

First, in the last couple of weeks our congregation prayed for and loved one another and our community in magnificent ways. We are living the apostle John's words from 1 John 3:18, "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth". You've loved with your actions and in truth. Remember God's greatness and love. Through adversity God calls us to be greater and closer to Jesus' love. In the words of Oswald Chambers, "It is impossible to exhaust God's love and it is impossible to exhaust my love if it flows from the Spirit of God within me".

God changes us through the story of the cross and the resurrection. We are transformed from angry people shouting for the "justice" of the crucifixion to people who receive the 'peace' of Jesus' resurrection. The transformation of our hearts turns us to God and helps us to be ready to be in God's holy presence for eternity. One of the gifts of the peace and holiness of God is that we do not chase after fame for ourselves and retribution for others. We are able to know that life and all of creation does not revolve around us and our opinions. We gain the freedom of Christ to live love.

Holy Week will be in two weeks and begins with Palm Sunday when we acknowledge the palm branches of hero worship whither. The sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus remains. We will experience Holy Week in powerful ways this year:

Palm Sunday: Deacon Sandra will preach and we will reenact the Palm Sunday story from the man who owned the donkey Jesus rode upon.

Maundy Thursday: We will join with Allen Chapel AME church for a meaningful remembrance of Jesus' last night with the disciples. The worship will include time in the Sanctuary with music from the Westwood UMC Chancel Choir and the choir from Allen Chapel. We will then celebrate a Seder Meal together, concluding with Communion. The service will be on March 24 at 7:00.

Good Friday: We will honor the sacrifice of our Lord through drama and music. We will look at the day through the eyes of people who wanted Jesus crucified and the man who made the cross. The service will be on March 25 at 7:00.

Easter: Easter will be a joyous celebration of our Lord's resurrection filled with music and joy.

Prepare your heart to receive the holiness and love of our Lord through joining as one to worship Jesus. Every person matters to our Lord and to us. In addition, think of others to invite to these special services.

Lastly, the Alpha Course begins March 8 at the "Feed the World Café" on Stadium Drive. It is the first time we will host Alpha outside the church. Please pray for it and invite someone to learn about the incredible life with Jesus.

Gratefully serving our Lord with you, Pastor Wayne

When is the next Alpha course? – Begins Mar. 8

The next Alpha course starts Tuesday, March 8th at 6:00 PM, at “Feed the World Café” located at 7000 Stadium Drive, Oshtemo, MI. The restaurant is located on Stadium Drive between South 9th and South 8th streets, very close to the South 8th Street intersection. Nothing could be more low pressure and relaxing than having a meal with friends at a local restaurant, watching a movie and having a discussion. Bring friends who want to explore the Christian faith! Please come and bring a friend, relative, acquaintance or neighbor. Please RSVP to the church office @ 269-344-7165 or on the communication card.

Women’s Prayer Breakfast – Mar. 12

The Women's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 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.

Book Discussion Groups – Mar. 15 and 16

Everyone is invited to participate in the new Book Discussion groups to share your questions or insights. The groups are sponsored by United Methodist Women and will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Lobby, and on the 3rd Wed. of each month at 1:00 in the Wesley Room. The book for March will be *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, a true story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity. To acquire the book, please purchase it or use the library to acquire a copy. Please come prepared to discuss the book. Please let us know that you are coming by indicating your interest on the back of the communication card or by signing up on the lobby bulletin board. For additional information, check the bulletin board or contact Nancy Snell.

Friday Films – Mar. 18

On Friday, March 18th, we will meet to share a simple meal at 6:00 pm in the lobby, followed by the 1-hour documentary *Broken on All Sides*. This film compellingly discusses the intersection between race and mass incarceration, and offers new visions for criminal justice in the U.S. We will have a discussion time afterwards, and Deacon Sandra Bibilomo will give a brief presentation during the meal. A freewill offering will be taken to cover costs. Please sign up on the bulletin board or the back of the green cards. ALL are invited and encouraged to attend this important evening.

Men’s Prayer Breakfast – Mar. 19

The Men’s Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2016 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.

Pet Lovers Group - Mar. 20

Katie Timber, the executive director of the SPCA, will be visiting us on Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 12:45 pm in Simpson Hall. A sloppy joe lunch will be provided and everyone is invited. Please sign the sign-up sheet outside the office. A free-will offering will also be collected for Katie to take with her.

Faith-Hope Circle – Mar. 23

Faith-Hope Circle, a United Methodist Women's group, will meet at Friendship Village, 1400 N Drake, Room 1A on March 23 at 1 pm. Everyone is welcome. Questions call Helen Lancaster, 344-9874, or Jeanette Jupp, 345-8833.

Easter Plants for the Sanctuary

You may share in glorifying God by filling our sanctuary with lilies, tulips and daffodils on Easter Sunday, March 27th. These may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please fill out this form and return it to the church office or collection plate with your check payable to Westwood United Methodist Church. Note on the memo line "Altar." Any cash orders should be put in an envelope marked "Altar." The cost per plant is \$7.50. The order deadline is March 20th. Plants may be picked up following the second service on March 27th.

