

## *From the Heart of the Pastor*

God blessed us with faith and fortitude to reimagine His house of faith. We have a wonderful building, which was used for multiple events in the first 8 days. The Consecration Celebration looked beautiful. Our Open House was a great time of sharing the blessing with others. Later in the week the people gathered for dinner before the Social Justice movie, and the next day the Men's Cookout used it for games. After Sue Pulling's memorial the family and friends were able to simply step outside of the sanctuary and be at the reception in the lobby. Many people commented how nice it looked. All of these things happened in one week. This weekend our building will host The Widow and Widowers' Retreat. It will be amazing to see what God does with our offering in the months and years to come.

When we were exploring the possibility of building someone said, "I hope the building does not become our main focus, but that we stay centered on our mission". I give God thanks that we understand our renovations are to be used to fulfill our mission, rather than being our mission. The events last week resounded with God's blessing and our commitment to our mission.

One of the events of the last week was the Church Council Retreat. I thank Tom Willson and Louise Jameson for their leadership of the retreat, as well as Mark Reid and Jim Jameson who gave presentations. We shared our faith stories and how we experienced God at Westwood UMC. It was a profound time of hearing how God is active and present in our lives and in our church. God's presence in us and through us, blessing others is why we exist.

As Tom Willson, others, and I prepared for the Council Retreat, the common theme which arose was "relationships". Westwood UMC is strong in our relationships with each other, God, the community, and those in need. We also believe in the value of intergenerational relationships, and it is why we are committed to our children and youth ministries. Staff-Parish Relationship Committee is recommending we hire a part-time youth coordinator. I ask that you pray about the possibility as we discern the best way to minister with our youth.

Also, please pray about the possibility of purchasing the property next to the church (The dentist's building). We will have a town-hall type meeting after the 11:00 worship service on September 25. We would need \$25,000 as down payment, and approximately \$1,000 a month. We realize the timing is not the best, as we are in a Capital Fund Campaign, yet we do not always choose the timing of events. We praise our Lord for guiding us and doing great things in us and through us.

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,  
Pastor Wayne

### **UMW Book Discussion Group – Sept. 20**

Our book for September is Sum It Up by Pat Summitt. The “winningest coach in NCAA basketball history” shares her remarkable story of victory and resilience, as well as facing down her greatest challenge: early on-set Alzheimer’s disease. Please join us at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, Sept. 20. All are welcome! For more information, see Nancy Snell.

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### **Pet Lovers Group – Sept. 24**

The Pet Lovers Group will meet on Saturday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the narthex. Bring a fast food supper and we will review what we were able to accomplish in our books, All Creatures of our God and King, over the summer. Hope to see you there! For our October meeting, we will have a speaker from Pet Smart to talk about pet nutrition. The October date is to be confirmed.

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### **New Season of Dinner with Friends Begins Sept. 25**

Come join us for a potluck supper on Sunday, Sept. 25 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Simpson Hall. After dinner, we will split up into new groups for the upcoming season (Sept. 2016 – May 2017). Anyone who would like to be a part of this year’s Dinner with Friends are invited to come. Bring a dish to pass. Table service and drinks will be provided.

Dinner with Friends is a great way to meet new friends and get better acquainted with old friends. Groups consist of 8-10 people who meet once a month for dinner. Groups can meet in members’ homes, at church or at a restaurant - whatever works best for the majority. Come and check it out on Sunday, Sept. 25. Hope to see you then.

Beth Mitchell on behalf of the Outreach Committee

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### **Town Hall Meeting – Sept. 25**

A town hall meeting will be held on Sept. 25 after the second service to discuss the possibility of the purchase of the dental building next door.

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### **Faith-Hope Circle – Sept. 28**

Faith-Hope Circle, a United Methodist Women’s group, will meet at Friendship Village, 1400 N Drake, Room 1A on Sept. 28 at 1 pm. Everyone is welcome. Questions call Helen Lancaster, 344-9874, or Jeanette Jupp, 345-8833.

