



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

One worship service at 10:30am.
Rev. Mary's Message is *The God Who Calls*. Worship is in person
or online at
Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

A Spirit-Filled Beginning

Dear Friends,

What a beautiful first Sunday we shared together!

As I reflect on our first morning of worship, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. From the moment we gathered to sing *And Are We Yet Alive?* through sharing Holy Communion and welcoming one another into this new season of ministry, I sensed God's presence in powerful and unmistakable ways.

Your kindness and generosity truly took my breath away. The thoughtful gifts you shared were a wonderful expression of welcome, but what touched me most was the love behind them. Being away from my daughters on such an important day was not easy, and the beautiful gift that included photos of them made it feel as though they were right there with me. That simple act of compassion was a gift to my heart that I will never forget. Your thoughtfulness extended to my brother as well. Watching him become emotional as he opened his gift reminded me that hospitality is one of the many ways we share Christ's love.

One of the greatest blessings of the morning was serving each of you Holy Communion. Looking into your eyes, speaking the words, "The body of Christ, given for you," reminded me that we are already bound together—not by circumstance, but by the grace of Jesus Christ.

Then, as our choir sang *Draw the Circle Wide*, something sacred happened. I could almost feel the Holy Spirit surrounding us. In that holy moment, God quietly assured me that this is the time and this is the place where we are being called to do Christ's work together.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into your church family. I am excited about all that lies ahead—not because of what any one person can accomplish, but because I believe with all my heart that God is already at work among us.

As we continue this journey together, may we keep loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously, trusting that God is not done with us yet.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Mary Gibson

Waterford Youth Assistance Shoe Drive

Now Through Mid-September

Once again, Central will be supporting the Waterford Youth Assistance with their 7th Annual Shoe Drive. Clean out those closets and plan to donate new or gently used shoes. Place your shoe donations in the box in the Chapel Hallway.

CONNECT

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Listening for the Spirit: Congregational Discernment Retreat and Potluck

Sunday, July 26 following worship

Where is God leading Waterford Central?

Join us for a time of fellowship, prayer, conversation, and discernment as we listen together for God's priorities for our church's future.

Together we will:

- Remember God's faithfulness
- Celebrate the ministries that give us life
- Dream about what God can do in the years ahead
- Discern priorities for our ministry together

This is not a business meeting or a budget meeting. It is an opportunity for every voice to be heard as we seek God's direction for Waterford Central. Contact Rev. Mary for more information.

Please plan to bring a dish to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you!



PrimeTime Trip to the Moses Wisner Home Thursday, August 20th

Meet at the church at 10:45am to carpool to the Wisner Home in Pontiac. We will tour the family home, the summer kitchen, the carriage house, greenhouse and the Drayton Plains one-room schoolhouse, which has been relocated to the Wisner estate. We will enjoy a boxed lunch picnic on the grounds. The cost is \$7 for the tour (paid at the door) and \$10 for the boxed lunch, payable to Dan Arnold by Sunday, August 16th. Please sign up in the Narthex. For more information, contact Dan Arnold at 248-884-5904 or danieliarnold15@gmail.com.



HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:

- Barbara Jacobson, 8/2
- Sally Kuhn, 8/11
- Joyce Merle, 8/19
- Shirley Riffe, 8/19
- Larry Payne, 8/20
- JoAnn Fedison, 8/24
- Maurice Grant, 8/27
- Wiley Loveless, 8/29

HAPPY 50+ ANNIVERSARY TO:

- Glenn & Becky Behler, 8/9, 51 yrs.
- Andrew & Pamela Gustafson, 8/9 57 yrs.
- Randall & Debra Cooper, 8/18, 54 yrs.
- Don & Diana Carter, 8/26, 59 yrs.

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 17th, please meet at the church at 5:30pm to carpool to the stadium.

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 21st, 9am—noon
- Tuesday, August 18th, 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 or 248-681-0040.

Blood Drive

Thursday, August 20th, Noon—5:30pm

To schedule a time to give, visit RedCrossBlood.org and use the code centraluni or call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767).

New Worship Series: God Is Not Done With Us Yet

Finding Life, Purpose, and Courage Together

On July 12, we started a new eight-week worship series to explore God's faithfulness, God's call, and God's vision for our future. Through Scripture, we will discover that God is always at work, inviting us to grow in faith, serve with purpose, and step forward together in hope. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are warmly invited to be part of this shared adventure.

Worship Schedule

- July 19 – *The God Who Calls* based on Jeremiah 1:4–10
- July 26 – *Rooted in Grace* based on John 15:1–17
- August 2 – *The Heart of My Ministry* based on Micah 6:8
- August 9 – *Can These Bones Live?* based on Ezekiel 37
- August 16 – *Bound Together in Christ* based on Ephesians 4
- August 23 – *The Church I Dream Of* based on Acts 2:42–47
- August 30 – *God Is Not Done With Us Yet* based on Philippians 1:3–11

Come and discover the hope and promise that God is not done with us yet!



Bring your chairs and cheer on Central's Men's Softball Team. We'll have hot dogs, chips and water after the game.

Softball Schedule



7/20–6:00pm–1st Missionary
7/27–7:00pm–Eagles
8/3–6:00pm–New Hope - Join Us for Hot Dogs at the Ball field
Sat 8/8–Tournament–TBD

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

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated August 2nd. Please have any articles submitted to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org by Thursday, July 23rd.