



CHIMES

Central United Methodist Church *The Church of the Good Shepherd*

VOLUME 67

December 4, 2011

NUMBER 23



My head and heart need this Advent season. I worry about the volume of wear and tear upon this community over the past year. We have been privileged to watch the passing into glory of a host of saints who have been at the core of this congregation for fifty years or more. Their passing leaves a hole that is always hard to fill. We have waved good bye to many more younger families who seek job possibilities elsewhere, or who are claiming churches in their communities that are far closer to their homes than we. There are more holes. We hold each other up as mystery illnesses, or surgeries, or simply aging restrict the participation of friends and their loving care givers.

I need Advent. I need a moment to shake off the accumulated feelings and memories of this year. I need an Advent moment to slow down and recall that God is still with us. I see those signs also dancing through this year. I see young people who were only yesterday, children, now establishing themselves as leaders of youth groups and I am encouraged. I recall new births that have been into my family and this church which remind us that the mysteries of God's gifts are still among us. I sense a growing and renewing expectancy for mission that drives our lives as disciples of the Spirit of Christ.

I am trusting that like Advents past, this Advent will allow us to remember that we as a congregation are a human community with frailty and failings and that on our own, our spirits could be buried.

However, we are a community that is committed to breathing and living in the Spirit of Christ. There is hope for a new future with a God who is creative enough to birth the divine self into such a family as we. It will be a mystery worth the preparation.

Jim

Born to Eternal Life

Wellington "Hugh" Denyes

9/20/1921 - 11/24/2011

Member of Central since 9/24/1961

Our deepest sympathies to
Ruth Denyes on the death of her
husband.

Our Deepest Sympathies

Our deepest sympathies to
Roger & Ronna McCoy
on the death of his father.

Our deepest sympathies to
Danielle & Kelly McCoy
on the death of their grandfather.

CLOTHE A CHILD UPDATE

We have wrapped up the 41st year of Clothe-A-Child! The clothes have been packed and delivered to all 4 schools for 449 Waterford Elementary School children and their siblings! I would like to thank everyone who made a donation towards this program and for keeping these children and their families in your prayers. Plans are already underway for next year and the shopping will begin again this spring when local retailers put their winter stock on clearance. Our account has been reduced significantly, so if you have not already done so and you feel it in your heart to make a donation, checks can be made out to United Methodist Women (please indicate "Clothe-A-Child on the memo line) and dropped off in the office. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Andrea Baxter (ab73blue@gmail.com or 248.666.9788). Thank you for your generosity!

KIDS CENTRAL MINISTRY NEWS

BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

December 18, 2011 at the 10:30 a.m. service we will celebrate the births of our infants and their first Christmas in our congregational family. Contact Rev. Kathy with any questions.

BLESSING OF THE TOYS

On Christmas morning all of the children (and adults) are invited to bring a newly opened toy to worship for a special blessing! Please bring a toy that is not too noisy! This is a way to celebrate the special Christmas morning. Contact Rev. Kathy if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP

December 24, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. We will be doing the no-rehearsal Christmas cameo again this year. Sign-up sheets for actors will be posted outside the Church office or you can contact Rev. Kathy.

Rev. Kathy's contact info:
kpittenger@waterfordcumc.org or
248-681-0040 ext. 15

www.kidscentralweb.org

Welcome New Members

Diane Brown
3524 Watkins Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328
248-461-6917

Steven Ellcey
432 Melinda Circle
White Lake, MI 48386
248-408-7720

Robert Nelson
3044 Harbor Ct.
Waterford, MI 48328
248-681-0971

Kimberly Sivic
432 Melinda Circle
White Lake, MI 48386
248-820-1192

UMW PROGRAM

The UMW sponsored lunch and Christmas program will be held Sun., Dec. 11 right after second service. All are invited regardless of age or gender. If you can bring a salad or dessert or if you can help with set up, or clean up, please contact Janice Mann.

KNIT FOR KIDS

We are getting closer! Can you help us reach our goal of 1,000 sweaters before the end of the year? We need just 16 more! See the table next to the Bride's Room for samples, patterns and free yarn. We send the sweaters to World Vision and they are sent to children in this country and all around the world. Cold weather is approaching for many children and a warm sweater will be a gift of love to those who need to know that someone cares. Thank you to our dedicated knitters!

