



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

August 30th. Good Sam Sunday. Rev. Mary wraps up our Message Series with *God Is Not Done With Us Yet* based on Philippians 1:3-11. Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

No Place Like Home: Pull Up a Chair

This fall at Waterford Central, we will gather around a simple but powerful image: **home**.

Our fall worship series, *No Place Like Home: Pull Up a Chair*, will explore what it means to become a church where people are known, loved, challenged, fed, and sent into the world to serve. In Christ, there is room for us—and there is always room to pull up another chair.

Beginning September 13, we will explore how God calls us to move forward together, make room for others, pass faith from generation to generation, and keep widening the table. Along the way, we will celebrate Rally Day, World Communion Sunday, and spend several weeks considering generosity—not simply as what we give financially, but as the ways we offer our lives, gifts, time, prayers, and resources to God.

One Worship Service This Fall

As we move into the fall, we will also continue gathering for one Sunday worship service at 10:30am. When I arrived this summer, we paused the 8:30am service, with the expectation that we would revisit that decision for the fall. After these first months of listening, learning, and experiencing our life together, I believe continuing with one service is the wisest way forward for this season.

Gathering together allows us to bring the whole congregation into one shared worship experience and strengthens our sense of community as we begin this new chapter together. It also allows our staff, volunteers, musicians, and pastoral leadership to focus our energy and resources faithfully as we build and strengthen ministries throughout the church.

I am grateful for those who have faithfully worshiped at 8:30 over the years and recognize that this change may be disappointing for some. I hope you will join us at 10:30 as we continue discovering what God is calling us to become together.

As we enter our first fall together, I am excited to see what God is creating among us. **Come home. Pull up a chair. There is a place for you at the table.**

Rev. Mary

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CELEBRATE!

Joann Schulte's 90th Birthday

Sunday, September 13th

After Worship

Join us for an open house luncheon in Fellowship Hall. The gift of your presence and/or a card would be wonderful. Contact Vickie Armstrong at 248.496.5311 for more info.

Rally Day 2026

September 20th

Mark your calendars for Rally Day 2026. This year, we will enjoy a pre-service breakfast and Ministry Fair at 9am, followed by worship and the kick-off of Sunday school.

If you run one of our many ministries, we invite you to man a table during breakfast at our Ministry Fair. If you would like to participate, please contact the office at 248-681-0040 and let us know that you need space at a table. If you need any promotional materials, please contact Robin Danek at 248-681-0040 or rdanek@waterfordcumc.org.

Invite a Friend to Rally Day!



PrimeTime Tour of the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant

Friday, September 18th, 11am

Join Central's PrimeTime group for an outing to the original Model T factory. Learn the story of how Ford revolutionized the automotive industry and get up close to more than 65 rare automobiles and trucks. We will meet at the church to carpool to lunch at Zs Villa, an historic old home, then to a 1:45pm guided tour. Tickets for the tour are \$15, payable to Dan Arnold by Tuesday, September 15th. Please sign up in the Narthex if you plan to attend. For more information, contact Dan Arnold at 248-884-5904 or danieljarnold15@gmail.com.

Friends with God: Growing in Faith Together

Something new is beginning for our children this fall!

On **Rally Day, September 20**, we will officially launch *Friends with God*, our new Sunday morning faith formation experience for children. The name says a lot about what we hope our children will discover: that church is a place where they can build friendships with one another while growing in their friendship with God.

Each Sunday, children will begin worship with their families and participate in Children's Time.



Following Children's Time, they will be invited to *Friends with God*, where they will first gather together for a time of welcome, fun, faith, and music. From there, children will break into smaller, age-based groups where activities, Bible stories, conversation, and learning can be designed especially for them.

Vickie Armstrong will facilitate *Friends with God*, bringing together different teams of volunteers who will share their gifts to create a joyful, engaging, faith-filled experience for our children. Rather than asking just a few people to carry the whole program, we hope many people in our church family will discover ways they can be part of helping our children know how deeply God loves them.

Could You Be One of Our Three?

We are still looking for **three additional Sunday morning helpers** to complete our *Friends with God* team. And here's the good news: **there is no lesson planning or preparation required!** Our helpers will simply come ready to be present with our children, lend a hand, join in the fun, and help create a safe and welcoming environment.

Even better, **you won't serve every Sunday**. Helpers will be part of a rotation, sharing the ministry with others throughout the year. If you enjoy children but have hesitated because you weren't sure you could make a weekly commitment or prepare lessons, this might be the perfect way for you to serve. **We need just three more people—could one of them be you?**

We also believe that children learn about worship by **being part of worship**. Beginning in October, the **first Sunday of each month will be Family Worship Sunday**. Our children will remain in worship with their families so they can experience the rhythms of worship and, especially, participate in **Holy Communion with their church family**.