Name: _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Type and number of Plants Tulips____ Lilies____ Daffodils _____

Special Easter Offering – Mar. 27

A special offering to support Paul Webster, our missionary at Mujila Falls Agriculture Research and Training Center in Zambia, Africa, will be taken on Easter Sunday. We are a covenant congregation with Paul and part of that covenant is a financial commitment to his salary and health insurance. Our commitment for 2016 is \$1,475. The project Paul directs addresses hunger and poverty of the Lunda-Ndembu people with sustainable agriculture and leadership training. People learn simple methods of food production, animal traction, and marketing so that they can have balanced diets, better nutrition, less illness and death, more disposable income, and can become part of the larger Zambian economic, social, political and religious mainstream. Special offering envelopes dated March 27 are in your giving envelope packet.

Congregational Care

The March Congregational Care meeting is cancelled.

How We Share Our Gifts

Westwood United Methodist Church offers individuals many ways to share their gifts of time, talent, and money. There is a place for you and your interests at Westwood United Methodist Church. Church can happen anywhere. It happens when we create opportunities that touch lives and make a difference. It happens when we create safe environments where children can play and learn. It happens when education makes the path of life a bit easier. And when our sacrifices help nourish students' minds and bodies that's putting beliefs into action. Below are a few opportunities for you to prayerfully consider. We also need your input! Please read below and mark your communication card with your response or contact the church office to indicate your interest.

Altar Committee – Help Needed

Do you enjoy gardening, flowers and glorifying God? If so, we would love for you to join the Altar Committee. The time commitment is very minimal, approximately 1.5 hours per month, and no experience with flower arrangements is needed. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Tracy Quintanilla at 388-3592 or tracytq2003@yahoo.com.

Youth Chaperones – Help Needed

The middle high youth are currently meeting on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour and also meeting up every other week or so for youth group. There are occasions where there are additional adults needed to chaperone or to be another adult to assist the youth along their faith journey. If you may be able to help on an occasional or fill-in basis, please indicate your interest on the communication card and you will be contacted to discuss this opportunity and your availability further.

Adult Education – Input Needed

As the planning for the next year and a half of adult Christian education is in the works, the planning groups would like your input. What would you like to learn about? What kind of small group would you be interested in being a part of? Christian education is a lifelong process. If you have been a part of a great group that studied something or if you just are interested in something particular, please indicate this on the communication card. For more information, please look online at: <http://www.umc.org/resources/christian-education-whats-that>

Van Vorhees Scholarship Applications

The Van Vorhees scholarship applications are now available in the Foundation mailbox by the office.

Literacy Tutors Needed

We are looking for more tutors for the Westwood literacy center. Please consider this rewarding ministry. Usually tutors work with their learner once a week for an hour or an hour and a half. To be a tutor you need to go through training at the Kalamazoo Literacy Council. There are three more training sessions this year and they are all at the Goodwill center. All of the trainings begin with an orientation. If you aren't sure this is for you, try the orientation to get a better idea. Consider taking the March training (the others are in May and September). Register at <http://www.kalamazooliteracy.org/tutors/register-for-orientation#.VsdJb-b1KJ8> and let Dori know you are signing up at doris.ravotas@gmail.com.

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Orientation (Winter 2): | March 10, 2016 | 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m. |
| Training Session 1 | March 14, 2016 | 6 p.m. — 9 p.m. |
| Training Session 2 | March 17, 2016 | 6 p.m. — 9 p.m. |
| Training Session 3 | March 21, 2016 | 6 p.m. — 9 p.m. |
| Training Session 4 | March 24, 2016 | 6 p.m. — 9 p.m. |

Spiritual Gifts

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed." - 1 Corinthians 12:1

In the Bible passage above, Paul clearly states the importance of the subject of spiritual gifts to Christians. Spiritual gifts and gifts-based ministry are the foundations for understanding how the church is meant to operate, and for understanding our individual roles within the church.

Spring is when we conduct our annual stewardship campaign and this year we want to incorporate a stronger focus on how each of us can give our time and talent.

On April 10 we will begin a 7 week adult Sunday School class to examine how we can effectively learn what our spiritual gifts are and how each of us as disciples can use our gifts to further the work the Holy Spirit has set aside for each of us in the church.

Imagine the opportunity to serve the church on committees and teams where your God given talents can be put to use to further His kingdom!

Along with the Sunday school class we will be offering a spiritual gifts inventory for each of us to take. We hope to offer this electronically via a link on the church website to make it easily accessible to all. More will follow on this as our plans come together.

Tim Ashcraft

Westwood Foundation Supports Variety of Projects and Groups

In this article, the third in a series about the Foundation, you will learn some additional information about the workings of the Foundation and information about the projects and groups that received grants from the Foundation in 2015. Over \$42,000 was distributed in 2015. That money was distributed to over 20 projects/groups.

