



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

02.22.26

## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. First Sunday of Lent. Pastor Jack continues our Lenten Message Series begun on Ash Wednesday with *Christ Challenged! The Trial of Temptation*.

Worship is in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](http://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org)

## Dear Central Church Family,

Just this morning, I was discussing with a parishioner what we might be giving up for Lent. While I have given up certain guilty pleasures for Lent (sweets, coffee, TV), I've found it more meaningful to add something to my Lenten schedule. One Lent, in an attempt to become more fit, I swam laps five days a week. Another Lent I read the four Gospels in a systematic way so that when we entered Holy Week, I was focusing on the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

I remember a young girl in a church where I was the youth pastor, giving up various pleasures in her life. First, she gave up chocolate, then pop, and finally chips. Each time she strayed from her plan, she picked another sacrifice to make. I finally intervened and suggested that she think about Lent as a process of making a sacrifice, which is the point of giving something up for Lent. The idea of giving something up for Lent reflects Christ's life of sacrificial giving to the point of dying on the cross, and it is for the length of time that Jesus was in the wilderness being tempted by Satan (40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter, minus Sundays). I suggested to her that she stick with one thing and work on that one thing.

Whatever you do for Lent, I hope that you make a conscientious decision that will help you grow in your faith, deepening your relationship with God through Jesus the Christ. I pray you will lean on the Holy Spirit to guide you during this season for the purpose of becoming a more faithful follower of Christ.

I have four suggestions that I believe will help make your Lenten experience more meaningful. First, consider the sacrifice. Whether you are giving something up for Lent or adding something to your life throughout this period, count the cost. Giving something up may be more obvious in terms of sacrifice; however, adding something to your life is also a sacrifice of time and effort.

Second, keep at it! Consider Lent a process, and if you hit a bump, keep moving in the direction you want to go.

Third, whatever you do should make a lasting difference in your life. Ask yourself, "How will this experience make a difference in my life after Lent is over?" If what you've decided to do will not make a lasting difference, then evaluate why you want to do it.

Finally, ask for help. Build a support team to help achieve your goal. If you want to read more scripture, then ask someone to be an accountability partner. If you want to exercise more, get someone to do it with you!

I will cherish this final season of Lent with you, my Central Church family! I am looking forward to our Message Series, *Christ: Challenged*, and as our staff looks beyond Easter, I am already celebrating my time with you, as well as all my years as a pastor! As always, I hope to see you in worship!

Because of Christ,

**Pastor Jack**

## CONNECT

 [waterfordcumc.org](http://waterfordcumc.org)

 [waterfordcumc](https://www.facebook.com/waterfordcumc)

 [waterfordcumc](https://www.youtube.com/waterfordcumc)

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 3882 Highland Rd.  
Waterford MI 48328

## Ash Wednesday–February 18<sup>th</sup>

- 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.

## Easter Lilies

We finally have information from our supplier for this year's Easter lilies! If you would like to order a lily to decorate the Sanctuary, they will be \$7.75 each, and **orders are due in by Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**. Order forms can be found in your Sunday bulletin or at our website at [waterfordcumc.org/order-your-easter-lilies/](http://waterfordcumc.org/order-your-easter-lilies/).

## Planning Meeting for Pastor Jack's Retirement Celebration

### Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> after 10:30am Worship

Kathy Chao will be holding a planning meeting in the Parlor to discuss Pastor Jack's retirement reception. If you would like to be part of this team, please plan to join her for this meeting. For more information, contact Kathy Chao at [jkchao@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkchao@sbcglobal.net).



### CUMC Chili Cook-off

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> After  
10:30am Worship



Get out those chili recipes and get ready for a Chili Cook-off to benefit our Ministry Shares collection. Sign up in the Narthex. Limited to 12 contestants, but everyone is invited to the tasting and judging.

