

Let all that you do be done in LOVE.

-1 Corinthians 16:14



2027 Extravagant Generosity Campaign



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connecting with God

Connecting with Others

Changing Our World with Christ's Love

Bringing Love to the Table

"Let all that you do be done in love." — 1 Corinthians 16:14

Dear friends,

This narrative budget is an invitation to see the ministry behind the numbers. Every line supports people and places through which we worship, learn, welcome, serve, and care for our neighbors. As we look toward 2027, I invite you to read these pages with a question in mind: How can we bring love to the table together?

At Waterford Central, our mission is to Connect with God, Connect with Others, and Change Our World with Christ's Love. We live that mission when children discover that they are loved by God, when youth find people who know their names, when friends gather for worship and study, and when our neighbors encounter welcome and care. The people who lead these ministries, the building that welcomes them, and the everyday work that sustains them are all part of that story.

Paul's invitation in 1 Corinthians 16:14 gives us a simple measure for our choices: let everything be done in love. Bringing love to the table includes our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. It includes time spent listening and hands offered in service. It also includes financial commitments that help us plan faithfully and make room for people we have not yet met. Each person's circumstances and gifts are different. Together, we can offer what we have with care and purpose. This year we are encouraging all to grow in love through your prayers, presence, service, witness, and financial gifts.

Our Three Sundays of Generosity

October 11: What Have You Been Given? | 2 Corinthians 9:6–11

We begin in gratitude, recognizing what God has given and how generosity has already touched our lives.

October 18: Bring Something to the Table | 1 Peter 4:8–11

We consider the gifts each of us can offer in love, through service, hospitality, prayer, and material support.

October 25: Make the Table Bigger | Matthew 6:19–21

On Commitment Sunday, we ask where we want to invest our hearts and resources. We will invite commitments for 2027 as one way to make room for others at Christ's table.

As you read the stories and figures that follow, please pray about the part you can play in this shared ministry. Thank you for the many ways you already bring love to the table. May our generosity help another person discover that a chair is waiting for them here.

With gratitude,

-Rev. Mary

Hospitality



My love for the church just keeps growing for so many reasons. One of my reasons is our amazing new pastor, Rev. Mary. You have to meet her if you haven't, she is kind, caring as well, and very approachable.

Each Sunday I look forward to seeing the wonderful, kind, and caring members in our congregation. There is a real sense of family and camaraderie as everyone chips in. Everyone helps one another as they can and truly seems to care for one another.

Giving is so heartwarming knowing that we can continue to help others, grow our community, and carry out the work that God has set before us.

-Cynthia McClanahan

I love my Church family. I'm so grateful for all the blessings I receive from my connections to Central. The fellowship and friendships, some lasting 50+ years now. The prayerful support through my several health crises and the loss of loved ones. The ministries of service on committees and boards and in Chancel and bell choirs. The opportunities to grow in my faith, especially with Purple Threads, Keller-Fitz, and working with youth. I haven't always tithed. Years ago, an older member, John Eddy, asked me if my church check was the first or the last check I wrote each month. I had to admit that it was the last, after I'd paid all the other important bills. With his encouragement, I moved my church check to the top of my list. I didn't start tithing right away. I started out with what I thought I could afford, about 1%. Then I gradually increased it, as I saw I could actually afford more. Going beyond 10% took time but was ultimately easier than I had ever imagined. God has been so good to me. I have to pass it on.

Blessings,

-Sue Shipley



Discipleship

*"Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can."*

-John Wesley



Fueling Kids' Futures

What is Tithing?

The Bible speaks of the tithe as a standard for giving. The tithe is defined as the first 10% of our earnings, returned to God and the work of the church. This is difficult for some, and others have grown in their generosity well beyond the 'biblical statement.'

Growing in the the grace of giving is a worthy, God-honoring goal to consider each year. Your intentional decision to give in proportion to your resources will enable you to accomplish your personal, good steward goal.



Oakland Hope

Why Give?

The reasons why Christians give are likely no secret to you.

- We give to join in the work God is already doing.
- We give as a statement of faith about what we believe is important.
- We give as a way of prioritizing our life by placing God first.
- We give so we can be a part of something better than ourselves.
- We give for the sake of others who are in need, and to build the foundation of faithful witness for future generations of Christians.
- We give because Christ set the example of giving, and scripture clearly call us to generously give with joyfulness.
- We give because in our vows of membership we promised we would.



Listening for the Spirit

Central United Methodist Church

Budget Information

As a matter of responsible financial stewardship each year, our church is asked to prepare an operating budget, anticipating the next year's activities. While the 2027 budget will not be finalized until January, the following information is an approximate representation of important pieces of our budget from this year.

