

From the Heart of the Pastor

If we draw near to the Lord, He will draw near to us. God blessed us richly in Holy Week, first, with Deacon Sandra's message about Jesus' intentionality in Jerusalem and how it challenges us to follow Jesus in all circumstances. On Maundy Thursday we shared in a meal in remembrance of Jesus' last meal with the disciples, and how Jesus became the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world. Good Friday included the Northside Ministerial Alliance service on the last seven words of Jesus. Each speaker opened up the words of Jesus for us as we recommitted our lives to Jesus. On Friday night, many of the fine arts group offered beautiful music illuminating the last day of Jesus. Our Fine Arts Director, Jane Wright, created an inspirational service illustrating Jesus' love.

Easter morning was a great celebration of the life and love Jesus gives us through the resurrection. Many people contributed, including the purchasing and arranging the flowers in the sanctuary, the joyful music of the musicians, everyone who spoke, the sound board operators, PowerPoint folks, and the ushers, as well as the people who greeted and provided hospitality. We are blessed with the goodness of our Lord, who brings us new life through the sacrifice of the crucifixion, and the victory of eternal life in the resurrection.

I encourage you to continue the good work our Lord began in you. Next week we will continue with Deacon Sandra's Sunday School Class, as well as Louise Jameson's class. In addition, Doug Tipken will begin a class on building relationships and sharing your faith. In the coming weeks we will also begin a new Wednesday evening class on "Joy Stealers" (How to maintain Jesus joy in your life), led by Louise Jameson. The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will continue, as we explore some of the people in the Gospel of John. In addition, we have Women's Connect Breakfast and the Men's Prayer Group, as well as encouragement groups where you can become involved.

Another fantastic development with our Food Pantry will begin on April 7. In addition to providing food for the people of the Westwood community, we will also cook breakfast for them while they wait for their food. I praise our Lord that we are providing relationships as well as providing food. Another way we will provide for our community is our "Trash to Treasure" basement sale. It is more than a rummage sale, as we intentionally offer Christ and touch lives to all who attend. Also, please remember our Church Clean-up Day on April 21. We are blessed to be a blessing in many ways!

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,
Pastor Wayne

Kalamazoo Philharmonia Horn Quartet – Apr. 8

The Kalamazoo Philharmonia Horn Quartet will be in concert at Westwood UMC on Sunday, April 8 at 3:00 PM in the church sanctuary. The concert is free and friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors are welcome. There will be a free-will offering to benefit the Westwood UMC Community Food Pantry.

Women Connect: Breakfast with a Purpose – Apr. 14

Women Connect: Breakfast with a Purpose will be held on Saturday, Apr. 14, at 9:00 am in Epworth with prayer time to follow. Sign up for the breakfast either on the sign-up sheet or on the back of the Communication Card.

Westwood UMC Foundation – Scholarship Applications Due Apr. 17

The Westwood UMC Foundation is accepting applications for the VanVoorhees 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).

Book Discussion Group – Apr. 17

Our book for April is Sensible Shoes, by SW Michigan author Sharon Garlough Brown. This is a Goodreads top-rated book! It's the inspiring story of four strangers who reluctantly arrive at a retreat center and discover infinitely more than they'd expected. You will be drawn into their lives quickly and gain so much from it. ALL are welcomed at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, Apr. 17 in the Prayer Room. Questions? Please contact Nancy Snell.

Adult Book Study – Begins Apr. 18

The Joy Stealers by Rob Renfroe – A six-week group study on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm beginning April 18 in the Wesley Room and lead by Louise Jameson.

“What’s stealing your joy? Are you dealing with painful relationships, disobedient children, health concerns, financial struggles, or just the daily stresses and strains of life? Regardless of our circumstances, it’s true that in Christ we have everything we need to live in joy, but whether we actually do or not is a choice we make every day. Living with joy is a decision we make again and again as we’re continually faced with joy stealers such as worry, bitterness, guilt, negativity, and busyness. Rob Renfroe addresses these common joy stealers and suggests how we can overcome them by making five simple yet transformational decisions that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will enable us to have overflowing joy and be a continual blessing to others. A final chapter provides encouragement and help for living in the fullness of God's joy each and every day.” Please sign up for this class on the green card or on the sign-up sheet in the Lobby. **Please sign up by April 8th** so the appropriate number of books can be ordered for the class.

Men's Prayer Breakfast – Apr. 21

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 21, 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.

CROP Hunger Walk - April 29

The 43rd Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk will step off on Sunday, April 29 at 2 pm from Bronson Park. Funds raised support four local agencies -- Kalamazoo



Loaves & Fishes, Open Doors, Ecumenical Senior Center, YWCA Domestic Assault Center -- and reach beyond our community to combat hunger around the world. Sign up to walk or to make a donation to a walker on April 15, 22, or 29 30 at the CROP Walk table in the lobby. **All are wanted and**

welcome, as together we seek to end hunger, one step at a time!

