



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, May 4th. Holy communion. Pastor Jack begins a new Message Series with *Our UM Social Principles: The Force of Nature*. Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Friends,

Wow! What a wonderful Easter season and the follow up to it with a Holy Humor Sunday that was celebrative and great fun! I want to thank many of you for your kind comments on our Lenten Message Series, *Praying With Jesus*. Several of you mentioned that you enjoyed the time we took to actually utilize the various prayer practices that accompanied the messages. It was a very busy season of Lent and I want to thank our dedicated staff for all their diligence in preparing each week for the programs as well as our worship services.

I want to give you an idea of what happened during Lent these past couple of months. Our Lenten Lunch and Learn program using the Rev. James Moore's book, *When the World Takes the Wind Out of Your Sails*, was well received with about eight people participating in the program. Patty Stroup's Thursday morning and evening Lenten Classes, *Believe Like Jesus*, were attended by a total of seventeen people. We began the Lenten Season with Drive Through Coffee and Ashes for 52 people, twice the previous year's participation. Over 50 people participated in our *21 Days of Hope* online challenge and we ended the pre-Easter season with our Easter egg hunt the day before Easter with over 150 people participating!

We received eight new members on April sixth, with two people who took classes and will join at the next possible opportunity. We are not only growing in number but we are growing in our relationship with God. I want to thank everyone who participated in our Lenten programs, attended worship during Lent and invited friends and neighbors to join us during this wonderful Easter season!

The next four Sundays in May we will focus on the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. I look forward to sharing our vision as a local church as well as a denomination.

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

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

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Hymn Sing

Sunday, June 1st, 2025

Watch your order of worship for the form to submit your favorite hymns. Invite a friend who likes to sing!

***The Great Dechurching* Program Ends With a New Beginning**

After three conversations these past three months about *The Great Dechurching*, we are hoping to create a group interested in outreach and evangelism to understand how we can welcome and re-introduce people into the church. If you'd like to be a part of this group of people, please contact Pastor Jack (jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org) and we will set up further meetings on how to meet the needs of those who have lived through the dechurching of America.

May Lunch and Learn

May 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th at 12:15pm

Our Lenten Lunch and Learn was a great success and we will be continuing this study. Join Pastor Deb on Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall for a discussion based on the book *The Children Are Free: Reexamining the Biblical Evidence on Same-sex Relationships* by Jeff Minor and John Tyler Connoley. Bring your lunch; water and coffee will be provided. Come enjoy the fellowship and learning as we seek to love and support all of God's children!

PrimeTime Troy Historical Village Tour

Tuesday, June 17th, 10am

This is a handicapped accessible guided tour of the Troy Historical Village. The village has 11 buildings from 1837-1927 including a former Methodist Church and parsonage. We will meet at Central church at 10am to carpool to the Village.

After the tour we'll enjoy a boxed lunch (sub, chips, cookie, beverage), or you may bring your own lunch. The tour cost is \$12, the boxed lunch is \$10. Sign up in the Narthex to participate. For more info, contact Dan Arnold (danieljarnold15@gmail.com). Dan will be collecting money for the boxed lunches.

Central Cafe Is Wrapping Up Soon

Central Cafe, our weekly Thursday night dinner and time of fellowship, will be wrapping up for the season on May 15th, 2025. So, if you've been meaning to come for dinner, join us for one of these great meals:

- May 1: Pasta with Italian sausage, garlic bread
- May 8: Baked potato bar
- May 15: Burgers, baked beans, fries

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.



**Big
Bible
Challenge**

**May Adult Faith
Formation
Thursdays at 11am
and 6:30pm at
Central UMC in the
Parlor**



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.

UMC Signs Ecumenical Declaration: Defending Refuge

In an unprecedented moment of moral reckoning, Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) of The United Methodist Church on March 4, 2025, issued The Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Declaration: Defending Refuge, a bold and urgent call to action from faith communities across the nation. With 45 initial signers, including CWS' Covenant Members, this declaration is more than a statement—it is a solemn and unshakable commitment by religious leaders and organizations to stand against policies that endanger refugees and immigrants. The Declaration reads:

"Together in faith and rooted in love, we resolve to continue in the centuries-old practice of Christian communities walking alongside refugees and immigrants in their pursuit of safety and dignity. We pledge to restore and promote hospitality and welcome to those seeking refuge – regardless of where they are from, how they pray or what language they speak.

Guided by our faith, we stand together against the sweeping measures that are devastating vulnerable families and jeopardizing their futures. These actions not only cause immediate harm but also threaten our country's long-term ability to welcome and support those in need. We grieve for the families who have been torn apart, had years-long reunification plans canceled, been detained and deported, have been unjustly blocked from accessing asylum protections, and have been left without access to the basic assistance they need to thrive."

To learn more about the declaration and add your name, visit bit.ly/umc-refuge.

Address Change

There is a new address for Maurice Grant: 5178 Washburn, Goodrich, MI 48438.

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated May 18th. Please have any articles submitted by Thursday, May 8th.



Central UMC Family Ministries Schedule of Events

Sundays @ 10:45am –
KidVenture Kids

May 4 @ 5:45pm - Youth Group
Geocaching Adventure

May 8 @ 5:15pm – BLAST Kids All
About ART

May 10 @ 9am – Youth Group
Service Project (wear old clothes)

May 11 @ 5:45pm – Youth Group
GAGA Ball Game Night

May 15 @ 5:15pm – BLAST Kids All
About SCIENCE

May 18 @ 5:45pm – Youth Group

May 22 @ 5:15pm – BLAST Kids
All About SERVICE

May 25 – No KidVenture or Youth
Group

May 29 @ 5:15pm – BLAST Kids
All About COURAGE

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
from your friends at Central Church



Easter at Central Church



Top Left: Jaeden McCarthy (front) and Shawn Riley (back) make pancakes on Palm Sunday. **Top Right:** Central musicians enjoying Palm Sunday brunch. **Top Center Row:** The Easter egg hunt is on! **Bottom Center Row:** Myke Robson and John Deszell prepare the Sanctuary for Easter. **Bottom Left:** Coach Patty demonstrates how to make pretzels. **Bottom Right:** The Chancel Choir, John Pierre, and guest violinist Shawn Boucke deliver an awesome Easter Cantata.