



UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

September 13th. Rev. Mary begins a new Message Series, *No Place Like Home, Pull Up a Chair*.

Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

Dear Church Family,

"He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul."

-Psalm 23:2-3

There are moments when Scripture becomes more than words we know—it becomes something we experience.

This week, I have found myself surrounded by the wonder of God's creation: kayaking through the golden caves near Lagos, practicing yoga on the beach as the sun slipped toward the horizon, and lingering over a morning cup of coffee with nothing before me but the sea.

In these simple, beautiful moments, I have felt a deep awareness of God's presence. The rhythm of the waves, the warmth of the sun, the ancient cliffs shaped by wind and water—all have reminded me that creation itself can become a sanctuary.

Psalm 23 promises that God leads us beside still waters and restores our souls. Sometimes that restoration comes through prayer or worship. Sometimes it comes through rest, laughter, adventure, or simply sitting quietly enough to notice the beauty God has placed around us.

I am returning from this time away grateful—not only for the places I have seen, but for the way God has met me in them. My soul feels quieter, fuller, and restored.

Perhaps that is one of God's invitations to all of us: to make room to notice. To step away occasionally from all that demands our attention and discover again the God who is already waiting for us beside the still waters.

I am excited to watch how ministry takes life this fall. I look forward to seeing you soon in worship, at a study, during a team meeting, walking through the halls, preparing for Rally Day, or maybe at Central Cafe!

Love and Peace in Christ,

Rev. Mary

Angels in Training

A monthly service opportunity where elementary-age children learn to serve others through hands-on projects that make a difference in our community. This event will happen the third Thursday of the month starting in October—10/15, 11/19, and 12/17. We will meet from 4:30 - 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall, and we will eat at Central Cafe as part of our time together. We are excited about starting

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CELEBRATE!
Joann Shulte'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.



this up with our kids, and are looking for a partner who would feel called to help in this ministry area. Contact Rev. Mary (mqibson@waterfordcumc.org) if you have questions, to sign up your children, or to help give our children the regular experience of making a difference by serving our community and beyond with mission projects.



PrimeTime Tour of the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Pontiac

Wednesday, October 14th, 11am

Central's Primetime group will take a FREE tour of the Amazon facility in Pontiac. We will meet at the church at 11am to carpool to lunch at the Fillmore 13 Brewery in downtown Pontiac (cost on your own) 11:30am, then on to Amazon. The tour is a one-hour, unassisted walking tour that includes a flight of stairs and is approximately one mile. Other restrictions apply, so please pick up an instruction sheet from the Narthex to see if this event is right for you. **Please sign up in the Narthex by October 4th.** For more information or questions, contact Diana Carter at 248-309-2490 or dianacarter@comcast.net, or Dan Arnold at 248-884-5904 or danieljarnold15@gmail.com.

Central Cafe Kick-Off

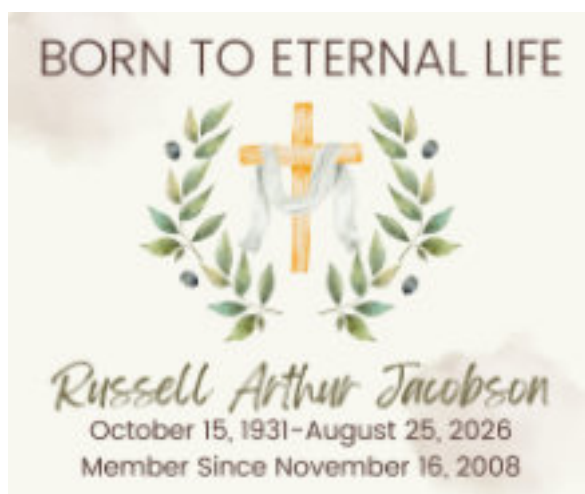
Thursday, September 17th, 5:15 - 6:15pm

Enjoy a BBQ chicken dinner and a night out with friends,



For Preschool–5th Grade

Please use the QR code to register your kids.



food and fellowship. Adults are \$8, kids \$5. Please sign up outside the church office. Central Cafe is also looking for volunteers to help with dinner prep and clean up. If interested, please reach out to Heather Marks at heather.marks922@gmail.com.

Grieving Forward: A Six-Week Journey Through Grief

Wednesdays, September 23rd through November 4th (excluding September 30th) from 10–11:30am

Death happened. Now what? Grief changes our lives, and we were never meant to walk through it alone. Join Rev. Mary for a six-week supportive and faith-filled conversation about loss, healing, remembering, and learning to live forward while continuing to carry the love of those we have lost.

Using the book *Death Happened, Now What?*, by Cathy Clough and Linda Pouliot as our guide, we'll share, learn, pray, and support one another along the way. The books will be available and cost \$20 each. Contact Rev. Mary or sign up in the Narthex.

All who are grieving the death of someone they love are welcome.

Fall Events & Happenings - NEW DATES!

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

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

Sunday, September 20th —Rally Day. Invite a friend to worship! *Friends with God* Sunday School begins.

Thursday, September 24th —Bell rehearsals resume.

Saturday, September 26th —Rummage Sale donations begin.

October 1st–3rd—Rummage Sale.



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



Central Cinema Saturday, September 12th, 6pm **My All-American**

Freddie Steinmark, an underdog on the gridiron, faces the toughest challenge of his life after leading his team to a championship season. Rated PG.

The 2026 Rummage Sale is Right Around the Corner!

October 1st—3rd, 2026

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.

Set up will begin Friday evening, September 25th. We will begin accepting donations Saturday, September 26th.

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. To be a part of it, sign up in the Narthex to volunteer. Please reach out to Linda Taylor 317 441-4293 or taylorlinc@yahoo.com with any questions.

A Quick Bake Sale Note

Thank you to all who have signed up to bake something yummy to sell at our Rummage Sale. Your response has been great! To those of you who haven't signed up yet, please give some thought to making something a little out of the ordinary. Requested last year were sugar free items, lemon bars, Chex mix, Rice Krispies bars and chocolate dipped pretzels.

Please remember that your yummy treats need to be at the church by 5pm on Wednesday September 30th. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Thank You

Thank you to my church family for the prayers, cards, calls, meals and well-wishes. This is such a loving church!

-Donna Bevington

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated September 27th. Please have any articles submitted to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org by Thursday, September 17th.

The Financial Love Report 	
Thanks to your calling, we have helped several people in many ways. In the month in August:	
4	Received help with rent assistance.
2	Received help with utility assistance.
13	Households received groceries.
\$ 15.00	Raised for Baldwin Center
\$ 890.00	Raised for C.W. Duncan School/Liberia
\$ 221.50	Raised for Central's Food Pantry
\$ 50.20	Raised for Clothe-a-Child
\$ 60.30	Raised for Fueling Kids Futures
\$ 155.00	Raised for Good Samaritan
\$ 1,557.50	Raised for Ministry Shares
\$ 400.00	Raised for UMCOR
Thank you for your continued support of Central's ministries!	