

## *From the Heart of the Pastor*

So, what do we do after a crisis? During tragic crises we sharpen our physical reactions, express sympathy for those hurt, and are driven by a sense of urgency to draw to together and help one another. One way we have responded and united as a community in the face of two horrific tragedies in 2016 has been creating an organization called Kalamazoo Strong, which raises money to help victims and families with expenses. We find ways to resist to violence and respond in creative and healing actions.

Yet, after our emotion and empathy has settled down and we return our routine of the ordinary, how do we live as changed people? We tend to retreat back to, what I call, our "default settings". From my perspective, the default setting is our way of life which we settled into based upon our experiences, choices, and our responses to life. If we do not question the values and attitudes around us, we might lose our identity by not creating our own distinct values. We may have a good default setting of primarily helping others, but it can also be one of self-interest and self-preservation. We tend to look at events in light of how they impact us, rather than looking at what God desires. The factor of sin in our lives confounds our desire to change for the better, as well as living as God desires.

The reality of sin, and the tendency to blame or demonize others is why I began the prayer time in worship on June 19 with a time of confession. When we are honest with God and seek to turn from the violence in our own hearts, then God responds with both forgiveness and the power to live differently. When we make such a connection with God we embrace the life and love God has for us. As experience the healing we are then able to be the peace of God for our community and families. It is not an easy progression. God enables us to start again every day as we continue to find freedom from sin in confession, experience God's life in healing, and share God's love in living God's peace every day. As we move forward and our lives resume their normal pace, my hope is that we will not return to default settings of looking events as how they impact us, but discerning what will please God. May we submit everything to God's grace, vision, and strength.

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,  
Pastor Wayne

### **ISAAC 15th Anniversary Banquet – June 30**

The ISAAC 15th Anniversary banquet will take place on Thursday June 30, 2016 at WMU Bernhard Center starting at 5.30pm. This year's Banquet theme is "Let Justice Roll Like a River" and the Keynote Speaker will be Dr. J Louis Felton, past President and Founder of ISAAC. The banquet tickets are \$40 each and can be purchased from members of our WUMC Justice or contact the church office with your contact info. Last year Westwood United Methodist Church was very well represented and we look forward to seeing as many of you attending again this year. Please invite friends and family to join us at this year's banquet. ISAAC stands for Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in our Community. At our issues Convention in October last year, ISAAC members voted for three issues as the most pressing in our community: Anti-Racism, Youth Violence and Early Childhood Education. For the next two years ISAAC will be front and center working the community to raise awareness on these issues, and the funds raised from the annual banquet go a long way in meeting the education and action needs of our community surrounding these issues. We look forward to seeing many of you at the ISAAC banquet.

Tom Wilson, WUMC Justice Team Chairman

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### **Lego Faith Building Club: Bible Heroes - begins July 6**

Our Lego Club is back this year! We will meet for 6 weeks, July 6-Aug. 10 on Wednesday evenings, 6:30-7:30, in Simpson Hall, for ages preschool through high school. Pre-registration is NOT necessary. Come for a time of building around a weekly theme of a Bible hero or heroine. Legos and snacks provided. To have a great Lego club again this year, we need your help. Would you like to  
assist one evening, hang out with kids and youth and build?  
donate Legos to our club? Bricks, mini-figures, base plates, all are welcome.  
donate non-perishable snacks and drinks?  
Talk to Helga Mortensen to find out more or offer your service.

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### **Women's and Men's Prayer Breakfasts - July**

Women's – Saturday, July 9 at 9:00 am in Simpson Hall

Men's – Saturday, July 16 at 9:00 am in Simpson Hall

Both will have breakfast with prayer time to follow. Sign up for the breakfast either on the sign-up board or on the back of the Communication Card.

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### **Nursery Volunteer Needed – July 17 and 24**

A volunteer is needed to help in the nursery on Sunday, July 17, and Sunday, July 24. If you are able to help, or would like more information, please contact Linda VanOrder.

