mpiesko@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:mpiesko@waterfordcumc.org)).

## It's Trunk or Treat Time!

Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4-6pm

It takes many hands to put on a Trunk or Treat as fabulous as Central's. We have opportunities for volunteers to host a trunk, purchase candy, work in the kitchen, and so much more. To help out, sign up in the Narthex or at <https://bit.ly/trunk-or-treat-22>.

## UMCOR Giving to Support Hurricane Relief

To make a contribution through UMCOR to assist with Hurricane Ian recovery efforts, visit:

<https://advance.umcor.org/p-620-umcor-us-disaster-response-and-recovery.aspx>.

Funds for hurricane relief are coming from UMCOR's US Disaster Response and Recovery (Advance # 901670). 100% of contributions go toward relief efforts.

## Blood Drive Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers for upcoming blood drives on November 25<sup>th</sup> from 3–6pm, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 12–3pm, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 3–6pm and May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12–3pm and 3–6pm. If you are able to help host a blood drive, please contact Rachel at (248) 681-0040.

## Youth Group—Mark Your Calendars!

The youth will gather on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 6–10:30pm at the church for dinner, then to set up for Trunk or Treat and Halloween fun. Please RSVP to Martha Piesko



Invite your friends and family to Central's Trunk or Treat! Pick up a flier or share our Facebook Event.

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:**

- Patricia Loomis, 11/1
- Bruce Hazen, 11/8
- Ruth Greene, 11/8
- John Nelson, 11/11
- Marilyn Bruce, 11/15
- Doris Quick, 11/17
- Eleanor Snyder, 11/23

**HAPPY 50+ ANNIVERSARY TO:**

- Roy & Sandra Gay, 11/4, 50 yrs.
- Steve & Sandi Krupa, 11/28, 53 yrs.

([mpiesko@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:mpiesko@waterfordcumc.org)) by October 22 to let us know if you are able to attend.

## Sunday School Opportunities

We are in need of leaders to help teach Sunday School and assist in the nursery. We realize that it is difficult to serve to every Sunday. Therefore, we are asking that you consider serving just one Sunday per month. Please contact Martha Piesko ([mpiesko@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:mpiesko@waterfordcumc.org)) if you are interested in mentoring our youngest disciples.

## Thank You

### Dear Friends of Blessings in a Backpack,

On behalf of the Blessings in a Backpack-Waterford steering committee, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your generous donation. Your \$5,913 contribution will be placed in the Blessings in a Backpack-Waterford Donor Advised Fund. Your generous support will assist us in maintaining our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for students in the school districts we serve.

-Cherly A. Whitton, Michigan Advisor

## 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, and the online Connection Card.

Online Worship - <https://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org>.

The deadline for articles for the next bi-monthly *Chimes* is Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.



**American  
Red Cross**

## Blood Drive November 25th

To give, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use the code `centraluni` to book an appointment.

WATERFORD  
YOUTH  
ASSISTANCE

ANNUAL  
SHOE  
DRIVE

PLEASE DONATE NEW AND GENTLY  
USED SHOES. NOW THROUGH  
NOVEMBER 13TH.

Please place donations in the drop box located in the Fellowship Hall hallway. Your donations will fund services and programs for at-risk children in the Waterford community.