

From the Heart of the Pastor

We had a wonderful Celebration Sunday, and I thank you all for your faithfulness and moving us towards our dreams of renovating our building. Continue to pray for our congregation as well as the Capital Fund Team and Building Team. One of the keys in all of the process towards the renovation will be our spiritual health and maturity. How we are connected with God's goodness and grace will impact how we interact with one another. May God give us the power and insight to live our faith through this process. God is continuing to bless us in many areas of our ministry.

In Christ,
Pastor Wayne

Summer Worship Hours Begin May 24.

Worship will be held at 8:30 am and 10:10 am.

Summer Office Hours Begin May 26. The office will be closed on May 25.

Hours will be Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 1:30 pm and Fridays from 9 am to noon.

Beth Arbogast will be working on Mondays and Wednesdays. Barbara Hathaway will be working Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Pastor Wayne Out of the Office

Pastor Wayne will be out of the office until Friday, May 22. If you have a pastoral need or emergency please contact Deacon Sandra Douglas at 369-8803 or Sheila Baker at 501-0224.

Fans for May 24

FANS---Do you have any we can borrow for Pentecost Sunday May 24th? We are looking for small fans, 6" by 8" that can be used in the sanctuary for both the 8:30 and 10 am services -- you will get them back after the second service. If you have any we could borrow, please email me @ MISSPOO57@HOTMAIL.COM or call my cell 269-760-7447. Thank you. Paula Willson

Memorial for Nancy Wallus

The family of Nancy Wallus invites the Westwood UMC congregation to a time of remembrance and celebration of Nancy's life this afternoon at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Nancy was a longtime member of Westwood UMC and was active in Social Justice ministries as well as the Stephen Ministry.

Faith-Hope Circle – May 27 *Date Changed*****

Faith-Hope Circle, a United Methodist Women's group, will be meeting on May 27 at Park Village Pines, 2920 Crystal Lane, at 1:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. Please note the change of date. For more information call Helen Lancaster, 344-9874, or Jeanette Jupp, 345-8833.

Graduates! – Let the office know by May 29

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.

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.

Peace with Justice Sunday – May 31

A special offering will be taken on May 31 for Peace with Justice Sunday which will support peacemaking ministries and programs in West Michigan, in the United States, and around the world. Your gift gives the United Methodist Church a voice in advocating for those who struggle with violence, injustice, pain, and suffering. Special offering envelopes are in your giving envelope packet or will be available in the May 31 worship folder.

ASP Auction & Potato Bar – May 31

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Becoming: Walking Like Christ (1 John 2:6)

This year's largest FUND RAISING EVENT for the Appalachian Service Project is soon upon us and WE NEED YOUR HELP! Here's how:

Put the auction date on your calendars and plan on attending Sunday May 31st
Invite a friend or relative to attend the auction & meal with you
Donate an item or service to the auction -----WE WILL ACCEPT THESE ANYTIME UP TO THE MORNING OF THE AUCTION. Come and enjoy the WORLD'S BEST BAKED POTATO BAR & FIXINS.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Westwood UMC's involvement with ASP. Your support will make it possible for our group of youth and adults to continue to be God's hands, feet and heart to the people of Appalachia. ASP has touched the lives of countless Christian's on their journey with Christ. You can become a part of our journey by supporting this year's project through your prayers and contributions.

This year's theme is "Becoming: Walking Like Christ".

By contributing to any of the fund raising events sponsored by this year's team you help each of us become more like Christ and make it possible for us to walk in his footsteps.

For more information or to make a contribution please contact one of the following:

Matt Knewtson	matt.knewtson@wmich.edu
Tom or Paula Willson	92victory@gmail.com
Sue or Matt White	susabeth61@gmail.com or mswhite60@gmail.com

Friendship Luncheon – June 3

You are invited to join us for lunch at noon on Wednesday, June 3 at Colonial Kitchen, 330 N. Drake Rd. Please sign up by marking the back of the communication card in worship or on the sheet on the lobby bulletin board to give the restaurant the number of guests to plan for by June 1. There will not be any luncheons in July or August.

Golden Anniversary Dinner – June 13

Attention all couples who have been married 50 years or more. You are invited to the 3rd Golden Anniversary Dinner to be held on June 13 at 6:00 pm in Simpson Hall. Please RSVP to the church office or on the sign-up board. Come and enjoy good food, great entertainment and good company.

