



## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, Student Sunday and First Sunday of Advent. Pastor Jack begins our Advent Message Series with *Missing Peace: Is Peace Even Possible Today?* Worship is in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](http://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org)

## Dear Friends,

One of my favorite Bible passages from the birth narrative found in Matthew and Luke is the telling of the good news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds in Luke. The shepherds were tending their flocks when suddenly the "glory of the Lord shone all around them." I'm not sure what the glory of the Lord shining around a person looks like, however, we are told that the shepherds were terrified. I imagine in this day, we would wonder how the special effects of "God's glory" were produced. The shepherds in first-century Palestine had no possibility of special effects, so I fully believe they were frightened.

An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds to put their minds at ease. Luke 2:10 tells us, "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.'" The shepherds are first told not to be afraid and then they are told that the angel is bringing them good news.

I notice a couple of things about the angel's proclamation to the shepherds. First, good news seems to be an antidote to fear. There is so much fear in the world today—from economic difficulties and relationship difficulties to random acts of violence, the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East to natural disasters like hurricanes, floods and wildfires. As one parishioner said, "It's a scary world!" But good news alleviates fear and moves us beyond fear's accompanying paralysis.

The second thing I notice about the angel's proclamation is that the good news is "for all the people." There is no limitation on who should receive the good news of Jesus' birth. All people can receive the blessings of Jesus' birth. Even in our pluralistic world, the proclamation of Jesus' birth should be a blessing to all people because those who receive fully the blessings of Jesus' birth are inspired to act in loving and kind ways, seeking justice and peace for all humanity.

As I anticipate the good news of Jesus' birth during this Advent Season, I want to share some good news with you as we fast approach Christmas and the New Year. I simply want to list them and ask that you share in this good news:

Our attendance in recent months and especially this November has increased while our Sunday morning children's program has increased as well. Patty Stroup, our Director of Life Long Faith Formation, has done a tremendous job in creating a program that is attracting more and more families and their children.

Our Chancel Choir, under the direction of Dr. Aran Kim, has grown to over 20 members on a regular basis and they will share for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic a Cantata on Sunday, December 15.

There is great interest in all the outreach and educational programs that we are producing for this time of year, from supporting our Good Samaritan Fundraiser, our partnerships with the Baldwin Center, Methodist Children's Home and Clothe-a-Child to our new Stress Buster sessions on Mondays (11am and 7pm) and Coach Patty's Thursday classes (11am and 6:30pm)

## CONNECT

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It's a great time of year, friends. A time of good news—for you, for me, for all people! I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,

*Pastor Jack*

## Rummage Sale Report

Thank you to all who participated in our Rummage Sale last month. After expenses (table rental, U-Haul rental, pizza and sales tax) we cleared a profit of \$7,601! We want to inform you of all the ministries that will benefit from these proceeds; from our own important ministries to partnership mission in our community.

- Baldwin Center - \$750
- Hope Warming Center - \$500
- Oakland Hope - \$500
- Central's Good Samaritan Fund - \$2000
- Central's Food Pantry - \$2000
- Central's VBS - \$1,200
- Central's Trunk or Treat - \$500

Once again, thanks to all who contributed treasures to be sold and all who worked diligently to produce another great Rummage Sale!

## Men's Summit

**January 31–February 2, 2025**

Join us for a great weekend of fellowship and study. This year our theme is *Stuck—The places we get stuck and the God who sets us free*. This video study by Jennie Allen will help us identify and overcome areas in our lives where we feel we need spiritual guidance and growth. The cost is \$150 and includes housing for 2 nights, 3 meals for Saturday and breakfast Sunday morning. Sign up by the end of the year and save \$5! Participants will need to bring their own bedding or sleeping bag, a Bible, a notebook, snacks and beverages to share. Participants should also anticipate the cost of going out for a meal together on Friday night at a local restaurant.

## December Thursday Study—The Gift of Christmas

**December 5th, 12th, and 19<sup>th</sup>, 11am-Noon and 6:30-7:30pm in the Parlor**

If we are honest, it's hard not to think about presents when we think about Christmas. In this series we will look at some different gifts we are reminded of during this time of year.



