



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, December 14th. Third Sunday of Advent. Pastor Jack continues our Advent Message Series with *Our Advent Pilgrimage – Destination: Nazareth*. Worship is in person or online at

Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Church Family,

I truly hope you are enjoying Advent as we join together in *Our Advent Pilgrimage*. It has been fun to think of the Biblical people from our scriptures as mentors and guides while we explore the “thin places” of our lives.

This next Sunday, we will have Mary, the mother and “First Disciple” of Jesus. Think of Mary as the first to demonstrate Christian virtues, as she agreed to be the mother of God’s child! She even celebrated this blessing as she broke out in song while visiting her cousin Elizabeth in Judea; we call Mary’s song *The Magnificat*. The seemingly insignificant city of Nazareth was a thin place where Mary encountered our God in a very significant way.

On Sunday, December 21st, our final Sunday in Advent, we will celebrate the first witnesses to the birth of Jesus—the Shepherds. We will also visit the Temple where Jesus was brought for his naming ceremony and circumcision. Simeon, the Priest, and Anna, the Prophet, both of advanced age, witnessed to the significance of the Christ Child in what is known as the Second Temple. That Temple was another thin place where God’s presence was felt, and both Simeon and Anna were compelled to pray and praise God for the blessing of the Christ Child.

I pray that *Our Advent Pilgrimage* has inspired you to think about your own thin places—where and when you have experienced God in deep and meaningful ways. I believe that we can all celebrate how God has blessed us, as God entered human history in Galilee in the north of Israel and in Jerusalem in Judea. Join me in these final two weeks as we move toward Christmas, which I pray will be a thin place for us all! Blessings to you, my Church Family, and I will see you in worship!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

Men’s Summit

January 30-February 1, 2026

Join the men of the church at the Skyline Camp & Retreat Center (5650 Sandhill Rd.; Almont, MI 48003) for a special weekend of study and fellowship. The cost is \$160 and includes lodging for two nights, three meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday morning. Sign up outside the office by the end of the year and save \$5! Participants will need to bring their own bedding or sleeping bag, a Bible, notebook, snacks and beverages to share.

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



CAROLS & BEER

Friday, December 12th
6:30pm

Join us at Rustic Leaf Brewing Co. for a festive evening of carol singing. Enjoy a locally made craft beer while singing favorite Christmas carols with friends.

Bring a non-perishable food item to support Central's Food Pantry

Rustic Leaf Brewing Co. | 7200 Highland Rd.
Waterford Township 48327

Participants should also anticipate the cost of going out for a meal together on Friday night at a local restaurant.

Support Our Michigan Area of the UMC

By Pastor Jack

Ministry Shares are the way in which we connect with other United Methodist Churches in the state of Michigan and around the world. Included in those Shares are the salaries of the Administrative Offices for the Michigan Area of the United Methodist Church. They also support the regional and worldwide missions of the UMC. It is the responsibility of each local congregation in our Michigan Area Conference to support the ministry and missions of our denomination.

We, along with many other local United Methodist Churches, have not been able to pay our Ministry Shares in full for about six years. Our Finance Committee, with the support of our Church Council, would like to pay at least 50% of our shares this year. This means we are taking on the goal of \$30,000 by the end of the year. We have 130 giving units in our church; if 100 of those giving units gave \$300, we could make that goal. I am asking you to prayerfully consider that giving goal as we approach the end of the year. I know that some of you may have required minimum distributions (RMDs) as we approach the end of the year, and perhaps you could support this fundraising effort through those sources. Make your checks out to Waterford Central UMC and write "Ministry Shares 2025" in the memo.

Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting our church and denomination.

