

From the Heart of the Pastor

Thanks to everyone who came to support Mike and Lydia as they were baptized and worship with Mt. Zion Baptist Church. It was an amazing, Spirit-filled celebration. It felt to me as though we were in the stream of the Holy Spirit, relying on, and being led by God. When we humble ourselves before God and seek to worship and serve God, God guides and empowers us by His Spirit. I believe our congregation is open to the work and power of the Holy Spirit, and God is blessing us with holy Presence.

A week later, our Ash Wednesday worship was somber and celebratory. As Sandra and I made the mark of a cross on people's foreheads, saying the words, "From dust you have come and to dust you shall return", I thought of the many people in our congregation who died in the last year. When we celebrated Communion, I thought about Jesus taking our brokenness and sin, transforming it into new life. New life and resurrection comes in the midst of death and loss. Lent is a season of acknowledging our need for Jesus, and pursuing practices of resurrection and new life.

During Lent we will focus on living our mission statement, and integrating it into the holistic discipleship of our daily lives in the following way:

Offer Christ: Worship and Outreach (at least once a week)

Grow in Faith: Devotion (Scripture and prayer at least once a day)

Touch Lives: Acts of Compassion/Kindness (at least once a day)

Make a Difference: Social Justice (learn or do at least once a week).

We invite you to join Sunday School classes, mission opportunities, as well as Alpha (Tuesday nights beginning March 6), the Gospel of John (Wednesday nights), Disciple (Sunday nights) and Bible Study (Wednesday mornings).

Finally, I am deeply saddened and troubled by the acts of violence in our nation. I find little comfort in the reoccurring reactions. Knowing the motive may prevent future massacres. It does not bring back the lives of loved ones. I refuse to become desensitized and am committed to share the good news of Jesus. Jesus cared about all people, even "the least of these". His teachings challenged all to be transformed by God's love and righteousness. His death gave an alternative to violence and corruption. His resurrection gave us the power to overcome evil with good. If the solution to violence was simple, our nation would have pursued it by now. Our path forward needs to be multifaceted; first confessing violence in our words and attitudes, asking God to cleanse them. Second, recognizing the lethal potential of guns, seeking responsible laws regarding guns. Third, supporting those who struggle with mental illness and cannot afford care. Most importantly, we need to realize Jesus gave us the answer in hearts transformed by His way, love, and righteousness. In offering Christ we are offering life in this world and eternal life. Jesus calls us to boldly grow in faith, offer Christ, thereby touching lives and making a difference in our community and world.

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,
Pastor Wayne

Please Sign A Birthday Card for Virginia Martin

In the lobby on Feb. 25, there will be a giant card for Virginia Martin's 101st birthday. Please sign it and it will be delivered to her by her birthday on Feb. 28.

Meetings Cancelled for February

The Congregational Care Team, the Faith-Hope Circle, and the Pet Lovers Group team meetings have been cancelled.

Book Discussion Group – Feb. 20

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City is the title of the Kalamazoo Reading Together book for 2018. On Tuesday, Feb. 20th, Deacon Sandra Douglas will lead a discussion of this book, hosted by our Book Discussion Group. Join us in Simpson Hall at 7:00 pm. Pulitzer Prize winner Matthew Desmond follows eight Milwaukee families as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads, and “transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of America’s most devastating problems.”

Westwood Team to Volunteer at Midwest Mission Distribution Center

A team of 14 adults leaves February 25 for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center to volunteer at this disaster relief facility in Chatham, IL. Please keep these team members in your prayers this week as we are engaged in this hands-on mission experience: Dee Cole, Aurelio Flores, Art and Anne Klute, Laura Puwal, Louise Sepanik, Bill and Nancy Snell, Dana Tipken, Nancy VandenBrink, Dave and Wendy Arnold (from Kalamazoo First UMC), Stan and Debbie Stadel (friends from Illinois).

Who is God calling you to invite to Alpha? - Begins Mar. 6

Alpha is a 10-week experience 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: Tuesday, Mar. 6, 2018 at 6:00 PM

Where: Westwood United Methodist Church

What: This is an **Introductory Dinner**. You are invited to come see what Alpha is all about!

For More Information: Call Wayne Price (344-7165) or Mike Turner (207-6150)



Friendship Luncheon – Mar. 7

Think Spring! You are invited to the first Friendship Luncheon of 2018 on Wednesday, Mar. 7 at 12:00 Noon in the Lobby. Following a Phyllis Lubbert “special”, we will have a program presented by Linda Derfiny entitled “Cuba Today – A Photo Journey”. A free will offering helps defray the cost. Please make a reservation by checking the back of the green communication card, signing your name on the sign-up sheet in the Lobby, or calling the church office at 344-7165.

UMCOR Sunday – March 11

In less than one month, we will celebrate UMCOR Sunday.

