



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

11.20.22

## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

November 20, King of Kings Sunday. Pastor Jack's message is *Who Builds the Kingdom?* Join us in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](http://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org).

## Dear Friends,

I'm sure we've all heard the phrase, "It was over as soon as it started." We use that phrase or similar phrases to describe a sudden event or episode: a rainstorm, a coughing spell or even a relationship. Sometimes we use it to describe something that started up quickly and then after a time ended as quickly as it began. This phrase could be used to describe the brief ministry that Martha Piesko, our Life-Long Faith Formation Director, had at Central Church.

Martha joined our staff in July and officially began on August 15. It has been the practice of our church to observe a ninety-day "trial period" with our employees. The purpose of those ninety days is to see if the new staff member meshes well with our team and is able to perform the tasks that make up the job. By all accounts, Martha was doing great in her ministry with us as she created new programming, built teams to facilitate the nursery and child care for Sunday morning and restarted our Sunday School program. Martha worked diligently with the youth in creating a wonderful and successful Trunk or Treat program and was facilitating both a Thursday morning Bible Journaling study as well as a Companions in Christ study on Thursday evenings.

I am writing this on Monday morning after spending time with our Youth Fellowship Group last night. One of the youths asked, "What happened to Martha?" There was true concern expressed in the words of that youth. As Psalm 8:2 is written, "Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger." Jesus referenced this scripture when confronting the religious leaders of his day; the leaders didn't like the children in the Temple praising Jesus. Jesus responded, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?'"

The truth is, many have inquired about Martha's sudden leaving. This is when I need to stand firm and say, "It's not my story to share." In other words, there are confidences that I must observe. The ninety-day trial period came and went and it was decided that there were some extenuating circumstances that required Martha's attention and energy, and therefore she decided it best not to continue to work in our ministry. Many of you know that Martha and I worked together for three and a half years in my previous church, and I was looking forward to working with her once again. I will tell you this, Martha and I are parting ways as friends and will continue to stay in touch as we have for nearly fifteen years.

As we bid a fond, albeit quick, farewell to Martha, keep her in your prayers (and let God sort out the details) and keep our Staff-Parish Committee in your prayers as they once again begin to search for a person to fill this ministry position. Finally, may I be bold enough to ask you to pray for me as your pastor? I am confident that we will traverse these next weeks and months doing God's will and

## CONNECT

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-  3882 Highland Rd.  
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keeping our ministry vibrant and relevant to our community of faith and our community at large. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,  
*Pastor Jack*

## 2023 Men's Summit

### February 3-5, 2023, Skyline Camp & Retreat Center

For well over a decade our Men's Summit has been a wonderful opportunity for men to gather for the purpose of connecting with each other and God. Our Summit this year will be at Skyline Camp & Retreat Center (5650 Sandhill Rd.; Almont, MI 48003). It is about an hour away from Waterford Central and is a beautiful setting for our time together. We will have our own lodge in which to have our program and fellowship time.

This year's study comes from Pastor Craig Groeschel, Senior Pastor of LifeChurch, a multi-campus church and creator of the popular and free YouVersion Bible App. Groeschel's book, *Fight—Winning the Battles That Matter Most*, will provide the basis for our 2023 Summit. This is a video-based discussion and participants might want to buy Pastor Groeschel's book online or contact Pastor Jack to get a copy of the book—we will have a limited supply beginning in mid-December. Many have found over the years that it is enough to come to the weekend experience and simply enjoy the videos and discussion.

The cost of the weekend (two nights stay, four meals – breakfast Saturday to breakfast Sunday) is \$125. If you register and pay before the end of this year, you can save \$10 and the price goes down to \$115. 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 ([jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org)).



## Generosity 2023

If you intend to pledge for 2023 and have not yet turned in a pledge card, please do so soon. The Finance Committee will be working to finalize the 2023 budget by the beginning of December. Thanks to everyone who has pledged thus far to support Central Church in the coming year. Updates on the generosity campaign will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Pledge envelopes for 2023 will be made available in mid-November. If you do not require a boxed set of envelopes, please let me know as soon as possible. As always, blank envelopes are available in the pews every Sunday. In order to reduce the number of unused boxed sets of envelopes, we have reassigned numbers for next year. Please do not use your new envelopes until January 1st. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you!  
-Sue Newill, Bookkeeper



