



## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Jack continues our *Momentum for Life* message series with *Are You Ready?* Worship is in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](https://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org)

## Dear Central Family,

This past Sunday I was excited to begin our latest Message Series based on the work of Rev. Dr. Michael Slaughter, Pastor Emeritus of Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Tipp City, Ohio. In the midst of health and relational crises, Pastor Slaughter created an acronym to capture the principles that would bring healing and wholeness to himself and others.

That acronym is DRIVE. The "D" of DRIVE stands for **Devotion** to God. "R" stands for **Readiness** for lifelong learning. "I" denotes **Investing** in key relationships. "V" indicates **Vision** for the future. "E" stands for **Eating** and **Exercise**. I want to share these messages with you early enough in 2025 that you and I might utilize the ideas behind them to bring lasting change to our lives. This past week I focused on our Devotion to God, illustrating that our Devotion to God is deserved, as Jesus demonstrated God's devotion to us through his life, teachings and dedication to caring for others.

This next Sunday I will demonstrate how an attitude of and dedication to life-long learning will provide the pathway toward change in our lives. This is not an easy journey to make but rather one that requires your attention to your personal pathway in order to gain momentum for your life. Put simply, "You've got to work to make it work!" To that end I invite you to join me and others on Wednesday evenings during these next five weeks to discuss the Sunday morning message from our *Momentum For Life* series. We meet at 7pm on Zoom. To receive the link to these discussions, just contact me (248-217-4004 or [jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org)) or the church office (248-6981-0040).

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,

*Pastor Jack*

## Discussions About The Great Dechurching Postponed

**Pastor Jack**

I want to thank those of you who were ready to take up the discussion this past Sunday (January 19) after worship on *The Great Dechurching*. It was not announced that those discussion were postponed for a month.

The new schedule will be:

- February 16 – Who are the Dechurched?
- March 16 – Engaging the Dechurched.

## CONNECT

-  [waterfordcumc.org](https://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

- April 27 – Final Lessons for our Church and Embracing the Dechurched.

We will spend about an hour for each of these sessions and informational handouts will be provided. We will have some light refreshments (granola bars, other healthy snacks) and beverages to tide you over to a more proper lunch. What I really want from these times together is to elicit your response to the material within the book that I will summarize for attendees. If you would like the book, you can purchase it on Amazon for \$16.69, on Kindle for \$14.99 and currently free to customers of Audible Audiobook.

I am still excited about the possibilities of this New Year and again, apologize for the postponement of our discussions. I hope you will join me in these conversations for the purpose of reaching others for the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

## 2025 Men's Summit Coming Soon

January 31–February 2, 2025

Join us for a great weekend of fellowship and study. We will again be at Skyline Camp & Retreat Center (5650 Sandhill Rd.; Almont, MI 48003). 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. 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. It's not too late to sign up and join the men of our church for this great time of fun, food, fellowship and learning!

## Fueling Kids' Futures (Formerly Blessings in a Backpack)

January 2025 is here, students are back in school, and we are packing bags of food for some students to take home for the weekends. This year we are packing food for approximately 220 students in three Waterford schools: Donelson Hills, Riverside, and Knudsen Elementary.

Fueling Kids' Futures is part of a program involving 17 other communities in SE Michigan. Volunteers from our church and other groups help in packing and delivering the bags of weekend food. The food we pack is purchased from Kroger and funded through donations made by individuals, churches, community organizations and businesses. The cost per child for a year of weekend food is \$160.00.



**Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>  
6pm**

### **Akeela and the Bee**

An inspiring story of an eleven-year-old African American girl who claims her power with the help of 50,000 coaches. We offer this PG-rated film in celebration of Black History Month.

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:**

- Janice Caldwell, 2/6
- Penny Leverenz, 2/10
- Marshall Rice, 2/10
- Joyce Clarkson, 2/12
- Roy Gay, 2/23
- Phyllis Liming, 2/25

**HAPPY 50+ ANNIVERSARY TO:**

- Russell & Barbara Jacobson, 2/12, 70 yrs.
- Larry & Doris Quick, 2/25, 64 yrs.

## To Get Involved

Central has been supporting this program with funds and volunteers since 2011, when it was Blessings in a Backpack. We invite you to become part of this important ministry.

### Donating

1. You can donate online at [FuelingKidsFutures.org/Waterford/](https://FuelingKidsFutures.org/Waterford/)
2. Make a check payable to: "CFGR-FKF" or "CFGR- Fueling Kids Futures", mail to:  
CFGR-Fueling Kids' Futures  
303 East Street  
Rochester, MI 48307
3. Place a donation in the church offering plate; indicate FKF on the memo line

### Volunteering

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the weekly packing of the food that kids will take home. To volunteer, simply join us Wednesdays at 4pm at Riverside Elementary.

There are also volunteer opportunities to help unload the weekly food delivery, which happens the first Tuesday of the month at 9am at Riverside Elementary.

### Leadership

There are also positions on the Steering Committee that oversees this program.

For questions or to learn more, please contact Larry Spiece at 248-877-4923.

## Advocacy Day 2025

**March 12, 2025**

This year, United Methodists will advocate to alleviate the crisis in care resulting from the 2019 auto no-fault insurance changes in Michigan. Available care for survivors has become drastically reduced and is often unavailable. Faith leaders and medical professionals have been asking state policymakers to resolve this humanitarian crisis. **There is an Advocacy Day Preview session scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** For more information and the schedule of events leading up to Advocacy Day, visit [michiganumc.org/advocacy-day-2025/](https://michiganumc.org/advocacy-day-2025/).

If you are planning to attend this year's Advocacy Day, please contact Robin Danek at [rdanek@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:rdanek@waterfordcumc.org). If there is interest in attending we can carpool to Lansing for Advocacy Day 2025.

## Compassionate Christmas Cards

Thank you to everyone who purchased Christmas cards through Central's Compassionate Christmas Card program. Funds received were:

- Baldwin Center - \$70

Join us every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
of the month at 1pm in the  
Parlor for



Folks can work on personal  
projects, crafts, play games or  
just socialize with friends.

For more information, contact  
Cathy Hazen.



- Clothe A Child - \$55
- Fueling Kids' Futures - \$75
- Knit for Kids - \$95
- Liberia Scholarships - \$350

## **Cradle Roll**

Congratulations to Nathan and Lara Cenovski on the birth of Remzia "Zia" Irene on January 6, 2025, and to grandparents Bob and Rainy Stephenson and aunties Julia Stephenson and Jennifer Grybel.

## **Thank You**

Thank you, Pastor Jack and the congregation, for the prayers, cards, phone calls and text messages following my recent surgery.

-Vickie Pike

## **Dear Central Church**

Thank you for the children's books that I was able to pick up for free at your rummage sale (during the free hour on Saturday). I took them down to the Appalachia region of SE Ohio, and the children were overjoyed and grateful for the books.

-An Anonymous Rummage Sale Attendee

## **Dear Central Church**

Thank you for believing in the work we do and for the \$300 donation on 12/31/2024. We rely on our donors, volunteers and community partners and your donation is greatly appreciated.

-Elizabeth Longley, Executive Director, Baldwin Center

## **To Central United Methodist Church,**

Although it has been said many times and many ways, the phrase "thank you" doesn't adequately express our gratitude to you for your prayers and financial support in 2024.

-Norma J. Okonski, Founder and Executive Director, Oakland Hope

## **Address Change**

There is a new address for Marian Hansen: 2460 Glebe Street. Carmel, IN 46032.

**The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated February 9<sup>th</sup>. Please have any articles submitted by Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.**