

From the Heart of the Pastor

First, **WOW!**, what a couple weeks we had at our church. The amazing concert by Laryne Williford was inspirational. Our Shrove Tuesday dinner raised over \$800 for a person in need of medical treatment. And our congregation hosted the District Training Day on Discipleship. Leaders from our district, 150 people including 26 from Westwood UMC, gathered to learn from authors, Dan Glover and Claudia Lavy, on how to become a discipling church. Each of these events was a great witness to our offering Christ, growing in faith, touching lives and making a difference. Thank you for what you offer God and God's children.

“Wholeness and Holiness” will be our Lenten focus between now and Easter (April 5). We will focus on God's power to heal through God's holiness and direction. God desires us to be whole and healed, but we need to follow God's leading. As Deacon Sandra shared with us on Sunday we need to be conscious about what we are doing and being willing to take ownership for our health and well-being. Our wholeness involves: **our bodies, our emotions, our thoughts, being willing to forgive, and our spirituality.** Collective we become a healing community, victorious in the resurrection power God gives us.

Think of three aspects of your commitment to wholeness: **Up, In, and Out.** First, because God wants you to be well, so **reach up to God** in prayer and ask God to give you the insight, courage, and perseverance to be successful. God wants us to examine our hearts (Psalm 139), so **we reach in and be honest** about where we need God's healing and to be whole. Lastly, to **reach out** and pray for and help others. Three things I would like you to do during the 40 Days of Lent as we prepare for Easter:

Reach up by committing to the Transforming Ten each day (ten minutes each day to read the Bible and pray). Use the Lenten devotional Scripture and focus on the weekly topic.

Reach in by asking God what God wants you to hear in the Scripture, and go towards God's healing love.

Reach out by continuing to pray through the directory. We have many families struggling and they need our prayers. In addition, pray for our Literacy Center which will likely start up in April.

Another significant focus needs to be our building project. Our Capital Fund Committee is off to a strong start and the Building Committee is moving forward, reviewing our plans. **Reach up** by praying for the teams, **reach in** to see what God would have you do in support, and **reach out** so it can be built for all God's people.

Gratefully serving with you,

Pastor Wayne

Westwood Appalachian Service Project Heritage Reunion – Mar. 13

Appalachian Service Project
40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
Friday March 13th

Westwood UMC Appalachia Service Project Reunion

Friday, March 13, 2015, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

This year Westwood United Methodist Church is celebrating 40 years of participation in 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!

Please join us if you have been involved in any way in past WUMC ASP trips!

5:30 PM - Hors d'oeuvres and fellowship

7:00 PM Prime Rib dinner

7:45 - 8:30 (or so) We remember and celebrate

Please use this link to RSVP:

[Click to RSVP for WUMC ASP Reunion Dinner](#)

We Want Your Stories!

Westwood UMC Appalachia Service Project Reunion

No matter whether you plan to attend the Westwood UMC ASP Reunion Dinner or not, we want your stories! Please take a moment to give us one or two paragraphs about something that touched you, or was funny, or something memorable about the area you worked or the people you worked for:

Please use this link to tell your story:

[Click to Share your ASP Story](#)

If you have more than one tale to tell, please do so!

Click this link and spend 30 seconds letting us know you'll be there with us to celebrate on March 13!

<http://bit.ly/1DSnEkh>

Questions? Matt and Sue White: mwhite60@gmail.com

Note: Please see the email to click the links!!!

If you are not on the internet, please indicate your interest on the back of the Communication Card or on the sign up board.

Do you need to fill out all of these ways to let us know you're coming? No, but please do at least one and we will compile all the lists.

Have You Tried Attending an Adult Sunday School Class Recently?