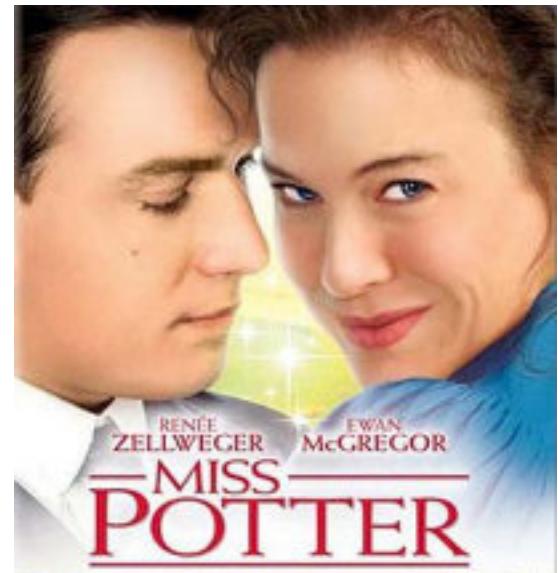
## A Call for Keepers of the Flame

Keepers of the Flame are seeking several more members to keep the candles burning brightly. Flame Keepers use liquid wax to fill the altar candles each week. Two Sundays and a sub/fifth Sunday keeper would bring the team to a full complement. To learn more call Margaret in the church office at 248-681-0040.

## Lent Mission Opportunity

### Friday, March 20th

We will be providing support to Micah 6 Community for the grand opening of their new Webster Community Center. While we don't have exact times yet, we are taking sign ups of people interested. We will primarily be helping out before the grand opening getting everything ready, and there may be opportunity to provide hospitality during the grand opening event. If you are interested in this volunteer



Central Cinema  
Saturday, March 7th, 6pm  
**Miss Potter**

The story of Beatrix Potter, the author of the beloved and best-selling children's book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, and her struggle for love, happiness, and success. Themes include friendship, love, and family. Rated PG.

## 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](mailto:jmannschreck@waterfordcumc.org)).

### **Lenten Book Study: *The Case for Christ***

#### **10:30am and 6:30pm beginning February 26<sup>th</sup>**

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 25<sup>th</sup>**

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. Place donations in the Central Candy Monster (Easter version) in the Narthex.

**Lenten Service Project.** We are planning an exciting hands-on service day on March 20<sup>th</sup> with our partner ministry Micah 6 Community. We will be helping them with the grand opening of the new Webster Community Center in Pontiac.

### **Community Easter Egg Hunt**

#### **Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> @ 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 29<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm**

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

opportunity, please sign up outside the Narthex. We are limited to 8 individuals, so sign up soon. For more info, contact Robin at [rdanek@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:rdanek@waterfordcumc.org).



## PrimeTime Trip to the Detroit Historical Museum

**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> @ 11am**

Join Central's Primetime group for lunch at the Detroit Institute of Arts, followed by a guided tour of the Detroit Historical Museum. Tickets are \$13 for the tour, due to Dan Arnold by March 24<sup>th</sup>; on your own for the cost of lunch. We will meet at Central and carpool to the DIA, then on to the museum. Please sign up in the Narthex. For more information, contact Dan Arnold at 248-884-5904 or [danieljarnold15@gmail.com](mailto:danieljarnold15@gmail.com).

## Thank You

### Hope Shelter Update

Thank you to everyone who dropped off items for HOPE Shelter. On 2/7/26, we delivered three jackets, six pairs of boots, four pairs of gloves, and one each hand and toe warmer packs. We will continue to collect these items; please drop them off in the box in the Chapel hallway.

### Dear Church Family

Thank you to those who sent cards and hugs after David's death. I am at peace knowing he is with Jesus. I greatly value the support and help I continue to receive from the Central family.

-Sally Hart

## Sympathies

Our condolences to Nancy Elton on the passing of her brother Craig Asplin on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, and to Craig's wife, children, grandchildren and siblings. Our prayers are with Craig's family and friends.

**The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated March 8<sup>th</sup>. Please have any articles submitted to [rdanek@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:rdanek@waterfordcumc.org) by Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.**



## Kids' Ministries

**KidVenture Sunday Morning, 10:45am to 11:30am**

**March 1 – KidVenture**

**March 5 – JUMP Kids Youth Group at 4:30pm**

**March 8 – KidVenture**

**March 12 – JUMP Kids Youth Group at 4:30pm**

**March 15 – KidVenture**

**March 19 – JUMP Kids Youth Group at 4:30pm**

**March 22 – KidVenture**

**March 26 – JUMP Kids Youth Group at 4:30pm**

**March 29 – Palm Sunday Celebration at 10:30am with KidVenture following**

## Youth Group

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

**March 1 – Prep**

**March 6–7 – CUMC Youth Group Lock-In from 6:00pm to 9:00am**

**March 8 – Dragnet**

**March 15 – Talents**

**March 22 – The Story of Jesus**

**March 29 – Palm Sunday Youth Fundraiser Breakfast from 8:30am to 10:00am**