



## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Holy Humor Sunday. Pastor Jack's Message is *Jesus is Risen! No Kidding!* Worship is in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](https://www.Live.WaterfordCUMC.org)

## Dear Central Church Family,

Whew! Easter has once again come and gone, and this year had the additional challenge of Easter coming early. The earliest possible date for Easter is March 22 while the latest date for Easter is April 25. Most Easter Sundays occur in April. I've been quite honest on how this year began with challenges that seemed at one point insurmountable. Even in the midst of Ruth's mother and my father dying within a month, we can smile at the thought of our first granddaughter, Magnolia Elizabeth, being born on January 12.

Thankfully, doom and gloom is not often a constant in our lives. But it could be! About two years ago I read an article about "Doom-Scrolling." Doom-scrolling is the act of endlessly scrolling down news apps and social media, reading all the bad news. "The pandemic has exacerbated these habits in many ways," says a New York psychologist, "including the fact that there is no shortage of doomsday news." (Curley, Christopher. "'Doomscrolling' During COVID-19: What It Does to You and How You Can Avoid It." *Healthline*, July 26, 2020, healthline.com.)

Doom-scrolling. According to *NPR*, this binging on bad news is eroding our mental health. But we are not the first to experience this. Journalists admit that they have been doing it for years, and the three women who visited the tomb on Easter morning were some of the very first doom-scrollers. (Garcia-Navarro, Lulu. "Your 'Doomscrolling' Breeds Anxiety. Here's How To Stop The Cycle." *NPR*, July 19, 2020, www.npr.org.)

Those who went to the tomb where Jesus' body lay that first Easter were only expecting death. The possibility of resurrection never occurred to Mary until she had traveled back to the eleven disciples, returned to the tomb with Peter and John and then remained at the tomb after the disciples left. Only when she was greeted by name did she recognize the resurrected Jesus.

As we have traveled through Holy Week, seeking a deeper understanding of Christ's sacrifice, it may seem like all is doom and gloom. Then we awoke on Easter Sunday ready to welcome glad shouts of "He is Risen!" When is your moment of awakening to the possibilities of resurrection life? When can you fully embrace the new life Jesus desires for you? How is the resurrection being experienced in your life right now? It is my prayer that you remain always open to the possibilities of resurrection on a daily basis. Because the resurrection isn't just something that happened 2,000 years ago, it is a possibility, and in fact a probability, for those of us who follow Jesus the Christ. As we celebrate Holy Humor Sunday this next week and move on to our Message Series titled "Ever Wonder Why?" I hope you will embrace the possibilities that reside in looking beyond the doom and gloom of constant bad news and despair. After all, there is a reason it's called Good News! I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Because of Christ,

*Pastor Jack*

## 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

## New Thursday Study—Mind. Body. Spirit. Jesus and the Five Key Habits

April 4<sup>th</sup> through May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00am and 6:30pm

Have you ever wondered if a healthy lifestyle makes a difference? What changes do we need to make to accomplish our wellness goals? We will discover the words that Jesus gave us through His teachings.

Through this workshop we will embark on an adventure with Jesus and the 5 Key Habits!

- Directing your thoughts
- The art of self-dialogue
- Restorative sleep
- Living an enterprising lifestyle
- Turn life into a celebration
- And much more!

## Michigan UMC Advocacy Day 2024

On March 13<sup>th</sup> five members and staff from Central Church traveled to Lansing for the Michigan Conference's second annual Advocacy Day. This year the Conference was supporting two packages of legislation to support parity in insurance coverage for mental healthcare and also to increase funding for mental healthcare services and resources. Together, we were advocating not only to improve services but also to help remove the stigma of mental illness.

This advocacy initiative was chosen by the Conference as a result of learnings from last year's gun legislation advocacy. It was discovered that many of our legislators equate mass shootings with mental illness when, in fact, people suffering from mental illness are far more likely to be victims of gun violence than perpetrators. By increasing access to services and helping reduce the stigma, our prayer is that those needing mental healthcare services will take steps to improve their health and will also have the resources to do so.



## How You Can Get Involved

One thing we have learned from our advocacy work is that our legislators listen to the voices of their constituents. If you would like to let your legislator know this is an important issue, please send them a communication (letter or email). For more information on this year's Advocacy Day and for information on how to write to your Michigan Congressmen and Women, visit <https://michiganumc.org/2024-advocacy-day/>.



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.



No Central Cafe  
April 4th

# 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 **mid April 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. If you would like a statement mailed to you, please contact Cassandra at [bookkeeper@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@waterfordcumc.org).

## Hymnal Care

After using either of the “smaller” hymnals (*Worship and Song* and *The Faith We Sing*) please return them to the hymnal rack and put them behind the hardbound UMC hymnal. This keeps the corners from getting bent as people enter and exit the pews. Thank you.

## Daily Devotionals

There will be no daily devotionals the week of April 15<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Daily devotionals will return the week of April 29<sup>th</sup>.

## 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>.

## Sympathies

Our sincerest condolences to Ann Robbins on the passing of her husband, David Robbins on March 29<sup>th</sup> and to David’s children Tricia (Bill) Pitt, Kristi (John) Moss, and Bill (Jenny) Cole.

**The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated May 5<sup>th</sup>. Please have any articles submitted by Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.**



**MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:**

- Sandra Longworth, 5/1
- George Johnston, 5/2
- Ron Newman, 5/4
- James Richardson, 5/5
- Ken Paul Bowers, 5/7
- Sharon Donner, 5/8
- Dee Bowers, 5/9
- Helen Beason, 5/18
- Merideth Nelson, 5/29

**HAPPY 50+ ANNIVERSARY TO:**

- Ernie & Francie Bauer, 5/29, 53 yrs.



## Easter at Central—He Is Risen!

**Top:** The Youth serve brunch (l. To r. Megan Riley, Jaeden McCarthy, Shawn Riley, Joella McCarthy; not pictured Joseph Oberlee).

**Middle:** Jaeden McCarthy and Megan Riley deliver the message during the 8am service.

**Bottom Left:** The tomb is empty. Hallelujah!

**Bottom Right:** Enjoying brunch between services.



**Join Us For a Hymn Sing**

**May 5, 2024**

Let us know your favorite hymn. We will select the hymns from those submitted. You can submit your favorite hymn at [bit.ly/hymn-sing-24](http://bit.ly/hymn-sing-24)



**READERS TO LEADERS  
BAKE  
SALE**



**April 21, 2024**

Before and after worship

**Yummy Baked Goods Needed!**

Bring items to the narthex, Sunday April 21st, 9:45-10:00am. Contact Debra Hayden-Schmid 248-705-8546, if you are interested in helping.