

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

August 2, 2026. Rev. Mary continues our *God Is Not Done With Us Yet* Message Series with *The Heart of My Ministry*. Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Listening for the Spirit: A Hopeful Beginning

The Holy Spirit was truly moving at Waterford Central this past Sunday, July 26th, as **nearly 70 people gathered for our *Listening for the Spirit* Congregational Discernment Retreat.**

Together we prayed, laughed, dreamed, listened, and imagined what God might have in store for our church in the years ahead. Every voice mattered. From our youngest participants to our most seasoned members, everyone contributed ideas about the ministries we cherish, the hopes we hold, and the future we believe God is calling us toward.

The walls quickly filled with dreams, priorities, and possibilities—more young families, deeper community outreach, stronger fellowship, vibrant worship, expanded mission opportunities, inclusion for all, and new ways to serve our neighbors. While no decisions were made, something even more important happened: we began discerning together.

One of the greatest joys of the day was seeing every generation participating. The children reminded us that listening to God can be joyful, playful, and full of wonder. Their energy was a beautiful reminder that the future of the church is already among us.

I left the afternoon with a heart full of gratitude and hope. Thank you to everyone who gave your time, your ideas, your prayers, and your willingness to listen for where God is leading us next. I truly believe this was just the beginning of an exciting journey together.

Couldn't Make It on Sunday? We'd Love to Hear Your Voice!

Join us for a second *Listening* Session on **Wednesday, August 5, from 6:30–8:00pm at Rev. Mary's backyard.** Bring a lawn chair, and we'll spend the evening in conversation, prayer, and dreaming together. Your perspective is important, and there is still room for your voice in this process. (We will meet in the parsonage if weather is an issue).

Let's continue listening... because God is not finished with Waterford Central yet.

Rev. Mary Gibson

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UWM Faith Night Reschedule

Friday, August 21st, 2026

We have confirmed the above date for a reschedule of our outing to UWM Field for the baseball game. As before, meet at the church at 5:30pm to carpool or join us at the front gate at 6:00pm if you are driving separately. If you have questions, contact Robin Danek at rdanek@waterfordcumc.org or 248-681-0040.

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.



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 danieljarnold15@gmail.com.

Hands-On Volunteer Opportunity

Tuesday, August 18th, 9am—noon

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

Softball Schedule



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

COME CHEER ON THE TEAM.



MONDAY, AUGUST 3RD @ 6PM

NEW HOPE OF CLARKSTON
8643 SASHABAW RD | CLARKSTON, MI

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

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!

Pontiac area by growing low-cost, fresh food and making it available to the community. They rely on volunteer help to accomplish this mission. 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.

Advocacy Day Report

In March, Pastor Jack and Robin attended the United Methodist Advocacy Day in Lansing, where a multi-denominational group advocated for continued support of food funding in the 2027 state budget. On July 3, Governor Whitmer shared that a bipartisan budget for 2027 had been passed. Here are a few celebrations for food funding:

The two biggest programs were retained:

1. Money for the Food Bank Council (Michigan Agricultural Surplus System) was retained at the current level of \$12,045,000.
2. School lunches for all will continue to be funded: around \$200 million for public schools in the K-12 budget and \$1.6 million for kids in non-public schools.

Additionally, in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Budget:

1. Double up Food Bucks was funded at \$4 million.
2. A new program called the Kids' Food Basket was funded at \$525,000. This program delivers meals to children in low-income households.
3. A program designed for schools called Local Food, Farm, Fresh Foods was funded at \$500,000.

Thank you to the Foodbank Council of Michigan in providing information and assistance, as well as their role in providing policymakers the encouragement and accountability to fund food security.

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated August 16th. Please have any articles submitted to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org by Thursday, August 6th.



Left: The choir surprised Rev. Mary with a rendition of the hymn Draw the Circle Wide at her first service at Central Church.

Right: A group of volunteers from Central worked in the Micah 6 gardens on July 21st. From L. To R., top to bottom, Sue Zander, Sylvia (from Micah 6), Crystal Layman, Robin Danek, Lynn Humphrey. Not pictured: Coach Patty, who accompanied us at the last minute.