

## *From the Heart of the Pastor*

Jesus uses two images of building a home when Jesus talks about us building our lives with God. The first is in Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49. Jesus finished a long section of teaching, and commanded the disciples to hear His words, and to put them into practice. The second image is in John 14:23 when Jesus says, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." If we build our foundation on Jesus' teaching and love, and obey Him, then Jesus and God will make their home with us. The heart of what Jesus is saying is, "**What do you believe, and what do you plan to do about it?**"

Our beliefs are the foundation of our lives. What beliefs do you build your life upon? Take some time this week to reflect on what you believe, and how it relates to Jesus' teaching. **A good way to start is to write down ten of your beliefs in a journal or in a document, and then reflect on how they connect with Jesus' teaching.**

After you write down ten of your beliefs, reflect on how you can "put them into practice" (Matthew 7:24). What you plan to do about what you believe is your vision for your life. If we envision our lives based on our beliefs, and follow through, after many years of living our vision we will have lived with integrity. **Write down ten things you plan to do this year based on what you believe. It will provide a vision for your life in 2015.**

Jesus' assurance that He and the Father will make their home with us elevates the exercise beyond a helpful way to plan for 2015, to a Godly blessing. When we consecrate our beliefs and intentions they become a covenant with God similar to God's covenant with the Israelites. After God gave the commandments, the people agreed to them, and Moses consecrated their agreement. At that point God agreed to be in their midst and gave instructions for the tabernacle, where God dwelt.

In the coming weeks The Building and Capital Fund teams will begin meeting envisioning our renovations, and seeking God's guidance. The visions for our ministry and building is what we plan to do about what we believe. As a congregation Jesus is calling us to listen and hear what He says, and then to put it in to practice. In 2015 our renovations and ministry will be an outcome of our faithfulness, and be a blessing to many people. God lives with us as we live God's covenant.

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,  
Pastor Wayne

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**New Adventurers'**

The New Adventurers will not be meeting in January.

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**Men's Prayer Breakfast – Jan. 17**

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17 beginning at 9:00 am in Simpson Hall with prayer time to follow. Sign up for the breakfast either on the sign-up bulletin board or on the back of the Communication Card.

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**ASP Spaghetti Meal – Jan. 18**

ASP spaghetti meal January 18th immediately following second service downstairs in Simpson Hall cost is donation to Appalachia Service Project 2015. Please join us following the service for a nutritious meal of spaghetti, bread, salad, beverage & dessert. Questions? See Roxanne Frey, Tom or Paula Willson. Thank you for your support.

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**Human Relations Day – Jan. 18**

Human Relations Day is January 18, 2015. The Human Relations Day offering supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy in the United States and Puerto Rico through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Special offering envelopes are in your envelope packet or will be available in the January 18 bulletin.

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**Laryne Williford in Concert – Jan. 25**

On Sunday, Jan. 25 at 4:30 pm, Laryne Williford will present a wonderful piano concert of classical and sacred pieces here at Westwood UMC in the sanctuary. This is a FRAN event. Please invite friends, relatives, and acquaintances, and neighbors to come and experience Laryne Laryne's music as only Laryne can play it. This is something no one wants to miss! A love offering will be taken.

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**Pasty Sale – Jan. 31**

Our next pasty sale will be Saturday, January 31. A maximum of 600 pasties will be made. Orders will be taken on a first ordered, first filled basis. If you have questions, contact Nancy VandenBrink at 344-6945. Please return your order to the church office by Monday, January 26.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate quantity desired:

\_\_\_\_\_ Baked (\$3.25 each)      \_\_\_\_\_ Unbaked (\$2.75 each)

Indicate the time you will pick up your order (for unbaked orders, morning is best):

\_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 a.m.      \_\_\_\_\_ 11:30 a.m.      \_\_\_\_\_ 12:30 p.m.

Checks should be made payable to Westwood United Methodist Women.  
(Orders can be prepaid or pay at time of pick-up.)

### Covenant Bible Study – Begins Feb. 4

Covenant Bible Study is an in-depth Bible study that centers around our relationships with God, with each other, and with the world. It's about applying the teachings of the Bible to our everyday lives. The study is divided into 3 eight-week sessions. You can take all 3 sessions or any 2 sessions or any 1 session. The first session will start 2/4/15. This study will be facilitated by Louise Jameson and will meet in the Wesley Room at 6:30 Wednesday evenings. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the library.