	<h3>Poinsettia Order Form</h3> <p>As part of our Advent/Christmas celebration, we will be ordering Poinsettias to use as part of the decorations in the sanctuary. If you wish to place an order, please fill out the information below and return it to the Church Office with your payment. (Please print your information)</p>	
DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: <b>November 20, 2022</b> COST PER PLANT: <b>\$6.50</b>		
Name of Donor(s) _____		
Phone: _____		
In Honor of: _____		
In Memory of: _____		
I will take after the 11:00 p.m. service on December 24th _____ OR Please deliver to a shut-in _____		
Amount enclosed: Number of plants _____ x \$6.50 = _____		
If you place your order in the offering basket please make sure to mark your check or envelope "Poinsettia Order". Thank you		

## **Holiday Mission and Giving**

### **Clothe-a-Child**

Help clothe children from the Waterford school district by making a monetary donation. Make checks payable to the church with "Clothe-a-Child" in the memo.

### **Food Pantry Reverse Advent Challenge**

Pick up a calendar or download it from <https://bit.ly/reverse-advent-22> and collect one item each day in December, then donate them in January to Central's Food Pantry.

### **Compassionate Christmas Cards**

Purchase Christmas cards through Sunday, December 19th for a donation of \$5 per card. Donations will go to various Central missions. Cards can be purchased in the Chapel hallway or from the church office.

### **Sponsor a Student at C. W. Duncan School in Liberia**

Did you know that a donation of \$300 will send a student to the C. W. Duncan School in Liberia for an entire year? To sponsor a student in honor of a loved one, mark donations "C. W. Duncan Scholarship." Cards are available in the church office to give your honoree on Christmas morning.

### **Christmas Wishes for Methodist Children's Home**

Once again Central will be donating RaiseRight gift cards so the Cottage parents can purchase gifts. Please give in denominations of \$25 at the RaiseRight table on Sundays, or drop off or mail a donation to the office by December 4th. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/MCH-22>.

### **Hats and Mittens/Gloves**

Donate a matched set of a hat + mittens/gloves after December 1st to go to Waterford School children through the Clothe-a-Child program (please no scarves).

### **Advent Mission Project**

Central UMC will tithes a portion of our Christmas Offering to local missions The Baldwin Center and HOPE Warming Center.

## **Advent & Christmas Events**

### **Hanging of the Greens—Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am–12:00pm**

Help transform the church for Christmas. Please sign up outside the church office.

### **Baby's First Christmas—Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> During Worship**

A joyous celebration of our new babies.

### **Advent By Candlelight—Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:30pm**

We're excited to announce that this year we will be back to hosted tables at Advent by Candlelight! Sign up outside the office or contact Kathy Chao at [jkchao@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkchao@sbcglobal.net).

### **Jackson Chorale Concert—Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**

An evening of Christmas Music with the Jackson Chorale. Visit [JacksonChorale.org](http://JacksonChorale.org) for ticket information.

### **Bethlehem Barnyard—Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> Following Worship**

Join us for a living nativity as we reflect upon the birth of the Christ Child so many years ago.

### **Tuesday Musicale Concert—Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**

A free holiday concert by the Tuesday Musicale Chorus and Adele Thomas Bell Ensemble.

### **Carols & Beer—Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm**

Stop by Rustic Leaf Brewing Company (7200 Highland Rd, Waterford Twp, MI 48327) for a festive Christmas carol sing-along.

## Advent by Candlelight 2022

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:00–4:30pm.**

Advent by Candlelight is a way for the women of Central Church to enter into this year's Advent season with a quiet celebration and reflection on the Christmas season. We will have a short program in the Sanctuary, followed by a festive tea in Fellowship Hall. A goodwill offering will be taken for UMCOR ministries supporting Ukraine and Hurricane Ian relief efforts.

### How to Sign up

**Option 1:** Sign up for an eight-top round table (like we have used in the past), then invite seven guests to join you at your table. You decorate, provide place settings for dessert and coffee and bring a dessert to share.

**Option 2:** If you do not want to sponsor a table, you and your guests can join with others at our communal table. The communal table allows for a shared experience at Advent by Candlelight. It will be decorated and set for you, and all you need to do is bring a dessert to share! The long table symbolizes welcoming all to the table!

Sign up outside the office or contact Kathy Chao at [jkchao@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkchao@sbcglobal.net).



**No Chair Yoga Monday,  
November 21<sup>st</sup>. Enjoy your  
Thanksgiving week.**

### 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 next issue of the *Chimes* will be November 27<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for articles is Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.