Chimes

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

11.22.26

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

November 22. Christ the King Sunday. Rev. Mary concludes our *No Place Like Home* Message Series with *Christ Is the Host.* Worship is in person or online at Live.WaterfordCUMC.org

"From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised." —Psalm 113:3

Dear Church Family,

During my vacation last week, I found myself returning to one simple prayer: Thank you, God.

Watching sunrises and sunsets over the water, spending time at a yoga retreat with a dear friend, and celebrating another birthday gave me space to slow down and notice the gifts around me. There was beauty in God's creation, joy in friendship, and renewal in taking time to care for my body and soul.

Even our room offered a reminder. Written on the door were the words "Welcome to Gratitude." Every time we returned, that invitation greeted us. What a fitting theme for my time away—and what a beautiful invitation to carry home.

Gratitude to God is always in style. We never have to wait for Thanksgiving to practice it! We can offer thanks with the first light of morning, with a deep breath, over a shared meal, or as we settle into rest at the end of the day. Caring for the bodies and souls God has entrusted to us can become an act of thanksgiving, too.

Gratitude does not mean every part of life is easy. Sometimes our thanks mingle with tears. Yet even in difficult seasons, we may discover someone who helped us keep going, a moment of unexpected peace, or grace that met us when we needed it most.

As you look back over this past year, what are you grateful for? Who has blessed your life? Where have you noticed God's presence? Take a moment to name those gifts—and perhaps let someone know that you thank God for them.

Among my blessings is this church family. Thank you to everyone who led and supported worship in my absence last Sunday. Your gifts and faithful leadership allowed me to step away, rest, and return with a grateful heart.

I look forward to being together this Sunday as we conclude our worship series, "No Place Like Home—Pull Up a Chair." Come share in worship as we celebrate the welcome, belonging, and love we find in God and extend to one another. There is a place for you!

With a grateful heart,

Rev. Mary

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Advent Devotional

Rev. Mary has put together a daily advent devotional to help you get the most from our *Angels Among Us* Advent

Meadow Brook Theater
A Christmas Carol

If you have signed up for this outing on Wednesday, December 9th, please meet at the church at 10:45am to carpool.

Message series. A copy of the devotional was mailed with the Advent brochure that you will receive in the next few days. You can also download a digital copy at News=>Advent & Christmas 2026. We invite you to use this on a daily basis as a guide to growing closer to God this Advent season.

Generosity Campaign Update

We are off to a great start on our 2027 Generosity Campaign! We have received Estimate of Giving cards from nearly 50% of our families/individuals. If you have not returned your Estimate of Giving card please return it to the church office, or pledge online at News=>2027 Extravagant Generosity Campaign.

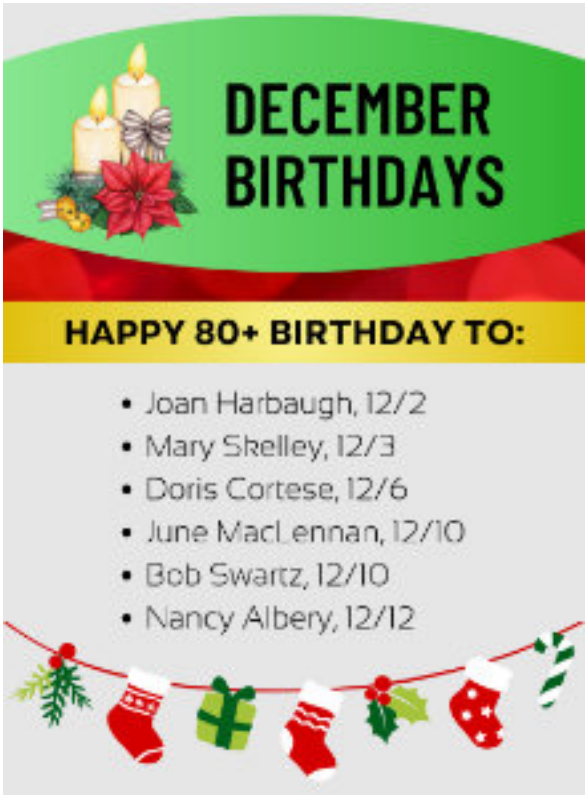
Women's Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 5 @ 2pm

Once again the women of the church are invited for a special afternoon of fellowship before the holiday season ramps up. Enjoy a relaxing time to get together for a short service followed by a tea. You can sign up to host a group of seven of your friends at a table.

Invite your friends, decorate your table for the season, provide tableware, and provide a dessert & snack. Tea, coffee, cream and sugar will be provided. The church has tableware that you are welcome to borrow. Individuals are also welcome to sign up and we'll place you at a table.

The sign up sheet can be found outside the Narthex. Table setup will be that morning.





2026 Rummage Sale Giving

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's rummage sale. All involved felt that it was a great success! Even though the volunteers faced several challenges (including working in a building without water for three days!) they stepped right up to make sure that everything was ready.

