



## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Jack continues our Lenten Message Series with *Jesus and the Prophets – Zechariah's Hope*. Worship is in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](http://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org)

## Dear Central Church Family,

I pray that your Lenten journey has been beneficial to you and that our worship and other programs at Central Church have been helpful. When I think about our series of messages on Jesus and the Prophets, I've discovered many of you are interested in the Messianic hopes of the Hebrew people being fulfilled by Jesus the Christ. Many have also been interested in the prophetic oracles concerning our need for God's forgiveness and mercy connecting our sinfulness with the grace extended to us through Jesus' teachings, life, death and resurrection.

For me, this has been an extraordinary Lenten experience this year primarily through my experience of being in the cast of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. As I recently mentioned in worship, watching Jesus die at least once every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday (rehearsal days) each week has been a surreal experience. As I've watched the young actor portraying Jesus die, I have also noticed the reaction of the rest of the cast. From off stage they quietly gaze at the actor portraying Jesus on the Cross, watching him struggle to breathe and speak the last words Jesus spoke from the cross. The cast is made up of people from a variety of Christian denominations as well as Jewish people and non-believers.

In the past few months I've joked about playing Herod not being type-cast, but lately I've been contemplating my real-life role in being responsible for Jesus' death. The history of humanity as recorded in our Holy Scripture is a cycle of God making a covenant with humanity and humanity breaking that covenant. The cycle continues with God initiating the process of reconciliation, humanity repenting for their sins and finally God's forgiveness is offered, restoring the relationship between God and God's people. I've often wondered during this Lenten season about my turning from God and the guidance that Jesus the Christ offered throughout his ministry and mission.

Herod Antipas was a horribly insecure person who ordered the beheading of John the Baptist and was in Jerusalem for Passover when Jesus went before Pontius Pilate. He agreed to see Jesus, hoping Jesus would perform some miracles for him. Herod then sent Jesus back to Pilate, who capitulated to the will of the angry mob and had Jesus flogged and then crucified. *Jesus Christ Superstar* is essentially about our human frailty and fear over the possibility of being in the presence of the divine.

As I stand before the young man who plays Jesus—being the villain who pronounces that he is a joke, that he is not the Lord and that he is a fraud—I am reminded of my own frailty and fears as well as my sin, which separates me from God. It has been quite a Lent! As we approach Holy Week commemorating Jesus' last week on earth as fully human, may we be blessed by the worship services that guide us during these days. I look forward to seeing you in worship. Be blessed.

Because of Christ,

*Pastor Jack*

## CONNECT

-  [waterfordcumc.org](http://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

## Our Statement of Inclusion

After two weeks of placing our new Statement of Inclusion in our worship bulletin and emailing it in our weekly worship email, on Sunday, March 17, we held a town hall-style meeting to review it with the congregation. We began soliciting feedback from our membership in early January and specifically during these past two weeks. There have been some minor editing suggestions, but the content of the document remains the same.

Pastor Jack also mentioned during the Town Hall that we will not be voting on this statement as a church but rather rely on the elected leadership of our church to produce this statement and then proceed with the sharing of it. Voting means someone wins and someone loses and I would rather we build consensus within our church. There were some clarification questions about what this means for our local congregation and specifically for our ordained clergy. The idea of not voting on this measure as a church was embraced by those in attendance.

As the United Methodist denomination officially divides over the issue of inclusion later this year, we will move forward as an open and affirming congregation within the United Methodist Church that will emerge from that division. Below is our Inclusion Statement. It should be considered a "living document" that may change over time as new expressions of God's love are revealed and supported by our leadership.

### Waterford Central United Methodist Church Inclusion Statement

Waterford Central United Methodist Church is dedicated to helping people connect with God and connect with others. We seek to change the world with the love of Christ: that is our mission statement! We believe that God is love and that love is extended to us before we even know that God exists.

We believe all people are created in the image of God. God's love extends to all people, and all people are of sacred worth. We welcome, affirm, and celebrate people of any age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, national origin, ethnic or cultural background, appearance, faith tradition, physical and mental ability, economic condition, marital status, family configuration, or place on the spectrum of conservative, centrist, or progressive.

We welcome all including those who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination in the church, communities, or society. We invite ALL to join us on our faith journey, and encourage participation in EVERY role here at Waterford Central.

You are loved and belong here.

You may thrive and serve here.

You may grow in God's hope with us every day of the year.

## Holy Week Schedule

### March 24<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday, 10:30am

*Jesus and the Prophets: Zechariah's Hope.* Zechariah 9:9-12 and Mark 11:1-11.

### March 28<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm

Service Commemorating the Last Supper with Holy Communion.  
*Jesus and the Prophets: A Servant to the End.* Isaiah 53:1-12 and John 13:1-15.

### March 29<sup>th</sup> Good Friday

#### 7:00pm Sanctuary Worship

*Jesus and the Prophets: Fulfilling the Prophecies.* John 19:14-42.

### March 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday,

#### 8:00am & 10:30am Services

*Jesus and the Prophets: Just An Old-Fashioned Love Song.* Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Luke 24:13-35.

Easter Brunch will be served between Easter services. Please sign up outside the office or at

[WaterfordCUMC.org/lent-easter-2024/](https://WaterfordCUMC.org/lent-easter-2024/)

if you plan to attend.



## Your Mission: To Serve, Lead, and Have Fun at Our VBS!

June 24–28 from 9am to 12pm.

