



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

11.19.23

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, November 19th. Pastor Jack's message is *Finding Faith in Failure*. Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Friends,

I am in my fortieth year of ministry and therefore this is my fortieth Advent and Christmas season as a full-time clergy person. There have been some years that are more memorable than others; for example, one Christmas Eve I returned home after our 11pm service a bit hungry. As I was perusing the refrigerator, the phone rang (remember when they hung in your kitchen?). It was a call from a parishioner to tell me that another member of the church was ill in the hospital. It wasn't a request to go to the hospital right then but perhaps sometime the next day—Christmas Day. That was a long Christmas Eve/morning!

There are other memorable Christmas services such as the time an acolyte caught his robe on fire lighting the advent candles, or the time that a Christmas Eve visitor fainted during the singing of *Silent Night*. Needless to say, the somberness of those special moments was broken.

It is truly my hope that this year's Advent and Christmas season will be memorable for very different reasons. Our Advent message series is based on the four traditional themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. I am utilizing the work of Whitney R. Simpson, a Deaconess in the United Methodist Church and founder of Exploring Peace Ministries. Whitney is Certified in the area of Spiritual Formation and seeks to help people fulfill their greatest potential.

I was introduced to Whitney's book, *Fully Human, Fully Divine – An Advent Devotional for the Whole Self* early this year, and have been planning to use it for my messages in Advent. It is my hope as Pastor (and as a Certified Spiritual Director myself) to introduce some spiritual practices that will help our congregation and guests to fully embrace our themes for Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. It is one thing to talk about these themes; it is another to move towards the embodiment of these elements in our spiritual lives. I envision an introduction to these spiritual practices that will be meaningful well beyond the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

You may want to pick up a copy of Whitney's book for yourself. It is available for about \$15 (paperback) or \$16 (hardcover) on Amazon, and there will be copies available for purchase at the church. There are many spiritual practices in this book helpful for developing contemplative practices during Advent. I will also be sharing classes both on Zoom and in person during Advent.

May it be a memorable Advent season as we prepare for the coming of Jesus into our community of faith, into the lives of our families and into our very spirits! I look forward to seeing you in worship. May God bless you!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

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

New Thursday Evening Study: The Great ADVENTure

November 30—December 21, 6:30 to 7:30pm

You and your family are invited on an adventure around the world; no luggage needed! This is an experiential ADVENTure and fun for the whole family as we discover how Advent is celebrated in different countries. We hope you will join us on Thursdays for Advent fun for everyone!

End-of-Year Statements

If you did not receive your third quarter giving statement (dated 9/30) please make sure we have your correct address. Several people have given donations without giving an address, and a few statements were returned for incorrect addresses. We would like to have all addresses updated to insure that everyone receives their end-of-year statement. To check what address we have on file look yourself up in the latest directory or contact the church office at (248) 681-0040.

Youth Mission

The Youth of Central UMC created Thanksgiving cards and get-well cards for kids and youth who are at local hospitals. Central's youth did a fantastic job and had fun making these really cool cards that let others know they are being prayed for over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Love Your Church? Let Neighbors Know!

If you enjoy being a part of Central Church, please consider giving us a review on Google. Use the QR code, or visit <https://bit.ly/CUMC-review>.



Men's Summit—Save the Date

February 16-18, Skyline Camp & Retreat Center


Ken Cortese and Pastor Jack are working on the program for next year and will get the details out as soon as possible.

Thank You

Thank you to our church family for the love and care given to us during Bill's illness and passing. All your cards, kind words and hugs were so appreciated. The service in our beautiful sanctuary, filled with friends and wonderful music, would have truly pleased Bill.

Gratefully,


-Velette and Family



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:

- Joan Harbaugh, 12/2
- Mary Skelley, 12/3
- Doris Cortese, 12/6
- June MacLennan, 12/10
- Gil Waters, 12/25



PrimeTime Holiday Melodies

Thursday, December 7
1:00 p.m

Come and listen to songs of the season and join in carol singing. Cookies and Coffee will be available. All are welcome!

Sponsored by PrimeTime
(Senior Ministry).



