

## *From the Heart of the Pastor*

**Fantastic!** 105 people of Westwood UMC signed up to read the Bible over the summer, and even more people have told me they are reading! God promised us,

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth; It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace..." (Isaiah 55:10-12a)

Jesus compares God's Word and His message about the kingdom of God to a seed sown in our hearts (Matthew 13:1-23). Just as God promised His word would accomplish what He wants, and enable us to "go out in joy and be led forth in peace," so did Jesus promise if we let seed fall on good soil in our hearts it would "produce a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown" (Matthew 13:8). God's will fulfill His promise!

How can you maximize the potential for God to bring an abundant crop in your life and provide the blessings of joy and peace through His word? **First, find a consistent time and place to read your Scripture.** Habits are formed after regularly practicing them for 28 days. However, to form a habit we need to intentionally set aside time, otherwise things will crowd your schedule so that you do not find time to accomplish it. Jesus warned against this saying the cares and concerns can grow up like weeds around His word, crowding it out and choking the plant (Matthew 13:7). Plan for success!

**Second, find a "Study Bible" or search online, read the introductions of each book and get to know the person who wrote it and understand his point of view.** The writer created it as a dialogue of faith. If you know who is telling you the story, you will more fully understand what he is trying to tell you.

**Third, place yourself in the story of the Scripture.** Ask in each story or section: "What is happening?" "Who is involved?" "What is the point of the story?" And then ask, "Where do I see myself in this story?" At different times in our lives we may identify with different characters in the story, and receive a different blessing.

The story is exciting, challenges us and comes alive in our lives. Oswald Chambers shares that the gaze of Jesus' compassion can transform us the same way Jesus' compassion healed many who struggled with afflictions (Matthew 14:14). He also points out we may want instantaneous transformation, however His transformation happens over time. According to Chambers, "...it is a process that must be steadily maintained" (Chambers, 9/24). My prayer for each of you is that you will steadily maintain your reading. As Paul says, "I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:4-6).

Gratefully serving with you,  
Pastor Wayne



Through the Arts and Worship, we Dance with God And Give Him the Lead.

### Musical Offerings In Worship

Date	First Service 8:30	Second Service 10:55
June 7	Jane and Vicki Handbells	Jane W and Vicki R / Instrumentalists
June 14	Westwood Singers/Glory Connection	W. Singers / Glory Con. /Praise team
June 21	Ben Quintel Dani Sturdy	Ben Quintel Dani Sturdy

### Worship - May 31 – Music Sunday!!

Speak To One Another With Psalms, Hymns And Spritual Songs. Ephesians 5:19. Thanks to all the participants who did so much to add to this special day of Pentecost. A special thanks to Ken Smith who wrote the beautiful Psalm that was spoken during Tina Egan's solo and to all the musicians who made a very wonderful Lord's Day. I am sure God dances over you at times like that!!

### Check Out That Star!" Summer Musical "Camp Westwood"



Volunteer opportunities for August  
Meeting scheduled

1. The Next Scheduled Meeting for Camp Westwood is **Tuesday June 2 – 5:30-7PM**  
**Please note, this is change from the notes at the last meeting.**
2. Helpers Needed: We need helpers with crafts, recreation, snacks, and missions.  
Please call Jane Wright – 344-7165 Ext 205 if you have an interest. If you can do even a few days, we would appreciate it.
3. Camp Westwood is for Kids entering grades 1-9. Dates: August 3-13 with presentations on August 13 (Thursday evening at 7 PM) and Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Service, August 16
4. Registration Forms: are available on the Worship and Music Bulletin Board, and on the back table in the narthex, and posted in the newsletter occasionally.  
You will also be able to download at the Westwood UMC web site.
5. Please help spread the news about this event to your neighborhood and people you know!!

### A Church Family Are We:

Lately, I have been pondering on what an important thing our church family is. When times get tough, it is especially evident how people come along side, share their stories, create time to visit and check in. I love how this church family embraces our young ones – to lend a helping hand, to encourage, to love when they don't feel lovable. I love how we are now being challenged to become a beacon for God by uniting behind a vision as a church family to help others beyond the walls of the church. Ponder with me on what that might mean for all of us. Blessings and JOY - Jane

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### Peace with Justice Sunday

A special offering will be taken on June 7 for Peace with Justice Sunday which will support peacemaking ministries and programs in West Michigan, in the United States, and around the world. Your gift gives the United Methodist Church a voice in advocating for those who struggle with violence, injustice, pain, and suffering. Special offering envelopes are in your giving envelope packet or will be available in the June 7 worship folder.