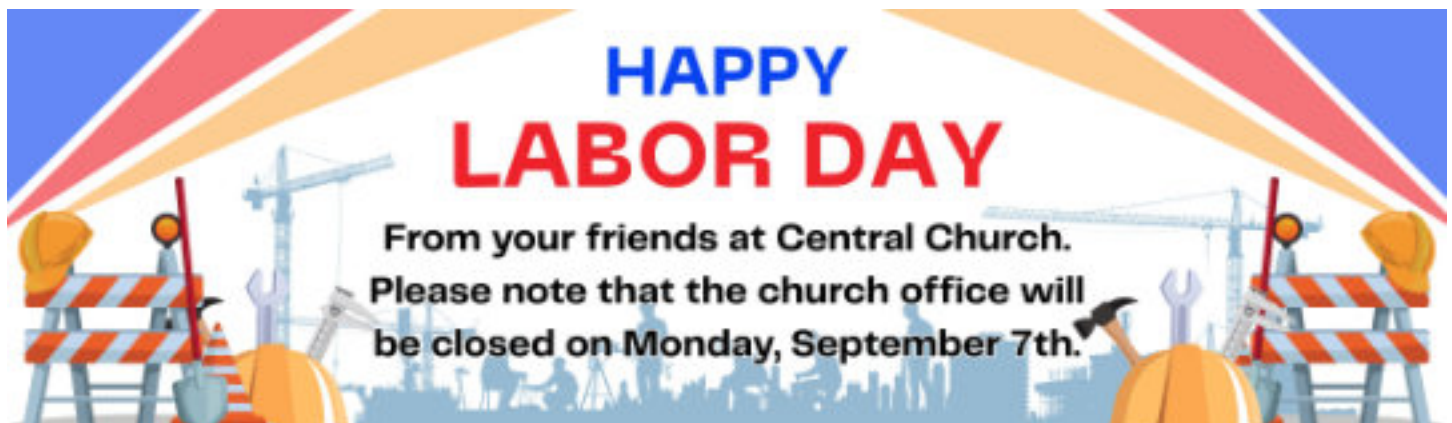
To make these Sundays especially welcoming for our youngest worshipers, one of our *Friends with God* teams will create special **Praise Kits** filled with activities and resources to help children engage with worship. And don't be surprised if our children occasionally share some of the music they have been learning with the whole congregation!

We are excited about what *Friends with God* can become. We want our children to know that they aren't simply the future of the church—they are an important and beloved part of the church **right now**.

So, children and families, join us beginning **September 20th**. And church family, consider how you



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.



might become part of *Friends with God*. Whether you love telling Bible stories, making crafts, singing music, welcoming children, preparing materials, or simply helping little ones know they belong, **there is a place for you.**

"Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children." — Mark 10:14

Youth Ministry: Fun, Fellowship, Food & Faith!

We are excited to kick off a new season of **Youth Ministry at Waterford Central!** All youth in **6th–12th grades** are invited—and friends are always welcome!

This fall, we will generally gather **twice a month** for time together centered around **fun, fellowship, food, and faith**. Along with **Jaeden and Erica**, I am excited that **Emily Cornish** will be joining our adult leadership team. I am really looking forward to getting to know our youth, hearing what matters to them, and creating a ministry together where they can grow in faith, build friendships, serve, and have plenty of fun.

Fall Youth Calendar

September 13th — Kick-Off Night at Rev. Mary's, 5:00pm

September 27th — Youth Group & begin planning for Trunk or Treat

October 11th — Youth Group

October 16th — Mott vs. Kettering Football Game

October 24th — Lock-In & creation of the Halloween Tunnel

October 25th — Trunk or Treat

November 8th — Youth Group

November 22nd — Youth Group

December 6th — Christmas Caroling

December 20th — Christmas Party at Rev. Mary's



Parents, We Need You Too!

We would love to provide **dinner at our youth gatherings whenever possible**. We are looking for one parent who would be willing to organize a simple meal sign-up and keep track of families or church members willing to provide dinner.

We also need a **parent to help coordinate our Halloween Tunnel** for Trunk or Treat. You won't be doing it alone—the youth will help create it!

And youth ministry isn't limited to Sunday evenings. Our young people are always welcome to participate in Sunday worship as **acolytes, ushers, or liturgists**. If your youth would like to help lead worship in one of these ways, please contact me.

I am so excited about what God will do in and through our young people this year. **Come join us—and bring a friend!**

—Rev Mary

The 2026 Rummage Sale is Right Around the Corner!

Last year's sale generated a net of \$8,250, which was distributed to support outreach and missions right here in our community. We are hoping for an even more successful sale this year, but it can't be done without YOU.

The sale will take place October 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Set up will begin Friday evening, September 25th. We will begin accepting donations Saturday, September 26th. More details on dates and times and

There are so many ways you can help!

- We need strong individuals to move equipment from the garage to Fellowship Hall and back to storage at the end of the sale.
- We need help with sorting, setting up and pricing donations.
- We need cashiers and baggers during the sale hours.
- You can help by preparing or donating food, snacks and drinks for the volunteers each day.
- Yummy cookies, brownies and pastries will be needed for the bake sale.
- You can donate money to help offset expenses.
- And, of course, your donations of clothing and other items to sell are vital.

This is an amazing and wonderful project of Central UMC and every volunteer is greatly appreciated. And you are virtually assured to have fellowship and fun! Please reach out to Linda Taylor 317 441-4293 or taylorlinc@yahoo.com with any questions.

Fall Events & Happenings

August 30th—Blessing of the Backpacks during worship. Loaded baked potato luncheon to support Ministry Shares after worship. Youth lake party.

Thursday, September 10th—Central Cafe resumes. Alleluia Dancers resume rehearsals.

Saturday, September 12th (2nd Saturday)—Central Cinema free movie night resumes. Pick up a brochure in the Narthex for the 2026-27 season movie line-up.

Sunday, September 13th—Youth Group kick-off at Rev. Mary's house.

Tuesday, September 15th—Purple Threads resumes.

Thursday, September 17th—Choir and Bell rehearsals resume.

Friday, September 18th—PrimeTime outing to the Ford Piquette Avenue plant.

Sunday, September 20th —Rally Day. Invite a friend to worship! Sunday School resumes.

Friday, September 25th—NEW! Monthly Euchre Club kick-off. Stay tuned for more info and a schedule of classes to learn how to play.

October 1st–3rd—Rummage Sale. Watch for the volunteer sign-up sheet soon.

There are more ministries in the works, so stay tuned for additional opportunities for fellowship and serving.

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated September 13th. Please have any articles submitted to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org by Thursday, September 3rd.



BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE
Marian L. Hansen

July 3, 1932 – September 23, 2025
Member Since November 18, 2018