

## *From the Heart of the Pastor*

Over the years many people have spoken to me about wanting to know God's will. Usually they ask about it regarding what direction they should take in their lives. I tend to think about God's will for all people in all circumstances. The prophets desired to know, listen to, and speak God's will for Judah/Israel in the time of the Exile. Around 700 B.C. the Babylonians invaded Palestine and conquered the Jews. At first the Babylonians took the skilled people captive, so that they could serve Babylon. After the Jews rebelled the Babylonians displaced all the Jews to other countries. The people cried out for God's help and guidance to be able to return to their homes and families.

The prophets were chosen by God, and spoke God's truth to the people. Today many people are looking for direction and God's will. The prophets still speak to us. Even if our context is radically different, people are similar and God has remained the same. We still deal with many of the problems and revelations the prophets addressed. Earlier this year in my devotions I found they still spoke Godly truths to me.

We focus on the prophets in July, listening to God's voice through them and discerning how they speak to our lives. They are challenging, they are truthful, and they are inspiring. Please note the following schedule, and read the message of the prophets as we open up what God is saying to us at this time:

July 2: Habakkuk

July 9: Joel

July 16: Jonah

July 23: Micah

July 30: Hosea

We are a faithful people at Westwood UMC. God is faithful to us as well, giving us guidance and direction as we follow in His truth and life.

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,  
Pastor Wayne

### At Church Camp

June 18 – 24: Maddie Quintanilla

June 25 - July 1: Sam Quintanilla, Lydia Daniels, Ella Osborne

### 2017 Westwood Warriors Softball Team

Below is our 2017 WUMC Softball season schedule. Games are played on Tuesdays from June 13 through July 18 and then on Thursdays from July 27 through August 17; start times are either 6:15 pm or 7:45 pm (see schedule). As in the past, all games will be played at the Pathfinders Church (Portage United Methodist Church) at 8740 S. Westnedge Avenue approximately 1 mile south of Centre Avenue. The only diamond is located behind the church and cannot be seen from the road. Try to come a few minutes early to get limbered up and get a little practice in. In case of rain, games will be canceled. If there is any question, check WKZO 590 Radio to see about cancellations. If the Portage Parks and Recreation games are canceled, so are we. Feel free to contact Norma Sylvester at work until 5:00 p.m. (269) 387-5150; at home (269) 312-8849; or by cell (269) 501-6123.

#### Tuesday

June 13	Cancelled
June 20	Cancelled
June 27	6:15 pm
July 11	6:15 pm
July 18	7:45 pm

#### Thursday

July 27	6:15 pm
August 3	6:15 pm
August 10	7:45 pm
August 17	6:15 pm

### Book Discussion Group – June 28

We will meet on Wed., June 28th at 7:00 at Jill Reid's house. Since we've been reading The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, we will watch the HBO movie of the same name starring Oprah Winfrey. Anyone can join us, but please call Jill to RSVP so she can know how many people to plan for. Happy Reading!

### Lego Faith Building Club Starts July 12

Lego Faith Building Club is coming back this summer, better than ever. This year, we are having dinner! Mark the dates July 12, 19, 26 and August 2, 6-7:30 p.m., on your calendars. We invite families with kids of all ages, from infants through high school. We will offer a family-friendly dinner at 6 p.m. in the Lobby followed by building time. We have Legos and building blocks of many sizes for all ages. Parents can visit with each other or build alongside the kids. Signup on the communication card or in the lobby on Sunday. Questions? See Helga Mortensen or Ken Smith.

### Jeanette Jupp Birthday Open House – July 15

Help us celebrate Jeanette Jupp's 90th birthday at an open house on Saturday, July 15th from 1:00 to 3:00 at the church. Only the gift of your presence is required.

