



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

07.05.26

## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

One worship service at 10:30am. Join us for a hymn sing! Worship is in person or online at [Live.WaterfordCUMC.org](https://Live.WaterfordCUMC.org)

## Dear Friends of Waterford Central,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

As I prepare to begin serving as your pastor, I want you to know how excited and grateful I am for the opportunity to walk alongside you. Every church has a story, and God has been faithfully writing yours for generations. I believe with all my heart that God is not finished with Waterford Central. In fact, I believe some of our most meaningful ministry is still ahead of us.

Although my first Sunday in worship will be July 12, I officially moved into the parsonage on June 23, and I have already experienced such incredible kindness. Before I ever carried in a single box, many of you had been hard at work preparing a home for me. The house was painted, the floors were updated, and it is absolutely beautiful. I am deeply grateful for all the work that was done before I arrived.

Your hospitality didn't stop there. Thank you to Sara H-R for showing up that very first evening with a pizza and salad—it was exactly what I needed after a long day of moving! And thank you to Sue W. for bringing over delicious homemade chili, then staying to help me unpack a few boxes while we visited together. Those simple acts of kindness spoke volumes. They reminded me that ministry begins with caring for one another.

As we begin this journey together, you may be wondering who I am at my core. More than anything else, I want to be known as someone who loves Jesus, loves people, and believes that the Church is at its very best when it reflects the welcoming, compassionate heart of Christ.

I believe every person is created in the image of God and has immeasurable worth. I believe the Church is called to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. I believe lives are transformed when people encounter God's grace through authentic relationships, meaningful worship, faithful study, generous service, and joyful community. My hope is that every person who walks through our doors experiences the love of Christ and discovers that they truly belong.

I also believe ministry is never about one pastor—it is about all of God's people discovering the gifts God has given them and using those gifts to bless the world. My greatest joy is helping congregations listen together for where the Holy Spirit is leading and then having the courage to follow. I cannot wait to hear your stories, learn the history that has shaped this congregation, celebrate the ministries that already bring life, and imagine together what God is preparing next.

I invite you to join me for my first Sunday in worship on July 12. During those first weeks together, my sermon series will share a little of my own journey—my call into ministry, the experiences that have shaped my faith, and the core convictions that guide my leadership. More importantly, I hope it begins a conversation about who we are becoming together as disciples of Jesus Christ.

On July 26 we will gather after worship for a shared meal and conversation about next priorities for our ministry together. A few questions we might reflect on: What is your favorite Holy moment at Central from the past? If someone stopped you and asked what you are most excited about today that your

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church is doing, how would you answer? What is your big dream for Central 5 to 10 years from now. These are just a few questions to get you thinking. All ages are welcome to be part of this conversation. Bring a dish to pass and come with an open spirit.

Please know that I am already praying for you, your families, your staff, and your church. I look forward to worshipping, serving, laughing, praying, and growing in faith with you.

May God continue to bless Waterford Central United Methodist Church as together we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

Love and Peace in Christ,

**Rev. Mary Gibson**

## Hands-On Volunteer Opportunity

This summer, Central will be helping Micah 6 Community in their gardens. Micah 6 is one of our partner ministries and their mission is to address food insecurity in the Pontiac area by growing low-cost, fresh food and making it available to the community. They rely on volunteer help to accomplish this mission. Central will be helping out in the gardens on the following dates

- Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 9am—noon
- Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 9am—noon.

We can take up to eight volunteers on each day, so if you're a gardener or just like to play in the dirt, consider signing up for this important work. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

For more information, contact Robin Danek at [rdanek@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:rdanek@waterfordcumc.org) or 248-681-0040.

## Thank You

A very special thank-you to Vickie Armstrong and her awesome VBS team for organizing and running our Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS. It was another great experience for the kids in our community.

## Sympathies

Our prayers are with several of our Central families, including:

- Matt and Julie Berg on the passing of Julie's father, Dr. George H. Kates on June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Natalie Johnson-Helm on the passing of her brother, Jeff Johnson on June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Shiela and Brook Strang and the Strang and Beedle families on the passing of Shiela's brother, Stacy Beedle on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

**The office will be closed on Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of Independence Day. The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated July 19<sup>th</sup>. Please have any articles submitted to [rdanek@waterfordcumc.org](mailto:rdanek@waterfordcumc.org) by Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>.**



**If you left a casserole dish after Pastor Jack's retirement dinner please pick it up from the counter in the kitchen hallway.**



# VBS Fun!



## Softball Schedule

7/6-6:00pm-Eagles  
7/13-7:00pm-Eagles  
7/20-6:00pm-1st Missionary  
7/27-7:00pm-Eagles  
8/3-6:00pm-New Hope  
Sat 8/8-Tournament-TBD

New Hope-8643 Sashabaw  
St. Trinity-7925 Sashabaw  
1st Missionary-4832 Clintonville  
Eagles-5640 Maybee



## GLASSES AND HEARING AID COLLECTION

We are collecting glasses and hearing aids in the Church office and will donate them to the Lions Club. If you or someone you know has these items, please drop them off in the office M-Th, 9am-4pm (closed from noon-1pm for lunch). Thank you!

If you have signed up for UWM Faith night on Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, please meet at the church at 5:30pm to carpool to the stadium.

*Top: Parachute fun  
Middle: Sally Hart & Myke Robson (the puppet) emcee the opening.  
Bottom: Acting out the story of Esther.*

