



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

020826

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, February 8th. Pastor Jack continues our *Attitude is Your Paint Brush* series with *The Attitude of Humility*. Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

Kate Bowler is a Canadian author, professor, award-winning podcast host, and associate professor of American religious history at Duke Divinity School. She is a four-time New York Times bestselling author, known for her memoir *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved*, which details her experience with stage IV cancer at age 35.

Dr. Bowler writes, "Too often there is neither meaning nor order nor justice in that chunk of cancerous tissue, that patch of ice, or piece of faulty wiring. Everything can just ... happen.

"Lent is the right time to sit with these darker truths. This is the time to reflect on our limitations and to remind ourselves that none of us is immune to the universe. We are all one errant organ, limb, or joint away from losing that sense of freedom in our own bodies, and even the fittest of us inhabits a faulty body, designed to wear out and perish. From dust we were made.

"Look, this is grim stuff. I get it. But this is the necessary antidote to the poison of our culture's myth of perfectibility. ... And this fact should make us kinder to each other. As temporary creatures made of the same perishable material, we should see in each other fellow pilgrims headed in the same direction, worthy of our concern, people with whom we should be more patient, slower to anger, quicker to help."

(From "Lent Is a Season of Stubborn Hope," *RedLetterChristians.org*, April 7, 2019.)

I have already shared that our Lenten Message Series is titled *Christ: Challenged!* Thinking of the title from Kate Bowler's memoir, *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved*, I thought about Jesus' life and death and while it is obvious that Jesus had enemies, it is not something we proclaim. It would be a lie to say that everyone loved Jesus and that he really didn't have enemies.

Here's my question: Did Jesus believe he had enemies? In Luke's lesser-known Parable of the Minas, Jesus refers to "these enemies of mine," but those are the words of the nobleman in the parable. Jesus, in his Sermon on the Mount, tells us, "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44) I have to believe that Jesus knew he had enemies, but he also demonstrated love, compassion, and forgiveness toward those who opposed him, challenged him and ultimately were responsible for his death on the cross.

As Kate Bowler wrote, "This is grim stuff." It is my hope that we will have an experience during Lent that will lead us to know the truth about those who opposed Jesus and how their opposition to Jesus shaped his message, ministry, and mission. I hope you will join me in exploring *Christ: Challenged*. I hope to see you in church!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

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PrimeTrime Trip to The Detroit Parade Company

If you have signed up for this trip on Tues., Feb. 10th, meet at Central at 8:45am to carpool.

Daily Online Devotionals

Pastor Jack took a break from his Daily Online Devotionals last week and the week prior. He is evaluating whether to continue with these devotionals. If you would like to have him continue the Daily Devotionals, please contact Pastor Jack at 248-681-0040 or imannschreck@waterfordcumc.org to discuss this further. Thank you for your valued input.

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). You can register for the event at michiganumc.org/advocacy-day-to-address-food-insecurity/. 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



Save the Date!

Sunday, February 22nd

Get out those chili recipes and get ready for a Chili Cook-off to benefit our Ministry Shares collection. More details to come soon.



Ash Wednesday—February 18th

- 6:30–9:00am—Drive Thru Coffee & Ashes
- 9:00am–noon—Ashes in the Chapel
- 7:00pm—Service of Ashes. Pastor Jack begins our Lent Message Series with *Christ: Challenged! Love Versus Revenge* based on Matthew 5:38-48. Coach Patty and the children will Hide the Alleluia.