### News from Jillian Strobel

Hello, my name is Jillian Strobel, daughter of Bob and Karen Strobel. I want to share some very exciting news with you! I am moving to Uganda, Africa in August! The Lord started speaking to me about going to Africa to help children and sharing the word about eight months ago or so. I was privileged to go to Africa not too long ago for a visit. The country and the people there touched my heart deeply. Ever since that trip I've realized that my heart never left Africa and I know that God is leading me there to be a Missionary and to do His work.

Kids especially have been on my heart since I last visited there. It is heartbreaking to me how much they need the care and help of providing a meal, shelter, or schooling. A lot of these children are orphans as well. The pure joy that these children have, even without much, has made me really want to help make a difference in their lives and to help them succeed. I am willing and ready to go. I have started the steps to get there, and have recently purchased my ticket!

I will be there for at least a year and possibly longer. I am working with an organization called Amahoro Children's Home (Amahoro means Peace in Luganda, their native language), under the direction of Caleb Rukundo. This place works primarily with children from the slums, working in rehabilitation and getting them ready for adoption. They provide food, shelter, counseling, clothes and much more! I will be mostly working with the kids in counseling and teaching as well as worshiping with them. Here is their website if you would like to check them out, <http://amahorochildrenshomeug.org/> .

To get there and help in the best way I can, I must admit I am in need of help financially. My goal is twenty-one thousand dollars over the course of the year, part of that is an emergency fund as well. I am hoping to leave with at least half the amount raised to get a solid start. I am asking if you would prayerfully consider helping me in this cause and would greatly appreciate any help you are willing to give. A lot of lives will be touched and given a second chance with the help of your donation.

I am praying for this vision and mission every day and continue to pray for you as well. Thank you for being great encouragers and supporters in my life, helping to raise me to have this heart for people. Westwood, you have touched my heart in ways I cannot even express. I thank you for believing in me and for sowing your seed(s) into the Kingdom of God. I am ready to follow where Jesus is leading! There will be a special offering Sunday June 25th for this mission. If you are more of an online savvy person or cannot make it that day to donate, you can also visit my Go Fund Me Page at this link <https://www.gofundme.com/3so0wko>.

God Bless!  
For the Children, Jillian

### News from Erin Frey, US-2 Missionary in Florida

Erin Frey, a member of Westwood UMC, is spending two years as a missionary assigned by the General Board of Global Ministries to a United Methodist mission in the Gulf Central District of Florida. Her church family at Westwood is supporting her in this endeavor; checks should be made out to Westwood UMC with "Erin Frey" on the memo line. Below is a recent update from Erin.

I found myself lobbying again in April, but this time it was in Washington D.C. with Michigan's senators (in late March I was lobbying for specific issues with the Florida legislature in Tallahassee).

April 21<sup>st</sup> – April 24<sup>th</sup> I participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C. This event brought over 1,000 Christian women and men, from every state and denomination, to the capitol to "strengthen the Christian voice and mobilize for advocacy on specific U.S. domestic and international policy issues."

We didn't advocate for any specific bills pertaining to these issues; however, we advocated for them based on how they would be affected by President Trump's proposed budget. From the blueprint budget released in mid-March, there would be a \$54 billion increase in defense spending (i.e. militarized police forces, the Mexico border wall, nuclear weapons development, etc.) that would come at the expense of non-defense programs (i.e. foreign aid, SNAP/ food stamps, Medicare/ Medicaid, etc.).

Historically defense spending and non-defense spending either increase or decrease proportionately. This proposed plan would not follow that trend and would greatly limit non-defense spending. Regardless of our own individual political ideologies, our job was to advocate for equal treatment of defense and non-defense spending. If one budget must rise, we demanded that the other rises as well. I want to stress that our advocating was not for one political party or ideology over the other, rather it was for the equality of both budgets. Since defense was already planned to have an increase, we demanded the increase of non-defense spending as well.

As my work deals with food security and access, most of the sessions I attended pertained to the SNAP/ Food Stamps program. Some of the sessions I found interesting included: "Proposals to Dismantle the Safety Net and the Potential Impact on People of Color"; "Move the Money! Understanding Pentagon Spending and the Budget as a Moral Document"; "Impact of White Privilege and Racism on Poverty and Hunger in Our Communities"; and "Transforming Policing and Violence Toward Nonviolent Protection Approaches and Community Safety."

