

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, January 25th. Pastor Jack continues our *Attitude is Your Paint Brush* series with *The Attitude of Compassion*. Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Church Family,

As was announced on January 11, The Reverend Mary Gibson will become the Lead Pastor of Waterford Central United Methodist Church as of July 1, 2026. I am pleased and excited for this new leadership for Central Church! I have known Mary for decades and worked closely with her on our Board of Ordained Ministry when Reverend Jim Kellermann was the pastor here at Central Church! The world gets smaller and smaller as we continue life's journey and learn of the inter-connectedness of relationships with one another.

This is the second time Rev. Gibson has followed me in our United Methodist Itinerant System; she became the Associate Pastor of Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church where I began my ministry as the Associate in that church. I have a great deal of respect for Mary's ministry and I know her skills and deep love for Christ and the church as she will bring new perspectives and a creative spirit to our mission and ministry.

I know firsthand how difficult it is to follow a beloved pastor, having followed Rev. Kellermann after his thirteen years as your pastor. By the time I came to be with you as your pastor, I had learned that a congregation's capacity to love, care for and support their previous pastor is a good sign for the new pastor. I am confident that you will continue your love, care and support of Rev. Mary as she comes to Central Church after my thirteen years as your pastor. What a coincidence!

I pray for a blessing upon our church as we enter this time of transition and I ask that God continue to bless us with new leadership with all the new possibilities that will follow. God bless you, my Church Family, and I will see you in worship!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

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The Reverend Mary Gibson (center, in pink) with Staff Parish Relations Committee members (from L. to R.) Bryan Murphy, Kathy Chao, Andy Cox, Michael Kaul, and Sara Hazen-Robinson.



Detroit Parade Company Tour

Tuesday, February 10th

Central's PrimeTime February trip will be to the Detroit Parade Company—the group that puts on the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade. We will meet at Central at 8:45am to carpool to the Parade Company for a 10am tour. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for ages 3-17. After the tour we go to a fine local establishment for lunch (cost on your own). Please pay Bob Swartz by 2/8/26 for tickets (non-refundable). For more info, contact Bob at 248-882-4301 (text or call).

UMC Advocacy Day 2026

Wednesday, March 18th

Join fellow United Methodists in Lansing for our 4th annual day of advocacy. This year we will be advocating to address food insecurity. Pastor Jack and a few staff members will be attending, so if you would like to carpool with us, please contact Robin Danek (rdanek@waterfordcumc.org) and we will get the registration link to you. There is an Advocacy Day Sneak Preview on Monday, January 26th at 7pm, so if you let us know by then, we can send you the Zoom link. If you have not been to a UMC Advocacy Day, it's a great time of working with other United Methodists to champion social justice issues. Other important dates are:

- Wed., Feb 11th - Lunch and Learn
- Sun., March 1 - Registration Deadline
- Mon., March 2, 7pm - Training #1
- Mon., March 9, 7pm - Training #2
- Wed., March 18th - Advocacy Day

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:

- Janice Caldwell, 2/6
- Marshall Rice, 2/10
- Roy Gay, 2/23
- James Ayres, 2/24
- Phyllis Liming, 2/25

HAPPY 50+ ANNIVERSARY TO:

- Russell & Barbara Jacobson, 2/12, 71 yrs.
- Larry & Doris Quick, 2/25, 65 yrs.

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. It's not too late to join the fun. Sign up in the Narthex.

ANNIE

Come see some of Central's Youth perform in the musical *Annie* at the Waterford Mott Performing Arts Center

Jan. 30-31 @ 7pm, Feb. 6-7 @ 7pm, Feb. 8 @ 2pm. Tickets \$15 adult/ \$10 students/seniors.

Help Us Celebrate Dan Zander's Retirement

Sunday, January 25th After Worship

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a reception for Dan's retirement. Gifts are not necessary, just come to congratulate Dan and encourage him in his next life adventure!

Please Welcome Eric D. Johnson, CAGO

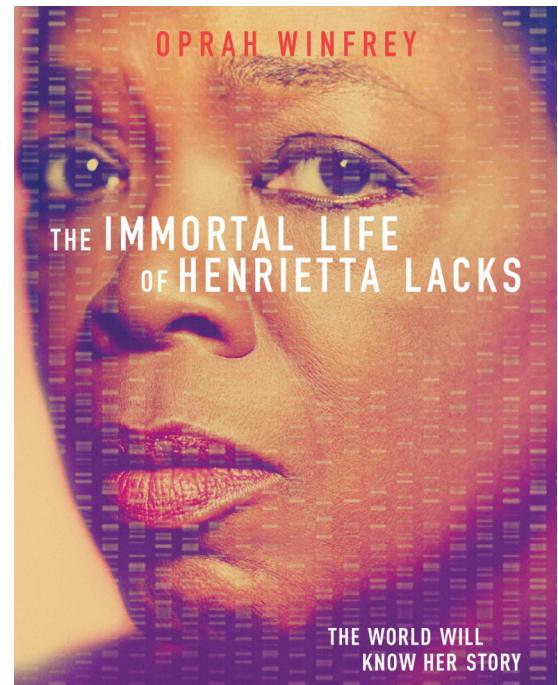
Hello Central Church! I'm so happy to be with you and serving as your new organist/choir accompanist. Here's a brief bio-overview so we can get to know each other a little better.