### Westwood Appalachian Service Project Heritage Reunion – Mar. 13

This year Westwood United Methodist Church is celebrating 40 years of participation in the Appalachia Service Project. The Westwood ASP team is hosting a reunion dinner for the participants from all four decades of our involvement in this ministry. What a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and honor the heritage our church has created! The dinner is set for Friday night, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Put it on your calendar... more details to follow.

#### Call to Action:

We need to spread the word to all folks who have participated in ASP over the past 40 years. We want to try to establish a list of names and contact information for as many past participants as possible.

Information about the evening will be provided through the Westwood Messenger, email and a special Facebook page. Please encourage those you know, especially those who do not attend Westwood to join the group or send an email address to [susabeth61@gmail.com](mailto:susabeth61@gmail.com)

Join the Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/358425974340912/>

We would like as many pictures of past groups and participants as possible.

Please send any pictures in one of three ways:

Email them to [westwoodASPPics@gmail.com](mailto:westwoodASPPics@gmail.com)

Drop them in the specially marked box in the WUMC church office. (Please put them in an envelope with your name and phone number)

Mail them to: Sue White, 512 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

All physical pictures will be returned.

We are looking forward to a memorable evening!



**Appalachia**

SERVICE PROJECT <sup>SM</sup>

**Thank you Westwood!**

Dear Westwood UMC family,  
We would like to thank you for the gifts received for our "Christmas Bonus". We appreciate it!  
Thanks,  
Beth Arbogast

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Dear WUMC family,  
What a lovely surprise your Christmas gift was! From the first day I started, your welcoming spirit has made it a pleasure to come to work every day. It is a real joy to be able to serve the mission and the people of Westwood UMC. Thank you very much. Best wishes for a blessed New Year, Barbara Hathaway

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Dear WUMC family,  
Thank you so much for the loving bonus gift you gave with your extra offering. What a blessing and privilege it is to be a part of this church body, serving you and the children! We as a family appreciate your welcoming us so warmly and making us feel at home.  
In Christ's love, Helga Mortensen

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Joy, Katrina, Rachel, and I thank the congregation for the very kind gift of the Christmas bonus. We are grateful for God's goodness we experience in and through the people of Westwood UMC. You are dedicated disciples of Jesus, and the light and love of Christ continues to shine through you. I look forward to the coming year as God continues to bless us and lead us in grace.  
Pastor Wayne

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**The Salvation Army Salutes You, Westwood Ding-A-Lings!**

Please accept our sincere thanks and gratitude for ringing the bells this holiday season! Your gift of time and talent will help us to continue caring for children, adults and families in need. We hope you enjoyed ringing the bells this year. Thank you for sharing the spirit of the season. Have a wonderful holiday and Christmas from us to you.

Majors Keith and Sherrie Welch, Corps Officers  
Sarah and Andrea, 2014 Kettle Coordinators  
Craig Smith, Director of Development

*Thanks*

### 2014 Advent Giving Wrap-Up

Delivered to the Free Store: 20 pair men's gloves, 13 men's hats, 12 women's hats, 7 unisex hats, 7 scarves, 8 women's gloves, 32 men's socks, 12 thermal socks, 14 pair men's underwear, 12 pair women's underwear, 8 pair women's socks, 6 sets thermal undergarments (5 women's, 1 men's)

Delivered to Ministry with Community: 39 full/queen blankets, 32 pair girls socks, 28 girls underwear, 28 pair boys socks, 29 boys underwear, 3 boys t-shirts, 26 pair men's socks, 68 men's underwear, 7 men's undershirts, 36 pair women's socks, 9 women's underwear, 3 toys, a few other misc. clothing items

Delivered to Gospel Mission: 516 tampons, 745 maxi pads, 27 children's bedtime diapers

Delivered to two area nursing homes: 53 Beanie Babies/small stuffed animals, 32 purse pack Kleenex, 20 single serve trail mix, 10 colorful socks, 20 miscellaneous items

6 families from King-Westwood School adopted for Christmas gifts (24 total children and adults)

### The Capital Campaign

Hello church family!

On December 16<sup>th</sup> Westwood held an all church Charge Conference. We held this conference to ask the congregation for approval to proceed with a capital campaign. This campaign will be used to finance the building improvements the Building Committee had been working on for the last few years. These improvements were discussed again briefly at the meeting and we then held a vote to approve moving forward with a capital campaign. The vote passed with a very high margin and the campaign will begin in the next few weeks!