Diana Carter, Knit for Kids Chairperson,
248-666-2575



Dad's Club Men's Summit

Come join us on JANUARY 27-29, 2012, at JUDSON-COLLINS Methodist Camp.

We gather for fellowship and discussion of Mitch Albom's "Have A Little Faith" We'll also have fun with games, movies, sleigh-ride, and playing in the snow! For more info contact: Dan Arnold or Myke Robson.

CHRISTMAS FOR THE METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

Christmas is coming and the boys at the Methodist Children's Home are anticipating the holiday. Wouldn't it be great if their Christmas wishes could come true? The Eschtruth Circle is asking the congregation to join us as we provide some holiday cheer for the village residents.

There is a giving tree in the Narthex filled with little snowmen ornaments. Each one has the name of a resident at the village and one of his Christmas wishes. If you are willing to shop for this child, please take an ornament(s), purchase the gift(s) and then return it to the Church by Dec. 18th and place under the tree. Gifts cannot be wrapped, but please attach the snowman ornament to the gift (gifts may be placed in a bag) so the village will be able to pass them out to the right child on Christmas morning. Many of the boys have requested gift cards. You can go to the Scrip table, purchase your gift card there and help Central, too. Nancy & Sheila have zip lock bags for the gift card and snowman ornament and you may leave them at the Scrip table. Let's make this a wonderful Christmas for the village residents! Thank you.

The Eschtruth Circle

ADVENT HOME WORSHIP

MEDITATIONS

The staff and congregation of Central Church have provided a series of meditations for daily use during Advent this year. With a Thank you to Rev. Pittenger for editing it, these will be available in the church office and on the tables around the church.

CAROLING

Sunday, December 11 at 5:00. They invite the whole church to join them for this event. Immediately after the caroling the UMY will be having their Christmas Party at the Sr. Parsonage. (More information about this from your youth group leaders).

MITTEN TREE

The mitten tree is ready and waiting for some nice warm hats and mittens or gloves. These are given to area school children and are much needed as the weather turns colder! Please, as you are shopping, buy them in sets or hats and gloves which go together. It will save a lot of time for those who need to find the other half to match up! Please safety pin together if needed. You have been so generous in the past and we look forward to seeing the tree overflowing once again!

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Central Church continues to offer a ministry to those who find this season a difficult one. Being surrounded by music, bells, lights, and pageantry that speaks to great joy can be difficult to face when you have known loss because of deaths of loved ones, or the loss of jobs or homes. If this season is a difficult one for you or those you know, we invite you to participate in Blue Christmas in the sanctuary on December 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. We will seek for God to be known to you as you walk this journey. Know you are not alone.

"THE JOURNEY"

Two Bible Studies are being offered during Advent on Thursday evenings at 6:15. Both are based on the material "The Journey" by Adam Hamilton. Rev. Kellermann is leading an adult video series of this material in the parlor while Rev. Pittenger is doing a children's series based on the same material in the Imagination Station. Come and join us on Thursday during Advent.

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

We are blessed to have the Motor City Brass and the Jackson Chorale back again at Central this holiday season!

The Motor City Brass will be here December 3 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 for seniors and students. Tickets are available at the Waterford Library or Waterford Parks and Rec.

The Jackson Chorale will be performing on December 10 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$13 in advance or \$15 at the door. Senior citizens and students are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Please visit www.jacksonchorale.org for ticket info.

NEW PURPLE THREADS STUDY:

Please join us as we come together for study and prayer. Our next class begins January 17, 2012 and will meet four more times on Feb. 7 & 21 and Mar. 6 & 20. We will be using one of Ray Vander Laan's Faith Lessons unique video series that "brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance called 'God Heard Their Cry.' By weaving together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious, and geographical contexts, teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan reveals keen insights into the Scriptures' significance for modern believers. These illuminating 'faith lessons' afford a new understanding of the Bible that will ground your convictions and transform your life. Discover how God answered the cry of the enslaved people of Israel after 400 years in Egypt and revealed himself as Lord to them and their oppressors. Follow Ray Vander Laan on location in Egypt as he details a fascinating five-part story." Study guides for the class will be \$10.00. Please contact Diana Carter 248-666-2575 by December 21st if you wish to join us.