Part of the endowment managed by the Foundation is held in a general fund. Distributions from that fund are placed at the discretion of the church council to enhance church programming. They received just short of \$10,000 last year.

Distributions from some of the named funds within the Foundation are restricted to very specific purposes. You may be familiar with the Van Vorhees scholarship fund which distributed approximately \$7200 to college students within our congregation. The Lytton fund distributions go to support the young people in our congregation that go to summer camps. Just over \$1000 was used for this purpose last year. There is a Rosine ASP fund which distributed just over \$1000 to ASP and a Rosine ISAAC fund that distributed just short of \$700 to support ISAAC.

The other named funds' distributions are either unrestricted or are restricted to a wide enough area that the Foundation Committee has some discretion. Last year there were distributions made to create a Kingdom Kids Reading Corner; to purchase Bibles for 3rd graders; to support attendees of the Lake Junaluska Music Week; to provide Stephen Ministry training for a church member; to support the Golden Anniversary Dinner; to provide an additional college scholarship; to support the next Widows and Widowers Retreat; to provide community building experiences for out young adults and families; to purchase devotion booklets; to provide Men's Ministry leadership training; to purchase mobile outdoor signs; a set of round tables and two sanitizer stations for the church; to provide approximately \$7000 to support the purchase of new furnishings for our renovated lobby, etc.; to complete our church's commitment to the Wesley Foundation for their new ministry facility; to purchase coffee cups, juice and water cups, racks and a cart for hospitality; and to provide for a Wesley youth intern.

The Foundation Committee is a dedicated group that is serious about their responsibility to manage and grow the endowment, distribute grants to deserving groups/projects, and keep you, the congregation, in the know about what we are doing. Thank you for your support.

A note from the Ormerod Family

I am overjoyed to be able to share the news of this latest blessing. Cullen Whitehill Ormerod was born last night 2/19 at about 9:15 pm. Megan was a champ and both her and the baby are doing great. Big Brother Tyler refused to leave the hospital last night until he could hold his new little brother. Everything is going very well out here in Detroit but we miss our Westwood church family very much. Please share the good news and give everyone there our best. We miss you all and hope all is well. -Bill Ormerod

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.

| | March 13, 2016 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | March 20, 2016 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. |
|---|--|--|
| <i>Serving you in Worship</i> | | |
| Worship Assistant | Maggie Blair | Rick Fuller |
| Altar | Laura Anderson | Tracy Quintanilla |
| 1st Service Audio | Jan Urfer | Gary Lubbert |
| 1st Service Video | Jim Frey | Jim Frey |
| 2nd Service Audio | David Knewton | Emmanuel Sikaundi |
| 2nd Service Video | Mark Longstroth | Daniel Whitcomb |
| Children's Moment | Helga Mortensen | Pastor Wayne |
| Children's Worship | Helga Mortensen and Sarah Mannschreck | TBD and Nancy Snell |
| Videographer | Derrick Quintanilla and Dickson Sikaundi | Derrick Quintanilla and Dickson Sikaundi |
| PowerPoint Preparer | Gary Lubbert | Pastor or Office |
| <i>Serving you through Welcoming</i> | | |
| 1st Service Greeters | Jan & Bill Urfer and Jane & Gary Waite | Betty Dustin and Wanda Horton |
| 2nd Service Greeters | Helen and Julie Lancaster | Diane Rathburn and Kris Kenz Locke |
| Hospitality | Paula Willson, Sue Pulling | Roxanne Frey, Diane Rathburn |
| 1st Service Ushers | Bud Mahieu, Phil Engel | Dave Wright, Wes Merriman |
| 2nd Service Ushers | Bob Mitchell, Brian VandePolder, Dan & Mary Brooks | Matt Knewton, Tim & Darla Ashcraft, Don Hilbert |
| <i>Staff</i> | | |
| Nursery Workers | Mary Landreville, Kristen VanOrder, Rachel Fuller | Linda VanOrder, Mary Landreville, Kristen VanOrder |
| Keyboardist | Gail Secord | Dana Tipken |

Prayer List

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.

Ongoing Prayer Requests:

Julian Blair

Gary Cumming

Vicki Hale (friend of Louise Jameson)

Jean Marie Peters (Pastor Wayne's sister)

Frank Sierawski (son of Nancy Snell)

Serving in the military:

Ryan Cavey, Marine Sergeant (serving in the Middle East and friend of the Rotgers family)

Prayers for healing and strength to the home-bound

King-Westwood Elementary School & Staff

Our Westwood Neighborhood



*Have updates on
these friends?
Let the church
office know!*



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 |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Mar. 17 | Mar. 21 |
| Mar. 31 | Apr. 4 |
| Apr. 14 | Apr. 18 |
| Apr. 28 | May 2 |

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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| E-mail: jwrightwumc@gmail.com | |
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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.