Another item voted on at the charge conference was for the church to approve the new Capital Campaign committee members and the new Building Committee members. This vote also passed with a very high margin!

The next step in our building improvement project is for the Capital Campaign to be completed, so that we know what funds are available to work with. The Building Committee will then proceed in getting blueprints completed and putting the job up for bid. Once this is all in place and the Methodist Conference Building and Remodeling Board approves our project, we will hold another All Church Charge Conference. At this conference we will ask for the churches permission to proceed with building and remodeling.

I ask that you keep this project in your daily prayers. Ask God for his direction, leadership and blessing on this exciting project. Pray also for the vision and mission of the church. That we continue to grow in our journey to be place where the community hears about the wonderful love of Jesus!

Serving Him with you,

Bob Strobel, Capital Campaign facilitator.

### **Musical 2014—A note from Paula Willson**

Well....were you?

No, I don't mean at the manger

No, I don't mean at the cross (not yet, anyway)

I mean were you there yesterday, December 14th, for either of the services to experience "GOD SPEAKING," the annual Seasonal offering of music & message, this year provided by Chancel Choir, Handbells, Instrumentalists & Drama? IT WAS BEYOND WORDS.....It was THAT WONDERFUL!

The message of "GOD SPEAKING", was told with song, instrumentalists, the spoken word, narration & unspoken snapshots of real life: despair, loneliness, aching sadness, profound emptiness. And yet..... The message, throughout the production, was that, in spite of all we experience during the holiday season, HE SPEAKS, HE HEARS, HE UNDERSTANDS  
AND HE LOVES US!

Extreme thanks to Jane Wright, for putting on a production that was indeed praise worthy (special KUDOS to soloists GEORGE, DOUG, & JILL)! Also thanks to Jane for the bell numbers which sparkled & danced above the music (Bell numbers, written by Jane, in her "spare time'...) The instrumentalists played flawlessly, also under Jane's direction....she does sleep, right?

It would be a HUGE oversight if I did not personally thank my "players": RICK FULLER for narrating the entire production with just the right balance of warmth & feeling CHAZ MORTENSEN & EMMANUEL SIKAUNDI as the "BENCH WARMERS" --- after weeks of rehearsal, staging & blocking, they performed their respective memorized parts with humor, and poignancy ----- I will take credit for casting such wonderful men in these roles; they did not disappoint! Thanks also to PHYLLIS LUBBERT, who, I was woefully late in asking & casting, and still she came to all rehearsals, offered wonderful advice on improving on things I had only thought through on the surface, and providing many props for the day of the production.... Thank you to RON ANSPACH for transforming a table into a desk, to LAYNE ENDRES for loaning the park bench that made the stage set so believable.

Last & certainly not least, a HUGE THANK YOU to Matt Knewton for an outstanding job on the sound board. If you ever thought hearing a production was optional, imagine yesterday's wonderfulness from beginning to end.....WITHOUT SOUND.

So, in closing..... this Holiday Season, listen for GOD SPEAKING, and FEAR NOT!  
FOR HE IS WITH YOU.....ALWAYS!

He is the Reason for the Season,  
Bless you all -----Paula Willson

### Fine Art Ministries New Year News

#### **KIDS PRAISE: New Wednesday Program for Children has changed their rehearsal time.**

##### **All are Welcome!**

If you have a young one, or know someone 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade age who loves the arts, this program would suit them well. Children will meet in room 11 at 4:30-5:30 PM each Wednesday, to use the music from the Kingdom Kids Sunday School hour and spin it into art, movement, music reading games, singing, instrumental and even some ringing time depending on the week. This program is designed for our young people to further their appreciation and understanding of both the arts and the great love God has for them. If you have a friend, neighbor, relative or one in your own family who might enjoy this, please invite and help spread the word. All kids are welcome. Contact Jane 269-344-7165, Ext 205.

##### **CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS:**

Looking back at our Christmas preparations brings to mind many reasons to be thankful. The Fine Art Ministries are full of hearts willing to share their love for Father, Son and Holy Spirit through their gifts of music and drama. Friendship Village once again received the Musical Gift from Westwood as *Laryne Williford*, the children's chimes, chancel choir, vocal ensemble, handbell ensemble, Glory Connection, and a handbell duet combined efforts in making a beautiful presentation for the residents there.

*Paula Willson* always does a magnificent job with dramas that blessed us not only in the cantata, but also throughout the advent season.