This is a crucial Sunday for us because it is the day we come together to empower our disaster relief arm of Global Ministries, UMCOR, for an entire year. If you remember:

- When hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Irma slammed Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and Puerto Rico in 2017, UMCOR was there.
- When wildfires ravaged thousands of homes in the West and Southeast, UMCOR was there.
- When refugees and migrants around the world needed help, UMCOR was there.
- When a mudslide in Sierra Leone killed more than 500 people and destroyed 2,000 homes, UMCOR was there.

They were there because of UMCOR Sunday.

This Special Sunday covers the operating costs of UMCOR, which allows the relief agency to be where it needs to be, when it needs to be there, for as long as it needs to be there. It allows UMCOR to funnel earmarked donations directly to the designated project.

This Special Sunday covers the operating costs of UMCOR, which allows the relief agency to be where it needs to be, when it needs to be there, for as long as it needs to be there. It allows UMCOR to funnel earmarked donations directly to the designated project.

Together, we can make UMCOR Sunday a phenomenal success. Together, we can make sure that UMCOR can go wherever people are in critical need. Special offering envelopes are in your giving envelope packet or will be available in the March 11 bulletin.

**Lenten Collection for Kalamazoo Drop-In Child Care Center (KDCCC)
Collection of items from Feb. 18 through Apr. 1**

KDCCC is the only free drop-in child care center in southwest Michigan for income eligible families. Parents may use this part-time service up to 6 times per month for their children ages 6 weeks through 5 years old. This service allows parents the time to search for employment or house, keep necessary appointments, go to school, and take a “healthy break” from the demands of parenting. While at the Center, children play in a safe environment and participate in a variety of age-appropriate activities designed to nurture early childhood development. KDCCC is housed in the First Congregational Church in downtown Kalamazoo.

The Center is in need of donated supplies. Items used on a daily basis are: 100% apple juice, strawberry or grape jelly, small paper plates, anti-bacterial foaming hand soap refills, paper towels, disinfectant cleaning wipes, Dawn dish soap, Tide laundry detergent, baby wipes, facial tissue, large vinyl food service gloves.

Westwood will support the Center by asking our members for donations of the above-named supplies throughout Lent (through April 1). Please place items in the ministry collection bins marked “Lenten collection for KDCCC” in the lobby. Thank you for support of this vital local organization.

Westwood UMC Foundation – Scholarship Applications Due Apr. 17

The Westwood UMC Foundation will now be accepting applications for the Van-Voorhees Scholarship Fund. Applications can be completed online or obtained from the Foundation mailbox or the church office. The deadline for submission is April 17 (Tax Day).



Appalachia Service Project 2018 – July 14 – 21

ASP provides vital housing services to low-income families living in Central Appalachia as well as transformational life experiences to those we serve, volunteers offering their service, congregations involved with ASP, and entire communities.

Westwood United Methodist Church is taking a group of Youth and Adults to work for one week with the Appalachia Service Project in the Appalachian Region of the United States. This is our 43th year of participating in this ministry. You could be a part of this Team.

When: We will leave on July 14 and return July 21.

Where: Somewhere in Kentucky. We will be with our friends from North Muskegon again this year.

Why: We go for many reasons.

We go as a means of meeting our need to connect to those in need.

We go as a way to connect with each other.

We go as a way to connect with God through service.

We go to help provide warmer, safer, and drier homes for the people of the Appalachian region of the United States.

We go to do a lot of hard work.

We go to remember what God can do through us when we are willing to serve.

We go to have fun.

These are a few reasons, but in the end, you will need to decide for yourself what is calling you to this service.

Who: This trip is for senior high youth (over the age of 14 who have completed the 8th grade,) young adults, and adults. Although the ASP Summer program is primarily a Senior High Youth Ministry, depending on who we have interested, we may be taking adult work crews as well this year.

If you want to be a part of this team, it is time to commit. Look for instructions in the Group News Feed on the Facebook page, or talk to Matt Knewtson, Matt or Sue White, or Donna Blair.

The form is available on the Facebook page, but it needs to be turned in by :

Feb. 25, 2018.

News from Our Sister Church in Voronezh, Russia

(this edited email was received in late January 2018)

Dear Nancy,

I apologize for the long silence. There was a serious breakdown in my computer. Therefore, I lost a lot of letters. I received a message that you were concerned as you had not heard from me in several months and would like to know about the state of affairs in our church. I hasten to inform you that the Church "Resurrection" is alive, despite the trials that we have to withstand.

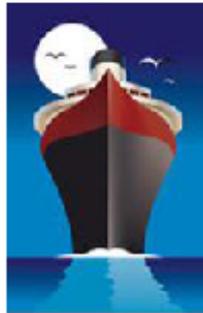
Thank God, at the moment we have no debts for utility bills. To do this we had to significantly reduce salaries. And, of course, your financial support helps us. For this we thank you and God for giving us such partners like you. The heaviest in the financial sense for us will be the winter heating season. We pray that by the spring there are not accumulated debts on heating bills, as was the case last year.

