

From the Heart of the Pastor

First, thank you to everyone who organized, contributed, and attended our community picnic. It was wonderful to see so many people from Westwood serving and having a blast with our neighbors. God's joy is with us. Second, I thank the members of Church Council who spent Saturday discerning where God is at work at Westwood and areas we need to strengthen. We also identified some objectives. We will continue to listen to God's promptings as we further work on the vision and goals of our church.

God's Spirit is with us, and the prayers being lifting up for Westwood UMC as part of the 40 days of prayer, are making a difference. God's power, wisdom, and love makes all things possible. Jesus told us, "I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name" (John 16:23). We are praying for our children and youth, our building, and being an invitational church, and seeing progress in all three areas.

Our children's ministry has had a new ministry this summer in the Lego Club. A number of children from our congregation and outside the church have built wonderful structures, some of which have been interpretations of Scriptures shared at the Lego Club. You can see the creations in our lobby.

Our youth ministry is transforming through the guidance of a Youth Task Force who met three times this summer. We are looking forward to the fall and will have some news on it in the next week. Please keep these very important ministries in prayer.

Our building plans are moving forward as engineers are now looking at the designing, as well as others who will help the architects have a complete plan for our charge conference. The Capital Fund Team has contacted banks and received loan rates and terms. If you have not committed to the pledge campaign for the building renovations we ask that you do so in the next month.

The Church Council agreed our church is welcoming and hospitable. We intentionally welcome the stranger (Matthew 25:35), the guest, who is seeking God at our church. I believe God is now calling us to increase our invitations to others outside of the church. Many people did so with the Community Picnic and it was fantastic. I encourage you to think about someone with whom you have a strong relationship who also would be blessed by experiencing Jesus' love. Invite them to worship, a small group, or the Alpha Course. One advantage of the Alpha Course is that you do not have to explain everything about faith. You just need to invite them, and attend with them. The Introductory Dinner will be on September 15. Continue to pray for our congregation and faithfully till the soil, as God plants the seeds.

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,
Pastor Wayne

Sneak Preview of the KCHS Marching Giants 2015 Show – Aug. 27

The Kalamazoo Central Marching Giants will be holding their Parent and Community Show on Thursday, August 27, at the KCHS football stadium. Admission is free! Concessions open at 6:30. We will be selling dinner baskets for \$5.00: a hot dog or sloppy joe, chips, a cookie, and a drink. Then at 8:00, you can be among the first to see a full performance of the band's 2015 program. (Current band members with a WUMC connection include Daniel Whitcomb, Allie Kalhorn, and Emma Hess.) Bring your friends and family out for a fun evening of food, music, and fellowship.

Back to School Sunday – Sept. 6

If you are involved in any school, from kindergarten through college, whether as student or staff, please join us on September 6 during the second service for a time of prayer and dedication for the new school year. You don't need to say or do anything, just be here to receive our blessing and support as the new school year begins.

(Older Adult) Friendship Luncheon – Sept. 9

We will resume the Friendship Luncheon on Wed., Sept. 9, 2015 at noon in Simpson Hall. Jim Jameson will again be preparing and serving the meal. A free will offering helps defray the cost. Following lunch, the gospel quartet "Joy Unspeakables" will perform. Please make a reservation by checking the back of the green communication card, signing up on the bulletin board, or calling the church office at 344-7165. All are invited.



Church Women United - Human Rights Celebration – Sept. 10

Church Women United will be having their Human Rights Celebration on Thursday, September 10 at Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church, 212 S Park. There will be Bible study from 10:45 to 11:45 with lunch at noon and the program beginning at 1 PM. We have 5 persons who will be honored. The cost is \$7 if you wish to come for lunch or \$3 without lunch. Please e-mail Adele Paxson (adelepax@charter.net by September 6 if you are coming. You can pay at the door. We would love to have you join us!

Kick-Off Sunday – Sunday, Sept. 13

Kick-off Sunday marks the beginning of our programming year. All are invited to the Kick-off breakfast in Simpson Hall at 9:30 am. We will eat and hear about the fall classes and offerings. The children will be dismissed after hearing about the Pre-School and Kingdom Kids classes to go to their classes. The adults will hear about the fall offerings and fellowship until worship.