*Matt Knewtson* did a miraculous job of providing sound and recordings of the Cantata, "God Speaking."

Extra challenges ensued this year, as half the choir managed to come down with bronchitis or some form of the crud over that week. But, being the troopers they were, hung in there and did a beautiful job, in spite of how they and I were all feeling. *Laryne Williford* has been our rock through the cantata, even though she was feeling ill herself by that week, Thanks to the instrumentalists and bell people who also participated, and like the others, were dealing with many forms of the "Christmas 2014 virus". I am always so pleased when the angels show up and sing and dance over us during those times!

The newly formed, *Kid's Praise kids* (a strong pair of them) sang for the very first time in worship last December, and reminded us all very well, to get ready for the coming of Jesus.

The *Glory Connection* led by *Beth Mitchell* and accompanied by John Chamberlin are truly a special part of our Westwood music traditions and joined in to the Christmas festivities in a grand manor as always. Moving Praise has gone on with *Nancy VandenBrink* doing a solo number during Advent. I always love watching her dynamic offerings.

*Dani Sturdy*, the youth, and *John Chamberlin* who participated in the Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 were much appreciated and blessed the congregation through song. Thanks so much.

*Vicki Reed* and her handbell quintet along with *Tina Egan* and her vocal solos, also provided some VERY special music over the holidays, and richly blessed us all. Thanks to all who participated and led all these offerings. I cannot hope to accomplish any of this without you. Together, we make a mighty team for God and in His service.

SO HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone at Westwood. 2015 is full of opportunities for ministry, rejoicing and worship. May we all be blessed by God's continued presence and joy through the use of our gifts and serving our Lord.

### **THANK YOU TO THE WESTWOOD CONGREGATION!!**

Many many thanks to my friends, the Westwood Congregation for the wonderful and most generous Christmas gift that said, "We love you." I love you all back, and offer my continued support in whatever ways I can. God richly bless you all!

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### **The Westwood United Methodist Pet Lovers Group**

Meets on the last Sunday of every month (usually in the library).

Our small but mighty group of friends discusses the similarities of unconditional love between us and our pets, and the love of our Heavenly Father with us.

Please be aware of our new donation bin for "Pet Loaves and Fishes"  
We will distribute donations to the Humane Society for pet owners who struggle to keep and feed their pets.

In warmer weather we will have fun get togethers with our pets, like the Humane Society Dog Walk etc. We will be involved with other fund raising and volunteer opportunities as well.

All are welcome with open paws to come for one meeting or more!

Thank you for all donations this far!

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### **Hospitality Time**

Hospitality is graciously served Sunday mornings from 9:30am to 10:00am and again 10:30am to 11:00am. Please join us for fellowship, a cup of coffee, and a cookie or donut hole.



## Serving you on Sundays

If you are unable to help on your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone on the list and let the office know of the change. Your help in finding a replacement is deeply appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

	<b>January 18, 2015</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	<b>January 25, 2015</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
<b><i>Serving you in Worship</i></b>		
1st Service Acolyte(s)	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
2nd Service Acolyte(s)	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Altar	Laura Anderson	Julie Lancaster
1st Service Audio	Gary Lubbert	Bill Rotgers
1st Service Video	Jim Frey	Jim Frey
2nd Service Audio	David Knewtson	Derick Daniels
2nd Service Video	Daniel Whitcomb	Josiah Knewtson
Worship Assistant	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Children's Moment	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Videographer	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
PowerPoint Preparer	Derrick Quintanilla	Kelly Graham
<b><i>Serving you through Welcoming</i></b>		
1st Service Greeters	Sallie Platt and Jeanette Jupp	Jane & Gary Waite and Sue Pulling
2nd Service Greeters	Ron & Royann Anspach	Kris Kenz and Diane Rathburn
Hospitality	Beth Mitchell, Karen Bowman	Louise Jameson, Royann Anspach
1st Service Ushers	Dave Wright and Wes Merriman	Norm & Mary Grant
2nd Service Ushers	Roxanne Frey, Matt Knewtson and Tim & Darla Ashcroft	Clint & Jean Whitcomb, Kim Longstroth and Don Hilbert
<b><i>Staff</i></b>		
Nursery Workers	Linda VanOrder, Kristen VanOrder, Marian Burkey	Linda VanOrder, Rachel DeWitte, Kristen VanOrder
Children's Worship	Sarah Mannschreck and Nancy Snell	Pam Chamberlin and Sarah Mannschreck
Keyboardist	Laryne Williford	Laryne Williford