### Westwood Warriors Softball Team

We want to let everyone know that we did WIN our first game of the season with Cherry Creek (red) at a score of 21-15. Go Westwood Warriors! Here is our 2016 softball season schedule:

#### Westwood Warriors Softball Team

Day	Date	Time	Final
Tu.	6/14	7:45 p	Won 21-15
Tu.	6/21	Bye	--
Tu.	6/28	6:15 p	
Tu.	7/5	7:45 p	
Tu.	7/12	7:45 p	
Thu.	7/21	6:15 p	
Thu.	7/28	Bye	--
Thu.	8/4	7:45 p	
Thu.	8/11	6:15 p	
Thu.	8/18	6:15 p	

### Thank You WUMC!!

#### **A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM FOR THE LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR FUND RAISER"**

We are so very appreciative of your support for Westwood UMC's outreach project, "Love Your Neighbor." To all of you who came to breakfast, served on the breakfast, brought gift cards, gave money to buy gift cards and to those who prayed for this new effort – we thank you so much. Over \$2,400 was raised so many people who are in need of gas or food can be given gift cards by the deputies of the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department. (We are also grateful to the Sheriff's Department and the deputies for their willingness to allow us to bless others with our gifts.) Again, THANK YOU!

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Thank you all for your notes and prayers after the death of my brother and sister-in-law. They had been married 77 years. What a blessing that we can believe they are still together.

Jean Brown-Ullrey

### **Changes to Meijer and Hardings Rewards Programs**

Thank you to all who have participated in the Meijer or Hardings Community Rewards card each time you shopped at these stores and showed your card with Westwood UMC as the beneficiary of a small percentage of each sale. These pennies added up and were used by the Missions team for a variety of local missions. We have been informed that Meijer is discontinuing their Community Rewards program as of June 30. Hardings is changing who it partners with for their rewards program and Westwood has signed up under the new program which began June 26. You no longer need to show a card when you shop at Hardings but need to only enter your telephone number on the pin-pad once you are registered and select Westwood UMC as the beneficiary of a percentage of your sale. During the month of July following worship each Sunday, Missions team members will help you register, so please see our table in the lobby and help support missions at Westwood! Questions? Talk to Nancy VandenBrink, 344-6945.

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

This is a friendly reminder that the new pledge year begins July 1. If you made a change in your estimate of giving on 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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### **Free Summer Meals Available**

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 877877 to find a location, dates, and times, or see the list of sites on the bulletin board outside the Pastor's office. This program is available to:

- All children 18 years and anyone enrolled in school for physical or mental disabilities.
- May be visiting from out of town or state.
- No paperwork or ID needed.
- Families welcome to attend; adult meal is \$2.

## An Update on Resurrection UMC, Voronezh, Russia

A note from Nancy VandenBrink, Missions team chairperson at Westwood: I am in regular email contact with Alexander Pererva, pastor of Resurrection UMC in Voronezh, Russia, who we covenant with to provide financial and prayer support through the Eurasia Initiative of the United Methodist Church. Alexander informed me in late March that they were facing some real financial challenges as an electrical shop that was the basement tenant closed two or three years ago and they have not found a new tenant. They rent out a couple of small offices to local businesses and the large space on the second floor for use by other churches for worship. There have been sharp increases in the prices of everything in Russia, and the church has fallen several months behind in utility payments as well as payments to the Russian United Methodist Church. Alexander and the church bookkeeper took much reduced salaries this spring, and Alexander feared that Resurrection UMC may not survive as they are no longer able to make ends meet. Other than the small amount of rent they receive, their only financial support is from Westwood and their own membership (40 to 50 persons). Two years ago Westwood decreased its support from \$6,000 to \$3,000 as we did not have the funds to continue at that level. Alexander asked me if there was any way we could again support them at the \$6,000 level. I went before the Westwood Foundation committee in May and they approved a one-time gift of \$3,000 so Westwood will be able to support Resurrection at the \$6,000 level for 2016. However, they will be dealing with some long-term financial challenges maintaining the building until they find a tenant or two and the Russian economy improved. If you have it on your heart to help Resurrection UMC at some point over the next few weeks, please mark your gift "accordingly (or put "Russia" in the memo line). Below is an email I sent to Alexander on June 21 followed by his reply, also on June 21.

Hello Alexander,

I went before Westwood's Foundation committee on May 19 and they approved a one time gift of \$3,000 so that will bring our commitment for 2016 to \$6,000 total. I just received the gift today. It will be deposited next week, and then I can send the money to the General Board of Global Ministries which will forward it to the Conference office in Moscow for Resurrection UMC to draw upon.

The renovation of our church building is coming along and we are now worshipping again in our updated sanctuary. The Kalamazoo community has had two tragic events occur recently: in February a Kalamazoo man shot and killed 5 persons and seriously injured two others including a 14 year old girl and on June 7 a man driving a pick-up truck plowed into 9 adults that were out on a 28 mile bicycle ride, killing 5 of them and seriously injuring the other 4. The community has really come around all the people affected by these tragedies with an outpouring of financial gifts to help the victims and their families, words and letters of encouragement, prayer services, and more. Our community's motto is now "Kalamazoo Strong." The gun violence in our country is a terrible thing. *Continued...*

*Continued from previous page...*

Also, let me know about your experience as a delegate at General Conference in Oregon and how plans are coming along for camp for handicapped persons and other events this summer.

