



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 11th. Baptism of Jesus Sunday. Pastor Jack's message is *When Sea Billows Roll*. Worship is in person or online at

Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Church Family,

I sincerely enjoyed this past Advent Season and enjoyed sharing with you the concept of Advent being a pilgrimage, which means the season had a purpose of growing spiritually in our relationship with God and each other. I enjoyed sharing the wisdom of our Biblical Guides and Mentors throughout the season as we considered their thin places and our own thin places where we encounter God in deep and meaningful ways.

Another great celebration of the Season was the fact that, on December 21st, we welcomed six new members into our church family. We have three others ready to join our church but were not available that day. We welcomed into our fellowship Ed and Kathy Robbins, Michael and Jennifer Boutin, Carol Axford and Micah Ross. Some of these folks have worshiped and fellowshiped with us for years, while others have been with us a few months.

They come from Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and nondenominational backgrounds. Three are retired, while the others include a middle school music teacher, an IT specialist and a store manager. They all have a couple of things in common—they sought a church in which to grow in their faith and in fellowship with you, our Central Church family! They also bring new life to Central Church through their experiences, gifts and graces. I encourage you to continue welcoming Ed, Kathy, Michael, Jennifer, Carol and Micah to Central Church.


Yesterday, January 4, we had six new visitors to Central Church and I was impressed with conversations within our membership inquiring of each other whether or not they had met those who joined us for worship for the first time. I spoke briefly with a few of those visitors and was told that they were made to feel welcome.

I pray for a blessing upon our church as we enter this New Year and I ask that God continue to bless us with new people with whom to share the love of Christ. We truly are a place to connect. God bless you, my Church Family, and I will see you in worship!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

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

Men's Summit

January 30-February 1
Skyline Retreat Center

A time of fellowship and study. This year's theme is *Resilient—Restoring Your Weary Soul in These Turbulent Times*.

\$160 per person. Sign up in the Narthex.

Support Our Michigan Area of the UMC

By Pastor Jack

This past November, we began a financial campaign to support our Ministry Shares, which are the way in which we connect with other United Methodist Churches in the state of Michigan and around the world. These funds support the salaries of those who work for Michigan Area of the UMC, as well as our missions, both here in the United States and across the world. It is the responsibility of each local congregation in our Michigan Area Conference to support the ministry and missions of our denomination.

It was a large goal to raise \$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 would have made that goal. So far, we have raised \$4999. That was for last year's asking. I want to encourage you to once again prayerfully consider that giving goal as we begin a new year. As we enter this New Year, we are not in a new budget year for our denomination. Please consider helping us catch up for last year and be aware that we need to increase our giving in 2026. If you want to support this past fall's campaign, make your checks out to Waterford Central UMC and write "Ministry Shares 2025" in the memo. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our local church and denomination.

New Grief Group at Central

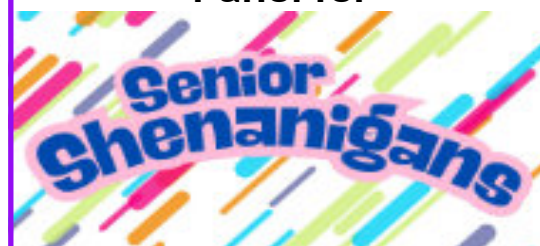
Grief is a challenging time of loss and lament. To help walk in the light and faith of God's love, join our Grief Support Group. The next session will be on Thursday, January 22nd. We have two times available—from 1pm to 2pm or from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Meetings will occur every other week in Room 107. 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.

**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.](#)

PrimeTime Trip to *All Shook Up* at Meadow Brook Theatre

If you have signed up for this trip on Wed., Jan 14th, meet at Central at 11:15am to carpool.

The Financial Love Report

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

6	Received help with rent assistance.
2	Received help with utility assistance.
15	Households received groceries.
\$ 75.00	Raised for Baldwin Center
\$ 5,930.00	Raised for C.W. Duncan School/Liberia
\$ 1,162.50	Raised for Central's Food Pantry
\$ 1,135.15	Raised for Clothe-a-Child
\$ 515.25	Raised for Fueling Kids Futures
\$ 1,463.75	Raised for Good Samaritan
\$ 100.00	Raised for Jail Ministries
\$ 110.00	Raised for Knit for Kids
\$ 4,999.05	Raised for Ministry Shares
\$ 200.00	Raised for Parking Lot
\$ 50.00	Raised for UMCOR

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

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.



Food Pantry Blessings

Thank you to everyone who gave to Central's Food Pantry this Christmas. Word got out, and in addition to your generosity during our Reverse Advent Challenge, we received donations from the Goodfellows, the Mott Dance Team, and donations from folks who attended Carols & Beer. So, now we have a good problem! We're looking for a few volunteers to help us sort and organize the food so that we can get it to families in our community. If you are willing and able to help out, please contact Coach Patty (pstroup@waterfordcumc.org) or (248) 681-0040.

Thank You

Methodist Children's Home Society

In addition to the Amazon Gift cards totaling \$2,125, we also sent MCHS a check for \$220 from donations which came in after the deadline. These funds will be used for the boys in residential care. Our total this holiday season for the boys MCHS was \$2,345.. Thanks once again for your generous giving.

-Diana Carter

Memorial Giving

Thank you to everyone who gave to Central Church in honor of a loved one. Memorials were given in July-December 2025 in honor of:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| • Kenyon Painter | • Ginny Glidden | • C. Braden | • Gay Crump |
| • Madge Irish | • J. Snyder | • Marvin Jewel | • Lowell & Ann Stuckman |
| • Loomis | • K. VanHoy | • Gary Greene | • Claire Boutin |
| • Laing | • M. Dennis | • Penny Leverenz | • Robert Casteel |



Kids' Ministries

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

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 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
9100 Highland Road, White Lake



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

The Office will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated January 25th. Please have any articles submitted to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org by Thursday, January 15th.



Top: The BoomWhacker Band performs during Family Christmas.

Middle: Central's Youth badminton team, Fowl Play, takes on Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church.

Bottom: The Mannschreck family lights the Advent candles on Christmas Eve.

