

From the Heart of the Pastor

A miracle is an ordinary occurrence or object transformed by an extraordinary God. When Jesus healed the blind man in Mark 8, it showed God's extraordinary power through Jesus in restoring sight. The first miracle was the restoration of sight, the greater significance was the inclusion of a blind person by Jesus, and Jesus spiritually opening people's eyes that He was the Messiah. On Celebration Sunday, May 3, we will offer our gifts, and believe they will be transformed by an extraordinary God.

Miracles always had a two-fold purpose, to show the power of God, and to reveal a greater truth of God. A Christian leader once told me that God desires to do things we believe are beyond our capability so we can rely on God and give God glory when it happens. You have experienced God's miracles when you were able to handle a vexing situation. You experienced God's miracles when you struggled and persevered with a personal issue or character trait. You experienced God's miracles when a situation beyond your control was resolved, because of someone else interceding. The miracle was overcoming the situation. The greater truth was your understanding that God provided and then giving God the glory.

We tend to focus on miracles as they pertain to our individual lives. God also performs corporate miracles with groups of people. The miracles of Jesus calming the waves (Matthew 8:23-27) and the feeding of the multitude (Matthew 14:13-21) were miracles for a group of people. God performs corporate miracles to move God's will and purpose forward. The disciples were saved from drowning as a group. The five thousand people were all in need of food. Both miracles showed Jesus' power and compassion for the people following Him. The followers learned to trust and grow in faith knowing that Jesus would provide and guide them. In turn, they would touch lives and make a difference together.

Jesus is calling us to a mission beyond the world's understanding. While countries are often ruled by merciless despots, we support missionaries who show God's compassion and courage. While the world focuses on blame and fragmentation, we welcome many kinds of people, because Jesus is Lord of all people. While people of the world often focus on amassing personal wealth, we focus on helping others. Our mission is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. God is transforming our gifts using them to show the power of God and move God's purpose forward.

Please read the information about Celebration Sunday below and prayerfully consider what you can give to help move God's mission forward. God will transform our gifts as we seek God and give God the glory.

In Christ,
Pastor Wayne

Celebration Sunday will be May 3, and will be a time to offer our 2015-16 Estimate of Giving Cards. We will also receive pledges for the Westwood Renovation Project. By Celebration Sunday most of the congregation will either receive a visit from the Capital Fund Team, or receive a letter. On the Confidential Letter of Commitment for the Westwood Renovation Project there are lines for the four year pledge to the project, as well as a line to state your 2015-2016 estimate of giving to the operating expense.

If you choose to only give to the operating fund, you can turn in an Estimate of Giving card which will be included in a letter from the Stewardship and Finance Team. You will receive a letter this week. So, there will be two ways to indicate your 2015-2016 Estimate of Giving: on the Confidential Letter of Commitment for the renovation project, or on your Estimate of Giving card. We greatly appreciate any gift you can give to the ongoing ministry at Westwood UMC and the renovation project.

Blendings Concert – Friday, April 24

The vocal ensemble Blendings invites you to help us *Make a Joyful Noise* at their Spring concert of "Say It With a Song" at Portage United Church of Christ, 2731 W. Milham Avenue, on Friday, April 24, 2015, at 7:30pm. Director Jan Berghorst assures that we will not only sing *With One Song*, but many more. What would life be *Without a Song*? We might even step out for *Singin' in the Rain*. After all, *How can I/We Keep From Singing*? So we invite you to *Come to the Music* on April 24. This is an opportunity for you to sit back, relax and reflect on the beauty of springtime in Michigan. There is no admission charge; however, donations will be accepted.

Basement Sale – 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 from today through 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:



Thursday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: sort donations

Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25: check-out customers, tidy tables, etc. (especially need help Friday morning when it is the busiest)

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.

Church Nursery

The church nursery is in need of animal crackers and goldfish crackers. Thank you very much ahead of time. –Linda and Nursery Staff

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 at the CROP Walk table in the lobby. Thank you for your support!



Kalamazoo Community Chorale Concert – Sun., Apr. 26

“There’s Music in the Air” will be presented by the Kalamazoo Community Chorale, this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park Street. Norma Sylvester, Joyce Babbitt and Beth Mitchell are members of this group. It’s a FREE concert – come on out and support the arts in Kalamazoo.

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 reborn 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.



Celebration Sunday - May 3

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Friendship Luncheon – May. 6

Please join us for lunch on Wednesday, May 6, at 12 Noon in Simpson Hall. It will be a time of food and fellowship. The program will be by Chuck and Cathy Rysenga singing “Oldies but Goodies”. Make a reservation by signing the list on the communication card, on the lobby bulletin board or by calling the church office at 344-7165.

Annual Spring Cleaning at WUMC – Sat., May 9 at 9:00 am

Got Yard Tools???? Rakes! Hoes! Lopers! Trimmers! Weed Whackers! Work Gloves! Spirited Enthusiasm! It is time for Westwood’s Annual Spring Clean-up. Scheduled for Saturday May 9th, beginning at 9AM, it is time to spruce up our grounds and exterior. Please bring your favorite yard tools and work gloves. Trustees will provide a list of clean up tasks. Lunch will be provided as we complete our clean-up. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Special Events Team

The Special Events Team (“Service Group”) is looking for volunteers. We are the group responsible for anniversary, birthday, funeral and wedding events. Involvement in our group would mean that you would agree to help with providing food or helping with the event during a 3-month period each year. The group is organized alphabetically and then divided into 4 quarters. The type of foods that we request are salads (to serve about 8 people) and desserts (usually cookies or brownies). If you are able to help during the event, it usually requires about 3-4 hours of your time on the day of the event. If you are interested in becoming part of the Special Events Team, please contact Beth Mitchell, beth-mitchell@att.net, 343-6806 or in person.

