



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

08.16.26

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

August 16, 2026. Rev. Mary continues our *God Is Not Done With Us Yet* Message Series with *Bound Together in Christ*. Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Listening for the Spirit

It is hard to believe that we have already shared our first full month of ministry together! As I think back over these first weeks, one word keeps coming to mind: **hope**.

I have experienced it in worship and conversation, around tables and in meetings, in laughter and prayer. I have seen it in people who have quietly stepped in to help, in new ideas beginning to emerge, and especially in our two *Listening for the Spirit* gatherings.

Together, we took time to remember where we have experienced God at work at Waterford Central, to celebrate the ministries that bring life to our church and community, and to dream about where the Holy Spirit might be leading us next. What struck me most was not simply the ideas that filled our pages and conversations—it was the love people have for this church and the hope for what God can still do through us.

Paul writes: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:6). That feels especially appropriate in these summer days.

Summer is a wonderful reminder that creation is always doing something. Gardens are growing. Tomatoes are finally turning red. Hydrangeas are bursting into color. Bees and butterflies are busy doing their work. Even when we are sitting beside the water with something cold to drink, God's creation is humming with life. And I think something similar is happening at Waterford Central.

You have been preparing the soil. Seeds have been planted. We have been listening. We have been dreaming. And now there is a wonderful sense of **hope and momentum** as we prepare for fall.

Our Church Council will soon begin looking carefully at what we heard during our *Listening for the Spirit* gatherings and prayerfully discerning some priorities for the months and year ahead. We cannot do everything—and God does not call us to do everything—but we can listen for where God is already at work and decide where our energy, resources, and gifts can make the greatest difference.

One of the most encouraging things I have heard repeatedly this first month is a simple question:

"How can I help?"

I love that question.

In the coming weeks, our Lay Leadership Team will begin meeting and praying about the people God may be calling to serve on the teams that help oversee and guide the various ministry areas of our church. This is not simply about filling committee slots. It is about helping people discover places where their gifts, interests, experiences, and passions can become part of what God is doing here.

Maybe you love children or youth. Maybe your gifts are hospitality, organization, finance, property, worship, mission, technology, prayer, teaching, caring for others, or dreaming up something we haven't even imagined yet.

What might God be nudging you toward?

You do not need to wait for someone to ask you. Please reach out to me. Tell me what excites you. Tell me where you feel called. Tell me what you would love to help make happen. Even if you aren't quite sure where

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you fit, we can discover that together.

One month into our ministry together, I am grateful. Grateful for the welcome I have received. Grateful for the stories you have shared. Grateful for those who have gathered to listen. Grateful for those who have already rolled up their sleeves. And grateful for the Holy Spirit, who is always a few steps ahead of us, preparing the soil and inviting us to follow.

There is hope here.

There is momentum here.

There are seeds beginning to grow.

And I cannot wait to see what God grows among us as we move into the fall together.

With hope,

Rev. Mary

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 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, 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.



**SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**

HAPPY 80+ BIRTHDAY TO:

- Karen Maschke, 9/11
- Linda Meadows, 9/15
- Bruce Lax, 9/29

HAPPY 50+ ANNIVERSARY TO:

- Wilbur & Linda Meadows, 9/3 - 59 yrs.
- Dale & Susan Miller, 9/18 - 55 yrs.
- Don & Mary Lou Osborne, 9/30 - 70 yrs.



**BLESSING
OF THE
BACKPACKS**

**Sunday,
August 30th
During Worship**

Bring your backpack, briefcase,
or messenger bag for a special
back-to-school blessing.

The Financial Love Report 

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

2	Received help with rent assistance.
15	Households received groceries.
\$ 15.00	Raised for Baldwin Center
\$ 186.50	Raised for Central's Food Pantry
\$ 125.00	Raised for Good Samaritan
\$ 225.00	Raised for Ministry Shares
\$ 30.00	Raised for Parking Lot
\$ 200.00	Raised for UMCOR

Thank you for your continued support of Central's ministries!

Wisner Estate Tour

Thursday, August 20th

If you have signed up for this trip, please meet at the church at 10:45am to carpool to the Wisner Estate.

Call for Impact Stories

Has Central's ministry or your personal outreach as a member or friend of Central church helped someone in some way? We would love to hear your story and share it with our worshipers on a Sunday morning. The information will be shared in a way that protects everyone's privacy. If you have a story about time, talent, or financial help, please contact Robin Danek (rdanek@waterfordcumc.org) or 248-391-0040.

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

A few additional Coffee Hour Volunteers are needed. You will only be scheduled to serve once every 3 months and may be paired with another volunteer to share the preparation and clean-up. A new schedule is being prepared for September through December 2026. Please contact Linda Taylor at 317 441-4293 (text or call) or taylorlinc@yahoo.com. Thank You!

Good Sam Sunday

August 30, 2026

This month we will have a fifth Sunday, during which we encourage special giving to support Central's Good Sam Program. This program helps neighbors with utility payments or rental assistance, and is designed to assist with short-term cash flow issues.

We are looking for people with a heart for ministry who would be willing to help us administer our Good Sam program. This is a flexible ministry opportunity. For more information, please contact Margaret in the church office at 248-681-0040.

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated 8/30.

Please have any articles submitted to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org by Thursday, 8/20.

Sr. Shenanigans Is Back!

Tuesday, August 18th

After a brief summer hiatus, we're back. Join us in the church Parlor at 1pm. Bring a project to work on or just come for the fellowship.

UWM Faith Night

Friday, August 21st

If you have purchased a ticket to this event please meet at the church at 5:30pm to carpool, or join us at the front gate of UWM (formerly Jimmy John's) Field at 6:00pm if you are driving separately.



Jaeden and Joella's family has once again graciously offered to host our end-of-year Youth Group Extravaganza. Bring your bathing suit, towel, and openness to having fun. We will have a meal together, hang out, and enjoy the water. Please RSVP to Rev. Mary, 586-515-0013.

Loaded Baked Potato Bar LUNCHEON

Fundraiser for Ministry Shares



Sunday, August 30th

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

A Free Will Offering Will Be Taken