On November 1st all volunteers were invited to meet and make decisions as to the recipients of the net proceeds. Once again, food insecurity remained a major focus. Oakland County organizations that will receive funds are The Baldwin Center, Oakland Hope, Hope Warming Center, Micah 6 and the Mott



High School Student Food Pantry. Outreach missions within Central Church receiving funds are the Food Pantry, the Good Sam Fund, VBS, Trunk or Treat, and Knit for Kids. An account is also being established for a Mission Trip to be taken by the Central UMC Youth. And, in recognition that Central Church serves as a gathering place and functions to support the needy in our surrounding area, a unanimous decision was made to add money to the parking lot replacement fund.



Again I express my deep gratitude to all who helped in so many ways. It absolutely could not have been done without you!

–Linda Taylor, Rummage Sale Coordinator

Calling Creative People!

Do you have a knack for visual design? We're looking for someone to give the chalkboards and bulletin boards in the church a face lift. If you like to draw, paint and/or art direct, we'd love to encourage your design talent. If interested, please contact Robin Danek at 248-681-0040.

Thank You

Dear Central Methodist Friends,

Thank you for your cards, notes, visits and prayers as I continue my transition into Mendelson Home at the Lourdes Senior Community. A special thanks to the Purple Threads and Caring Core for their continuous support and encouragement. Thanks again.

–Sally Kuhn

The Church Office will be closed November 26th in observance of Thanksgiving.

The next issue of the *Chimes* will be dated December 6th. Please have any articles submitted to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org by Wednesday, November 25th.

Love in Action

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

3	Received help with rent assistance.
0	Received help with utility assistance.
10	Households received groceries.

$ 20.00	Raised for	Baldwin Center
$ 326.50	Raised for	Central's Food Pantry
$ 50.20	Raised for	Clothe-a-Child
$ 155.30	Raised for	Fueling Kids Futures
$ 120.00	Raised for	Good Samaritan
$ 150.00	Raised for	Ministry Shares
$ 25.00	Raised for	UMCOR

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

Interested in Becoming a Member?

If you are interested in becoming a Member of Central Church, please plan to join us for one or both of these events.

Muffins with Mary

Sunday, December 6th @ 9:30am

Join Rev. Mary before worship to learn more about what it means to become a church member.

New Member Class

Sunday, January 17th after Worship

Please check the box on your connection card or call the office at 248-681-0040 to register.

Angels Among Us: Advent Mission & Giving

Advent Mission Project

A portion of our Christmas Offering will be tithed to our Ministry Shares and the Michigan UMC *Gardens of Hope* Advent initiative.

Clothe-a-Child

During the holiday season Central supports local elementary children in the Waterford School District with the donation of new clothing. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Clothe-A-Child program please make checks out to CUMC with "CAC" on the memo line.

Compassionate Christmas Cards

Purchase Christmas cards from the church office for a donation of $5 per card. Donations will go to various Central missions. They make great gifts for friends, teachers, stylist, or others.

Sponsor a Student at C. W. Duncan School in Liberia

$300 will send a student to the C. W. Duncan School in Liberia for an entire year. To sponsor a student, mark donations "C. W. Duncan Scholarship." Cards are available in the church office to give your honoree(s).

Support a Waterford Elementary Student for the School Year

For $160 you can provide a Waterford student with weekend food for the school year through our partner ministry Fueling Kids' Futures. Cards are available in the church office to give your honoree(s).

Christmas Wishes for Methodist Children's Home Society

Once again, Central will be donating gift cards so the Cottage parents can purchase gifts for kids in their care. Please mark checks MCHS on the memo line. **Donations must be in by November 29th.**

Food Pantry Reverse Advent Challenge

Pick up a calendar or download it from our website at News=>Reverse Advent Challenge 2026 and collect one item for each day of December. Drop off donations weekly at the table in the Narthex, or at the end of the month to the Food Pantry box or the church office.

Hats and Mittens/Gloves

Donate a matched set of a hat + mittens/gloves after November 30th to go to Waterford School children through the Clothe-a-Child program (please no scarves).

Baldwin Holiday Store

This year we will again be collecting new toys for the Baldwin Center Holiday Store. **Please put donations (unwrapped) on the table in the Narthex by Monday, November 30th.**

Advent Music, Study & Fellowship

Advent Message Study

Mondays during Advent @ 6:00pm, Beginning November 30th

Join Rev. Mary for a study based on *The Angels of Christmas* by Susan Robb.

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 28th, 9:00am. Help transform the church for Christmas.

Women's Advent Tea

Saturday, December 5th, 2:00pm. A time of relaxation and fellowship before the busy holiday season.

Parsonage Open House

Sunday, December 13th, 2-4pm Join Rev. Mary at the Parsonage for holiday treats and fellowship. All are welcome.

Carols & Beer

Friday, December 18th, 6:30pm. Enjoy a festive Christmas carol sing-along at Rustic Leaf Brewing company in Waterford.