Central's RaiseRight Program Is Great for Christmas Gift-Giving

Central participates in the RaiseRight program, which allows friends and members to purchase gift cards, with a portion of your purchase going to support the work of Central Church. RaiseRight offers gift cards from many popular retailers, restaurants, big box stores and gas stations. Stop by the RaiseRight table on Sundays or the church office during the week to purchase cards. **The final Sunday to order cards in time for Christmas is this Sunday, December 14th.** Cards ordered on that day can be picked up on Sunday, December 21st.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:

- Thomas Laing, 1/2
- 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
- Ruby Rickard, 1/28
- Rosalie Snell, 1/29

PrimeTime Senior Shenanigans

We will NOT be having our Senior Shenanigans third Tuesday get together in December. Enjoy the holiday with family and friends!

The Financial Love Report



Thanks to your calling, we have helped several people in many ways. In the month of **November**:

2	Received help with rent assistance.
2	Received help with utility assistance.
16	Households received groceries.

\$ 565.00	Raised for Good Samaritan
\$ 1,642.50	Raised for Central's Food Pantry
\$ 1,365.15	Raised for Clothe-a-Child
\$ 560.00	Raised for Ministry Shares
\$ 910.00	Raised for Methodist Children's Home
\$ 15.00	Raised for "Garden of Hope", Haiti
(plus so much more in December)	

Glad to be a part of a generous and loving community,
Cassandra



PrimeTime Trip to Meadow Brook Theatre

Wed., January 14th, 11:15am - 4pm

Join the Primetime Group for this outing to Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester Hills for the show *All Shook Up—A Tribute to Elvis*. We will meet at Central at 11:15am to carpool to PF Chang's for lunch, then on to the theatre. The cost of show tickets is \$42, payable to Dan Arnold by December 29th. You are on your own for the cost of lunch. For more info, contact Dan Arnold at danieljarnold15@gmail.com or 248-884-5904.

Thank You

Dear CUMC Family:

Thank you so much for the many prayers, cards and notes over these past several months. They have been a huge inspiration to me as I continue on the road to recovery. Thanks, too, to Pastor Jack for the many visits and prayer time together. I am so grateful for your love and support!

-Rich Kuhn

MCHS Gift Cards

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 \$2,125.00 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

Dear Central Church

Thank you so much for hosting us for our parade rehearsals!

-Warmly, Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan



Kids' Ministries

**KidVenture Sunday Morning
Adventure at 10:45am to 11:30am**

December 18 – ADVENTure Fun
for Kids and Families at 4:30 to
5:15pm

December 24 – Christmas Eve
Family Service at 4pm in the
Sanctuary

December 28 – No KidVenture
January 1 – No Younger Youth
Group

Youth Group

Sundays, 5:45–7:30pm

December 14 – Christmas Party!
Bring a gift (\$10 or under) wrapped
for some Christmas fun.

December 21 – Badminton
practice, 5 to 6pm.

December 28 – Badminton
practice, 5 to 6pm.

Christmas Worship Services

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 10th @ 7:00pm

A service of remembrance and encouragement.

Family Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th @ 4:00pm

Join us for The ABCs of Christmas. Interactive and fun—everyone has a part!

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th @ 8:00pm

Lessons and Carols. Enjoy favorite scripture readings and Christmas hymns. Performances by the Chancel Choir and Central Dancers.

All worship services will be in-person and livestreamed at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](https://www.Live.WaterfordCUMC.org).

Christmas Mission and Giving

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, November 30th through Sunday, December 21st 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(s) on Christmas morning. Smaller monetary gifts are also welcome.

Food Pantry Reverse Advent

Pick up a calendar or download it from our website at [News=>Reverse Advent Challenge 2025](#) and collect one item for each day of December. Drop off donations weekly at the table in the Sanctuary, or at the end of the month to the Food Pantry box or the church office.

Hats and Mittens/Gloves

Donate a matched set of a hat + mittens/gloves to go to Waterford School children through the Clothe-a-Child program (please no scarves).

Advent Mission Project

Central UMC will tithe a portion of our Christmas Offering to partner missions: The UMC Garden of Hope Advent Offering, the Baldwin Center Meal Program, and ministry shares, which support worldwide UMC missions.

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated December 28th. Please have any articles submitted by Thursday, December 18th