I grew up in the Clarkston area and I'm a graduate of Clarkston schools and Oakland Community College. I lived on Lake Oakland with my parents Don & Joann, and brother Shawn. My neighbor, Mrs. Beadle, was a church organist and I took lessons from her starting at age 7 until I was 15. I learned so much from her! She had a piano and a Hammond B3 organ in her living room with the remote Leslie speaker, so much fun to play! I began occasionally substituting as a church organist when I was 17, and this led me to be the organist at Joslyn Ave Presbyterian in Pontiac for a number of years until Community Presbyterian came calling with a youth choir position, then organist, then Director of Music and Organist. I served at Community Presbyterian for 25+ years, 23 of which I was the Director/Organist. While I was at Community I studied more organ as a "30 something" adult student with Dr. Craig Symons at First United Methodist, Royal Oak and with Glenn Miller at Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian, Bloomfield. This prepared me with many more skills and knowledge and led me to join The American Guild of Organists. I served on the board for a year and took/passed two of the comprehensive organ exams they offer. I studied for a year for each one, they are not easy! The letters after my name stand for "Colleague of the American Guild of Organists." It is the Guild's equivalent to a bachelor's degree in organ performance.

I was married to my wife Lisa in 1998 while living in our first little house on East Beverly St. in Pontiac. We moved to Lake Orion in 2002 and started our family. We have two beautiful and bright daughters. Our oldest, Celeste (22) graduated from Lake Orion HS with honors, attended dental college and now works at a local orthodontics office. Our youngest, Nina (19) graduated from Lake Orion HS with honors and member of the National Honor Society and is currently attending Northern Michigan University as she studies environmental science. Lisa and I have both worked for Oakland County (that's where we met) for 30+ years. We enjoy camping and boating trips in the summer, group family trips with our friends, and gardening for Lisa, hunting (turkey and deer) for Eric. We really enjoy all our beautiful state has to offer in every season.

Yours in Christ and Song,

Eric



Central Cinema
Saturday, February 7th, 6pm

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Based on a true story. An African-American woman becomes an unwitting pioneer for medical breakthroughs when her cells are used to create the first immortal human cell line in the early 1950s. Rated TV-MA.



Waterford Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

Saturday, April 11th, Noon–4pm @ Central Church

To Benefit Fueling Kids' Futures. Be the first 2-man team to complete a 300-piece jigsaw puzzle or 4-man team to complete a 750 piece puzzle. Teams of four can sign up for \$45, pairs for \$25 or individuals for \$13 (to be placed on a team). Registration is required through Eventbrite using the QR code.



Sympathies

Our prayers go out to Tina Graham on the passing of her husband William Graham on January 15th, and to their daughter and son-in-law Megann and Brian Meuser, their son and daughter-in-law Ben and Elizabeth Graham, and their grandchildren Graham, Eve, and Penelope Meuser.

Thank You

Dear Central Church Family,

On behalf of the staff of Little Sprouts and Central Church, we want to thank you for your generous and thoughtful Christmas Love Gift. We are blessed and grateful to be a part of the CUMC family.

-The Staff of CUMC and Little Sprouts

Dear CUMC Family,

We are so thankful for you, for the loving, caring support you have given us in the months following John's stroke. For the meals, visits, calls, groceries, help with tasks around home, we are grateful. For the prayers and expressions of concern and love, we thank you! Thank you, church! God has surely blessed us through you.

-Love and peace, John and Joyce Merle

Dear CUMC Church,

The Clothe-a-Child committee was able to provide a shirt, pants, underwear, socks, a winter hat and gloves to 155 Waterford school children at Grayson, Beaumont, Riverside and Donelson schools this holiday season. Thank you for your generous donations that continue to support this long-standing important mission.

-Sincerely,

The Clothe-a-Child Committee (Barb Foster, Kristi Cornish, Vanessa Marks, Angela Miller)

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated February 8th. Please have any articles submitted to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org by Thursday, January 29th.

February

Kids' Ministries

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

February 1 – GOLD FEVER!

February 5 – JUMP Kids at 4:30pm

February 8 – Snakes & Ladders

February 12 – JUMP Kids at 4:30pm

February 15 – The BEST!

February 19 – JUMP Kids at 4:30pm

February 22 – Because I Love You!

February 26 – JUMP Kids at 4:30pm

Youth Group

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

February 1 – Count the Cost

February 8 – The Prodigal Son

February 15 – A New Name

February 22 – A Sure Foundation