

From the Heart of the Pastor

God has created an incredible mosaic of faith at Westwood UMC, with each person contributing to a wonderful portrait of Jesus' love for our community and world. We are engaged in a significant era of our faith story with the beginning of three ministries in the last month:

The Disciplemaker Class: Twenty people are meeting on Sunday morning to learn how to come alongside others and help deepen their discipleship to Jesus Christ. People exploring faith, as well as those going through challenging times will have people who will encourage and guide them. The Disciplemaker Class and many other spiritual small groups and classes enable people to grow in faith.

The Adult Literacy Center: The open house was a wonderful celebration with people from the community joining members of our congregation in establishing the first literacy center on the westside of Kalamazoo. People from Westwood UMC have served as organizers, receptionists, and tutors for the center. We are touching lives and making a difference.

Celebration Sunday: People placed their gifts and pledges on the altar, representing our congregation's deep commitment to God's mission. The gifts will enable us to continue offering Christ, as well as transforming our building to better match our mission.

As I stated in the last month, a miracle is an ordinary occurrence or object transformed by an extraordinary God. We are ordinary people, inspired by an extraordinary God, enabling us to be part of miracles that transform lives and make a difference. Sometimes the transformation happens slowly over time, and sometimes it is like the earthquake we felt on Saturday. Either way, God is at work. As we experience transformation let us remember the example of the leper in Luke 17 who returned to give thanks for the miracle. As a result Jesus told him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well" (Luke 17:19).

In this important time of our congregation's life, like the healed leper, we need to give God thanks for the incredible things God is doing in us and through us. I ask you **give thanks for what God has already done and pray and for God's wisdom and guidance as we discern what God desires in the renovation of the church**. The apostle James reminded us, "The prayer of righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain...Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops" (James 5:16-18). Our prayers are powerful and effective as we become part of the miracle God has for the people of our community and world.

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,
Pastor Wayne

Upcoming ASP Events

Nut sales now through May 17



May 31, Silent Auction and Potato Bar
11 AM - Following 2nd Service



May 10, Mother's Day Plant Sale



June 21, Wash While You Worship 8 - 11 AM



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What is ASP?

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) - Each year Westwood United Methodist Church has taken a group of Youth and Adults to work for one week with the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) somewhere in the Appalachian Region of the United States. ASP provides vital housing services to low-income families living in Central Appalachia as well as transformational life experiences to those we serve, volunteers offering their service, congregations involved with ASP, and entire communities. ASP is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that fosters human development by addressing the housing needs of Central Appalachia. ASP's goal is to make home's warmer, safer and dryer for families who are in need. For the youth and young adults of this congregation, ASP is an opportunity to give legs to their faith and place their hands and feet into the service of the lord.

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! Loppers! 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.

Golden Cross Sunday – May 10

Golden Cross Sunday focuses on the work of health and welfare ministries and institutions of the West Michigan Conference. A special offering this day supports the Methodist Children's Home Society, the Benevolent Fund of Clark Retirement Community, and Bronson Methodist Hospital's in-house chaplaincy. Special offering envelopes dated May 10 are in your giving envelope packet.

Westwood Literacy Center Opportunities

The Westwood Literacy Center is open. Hours are Monday evenings from 6-9 and Friday afternoons from 1-4.

We need receptionists and tutors. To sign up as a receptionist please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board right outside of the office.

Would you like to be a tutor? We need both regular and substitute tutors. Regular tutors will work with learners at least an hour a week. Substitute tutors work with walk-in learners and fill in when regular tutors are on vacation.

All tutors must go through tutor training at the Kalamazoo Literacy Council. The next training is coming up soon. If you are interested please contact the Kalamazoo Literacy Council at 269-382-0490, Ext. 222. The dates for orientation and training are:

Orientation (Spring):	May 7, 2015	7 pm–8:30 pm
Training Session 1	May 11, 2015	6 pm -- 9 pm
Training Session 2	May 14, 2015	6 pm -- 9 pm
Training Session 3	May 18, 2015	6 pm -- 9 pm
Training Session 4	May 21, 2015	6 pm -- 9 pm

Change the World Day - May 16th

Join United Methodists around the world in this annual day of service to “change the world” in our part of God’s Kingdom in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This will be the 5th annual Change the World Day held in partnership with Kalamazoo United Methodist Congregations and community organizations to make a difference, be present, and build relationships in our community. Opportunities are available for people of all ages and abilities throughout the city. Please check out individual volunteer descriptions and sign up through Volunteer Kalamazoo's

“Days of Service - Change the World” page (http://go.volunteerkalamazoo.org/aam/general/event/?doc_id=1555) or check them out on Sundays at worship at Westwood at the Change the World Day table where we can answer questions and also sign you up for the site you would like to help at if you can't do it online.

Volunteer sites include: Open Roads, The Kalamazoo Nature Center, The Free Store of Kalamazoo, Tabitha Urban Farm and Homestead, Growing Community Garden, Peace House, Trybal Revival Garden, Ministry with Community, the YWCA, Habitat for Humanity.