This Sunday, March 1, is a great day to try out Adult Bible Studies. A new quarterly study begins, written by one of our favorite authors, J. Ellsworth Kalas. Dr. Kalas' lessons will help us "better understand that once we claim the Holy Spirit as the guide for our lives, we take on unique power to become God's resurrection people and join the community of beloved disciples where we learn to love unconditionally, forgive lavishly, live fearless, proclaim truth unashamedly, exercise our spiritual gifts joyfully, and serve God faithfully." Class starts at 9:45 a.m. in Simpson Annex. Come and see! Louise Jameson

We Raised \$822!!!!

A thank you doesn't seem enough to show our appreciation to the over 20 people who served at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Fundraiser and the 100+ people who came to contribute to a needy cause and enjoy community. Thank you to all of you - it was a great evening!

The Outreach Team

Friendship Luncheon – March 4, 2015

Come join us for pizza, veggies and dip, and soda of your choice when we meet at noon on Wednesday, March 4. After cancelling the January program due to weather, we have rescheduled Tom Dietz, retired curator at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, to present "The Origin of Kalamazoo Street Names." Please make a reservation by signing the list on the lobby bulletin board, by checking the back of the green Communication Card in worship, or by calling the church office at 344-7165.

Church Women United – March 6, 2015

Church Women United will meet at Westwood United Methodist Church for World Day of Prayer on March 6 at 12:15 for social time and announcements in the Lobby. The program will begin at 1:00 PM in the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Jeanette Jupp at 345-8833

Calling all graduates of Financial Peace University!

Would you like a refresher course? Anyone who has taken it before can join new classes as long as you have your own materials! We would love to have you back again and I think it's good for the newcomers to hear from others and their experiences. So come join us starting March 10 @ 7:00!

Financial Peace University starts March 10 @ 7:00

FPU is a money management course that teaches you how to GET OUT OF DEBT and start building your financial future. We learn to manage our financial resources based on God's word! If you are interested in taking the course, but you're not sure you want to spend \$100 for the materials required for the course, please join us for the first class for free so you can see what it's like!

If you are already planning to attend, please contact me in advance so I can order the materials in time for the first class.

Jo Turner, Ph: 207-6151

ISAAC – Annual Dinner – Mar. 14

The ISAAC annual Dinner will be at WMU Bernhardt Center March 14, 2015 starting at 5pm. Tickets are \$30 each and can be bought from Larry Opplinger or Andrew Chaponda.

One Great Hour of Sharing – March 15

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special One Great Hour of Sharing offering, laying the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR's) ministry of relief and hope.

Donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover their costs of doing business. Gifts like yours make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects that donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs.

UMCOR does not receive United Methodist World Service or apportionment funds, so without your offerings, UMCOR would not exist.

Because operating costs are kept under 10% of the total budget, undesignated gifts may actually exceed UMCOR's administrative needs. When that happens, your support is channeled to under-funded programs, where they're most needed. They also may be used to allow UMCOR to respond to disasters immediately after an event and before funds can be raised.

Because of your donation, UMCOR is ready to respond in times of crisis. This offering is traditionally taken the 4th Sunday of Lent, which this year is March 15. However, you may make your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing anytime during March. Special offering envelopes are in your giving envelope packet or will be available in the March 15 bulletin.

Excitement Builds with the Capital Campaign!

The folks at Westwood have been hearing about renovations and expansion of the church for several years now. The excitement is starting to build as we are getting oh so close to seeing the work begin. One last detail is the funding of the project. With lots of direction from our consultant, the capital campaign is now underway. When completed, this campaign will have let us know how much money was given to use for the project.

A few of our Westwood members have recently asked how this financial campaign works. They wanted to know what to expect and how they could participate. So, here's the process we have put in place. We hope to have an individual appointment with each person or couple. These appointments will allow each person to have another opportunity to ask questions about the project and to offer opinions. We will offer explanation of what will be accomplished by doing the proposed renovations and how we, as laborers can help out. We will have opportunity to do some of the physical work if we want!

