

From the Heart of the Pastor

Hope, in the beginning of a story, is not always fulfilled by the end of the story. Through the narrative of a story, events may derail plans and people may disappoint; resulting in a collection of unfulfilled promises, which resembles a junk yard of broken-down and damaged vehicles. In past years, when Joy and I bought a new vehicle, I focused on all the features, the power of the engine, and the flawless appearance. Now, after we have gone through a number of vehicles, I view the vehicle as being serviceable to our lives *at this time*. Someday we will give away or sell the vehicle and it will wear down and fade as nearly all vehicles do. Hope in our lives sometimes seems to be similar-our excitement will last only a while, because at some point the wear and tear of derailed plans and disappointment will deposit our dreams in the junkyard of wistful thinking.

Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, the Shepherds, Magi, Simeon, Anna, and even Herod, anticipated the birth of Jesus. The newness and promise of the new life was celebrated and God was given praise. Throughout Jesus' life He probably exceeded all of their expectations with his wise teaching, bold leadership, and holy presence. It came to an abrupt end, not by His own failure, but by the selfishness, arrogance, and evil of others. Jesus' death seemed to underscore that once again such lofty promise goes unfulfilled. Yes, He was a great man while He was on earth-but even the best of men are sometimes thwarted by events and people. So, where is the solid hope on which we can rest the weight of our lives?

The normal scope of a person's life is from birth to death. Jesus shattered all expectations of what constituted a lifetime when He appeared to His friends in the resurrection. Death was no longer the conclusion of the story. Hope reached into a whole new sphere, which had tremendous implications. No longer was our hope limited to what did or did not happen in this earthly realm-we realized that eternal life in God's love was the primary foundation of our hope. The implications are that our focus is not solely on the people and relations of this world. Our focus is on our relationship with God, which will be an eternal relationship. There is no junkyard in heaven, because we will be renewed by the power of God (1 Corinthians 15).

Jesus was brought to the Temple eight days after His birth. An old woman named Anna had been praying and fasting daily at the Temple from the time her husband died (probably when she was in her early twenties). She was a very devout woman. Luke recounts her hope in these words, "she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Israel" (Luke 2:38). As Larry spoke of she had a legacy of thanksgiving, which was also a legacy of hope. She shared her legacy of hope with "all who were looking forward to the redemption of Israel". As you look forward in your life, what do you hope will your legacy be? Will it be found in memories of this world, or will your legacy extend to your eternal life and relationship with God? Jesus' legacy lives on two thousand years after His birth, life, and death. He made a difference for God. How is God calling us to be "the first bird off the wire" by showing our world the ongoing legacy Jesus has given to us? We will be focusing on Jesus' legacy and our legacy through of the Season of Advent, as we "look forward to the redemption" Jesus brings.

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,
Pastor Wayne



For the heights and depts. That have no reach, God gave us music, the soul's own speech

Musical Offerings In Worship

Date	First Service 8:30	Second Service 10:55
Nov 29, Hope	Glory Connection II	Glory Connection II, Praise Team, WWRingers
Dec 6, Peace	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir, Instrumentalists, H.S. Choir
Dec 13, Love	Westwood Handbell Ensemble, Q	Westwood Handbell Ensemble, Q, Praise Team
Dec 13, Joy	Chancel Choir, Westwood Singers	Chancel Choir, Westwood Singers



Season Of Praise

Christmas Cantata Dec 20, 8:30, 10:55

A special musical offering for Christmas. Many gifts come at Christmas. We hope the congregation here at Westwood will not only appreciate this gift from the choir and their accompanist, Benjamin Quintel, but also remember to share this gift with your friends and acquaintances who might that you have offered Christ to them at this moment in time.



Happy Thanksgiving To You And Your Loved Ones!!

Advent Begins November 29

It has come again. The season of expectation. A retelling of stories long ago and now. A time of wonder and amazement as we grapple with a God who loves us enough to enter into our daily lives, who offered His son and through grace, still offers a way that leads to eternal life. I wonder, as some of you might, what a life of sharing, caring, treading lightly on this earth, thinking green, remembering all living creatures as precious God given gifts, protecting our world, pursuing peace, prayer in all things - what all this has all to do with this one statement: Eternal Life. Ponder with me on this, would you? I sometimes wonder about the things that Jesus said, that no one thought to write down. I wonder what he would say, if he had been born unto us in 2000 instead of year 0. While people don't change much, it seems that our world has changed quite a bit. We, like Noah, need to be very good listeners. I am sure of one thing: God has plans!! This season – come expecting. Expect God. Your servant – Jane Wright.

