



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

0326.23

## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

March 26, fifth Sunday in Lent.  
Pastor Jack continues our Lenten message series with *Jesus and the Psalms: Contrary to All Evidence*.  
Join us in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](https://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org)

## Dear Friends,

Yesterday during worship I said that we have passed the halfway mark through our journey of Lent, with Palm Sunday and Holy Week just two and a half weeks away. I recognize that we often look at Lent through filters that create an understanding of Lent as simply a time of self-denial and sacrifice.

Of course, Lent *is* a time of self-denial and sacrifice but I have also realized in recent years that I am shifting toward a new understanding of Lent. My understanding of Lenten traditions is that it was also a time of preparing people to join the church, as well as a time of reconnecting to people who had separated from the church. Vows would be taken or renewed so that the community would be reconciled and restored. I came to the conclusion that Lent may very well have been a more joyful time; a time of learning, growing, reconciliation and renewal. Certainly joy, thankfulness and revival would have characterized the great celebration of Easter! While I have not had time to prepare members of our community to become members on Easter Sunday, I am making plans to receive members on Pentecost Sunday, May 28.

I have often shared that a time of self-sacrifice and examination leads to a more joyful expression of faith on Easter Sunday, but it seems to me that the great celebration of Easter must remain in the back of our minds and rooted deep in our hearts throughout the Season of Lent. It is from this perspective that I want to resurrect (pun intended) some more practices at this year's Easter celebration. Last year we brought back a service led by our youth at 8:00 a.m. and now we like to once again have our Easter brunch between the two services. I am looking for people who would donate a breakfast casserole for this time together and help our youth serve this meal.

It seems as though we are returning to pre-pandemic celebration of Easter this year, and it is my sincere hope that many will take advantage of these opportunities to come together and celebrate our Risen Lord and Savior. Even as we acknowledge that we still spend time during Lent in self-denial and sacrifice, let's enjoy the future blessings of an Easter celebrated together and in the same space. I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,

*Pastor Jack*

## Welcome Our Easter Guests

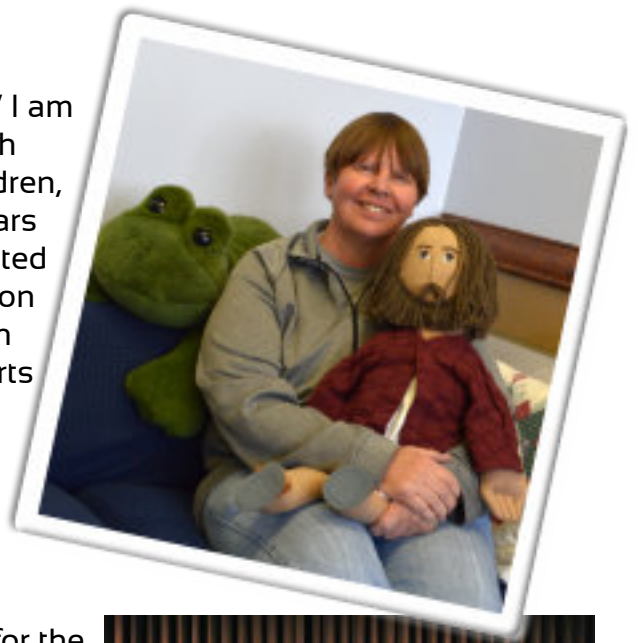
This week we are sending a mailer inviting families from neighborhoods around the church to join us for Easter and Holy week services. Keep your eye out for guests on Sunday morning and make sure to say "hi."

## CONNECT

-  [waterfordcumc.org](https://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

## Hey Waterford Central UMC,

My name is Patty Stroup or better known as "Coach Patty." I am excited to be here at CUMC as the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation. I am from Colorado and have been serving children, youth, families and adults in faith formation for over 20 years in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church. I have a Bachelor of Science in Recreation and a Masters in Christian Education. I have coached youth sports such as basketball, soccer, softball and lifetime sports to kids as young as 3 years of age to 18 years of age. I love teaching God's Story to all God's children in fun and creative ways. I am looking forward to meeting you and getting to know you as we grow in faith together!



## 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.

### Holy Week Services

#### **April 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org)



**Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>  
6pm**

From Pixar comes "Soul," an animated story of Joe, a jazz pianist who, after landing the gig of a lifetime, finds himself trapped in a strange land between Earth and the afterlife. Everybody has a soul, and Joe is about to find his. PG-13

**WOMEN'S TEA**

**Sunday, May 21st**

**@ 3pm**

Please sign up outside the church office. You can sign up to host a table or to attend.



## Pastoral and Holy Communion Visitation Requests

It has been my practice in past years and pre-Covid-19 to visit our home bound members and friends with Holy Communion. Last year I began making more visits and this year I'd like to bring the sacrament to as many of our home bound community as possible. We will celebrate Holy Communion on Palm Sunday, April 2 and I'd like to make visits during the two weeks before Easter on April 9.

If you are interested in having a home visit and possibly Holy Communion, I encourage you to call the church office at 248-681-0040 and request a visit. I will return your call and schedule a time for a visit. The sacrament of Holy Communion connects us as a community and is a means of recognizing God's grace. Let us know of your desire to connect both with our community and with the grace of our loving God!

-Pastor Jack

## Join the Wednesday Fix-It Crew

### Breakfast Is Back!

We'll start the day every Wednesday with breakfast and fellowship. At 8:00am we'll meet at Waterford Coney (4882 Hatchery Rd). At 9:00am we'll return to the church to fix whatever we can (faucets and floors; windows and doors; hearts and minds; lights and blinds).

YES, we want YOU, too. Skills are secondary; joining in is fantastic.

Direct all questions, comments, jokes, etc. to Bob Swartz at [racerbob@comcast.net](mailto:racerbob@comcast.net) or 248-882-4301.

## Sympathies

Our prayers are with Carol Koziel on the passing of her mother, Gloria Hopkins, on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

We are also keeping in prayer Martha Piesko, whose partner Don Sylvester passed away after a short time in hospice.



No Central Cafe

March 30<sup>th</sup>  
or April 6<sup>th</sup>



The deadline for articles for the April 9<sup>th</sup> issue of *Chimes* is Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

