



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

03.12.23

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

March 12, third Sunday in Lent.
Pastor Jack continues our Lenten message series with *Jesus and the Psalms: The Chief Cornerstone*.
Join us in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Friends,

Yesterday during worship I announced that we have hired a new Director of Lifelong Faith Formation. Patty Stroup will join our staff on March 20 and comes to us with over 20 years of experience in church ministry with a focus on Christian education of children and youth. She has written curricula for children and youth ministries and has experience in a variety of church denominations, including Lutheran, Methodist and Catholic. Patty grew up in South Dakota and has lived most of her life in Colorado. She comes with enthusiastic references, and I've experienced her as a curious soul who listens to others and offers insights and observations in response to what she has observed. Patty will nicely compliment our church staff and community, and I look forward to welcoming her to Waterford later this month.

I want to thank our Staff Parish Relations Committee for their diligence and dedication to filling this position. There were many candidates, of which we interviewed three and granted second interviews to two. We then met with the candidates over a weekend that included tours of the church and parsonage, interviews and meals. It was quite a process!

While I am relieved to have this important position filled I also shared during worship yesterday my concerns about the call to members and friends to work in a variety of ministries here at Central Church. Many of our positions are related to Sunday morning worship, from serving as ushers and liturgists to working on our Tech Team.

Our hope to emerge more fully from the COVID-19 pandemic has long been expressed by many over the last three years. While the world has changed, the need for community, friendship and spiritual sustenance has not. We may feel overwhelmed by violent actions of people, from mass shootings to road rage to the loss of common courtesies, and we need the church more than ever to be a beacon of God's love expressed through community. I truly believe this is God's call to be the very presence of Christ in the world. Therefore I am again asking you—our church family—to respond to this call. To offer the best hospitality to those who come to worship with us on Sunday mornings, to warmly welcome people and guide them from their first moment in our building to getting connected with us in meaningful ministry and membership.

Please consider this call to ministry a part of your Lenten experience and prayerfully consider what it would mean to work together in new and relevant ways. I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

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-  info@waterfordcumc.org
-  (248) 681-0040
-  3882 Highland Rd.
Waterford MI 48328

Join Pastor Jack and Ruth in Israel!

January 29–February 7, 2024

One of the highlights of my ministry was a trip I took in 1992 to Israel. To this day it remains an important milestone in my ministry and my understanding of the land in which Jesus walked the face of our world. I have often wanted to invite church members, families and friends to join me on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Recently I have connected with Good Shepherd Travel, a Christian-owned travel agency out of Texas. The Reverend Paul Walters of Church of the Master Lutheran Church in Troy joined us on Sunday, March 5 for an initial meeting. At this first meeting, many details were shared, and I have a better understanding of how to put this pilgrimage together. I am energized to move forward with this opportunity, and a brochure will be available soon that will answer many of your questions.

Ruth and I will schedule more meetings, many on Zoom so that it will be convenient to learn more about this wonderful opportunity. The cost of the trip is \$3990, which includes not only the tour (including bus travel, hotel accommodations and all meals) but also round-trip airfare from Detroit Metro to Tel Aviv. We are just under a year out from this trip and I hope you will prayerfully consider what it will mean to walk in the land where Jesus walked.

Happy Birthday, Purple Threads!

Thirty-three years ago on March 6, 1990, a small group of women gathered and the Purple Threads Women's Bible Study and Prayer Group began. Through the years, over 100 women have participated and there are currently 28 members in the group. We usually meet for two study sessions each year—except for the past three years during the COVID-19 pandemic!

A couple of years after we began, we felt we should create a prayer list and let those on the list know we were praying for them. Thus the purple prayer note was created, which we still send today. We average mailing 360 notes a year. Our goal is to bring encouragement to those in need of prayer.

While we have not met in person for the past three years, our prayer list is updated and sent out to our members twice each month. The women of Purple Threads are dedicated to praying for those on our list as well as the church prayer list.

