

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 am - Chapel Worship
 10:00 am- The Conversation
 10:30 am - Sanctuary Worship

UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

Pastor Jack will continue his Central at the Cinema Sermon Series with a message based on "The Post."

UMCOR ERT Training

On January 20th, ten people were trained to be Early Response Team members as part of UMCOR's initiative to build its volunteer network in the state of Michigan. The group included several members of Central, as well as a volunteer from Grand Rapids scheduled to go to Puerto Rico in March and a retired doctor who came the day of the training.

The trainer, Bob McCormick, has been a hands-on ERT member for several years and was able to give the group a solid idea of what is involved in being an Early Response Team member. He also enhanced the training with examples of situations that his team(s) have handled in the past. Bob is currently the Blue Water District Disaster Response Coordinator and will become the Disaster Coordinator for the Crossroads District once the new division of districts is complete.

The training included book work as well as role playing and group discussions. Topics ranged from emotional support of survivors to overviews on removing drywall and tarping roofs.

About Disaster Response Teams

UMCOR Early Response Teams are formed from United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) who have received special certification to go into a disaster area once emergency responders have secured the area.

Most volunteers respond to local calls, but dependent upon the severity of a disaster, a call could be made to volunteers in other districts, states or across the nation.

If you feel called to participate in this level of disaster response but were unable to attend the training, contact Robin Danek, as she will be coordinating another session in the future.

For more information on ERT training, visit our website at:

News=>UMCOR Early Response Team Training

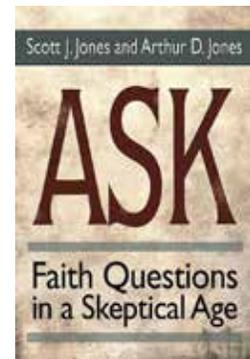
Purple Threads Study Begins Tuesday, February 20th @ 7pm

The group's next study will be "Ask: Faith Questions for a Skeptical Age" by Bishop Scott Jones and Rev. Arthur Jones. This study will address hard questions that all of us face when considering faith, religion and the church. Sessions will include: Can only one religion be true? Why is there suffering and evil? Can I trust the Old Testament? Was Jesus' resurrection real?

The book is available in the church office for \$10. The study will also include videos that feature discussion by a diverse group of young clergy (including Rev. Scott Chrostek) that addresses the questions with honesty and biblical integrity.

Dates for this study are: February 20, March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17. All sessions will meet in the Parlor at 7pm. Our leader is Sue Shipley. If you have questions or wish to be a part of the study, please contact Diana Carter, class coordinator, 248-309-2490 or dianacarter@comast.net.

Purple Threads is a women's Bible study and intercessory prayer group.



CONNECT WITH CENTRAL

Web: waterfordcumc.org

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eNewsletter: Sign up at www.waterfordcumc.org or email rdanek@waterfordcumc.org.

The Conversation

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Help us save on printing and mailing costs. Sign up at our website to receive *Chimes* via email.

The deadline for the Sunday, February 18th issue of *Chimes* is Wednesday, February 7th. Please send all of your articles, thank you notes and address changes to the Church office or e-mail them to rdanek@waterfordcumc.org.

The Life of the Church

Lenten Study

Gifts of the Dark Wood

Uncertain? Empty? Lost? Join the crowd and find companions who are willing to wander the unseen road ahead. It's okay to feel awkward in your search for God. You're not alone amid your holy mess. In fact, author Dr. Eric Elnes believes that uncertainty about your spiritual life can be one of your greatest assets because it is while we are unsure that we probe, question, and discover. You don't need to be a saint or spiritual master to experience profound awakening and live with God's presence and guidance. You need only to wander.

This study is for both the insider who has left the traditional church and the outsider who is curious about faith, but mistrustful of religious systems and authority.

Join a Study!

Books are available for purchase in the church office.

Thursdays at 10:30am & 6:30pm

February 15th - March 22nd with Rev. Kathy.

Sunday Evenings at 7:30pm

February 18th - March 25th with Pastor Jack.

Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14th, 7pm

Gifts of the Dark Wood Message Series:
Where We Find Ourselves.

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 18th
8:30, 10 & 10:30am

Gifts of the Dark Wood Message Series:
The Gift of Uncertainty.

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 25th
8:30, 10 & 10:30am

Gifts of the Dark Wood Message Series:
The Gift of Emptiness.

Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 4th
8:30, 10 & 10:30am

Gifts of the Dark Wood Message Series:
The Gift of Being Thunderstruck.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 11th
8:30, 10 & 10:30am

Gifts of the Dark Wood Message Series:
The Gift of Getting Lost.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 18th
8:30 10 & 10:30am

Gifts of the Dark Wood Message Series:
The Gift of Temptation.

Born to Eternal Life

Faye J. Campbell

August 16th, 1930 - January 18th, 2018
Member since June 6th, 1961

Our deepest sympathies to Norman Campbell.

Sympathies To

John and Jannette Deszell on the death of John's mother, Shirley Chelle, and John and Joanna Deszell on the death of John's grandmother.

Shelly Nowak and family on the death of her stepmother, Stella Helmer.

Our prayers are with the families.

Address Changes

Please note there is a new mailing (only) address for:

Kay VanHoy
c/o Lois Waldecker
3954 Baumhoff
Comstock, MI 48303-8341

Cradle Roll

Aliyah Elizabeth Fuson
Born January 16, 2018

Daughter of Anna Lain
Granddaughter of Jim & Cheryl
Hinsberg
Niece of Sara Lain &
Jason Hinsberg



ERT Training attendees (L. to R.) Bob McCormick (trainer), Paul Armstrong, Rainy Stephenson, Betty DeVinney, Andy Berry, Cappy Murphy, James Schmid, Grace Hazlett, Tamara Luesse, Debra Hayden-Schmid, Robin Danek (not pictured).

We will be going to an all-digital *Chimes* in summer of 2018. If you would like to continue to receive the print version, please contact the church office.

Back issues of recent *Chimes* newsletters are available on our website at:

Connect=>Newsletter

Upcoming CUMC Events

Lenten Devotional Luncheon Series

Wednesdays, February 21st - March 21st @ Noon

Practice intentional discipleship by joining fellow Christians for a special Lenten Devotional series. Programs begin at 12pm and are followed with a soup and sandwich luncheon. A free will offering will be taken.

February 21st led by Rev. Glenn Morrison at Community of Christ Church, Waterford.

February 28th led by Rev. John Negele at Grace and Peace United Methodist Church, Pontiac.

March 7th led by Rev. Carolyn Mobley at Canterbury-on-the-Lake Retirement Community, Waterford.

March 14th led by Rev. Jack Mannschreck at Christ Lutheran Church, Waterford.

March 21st led by Rev. Beth Delaney at Bethel United Church of Christ, Waterford.

"Circulate the Love" Blood Drive

Tuesday, February 20th, noon—6pm

Sign up at the blood drive table in the Chapel hallway to give blood or volunteer to help out. You can also sign up to give at redcrossblood.org.

Women's Lenten Study

Begins Tuesday, February 27th

Join us on Tuesday evenings from 7:00—8:30pm for five weeks. We will be using the study *The Rewritten Life: When God Changes Your Story* by Jessica LaGrone. The study will be led by Rev. Kathy. Books will be available for purchase in the church office. Childcare is provided if requested in advance.

Youth and Scout Sunday

February 11th @ 10:30am

Join us to celebrate Central's youth ministry. Worship will be led by the youth of the church and we will be honoring Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts at this special service.

VBS 2018—Save the Date!

June 25th–29th from 9am–12pm

Our theme this year for Vacation Bible School (VBS) is "Rolling River Rampage!" If you are interested in leading or helping, please plan to attend a brief planning meeting on **Sunday, February 25th at 11:45am.**

Central Cinema

Saturday, February 3rd @ 6pm

"The Long Walk Home," portrays two women who must decide what they are going to do in response to the famous 1955 bus boycott led by Martin Luther King, Jr. in Montgomery, Alabama.