Advent By Candlelight

Saturday, December 2
2:00pm - 4:00pm

Please sign up in the Narthex to host a table. You can also sign up if you would like to attend and you will be assigned to a table.

Central Family and Friends,

I'm so beyond grateful for the cookies and prayers to power through mid-terms this week and as I work to open my first production of the year, Rocky Horror Show! The continued support even though I can't be there all the time is very appreciated and felt!

I cannot wait to be back in the building with everyone for Christmas to see some new and some old faces!

Peace and Gratitude,
-John Pierre

Dear Church,

Thank you for the cookie box and thinking of me while I'm at school. My roommates and I enjoyed them all and look forward to it every year!

-Emily Cornish

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the cookies. My roommates and I enjoyed them. I am having a blast in drum line.

-Brayden (Cornish)

There will be no Central Cafe on November 16th and November 23rd. The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated December 10th. Please have any articles submitted by Thursday, November 30th.

Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving!



Poinsettia Order Form

As part of our Advent/Christmas celebration, we will be ordering Poinsettias to use as part of the decorations in the sanctuary. If you wish to place an order, please fill out the information below and return it to the Church Office with your payment. **(Please print your information)**



DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: **November 19, 2023** COST PER PLANT: **\$6.50**

Name of Donor(s) _____

Phone: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

I will take **after** the 8:00 p.m. service on December 24th _____ OR Please deliver to a shut-in _____

Amount enclosed: Number of plants _____ x \$6.50 = _____

If you place your order in the offering basket please make sure to mark your check or envelope "Poinsettia Order". Thank you

Holiday Mission and Giving

Clothe-a-Child

Help clothe children from the Waterford school district by making a monetary donation. Make checks payable to the church with "Clothe-a-Child" in the memo.

Food Pantry Reverse Advent Challenge

Pick up a calendar or download it from <https://bit.ly/reverse-advent-23> and collect one item each day in December, then donate them in January to Central's Food Pantry.

Compassionate Christmas Cards

Purchase Christmas cards from November 26th through Sunday, December 17th for a donation of \$5 per card. Donations will go to various Central missions. Cards can be purchased in the Chapel hallway or from the church office.

Sponsor a Student at C. W. Duncan School in Liberia

Did you know that a donation of \$300 will send a student to the C. W. Duncan School in Liberia for an entire year? To sponsor a student in honor of a loved one, mark donations "C. W. Duncan Scholarship." Cards are available in the church office to give your honoree on Christmas morning.

Christmas Wishes for Methodist Children's Home

Once again Central will be donating RaiseRight gift cards so the Cottage parents can purchase gifts. Please give in denominations of \$25 at the RaiseRight table on Sundays, or drop off or mail a donation to the office by December 3rd. Mark checks MCHS on the memo line.

Hats and Mittens/Gloves

Donate a matched set of a hat + mittens/gloves after December 1st to go to Waterford School children through the Clothe-a-Child program (please no scarves).

Baldwin Center Holiday Store

This year we will be collecting new toys for the Baldwin Center Holiday Store. Please drop off donations (unwrapped) by November 26th.

Advent Mission Project

Central UMC will tithe a portion of our Christmas Offering to local missions.

Advent & Christmas Events

Hanging of the Greens–Saturday, November 25th, 9:00am–12:00pm

Help transform the church for Christmas. Please sign up outside the church office.

Advent By Candlelight–Saturday, December 2nd, 2:00-4:00pm

A special afternoon for the women of the church. Host a table and invite friends, or sign up and we will place you at an open table. Sign up in the Narthex or contact Kathy Chao at jkchao@sbcglobal.net.

Baby's First Christmas–Sunday, December 3rd During Worship

A joyous celebration of our new babies.

Jackson Chorale Concert–Saturday, December 9th, 7:00pm

An evening of Christmas Music with the Jackson Chorale. Visit JacksonChorale.org for tickets.

Tuesday Musicale Concert–Tuesday, December 12th, 7:30pm

A free holiday concert by the Tuesday Musicale Chorus and Adele Thomas Bell Ensemble.

Carols & Beer–Friday, December 15th, 6:00pm

Stop by Rustic Leaf Brewing Company (7200 Highland Rd, Waterford Twp, MI 48327) for a festive Christmas carol sing-along.