Westwood United Methodist Church – Sept. 13, 2015 Get Ready for Kickoff Sunday and Growing in Faith

On September 13 we will begin our Fall Sunday School classes with a Kickoff Pancake Breakfast in Simpson Hall. We will begin with a breakfast at 9:30 am, and then hear about the fall classes at 10:00. Children are invited to eat with their families, and then will be dismissed after hearing about Kingdom Kids. All are invited.

Fall Adult Sunday School Classes:

- Soul Keeper: Teacher, Doug Tipken, Wesley Room. The six week class will explore what the soul is and how we can care for our souls. All are welcome. Runs Sept. 13 to Oct. 18.
- Adult Bible Study: Facilitator, Louise Jameson, Simpson Hall Annex, all welcome. Runs through the programming year. This fall quarter of Adult Bible Studies we will be reading and discussing passages from the Book of Acts – a book about the first-century Christian church. We will see how the early church paved the way for us looking at God, themselves, prayer, worship, love, faithfulness, law, authority, community, power, Scripture – virtually everything – in new ways because of Jesus. We will look at that time in the history of the church and then perhaps be challenged to consider ways we might think and act differently in order to live most effectively as Christ's church. Come to this discussion class each Sunday, September through May, or drop in any time you are available. Everyone is welcome as we learn and share God's Word. Adult Bible Studies books will be available on Kick-off Sunday, September 13.
- Parenting Class: Facilitators: Sandra Bibilomo and Gail Secord, Prayer Room.

Adult Evening Classes:

- Disciple 3: Teacher, Al Ridderbos, Sunday, 6:30, Wesley Room. A continuation of the class from the spring. Runs Sept. 13 to Dec. 13.
Book 2 of Covenant Bible Studies begins on Wednesday evening; September 30, at 6:30 pm. This 8-week session is entitled "Living The Covenant." We will be studying and discussing what it means to live out our faith with god and others. Please put your name on the list on the sign-up board in the lobby and note if you will need a book. Note: it is not necessary to have completed the first session (book 1) of Covenant Bible Studies to participate in the second session (book 2). This study is led by Louise Jameson. Runs Sept. 30 to Nov. 18.
The Alpha Course will begin on September 15, with an introductory dinner. Alpha is a 10 week course on Christianity, introducing people to Christianity. It is a time people can ask questions, explore faith, and build relationships.

Youth:

- Middle High – Grades 6 - 8 - Meets in Epworth House bottom level. Youth meet every week to share and grow in their faith life.
- Youth Group – Youth Group will meet. Please check the calendar for the dates and times and the events.

Children:

Kingdom Kids: Grades K-5. Kingdom Kids: Grades K-5. Kingdom Kids Sunday School is for children in grades K-5. We offer a creative and engaging program based on a workshop rotation model. Children learn Bible stories and Christian concepts and values through multiple approaches to learning in kid-friendly workshops like art, music, storytelling, cooking, science, games, video, and drama. All elementary age children are invited to join us in the Marketplace (room 10) during the Sunday School hour. Be a Kingdom Kid!

Pre-K class. This class is for children ages three through five (not enrolled in kindergarten). The students will learn stories from both the Old and New Testaments using a variety of activities. They will enjoy singing and playing games together as well as reinforcing lessons through crafts and art.

Nursery. The nursery has a welcome and friendly atmosphere for your baby or toddler. If you are planning on attending one of our church services and/or adult Sunday School class, there is a caring place for your baby and toddler.

Children's Worship happens every Sunday during the second service. Children begin and end worship time with their families. During the main part of the service they have their own worship time, with music, prayer, reflection and interaction with the Scripture, all based on the same theme as the adult service. This way our children and their families are focusing on the same ideas and can share what they have experienced. Occasionally we will have Family Worship Sundays, when the family stays together throughout the worship service. These will be announced well in advance.