Join us for Camp Firelight VBS: A Summer Camp Adventure with God!

We are currently seeking Camp Craft Station Leaders, Camp Counselors

(crew leaders), Check-In & Check-Out Team Members, and Snack Shack Chefs.

Contact Coach Patty at 248-681-0040 or [pstroup@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:pstroup@waterfordcumc.org) if you are ready to partner with us for Camp Firelight VBS! You can also use the QR code to check out the job descriptions and sign up to volunteer!



### Craft Show Opportunity

We will have a networking/advertising table for church members at our SPRING FOR IT Craft and Vendor show on April 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in advertising your businesses at the table, please contact Cassandra ([bookkeeper@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@waterfordcumc.org)).

### From the Bookkeeper

First-quarter 2024 statements will be sent out via email only. Please make sure we have your email address. To check or update your email, please call the church office at 248-681-0040.

### Rummage Sale Update

Good news! There will be a rummage sale in 2024. It will take place in the fall this year, so please keep saving those items you'd like to donate. The dates for accepting donations, set up, sales and clean up are as follows:

- Donations accepted Thursday, Sept. 26 through Sunday, Sept. 29
- Set up, sorting, and pricing Thursday, Sept. 26 through Wednesday, Oct. 2
- Sale—Thursday afternoon, Oct 3, Friday Oct 4, and Saturday morning, Oct 5
- Clean up Saturday afternoon, Oct 5

The Rummage Sale Committee has some fun modifications and additions planned for this year and, as always, we will need lots and lots of help! If you have questions or suggestions please contact Linda Taylor at [taylorlinc@yahoo.com](mailto:taylorlinc@yahoo.com) or (317) 441-4293.

### Central Cafe Update

**There will be no Central Cafe on March 28 or April 4.** The next Central Cafe will be on April 11th, Chef Andy will be making pork chops and mac & cheese. If you would like to join us for dinner please sign up outside the church office.



**Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm**

**Christopher Robin**

A working-class family man, Christopher Robin, encounters his childhood friend Winnie-the-Pooh, who helps him to rediscover the joys of life. Rated PG.

## Scholarships

High school graduate and continuing college scholarship applications are available in the church office or online at [WaterfordCUMC.org/forms/](http://WaterfordCUMC.org/forms/). Please have applications back to the office by May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Thank You

### To the Waterford Central United Methodist Community

Thank you for once again allowing the Mott Music Booster Club to use your Fellowship Hall for our Sweet Music bake sale and chamber music recital. Your generosity allows us to keep our costs down and to channel more of the money raised into individual student accounts. The students can then use the money to pay for their uniform fees, solo and ensemble entry fees, camps and music enrichment trips. Sharing our facility has an immediate and meaningful impact towards funding our local Mott music programs.

With gratitude,

-Carrie Newman, Mott H.S. Music Booster Secretary

## Celebration of Life for Diane Beedle

There will be a celebration of life for Diane Beedle held on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Fellowship Hall. Visitation with the family will be at noon with a service at 12:30 followed by a meal and fellowship at 1:30pm.

## Address Change

There is a new address for Richard Lund:  
Westlake Health Campus, 10735 Bogie Lake Rd - Rm. 514, Commerce Twp, MI 48382

There is a new telephone number for Phyllis Liming: 248-599-7037.

**The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please have any articles submitted by Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.**



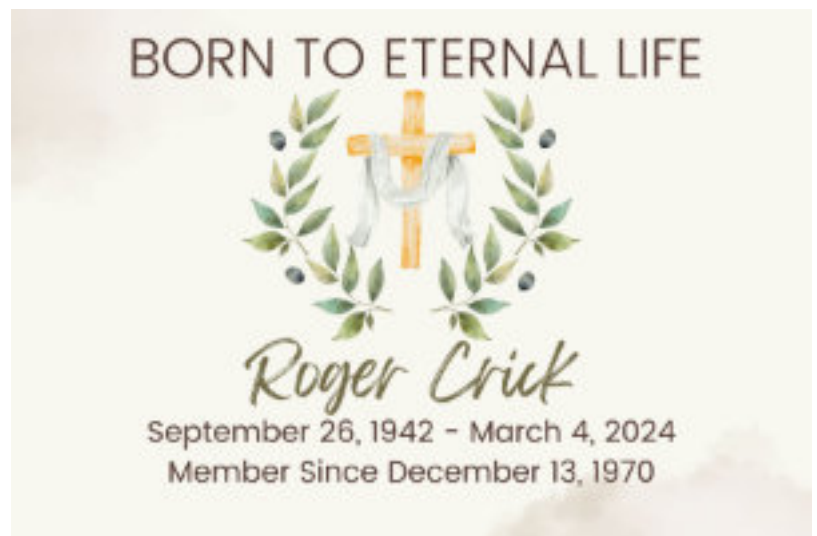
APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:

- Katherine VanHoy, 4/4
- Audrey Venus, 4/7
- David Braden, 4/9
- Jane Ellen Bussard, 4/16
- Mary Lou Osborne, 4/19

HAPPY 50+ ANNIVERSARY TO:

- Bruce & Cathy Hazen, 4/8, 63 yrs.
- Sam & Sharyn Osborn, 4/13, 56 yrs.
- David & Sally Hart, 4/17, 53 yrs.
- John & Joyce Merle, 4/19, 55 yrs.



BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE

Roger Crick

September 26, 1942 - March 4, 2024  
Member Since December 13, 1970