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### **Calling all United Methodist Women! – Oct. 1**

Maggie Blair is looking for 8-12 women who would be interested in serving lunch at Ministry with Community at 12:45 pm on Saturday, Oct. 1. If you are interested, please sign up on the communication card or on the sign-up sheet in the lobby.

### **World Communion Sunday – Oct. 2**

United Methodists observe World Communion Sunday by celebrating communion with other Christians around the world on this special Sunday. As well, a special offering will be received to enable U.S. racial and ethnic minority students and international students to attend college – both as undergraduates and graduates. These scholarships are administered by the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. Special giving envelopes are in your offering envelope packet dated October 2.

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### **Financial Peace University – Oct. 4**

Financial Peace University is back! We'll start the 9-week course on Tuesday, Oct. 4th @ 7:00 pm. The class will meet for around an hour and a half. Financial Peace is a biblically based curriculum that teaches people how to handle money God's way. In nine lessons, you'll learn how to beat debt, build wealth, find bargains, invest for the future, give like never before, and much more! This information can change your life...if you let it. You'll learn how to take control of your money...one step at a time.

Dave Ramsey's class is designed to help you out of debt and stress and into a life of saving and giving. We're all in different places with money, but WE ALL NEED A PLAN! Start right where you are and get where you want to be. "Know-how" is 20% of the equation. Behavior change and self-discipline make up the other 80%. You can do it! Join us!

We'll be offering a short preview of the course after both services on Sunday, Sept. 18 and Sept. 25th in the theatre. Have any questions? Call me! Jo Turner - (269) 207-6151.

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### **Friendship Luncheon – Oct. 5**

All are invited to the Friendship Luncheon on Wed., Oct. 5, at noon in Simpson Hall. A free will offering helps defray the cost. Please make a reservation by checking the back of the green registration card or enter your name on the list posted on the narthex bulletin board, or call the church office at 344-7165.

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### **2016 ISAAC Public Meeting-Oct. 6**

The ISAAC 2016 public meeting will be held on October 6, at Mt Zion Church starting at 6pm. This year's theme is a continuation of our banquet theme earlier in the year, "Let Justice Roll." The annual event brings together ISAAC member affiliate churches, organizations and aspiring public officials from both Democratic and Republican Parties running for office this November.

Through our own ISAAC moderators, aspiring public officials will have the opportunity to be asked and answer questions on core ISAAC community issues such as Youth Violence, Anti-Racism and Early Childhood Education among others. This highly sought after opportunity by ISAAC and public officials alike provides a rare opportunity for ISAAC and its member affiliates including the general community/voters to hear first-hand how aspiring public officials hope to make our community an inclusive, progressive leader in social justice.

Last year a large number of WUMC congregants attended the 2- to 3-hour event, and we as your local Justice Team are again appealing to our church members to attend this event in our usual large numbers. We look forward to seeing you at this very important event. Transportation arrangements will be announced closer to the event. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of WUMC Justice Team.

Tom Willson, Chairman, WUMC Justice Team

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### **Women's Prayer Breakfast – Oct. 8**

The Women's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8 beginning at 9:00 am in Simpson Hall with prayer time to follow. Sign up for the breakfast either on the sign-up sheet in the lobby or on the back of the communication card.

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### **Missions Dinner – Oct. 9**

Join your Westwood church family for a soup/salad bar and dessert lunch on Sunday, October 9 at 12:15 p.m. and support our missionary in Zambia, Paul Webster, and the Mujila Falls Agriculture Centre which he directs. This project addresses hunger and poverty with sustainable agriculture and leadership training. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship and support God's work in Zambia with your donation!

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### **UMCOR Is Responding to Catastrophic Floods**

You have seen on the news the devastation caused by the floods in Louisiana as well as in West Virginia in early July. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) will be there with long-term disaster response grants. The Missions team at Westwood asks that you help these efforts with your financial gift. Checks should be payable to Westwood UMC and "UMCOR flood relief" in the memo line. 100% of gifts go to the relief and rebuilding efforts.