Love in Christ, Nancy

Dear Nancy! Once again, I was convinced of the boundless love of our Lord when I received your letter. God's love pours out through ordinary people, and it has through you and your community at Westwood. We prayed fervently and received the answer we prayed for. Now we will be able to pay off debts on utility bills and prepare the church building for the next heating season. Nancy, I want to thank you personally for your sympathetic heart.

I was glad to find out that the reconstruction of your building is successful, and now you are praying in the new sanctuary. I also want to express my condolences for the tragedy in Kalamazoo and in Orlando. It's always sad to learn of the senseless death of innocent people. This happens in America and in Russia. Perhaps you've heard about the death of 15 teenagers on a lake in the north of Russia. Such incidents make us even more actively seek God and His will for our lives.

In May I was in Oregon at the General Conference. This was my first experience and it made an indescribable impression on me. It was serious work with some irreconcilable confrontation of different points of view. But it was also a great Christian holiday. In general, it was a great event in the life of the Methodist Church.

Then in early June, we held in Voronezh the Annual Conference of the South of Russia. From July 20 to 30 we will hold the camp "Trinity" for the disabled. We are preparing now for this camp. We have also continued the ministry with foreign students.

Our community is praying for you. We wish you abundant blessings.

With love in Christ, Alexander

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### **The Other Building**

Have you wanted to know where Bill Urfer has been for the past 2 years? Well, here is your opportunity to find out. He has been helping a friend to move into a new work area. The friend (Bob) has outgrown his old spot of 30 years and has moved into a new location on 3812 E. Michigan.

The business is called Mr. Pro Auto and 4X4, and Bob is an unusually talented auto mechanic. He was on E. Main for 30 years. He does brakes, ABS systems, Muffler and Exhaust systems, computerized tune-ups, computer diagnostic, fuel injections, electrical, shocks, struts and springs, ball joints, U joints and transmissions.

Bob and I have been working on the new building getting it ready. It is nearly new from the roof to the floor. Come and see, and if you need any auto work, let Bob help you. The phone No. is 349-4546 and the shop is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

We will have a grand opening later. All will be invited. If you mention you are from the church, he will give you 15 % off your bill. Thanks Bill and Jan Urfer

## 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 3, 2016</b> 8:30 & 10:10 a.m.	<b>July 10, 2016</b> 8:30 & 10:10 a.m.
<b><i>Serving you in Worship</i></b>		
Worship Assistant	Sandra Bibilomo	Paula Willson
Altar	Tracy Quintanilla	Beth Mitchell
1st Service Audio	TBD	TBD
1st Service Video	Jim Frey	Jim Frey
2nd Service Audio	TBD	TBD
2nd Service Video	Brian Vandepolder	Mark Longstroth
Children's Moment	Pastor Wayne	Pastor Wayne
Children's Worship	Sarah Mannschreck and Kevin Secord	Ken Smith and Linda Derfiny
Videographer	TBD	TBD
PowerPoint Preparer	Pastor or Office	Gary Lubbert
<b><i>Serving you through Welcoming</i></b>		
1st Service Greeters	Wanda Horton and Betty Dustin	Jeanette Jupp and Sallie Platt
2nd Service Greeters	Royann & Ron Anspach	Diane Rathburn and Kris Kenz Locke
Hospitality	Jane Waite, Carolyn Parker, Mary Faupel	Kathy Hillman, Andrea Daniels
1st Service Ushers	Joe & Shirley Mitchell	Bud Mahieu, Phil Engel
2nd Service Ushers	Diane Rathburn, Mark Reid, Tom & Paula Willson	Bob Mitchell, Brian VandePolder, Dan & Mary Brooks
<b><i>Staff</i></b>		
Nursery Workers	Mary Landreville, Kristen VanOrder, Rachel Fuller	Linda VanOrder, Mary Landreville, Kristen VanOrder
Keyboardist	Gail Secord	Dana Tipken

## Prayer List

Jane Mahieu-Ackles,  
700 Platt Apt 5A  
Niles, MI 49120

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 )

### *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](mailto:info@westwood-umc.org). Messenger deadlines are the Thursday prior to publication.

### **Future Messengers and Deadlines**

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>
July 7	July 11
July 21	July 25
Aug. 4	Aug. 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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