



## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Third Sunday of Advent and New Member Sunday. Pastor Jack's message is *Fully Human, Fully Divine—Deep Joy*. Worship is in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](https://www.Live.WaterfordCUMC.org)

## Dear Friends,

As we continue our journey through Advent this year preparing for the birth of Christ, I have mentioned often that we are utilizing the work of Whitney R. Simpson. In her book, *Fully Human, Fully Divine*, Simpson writes, "Embodiment means that we give life to an idea. It requires that we take on that idea and personify it in ourselves. In the context of our faith, embodiment means that we give shape to our thoughts, actions, feelings, and intentions through our physical self." (Page 17)

With only two weeks until Christmas, approximately halfway through the season, I want to celebrate how Central United Methodist Church has embodied hope, peace, joy and love already this Advent Season. I announced this past Sunday that the Women's Advent Tea on Saturday, December 2 raised approximately \$500 for Micah 6. The Micah 6 website's home page declares, "Pontiac is a comeback city, writing the story of its recovery. We are doing our part by growing healthy food, making sure neighbors are known, kids are resourced, and services are accessible." Patty Stroup, our Life-Long Faith Formation Director has been connecting with Micah 6 as she familiarizes herself with the community. She is excited about the ministry and mission of Micah 6 and she has reignited my interest as well. As we make plans to embody hope and love for the Micah 6 community, we say thank you to those who contributed toward the Advent Tea offering.

I also announced this past Sunday that our congregation raised funds to purchase Amazon Gift Cards in the amount of \$2,575! That's 103 \$25 Gift Cards for the boys at our Methodist Children's Home Society. Don and Diana Carter went personally to the Methodist Children's Home to deliver the cards and the staff was delighted and very appreciative. You, my Central Church family, have embodied hope, peace, joy and love for the boys at our Methodist Children's Home Society!

I want to also thank you for your love expressed through the Love Offering for our Staff. Our dedicated staff works diligently throughout the year and I wanted to share that you can still contribute to the Staff Love Offering through next Sunday, December 17. We try to distribute that offering to our staff before Christmas. Again, thank you for your generosity and embodiment of love.

AND, the celebration is not over. This next Sunday, December 17, we will receive into the membership of our church at least 10 new people! Join us on the 17<sup>th</sup> to welcome our newest partners in ministry here at Central Church.

## CONNECT

-  [waterfordcumc.org](https://www.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

### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Blue Christmas  
Wed., December 13th, 7:00pm

Family Christmas  
Sat., December 23rd, 5:00pm

Christmas Eve  
Sun., December 24th  
10:30am—Advent Worship  
8:00pm—Carols & Candlelight

It is my prayer that hope, peace, joy and love will become your thoughts, actions, and intentions as we continue through this Advent season! I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,

*Pastor Jack*

## Join the Choir for Christmas!

**This year, you are invited to join the Chancel Choir for Christmas Eve worship services.**

### Performances:

December 24th, 8:00pm during the Candlelight Christmas Eve service (Warm up at 7:00pm).

December 24th, 10:30am (optional) during Sunday Advent worship (warm up at 10:00am).

**Rehearsals:** Thursday, December 14th and 21st, 7:30pm - 9:00pm.

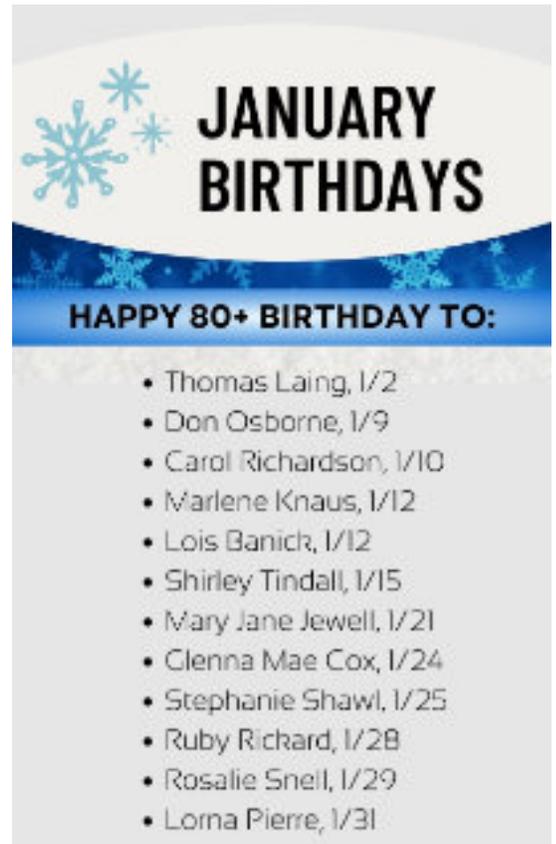
**Music:** We will sing familiar hymns and one anthem at both services. Music will be provided.

If you would like to Join the Choir for Christmas, plan to attend both rehearsals on the 14th and 21st. The choir room is located in the lower level of the church at the bottom of the stairway just outside of the Narthex. We hope to see you there. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Aran Kim. If you have friends that sing, feel free to invite them as well!

