

From the Heart of the Pastor

A miracle is an ordinary occurrence transformed by an extraordinary God. Five loaves and two fish were transformed into a feast for thousands. Blindness was transformed into sight. Raging waves from a storm were transformed into a placid sea. A distracted leper was transformed into an eternally grateful saint. Jesus transforms ordinary things into eternal blessings by His power and love. God does modern miracles when we offer our lives to Him, and we will celebrate God's miracles in the coming weeks.

Looking back to Holy Week, on Maundy Thursday we experienced how a servant could be transformed by the love of Jesus, and how a disciple could be transformed by Jesus' prayer. On Good Friday we joined with other United Methodist Churches, and gave witness to how Jesus transformed the violence and fear of the world by His love and courage on the cross. On Easter we celebrated showing up at the tomb and witnessing resurrection in our lives. God rolls back the stone at the entrance of the tomb and reminds us that God can do what we cannot do. Lastly, Jesus invites us out of the tomb into life; or as an acquaintance once told me, "Now, go enjoy the rest of your life."

We participate in God's transforming miracles as we offer our lives to God. Our lives may seem ordinary. It is the power of God which makes them extraordinary through God's miraculous power. Holy Week was an affirmation of God transforming disciples, fear and violence, and even graves into saints, love and courage, and new life. People's lives are being transformed through our worship, Sunday School, Alpha, Emmaus, and other spiritual growth groups. God is transforming our space through the changes to our "Art Room" into a Literacy Center. We are celebrating new life in people as they become healed from their past, and live forward into a resurrected life.

On May 3, in worship, we will celebrate God's transformation of our building. It is our desire to improve our worship to God through needed upgrades to our Sanctuary. We are sensing God's call to transform our lobby into a gathering place which welcoming. We are ready to transform our music and children's education area into better places to practice and grow in faith. It is exciting to see God transforming lives and potentially transforming our space. Best of all, we get to be part of God's miracles.

I invite you to pray about the transformations in our congregation. In the next six weeks in Sunday School you can also learn how to be a "Disciplemaker" in a Sunday School class in the Wesley Room at 9:45 am. Be part of Jesus' transforming miracles.

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,
Pastor Wayne

Eating Out Can Be Profitable! – Apr. 12

The Westwood Vocal Ensemble invites you to enjoy a meal at Applebee's with friends and family, and at no extra cost or effort on your part, create a donation to Westwood UMC for our singers. How? Simply eat at Applebee's on West Main on Sun., Apr. 12, and hand your server a Dining to Donate coupon when you pay your bill. Ten percent of the total bill for all at your table will be donated to our church. Naturally, the total will exclude any liquor, taxes or tip. But what a painless way to generate income for Westwood Vocal Ensemble and allow us to become more self-supporting in 2015. Perhaps some of your friends and neighbors would enjoy going out for Sunday dinner. Coupons are available in the newsletter and from any Westwood Singer. Print 'em out and pass 'em out! You can go any time during the day on Sun., Apr. 12, and dine to donate!

Disciplemaking Sunday School Class - Begins April 12

Pastor Wayne, Doug Tipken, and Sally Mahieu will lead the "Disciplemaking" Sunday School class beginning April 12 in the Wesley Room. The class will be a participatory class equipping people to guide others in discipleship based on Jesus' model for discipleship. The class will help you to gain clarity about your own faith, understand relationship building tools, and discern how to help people. The class will embody our mission statement: offer Christ, grow in faith, touch lives, and make a difference. Everyone is invited for this 6 week class.

Men's Prayer Breakfast – Apr. 18

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Sat., Apr. 18 beginning at 9:00 am in Simpson Hall with prayer time to follow. Sign up for the breakfast either on the sign-up board or on the back of the Communication Card.

Westwood UMC Literacy Center Open House – Apr. 19

Please come to the Open House for the new Westwood Literacy Center. We will be celebrating the opening and blessing the center on April 19th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The new center shares a room with Kingdom Kids and the children's music program. It is room #11 in the Kingdom Kids wing of the church. Please come out and support this new ministry. 25,000 people in the Kalamazoo area have low literacy. We hope to help some of them meet their goals through increasing their skills.