MISSION CARDS

Christmas greeting cards supporting missions will be available for \$5 each on Sundays, Dec. 4, 11, and 18. The inside of each missions card is "a gift in your honor has been given to...(name of mission) Cards for 4 or 5 missions including Baldwin Center, A Place of Hope, C. W. Duncan School in Liberia, and Clothe-a-Child will be on a table in the chapel hallway. These cards make great gifts for coworkers, teachers, friends and relatives.

STEWARDSHIP

In October the congregation explored and then offered themselves as the Currency of Grace in part through estimates of giving. To date we have received estimates from 160 giving units totaling \$387,681. We need every member and friend to consider making this estimate of giving so that we can better plan our deployment of resources in the coming year. Extra cards are available in the office.

CANTATA

The Chancel Choir under the direction of Sara Hazen will be performing the cantata "Hodie" on Sunday, December 11 at both services. This is one of those moments that is an opportunity to invite friends and families to share in a special worship. Join us at 9:00 or 10:30 a.m. on December 11.



PRAYER SHAWLS

Four members of our church met between Worship Services, Sunday, Oct. 23, to bless 4 shawls made by our members. They will be taken to 4 persons who we want to know we love them. This makes a total of 10 shawls made by our members.

Do you have time to pray and crochet or knit a prayer shawl for a shut-in or very ill member? Please contact me for instructions or when you have one completed. God bless you,
Phyllis Liming 248-673-7584

Central Café Schedule

4:15 -- 5:15 Alleluia Dancers
4:45 -- 5:30 Carol Choir
5:15 -- 6:30 Dinner served
5:15 -- 5:45 Good News Ringers
5:45 -- 6:25 YTCN Bell Ringers
6:20 -- 7:15 Agape Ringers
6:30 -- 7:30 New Joy Choir
6:30 -- 7:30 Jubilate Dancers
7:30 -- 9:00 Chancel Choir



CENTRAL CAFÉ

Come and share a meal with your children, with your friends and your faith community. Meals are served Thursdays between 5:15 and 6:45 p.m.
We always need kitchen volunteers!

VIM TRIP

The Volunteers in Mission team is beginning to make plans to travel to and work in Joplin, MO. They are recovering from a devastating tornado this past season. The trip is scheduled for April 21-29 and is for all adults 18 years and older. The work may require dry walling or roughing. It may be painting or roofing. We do what ever work is assigned to us because we are doing the work of God in love. Join us. You may also help sponsor the team by making donations (marking them "VIM" and made out to Central Church). You may also purchase Christmas Cards in the hallway that support this project.

BALDWIN INGATHERING

A literal "van full" of groceries and other Thanksgiving essentials were delivered to Baldwin. Thanks to your generosity the staff at Baldwin unloading the van made a comment that it was the largest single donation that they had received in the last two years! We cannot say thank you enough for the gracious and generous heart that this congregation has for those in need!

9:00 A.M. USHERS NEEDED!

There is a shortage of 9:00 a.m. ushers for Sunday morning worship. If you are interested, please contact either Don Stoughton or Bill Svenkesen. Thank you!

GROUP MEETING SCHEDULES

In order to keep things up to date on the calendar and to make sure that there are no conflicts in Church scheduling, the Church staff is requesting that groups please turn in a schedule of their meeting dates, times and room(s) requested. It is a large task to keep everything running smoothly in such a large facility and it helps the staff to make sure everyone is accommodated sufficiently. The Staff of Central

HOSPITALITY HELP

Coffee Fellowship, that hospitable moment between services for conversation, is in need of revival. The Hosler's no longer can manage the arrangements for it. We look for someone who can schedule and organize people to host that moment on a regular basis. If you are interested, contact the church office.

NEW CENTRAL COFFEE MUG

Bright Red Mugs with Central's name and cross and flame are now available at the Welcome Table for \$6.00 each. We will also be giving these as part of the gift bag to our first time visitors. Get yours now while supplies last!

9:00 A.M. USHERS NEEDED!

There is a shortage of 9:00 a.m. ushers for Sunday morning worship. If you are interested, please contact either Don Stoughton or Bill Svenkesen. Thank you!