Volunteers will gather for registration and greeting at Sunnyside UMC (2800 Gull Rd Kalamazoo) between 8-8:30am, work at your designated site from 9am-12pm, and return to Sunnyside by 1 pm to enjoy a delicious celebration lunch where you can share stories, recharge, and build relationships with fellow volunteers from our congregations and community.

Join us Saturday May 16th to Change the World together!

New Adventurers – May 30

NEW ADVENTURERS will go to All Ears Theatre Saturday, May 30th to watch the free enactment of "The Bickersons." (Remember them on the radio?) Doors open 5:30. The play begins 6:00 p.m. and lasts a half hour. See the actors read the script and do the special effects. Location is First Baptist Church, 315 W. Michigan downtown. We like to sit in the balcony so we can see everything. Afterwards we will go to Old Burdick's downtown for dinner on your own. Call Jan and Bill Urfer 381-2256, and we will make a reservation at Old Burdick's.

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.

Children and Youth News

It is time to register for our **VBS** this year! It is happening the week of June 22-26, 2015. It is going to be very different from our previous VBSs, and we are excited about the unique perspective it will give to our kids. We are exploring basic human needs and learning how we can meet those needs in our community. We are striving to teach the children how to live out their faith, not just talk about it. This is for 4-year-olds through high school aged students and will be a perfect opportunity for them to "offer Christ, grow in faith, touch lives and make a difference" right here in the Kalamazoo area. Go to the church's website for information and registration, also see the main bulletin board for flyers. Space for this VBS will be limited, so please sign up your family and friends as soon as you can.

We will also be offering a **Lego Faith Building club** this summer, starting June 17, Wednesday evenings at 7-8:30 here in Simpson Hall. This will be an informal opportunity for kids ages pre-K through high school to gather and build with Legos and Duplos, connecting them with a Bible story or theme each week. We encourage you to bring your kids and their friends and be creative together. Deacon Sandra Douglas has offered to be there also to provide fellowship time for parents. Oh, and we will have snacks!

Both VBS and the Lego Faith Building club will greatly appreciate your generous donations, so please be watching for more information on how YOU can be a part of these programs. The bulletin board will have suggestions of what you can bring. Thank you for your willingness to make our summer programs successful.
Helga Mortensen, Coordinator of Children and Family Ministries

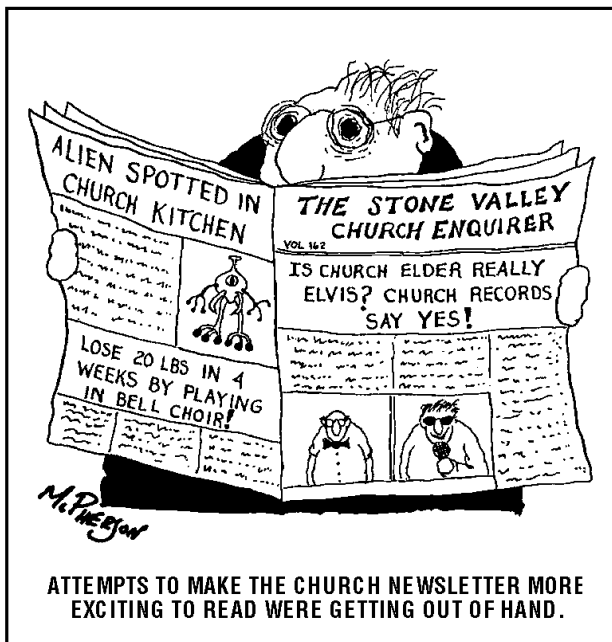
Time to Register for Church Camp!

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.

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.

Holy Humor



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.

	May 10, 2015 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	May 17, 2015 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
<i>Serving you in Worship</i>		
Altar	Beth Mitchell	Julie Lancaster
1st Service Audio	Jan Urfer	Bill Rotgers
1st Service Video	Gary Lubbert	Jim Frey
2nd Service Audio	Derick Daniels	Emmanuel Sikaundi
2nd Service Video	Jim Frey	Jim Frey
Worship Assistant	Thom Andrews	Beth Mitchell
Children's Moment	Dani Sturdy	TBD
Videographer	TBD	TBD
PowerPoint Preparer	Gary Lubbert	TBD
<i>Serving you through Welcoming</i>		
1st Service Greeters	Sue Pulling and Jane & Gary Waite	Jim & Louise Jameson
2nd Service Greeters	Ron & Royann Anspach	Kris Kenz and Diane Rathburn
Hospitality	Louise Jameson and Royann Anspach	Shirley Mitchell and Joy Price
1st Service Ushers	Bud Mahieu and Phil Engel	Dave Wright and Wes Merriman
2nd Service Ushers	Bob Mitchell, Danielle Morrison, Alyssa Mitchell and Brian VandePolder	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	Tasha Lopez and Sarah Mannschreck	Pam Chamberlain and Sarah Mannschreck
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
May 14	May 18
May 28	June 1
June 11	June 15
June 25	June 29
July 9	July 13

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.