Basement Sale Coming Soon – Apr. 24 & 25

The semi-annual basement sale will be held on Friday, April 24 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 am to noon. You may drop off items to be included in this sale in room 16 next to the theatre on Sunday, April 19 after 11 am but no later than Thursday, April 23 at 2:00 pm. Can you join the fun and volunteer a couple of hours in order to make this sale successful? All proceeds benefit mission projects supported by United Methodist Women through the General Board of Global Ministries. Help is needed on:



- o Thursday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: sort donations
 - o Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25: check-out customers, tidy tables, etc. (especially need help Friday morning when it is the busiest)
 - o Saturday, April 25 at Noon to pack up unsold items which will go to the Rescued Treasures Store operated by the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission
- If you have questions, please call Marlene Pyle, 375-3225.

CROP Hunger Walk – Sun., Apr. 26

CROP Walk monies address hunger and poverty around the world as well as right here in our community. Since the walk began in 1974, the amount of funds allocated to local hunger-fighting needs here in our community through the CROP Hunger Walk is over \$345,310. Our local recipients in the last year were Housing Resources, Inc., Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes, Ministry with Community, Open Doors, YWCA Domestic Assault Program, and Ecumenical Senior Center. Walk or support a walker in this year's Walk on Sunday, April 26. Receive a walker's packet of information or make a donation to a walker on April 12, 19, or 26 at the CROP Walk table in the lobby. Thank you for your support!



Annual Mother / Daughter / Friend Tea – May 2 Saturday, May 2, 2015, 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Our guest speaker will be Mischelle Endsley, author of "Heaven Sent – A Legacy of Love from Human, to Angel to Canine" which is a story about her 88 year old mother and her little dog, Sophie.

"What would you do if you were returning back to earth from heaven not as a human, when you were previously a seventy-two year old man? Well, Rob Harper was about to find out. He has been sent on a mission to earth, mostly against his will, as he had been a guardian angel for his widowed wife for over twenty-five years. Unknowing of what is to come, Rob is more than surprised to find out he has been re-born as a tiny Chihuahua. Life as he once knew it has all but unraveled, now he is left on his own to knit it back into some form of sanity in order to fulfill his mission."

Join us on Saturday, May 2nd. This is a FRAN event – so be sure to invite your Friends, Relatives, and Neighbors. All women are invited. Tickets are \$3.00 and will be available on Sunday, April 19th and April 26th.

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 westmichiganconference.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.

News from Our Sister Church in Russia

(edited email received March 24, 2015)

Dear Nancy and Westwood UMC,

Thank you for your email news. We also had a cold winter, but spring is surprisingly very early and warm. We are happy for you and your team for the service that you are in Christ's name serving at the disaster relief center in Illinois. We thank God for you. Special thanks for your continued financial support of our church "Resurrection". Your help is particularly important now. As a result of the devaluation of the ruble in Russia, prices of goods and services have risen sharply.

The church "Resurrection" continues our ministries. There are two Bible study groups, ministry for foreign students, serving people with disabilities and their families. This coming summer we will hold another camp for young people dedicated to the prevention of drug addiction and alcoholism. May God bless you richly. In Christ, Alexander Pererva, Pastor, Resurrection UMC, Voronezh, Russia

Capital Campaign News Today

The Capital Campaign is "rounding second and heading for third" as we change the calendar over to April. While we still have a very large number of folks to visit this month, we are on track to have a successful, blessing filled campaign! We have indeed been blessed with every visit, getting to know each other better while discussing the future of our church.

We made a decision last week to mail out our visitation packet to several households, instead of trying to visit everyone. With Spring Break this week and many of our members still out of town for the winter, along with the every large number of visits we needed to make, we came to this conclusion. So a mailing went out last Tuesday. If you have received a mailing from us but would still like a visit from one of the Capital Campaign visitors, please call the office and let us know. We are very happy to schedule a meeting any time!

Thank you again for your support of the church and this campaign adventure. With God's blessing, we know good things are coming!

Bob Strobel

Capital Campaign Facilitator

News from the Children & Families Ministries

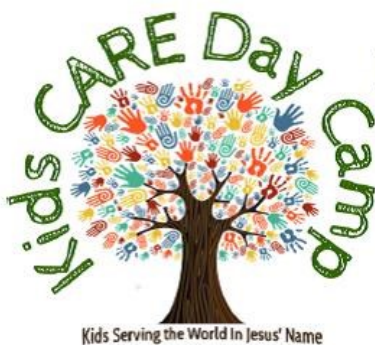
So what is happening with the kids this month? On Easter Sunday we enjoyed a kid-friendly Easter worship time followed by an Easter egg hunt and games. Then in Children's Worship we prayed together, heard the Easter story, and decorated cookies. A couple weeks ago our Passover Seder was a full and rich event, with food, prayers, Scripture, and dancing. We were bursting at the seams, so next year, we are going to a new venue with more guests!