Remember The Jobs Board

Please stop by the jobs board and take notice of the needs there. It will become far more effective if we all take a look once in awhile, lift those needs in prayer, and keep our eyes and ears open for the sake of others.

Do you have a job that someone could help do, or know of a job that is open and ready to fill?

Do you need a job? Please post your needs or insights on the JOBS bulletin board located within a section of the large red bulletin board near the elevator on the top level.

Angel Figurines Wanted

On Sunday, December 13 we will feature angels in worship. We ask you bring angels to the sanctuary before Friday, December 11, so we can set them up around the sanctuary. You may want to bring them to worship on December 6, if you are not planning on being at church during the week. You may drop them off during the day when the church is open. We look forward to being blessed by a whole host of angels on December 13.

United Methodist Student Sunday

United Methodist Student Sunday will be observed on November 29 with a special offering which will provide scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities. Special giving envelopes are in your envelope packet or will be available in the November 29 worship folder.

Hanging of the Greens

On Saturday, November 28th, The New Adventurers will be Hanging the Greens at Church! And, thanks to Joe and Shirley Mitchell, we have a huge new wreath for the Cross and NEW greens to hang this year! We will begin at 9:00 in the morning and decorate Westwood United Methodist Church for Christ's Birthday!! Many hands make the work go fast, and what a great activity to get us all "in the Spirit!!"

We will have coffee cake and bagels and juice to get us going, and then soup and salad when we have completed our task. Come and join us for the fellowship and fun and work!!

Let Margo and Doug Heystek know if you can help, so we can plan for the "nourishment"!! 372-1099

**Decoration Take-down is on Saturday, January 9th, 2010!

Kingdom Kids Advent Activities

We're getting ready for Christ's coming and you won't want to miss out! Come every Sunday to the Marketplace (Room 10) at 9:30 a.m. as we learn about the birth of God's promised Savior. Kingdom Kids Sunday School is for children 4 years old through fifth Grade.

Nov. 29: Advent Craft Workshop—Advent is about waiting but waiting is soooo hard! We'll learn about getting ready for Christmas and make some crafts that will help us count down the days.

Dec. 6 and Dec. 13: Our Kingdom Kids workshops will focus on the Promised coming of the Messiah!

Dec. 20: Las Posadas—Come along as we recreate a popular Mexican tradition. Mary and Joseph are traveling from inn to inn looking for somewhere to stay. Who will make a place for them? Our journey will take us all over the church.

Dec. 27: A King is Born! We'll see a movie that tells us the story of that special night Jesus came into our world.

Jan. 3: All Church Game Day – Adults and kids will join in games from Candyland to Yahtzee. All ages are invited to Simpson Hall for the fun!

Singing Advent Sunday School class

Tina Egan and Roxanne Frey are planning on singing Christmas Carols during the Advent season at the local nursing homes and retirement centers during the Sunday school hour (9:30 to 10:30). Please see Tina or Roxanne if you are interested in participating so that transportation arrangements can be made. All are welcome to participate. Minors will need a permission slip from their parent or guardian. We will return to the church at approximately 10:45 each Sunday.

What's Going on in Missions

\$100 was remitted from October's Sunday school offering to the Agricultural Project at Mujila Fall in Zambia co-directed by our missionary, Paul Webster.

\$265 was sent for World Communion Sunday.

Loose coins in November go to Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes. December's loose coins will go to the Methodist Children's Home.

Four boxes full of requested items were delivered to the Blue Star Mothers of America in southwest Michigan for Operation Holiday Cheer which sends care packages to our troops.

The special offering received on November 8 for the Wesley Foundation was \$688. Our covenant commitment is \$1,000. Donations are still being accepted. Checks should be made out to the church with Wesley Foundation in the memo line.

The Advent mission focus will be providing needed items for four local outreach ministries. Please see the special page in this Messenger for details.