ISAAC Porch Patrol

PORCH PATROL-ISAAC--PORCH PATROL The work of ISAAC (Interfaith Strategies for Advocacy and Action in the Community) follows this cycle. First, there is a Porch Patrol where members of ISAAC congregations visit several neighborhoods in the community and talk to folks "on their porches" asking them what they feel needs to change in their neighborhoods, or in the language of ISAAC, "What are the issues you see in your community?" These issues are narrowed down to 4-6 issues that seem to be common across the larger community. Then there is an Issues Convention where the members of the ISAAC congregations gather to narrow the list to 3 issues to be worked on in the coming year. Task Forces are then chosen to study these issues and to interview people knowledgeable about them. These Task Forces arrive at specific actions that should address these issues. Then elected public officials are invited to a Public Convention and asked to make a public commitment to accept the suggested actions and to implement them. Finally the cycle ends with a celebration of successful actions taken to bring about change, a well-known speaker addresses wider issues and often challenges ISAAC to work on these issues, and individuals/groups who have worked for justice over the years are recognized and honored. The PORCH PATROLS are scheduled for the following day/times this year:

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 9:00AM -12:30 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 1:00-4:30 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 9:00 AM -12:30 PM

Westwood folks have "patrolled" for several years and 6 have already signed up for this year. You can join us by signing up on the "Porch Patrol list" in the lobby. Porch Patrol T-shirts are available for patrollers. For more detailed information talk to a member of the JUSTICE TEAM.

Children and Youth News

VBS – June 22 – 26 - Coming soon - summer fun for the children and youth of the church! We have VBS coming June 22-26, open to 4-year-old through high school. See the main bulletin board, also the church's website, for more information and to register online or with paper. Please invite the children and youth in your family and circle to come join us. It 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.

Lego Faith Building Club – Wednesday evenings beginning in June. We also have a new program this summer, a Lego Faith Building club. We will meet Wednesday evenings, 7-8:30, in Simpson Hall to build with Legos and Duplos and connect them with stories from the Bible. This is also for pre-K through high school, so plan to bring your family and join us. Legos and snacks will be provided. Flyers are available on main bulletin board.

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.

You want me to do what? Now??

Mark your calendars for the annual Community Picnic on August 16, 2015. The picnic will begin around 11:15 pm after the second service right here at Westwood UMC!

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.

Missions Happenings for March and April

The special offering taken for Wesley Foundation on March 22 when their praise band played at Westwood worship followed by a soup/salad lunch fundraiser lunch raised \$875. We need \$125 to complete our covenant of \$1,000 for 2015.

\$300 was forwarded for Camp New Day, a United Methodist church camp for children with an incarcerated parent, from March loose coins.

\$100 was mailed to Heifer International for the East Africa Dairy Development project.

\$1,500 was forwarded to Resurrection UMC in Voronezh, Russia toward our covenant with that church and pastor through the Eurasia Initiative. The money received from preparing and serving the morning hospitality and lunch at the Kalamazoo District Conference hosted by Westwood on February 22 and from individual gifts designated for this covenant made this first quarter gift possible (annual covenant is \$6,000). You can help with our second quarter gift by marking your gift "Russia".

\$105 from March Sunday school offering purchased fabric for diapers and receiving blankets for the Mission Stitchin' group at Westwood.

\$621 was forwarded for One Great Hour of Sharing which underwrites UMCOR's (United Methodist Committee on Relief's) cost of doing business.

45 pounds of non-perishable food items was delivered to Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes on April 2.

\$841 was donated to the Kalamazoo Valley CROP Walk held on April 26. Westwood walkers were Wanda Horton, Joe Mitchell, Doug Tipken and grandson Hunter, Violet

Flores, Jane Wright, Dennis and Nancy VandenBrink. \$50 was given to support the administrative costs of the Walk from our Meijer/Hardings rewards.

\$1,475 was forwarded for missionary Paul Webster's salary support which completes our covenant for 2015. The Christmas 2014 and Easter 2015 special offerings for missionary support made this possible.

News from Stephanie and Ash Norton

The following email was received on May 8.

Hello Westwood UMC,

We've been in Great Bend, Kansas, for the past couple of weeks now. Ash is really enjoying his new job at the prison teaching inmates to prepare for the GED. He is actually faculty at the community college and has an office downtown, but his classroom is at the prison west of town. I'm not sure why he has an office as I don't expect any of his students will be stopping by for office hours. Most days he works 8-4 at the prison, but sometimes he will work 8-11 at the prison, come home for lunch, and then attend meetings at the main campus.

I'm at home with Todd for the time being and applied to Asbury Theological Seminary last week. My advisor says I'll probably know by next week if I've been accepted, and right now I'm looking for scholarships. Asbury has a strong online program. The M. Div (Masters of Divinity) is approximately 96 credit hours, 2/3 of which are online, followed by "intensives" at the end of each semester or calendar year.

Todd recently had an ear infection but is much better now. Antibiotics and grandparents did the trick. My parents took vacation time and spent a week with us. Mom and Dad loaded a U-haul with our stuff and drove here. We had a wonderful visit that was over all too soon. Todd adores his grandparents!

The first Sunday we were here we went to a large United Methodist Church and were very disappointed. Not a single person said 'hi' to us. We made a big effort to introduce ourselves. You would have thought I was a politician and Ash was a car salesman. I caught the pastor after church and introduced myself and told him that I was a certified candidate (for ordination), he was very excited and talked me up, but when Ash and I got home we really weren't impressed. Nobody said 'hello' or initiated conversation. The next Sunday we went to another UMC closer to our house and a bit smaller. The moment we walked in, we were introduced to people and given a tour of the church. We met almost everyone and they asked 'if there was anything we needed since we'd just moved?' I was very touched. We found out that the pastor and a few lay people live on our street. We've been invited to every program that they have and people brought over cookies just to welcome us to the area. When we were missionaries we had to visit a lot of churches and the thing that I find most attractive is how welcoming the congregation is. In Mobile we visited mega churches with coffee and book shops, small groups, a gym, daycare, etc. and settled on a small country church because the people were kind.

