



Connecting with God,  
Connecting with Others,  
Changing Our World With Christ's Love

01.08.23

## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

January 8, Baptism of Jesus and Hymn Sing. Join us in person or or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](https://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org).

## Dear Church Family,

Happy New Year! While we are just four days into the New Year, I would remind our members of the information that I shared with you in my January 1 message. Experts tell us those who make a New Year's resolution do benefit from making a resolution, and that after 1 week 75% are still successful in keeping it. However, after two weeks, the number drops to 71%. After 1 month, the number drops again to 64%. And after 6 months, 46% of people who make a resolution are still successful in keeping it. One study stated that by year's end, that number is down to 8%!

I often muse about our language and it strikes me as funny how we say that we "break" New Year's Resolutions, as if that resolution is no longer valid or useful. The other word we use about resolutions is that we "keep" them. So the question I would ask is—if we break a resolution, we shouldn't keep it? The alternative is to view resolutions as goals, or even a journey. That was the point of this past Sunday's message; we should do things differently if we are expecting new and different results in our lives. The Wise Men, or Magi, "returned to their country by another road." (Matthew 2:12 – GBN). In other words, their path was different after encountering the Christ Child.

I'm really hoping for some changes in my life as we enter a new year. There are some organizational goals I'd like to implement in both my personal and work life. I'd like to get serious about losing some weight; about four years ago I lost 25-30 pounds and have stayed within that range, but it's time to lose more. Ruth and I are also preparing to gather a group of people interested in going to Israel in January of 2024. You may have some similar goals in terms of health, travel or organization.

Here's the thing we need to understand, friends. Resolutions don't really "break." We may drop them, but they bounce; and like a ball, we can retrieve them and continue to utilize that resolution for the purpose of bettering ourselves. That is why I'm beginning a new series of messages on January 15 titled *You in X Years*. No matter where you set your horizon for your goals—one year, two years or five—where do you want to be within that time frame? This five-part series of messages will help us assess our lives, determine goals and create manageable steps toward those goals.

With determination on our part, inspiration from one another and God's blessings, we can meet our goals and keep bouncing along a different path for real and meaningful change. Again, that series of messages will begin on January 15. This next Sunday, January 8, we will have a hymn sing and

## CONNECT

-  [waterfordcumc.org](https://waterfordcumc.org)
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-  [waterfordcumc](https://twitter.com/waterfordcumc)
-  [info@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:info@waterfordcumc.org)
-  (248) 681-0040
-  3882 Highland Rd.  
Waterford MI 48328



HYMN  
SING

SUNDAY  
JANUARY 8TH

Join us for worship. We will sing Christmas favorites that we didn't sing during Advent or Christmas.

celebrate a renewal of our baptisms. I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,  
*Pastor Jack*

## Thank You for Your Very Generous Kindness!

On behalf of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and our staff, we thank you for your generosity in giving toward the Christmas Love Offering. You have truly demonstrated your appreciation for our talented and dedicated staff.

## Opportunities to Give in the New Year

The Christmas celebrations may be over, but the need remains great. Please consider a donation to one of these partner ministries.

### Jail Outreach Ministry

We are collecting new men's white socks and bars of soap during the months of January and February. Please place donations in the box in the Narthex. Thank you.

### Clothe-a-Child Hat and Mitten/Glove Sets

The Clothe-a-Child team is collecting sets of a hat and mittens or gloves (no scarves, please) to go to Waterford school children. Please place donations in the box in the Narthex. Thank you.

## Reverse Advent Food Pantry Challenge

If you participated in this year's Reverse Advent Challenge, please drop your items off at the church Monday-Thursday between 9am and 4pm. Thank you for your generosity.

## Pastor Jack's Wednesday Evening Message Study Resumes

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm–8:30pm

This study is a weekly deep dive into the previous Sunday's message. Contact Pastor Jack for a link to this Zoom study.

