

## *From the Heart of the Pastor*

Events intersect our lives and challenge us to live our faith. On Sundays I have challenged you to think about God's desires and aspirations. God's aspirations are "The Kingdom of God". When Jesus ascended nearly 2,000 years ago He entrusted the carrying out of the Kingdom to the disciples. Our time for Kingdom living is right now, right here. Three words have stood out to me as I watched the response to the killing of nine saints in Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., and the response to the Supreme Court's decision on same sex marriages: **compassion, grace, and integrity.**

Compassion is to take up our crosses and join with Jesus in His redemptive suffering for the world. When Jesus wept over Jerusalem, he was sorrowful about the people rejecting God's aspirations of peace, love, and justice. The people of Jerusalem chose violence. The way of violence is devastating and evil. My heart was sorrowful as I watched families mourn their loved ones who lived with honor and made a difference. Dylan Roof defined himself by his views, and justified his actions because he was convinced of his own righteousness. Jesus wept again over Charleston, S.C., and called us to the higher righteousness of taking up our cross. We renounce violent words and self-righteousness, so we can witness to the world God's Kingdom of peace, love, and justice for all His children.

Grace enables us to take up our cross. The people of Jerusalem did not earn the honor of God's compassion and love. Jesus offered it to them even so. The "even so"s of life are the places of where compassion and integrity meet, resulting in grace. Even so violence happens, we will respond with the integrity of God's righteousness. Jesus' grace empowers us to live God's aspirations, because we love not just to be loved. We courageously love, so that the world knows God's Kingdom. Even so.

Living with integrity is to live God's Kingdom. Living love is not an ideal. We define love by the person of Jesus, which prevents us from defining it by our own prejudices and preferences. Thus, we need to know Jesus extremely well. The primary way we do it is in the Gospels. The Bible has been used in many ways by many people in the last couple of weeks. As your pastor, I advise us to use it carefully, for when we use it we invoke the words of God. Whatever your response is to the tragedies, events, and decisions focus first on taking up your cross, and refresh your relationship with Jesus. In the prayer service last Wednesday at Allen Chapel, many of us wept with Jesus. Each of us made a commitment to sacrifice whatever we had, share in the suffering of brokenness, and redeem brokenness in our community with courageous love. God's Kingdom was realized by God's power through us. God's compassion, grace, and integrity are with us, as we live God's Kingdom in our time and place.

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,  
Pastor Wayne

### A note from Pastor Wayne

Pastor Wayne received the following note from The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection dated 6/2/15.

Dear Wayne Price,

Our church is praying for a renewed vision and vitality for your church through Christ. May you have the passion to reach non-religious and nominally religious people in your community. May Pastor Adam [Hamilton] give lessons from COR [Church of the Resurrection] to encourage, equip and inspire your leaders, and unify our denomination.

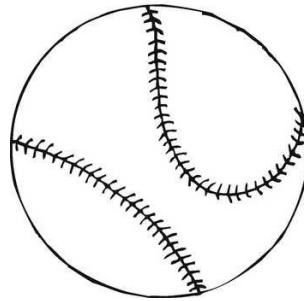
In Christ, Brenda Eicher

### Church Softball League

We've now played our first 2 softball games, both against our most difficult rival, Cherry Creek. Yes, they did beat us both games, but we did give them a run for their money. Scores: Thursday, June 18 (12 to 9) Thursday, June 25 (14 to 10)

#### Upcoming Games:

6/30 Tues. 6:15 PM  
7/7 Tues. 6:15 PM  
7/14 Tues. 7:45 PM  
7/21 Tues. Bye (no game)  
7/28 Tues. 6:15 PM  
8/6 Th. 6:15 PM  
8/13 Th. 7:45 PM  
8/20 - Makeup Date



All games take place at Pathfinders UMC, 8740 S. Westnedge Avenue. We would love to see as many join us as able. Come out and cheer your team on to victory!

Schedules for our upcoming games can be found in the lobby hall near the bulletin board.

We are practicing and would love to have more players, if you'd like to join us. Practices are Wednesday evenings at 6:30 - approximately 8:00 p.m. at the WMU intramural diamonds weather permitting.

If you have any questions or interest, please give George or Norma Sylvester a call at 349-9832. It's a whole lot-of-fun, as well as good exercise! Look forward to hearing from you!

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### **Lego Faith Building Club – Begins July 1**

The Lego Faith Building Club will be starting July 1. Now there is extra time to get those donations of Legos and snacks! Thank you for your generosity.

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### **New Pledge Year Begins July 1**

This is a reminder that the new pledge year begins July 1. If you made a change in your estimate of giving or commitment Sunday in May the new amount begins July 1. If you need a reminder of what you committed to please contact our financial secretary, Jean Whitcomb, at 383-9079.

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### **Church Office Closed – July 6**

In Observance of Independence Day, the church office will be closed on July 6.

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### **Westwood UMC to host an Outreach Event to support Fire Department – July 31**

Westwood will be hosting an Outreach event to support the Westwood Fire Department Ice Cream Social by hosting a “drive through” to distribute popcorn and water in the upper parking lot that evening, July 31 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. If you are planning on going to the Ice Cream Social or would like to come and be a welcoming presence, you are invited to come and hang out at Westwood UMC!