In Kingdom Kids, 9:40-10:40 every Sunday, we will be learning about "Peacemakers". Our memory verse is Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." The workshops will be led by members of the Social Justice team and will include storytelling, art, drama, games and science. We will lead the children through thoughts on what peace is and how they can be a part of achieving it. They will look at Bible stories about peacemakers and also learn about peacemakers in history, both past and present. Are you curious? Feel free to stop in any Sunday and see what our Kingdom Kids are learning. Our Pre-K group meets at the same time as KK, and they are continuing their journey through the New Testament. Two of the pre-K students are about to graduate to Kingdom Kids.

In Children's Worship the children will learn about what Jesus did after Easter and how we can remember Jesus and the wonderful things he did for us. We will talk about Easter and Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene, the road to Emmaus, and Jesus as the Good Shepherd and how he went searching for the lost sheep. Rumor has it there will be some sheep pen construction going on...

Our music opportunities for kids continue. There is Chimes every Sunday morning during second service, for 3rd-8th graders, and Kids Praise on Wednesdays at 4:30. These are times for the children of WUMC and any others who wish to come to learn about music and rhythm and singing and have fun with the gift of music.

Coming up are our **Volunteer Appreciation Lunch** on May 17, **Vacation Bible School** June 22-26, and fun family and kid activities at the **Community Picnic** August 16. More information on these will be floating around, so stay tuned.



Save the Date: JUNE 22-26, 2015

KIDS CARE Social Justice Vacation Bible School

St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church & Westwood United Methodist Church

Located on Nichols Road, Westwood Neighborhood, Kalamazoo

9am - Noon: 4yr olds through 1st Grade

9am - 2pm: 2nd Grade through High School

For More Information Contact:

Rev. Linnea Stifler
linnea.stifler@gmail.com
St. Martin of Tours, 269-381-3188

Helga Mortensen
hmortensenwumc@gmail.com
Westwood United Methodist, 269-344-7165

Holy Humor



 APRIL

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.

	April 12, 2015 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	April 19, 2015 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
<i>Serving you in Worship</i>		
1st Service Acolyte(s)	TBD	TBD
2nd Service Acolyte(s)	TBD	TBD
Altar	Laura Anderson	Julie Lancaster
1st Service Audio	Gary Lubbert	Jan Urfer
1st Service Video	Jim Frey	Jim Frey
2nd Service Audio	David Knewtson	Emmanuel Sikaundi
2nd Service Video	TBD	Daniel Whitcomb
Worship Assistant	Jean Whitcomb	Mark Reid
Children's Moment	Pastor Wayne	TBD
Videographer	Derrick Quintanilla and Dickson Sikaundi	Derrick Quintanilla and Dickson Sikaundi
PowerPoint Preparer	Gary Lubbert	TBD
<i>Serving you through Welcoming</i>		
1st Service Greeters	Jim & Louise Jameson	Lauretta Eisenbach and Jane & Gary Waite
2nd Service Greeters	Helen Lancaster and Julie Lancaster	Pat & Keith Bailey and Al & Linda Ridderbos
Hospitality	Joyce Babbitt and Norma Sylvester	Jane Waite and Mary Faupel
1st Service Ushers	Bud Mahieu and Phil Engel	Dave Wright and Wes Merriman
2nd Service Ushers	Bob Mitchell, Danielle Morrison, Alyssa Mitchell and Josiah Knewtson	Roxanne Frey, Matt Knewtson and Tim & Darla Ashcraft
<i>Staff</i>		
Nursery Workers	Linda VanOrder, Marian Burkey and Rachel DeWitte	Linda VanOrder, Kristen VanOrder and Marian Burkey
Children's Worship	Sarah Mannschreck and Helga Mortensen	Pam Chamberlin and Sarah Mannschreck
Keyboardist	TBD	TBD

Prayer List

The families of
Brandy Penniman (Brandy passed away 4/3)
Ruth Booth (Ruth passed away 4/5)

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Julian Blair
Courtney Chandler (Irene Dutton's grandson)
Gary Cumming
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 (Kris Kenz's dad)
Dick Kowal
Gini Martin
Jean Marie Peters (Pastor Wayne's sister)
Frank Sierawski (son of Nancy Snell)
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
Apr. 16	Apr. 20
Apr. 30	May 4
May 14	May 18

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.