FINE ART MINISTRIES AUG-SEPT NEWS

With incoming Fall FAST approaching, I would like to invite you to feel welcome into any of the below mentioned Fine Art Ministries. Simply talk to Jane Wright about any of your desires, or show up, at the times and locations below. With the exception of Praise Team and the Glory Connection, these groups are not confined to a given number of people and all are welcome. Please consider your involvement in these ministries, along with family members and children. There is room for everyone somewhere, if you have interest. Jane's phone: 517-204-2439, email: jwrightwumc@gmail.com

ADULTS/YOUTH

Westwood Praise Band: Contemporary Christian Music utilizes Singers, keyboard, guitar, drums and other instruments. These musicians lead weekly in worship at the second service. Rehearsals are weekly. Substitutes are always appreciated. Let's talk.

Chancel Choir (High School-adult ages) rehearses weekly and shares in worship twice a month. They sing at other locations upon request or invitation.

Glory Connection II: Gospel Quartet rehearses weekly and leads monthly in worship and sings at outside venues upon request. (Substitute singers or accompanists are needed from time to time)

Westwood Handbell Ensemble: (ages high school and beyond) meets weekly and plays in worship monthly. Attends Festivals and plays at outside functions upon invitation.

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Westwood Vocal Ensemble (grades 4 – 12) meets weekly and shares their music in worship once a month with opportunities to sing in locations beyond the church.

Chimes: (grades 3 & up) meets weekly and is a learn-to-ring class for young people. They play occasionally in worship.

Kids Praise: (grades 1-4) We move, sing, play, read, study, paint, color, draw, create, learn, worship and snack our way through the year. Share our special musical offerings in worship occasionally. Midweek program 4:15-5:30

ALL AGES

DANCE: Moving Praise is a liturgical dance and signing group that participates occasionally in worship. All ages welcome.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Brass, Woodwind, Strings, Percussion: There is need of special instrumental offerings in worship on special Sundays. Junior High-Seniors are invited to express interest.

Who is God calling you to invite to Alpha? – Begins Sept. 15

A 10-week program for those who wonder:



- Who is Jesus?
- Why Did Jesus Die?
- How Can I Be Sure of My Faith?
- Why and How Should I Read the Bible?
- Why and How Do I Pray?
- How Does God Guide Us?
- Who Is the Holy Spirit?
- How Can I Be Filled With the Spirit?
- What Does The Holy Spirit Do?
- How Can I Resist Evil?
- Why and How Should We Tell Others?
- Does God Heal Today?
- What About the Church?

When: September 15, 2015 6:30 PM Where: Westwood United Methodist Church. For More Information: Call Wayne Price (344-7165) or Mike Turner (207-6150)

Men's Prayer Breakfast – Sept. 19

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, 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.

Dessert and Movie Night – Sept. 19

The New Adventurers are hosting a Dessert and Movie Night in Simpson Hall on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015. Dessert will be served at 6:30 pm and the movie, God's Not Dead, will be shown at 7:00 pm. God's Not Dead has been described as "entertaining, profound, and powerful" by Charisma News. Everyone is invited! Sign-up in the lobby. For questions or further information, call Joyce Branch at 372-7688.

Opportunity to Serve

Would you be available to assist with the counting of the offering on a fill-in basis? Westwood UMC is in need of a few people that may be able to spend a few hours once a week when needed to help count and record the offering. This typically happens Monday mornings but is adjusted sometimes due to bank or office closures. Please indicate your interest on the back of the communication card. We appreciate the help!

Back to School Needs

Westwood will be supplying backpacks and school supplies to King-Westwood Elementary School. Please put your donations in the collection box in the elevator annex by Labor Day. Loose coins in August will help purchase backpacks as well as gently used pants and tennis shoes for children in need at that school.

Fourth Annual Community Picnic THANK YOU from the Outreach Team

It took **everyone** to make the 4th Annual Community Picnic such a wonderful, inviting and fun event.

So, thanks to each and every one of you:

- Who came and provided a welcoming presence.
- Who invited a Friend, Relative, Acquaintance, or Neighbor.
- Who provided a dish to pass.
- Who helped in any way.

The gift of hospitality was beautifully expressed as you served and as you welcomed. Thank you.

