

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, March 8th. Third Sunday of Lent. Pastor Jack continues our Lenten Message Series with *Christ Challenged! The Superficial Scribes*.

Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Central Church Family,

As we approach the middle of the Lenten Season (already!), I am praying that it has been a meaningful season for you. So much has happened since our last *Chimes* was sent out! First, the Season of Lent began on February 18 with our Drive Through Coffee and Ashes event. Beginning at 6:30 a.m. we had 46 people drive through and then come to our chapel to receive ashes in the morning. I began our *Christ Challenged!* message series at our Ash Wednesday evening service, as we focused on Jesus' teachings on how we should treat our enemies.

In addition to our worship services and Lenten Studies, we had our first Chili Cook-off since before the COVID-19 pandemic! We had 15 entries and about 75 people attended to vote for the winner. It was a really fun time of fellowship and food. It was also an opportunity to learn about our Ministry Shares and how our funds sent to the Michigan Area Conference of the UMC are spent. At this time, we have raised over \$700 toward those Ministry Shares. I would encourage all of you to consider what supporting our Ministry Shares means to the worldwide mission of the UMC, as well as the support we receive as a local UMC Congregation.

Allow me to give you just one example of how our Waterford Central has benefited from being a part of the Michigan Area Conference of the UMC. If we were an independent local church or a member of many other denominations, I can easily believe that we would spend between \$20,000 and \$30,000 on the search process for a new pastor. However, as United Methodists, that process is facilitated by the leadership of our Annual Conference. So, as I retire in June after 42 years of ministry, there will be a relatively seamless transition in terms of your pastoral leadership.

I want to end this letter by returning to our Chili Cook-off and thank all who entered their delicious recipes into the contest, all who attended and were generous in giving toward our Ministry Shares. I want to thank Arlene Taylor for her leadership in making the Cook-off a success and who began the festivities by telling the cooks that they were all winners! Congratulations to Barbara Engle-Szmytke, who won the cook-off with her white chicken chili recipe.

Again, I hope you experience God's presence and peace during this turbulent time in our nation and world, and I pray that this Season of Lent is a blessing to you. I hope to see you in worship!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack

CONNECT

-  waterfordcumc.org
-  [waterfordcumc](https://www.facebook.com/waterfordcumc)
-  [waterfordcumc](https://www.youtube.com/waterfordcumc)
-  [waterfordcumc](https://twitter.com/waterfordcumc)
-  info@waterfordcumc.org
-  (248) 681-0040
-  3882 Highland Rd.
Waterford MI 48328



Pastor Jack crowns Barb Engle-Szmytke as winner of the Chili Cook-off.

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 by this Sunday, March 8th**. Order forms can be found in your Sunday bulletin or at our website at waterfordcumc.org/order-your-easter-lilies/.

New Member Classes

Our next New Member Sunday will be Palm Sunday, March 29, when we will receive members into our Central United Methodist Church family. There are two informational sessions (Partnership Meetings) for you to attend so that you can make an informed decision about joining our Central Church family. These sessions will be held in the church Parlor.

Session I—Intro to Methodism

- Sunday, March 8th—3:00pm
- Tuesday, March 10th—7:00pm

Session II—About Central Church

- Sunday, March 22nd—3:00pm
- Tuesday, March 24th—7:00pm

Please plan to attend one Session I meeting *and* one Session II meeting, as fits your schedule. Please contact the church office at 248-681-0040 or info@waterfordcumc.org if you plan to attend.

Central United Methodist Church is living out our mission of connecting with God and others. We have a vision of changing the world with Christ's love! I ask our Church Family to pray for those who are exploring our ministry and considering joining us in God's Kingdom Work!!

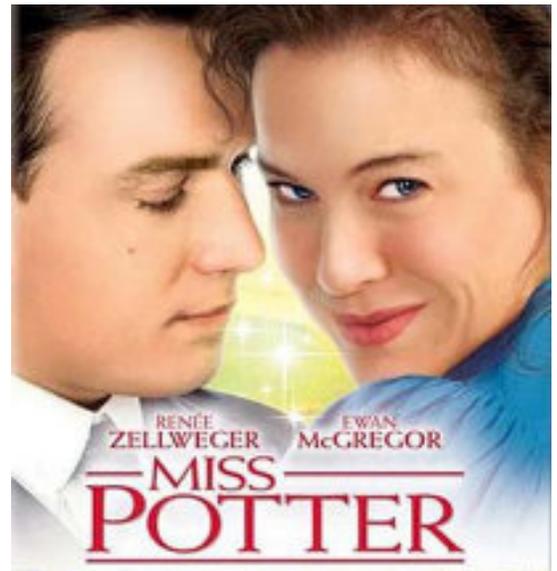
From the Bookkeeper

Giving through your IRA is a great way to give to Central Church. However, please be aware that your name does not always appear on these types of deposits. **We have a direct deposit from February 24th from a Fidelity account, and we do not know to whom to credit this deposit.** If you sent this deposit, please notify our Bookkeeper, Cassandra, at 248-681-0040 or bookkeeper@waterfordcumc.org. Please remember to include your name in any future direct deposits, or, if that is not an option, please notify Cassandra that it is coming so that she may credit it properly. Thank you.

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



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.

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](#).

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. 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 20th 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 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.

to provide hospitality during the grand opening event. If you are interested in this volunteer 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.



Craft Show Volunteers Needed

It's time to volunteer for our third annual SPRING FOR IT Craft and Vendor Show! This is a juried show and will feature wonderful handmade items from a wide range of artisans. There will be shopping and lunch available for purchase. All funds raised will go to support the ministries of Central church.

We have several opportunities to volunteer. To be a part of this fun event, just add your name to the sign-up board in the Narthex. For more information, contact Cassandra at bookkeeper@waterfordcumc.org.

Donate Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids

Do you have old eyeglasses and/or hearing aids lying around? We are working with our local Lions Clubs to collect these items. There is a drop basket in the office, so please plan to donate them next time you're in the office. Thank you.

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

Grief Support Group
Every Thursday @ 6:30pm.
All are welcome to attend.



Time Change on the Horizon!
 Make sure to "spring forward" before worship on Sunday, or you'll be late (or is it early? Who can keep it straight 😊)!



Kids' Ministries
KidVenture Sunday Morning, 10:45am to 11:30am
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 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

The Financial Love Report 

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

2	Received help with rent assistance.
2	Received help with utility assistance.
11	Households received groceries.
\$ 15.00	Raised for C.W. Duncan School/Liberia
\$ 320.50	Raised for Central's Food Pantry
\$ 120.20	Raised for Clothe-a-Child
\$ 30.30	Raised for Fueling Kids Futures
\$ 45.00	Raised for Good Samaritan
\$ 1,403.00	Raised for Ministry Shares

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