**Experience and Discover God  
Everywhere!**

Family Vacation School, 2009  
June 15-19, 2009, 5:30 Dinner, 6:00-8:00 Program  
**Westwood United Methodist Church**

**Pick up a Registration Form at Church Today!**

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**Labyrinth**

Have you ever wanted to walk a labyrinth? I'd like to construct a simple, temporary labyrinth out of clothesline and stakes for children and adults to walk during our week of Vacation Bible School. Being spatially-challenged and not all that good at following simple instructions, I need help. If you're interested in helping to create this, or would like to help with labyrinth activities once it's made, please contact Laurel Andrews ASAP at 375-6831 or laurelkazoo@yahoo.com.

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**Open House**

Please join us in celebrating the graduation of  
Casey Brenden Davenport  
Kalamazoo Central High School Class of 2009  
Open House  
Sunday, June 7, 2009 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
1852 S. 9th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 353-9711

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**No Water Notice**

On June 8, the city will be fixing a line leak so there will be no water in the church.

**New Adventurers Planning Potluck**

The New Adventurers will meet at the Heysteks' for the annual planning potluck. Bring a dish to pass...no theme this year, so we may all be eating desserts or all salads! But we never seem to go hungry, so bring your favorite dish to pass for a true "potluck"!! We'll discuss and plan events and set dates for the coming year. Please give a call to let us know you are coming!

Planning Potluck  
Saturday, June 27th  
6:00 p.m.  
Doug and Margo Heystek  
530 Woods Drive  
372- 1099

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**Mujila Falls Update**

Paul Webster, our missionary in Zambia, writes: "In January we hosted the Bishop and Executive Committee. We provided food for over 100 people for two days. We harvested our fish pond for the first time and produced 25 kg. of tilapia fish which we donated to our United Methodist orphanage in Zambezi.

In February we hosted a Volunteer in Missions (VIM) team from Wisconsin. They worked at our site for about 10 days. The six members of the team tended to our veterinary needs, pruned fruit trees, planted garden, worked with the field crops, formed a women's group, taught nutrition in local schools, painted our day care centre, built picnic tables and saw horses, and generally helped out where they saw a need.

Regarding the women's group, we purchased a sewing machine for them to use in making clothes for their families. They also helped to start a milk break program with our Mama Roxanne Day Care and with a feeding program started by Tshala's wife, Betty. Over 60 children are receiving milk three times per week."

## Ongoing Prayers for Westwood Members

*Prayers for comfort, healing and strength*

### Homebound

Pauline Hannon, 1700 Bronson Place #226, Kalamazoo, 49009

### Comfort, Healing and Strength

Beth Arbogast, 2639 Hazelnut Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004

Gary Babbitt, 47040 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Mattawan, 49071

Pat Bailey, 1855 Quail Cove, Kalamazoo, 49009

Edna Mae Beck, 2603 Ayrshire, Lansing, 48911

Thom Carrington, Sojourner House, 1490 E. Beltline SE, Grand Rapids, 49506

Jolie Ann Corda, 617 Flamingo Avenue, Portage, 49024

Gary Cumming, 4867 Sweet Cherry Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004

Lois and Arlo Dunkelberger, 1390 Ewing Way, Kalamazoo, 49009

Irene Dutton, 1390 Ewing Way, Kalamazoo, 49006

Elizabeth Dye, 5145 Old Colony Road, Portage, 49024

Bob Eschliman, 25052 Silver Oaks Blvd., Mattawan, 49071

Norma Fort, 5700 Vintage Lane, Apt. 101, Kalamazoo; 49009

Vicki Hale

Cena Herder, Bronson Methodist Hospital, Room #E-232, 601 John St., Kalamazoo; 49007

Jim Parker, 5939 N. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, 49004

Mary Penn

John and Betty Pick, 4662 Weston, Kalamazoo, 49006

Patricia Smith

Emily Strong, 3504 Iroquois Trail, Kalamazoo, 49006

Betty Thompson, Step Down Unit – North 3824, Bronson Methodist Hospital, 601 John St.,  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Nancy Wallus, The Springs, Room #219, 1451 Bronson Way, Kalamazoo; 49009

