



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Easter Sunday, April 20th. Pastor Jack concludes our *Praying with Jesus* Lenten Message Series with *Unexpected Blessing*. Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Friends,

I was speaking to a friend who is not a member of our church and he asked how things are going for our church. My response was a little strange to him and perhaps even a bit irreverent. I answered, "Great, we've had a fun Lenten Season!" He looked askance at me and I added, "Perhaps I should have said, 'We've had a meaningful Lenten Season.'" He retorted, "Yes, perhaps that is a better word."

It has been a meaningful Lent for many in our church as I've participated in some of the extra studies and experiences that we've offered our members and friends and invited the greater community to join us. We've received eight new members with two more who will be joining us in a few weeks. I've enjoyed exploring the prayers of Jesus with our congregation and teaching some prayer practices that may be new to you. So, while I agree that this Lenten Season has been meaningful, it has also been fun; meaningful and fun are not mutually exclusive.

And now we're in Holy Week and certainly our tasks in worship will be about recognizing the depth of Jesus' sacrifice for each of us, demonstrating God's love, compassion, forgiveness and healing. It is a somber week when we relive the suffering of Jesus Christ and are reminded of how God suffers when we turn away from our Creator. It is a serious time of introspection and prayer. I encourage you to join us for our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Worship Services, each at 7:00 p.m. in our beautiful Sanctuary. I often say that the Easter Celebration of Christ's Resurrection is all the sweeter when we have traveled the valleys of Holy Week.

As always, I look forward to seeing you in worship!


Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

Third Discussion About The Great Dechurching Scheduled

Thank you to all who have attended our *The Great Dechurching* discussions. I have found the discussions meaningful and the feedback helpful. **Our final session will be April 27** when we will discuss "Final Lessons for our Church and Embracing the Dechurched." I hope you'll make plans to join us for this final discussion.

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

Women's Spring Tea

Saturday, May 10th

@ 1pm

Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to host a table or attend.

If you'd like to help with planning, please contact Kathy Chao at jkchao@sbcglobal.net.

Happy Easter! He Is Risen! Join Us for Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday, April 17th @ 7:00pm

Service Commemorating the Last Supper with Holy Communion.
Praying with Jesus: Jesus' Final Desires based on John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

Good Friday, April 18th @ 7:00pm

Praying with Jesus: Prayers for Forgiveness based on Luke 23:33-43.

Holy Saturday, April 19th @ 10am

Bring the kids, grandkids, friends and family for an Easter egg hunt on the grounds of Central Church. The hunt begins at 10am, rain or shine. Raincoats and boots recommended as eggs may be hiding in low-lying areas.

Easter Sunday, April 20th @ 8:45am & 10:30am

Praying with Jesus: Unexpected Blessings based on Luke 23:1-12. Special children's event—Find the Alleluia.

Join us between worship services (9:30–10:30am) for coffee hour, crafts for the kids, a photo booth, and a tour of the empty tomb.

And Join Us for Our Annual Holy Humor Sunday on April 27th!

PrimeTime Trip to the DIA

Tuesday, May 6th

Back by popular demand! Join us for a trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts. Meet at Central for a noon departure by charter bus, arriving around 1:00pm. There will be a guided tour from 1:00–2:00pm and you will have about an hour from 2:00pm until the bus leaves at 3:00pm to tour the Institute on your own. This event is free and participants will receive a coupon for a free coffee/tea and a cookie. The coupon is also good for 10% off in the gift shop. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, April 20th.

Craft Show Volunteers are Still Needed

We are still in need of people to help out with our craft show on May 3rd. Volunteer activities include helping vendors get settled in, welcoming vendors and visitors and helping prepare lunches. If you can help out, please add your name to the sign up list in the Narthex. Thank you.

Coffee Time Is Back!

We're excited to announce that on Easter Sunday we are "resurrecting" coffee hour! To maintain this ongoing ministry, volunteers are needed for prep and clean-up each Sunday. Our hope is to have eight teams of two people. This should ensure that each team will only need to serve once every other month. Donations to replenish coffee and supplies will also be helpful. Please see Linda Taylor or Jannette Deszell after worship to help.



All Church Clean-Up Day

Saturday, May 10th
9am - Noon

Bring your gardening tools, chainsaws, gloves, knee pads and your can-do attitude and help us beautify the church for spring.

Scholarships

Application forms for scholarships for high school graduates and continuing college students are now available. To apply, please download the application from waterfordcumc.org/forms/ and return it by May 11th, 2025.

Thank You

To a Few Lumberjacks in our Congregation

I want to thank members of our Trustee Committee, Brook Strang, Fred Beedle and Greg Kelley for coming and clearing brush and small trees, which have been encroaching on the back yard of our parsonage. This past Friday they brought their chain saws, clippers and strong backs to get rid of that brush, some of it full of thorns. I was able to join them and enjoyed the fellowship. Thanks gentlemen!

-Pastor Jack

THANK YOU, those who attended the Michigan Central Station tour!!! I heard some wonderful reports that you all had fun and enjoyed the fellowship. Of course that's the whole idea of Prime Time.

And your cooperation, understanding the little glitches, and a two-stop caravan way down to Detroit's Cork Town area was probably one of our most challenging events to date. And worth it for a fantastic time of friends and joy (and lots of walking) for all.

Thanks for letting me do the details which you handled in good CUMC cooperative style. Glad you liked it.

- Bob (Swartz)

PS and with the "rule" at Slow's to only have one bill for all 26 of us and I just asked you to give what you thought your meal cost—how did each of you know we were going to come out within exactly 54¢ of total including tip???

Amazing! Thank you so much :)

**The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated May 4th.
Please have any articles submitted by Thursday,
April 24th.**



Central UMC Family Ministries Schedule of Events

April 19 – CUMC Easter Egg Hunt
at 10am

April 19 – Youth Service Project
following the Easter Egg Hunt

April 20 – Easter Sunday; No
KidVenture or Youth Group

April 27 – KidVenture at 10:45am

April 27 – Youth Group Outdoors
at 5:45pm

**Join us every 3rd 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.



BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE

Mary Helen Beason

May 18, 1923 – April 8, 2025

Member Since December 14, 1980