I hope you all are well. I love and miss you all.

Blessings, Stephanie

Thank you!

Bud Bekken and his family would like to thank Pastor Wayne and the many members and friends of Westwood United Methodist Church who sent notes, pictures, cards and letters thanking him for his service to our country during WWII. As most of you know, he broke his hip and wasn't able to make the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. on April 25th. Since the next flight is in September, we thought he should have the opportunity to read them before that, so on Mother's day when most of our family was with us, he opened them. We truly have a caring congregation and were deeply moved by all your expressions of thanks and friendship.

Also the prayers, prayer shall, cards, visits, phone calls and goodies received while in the hospital and rehab were awesome. Our church family has given us tremendous support and we appreciate all of you.

God Bless, Bud & Marilyn Bekken

Did You Know?

Kids' Praise (Lydia and Ella) sang a lovely song entitled "Mother's Day" on May 10 which was Mother's Day. Did you know that our own Jane Wright wrote that song (lyrics and tune)? While she was Director of Music at Mt. Hope UMC in Lansing some 20 years ago, she could never find a song that honored both parents, and kid's choirs were done for the school year by the time Father's Day rolled around, so she decided she would write a song that thanks God for mothers, fathers, and families. It is a song that is also a prayer. Here are the lyrics:

God gave us families, large ones and small ones too.
Places to work and grow, places for me and you.
Mothers who help us share, Fathers who show they care.
Someone to talk to when we need a friend,
Where we can be ourselves and not pretend.

Thank you God for families, help us to grow in love.
Talking and listening, learning to do your will.
Fill us with your Spirit, Lord, guide us with your loving hands.
Grandparents, brother, sister, cousins too,
All of us striving to be just like you.

God bless the mothers, Lord.
God bless the fathers, Lord.
Amen, Amen.

West Michigan Camp and Retreat Ministries - Snack Table at Annual Conference

West Michigan Camp and Retreat Ministries has volunteered to host the popular Snack Table at Annual Conference, June 4 – 7, 2015.

We are asking if your congregation would consider supporting Camping Ministries by donating 8 to 10 dozen finger-foods (such as brownies, cookies, trail mix, muffins, doughnuts, etc.) that are individually wrapped or bagged. They can be either homemade or store-bought.

Please deliver the baked goods to the Covenant Fine Arts Center, west entrance, at Calvin College, 3201 Burton Street SE, Grand Rapids, on Thursday, June 4 between 8:00am and 12:00 noon.

If you would like to participate in this important ministry, would you please let us know at the following email address: reception@wmcumc.org.

All proceeds will go to the West Michigan Camp and Retreat Ministries Scholarship Fund.

Thank you for your generous contribution!

The West Michigan Camp and Retreat Ministries staff
George Ayoub, Director
Pamela Stewart, Camp Registrar

Kiri L. K. Salazar / Scherry vanHartesveldt
Reception
West Michigan Conference
P.O. Box 6247, 11 Fuller Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49516, (616) 459-4503

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 24, 2015 8:30 & 10:10 a.m.	May 31, 2015 8:30 & 10:10 a.m.
<i>Serving you in Worship</i>		
Altar	Laura Anderson	Margo Heysteck
1st Service Audio	Gary Lubbert	Jan Urfer
1st Service Video	Jim Frey	Jim Frey
2nd Service Audio	Matt Knewton	Emmanuel Sikaundi
2nd Service Video	Mike Turner	Derrick Daniels
Worship Assistant	Bob Strobel	Dana Tipken
Children's Moment	Helga Mortensen	TBD
Videographer	Derrick Quintanilla and Dickson Sikaundi	Derrick Quintanilla and Dickson Sikaundi
PowerPoint Preparer	Kelly Graham	TBD
<i>Serving you through Welcoming</i>		
1st Service Greeters	Lauretta Eisenbach and Bev Prior	Jane & Gary Waite and Jan & Bill Urfer
2nd Service Greeters	Helen and Julie Lancaster	Keith & Pat Bailey and Al & Linda Ridderbos
Hospitality	Shirley Mitchell and Marian Burkey	Carol Tolis-Bucklin
1st Service Ushers	Bud Mahieu and Phil Engel	Doug and Pam Phillips
2nd Service Ushers	Clint & Jean Whitcomb, Kim Longstroth and Dickson Sikaundi	Al & Linda Ridderbos, Art Klute and Laura Anderson
<i>Staff</i>		
Nursery Workers	Linda VanOrder, Rachel DeWitte and Kristen VanOrder	Linda VanOrder, Rachel DeWitte and Kristen VanOrder
Children's Worship	Helga Mortensen and Sarah Mannschreck	Pam Chamberlain and Sarah Mannschreck

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 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.

Westwood United Methodist Church Staff and Volunteers

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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.