Thank You

Dear Friends,

What a delightful surprise to be given such a huge (2' by 3') birthday card – I'd never seen anything like it! When Helen and Julie Lancaster carried it in, I couldn't imagine what was in the big package, which turned out to be the card's envelope. Julie opened it for me and took out the card. When I looked inside, I was overwhelmed to see all the signatures and comments written there. It was nice to be remembered by so many of my friends at Westwood United Methodist Church. Thank you all for remembering this old lady on her 109th birthday.

Yours in Christ,
Irene Dutton

Town Hall Meeting Lowdown

Last Tuesday evening (August 18th) the Building and Capital committees reported on the progress of the proposed building project. The meeting was hosted by the Building Committee and chairperson Val Brown gave a report on the progress to date, and also offered a time line taking us to the church charge conference vote in October.

We are at a place now where the church has signed off on the architect's drawings. This means the architects are now preparing the actual blueprints to be used by potential construction companies to bid from, and the design should not be changed too much going forward. A presentation of the final design was presented by Mary Whittaker Duncan from InForm Architecture. She went over each portion of the proposed changes to the sanctuary, lobby and education wing, explaining why the design is the way it is. During and after her presentation the congregation members offered questions and comments about some of the design.

The Capital committee did a short presentation on the current status of the campaign and potential financing of the project. We had a very successful campaign raising approximately \$556,000 (including the capital fund balance from previous capital giving). Also, we have been pre-approved by two local banks for financing the project.

After the Town Hall meeting the Building Committee met to review all of the comments and suggestions heard at the meeting. We carefully considered them all and made some changes and "tweaks" to the plans. All in all, the design of the proposed renovation has been a challenge, trying to stay within a reasonable cost amount and attempting to meet the requests and needs of each ministry at Westwood. The wonderful folks at InForm Architecture have done an outstanding job getting us to this point!

In October we will all have a chance to vote on moving forward with the proposed plan and start construction. I urge each member to attend the church charge conference and cast your vote!

Reported by Bob Strobel



Online Giving

Westwood United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Westwood United Methodist Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

Visit the church website at www.westwood-umc.org
Click on the DONATE button,
Click on the Create Profile button, then
Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile.

You may schedule your recurring contributions, or you may make a one-time payment. As other events or special giving opportunities arise, those will be available on this site as well.

Get Started Today! Visit our website at www.westwood-umc.org!

Also, if you are already enrolled in automatic withdrawal, you may see a change in how that is displayed on your bank statement as all transactions will be processed with the new program. Thank you all!

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.

	August 30, 2015 8:30 & 10:10 a.m.	September 6, 2015 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
<i>Serving you in Worship</i>		
Altar	Laura Anderson	Julie Lancaster
1st Service Audio	Jan Urfer	Gary Lubbert
1st Service Video	Jim Frey	Jim Frey
2nd Service Audio	Matt Knewtson	David Knewtson
2nd Service Video	TBD	TBD
Worship Assistant	Mary Brooks	Sandra Bibilomo
Children's Moment	TBD	TBD
Videographer	TBD	TBD
PowerPoint Preparer	Volunteer Needed!	Carol Tolis-Bucklin
<i>Serving you through Welcoming</i>		
1st Service Greeters	Sue Pulling and Jim & Louise Jameson	Bev Prior and Lauretta Eisenbach
2nd Service Greeters	Julie and Helen Lancaster	Keith & Pat Bailey and Dan & Mary Brooks
Hospitality	Kathy Hillman, Andrea Daniels	Paula Willson, Sue Pulling
1st Service Ushers	Doug and Pam Phillips	Joe & Shirley Mitchell
2nd Service Ushers	Al & Linda Ridderbos, Art Klute and Laura Anderson	Diane Rathburn, Mark Reid and Tom & Paula Willson
<i>Staff</i>		
Nursery Workers	Marian Burkey, Kristen VanOrder and Linda VanOrder	Rachel DeWitte, Kristen VanOrder and Linda VanOrder
Children's Worship	Pam Chamberlin and Pam Phillips	TBD and Linda Derfiny

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
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)
Linda Ridderbos
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
Aug. 20	Aug. 24
Sept. 3	Sept. 8
Sept. 17	Sept. 21

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.