The Church continues all our services. Despite all the difficulties, we managed to get new drums for our African students. Also, we bought a new washing machine because the old one broke down. The ministry for disabled people, including the "Trinity" summer camp, and monthly programs continue.

We remember you and we constantly pray for you. May the Lord bless you and the Westwood UMC congregation richly.

With love in Christ, Alexander Pererva, Pastor, Resurrection UMC

From the Westwood UMC Missions Team: Donations to support our sister church in Russia are very much needed. Please denote your gift "Russia Initiative". Thank you!



ALL ABOARD FOR:
2018 DINNER THEATER
CRUISE NIGHT

Saturday, February 24, 2018.

4:30 Appetizers and gathering time.

FIVE-COURSE DINNER

and **DRAMA:**

“CAPERNAUM P.D.”

It's all part of the job in a big city for these two police detectives

Westwood UMC, Simpson Hall, Downstairs
538 Nichols, Kalamazoo

GET YOUR TICKETS:

Please reserve your spot by purchasing tickets (\$12.00 each minimum donation suggested) available beginning

February 1 in the Lobby or office. Childcare available.

Donations to benefit the Westwood Fine Art Ministries operating costs for 2018

Westwood UMC Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is accepting items from the list for the food pantry. Monetary donations will be used to purchase meat and eggs. 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!*

If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please speak with Maggie Blair or any committee member.

WUMC Westwood Neighborhood Food Pantry Shopping List

breakfast cereal	rice
low-sodium soup	canned fruit
canned chili	instant mashed potatoes
toilet paper	paper towel



Food Pantry Volunteers:

Saturday, March 03, 2018

Committee Member: Beth Mitchell

Name: Barb Elliott

Name: Jan Urfer

Name: Brenda Tiefenthal

Name: Liz Prentice

Saturday, March 17, 2018

Committee Member: *Help Needed*

Name: Barbara Hunt

Name: *Help Needed*

Name: *Help Needed*

Name: *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.

	February 25, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	March 4, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
<i>Serving you in Worship</i>		
Worship Assistant	Doug Tipken	Sandra Bibilomo
Altar	Judi Dean	Tracy Quintanilla
1st Service Audio	Brian VandePolder	<i>Help Needed</i>
1st Service Video	Mike Kosten	Mike Kosten
2nd Service Audio	Matt Knewtson	<i>Help Needed</i>
2nd Service Video	Mike Turner	Brian VandePolder
Children's Moment	Pastor Wayne	Pastor Wayne
Children's Worship	Helga Mortensen and Laura Puwal	<i>Help Needed</i>
Power Point Preparer	Kelly Graham	Barbara Hathaway
<i>Serving you through Welcoming</i>		
1st Service Greeters	Jane & Gary Waite, Doug Tipken	Jeanette Jupp, Jim & Louise Jameson
2nd Service Greeters	Mike & Jo Turner	Dan & Mary Brooks, Lisa Fuller
Hospitality	Shirley Mitchell, Joy Price	Carol Tolis-Bucklin, Alberta Cumming
1st Service Ushers	Norm & Mary Grant	Joe & Shirley Mitchell
2nd Service Ushers	Clint & Jean Whitcomb, Kim Longstroth, Dickson Sikaundi	Diane Rathburn, Mark Reid, TBD
<i>Staff</i>		
Nursery Workers	Mary Landreville, Violet Flores, Morgan Jung	Mary Landreville, Morgan Jung, Violet Flores
Keyboardist	Dana Tipken	Dana Tipken

Thank You for Serving!

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
Michael Clup (friend of the Lancaster's)
Gary Cumming
Vicki Georgeau (niece of Marian Burkey & Linda Ridderbos)
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, stationed in Middle East (grandson of Al & Linda Ridderbos)

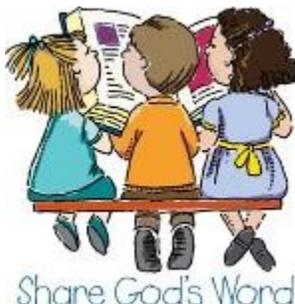
Prayers for healing and strength to the homebound

King-Westwood Elementary School & Staff

Our Westwood Neighborhood



*Have updates on these friends or others?
Please let the church office know!*



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 by noon.**

Future Messengers and Deadlines—by noon

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Publication Date</i>
Mar. 1	Mar. 5
Mar. 15	Mar. 19
Mar. 28*	Apr. 2*

*Dates Changed due to Holiday

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

Westwood United Methodist Church	344-7165
Email info@westwood-umc.org	
Website: www.westwood-umc.org	
Fax: 344-9174	
Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Wayne A. Price	762-4787
E-mail: pastorwaynewumc@gmail.com	
Director of Fine Art Ministry, Jane Wright	544-2390
E-mail: jwrightwumc@gmail.com	
Deacon, Sandra Bibilomo	
Email: sandra.douglas73@yahoo.com	
Coordinator of Children's Ministries, Helga Mortensen	
Email: hmortensenwumc@gmail.com	
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: info@westwood-umc.org	

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.