



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

04.09.23

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

April 9th, Happy Easter!

Join us as we celebrate the risen Christ! Pastor Jack concludes our Lenten message series with *Jesus and the Psalms – NOW! It's Finished*. Join us in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Hello, Resurrection People!

I look forward to this next weekend celebrating Easter Sunday once again! This year's celebration will bring back some cherished elements of the past, such as our Easter Breakfast. The youth of our church have prepared a very nice worship experience at 8am and will help serve the breakfast between that "Sonrise" service and our 10:30am worship service. As I write this I am confident that you can still make a reservation for the breakfast, and I encourage you to do so for two reasons. First, we need to plan the amount of food we will need. Second, I want you to have the experience of enjoying fellowship with your church family!

I often compare the Lenten Season with a journey, which is appropriate but may elicit very different feelings among our families and friends. Some enjoy the journey to a destination as much as the destination itself. Others can't wait for the travel time to elapse and "truly begin their time away from home and work!" I usually fall on the side of enjoying the journey as much as the destination. Our road trip vacation to New Orleans enjoyed two stops along the way which we enjoyed thoroughly, especially Laurel, Mississippi, a little town where one of our favorite HGTV shows is filmed—*Our Town*. During the years we traveled to Colorado to visit Ruth's parents, we made several trips to various destinations along the way, from Yellowstone National Park to the Grand Canyon and many trips through Iowa and Nebraska.

Our Lenten Journey this year is nearly ended and the most challenging part of this journey is before us. We will be reminded of the self-doubts expressed by Jesus' disciples as we gather for our Maundy Thursday service. We will be reminded of the tremendous sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf during our two Good Friday services; a community worship experience with three other area churches at 12:30pm and our own worship service at 7pm.

While I know that some just want to get through this week and move toward the Easter Celebration on Sunday, I would caution us to not pass by these opportunities to truly embrace the loving grace that is expressed during our Thursday and Friday services. I often say that doing so insures the tremendous sweetness and power of the Easter Miracle when the fullness of that loving grace is realized. Whether you'd rather enjoy the journey along the way or just get to the destination of Easter, I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

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No Central Cafe
April 6th
Join us for Maundy
Thursday Worship

Welcome Our Easter Guests

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

Stellar Vacation Bible School

June 19–23, 9am–Noon

We are getting ready to blast off on an adventure!

At Stellar VBS, kids discover what it means to shine Jesus' light in everyday life. Stellar is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear and touch! The five days will include science fun, all-star team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats that are simply out of this world! And these are just a few of the standout activities that will help kids' faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call "God Sightings." Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy, so be sure to send them in play clothes and sturdy shoes. Kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project throughout the week. We will be collecting non-perishable food items for Central's Food Pantry.

Parents, grandparents, guardians, and friends are invited to join us at Cosmic Closing each day at 11:40am, a daily celebration of Jesus' light and love!

VBS is open to ages 3 years (as of 2022; must be potty-trained) through outgoing 5th graders. To register call Patty at 248-681-0040, or register online at <https://www.vbspro.events/p/ffcela>.

If you would like to volunteer and use your gifts and talents at Stellar VBS please call Patty at 248-681-0040 or sign up in the Narthex.

Stellar VBS is absolutely free, but donations are welcome to help offset expenses.

We hope you will join our crew as we blast off on an adventure of a lifetime this summer!

Central Contingent Advocates for Gun Safety

On Wednesday, March 22nd, nine people from Central Church traveled to Lansing to join other United Methodists in advocating for gun safety legislation. The group had several meetings scheduled with state Senators and



Holy Week Services

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

[LiveWaterfordCUMC.org](https://www.LiveWaterfordCUMC.org)

Representatives to have discussions around proposed gun safety legislation that was moving through both chambers. The objective of the meetings was to ask legislators to vote in favor of the legislation, as well as to tell our stories about the impact that gun violence has had on us as individuals.

Moved by the dramatic rise in school shootings and other deaths by guns, the 2022 Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church voted to address gun violence in our state. In response, the Mission and Justice Coordinator of the Michigan Conference, in partnership with the advocacy group End Gun Violence Michigan, put out a call to local churches to join together in helping to make an impact. Over 350 people from various faiths and denominations responded by gathering at Central United Methodist Church in Lansing for a day of worship, fellowship and meetings.

If you would like to join this group in continuing to advocate for gun safety legislation, you are encouraged to contact your state representatives. To download a letter template and find your representatives, visit WaterfordCUMC.org/gun-safety-advocacy/.

Sympathies

Our prayers are with Brian Jr. and Jordyn Dombrowski on the passing of his father, Brian Peter Dombrowski, and with Braylen on the passing of his grandfather on March 11, 2023.

We are also keeping in prayer Bea Blomquist, wife of Rev. Paul Blomquist. Paul passed away on March 19, 2023.

Our prayers are with both families.

The Office Will Be Closed on Monday, April 10th In Observance of Easter Monday

The deadline for articles for the April 23rd issue of *Chimes* is Thursday, April 13th.