The three days we spent learning and discussing these issues were very intense. Most days started around 7am and lasted well into the evening with some discussions lasting until 9pm. I didn't have time to explore D.C, but I did get to meet people from all over the U.S which in some ways was more interesting. With over 1,000 of us in attendance it made for quite a lively experience!

Continued on next page.....

The final day of EAD was spent visiting Capitol Hill. My experience in Florida the month before was interesting, but I didn't know much about the Representatives I was meeting with and I didn't feel like I had a personal connection with them. This time I was scheduled to meet with Michigan Senators and was excited to meet people who I do have a connection with. I was pretty bummed when I found out that the Senators were on recess and that we were only going to have meetings with their aides. Still, I enjoyed my meetings and was able to bridge my experiences growing up in Michigan with my work in Florida.

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### Westwood UMC Food Pantry

Accepting items from the list (available in the lobby or below) for the food pantry. Monetary donations will be used to purchase meat and eggs.

WUMC Westwood Neighborhood Food Pantry Shopping List

*Items needed at this time:*

Cereal  
Grape or Strawberry Jelly  
Peanut Butter  
Spaghetti Noodles  
Canned peaches  
Toothbrushes

Pantry food items can be brought in at any time. Please place them in the bins in the lobby. *Thank you for your continued support!*

#### **Food Pantry Volunteers:**

July 1:

Committee Member: Beth Mitchell

Volunteers:

1. Alicia Rotgers
2. Jan Urfer
3. Phil Engel
4. Maggie Blair

July 15:

Committee Member: Bev Henson

Volunteers:

1. Sue White
2. Brenda Tiefenthal
3. OPEN—HELP NEEDED
4. OPEN—HELP NEEDED



## 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 2, 2017</b> 8:30 & 10:10 a.m.	<b>July 9, 2017</b> 8:30 & 10:10 a.m.
<b>Serving you in Worship</b>		
Worship Assistant	Sandra Bibilomo	Dori Ravotas
Altar	Tracy Quintanilla	Judi Dean
1st Service Audio	Jan Urfer	Bill Urfer
1st Service Video	Jim Frey	Jim Frey
2nd Service Audio	David Knewtson	Bill Urfer
2nd Service Video	Brian VandePolder	Mark Longstroth
Children's Moment	Pastor Wayne	TBD
Children's Worship	TBD	TBD
Power Point Preparer	Pastor or Office	Gary Lubbert
1st Service Greeters	Wanda Horton, John Motter	Jeanette Jupp, Sallie Platt
2nd Service Greeters	Royann & Ron Anspach	Dian Rathburn, Kris Kenz Locke
Hospitality	Carol Tolis-Bucklin, Alberta Cumming	Roxanne Frey, Diane Rathburn
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>Staff</b>		
Nursery Workers	Mary Landreville, Violet Flores, Rachel Fuller	Violet Flores, Rachel Fuller, Morgan Jung
Keyboardist	Gail Secord	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.

### *Ongoing Prayer Requests*

Thom Andrews  
Julian Blair  
John Chamberlin  
Michael Clup (friend of the Lancaster's)  
Gary Cumming  
Vicki Georgeau (niece of Marian Burkey & Linda Ridderbos)  
Louise Jameson  
Wes Merriman  
Eric Ridderbos (son of Al & Linda Ridderbos)



### *Serving in the military*

Kyle D'adam, Air Force (grandson of Tom & Elise Hillman; serving in the middle east)  
Alec Ridderbos, Army (grandson of Al & Linda Ridderbos)

Prayers for healing and strength to the homebound

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 by noon.**

### **Future Messengers and Deadlines**

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Publication Date</i>
July 6	July 10
July 20	July 24
Aug. 3	Aug. 7

## **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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