## Men's Summit 2023

February 3-5<sup>th</sup>

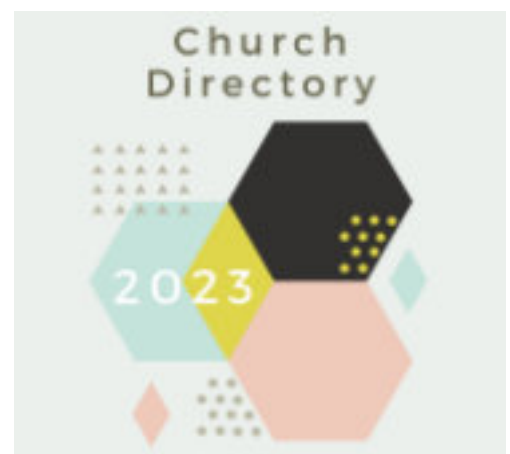
A weekend men's retreat at Skyline Camp and Retreat Center in Almont, MI. Register at your earliest convenience and get in on the fellowship, food and fun. We will also have some serious discussion about *Winning the Battles that Matter Most* using Pastor Craig Groeshel's book titled *Fight*. The cost of the weekend (two nights stay, four meals—breakfast Saturday to breakfast Sunday) is \$125. What a deal! Plan on being a part of our first Men's Summit since 2020! For more information, contact Ken Cortese or Pastor Jack.



Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>  
6pm

This month's movie is "How to Train Your Dragon" the story of a young dragon hunter who befriends an injured dragon and learns there is more to the creatures than he assumed.

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Directories will be available in the Narthex on January 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like a printed or emailed copy sent to you, please contact the church office at (248) 681-0040.



## Blood Drive

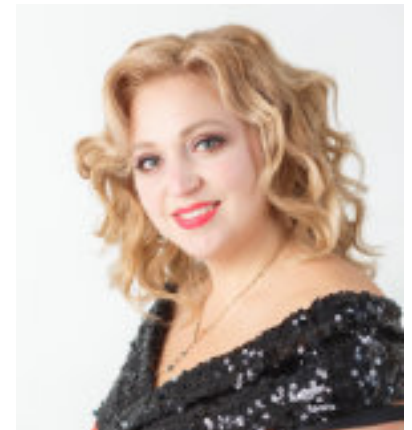
**Tuesday, February 7th, Noon–6pm**

To donate, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use the code "centraluni" to find our drive. We also need a volunteer from 3-6pm to help with intake. Please contact the church office at (248) 681-0040 if you can help.

## Save the Date–Ukrainian Benefit Concert

**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 3pm**

Join us in supporting the people of Ukraine. Soprano Olga Yalovenko, pianist Yaroslav Gnezdilov, and guest mezzo-soprano Leslie Ann Naeve are generously giving their time to provide this opportunity to experience some of the music of Ukraine. There is no cost for the concert, but a free-will offering will be taken with proceeds going to the people of Ukraine to help provide for needs for the winter and the ongoing war.



*Soprano Olga Yalovenko*



## Ink Recycling: Did You Know?

You can recycle ink cartridges for most popular printers by dropping them off at Central. The ink recycling box has moved to the Narthex.

## Thank You

**Dear Central Church,**

Thank you to the Purple Threads, Caring Core and all who sent cards and prayers on the death of my wife, Cherrie (Lijewski).

Sincerely,

-Gary Lijewski

## Address Change

There is a new address for Eric and Sherry Stone: 4580 S. Clubview Drive Adrian, MI 49221.

The next printed issue of the Chimes will be the January 29<sup>th</sup> issue. The deadline for articles is Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for the January 22<sup>nd</sup> email only issue is January 12<sup>th</sup>.



## Christmas at Central

*Left: Feeding the animals at Bethlehem Barnyard*

*Below: Monica, Carrie, Mary and Mrs. Clause hand out cookies at Little Sprouts' Cookies with Mrs. Clause.*



*Below: Joyce, Robin, our new friend Regina, and Pastor Jack lead the singing at Carols & Beer.*



*Above: The Reunion Dancers perform a beautiful candlelight liturgical dance at Christmas Eve.*

*Left: Candlelight Silent Night at the 8pm service.*

