



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

### UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

December 25, Christmas Day. Pastor Jack and Margaret Hazlett will present *The Greatest Christmas Pageant—A Tale of God's Redemptive Way*. Join us in person or stay in your PJs and attend online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](http://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org).

### Dear Church Family,

I remember signs in the stores when I was a kid tagging along with my mother as she was doing the last-minute shopping in preparation for Christmas. The signs would read "5 Shopping Days until Christmas!" The number "5" would be slightly different from the rest of the sign because it would be replaced the next day. It was a countdown, a warning that if you didn't get your shopping done in whatever number of days you had left, then you would not be properly prepared for Christmas.

Years later, as I muse about those signs and wonder about the birth of Christ, I'm sure neither Mary nor Joseph was prepared for the birth of Jesus. Is any parent really prepared for the birth of a child—especially your firstborn? Part of our message series, *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday*, examines how we sanitize the nativity with crèche and pictures of a stable with a soft glow, people wearing pristine clothing, animals without any type of grime, and shepherds who seem fresh as a daisy after their frantic run into Bethlehem to see the child born in that stable. In reality, it was much messier!

To truly celebrate Christmas we need to discover the message in the midst of the mess. That message is that life will be different if we accept this child into our lives. We will be changed, and that change comes with responsibilities and challenges. I recently came across a quote from an anonymous source: "A baby will make love stronger, days shorter, nights longer, bankroll smaller, home happier, clothes shabbier, the past forgotten, and the future worth living for."

As we count down to the blessings of another Christmas, may we know that the future with this child is worth living. The services for this next weekend are shared in this issue of our *Chimes* newsletter and, as always, 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



Join us for family Christmas. Please bring a donation of baby food, formula or diapers to present to baby Jesus. Also, if you plan to attend, please send a picture of your family to [rdanek@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:rdanek@waterfordcumc.org). We will show these prior to the service. This service will not be livestreamed.

## Methodist Children's Home Christmas Wishes

A special thank you to everyone who contributed towards the gift cards for the 40 boys at the Methodist Children's Home in Redford. Don and Diana Carter delivered the \$2,000 in Amazon gift cards and the staff was delighted and very grateful. They mentioned they would be able to fill many of the boys' Christmas wishes and other needs they may have this coming year. Once again the Central Church family has been very generous! Thank you for helping to make Christmas a special time for the boys.

## Clothe-a-Child Christmas 2022



*Special thanks to our Clothe-a-Child packers, (l. To r.) Kristi Cornish, Barb Foster, Monica Kuhn, Cheryl Hinsberg and Diana Carter. Also, thanks to Don Carter and Larry Spiece, who delivered the clothing to the schools.*

Thank you to all that have donated this year to Clothe-a-Child. The shopping has been done and clothing for 165 children has been distributed to the schools. Now the team will start to plan next for year and the shopping will begin again. Your donations are needed and appreciated.

## 2022 Memorials

In 2022, memorial donations were made in the name of the following Saints who pass on: Marcia Swartz; Rose Murphy; Charlotte Keller; Glenn Robson; Norma Simonds; Margaret Mariner; Bob Carter; Sharon Bergman; Fran Amos; Barbara Irish; John Radenbaugh; John Sawyers; and Irene Kuznecoff. Thank you to everyone who gave in honor of a loved one.

## It's Not Too Late to Make a Pledge for 2023

If you haven't already turned in a Generosity Card for 2023, there's still time! Additional Generosity Cards are available in the church office. The tentative budget for 2023 has been determined by the Finance Committee and is scheduled for review and approval at the Church Council Meeting held in January. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support of Central United Methodist Church.

-Sue Newill, Bookkeeper



**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.

PG-13



### Daily Devotionals

Pastor Jack will not be recording daily devotionals the week between Christmas and New Year.

### Sympathies

Our prayers are with the DeBano family on the passing of Rick's father, Richard J. DeBano on December 5, 2022.

We also hold in prayer the family of Cherrie Lijewski who passed into glory on December 4, 2022.

### Thank You

#### Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cookies! I was able to share them with friends while we studied for exams.

Sincerely, Daniel Tryon-Burby

#### Dear Waterford Central,

Thank you very much for providing a place for our Waterford Township residents to cast their votes. Your support and assistance are truly appreciated and we could not promote our democracy without your facility.

The use of your facility and your continuing cooperation are critical to the election process and I



## Christmas At Central Church

### Christmas Eve

Saturday, 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 and Margaret Hazlett  
will present *The Greatest  
Christmas Pageant Ever*.

Please note that due to licensing  
restrictions the Christmas Eve  
services will not be livestreamed  
to Facebook. To watch online,  
please go to  
[Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](https://www.Live.WaterfordCUMC.org)



truly appreciate the time and effort you spend to help us conduct a successful election. I hope you and your families have a healthy and enjoyable holiday season.

Kind Regards,

-Kim Markee, Waterford Township Clerk

### To My Church Family,

I appreciate all your prayers and thank you for all the cards. You are in my prayers as well.

Blessings,

-Glenna Mae Cox

### Address Change

There is a new address for Patricia Loomis: 5986 Rockcroft Blvd., Clarkston, MI 48346.

### 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 January 8th issue of the *Chimes* will be sent Wednesday, January 4th. The deadline for articles is Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Bethlehem Barnyard Fun

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, Central had a visit from a cadre of friendly barnyard critters. Much fun was had feeding and petting the goats, sheep, ponies and alpaca.



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

**HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:**

- Thomas Laing, 1/2
- Donald Osborne, 1/9
- Lois Banick, 1/12
- Marlene Knaus, 1/12
- John Ostrander, 1/14
- Shirley Tindall, 1/15
- Mary McLintock, 1/21
- Mary Jane Jewell, 1/21
- Glenna Mae Cox, 1/24
- Stephanie Shawl, 1/25
- Ruby Richard, 1/28
- Lorna Pierre, 1/31