



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

032226

## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Fifth Sunday of Lent. Pastor Jack continues our Lenten Message Series with *Christ Challenged! Clash of an Empire and Kingdom*.

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

## Dear Central Church Family,

This past week, someone asked, "How are you doing? You only have three months until retirement!" To answer the question, I am transitioning. I am journeying through this last Season of Lent very aware of my humanity and mortality and relying on God's life-giving presence every day. I am also very aware that this is a time of grieving as I recognize both the loss and the new horizons before us.

*HomileticsOnLine* is a magazine where I found these musings about transitions:

"Don't step on the crack, or you'll break your mother's back." The cracks in a sidewalk mark the transition from one slab of pavement to another. Even the lore of children recognizes that transitions are hazardous places.

The cracks—the times of transition—in our individual lives bring out strong emotion: putting the kindergartner on the school bus, watching the graduate march down the aisle in cap and gown, a mother dissolving into tears at her child's wedding, a once-healthy person suddenly becoming a patient. Then, there is the greatest transition of all, the transition between death and new life in Christ.

Fearsome, emotion-laden, beautiful at times, always accompanied by anxiety: such are times of transition in our lives."

While we navigate our final "only three months" together, I pray for blessings as we near the great celebration of Easter. After all, Easter celebrates the greatest transition from death to new life that ever existed! As always, I hope to see you in worship!

Because of Christ,

***Pastor Jack***

## New Member Classes

Our New Member Sunday will be Palm Sunday, March 29, when we will receive members into our Central United Methodist Church family. Session II of our New Member Class will take place on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 3pm, and Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm, in the Parlor. Plan to attend either of these sessions, which will focus on United Methodist beliefs and on Central Church specifically. New Member Classes are designed to aid people in making the important decision about joining Central church. If you missed the Session I class and would like to make that up, give Pastor Jack a call (248-217-4004) and let him know of your interest.

## CONNECT

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

## PrimeTime Trip to The Detroit Historical Museum

If you have signed up for this trip on Fri., March. 27<sup>th</sup>, meet at Central at 11am to carpool.

## Invite a Family to Easter

Most people visit a church because they were invited. Easter is a great time to invite a family to experience the friendship of Central Church. Invite someone to Easter, Palm Sunday worship and breakfast, our Easter Egg Hunt and/or our Twist It Up Pretzel Party. There are invite cards in the Narthex, or go to [facebook.com/waterfordcumc/events](https://facebook.com/waterfordcumc/events) to share our Facebook events online!



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

## Happy Birthday, Purple Threads!

On March 6, 1990 a small group of women gathered for Bible study and the group grew and grew! Thanks to Janice Caldwell for her guidance in forming the group and thanks to our teaching leaders over the years: Mary Jane Jewell, Nancy Radenbaugh & Sue Shipley, who is still leading the flock. Rev. Tara Sutton led one study, "The Purpose Driven Life". One hundred and six (106) women have participated (we currently have 26 in the group) and we have completed 52 studies. A few

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:**

- Don Carter, 4/6
- Audrey Venus, 4/7
- Jane Ellen Bussard, 4/16
- Mary Lou Osborne, 4/19

**HAPPY 50+ ANNIVERSARY TO:**

- Bruce & Cathy Hazen, 4/8, 64 yrs.
- Sam & Sharyn Osborn, 4/13, 57 yrs.
- John & Joyce Merle, 4/19, 56 yrs.

**Easter EGG HUNT**

**Saturday, April 4th**

Volunteers and candy are still needed! Please sign up in the Narthex to volunteer. Place candy donations in the Candy Monster in the Narthex. Thank you!

**BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE**

*James Nelson Richardson*

May 5, 1942 - March 8, 2026  
Member Since December 15, 2013

## Holy Week at Central

### Palm Sunday, March 29th @ 10:30am

**Christ: Challenged! The Stones That Would Shout Out based on Luke 19:28-40.**

Breakfast will be served by the Youth from 8:30–10:00am. A free-will offering will be taken to support Youth programming. Please sign up in the Narthex if you plan to attend.

### Maundy Thursday, April 2nd @ 7:00pm

**Christ: Challenged! Is It I, Lord? based on Matthew 26:17-25.** A dramatic presentation of the perspectives of the 12 disciples as they struggle with their own fading loyalty to their Rabbi, their leader, their Christ.

### Good Friday, April 3rd @ 7:00pm

**Christ: Challenged! The Enemies of Suffering and Death based on Matthew 27:24-56.** Featuring scripture read by a vocal choir with individuals giving voice to the various people in the passage.

### Easter Sunday, April 5th @ 8:45am & 10:30am

**Christ: Defied! The Final Challenge based on John 20:1-18.** Special children's event—Find the Alleluia.

Join us after 10:30am worship for coffee, treats, family activities, a photo booth, and a tour of the empty tomb.

## 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.** There is still time to sign up to help our local partner ministry Micah 6 with the grand opening of the Webster Community Center from March 16<sup>th</sup>–March 20<sup>th</sup>. To get involved, sign up at [www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4EABA82AA1FC1-62766745-grand](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4EABA82AA1FC1-62766745-grand).

## 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.

years into our study it was felt we should create a prayer list and let those on the list know we were praying for them. Mary Jane created our Purple Threads prayer note which we still use today. Last year we sent out 220 prayer notes. Our total, since we started keeping track in 2007, is 6723. I'm sure the count would be well over 10,000 if we had started keeping track in the mid '90's.

Looking forward to our spring session starting on March 17th with Adam Hamilton's book *The Message of Jesus, the Words that Changed the World!*

Blessings, Diana Carter

## Thank You

### Dear church sisters and brothers and more friends,

We hear it often, "prayer is power." And I can tell you it's very true. This time, with my recent knee "revision" (really a repair job) of the replacement done 14 months ago, I am amazed by how much it has helped me move. Only two weeks since that surgery the improvement is clear. And I owe it all to your many prayers heard by our Lord and Savior who, no doubt, conveyed it to my surgeon and my "repair."

Thank you and keep up the Good Work.

-Bob Swartz

### Thanks, Central Church friends, for the donations!

On February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 14<sup>th</sup> Debra Hayden-Schmid delivered to Hope Shelter two jackets, ten sweatshirts, five sweaters, seven shirts, one pair of sweat pants, one pair of jeans, three blankets, seven hats, four scarves, one set of mittens, one pair of shoes, three pairs of boots and two packs of hand warmers. Thank you for your generosity!

### Thank You, Meijer!

We have officially been awarded a grant of \$300 from Meijer to help pay for the cost of food for our craft show food pantry fundraiser.

Thanks,

-Cassandra

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please have any articles submitted to

[rdanek@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:rdanek@waterfordcumc.org) by Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.



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



# March

## Kids' Ministries

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

**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 22** – The Story of Jesus

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

## Little Sprouts Open Registration

**Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 10-Noon**

Open registration for 2026-27 Family Playgroups and Tuition-Based Threes and Fours Preschool.

**Join us every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.](#)