### **Food Pantry Update - Grand Opening October 8, 2016**

We are fast approaching the Grand Opening of the Westwood Neighborhood Food Pantry located here at Westwood UMC. Thank you so much for your food donations so far. We have 2 weeks remaining to collect a bit more.

September 25: Hearty Soups, Canned Fruit, Instant Potatoes

October 2: Boxed dry pasta, Pasta sauce, Toilet Paper (4 roll packages), Paper Towel (1 - 2 roll packages)

Westwood UMC Foundation has supported our efforts with funds to purchase a new refrigerator and freezer (if needed). They have also given us funds to help purchase food that we may still need before our grand opening. We gratefully thank them for their support.

Our food pantry will be open 2 days a month for 2 hours each time - the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 - Noon and the third Wednesday of the month from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. If you are interested in helping with the food pantry, please let us know. There are many jobs to do.

We will be having a Dedication and Open House for the pantry on Sunday, October 2, 2016 between services and after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Be sure to come over to Epworth House that day and see what you have helped to create.

The Food Pantry Committee: Beth Mitchell, Nancy VandenBrink, Bev Henson, Maggie Blair, Louise and Jim Jameson and Tom Willson

**Wanted:** A refrigerator in good condition for the Westwood Neighborhood Food Pantry. We also may need a stand-alone freezer in the near future. If you have either of these items you want to donate, please let one of the Food Pantry committee members know. We will arrange for pickup. Thank you.

Food Pantry Committee: Beth Mitchell, Nancy VandenBrink, Bev Henson, Maggie Blair, Louise and Jim Jameson and Tom Willson

### **Trustees News**

On Monday September 12, WUMC Trustees met to review the concerns about improving our handicapper parking at the north entrance of our church. After discussion it was decided to replace the asphalt in that area with concrete enlarging the space to approximately 1200 square feet. This parking area will be deeper and longer. After the concrete cures, it will be striped for angled handicapper parking. Concrete is more durable, and longer lasting. Parking in this area will be available after Oct. 2nd. We are sorry for the inconvenience, please plan accordingly for your parking needs until Oct. 2nd.

Also Trustees passed a motion to accept the bid from Bill's Lock Shop to reset the safe's lock combination. This security concern will be addressed annually.

The next regularly scheduled Trustee meeting is Monday Sept. 19th at 7 PM. This is an open meeting, if you have concerns please join us.

Peace, Kim Longstroth

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### **From the Foundation Committee**

Friends at Westwood were greatly saddened at the August 22, 2016 death of Michael Thompson, a former member of Westwood UMC. Mike grew up at Westwood, and his parents, Elizabeth and Robert Thompson, were members here until their deaths. Bob was instrumental in conceiving and guiding our foundation through its early years, and the Robert and Elizabeth Thompson Fund established with Mike's help is its largest fund. Although a Mattawan resident, Mike maintained connections with friends here and with the foundation, following with great interest the administration of his parents' fund. Our prayers and sympathy go to his family.

For those who wish it, the family address is 24213 Oak Lane, Mattawan, MI 49071-9515

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### **Thank You**

I wish to thank you for your prayers, cards, help with getting our house for sale, meals & visits during my long recovery from surgery. They were greatly appreciated. I have missed all of you very much. God bless you all.

Love,

Linda Ridderbos

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### **News from Missionary Paul Webster**

Paul Webster, our missionary who is director of the Mujila Falls Agriculture Center in Zambia, posts what is happening at the Center and with him personally on the Center's facebook page. His posts will be featured in Messengers so you can follow what is happening there and how our mission dollars are at work. The following posts are from July 23 and 25.

July 23: As one of his last projects during his internship at our farm, Derek has been in charge of setting up raised beds for a seed nursery. He is planting onions. Derek has been a good student and has had a meaningful internship at Mujila Falls. We wish him well.

Four new interns have come down from Musokatanda in the Democratic Republic of Congo to study at your farm. We welcome them. Today we started out by de-horning cattle, putting in ear tags, and castrating and de-tailing lambs. Nothing like full immersion to get them started.