## New Thursday Study Coming in January: Mind. Body. Spirit.

**January 4 - February 29, 10:00–11:00am and 6:30–7:30pm**

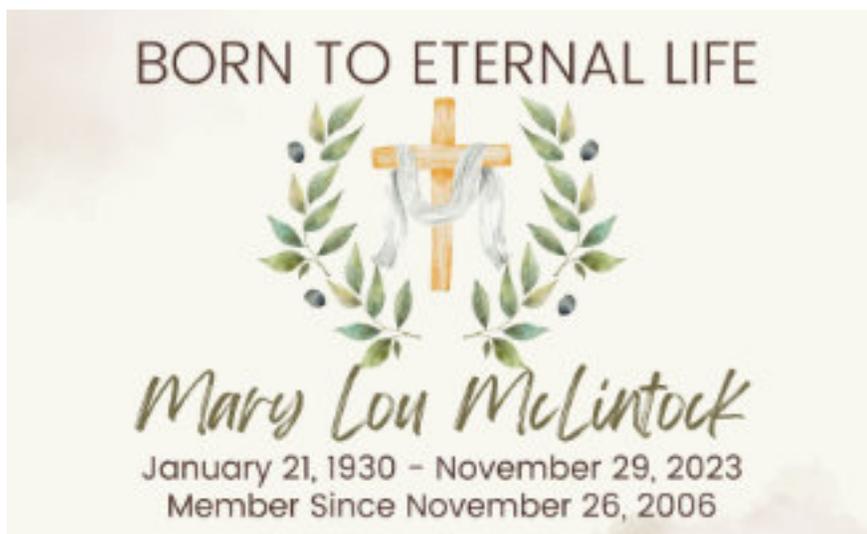
Nurture abundant mental health! Encourage abundant physical health! Inspire abundant spiritual health! This study will be held on Thursday mornings, then repeated on Thursday evenings to accommodate a variety of schedules. You may attend either session; it is not necessary to attend both the morning and



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

**HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:**

- Thomas Laing, 1/2
- Don Osborne, 1/9
- Carol Richardson, 1/10
- Marlene Knaus, 1/12
- Lois Banick, 1/12
- Shirley Tindall, 1/15
- Mary Jane Jewell, 1/21
- Glenna Mae Cox, 1/24
- Stephanie Shawl, 1/25
- Ruby Richard, 1/28
- Rosalie Snell, 1/29
- Lorna Pierre, 1/31



**BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE**

*Mary Lou McIntock*

January 21, 1930 - November 29, 2023  
Member Since November 26, 2006



## Advent & Christmas Events

**Tuesday Musicale Concert**  
**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:30pm**

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

**Carols & Beer-Friday,**  
**December 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm**

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

evening sessions. For more information, contact Patty Stroup ([pstroup@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:pstroup@waterfordcumc.org)).

## Invite a Friend to Christmas Worship

Over 80% of guests to a church attended because someone invited them, and Christmas is a great time to reach out. So, this Christmas, invite a friend to worship! There are postcards in the Narthex that you can give to friends and family.

## Un-hanging of the Greens

**Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am**

Help us take down and pack up the Christmas decorations until next Advent. Many hands make light work.

## The Jackson Chorale Farewell Concert

On Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Gilbert Jackson Choral performed their final concert at Central UMC. The performance was excellent and included two magnificent piano solos by our own Aran Kim. If you'd like to view it online you can view the livestream at <https://vimeo.com/waterfordcumc/gilbert-jackson-farewell-concert>.

## The Church Office Now Has a Lockbox

If you need to leave cash, checks, or other valuables at the church office after hours, please use the lockbox located to the left of the main office door. This will keep items secure until they can be routed to the appropriate staff member. Thank you.

## Thank You

A special THANK YOU to everyone who contributed funds towards the gift cards for the 14 boys in residential care at the Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford. Don and Diana Carter delivered \$2,575 in Amazon gift cards and the staff was delighted and so very appreciative. They will be able to fulfill many of the boys' Christmas wishes and other needs throughout the 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.

Thank you,  
-Diana Carter

## Dear Central Church Family,

We can't begin to express our thankfulness for all your loving and prayerful support during this difficult time. All of the calls, cards, gifts, and inspirational messages have helped us more than you know.

## Holiday Mission and Giving

### 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 26<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Hats and Mittens/Gloves

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

### Advent Mission Project

Central UMC will tithe a portion of our Christmas Offering to local missions The Baldwin Center and Open Door-Waterford.



I begin my third course of chemo treatment this Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, so please stay by us in thought and prayer. We are half way through treatment, and I hope I have the strength for the next two courses. I know that God walks with me, and that makes all the difference.

Love and Peace,  
-Joyce Merle

**The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated January 31<sup>st</sup>. Please have any articles submitted by Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.**

*Linda Freeze and Aran Kim lead the singing during PrimeTime Holiday Melodies.*



*Larry Spiece (l.) and Don Carter (r.) delivered the Clothe-a-Child items for 127 students to the schools on Friday.*



*Central's Youth Group decorated Christmas cookies to bring cheer to the guest families of Lighthouse in Pontiac this holiday season.*