A special offering will be taken on November 29 for United Methodist Student Sunday which will provide scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related (such as Albion and Adrian Colleges) and other colleges and universities.

MISSION REPORT



Basement Sale

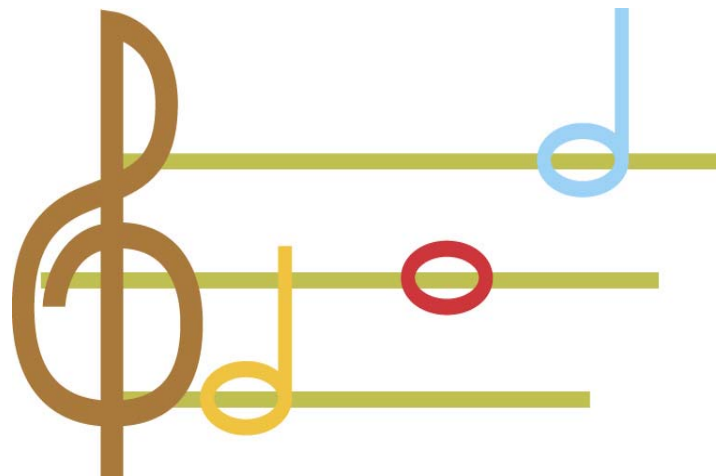
Many people helped with the successful basement sale, from donation, putting up tables, sorters, working Friday and Saturday, shoppers, and cleaning up on Saturday.

All were greatly appreciated. Thank you and God Bless!

Basement Sale Committee

Messiah and More!

Messiah and More! The WMU School of Music will present its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 6, at 3 p.m. in Miller Auditorium. The University Grand Chorus (James Bass, conductor) and Symphony Orchestra (Bruce Uchimura, conductor) will feature music from Handel's Messiah, Vaughan Williams' cantata "Hodie," the Nutcracker Ballet of Tchaikovsky, the Bennett/Shaw "Many Moods of Christmas," John Rutter's "O Holy Night," the David Wilcox setting of "O Come All ye Faithful," the holiday sounds of Leroy Anderson, and more! Tickets for this music scholarship fund benefit program are \$12 in advance from the Miller Auditorium ticket office and \$15 at the door on the day of the concert.



**Prayers from the Wednesday Bible Study Members
November 19, 2009**

Today I begin a new life.
I will greet this day with love in my heart.
I will persist until I succeed.
I am nature's greatest miracle.
I will greet this day as if it were my last.
Today I will be master of my emotions.
I will laugh at the world.
I will act now.
I will pray for Guidance.

O Lord, I give thanks You are my refuge and my strength. Because of Your steadfast love, I am confident in Your protection as my shepherd. I humbly beseech You, O God, for my salvation. My hope is in You and I am glad for Your ever present help. Your steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

Dear God, Thank you for making us and claiming us as yours and loving us forever. I will fear no evil because you are with me and comfort me. I will trust you – Awake my soul – May they prosper who love You.

Praise be to God whose love endures forever. Lord have mercy on me – you know my many weaknesses. Help me to be still and listen for your guidance. Help me to be humble. Help me to joyfully serve you, the community and your people. Help me to accept your will in all situations. I know your strength sustains me when I am in need of help. Thanks be to God for giving us salvation through your Son, Jesus Christ.

A Prayer

Father, God my Life is in ruin, hurt, tears and pain.
Father, God, the sins I have heaped upon friends, strangers with my tongue, has hurt many.
Why do you Father, God keep me in your loving arms? This earthly world has hurt me – I suffer, have been cut off from all loved ones.
I try to think of your Love, Love to me, to all in this earthly (Genesis 2:08) Eden. Why do they turn from you God, who do not feel your heavenly love, but turn to earthly sins.
God, let me stay fast with the hope you have given us. I know that with You, Father, I will come with love, hope eternal, rest in Your love.
Come, Father, God, come and take me; keep me in your love, now, always with you God.

Advent Mission Projects for 2009

Each Sunday in Advent, the Missions team invites you to support a local project in need of items to help their clientele and make a difference right here in Kalamazoo County. Your donations may be dropped off in the collection area in the elevator annex at the top of the stairs.