FAITHLINK: ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

You are invited to join us on Sunday mornings. Coffee at 9:00 am and class begins promptly at 9:15 and goes until 10:15. You are welcome whenever you can come! Recent topics have been Peace and Poverty, Young Christians and the Church, and Call to Action - a plan to reorder the UMC.

Leaders: Rev. Rich Peacock, Janice Mann and Barb Spiece

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Did you know that our youth, their parents, and their leaders are an amazing group of people? They all worked very hard to feed our congregation a delicious turkey dinner and the ensuing donations were given to our "Blessings in a Backpack" program that feeds hungry kids at Sandburg Elementary. The money they raised will provide around 2400 weekend meals. Well done, good and faithful servants!

Blessings in a Backpack has started packing and is in full swing. A big thank you to all of those donating their time, resources, and talents to make this program a success!

Address / Phone Change

The Baxter Family
400 Riley Trail
Cedar Park, TX, 78613

Joey A. Evitts
3540 Chestnut Ave.
Newaygo, MI 49337-9517

Margaret Wilmot
4091 5th Ave.
Lantana, FL 33462

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bisogni
4063 Stonebridge
Holly, MI 48442

Wendy and Scott Chrostek
531 Oak Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-1160

Christa Trosin
2530 Woodrow Wilson Blvs. Apt. 3
West Bloomfield, MI 48324-1722

Claudia Bracken
54 Avery Rd.
Waterford, MI 48328

Thank You!

Dear Central UMC,

We were so surprised, delighted and yet moved to tears on 10/29, when our 28th wedding anniversary was celebrated through the music provided by the chancel choir and Julia Stephenson. Sara, especially deserves our thanks for contacting our daughter Holly, in New Zealand, and then persuading her to write special lyrics to Morning Has Broken, which was sung at our wedding. We will remember this anniversary and our special day at Central for years to come. Thank you again.

Christy and Bill Painter

Dear Friends at Central,

Many thanks to the many hands that have lovingly guided me along my path to becoming a Leader Dog for the Blind. Please take good care of Amber, the next Leader Dog pup that Steve and Mary will raise.

Love, Rylee

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:
Central United Methodist Church Chimes

Address Service Requested:

3882 Highland Road
Waterford, Michigan 48328
(248) 681-0040 Fax: (248) 681-2575
info@waterfordcumc.org

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CHIMES

Deadlines..
The Chimes deadline is
December 8 for the
December 18, 2011 Chimes.
Please send all articles to:
rpittenger@waterfordcumc.org

**SIGN UP FOR YOUR
E-CENTRAL NEWSLETTER**
Just go to the CUMC Website at:
www.waterfordcumc.org and click on
the "Sign-Up" button on the right hand
column, or call Rich at the Church
office and he'll sign you up himself!

Worship Participants

A complete list of Worship
Participants, Sermons & Select Music
is available online on our website at
www.waterfordcumc.org

Large print hymnals, Bibles, &
wireless hearing devices, wheelchairs
are available at both services.

DECEMBER 4, 2011
Second Sunday of Advent
AIDS Awareness Sunday
Communion Sunday
Mark 1:1-8
"A Place Worth Going"
Rev. Jim Kellermann, preaching
Worship Arts:
9:30 - Carol and New Joy Choir
10:30 - Carol and New Joy Choir
Chancel Choir

DECEMBER 11, 2011
Third Sunday of Advent
John 1:6-8. 19-28
"A Community Worth Restoring"
Rev. Jim Kellermann, preaching
Cantata: "Hodie"
Chancel Choir at both
9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

PROGRAM STAFF
REV. JIM KELLERMANN
Administration/Worship Pastor
REV. KATHY PITTENGER
Pastor of Children's & Family Ministries
SARA HAZEN
Director of Music

MINISTRY COORDINATORS
DISCIPLESHIP
VANESSA MARKS
EVANGELISM
CATHY HAZEN
JUSTICE
BARB SPIECE
REV. RICH PEACOCK
NURTURING
RAINY STEPHENSON
OUTREACH
LESLIE BRANDON
WORSHIP
MYKE ROBSON
COMMUNICATIONS
LISA KELLEY

Visit our website: **www.waterfordcumc.org**

Kids Central Website: **www.kidscentralweb.org**

Contact us: **248-681-0040** or **info@waterfordcumc.org**

Blogging at: **http://waterfordcumc.org/blog**