July 25: Another rough week. Fires burned up to 90% of the property. Through a lot of hard work on the part of our workers and a lot of good luck, we lost no pine trees, bananas or other crops. We did lose a lot of pasture land and some of our grazing corn fields. We have three more months to go until we see rain, so be praying for us.

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### **KCHS Marching Band Fundraiser**

How would you like to have a private concert by the Kalamazoo Central Marching Giants? Perhaps your Dinner With Friends group would enjoy some music with your meal. For their fall fundraiser, the Marching Giants are selling raffle tickets; the prize is a concert for the winner at the location and date of their choice. A few restrictions: the location must be within a 30-mile radius of KCHS, they need 30 days' notice, and it is subject to the band's schedule. Tickets are \$5.00. The winner will be drawn and announced at the last home football game on Friday, October 21, and you do NOT need to be present to win. If you are interested, please see Daniel Whitcomb for tickets. Thank you!





## 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>September 25, 2016</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	<b>October 2, 2016</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
<b><i>Serving you in Worship</i></b>		
Worship Assistant	Ken Smith	Sandra Bibilomo
Altar	Margo Heystek	Julie Lancaster
1st Service Audio	TBD	TBD
1st Service Video	Jim Frey	Jim Frey
2nd Service Audio	TBD	TBD
2nd Service Video	Mike Turner	Brian VandePolder
Children's Moment	TBD	TBD
Children's Worship	Pam Chamberlin and Joan Melvin	TBD
PowerPoint Preparer	Kelly Graham	Pastor or Office
<b><i>Serving you through Welcoming</i></b>		
1st Service Greeters	Doug Tipken, Wanda Horton	Sallie Platt, Jeanette Jupp
2nd Service Greeters	Beth Mitchell, Beth Shirley	Ron & Royann Anspach
Hospitality	Paua Willson	Louise Jameson, Royann Anspach
1st Service Ushers	Bud Mahieu, Phil Engel	Joe & Shirley Mitchell
2nd Service Ushers	Clint & Jean Whitcomb, Kim Longstroth, Dickson Sikaundi	Diane Rathburn, Mark Reid, Tom & Paula Willson
<b><i>Staff</i></b>		
Nursery Workers	Mary Landreville, Rachel Fuller	Rachel Fuller, Linda VanOrder
Keyboardist	Dana Tipken	Gail Secord

## 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.

The family of Sue Pulling

### *Ongoing Prayer Requests:*

Julian Blair

Michael Clup (friend of the Lancaster's)

Gary Cumming

Vicki Hale (friend of Louise Jameson)

Matt Knewton

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><i>Deadline</i></b>	<b><i>Publication Date</i></b>
Sept. 30	Oct. 3
Oct. 13	Oct. 17
Oct. 27	Oct. 31

## **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

Westwood United Methodist Church	344-7165
Email	<a href="mailto:info@westwood-umc.org">info@westwood-umc.org</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.westwood-umc.org">www.westwood-umc.org</a>
Fax:	344-9174
Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Wayne A. Price	762-4787
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:pastorwaynewumc@gmail.com">pastorwaynewumc@gmail.com</a>
Director of Fine Art Ministry, Jane Wright	544-2390
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:jwrightwumc@gmail.com">jwrightwumc@gmail.com</a>
Deacon, Sandra Bibilomo	
Email:	<a href="mailto:sandra.douglas73@yahoo.com">sandra.douglas73@yahoo.com</a>
Coordinator of Children's Ministries, Helga Mortensen	
Email:	<a href="mailto:hmortensenwumc@gmail.com">hmortensenwumc@gmail.com</a>
Lay Leader, Ken Smith	270-3093
Staff-Parish Chairperson, Mark Reid	720-6543
Trustees, Seth Virgo	207-3939
Wesley Foundation Director, Lisa Batten	344-4076
Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College (Office)	
<i>Westwood Messenger</i> Editor, Beth Arbogast,	
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:info@westwood-umc.org">info@westwood-umc.org</a>

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.