



Connecting with God,
Connecting with Others,
Changing Our World With Christ's Love

12.28.25

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, December 28th. Pastor Jack wraps up *Our Advent Pilgrimage* with *The New Jerusalem and Central UMC*. Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Church Family,

Wow! This Advent Season has passed so very quickly, and as I write this letter for the final *Chimes* of 2025, I find myself in a mixed state of contentment and frenzied concerns. I still have gifts to buy, people to visit and services that need finishing touches. This week is going to be short, as Christmas Eve is just two days away. I want this Christmas to go well and our Christmas Eve Services to be meaningful as well as enjoyable, a balance that is sometimes difficult to achieve. I find comfort in the words of Kary Myers from an online article I've kept for over 20 years. I'm dusting it off and want to share it with you:

"How foolish to think that the joy of Christmas is found only when every last thing meets our grand expectations. If that were the criterion, then the first Christmas surely would have been considered a disaster. Mary probably hadn't planned on going into labor during her trip to Bethlehem. Far from the comfort of her home and family, she no doubt was distraught to learn there was no room for them in the inn. Delivering her precious baby in a smelly stable and laying him in an animal's feeding trough was certainly not the way in which the Son of God should enter the world. Or was it?"

The joy of Christmas is not found in buying the perfect gift or preparing the perfect meal. It is found in receiving the perfect gift of Immanuel — God with us. So no matter how our plans turn out this year the important thing is that our Savior was born!" (Kari Myers, "The 'perfect' Christmas," *The Link*, December, 2002, 12.)

May we all be blessed, as we seek to make room in our hearts and busy lives for the Christ Child to be born to us once again. God bless 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 theme for this year's Summit is *Resilient—Restoring Your Weary Soul in These Turbulent Times*. The book, by John Eldredge, is available from several online sources if you want to read it. There will be five video sessions for the summit and our conversations will be guided by Pastor Jack and Ken Cortese. Participants will need to bring their own bedding or sleeping bag, a Bible, notebook, snacks and beverages to share.

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-  (248) 681-0040
-  3882 Highland Rd.
Waterford MI 48328

The cost is \$160 and includes lodging for two nights, three meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday morning. You should also anticipate the cost of going out for a meal together on Friday night at a local restaurant. **Sign up in the Narthex by the end of the year and save \$5!**



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.

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

January

Kids' Ministries

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

January 4 – KidVenture: Fly By Night

January 8 – JUMP Kids @ 4:30pm

January 11 – KidVenture: Here He Comes

January 15 – JUMP Kids @ 4:30pm

January 18 – KidVenture: Asking Questions

January 22 – JUMP Kids @ 4:30pm

January 25 – KidVenture: Lead by Example at 10:45am

January 29 – JUMP Kids @ 4:30pm

Youth Group

Sundays, 5:45–7:30pm. Dinner will be served.

January 4 – CUMC Fowl Play vs. Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran

January 11 – The Sower

January 18 – What about Others & Gardening Service Project

January 25 – Blessed are the Merciful

It's Time for Another Little Sprouts Fundraiser!

White Lake!

Eat to support
Little Sprouts Early Childhood Center



WHERE
Applebee's
930 Highland Road, White Lake



WHEN
Tuesday, January 13th
4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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), 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.

New Grief Group at Central

Grief is a challenging time of loss and lament. To help walk in the light and faith of God's love, join our Grief Support Group. The next session will be on Thursday, January 8th. We have two times available—from 1pm to 2pm or from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Meetings will occur every other week in Room 107. Everyone is welcome, so let family and friends in need know of this support group. For more information, contact the Church Office at 248-681-0040.

New January Study: Dig Into God's Word

Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am and 6:30-7:30pm

Join Coach Patty as we dig into the *New Testament*. You will be introduced to key verses that will have a life-long impact, and learn how those important passages fit into the big picture. You will gain an understanding of how the Gospel spread and the Church began, and you will connect that history with your life today! Adventure through the Gospels to Revelation. Come join this UNCOMMON adventure. We will meet in Room 108. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Coach Patty at 248-681-0040 Ext. 115.

Holiday Office Hours

December 24th – Closed
December 25th – Closed
December 31st – Closed at noon
January 1st - Closed



Saturday, January 3rd, 6pm

Inside Out 2

This teen comedy and sequel to *Inside Out* features Riley entering puberty and experiencing brand new, more complex emotions. As Riley tries to adapt to her teenage years, her old emotions try to adapt to the possibility of being replaced. Rated PG.

Christmas Services

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.

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated January 5th. Please have any articles submitted to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org by Thursday, January 1st.



Left: The Mott High School Dance Team stopped by to donate to Central's Food Pantry.

Center: Coach Patty's Faith Formation class learned about God's Word while baking cookies.

Bottom: The Clothe-a-Child team once again came through for Waterford elementary students.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
From your friends at Central UMC