### Protection from Harm in Iraq and Afghanistan

Stephen Breisach

Anthony Earl

Nicholas Heystek

Neil McKenna

John Moser

Carl Williams

Christopher Wilson



### **Summer Reading of the New Testament**

May 31 – June 6

M Matthew 1-3

T Matthew 4-5

W Matthew 6-7

T Matthew 8-9

F Matthew 10-12

S Matthew 13-15

June 7 – June 13

M Matthew 16-18

T Matthew 19-21

W Matthew 22-23

T Matthew 24-25

F Matthew 26

S Matthew 27-28

## Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 31, 2009	
	<b>Day of Pentecost/Music Sunday</b>
	<i>ASP Wash while you Worship</i>
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:15 AM	Missions Breakfast
10:00 AM	Worship Celebration
12:30 PM	ASP Meeting
4:45 PM	Westwood Ringers
Monday, June 01, 2009	
6:30 PM	Family VBS Camp Meeting
7:00 PM	Courters
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts of America
7:00 PM	Spiritual Partners
7:00 PM	Church Council
Tuesday, June 02, 2009	
9:00 AM	Worship Team
10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
5:30 PM	Camp Westwood Meeting
7:00 PM	Kingdom Kids - Rotation Model
7:00 PM	BSA District Meeting
7:00 PM	KAL IPMS
Wednesday, June 03, 2009	
10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
11:45 AM	55 Plus at Friendship Village
6:00 PM	Westwood Singers
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
Thursday, June 04, 2009	
12:00 PM	4th Day Men
6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
7:00 PM	BSA Commissioners
	Chancel Choir Party
	West Michigan Annual Conference - Calvin College
Friday, June 05, 2009	
	West Michigan Annual Conference - Calvin College
6:00 PM	Wedding Rehearsal (Moxley)
Saturday, June 06, 2009	
	West Michigan Annual Conference - Moxley Wedding
4:00 PM	
Sunday, June 07, 2009	
	<i>Communion Sunday</i>
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
10:00 AM	Worship Celebration
	West Michigan Conference Ends

**Worship Celebrations at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**  
Nursery care is provided during both celebrations.



- At Westwood United Methodist Church, we seek to connect:
- with God, seeking a spiritual center for our lives
  - with each other, creating friendships that last
  - with our community, serving the needs of our neighbors

**Come and see!**

*Messenger Deadlines:*  
The Westwood Messenger is published weekly (bi-weekly from June through September). Deadlines are the Wednesday prior to publication.

*Upcoming Deadlines:*  
Wednesday, June 3 for publication June 8  
Wednesday, June 17 for publication June 22  
Wednesday, July 1 for publication July 6



**Westwood  
United Methodist  
Church**

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Kalamazoo, MI 49006-2946  
(269) 344-7165

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Permit No. 811

*Westwood Messenger* articles relate to the activities of Westwood United Methodist Church. Any member or constituent may submit articles for publication. Place articles, with your name and phone, in the *Messenger* mailbox outside the church office or send an e-mail to [betharbogast@charter.net](mailto:betharbogast@charter.net) by Wednesday of the week before it should appear. Your name may be used in the article. The *Messenger* is mailed Tuesday. Subscribers do not receive it before Wednesday. Articles must be submitted two weeks before events. All articles are edited to correct errors and conform with postal regulations. Due to space constraints, some articles are abbreviated or postponed at the discretion of the editor. If you have any questions or comments, address them to the editor: Beth Arbogast at 343-3937.

**Westwood United Methodist Church Staff and Volunteers**

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

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- Director of Worship and Fine Art Ministry, Jane Wright ..... 544-2390  
E-mail: [jwright-wumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwright-wumc@sbcglobal.net)
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- Lay Minister of Spiritual Formation, Louise Jameson ..... 382-3463
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- Staff-Parish Chairperson, Irv Cumming
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- Westwood Messenger* Editor, Beth Arbogast ..... 343-3937  
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**Subscribing to the *Messenger***

The *Westwood Messenger* is a newsletter published weekly by the members and friends of Westwood United Methodist Church. There is no subscription fee. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, call the church office at 344-7165.

Westwood UMC supports **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**

**For general information or if you are unsure where to direct your question, please email [info@westwood-umc.org](mailto:info@westwood-umc.org) and your inquiry will be forwarded appropriately.**

**Note to Subscribers:** If you will be out of town and chose not receive your 3rd class mail, please contact the church at 344-7165 to have your *Messenger* temporarily stopped. If it is not stopped, the church pays for the original postage, plus a fee when it is returned. Please help us save costs and contact us as soon as possible.