The women in Purple Threads continue to grow in faith through our Bible studies, offer encouragement to each other and offer support to the congregation through our prayers. We look forward to resuming in-person meetings later this year.

Concert for Ukraine

I want to personally thank all of you for your generosity for our Ukrainian benefit concert. There are times when I am so moved by our church, and this is one of those times. The \$5213 we raised was far more than I expected, and I'm proud that we have been able to do a small part to alleviate some



of the hardships of this war. I have been continually thanked by the performers as well for what our church has contributed to Ukraine. Thank you all again!

With love,
-Kevin

WRWA Toy Collection

During the month of March we will be collecting new toys for the Waterford Refugee Welcome Alliance. Please put donations in the box in the Narthex. Thank you.

Gun Control Advocacy Day 2023

March 22, 8am – 3pm

If you are planning to join us for Gun Control Advocacy Day in Lansing please be aware that there are three upcoming sessions that you will need to attend if you are planning to discuss this issue with one of our Michigan Representatives.

- Training #1: Tuesday, March 7 at 4:00pm on *Spiritual Grounding and Relational Building*
- Training #2 Monday, March 13 at 7:00pm on **How to Speak and be Heard by Elected Officials**
- Training #3: Tuesday, March 21 at 4:00pm on *Preparing for Your Advocacy Day Meeting*

You may attend these sessions in person via Zoom (you will receive a link after signing up for Advocacy Day) or watch the recordings at a later date.

For more information or to register for Advocacy Day and receive information on the training sessions, visit <https://michiganumc.org/advocacy-day-2023/>. We will plan to carpool to the event, so once you have registered please let Robin Danek know by emailing rdanek@waterfordcumc.org.

Address Change

There is a new address for Mary McLintock: Jackson Creek Senior Living #103, 16601 Jackson Creek Parkway, Monument, CO 80132.

Thank You

On behalf of MCHS Family of Services, thank you for being a true champion for our children, families and adults across the community! Despite the challenges we faced, our services never missed a beat thanks to you. In fact, we continue to grow and help our community thrive, and that's because of you. We thank you for your donation of \$500.

-Kevin Roach, CEO

Holy Week Services

**April 2nd Palm Sunday,
10:30am**

Jesus and the Psalms: Who Is This? Matthew 21:1-11, Philippians 2:5-11 and Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29.

**April 6th Maundy Thursday,
7:00pm**

Service Commemorating the Last Supper with Holy Communion.
Jesus and the Psalms: Is It I? John 13:1-18 and Psalm 41.

**April 7th Good Friday
12:30pm Community Worship
At Central**

7:00pm Sanctuary Worship

Jesus and the Psalms: My God, My God! Why? Matthew 27:1-2, 27-46 and Psalm 22:1-19.

**April 9th Easter Sunday,
8:00am & 10:30am Services**

Jesus and the Psalms: NOW! It's Finished. Matthew 28:1-10 and Psalm 22:11-31

Easter brunch will be served between Easter services. Please sign up outside the office if you plan to attend brunch.

**Worship In-Person or
Online at
Live.WaterfordCUMC.org**

Central United Friends

We value our partnership and cannot do what we do without you! Thanks to your prayers and your financial support of \$900, our dedication to serving the thousands of hungry families, seniors, and veterans each month has not changed, even though the world we live in has.

-Sincerely, Norma Okonski, Director, Oakland Hope

The deadline for articles for the March 26th issue of *Chimes* is Thursday, March 16th.



As part of our Easter celebration, we will be ordering lilies to use at the altar on Easter Sunday. If you wish to order lilies please fill out the information below and place your order and payment in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office.

Please print clearly so we are able to correctly spell the names of your loved ones.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS:

Sunday, March 12, 2023 COST PER PLANT: \$7.00

Name of Donor(s) _____

Phone Number: _____

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

Amount Enclosed: Number of Plants _____ X \$7.00 = \$ _____

Please do not include monies for the plants with your regular offering.