We all know that a project of this scope cannot be paid for out of our operating budget. This Capital Campaign has been put in place to raise the additional funds needed to accomplish it without dipping into any of the money already given to run the church's daily operations. The Westwood volunteer who visits with you will ask you to prayerfully consider a special gift to the capital fund, a gift that will only be used for the proposed renovations. Please include this topic in your daily prayers now! Ask God to lead you in your decision of how you can participate financially in this campaign. With His blessing and the offerings of a generous congregation, this building project will happen! And we will give God the glory for it!

Look to the Westwood Messenger for more information as to how we're doing, as the campaign progresses. We are looking forward to celebrating His blessing and the closing of the campaign in late April.

Serving our Lord with you,
Bob Strobel, Capital Campaign facilitator

Church Renovation Update

Building Committee Meets to Review Proposal and Determine Time Line

The God of heaven Himself will help us succeed; therefore, we will arise and build! We will trust His Word and believe in the Sovereign Lord who always keeps His Promises. Nehemiah 2:20

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The members of the building committee met on Sunday, February 22, to review the proposed plans from Inform Architecture. Val Brown, committee chair drafted a projected time line for the renovation project which included obtaining detailed plans and specifications and associated costs. The building committee and members of the Capital Fund Project will be meeting on a regular basis and welcome your input and prayers.

Heavenly Father,

We believe that You will make our thoughts agreeable to Your will, so that the plans for this project may be established and succeed. Please bless this new building project to provide activities for our church family and the families in the community that will promote growth, development, relaxation and enjoyment. We ask that You would provide adequate funding, competent professionals, and skilled laborers for the construction. Please help us be your disciples. Rather than merely seeking experiences of God, invite us to become living expressions of God. The benefit lies in the truth that when we make the necessary changes in our lives and at Westwood UMC, you Lord are glorified and others will come to you. Amen

Building Committee members: Val Brown, Irv Cummings, Roxanne Frey, Art Klute, Pastor Wayne Price, Mark Reid, Bob and Karen Strobel and Seth Virgo.

Time to Register for Church Camp!

It's time to think about summer church camp and get registered! Church camp is about growing in Christian faith and love of God, forming new friendships, fun, worship, Bible based activities and lessons, fire bowl, outdoor athletics, nature, personal growth, relaxation, and adventure. The Westwood church family helps support the life-changing experience that camp can be by providing scholarships to our children and youth to attend camp (average cost of a week of camp is \$399). Camp brochures can be accessed on the web by clicking on "camping" at westmichigan-conference.org. Mini-camps (3 days) are available for 1st through 3rd graders. \$50 rebates are available for first time campers and the friend who invites you (\$25 for mini-campers). Talk to Nancy VandenBrink for more information.

Lenten Concert Series at First UMC in Kalamazoo

First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo is having a Lenten Concert Series on five Thursday during the lunch hour during Lent (Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19 and 26). Open to the public, they will feature a variety of organ music played by organists from Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Traverse City.

Lenten Devotional Focus

Wholeness and Holiness

2015

February 22: Wholeness of the Body

Do you want to be healed?

1. John 5:1-15
2. John 5:16-30
3. Luke 4:38-44
4. Acts 3:1-10

March 1: The Hidden Wholeness: Emotional Health

Are you giving past hurts to Jesus?

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24
2. Galatians 5:22-26
3. Luke 8:40-56
4. Psalm 27

March 8: The Desire of God: Spiritual Health

How do you experience God's deep desire to be with you?

1. Ephesians 2:14-18
2. Mark 1:21-28
3. Mark 5:1-20
4. Ephesians 6:10-20

March 15: God's Restoration: Forgiveness

How do you treasure Jesus' forgiveness?

1. Matthew 18:21-35
2. Psalm 103
3. Matthew 6:5-15
4. Luke 24:36-49

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March 22: Transformation: A Disciplined Mind

How are you giving your thoughts to Jesus?

1. 2 Corinthians 10:1-6
2. Philippians 4:4-9
3. Matthew 15:1-20
4. Hebrews 4:12-16
5. Romans 12:1-2

March 29: Transformation: A Redemptive Community

Where is Jesus' sacrificial love needed in the world?