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### **Looking Ahead @WUMC – Info due by Aug. 7**

Our fall kick-off is Sunday, Sept. 13. Our Community Picnic is Sunday, August 16. If you have events, plans, schedules, sign-ups, or information for fall programming that you would like publicized at the picnic, please submit it to the office prior to Friday, Aug. 7 so that there is plenty of time for preparations and printing! Thank you.

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### **Summer Community Picnic – Aug. 16**

Save the date of Aug. 16th for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Westwood Community Picnic. It will be held after the 10:10 worship service. Don't forget to invite FRAN\*.  
(\*Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances and Neighbors).



### **Free Summer Meals – Food, Friends and Fun!**

Kids and teens can visit one of over 35 parks, community centers or schools across Kalamazoo County and get a FREE healthy meal that follows U. S. Department Agriculture (USDA) nutrition guidelines. Many summer meal sites, which are registered with the USDA, offer fun learning and recreational activities so kids and teens can eat a healthy meal while staying active and hanging out with friends. Call 2-1-1 or text "FOODMI" to 677-677 to find a site close to you, or see the list of sites on the bulletin board outside the Pastor's office.

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### **Shepherd's Center of Kalamazoo**

The Shepherd's Center needs your help! We desperately need volunteer drivers to help independent seniors who can no longer drive and need your help in getting to doctor's appointments. We are able to accommodate your schedule for these day-time appointments. Please call The Shepherd's Center at 383-1122 for more information.

Are you or someone you know caring for someone with dementia or early Alzheimer's? The Shepherd's Center's Break Time Club is the program for you. This affordable respite program meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 am until 3:30 pm, giving caregivers a much needed break while providing social stimulation for the older person in their care. For more information call the Shepherd's Center office at 382-1122.

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### **News from Stephanie Norton**

This edited email was received on June 10 from Stephanie and Ash Norton, Westwood UMC members.

I just thought I'd give you a quick update. I have been accepted to Asbury Theological Seminary and begin classes (long-distance learning) in September. I'm pursuing a Master's of Divinity. I've been appointed as a supply pastor to the Hays District and I have a two point charge. The names of the churches are Pleasant Plains UMC and Natoma UMC. Pleasant Plains' church building dates to 1890. There is an out house and a hand pump...no running water. There is also no electricity. (Stephanie was given a solar powered light for the pulpit on Sunday, June 14.) In the winter they use the original wood burning stove and in the summer they open the doors to let a breeze in. (4 hour plus round trip from Nortons' home, not including the worship time.)

Todd is teething and Ash is his usual winsome self.

Love and blessings,

Steph

## 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.

	<b>July 5, 2015</b> 8:30 & 10:10 a.m.	<b>July 12, 2015</b> 8:30 & 10:10 a.m.
<b><i>Serving you in Worship</i></b>		
Altar	Beth Mitchell	Tracy Quintanilla
1st Service Audio	Bill Rotgers	Bill Rotgers
1st Service Video	Jim Frey	Jim Frey
2nd Service Audio	Bill Rotgers	Bill Rotgers
2nd Service Video	Jim Frey	Jim Frey
Worship Assistant	Sandra Bibilomo	Emmanuel Sikaundi
Children's Moment	TBD	TBD
Videographer	TBD	TBD
PowerPoint Preparer	Carol Tolis-Bucklin	Gary Lubbert
<b><i>Serving you through Welcoming</i></b>		
1st Service Greeters	Jan & Bill Urfer and Jane & Gary Waite	Betty Dustin and Jean Ullrey
2nd Service Greeters	Laura Anderson and Lisa Fuller	Julie and Helen Lancaster
Hospitality	Paula Willson and Sue Pulling	Louise Jameson and Royann Anspach
1st Service Ushers	Joe & Shirley Mitchell	Bud Mahieu and Phil Engel
2nd Service Ushers	Diane Rathburn, Mark Reid and Tom & Paula Willson	Bob Mitchell, Danielle Morrison, Alyssa Mitchell and Brian VandePolder
<b><i>Staff</i></b>		
Nursery Workers	Marian Burkey, Kristen VanOrder and Linda VanOrder	Rachel DeWitte, Kristen VanOrder and Linda Van Order
Children's Worship	Sarah Mannschreck and Helga Mortensen	Pam Phillips and Alicia Rotgers
Keyboardist	TBD	TBD

## Prayer List

### *Ongoing Prayer Requests:*

Julian Blair  
Gary Cumming  
Courtney Chandler (Irene Dutton's grandson)  
Gary Cumming  
Barry Keith Damon (Coral Damon Brown's father)  
Bob Difrancisco  
Lois Ellis  
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](mailto:info@westwood-umc.org). Messenger deadlines are the Thursday prior to publication.

### **Future Messengers and Deadlines**

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Publication Date</i>
July 9	July 13
July 23	July 27
Aug. 6	Aug. 10
Aug. 20	Aug. 24
Sept. 3	Sept. 8

## **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](mailto: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.