



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, December 15th, Pastor Jack will continue our *Missing Peace* message series at 8:45am. The Chancel Choir will present a Cantata featuring popular Christmas music at 10:30am. Worship is in person or online at

Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Friends,

I went through a period some years ago of reading many books on evangelism. It started with a trip to the local Cokesbury store that used to exist in Livonia; I would often go to the Cokesbury store about this time of year to buy gifts for friends, staff and myself. Cokesbury is the publishing house of the United Methodist Church and they sell books and other materials for a variety of denominations. As I was shopping, I realized that the books I was gathering for myself were primarily about evangelism with titles like *The ABC's of Evangelism*, *Permission Evangelism*, *Evangelism for the Rest of Us* and *Entertainment Evangelism*. That last book was interesting with the subtitle of *Taking the Church Public*. All of the books encourage readers to use the gifts and graces they possess to be authentic and open to others in sharing their faith; listening more than talking, focusing on building relationships rather than changing someone, and creating an atmosphere of welcome and yes, entertainment.

To be sure, we're not talking about entertainment for the sole purpose of entertainment, but rather answering the question, "Why should the sharing of the good news of Jesus the Christ be boring?" I want to invite you, my Central Church family to be evangelists in these last two weeks prior to Christmas by simply being invitational to the events of our church. Fun and festive events, entertaining events!

Our Cantata is this next Sunday but before that is our Carols and Beer gathering on Friday evening at the Rustic Leaf Brewery. Our Christmas Eve worship experiences are always festive and we have two very different services planned. Of course there are meaningful experiences as well, as we conclude our series of messages on *Missing Peace*, as well our Blue Christmas Service on Wednesday.

Perhaps you know someone who would like to enjoy a festive event celebrating the Season of Advent and Christmas or someone who would benefit from a service focused on loss and mourning with others who also need God's presence and the presence of others.

I wrote in my last *Chimes* letter that it's a great time of year, friends. A time of good news—for you, for me, for all people! It is also a great time of year to share your faith. I look forward to seeing you (and your friends) in worship!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

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Holiday Office Hours

Tuesday 24 Dec 8:30-12:30PM

Wednesday 25 Dec CLOSED

Thursday 26 Dec CLOSED

Tuesday 31 Dec 8:30-12:30PM

Wednesday 1 Jan CLOSED

Youth Group Christmas Party

December 15th, 5:45–7:30pm

Join us at Pastor Jack's house for a Christmas celebration. Please bring a wrapped gift for our White Elephant Gift Exchange. \$10.00 is the limit for the gift. Dinner will be served.

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.

Good Sam Giving Tree

In the Narthex you will find a "life-sized" tree made of envelopes labeled \$1–\$100. During the holiday season we invite you to take an envelope, put in the amount on the envelope and return it to the Church Office. The funds will be used to support Central's Good Samaritan program.

There are also ornaments for sale in the Narthex and these funds will also go toward the Good Sam program.

Pontiac Jail and Outreach Ministry Collection

During January and February we will be collecting new men's white socks (white only, please) and bars of soap. Place donations in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you.

Central Cinema

Saturday, January 4th, 2025 at 6pm

Join us for our first Central Cinema of the new year. January's movie will be *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, an animated film for the entire family. An urbane fox cannot resist returning to his farm-raiding ways, and then must help his community survive the farmers' retaliation. Rated PG.

Central Cinema happens on the first Saturday of each month through June. Meet in the parlor and bring a snack to share and a friend.



Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 15th
During 10:30am Worship

Join us as the Chancel choir presents a musical program of Christmas favorites.



Christmas Worship

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 11th at 7pm

A service of remembrance and encouragement

Family Christmas

Tuesday, December 24th @ 4pm

A multi-generational service that is interactive and engaging. Featuring music by the Central BoomWhacker Band. Followed by a birthday party for Jesus with cake, lemonade and punch.

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday December 24th @ 8pm

A beautiful candlelight service featuring music, scripture, favorite hymns and a dramatic presentation. Bring family and friends. In person or online at Live.Waterfordcumc.org.

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.

Food Pantry Reverse Advent Challenge

Pick up a calendar or download it from 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. Envelopes were sent in your Christmas mailing.

Staff Love Offering

Show your support and love for our wonderful staff! Envelopes were sent in your Christmas mailing.

Thank You

A special THANK YOU to everyone who contributed funds towards the gift cards for the boys in residential care at the Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford.

Don and Diana Carter delivered \$2,075 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.

-Diana Carter

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.

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated January 10th.
Please submit articles by Thursday, January 2nd.



Thank you to everyone who donated toys to the Baldwin Center Holiday Store!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:

- Thomas Laing, 1/2
- Ethel Sinclair, 1/5
- Don Osborne, 1/9
- Marlene Knaus, 1/12
- Lois Banick, 1/12
- Shirley Tindall, 1/15
- Mary Jane Jewell, 1/21
- Samuel Osborn, 1/23
- Glenna Mae Cox, 1/24
- Stephanie Shawl, 1/25
- Ruby Rickard, 1/28
- Rosalie Snell, 1/29

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.