**Our hearts continue to grieve on the third anniversary of the Oxford High School tragedy. Please keep all those affected in your prayers.**





## Holiday Giving Opportunities

### Clothe-a-Child

During the holiday season, Central supports local elementary children in the Waterford School District with the donation of new clothing. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Clothe-A-Child program please make checks out to CUMC with "CAC" on the memo line.

### Compassionate Christmas Cards

Purchase Christmas cards from Sunday, December 1st through Sunday, December 22nd for a donation of \$5 per card. Donations will go to various Central missions. Cards can be purchased in the Narthex on Sundays 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, 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 Society

Once again Central will be donating RaiseRight gift cards so the Cottage parents can purchase gifts for kids in their care. Any amount donated will be greatly appreciated and your donation will appear on your year-end statement. Please stop by the RaiseRight table on Sundays, or **drop off or mail a donation to the office by December 1st**. Mark checks MCHS on the memo line.

### Food Pantry Reverse Advent Challenge

Pick up a calendar or download it from [bit.ly/reverse-advent-24](https://bit.ly/reverse-advent-24) and collect one item for each day of December. Drop donations off weekly or at the end of the month to Central's Food Pantry.

### 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).

### Christmas Offering and Advent Mission Project

Central UMC will tithe a portion of our Christmas Offering to local missions The Baldwin Center and Open Door-Waterford. Watch for an envelope in your Christmas mailing.

### Staff Love Offering

Show your support and love for our wonderful staff! Watch for an envelope in your Christmas mailing.



BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE

*Ronald Ray Newman*

May 4, 1941 - November 20, 2024

Member Since February 12, 1984

## The Bride's Room Update Is Complete

### Last call for photos!

If you were married at Central and would like to have your picture added to the Bride's wall, please contact the church office by the end of the year. Thank you.

## Candy Donations for Fueling Kids' Futures

The Fueling Kids' Futures Team (formerly Blessings in a Backpack) is accepting candy donations so that they can include a small bag of candy for each family with their holiday packing. You can donate either candy (wrapped) or funds. Please drop donations off at the church office. Thank you.

## Thank You

I write this as I munch a nice, warm, sugary, cinnamon, cider mill donut. Yum!! Thank you to the brave 12 who journeyed to Spicer's Cider Mill with the PrimeTime group. We were blessed that the most fun is 'In The People' and that's impervious to the chilly temperatures and sifting snow. We certainly got our fill of Cider and Donuts and Apples plus a nice lunch afterwards. Maybe I can start a campaign to add "Fun Time" to our appropriate "Prime Time" name. But we always put the "fun" in each event.

–Bob Swartz

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated December 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Please submit articles by Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.



**Stress Buster Sessions**  
Mondays at 11am and 7pm in the Chapel

Join Pastor Deb for a time of reflection, prayer and grace as we practice intentional kindness to help alleviate daily stress.

The poster features a background image of white orchids and a stack of smooth, light-colored stones on a blue surface.



BREAK OUT THOSE HOLIDAY SWEATERS AND JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE HOLIDAY SING-ALONG

**CAROLS & BEER**

DECEMBER 13TH @ 6:30PM

RUSTIC LEAF BREWING CO.  
7200 HIGHLAND RD.  
WATERFORD, MI

The poster has a festive red background with illustrations of Christmas lights, a tree, and gifts.



### Congratulations to Central's 50-Year Members

**Front Row:** Phyllis Liming, Debra Cooper, Karen Wilson, Barb Burns, Pastor Jack

**2nd Row:** Barb Scheib, Barb Laing, Jill Tomy, Mary Lou Osborne, Velette Svenkesen

**3rd Row:** Nancy Albery, Barb Spiece, Cathy Hazen, Diana Carter

**Back Row:** Marshall Rice, Rich Kuhn, Steve Albery, Larry Spiece, Bruce Hazen, Don Carter