November 29

Kalamazoo Drop-In Child Care Center

KDCCC provides income-eligible families with pre-schooled children free part-time child care, parent education, and support. Needed items are baby wipes, 100% apple juice, fish or other snack crackers, grape or strawberry jelly, small paper plates and paper towels.



December 13

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes

Loaves and Fishes provides emergency food assistance to hungry people in Kalamazoo County through 26 food pantries and 3 mobile pantries, Ministry with Community and YWCA Domestic Assault Program. Non-perishable food items are needed such as peanut butter, canned fruit, vegetables, meats, stew, and hearty soups, pasta, rice, oatmeal, macaroni and cheese.



December 6

Christmas Dinner for Persons in Need at Stockbridge Ave. UMC

In conjunction with Kalamazoo Refuge Ministry and local churches, this dinner will be held on December 20 and items will be given away as well. Needed items are new or gently used clean winter wear (winter coats, gloves, mittens, hats, scarves) and blankets (especially queen size), as well as new socks and toys.



December 20

Ministry with Community

Ministry with Community provides meals, daytime shelter, personal care items and other basic services to Kalamazoo's homeless, poor, mentally ill, and hard-to-serve adults. Personal care items needed are soap, shampoo, disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, combs and brushes.



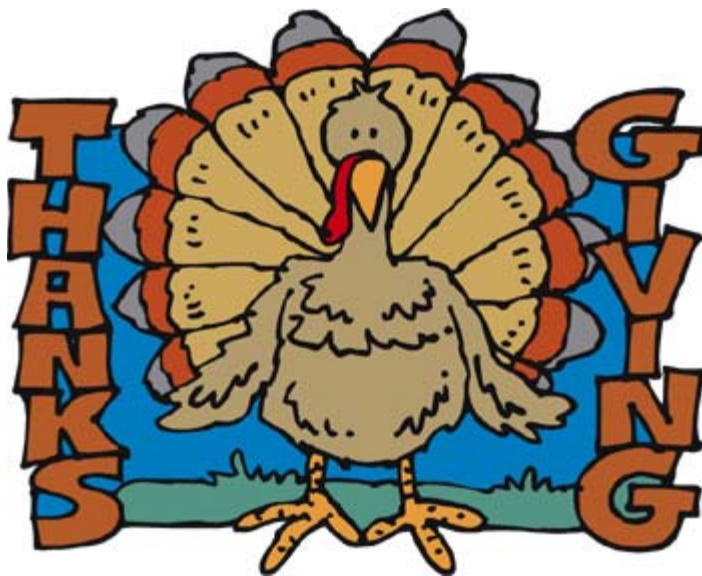
Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Dinner with Your Friends at
Westwood

Thanksgiving Day - November 26, 2009
Dinner will be served at 12:00 noon in Simpson
Hall.

Bring a dish to pass.
Invite your friends and neighbors.
Hope to see you then.

Beth Mitchell



Church Women United

Church Women United annual cookie packing project to give cookies to nursing homes, etc. is Friday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m. at Luthern Church of the Savior, 3616 East G Ave. Everyone is welcome to help pack.

If you have signed up or would like to bake small cookies, please put them in the upstairs kitchen by Thursday, December 4. We have been asked for 48 doz. and 15 Diabetic.

Any questions call Jeanette Jupp 345-8833.

More News from Our Missionary

Paul Webster, our missionary at Mujila Fall Agriculture Centre in Zambia, makes creative use of things that are no longer useful for their original purpose. He writes, "Using an old bicycle frame and a tine, we were able to create a push cultivator to greatly ease and speed up our field work. (see photo on Missions bulletin board) Appropriate technology like this will help local people to plant and care for larger fields and earn more income for their families.

This is the first dry season that we have attempted to plant a field crop under irrigation. It has been time-consuming but will give us extra black bean seed to plant when the rainy season comes.

The Chinese diesel engines we use to run the water pump and irrigation system has been a real help, permitting us to use ordinarily unusable land for cash crops."

Operating Fund Financial Picture

	October	Year to Date
Total Income	\$19,270	\$240,958
Total Expense	\$21,281	\$255,126
Net Income/(Loss)	\$(2,011)	\$(14,168)

Operating Fund Balance as of 10/31/09: (\$11,995)

Can you help your church finish the year financially strong with your giving in November and December and help wipe out the deficit balance we are carrying? "Greater things have yet to come and greater things are still to be done in this city," with all of us giving of our time, talent, and treasure as we join God where he is working and blessing people.