## Prayer List

### Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Julian Blair  
Courtney Chandler (Irene Dutton's grandson)  
Gary Cumming  
Marc DeYoung  
Bob Difrancisco  
Betty Georgeau (Sister of Marian Burkey and Linda Ridderbos)  
Marion Gray, Sharon Permenter's mom  
Loree Grupe (Shirley Johnson's daughter, undergoing bone cancer treatment)  
Vicki Hale  
Phyllis Harrison  
Mabel Hillis  
Stephen Hunt, Barb Hunt's son  
Jerry Kalhorn  
Herb Kenz  
Dick Kowal  
Gini Martin  
Jean Marie Peters (Pastor Wayne's sister )  
Helen Sikkenga  
Rick Wells

### Serving in the military:

Tobey Brown (Serving in Korea; per Linda Ridderbos)  
Mackenzie Newman, USAF (serving in Europe; granddaughter of Tom & Elise Hillman)

Prayers for healing and strength to the home-bound

King-Westwood Elementary School & Staff

Our Westwood Neighborhood

We have an active prayer chain to lift up individuals in prayer whenever there is special need. To make your request known, please call Mary Grant (345-9422) or the Church Office (344-7165). To keep our prayer list updated, please contact the church office with updates.



Share God's Word

## F.R.A.N.

*Be a part of FRAN and invite, invite, invite!*

**F = Friends**

**R = Relatives**

**A = Acquaintances**

**N = Neighbors**

### **Our Vision**

We are a disciple-making community that encourages and equips all people to live in Christ by the power of the Spirit and in fellowship with one another through worship, prayer, study and service.

### **Our Values**

- *Worship*  
We celebrate our faith in many ways so that God is encountered and lives are changed.
- *Justice*  
We confront injustice and work for change within ourselves, our community, nation and world.
- *Lay Ministry*  
We help people discover, develop and use their spiritual gifts and talents to serve God and others.
- *Fellowship*  
We are a caring, compassionate Christian community open to all.
- *Spiritual Growth*  
We nurture children, youth and adults in their journey toward mature discipleship.
- *Mission*  
We go and serve others in our community, nation and world through our time, talents, and resources as we proclaim the Gospel and meet human needs.
- *Witness*  
We prepare and encourage people to share the experience of God's love in Christ.

### **Worship Celebrations**

Worship Celebrations are held at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (10:10 a.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day, inclusive). Nursery care is provided during both celebrations.

### **Prayer Chain**

We have an active prayer chain to lift up individuals in prayer. To make your request known or to sign up for the prayer list please contact the church office.

### **Stephen Ministers Are There to Care**

Stephen Ministry is a confidential care giving ministry of our church. If you would like a Stephen Minister to walk with you during a difficult time in your life, contact the church office.

### **Lotsa Helping Hands**

Westwood UMC is signed up on the Lotsa Helping Hands website. Sign up today by going to <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/628393/> and fill out the right side of the form ("Request to Join the Community"). After approval you will receive instructions for setting a password and signing-in.

### **Keep up with church news...**

- Join up for Worship!
- the Messenger,
- the email news list,
- the prayer chain,
- the website (Including the calendar),
- Find us on Facebook,
- Lotsa Helping Hands,
- and make sure your personal information is on file in the church office!

### **Messenger Deadlines**

The Westwood Messenger is published bi-weekly. Deadlines are the Thursday prior to publication. Go Green! Email the editor or the church office to receive the Messenger electronically.

### **Messenger Articles**

Please email all Messenger information to: [info@westwood-umc.org](mailto:info@westwood-umc.org). Messenger deadlines are the Thursday prior to publication.

### **Future Messengers and Deadlines**

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Publication Date</i>
Jan. 22	Jan. 26
Feb. 5	Feb. 9
Feb. 19	Feb. 23
Mar. 5	Mar. 9
Mar. 19	Mar. 23

## **Our Mission**

**Offer Christ, Grow In Faith, Touch Lives, and Make A Difference**

Westwood United Methodist  
Church

538 Nichols Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006



*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 [info@westwood-umc.org](mailto:info@westwood-umc.org) by the deadline. Your name may be used in the article. The *Messenger* is mailed Tuesday. Subscribers do not receive it before Wednesday. Articles must be submitted at least 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.

### Westwood United Methodist Church Staff and Volunteers

Westwood United Methodist Church	344-7165
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