Collection for HOPE Shelter

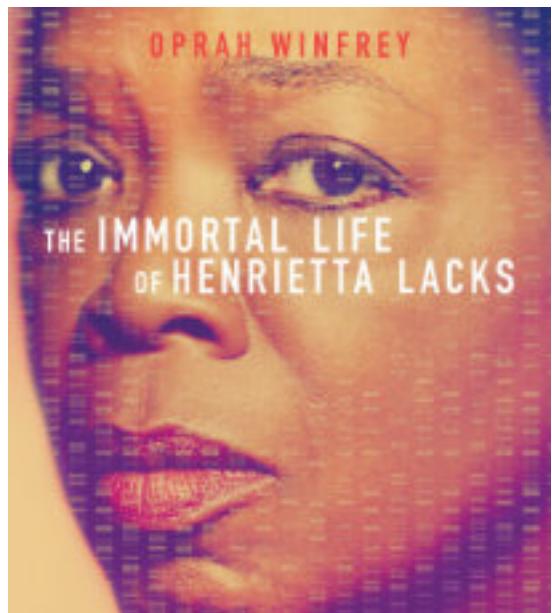
One of our partner ministries, HOPE Warming Shelter, is in need of funds and items during this extreme cold snap. Currently, they can accommodate 90+ people at the shelter. Extras are not allowed to stay in the building and have to be turned away. They are providing blankets and warm clothes to help keep those who are turned away warm.

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](#).



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.

Lent and Easter at Central

Lenten Message Study

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm with Pastor Jack, via Zoom

A weekly deep dive into our Lenten message series Christ: Challenged! We'll explore scripture, review key points of the message and discuss how it applies to our lives. Join us for any or all of these studies, conducted via Zoom. To get on the distribution list for the Zoom link contact the church office or email Pastor Jack (jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org).

Lenten Book Study: *The Case for Christ*

10:30am and 6:30pm beginning February 26th

Are you curious? Seeking answers? Looking for the truth? Join us as we gather evidence, look at different perspectives and document our findings through our Lenten book study. Book cost is \$5. Sign up in the Narthex.

Lenten Lunch & Learn

Wednesdays During Lent @ 12pm beginning February 25th

Bring your lunch and join Rev. Deb for a study based on the book *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado. The book is available for purchase online.

Devotionals

Spend time this Lent developing spiritually. Devotionals are available in the Narthex and are a great tool to help with faith formation.

Mission & Giving

Easter Offering. A portion of this year's Easter offering will be dedicated to supporting Central's Food Pantry and Good Sam program.

Candy Collection. Make a donation of candy to support our community Easter Egg Hunt. Watch for the Central Candy Monster (Easter version) making an appearance soon.

Lenten Service Project. We are planning an exciting hands-on service day on March 20th with our partner ministry Micah6 Community. We will be helping them with the grand opening of the new Webster Community Center in Pontiac. Watch for dates and times.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4th @ 10am

Bring your friends and family for a morning of fun while the kids scour the Central grounds for Easter eggs.

Twist It Up Pretzel Party

Sunday, March 29th @ 2pm

Join us as we make pretzels and learn the history and religious significance of the pretzel. This is a multi-generational event.



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.



We will be collecting winter gear: heavy waterproof gloves, boots and hand and toe warmers. For boots, they are asking for larger sizes men's 11+ and wide, women's 9+. For winter jackets, they also need large sizes; new or gently used is fine. Large sizes allow for layering. Please place donations in the box in the Chapel Hallway. Thank you.

Congratulations!

To proud grandparents Cappy and Mike Jacobson and Bryan Murphy on the birth on January 18th of Ruth Anne Murphy to Patrick and Tanya Murphy.

Sympathies

Our condolences to Sally Hart on the passing of her husband David Hart on January 21st, and to their son, Joshua Hart. Our prayers are with David's family and friends.

The Financial Love Report



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

5 Received help with rent assistance.

2 Received help with utility assistance.

17 Households received groceries.

\$ 244.05 Raised for Central's Food Pantry

\$ 118.75 Raised for Clothe-a-Child

\$ 30.30 Raised for Fueling Kids Futures

\$ 391.53 Raised for Good Samaritan

\$ 1,091.03 Raised for Ministry Shares

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

February

Kids' Ministries

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

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 8 – The Prodigal Son

February 15 – A New Name

February 22 – A Sure Foundation

Little Sprouts Open House

Saturday, February 7th, 9-11am

Come tour the Little Sprouts rooms and meet the staff. Open registration for 2026-27 Family Playgroups and Tuition-Based Threes and Fours Preschool will be on Saturday, March 21st, 10am-noon

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated February 22nd. Please have any articles submitted to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org by Thursday, February 12th.