Ongoing Prayers for Westwood Members

Prayers for comfort, healing and strength

Homebound

Jim & Carolyn Parker, 5939 N. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, 49006

Comfort, Healing and Strength

Beth Arbogast, 2639 Hazelnut Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004

Gary Babbitt, 47040 24th St., Mattawan, MI 49071

Don Bertch, Rose Arbor Hospice Residence, #9, 5473 Croydon Avenue, Kalamazoo, 49009

Gary Cumming, 4867 Sweet Cherry Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004

Judy DeHaan, 612 Jenks Blvd., Kalamazoo, 49006

Irene Dutton, 918 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo, 49006

Shirley Greene

Betty Georgeau, Tendercare Kalamazoo, 1701 S. 11th, Kalamazoo, 49009

Vicki Hale

Mabel Hillis, 3014 Winter Wheat, Kalamazoo, MI, 49004

Erica Jenkins, 28047 Wellington Rd., Kalamazoo, 49008

Jack Lancaster, 1629 Turwill Lane, Kalamazoo, 49006

Bud Mahieu, 1433 Barney Rd., Kalamazoo, 49004

Jim Parker, 5939 N. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, 49004

Mary Penn, 550 Chadd's Ford Way, Oshtemo, 49009

Jean Marie Peters (*Pastor Wayne's sister*)

Betty Pick, Bickford Cottage, Merry Bee, 4704 W. Milham Ave., Portage, 49024

John Reid, 1205 Bunkerhill, Kalamazoo, 49009

Mike Roush, 522 Cherokee #212, Kalamazoo, 49006

Patricia Smith

Emily Strong, 3504 Iroquois Trail, Kalamazoo, 49006

Betty Thompson, 1400 N. Drake Rd., Apt. 189, Kalamzoo, 49006

Nancy Wallus, 717 Kendall, Kalamazoo, 49006

Protection from Harm in Iraq and Afghanistan

Toby Brown

Anthony Earl

Carl Williams



Calendar of Events




Sunday, November 29, 2009	
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Sunday School
9:45 AM	Praise Team
10:55 AM	Worship Celebration
4:45 PM	Westwood Ringers (TBD)
	No Youth Groups
Monday, November 30, 2009	
7:00 PM	Courters
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts of America
Tuesday, December 01, 2009	
10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
12:30 PM	Lay Ministers/Staff
7:00 PM	KAL IPMS
7:00 PM	Kingdom Kids Meeting
7:00 PM	Compassionate Friends
7:00 PM	BSA District Meeting
Wednesday, December 02, 2009	
10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
12:00 PM	55 Plus
6:00 PM	Disciple IV
6:00 PM	Westwood Singers
6:00 PM	High School Choir
6:00 PM	Companions in Christ Bible Study
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
6:15 PM	The "Q"
7:00 PM	WHBE
Thursday, December 03, 2009	
12:00 PM	4th Day Men
3:00 PM	Kalamazoo Central Girl's Swim Team Banquet
6:00 PM	Glory Connection II
6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
7:00 PM	Financial Peace University
7:00 PM	BSA Commissioners
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, December 04, 2009	
	No events scheduled.
Saturday, December 05, 2009	
9:30 AM	Praise Team Rehearsal
Sunday, December 06, 2009	
	<i>Communion Sunday</i>
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Sunday School
9:45 AM	Praise Team
10:55 AM	Worship Celebration
4:45 PM	Westwood Ringers (TBD)
6:00 PM	Youth Groups



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There really is more to life!

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!

**Worship Celebrations at
8:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m.
Nursery care is provided
during both celebrations.**

Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.westwood-umc.org/>

Messenger Deadlines:

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

Upcoming Publications:

Nov. 30

Dec. 7

Dec. 14



**Westwood
United Methodist
Church**

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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 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.

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Church/Staff Admin. Assistant, Lois Moeller
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- Custodial Staff: Dan Malseed, Nicole Malseed, Ash Norton, Bill Urfer, Stephanie Knewtson, David Knewtson
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Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College (Office)
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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 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.