Graduates!

If you have a high school or college graduate, please let us know so we may congratulate them and wish them well in all their future plans. Please email the church office at info@westwood-umc.org with the name of the graduate. If they are a college graduate, let us know the degree earned and the name of their college or university (by Friday, May 29). We will honor all our graduates on Sunday, June 7 during the 10:10 worship service.



Stewardship & Finance 2015

A few weeks ago I announced the beginning of our 2015 stewardship campaign. I mentioned that we were blessed to have met one of our financial goals with the 2014 campaign of paying our apportionments to the United Methodist Church in full. For the sake of space please google "United Methodist Church Apportionment System" for the full story.

I also noted that we were not as successful as we had hoped in increasing support for our programs and ministries. It is fundamentally important that we continue to strive to increase financial support for programs and ministries as they are the ways as a congregation that we live out the great of commission of bringing others to Jesus Christ. ¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28: 16-20

Our current operating budget is \$317,266. Below is a breakdown of the 7 main budget categories that make up this total.

Administrative Budget	\$10,000	3.16%
Program Budget	\$10,390	3.28%
Missions Budget	\$34,500	10.87%
Church Property Budget	\$71,700	22.6%
Parsonage Property Budget	\$8,900	2.81%
Salary & Wage Budget	\$140,475	44.28%
Employee Benefir Budget	\$41,301	13%
TOTAL	\$317,266	100%

A current copy of the budget is available in the rack outside the sanctuary and I encourage you to pick up a copy and familiarize yourself with the specific line items.

Our 2015 campaign is focused on increasing financial stewardship for Programs and Missions.

These two categories provide support for: Adult Education, Pre 5th Grade Education, Youth Education, Youth Group Ministries, Alpha, Outreach, Worship, Adult Council, Music Ministry, Missions, Social Justice, Appalachia Service Project, ISAAC, Wesley Foundation, Literacy Center

My call to each of you as members of this congregation is to incrementally increase your giving by \$5.00 per week. This is attainable with no more than sacrificing a few soda's or coffee's each week. In the next few week's you will receive an estimate of giving card in the mail. Please prayerfully consider the request before you.

Sincerely,
Tim Ashcraft

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.

Pride-Go-Go-Ultra-X-SC40X-Mobility Medical Scooter - \$500

Used very little and in excellent condition – new batteries. Can be easily disassembled for transporting.

Top Speed of 4 MPH

Delta tiller style handle with wraparound grips

Modular design for easy serviceability

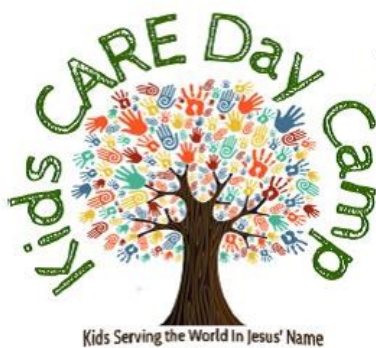
Front tiller mounted basket

Oxygen canister holder

Off-board charger can charge the removable battery pack on or off the scooter

Microprocessor based controls for efficient power management and added use safety and reliability

Interested? Contact Pam Chamberlin at 269-344-1655.



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

Things to Remember:

- May 17 is the last day of Sunday School. Sunday School classes will resume in the fall.
- Beginning May 25, the office hours will be adjusted. Stay tuned for that information.

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 26, 2015 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	May 3, 2015 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
<i>Serving you in Worship</i>		
Altar	Tracy Quintanilla	Margo Heystek
1st Service Audio	Gary Lubbert	Bill Rotgers
1st Service Video	TBD	TBD
2nd Service Audio	Matt Knewtson	David Knewtson
2nd Service Video	Derrick Daniels	Mark Longstroth
Worship Assistant	Jo Turner	Sandra Douglas
Children's Moment	Dani Sturdy	TBD
Videographer	Derrick Quintanilla and Dickson Sikaundi	TBD
PowerPoint Preparer	Kelly Graham	Carol Tolis-Bucklin
<i>Serving you through Welcoming</i>		
1st Service Greeters	Jean Ullrey and Betty Dustin	Jeanette Jupp and Sallie Platt
2nd Service Greeters	Jo & Mike Turner	Beth Mitchell and Beth Shirley
Hospitality	Kathy Hillman and Andrea Daniels	Paula Willson and Sue Pulling
1st Service Ushers	Norm and Mary Grant	Doup and Pam Phillips
2nd Service Ushers	Clint & Jean Whitcomb, Kim Longstroth and Don Hilbert	Al & Linda Ridderbos and Art & Anne Klute
<i>Staff</i>		
Nursery Workers	Linda VanOrder, Rachel DeWitte and Kristen VanOrder	Rachel DeWitte, Kristen VanOrder and Linda VanOrder
Children's Worship	Nancy Snell and Sarah Mannschreck	TBD
Keyboardist	TBD	TBD

Prayer List

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. 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.

Westwood United Methodist Church Staff and Volunteers

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Email: info@westwood-umc.org	
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Lay Leader, Deb Lindstrom	544-0248
Staff-Parish Chairperson, Thom Andrews	370-3951
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<i>Westwood Messenger</i> Editor, Beth Arbogast,	
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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.