



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, February 23rd. Pastor Jack wraps up our *Momentum for Life* message series with *A Worthy Sacrifice*. Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Friends,

I have always said that my favorite time of year is the fall; from my birthday late in September through Christmas and the New Year, it a great time of seeing friends and relatives. From Halloween celebrations to Thanksgiving through numerous Christmas gatherings and our Christmas Eve Worship Service, it's just a wonderful time! However, I also love this time of year as we prepare the season of Lent. Yes, I love the Season of Lent!

Ash Wednesday is March 5 and I am well aware that many look at this time in our Christian Calendar as a bummer—a solemn time in which we give something up and there are all sorts of extra expectations put upon us in the church—extra services, extra small groups to participate in and extra service projects to support. May I suggest that we look at the other side of this concept of Lent and consider it to be an opportunity to grow in our faith? Lent can be a time to become more aware of God's presence and to deepen our appreciation for each other as we journey together through this holy time of year.

I am excited to share our Lenten Message Series titled *Praying with Jesus*. We will not only look at the various prayers Jesus shared as recorded in the Gospels, but we will consider Jesus' prayer life. Jesus often went away to be alone in prayer; He sought communion with His Heavenly Father. We will take some time during our Sunday morning worship service to learn some prayer disciplines that may or may not be familiar to you. These spiritual disciplines can greatly enhance and deepen your connection with God and others. I respectfully and prayerfully ask you to consider what it would mean to focus on deepening your faith during this Season of Lent. Let's travel together, thankful for each other and the relationship that God desires with us.

We have two weeks in which to prepare for Lent. Begin today by looking at your calendar. When you receive our Lenten Program Brochure, see what studies, fellowship times and worship services you can participate in so that you have the most meaningful Lenten experience possible. Lent can be a joyful season of growing in your relationship with God and others if you prepare yourself with that thought and goal in mind.

As always, look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

The Great De-Churching Sessions

On Sunday, February 16th, Pastor Jack conducted the first of three sessions to discuss the findings in the book *The Great De-Churching*. Since the weather kept many folks home we continued the

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-  info@waterfordcumc.org
-  (248) 681-0040
-  3882 Highland Rd.
Waterford MI 48328

Lenten Study & Worship

Ash Wednesday–March 5th

6:30–9:00am—Drive Thru Coffee & Ashes

9:00am–noon—Ashes in the Chapel

7:00pm—Service of Ashes. *Praying with Jesus: The Value of Prayer* based on Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 and John 14:1-14.

Coach Patty and the children will Hide the Alleluia.

Lenten Message Study

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm with
Pastor Jack, via Zoom

A weekly deep dive into our Lenten message series *Praying with Jesus*. We'll explore scripture, review key points of the message and discuss how it applies to our lives as followers of Christ. Join us for any or all of these studies, conducted via Zoom so that you can join from the comfort of your home. To get on the distribution list for the Zoom link contact the church office or email Pastor Jack at (jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org).

Believe Like Jesus: Rising from Faith in Jesus to the Faith of Jesus

Thursdays, 11am–Noon and 6:30–7:30pm beginning
March 6th

What might happen if we rise from having faith *in* Jesus to having the faith *of* Jesus? What *is* the faith of Jesus? How do we learn to believe like Jesus? Would this mindset change our lives, our communities, our world?

Take an inward journey of spiritual transformation to live courageously, grow strong and thrive.

Lenten Lunch & Learn

Wednesdays @ 12:15pm

March 12th, 19th, 26th and April 2nd, 9th, 16th

Bring your lunch and join Rev. Deb for a study based on the book *When the World Takes the Wind Out of Your Sails* by James Moore.

Devotionals

Spend time this Lent developing spiritually. Devotionals are available in the Narthex and are a great tool to help with faith formation.



Kids Ministry Calendar of Faith & Fun

KidVenture Morning Adventures in
Faith every Sunday @ 10:45am

February 20 – Fun Day
at 5:15pm in Room 112

February 27 – Art, Art, and More Art
at 5:15pm in Room 112

March 7 – Pizza and Game Night
at 6:00pm. Grab your running shoes,
bring your friends for crazy games, art
projects, and good food!



**February 23 – Youth Group
Bowling Party @ 5:30pm.** Please
RSVP to Coach Patty by
February 20th.

**CUMC Youth Group is for all
youth in 6th – 12th grade!
All are welcome!**



**Happy 35th
Birthday, Purple
Threads!
March 6th 2025**

livestream so that folks online could attend. If you missed the session or would like to review what was discussed you can view a recap on our website at Waterfordcumc.org/the-great-de-churching-sessions/. The next sessions will be on March 16th and April 27th, after 10:30am worship.

New Member Classes

Are you interested in becoming a member of Central Church? Join us for one of these new member classes. Contact the church office at (248) 681-0040 to sign up.

- **Session 1:** Feb 23rd @ 4pm & Feb 24th @ 7pm
- **Session 2:** March 16th @ 4pm & March 17th @ 7pm
- **Makeup Sessions:** March 30th @ 4pm & March 31st @ 7pm

Youth Group Service Project

We are collecting donations for Art Therapy Kits for Kids. **Donations are needed by Thursday, March 6th.** We are collecting crayons, markers, colored pencils, blank note pads, small coloring books, scissors, watercolor paints, pencil sharpeners, kinetic sand, modeling clay, glue sticks, index cards, thank you cards, non-spill paint containers and blank puzzles (that kids can draw on; these can be found at craft stores). The assembled kits will be delivered to Grace Centers for Hope, HAVEN, and Children's Hospital. Please place donations in the basket in the Narthex.

Address Change

There is a new address for Nancy Radenbaugh: 5750 Stoney Brook Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49009.

Thank You

On February 4th, Central delivered to HOPE Shelters 2 bags of hygiene items; tooth brushes, soap & lotions, seven winter hats, and six packages of men's boxers and undershirts. They were very appreciative and also thanked us for financial support via rummage sale and other church activities. They mentioned an immediate need for inexpensive reader glasses which can be purchased at the dollar store.

-Debra Hayden-Schmidt

Dear Central Church,

Your generosity is not just a donation; it is a contribution to the collective effort that empowers individuals, uplifts entire families, and transforms lives. We want to acknowledge your significant role in our shared success with your total contributions for the year 2024 of \$2,075.

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated March 9th. Please have any articles submitted by Thursday, February 27th.



**Saturday, March 1st
6pm**

Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret

An engaging dramedy about an 11-year-old girl dealing with her changing body and her curiosity about religion. This PG13-rated film is based on the Judy Blume classic. Recommended by our regular CC attendees