Opportunities to Serve & Grow

Join Disciple Fast Track on Wednesday evenings at 7pm for a study of the New Testament.

Sign up for a Study, Class or Prayer Group. Pick up the brochure on Winter/Spring 2018 Faith Formation Opportunities in the Chapel hallway to see what's available to help you in your faith growth.

Join the CUMC Prayer Team. Help support members in need via phone, card, a visit and prayer. For info, contact Phyllis Liming at 248-732-7736 or pliming@sbcglobal.net.

Donate to the food pantry. We are in need of crackers, jelly/jam, dish soap, boxed stuffing, tuna, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, Manwich, baked beans, pasta and spaghetti sauce and toothpaste.

Begin or continue your Faith Growth Journey. Lent begins on February 14th. What does your growth plan look like for Lent? Let us partner with you to make a plan to grow in your faith during this season. Contact the church office to sign-up for an appointment with one of our Faith Growth Pathway team members to learn more.

Sign up with Kroger Community Rewards. Did you know Central can benefit if you have a Kroger card? Just go to:

krogercommunityrewards.com

set up an account, and designate Central United Methodist Church-Waterford to receive rewards based on your shopping.

Thank You

Knit for Kids

A big thank you to everyone who helped to provide warm sweaters, baby hats, baby blankets and children's hats through the Knit for Kids program. Since the program started in November of 2005, we have sent 1357 sweaters, 458 baby hats, 63 baby blankets have been sent since we began including those items in 2014, and last year was the first for the children's hats and we shipped 30 of those. Items are sent to children in this country and around the world. We send them to World Vision and from January to October of 2017, they shipped over 91,000 items to Albania, Armenia, Bosnia, Bronx, NY storehouse, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chicago storehouse, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Pacific Northwest storehouse, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Swaziland and Zambia. If you wish to participate, knit and crochet patterns and yarn are available on a table outside the brides room just beyond the narthex. A big thank you to Jim Alt for the large donation of yarn. Once your project is completed, please place it on the table. If you have questions, please contact Diana Carter, 248-309-2490.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

I am really excited for this Season of Lent as I am preparing the message series based on Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes' book, *Gifts of the Dark Wood – Seven Blessings for Soulful Sceptics (and other Wanderers)*. I haven't shared the full title of Elnes' book very often because frankly, it's a long title. However, it better captures the intention of the book to offer blessing through some of the more difficult times of our lives. It is precisely the difficult times in our lives that often yield the greatest spiritual growth.

Lent is often described as a journey—a spiritual journey. All too often pastors and other church leaders put together a nice and tidy program for Lent all wrapped up in a wonderful Easter Celebration. Although we have certainly “put together” an intentional program for our Lenten Season, I am praying for some surprising time of growth and learning for our church family.

Even when we plan well in advance, we sometimes just have to “muddle through” some days. I find myself muddling through some days in both Advent and Lent—they are such busy times of the year. “Muddling through” is usually defined as “to continue despite confusion and difficulties,” or as “to succeed (often clumsily) despite being ill-equipped or untrained.” Well, doesn't that describe the reality of much of what we face in life?

In my Easter Letter I invited our congregations to take a hike! I shared how I enjoy hiking or simply walking. Muddling through, which is a way of walking, means dealing with what comes up, tackling the immediate stuff. Along the way, we may even have to back out of previous commitments and leave some other good things by the wayside. We generally have to start from whatever mess we find ourselves in and muddle our way out. That's often exhausting, but, in fact, it's frequently the only way, because much of the time there are

no big, one-stroke solutions to life's problems.

One thing I've learned from my friends in 12-step programs, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, is that they don't focus on lifetime solutions; they talk about daily solutions—staying on track one day at a time. That's a “muddling through” sort of approach, but, remarkably, it is often the only way that works.

I am experiencing great joy in preparing for our Lenten Journey together. I am also prepared for some “muddling through” which I pray will bring some wonderful insights about life in general and our spiritual health in particular. The best part of the journey is that we will be together! I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Because of Christ,

Pastor Jack