Ministry Shares and Mission

8.8% of our budget

Our tithe giving to the Michigan Annual Conference is what makes us uniquely United Methodist, and is called Ministry Shares. It is the way that we join our offerings with others in our community and around the world to do the work of the Church; this is our first-mile giving. We have had a long history of paying 100% of our Ministry Shares, but in recent years we have not made that percentage. It is our goal to keep increasing our percentage so that we give 100% in the next few years. In 2026 we paid 55% of what was asked. We continue to participate in second-mile giving that supports all kinds of missions that are important to us and you see them listed in this mailing.

Salaries, Benefits and Services

53.3% of our budget

We have a full time Elder appointed to this church. There are also responsibilities to pay over \$26,000 in health care costs, plus Continuing Education, Travel Reimbursements, and Professional Reimbursements. Our lay staff: Administrative Assistant, Marketing and Media Specialist, Music Director, Bookkeeper, Organist, Evening Caretaker, Custodian, Kitchen Coordinator, and Liturgical Dance Director, are necessary resources to help us live out our vision statement of Connecting with God, Connecting with Others, and Changing Our World with Christ's Love, as together we worship joyfully, welcome openly, pray faithfully, teach biblically, give generously, serve actively, and love boldly to proclaim the grace of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

Ministry Programs

7.7% of our budget

It is amazing all the work that happens in this place when only 7.7% of the budget is given towards these important ministries. This money provides involvement in Worship, Christian Outreach, Education, Children and Youth Ministries, just to name a few. There are also many ministries and mission projects that gain support through direct donations or fundraising efforts.

Trustees

30.2% of our budget

We are blessed with a big, beautiful Church building, a parsonage, and two additional homes. While we have no mortgage on any of our buildings, we still have upkeep on all these buildings and the grounds. Did you know our utilities, insurance, and grounds care cost about \$145,000 a year, plus maintenance, office supplies and equipment expenses? These are just a few of the large costs needed to keep our church and property beautiful, operational, safe, and welcoming to the community.

Mission

Missions We Support

- Clothe-a-Child
- Jail Outreach Ministry
- Food Pantry
- Good Samaritan Program
- C. W. Duncan Scholarships
- The Baldwin Center
- Fueling Kids' Futures
- Methodist Children’s Home
- Knit for Kids
- Hope Warming Center
- Waterford Youth Assistance
- Waterford Community Coalition
- Oakland Hope
- Micah 6 Community
- UMCOR
- Scouting
- And More...



Many years ago I encountered a period of ill health, needing three separate surgeries (including colon cancer and open chest surgery). The support and love I received from my church family was so strong that I knew I would be well. Rev. Herb Glenn was our Pastor at that time and he was with me before and after surgery. Now, all these years later, I am giving testimony to the power of the love I felt from my church.

I do consider our congregation my “church family”. We are always happy to see one another. We support and pray for each other. Most of all, we love one another. I hope my continued pledge to Central will help others grow in this love.

-Velette Svenkesen

Bringing Love to the Table	Income		Monthly Tithe /Giving					
	Yearly	Monthly	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,667	\$ 33	\$ 67	\$ 100	\$ 133	\$ 167	\$ 250
	25,000	2,083	42	83	125	167	208	313
	30,000	2,500	50	100	150	200	250	375
	35,000	2,917	58	117	175	233	292	438
	40,000	3,333	67	133	200	267	333	500
	45,000	3,750	75	150	225	300	375	563
	50,000	4,167	83	167	250	333	417	625
	60,000	5,000	100	200	300	400	500	750
	75,000	6,250	125	250	375	500	625	938
	100,000	8,333	167	333	500	667	833	1,250
	125,000	10,417	208	417	625	833	1,042	1,563
	150,000	12,500	250	500	750	1,000	1,250	1,875

What has God entrusted to us, and what are we doing with it?

Estimate of Giving

I/we will bring LOVE to the table and commit to grow in faithful and extravagant generosity through:

☐ Prayers: _____

☐ Presence: _____

☐ Service: _____

☐ Witness: _____

☐ Financial Gifts Estimate: A total of \$_____ for the year 2027

To set up automatic giving, visit WaterfordCUMC.org/donate/ or call the bookkeeper at (248) 681-0040.

Scan to pledge online

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signed _____ Date _____

This statement of intention may be revised as circumstances dictate. Please bring this card to worship on October 25th or mail it to 3882 Highland Road, Waterford, MI 48328.



Central Church has provided my family with hundreds of enjoyable and meaningful activities over the past 50 years, including literally life-changing experiences for our children. As we participated in chaperoning youth groups and teaching Sunday School classes, it became apparent to me that these activities don't occur without financial resources, which motivated

me to increase our weekly pledge. Similarly, my employment brought me into contact with persons in this geographic area who are in need of the kind of assistance that our church and other churches in the area provide. There's a positive and calming feeling knowing your contributions are making a difference in the lives of your family and community members.

-Stephen Albery

I'm grateful for the sense of belonging I find at Central Church. Being surrounded by a community where people feel like family, where sermons, music and activities inspire me to grow. It motivates me to be my best self, not only for

me, but for others and the world. In all, being a part of something so amazing, it makes me want to give my all to Central Church.

-Crystal Layman

