



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

12.11.22

## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

December 11, Third Sunday of Advent. Pastor Jack's message is *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday: God's Scandalous Love*. Bethlehem Barnyard living nativity after worship. Join us in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](http://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org).

## Dear Friends,

Wow! We are two full weeks into the season of Advent; this next Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. We have begun the journey to Bethlehem as we've talked about Christmas not being our birthday but rather the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others, as our relationship with God through Christ has made a difference in our lives.

What I hope this Advent season accomplishes is we consider deeply the purpose of Christ's birth and our celebration of that blessed event. I pray that our celebration focuses us on what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ. That doesn't mean that we can't decorate our homes, enjoy parties and exchange gifts. It does mean that we may need to draw a wider circle of care and giving when it comes to our celebration of Christmas.

Mike Slaughter, Pastor and author of *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* reminds us of Jesus' proclamation when he began his public ministry. He quoted the Prophet Isaiah:

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn. (Isaiah 61:1-2)

Slaughter reminds us about the deep meaning of the gospel of Jesus Christ: "The gospel is good news for the poor, the oppressed, and the marginalized. And if it is not, then it is not the gospel." (Page 62, *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday*)

It is my prayer that as we celebrate our gift-giving this year, we will draw a wider circle to include those Jesus intends for us to include. Pastor Slaughter further writes, "When *poverty* is used in the Bible, its meaning is broader than "economic limitation." Poverty, in the deepest biblical sense, is any kind of brokenness, whether that be in a personal or cultural context, that restricts people from living in the fullness of humanity that God intends."

Through our generosity and kindness, we are fulfilling God's mission begun through the birth of the Christ Child. That giving glorifies our God and Jesus the Christ. I want to close this letter with the words of Charles Wesley, who wrote *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*:

"Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die. Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'"

God bless you my Central Church family! I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,  
*Pastor Jack*

## CONNECT

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

## Knit for Kids Update

Thank you to everyone who has helped provide warm children's clothing for the Knit for Kids project through World Vision. Central has been participating in this project since 2004. To date, we have sent 1,704 sweaters. Since 2014 we have sent 1,186 baby hats and 108 baby blankets. Since 2017 we have sent 601 kids' hats and 410 pairs of mittens. This year they requested kids' scarves and our total is now six. These items are sent to children in the US and all around the world. We have received notes from World Vision expressing their appreciation for the beautiful items and all the love and effort that went into making them. If you wish to participate, patterns for the sweaters, baby hats and blankets are on a table next to the bride's room door. Once your project is complete, you may place it on the table or contact me for pickup. We also appreciate donations of full skeins of yarn, which may be placed in the baskets under the table.

Our major expense for this project is the shipping costs—anywhere from \$25 to \$30 per box depending on the weight. We have shipped six boxes this year. If you wish to help with this cost, please consider purchasing Compassionate Christmas cards, or you may make a donation with your offering and indicate it is for Knit for Kids. Thank you.

-Diana Carter, dianacarter@comcast.net. 248-309-2490

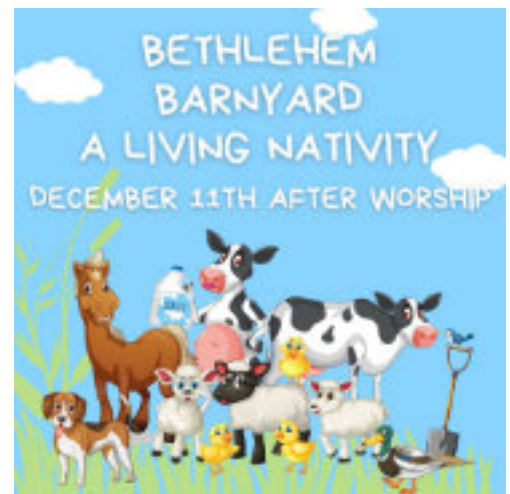
## Offering Envelopes Are Available in the Chapel Hallway

Please pick up your envelopes before the end of the year.

## Compassionate Christmas Cards

### Honor friends while supporting our ministries

Purchase cards for a \$5 donation to give to the important people in your life. These make great gifts for teachers, stylists, coaches and other people important to your family life. Cards are available for Knit for Kids, Clothe-a-Child, scholarships for students at C. W. Duncan school in Liberia, Blessings in a Backpack and Baldwin Center. You can pick up cards on Sunday after worship or in the office M-Th 9am - 4pm.



Join us for a living nativity featuring friendly animals that can be petted. Coffee, hot chocolate and donuts will be served.



## BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE

*Walter W. Fedison*

July 27, 1938 - December 1, 2022

Member Since October 15, 2019





## Christmas Services

### Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 14th,  
7:00pm

A service of remembrance and encouragement. Leave your pain, loss and discouragement at the altar in readiness to find peace this Advent season.

### Family Christmas

Friday, December 23rd, 5:00pm

An inter-generational, family-friendly "candlelight" Christmas service that is interactive and engaging.

### Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th

8:00pm—Lessons and Carols. Featuring the Central & Reunion Dancers and Covenant Choir.  
11:00pm—Carols & Communion. Music by the Covenant Choir.

### Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am

Pastor Jack's message: *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday: An Oxymoronic Christmas.*



## Thank You

Thank you so much for the cookies and treats. I greatly appreciate the kind gesture; my roommates and I really enjoyed them. Have a great holiday weekend!

Best,  
-Maria Kuhn

## Dear Church Community,

I'd like to thank you for making me cookies while I'm at college.

Sincerely,  
-Matt Sullivan

## Address Changes

There are new addresses for several members, including:

- Glenn and Becky Behler—5171 Thornapple, Waterford, MI 48327
- Colette Wendrick—1748 Crescent Lake Rd. Apt. 206, Waterford, MI 48327-1379
- Michael Schmid—1430 S. 1300 E., Salt Lake City, UT 84105-2548
- George Johnston—42400 W. 12 Mile Rd. Apt. 113, Novi, MI 48377-3015
- Robert Johnson—4191 Nelsey Rd., Waterford, MI 49329-4628

## Holiday Office Closures

Monday & Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Monday & Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023  
The office is closed daily from 12:30–1:00 for lunch.

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be December 25<sup>th</sup>.  
The deadline for articles is Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.