1. Luke 22:63-71
2. Luke 23:1-25
3. Luke 23:26-56
4. Isaiah 52:13-53:12

What does God desire for your life?

Stewardship and care of the body God gave you.

Contentment in the Spirit of Christ.

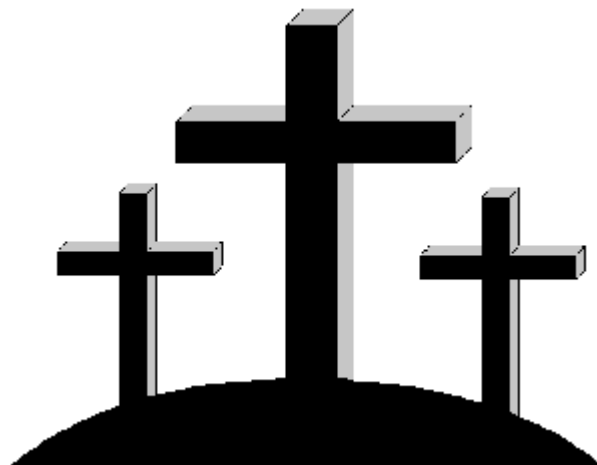
Establishing yourself in God's spiritual strength.

Being cleansed in Jesus' forgiveness

Disciplining your thoughts by giving them to God.

Embodying Jesus' sacrificial love in your life.

Living the victory, resurrection and hope of Jesus.



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.

	March 1, 2015 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	March 8, 2015 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
<i>Serving you in Worship</i>		
Altar	Tracy Quintanilla	Beth Mitchell
1st Service Audio	Gary Lubbert	Jan Urfer
1st Service Video	Jim Frey	Jim Frey
2nd Service Audio	Matt Knewton	David Knewton
2nd Service Video	Mark Longstroth	TBD
Worship Assistant	Sandra Douglas	Rick Fuller
Children's Moment	Pastor Wayne Price	Dani Sturdy
Videographer	Derrick Quintanilla	TBD
PowerPoint Preparer	Carol-Tolis Bucklin	Gary Lubbert
<i>Serving you through Welcoming</i>		
1st Service Greeters	Sue Pulling and Jane & Gary Waite	Louise & Jim Jameson
2nd Service Greeters	Mike & Jo Turner	Beth Shirley and Beth Mitchell
Hospitality	Paula Willson, Sue Pulling	Louise Jameson, Royann Anspach
1st Service Ushers	Joe & Shirley Mitchell	Bud Mahieu and Phil Engel
2nd Service Ushers	Diane Rathbun, Mark Reid and Tom & Paula Willson	Bob Mitchell, Danielle Morrison, Alyssa Mitchell and
<i>Staff</i>		
Nursery Workers	Rachel DeWitte, Kristen VanOrder and Linda VanOrder	Linda VanOrder, Marian Burkey and Rachel DeWitte
Children's Worship	Sarah Mannschreck and Tasha Lopez	Tasha Lopez and Sarah Mannschreck
Keyboardist	TBD	TBD

Prayer List

The family of Dena Huitt (Dena passed away 2/22)

Connie VandePolder

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Julian Blair

Courtney Chandler (Irene Dutton's grandson)

Gary Cumming

Marc DeYoung

Bob Difrancisco

Betty Georgeau (Sister of Marian Burkey & Linda Ridderbos)

Marion Gray, Sharon Permenter's mom

Loree Grupe (Shirley Johnson's daughter, undergoing bone cancer treatment)

Vicki Hale

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:

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. Messenger deadlines are the Thursday prior to publication.

Future Messengers and Deadlines

Deadline	Publication Date
Mar. 5	Mar. 9
Mar. 19	Mar. 23
Apr. 2	Apr. 6
Apr. 16	Apr. 20

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 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.

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