Pet Lovers Group

It has been a pleasure sharing the blessings of animals with those of you who have shown an interest in having a pet lovers group and sharing our love of animals. However, the group has been small and meeting times have been a challenge. We have had fellowship over meals and picnics and the occasional movie. In the past we have also had a speaker and I am unsure of who else we could ask who is local. I wish there could have been more, volunteering for example. Please let me know through phone, email, Facebook or in person if anyone wants this group to continue and what you would be interested in doing. In the meantime, do not ever forget what a precious blessing our pets and other animals are. Upcoming events are the Kalamazoo Humane Society dog walk at Prairie View park, pet visits with the Easter bunny at local pet stores and blessing of the animals at St. Luke's Episcopal church in October. Happy Easter and God Bless! Sincerely, Linda VanOrder

Nursery Staff Wanted

WUMC is looking for a lead person who would like to oversee the nursery. This person would be interacting with the children in the nursery, making worker schedules, and making sure that the nurse is supplied with the things that are needed. You must be 18 or older and have completed the youth protection training before starting. Working hours would be 8:25 to approximately 12:30 Sundays and other times as you are available. If interested please contact: Mark Reid at 269-720-6543 or Wedgeboyreid@gmail.com or Wayne Price, at church 269-344-7165, or 269-330-6768 or Pastorwaynewumc@gmail.com.

Update from Erin Frey, Missionary to Florida, Part 2

Below is part two of an update from Erin Frey on her work as a two year mission fellow for the General Board of Global Ministries assigned to United Methodist Community Ministries Suncoast. Her very thorough report will appear in parts over the next few Messengers.

Point-in-Time Count

Every year in January there is a Point-in-Time Count where social service providers and volunteers go to the streets and interview homeless individuals. This count has two purposes, one is to document and record how many individuals in the community are homeless. This information is collected and sent to the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) who determines funding for service providers based on size and makeup of the homeless population. The other purpose is find homeless individuals and connect them to local social service agencies where they can receive help. The area where I live and work is vastly underserved and desperately needed an accurate count to receive appropriate HUD funding. So, this year I participated with the local Police Athletic League by interviewing and handing out packed lunches, blankets, and bus passes to all the homeless people I encountered. At the end of the day our group counted 60 people in Lealman. While 60 itself is not a large number for a community of our size, this number is staggering considering there were only five people counted in 2017. It is our hope that in this coming year that we will receive adequate funding to help provide better services to those in Lealman and eliminate homelessness.

Erin Donnelly
Dominic Hayes

Kaitlin Hosey
Jeremy Larson

...and guest clarinetist, Jane Wright

HORN QUARTET

▷ OF THE KALAMAZOO PHILHARMONIA ◁

SUNDAY

APR
8TH

3:00 PM

WESTWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
538 NICHOLS RD, KALAMAZOO, MI

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

- pancake mix
- spaghetti sauce
- canned fruit-any kind
- paper towels – single or double rolls
- tooth brushes & tooth paste (both adult & children's)



Food Pantry Volunteers:

Saturday, April 07, 2018

Committee Member: Beth Mitchell

Name: Jan Urfer

Name: Christy Clock

Name: Nancy Snell

Name: Laura Puwal

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Committee Member: *HELP NEEDED*

Name: Brenda Tiefenthal

Name: Laura Puwal

Name: Barb Elliott

Name: Dee Cole

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.

	April 8, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	April 15, 2018 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
<i>Serving you in Worship</i>		
Worship Assistant	Nancy Snell	Bertha Morgan
Altar	Judi Dean	Lauren Harris
1st Service Audio	Derick Daniels	David Knewton
1st Service Video	Mike Kosten	Mike Kosten
2nd Service Audio	David Knewton	Emmanuel Sikaundi
2nd Service Video	Mark Longstroth	Jim Frey
Children's Moment	Helga Mortensen	TBA
Children's Worship	TBA	TBA
Power Point Preparer	Gary Lubbert	Barbara Hathaway
<i>Serving you through Welcoming</i>		
1st Service Greeters	Jeanette Jupp, Jim & Louise Jameson	John Motter, Jim & Louise Jameson
2nd Service Greeters	Helen Lancaster, Julie Lancaster	Jo Turner, Mike Turner
Hospitality	Jane Waite, Carolyn Parker	Brenda Tiefenthal, Donna & Maggie Blair
1st Service Ushers	Phil Engel, Bud Mahieu	Donna Blair, Maggie Blair
2nd Service Ushers	Bob Mitchell, Brian VandePolder, Mary & Dan Brooks	Jeff Skinner, Elizabeth Dalzell, Jill & Emmanuel Sikaundi
<i>Staff</i>		
Nursery Workers	TBA, Violet Flores, Morgan Jung	TBA, Morgan Jung, Violet Flores
Keyboardist	Dana Tipken	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
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!*



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 by noon.**

Deadline	Publication Date
Apr. 12	Apr. 16
Apr. 26	Apr. 30
May 10	May 14
May 24	May 29**

**Adjusted 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.

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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.