

## *From the Heart of the Pastor*

Sharing your faith is not complicated. We begin with love, as it is the essence of God's love for us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:16-17). The first step in sharing faith is to identify when you experienced God's love. We begin with love.

The second step is to share God's love by being loving in your relationships. We are compelled by God's love, and do acts of kindness. As a relationship develops and trust is gained you can share the motivation for your acts of kindness. God so loved the world that God gave his one and only Son. As God loves the world through Jesus, we join God in acts of kindness so people around us will know God's love.

When you share the reason/motivation for your actions, you can share your big story, or smaller stories. Last month, Pastor Kevin Campbell, told us it is the "Why" of your faith. You may want to share the most significant impact Jesus had on your life. Another alternative is to share the smaller stories when you experienced God's love and encouragement. Each story can be a testimony about why you believe.

For me, a smaller story that continues to motivate me is my mom and grandparents teaching me a breakfast prayer. We would say it every breakfast, and it now is the prayer Joy and I say when we have breakfast together. As I recently discovered, it is based on a poem penned by Ralph Waldo Emerson. That's wonderful...but the importance to me is that it is our breakfast prayer. It has meaning because of the words, but also because of memories of the faith and love throughout four generations of our family.

***"For this new morning with its light, For rest and shelter of the night, For health and food, for love and friends, For every gift Thy goodness sends (we thank Thee, gracious Lord). Amen."***

The prayer reminds me, every morning is a new opportunity from God, and we are blessed with light every day. My heart is drawn to gratitude for the gift of having shelter and rest through the night (especially when temperatures are below freezing). The prayer centers me on God as the source of all the gifts: health, food, love, and friends. The prayer is one way I experienced Jesus' love, and continue to be touched by Jesus' love. How has Jesus touched you, and how can you share it with friends?

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,  
Pastor Wayne

### **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.

### **Church Women United Prayer Service – Apr. 19**

Church Women United is holding a community-wide Prayer Worship Service, Thursday, Apr. 19, beginning at 7:30 pm at Westwood UMC. Doors will open at 7:00 for fellowship and music. The community is invited to attend. This service will be the Roll Call and Kick-Off for the 2018 State Assembly for the Church Women United Michigan Membership. On April 20-21, the State Assembly will continue at the Holiday Inn West, 2747 S. 11th Street, Kalamazoo. On Friday evening, Apr. 20, at 7:00 pm our own Helen Lancaster will be presented with the Valiant Woman Award. You are invited to the Holiday Inn West that evening to help honor Helen.

### **Trustees Work Day – Apr. 21**

A Work Day is set for Saturday, Apr. 21, from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at Epworth House to do general repairs, paint prep and painting. Volunteers are needed from 8:30 to noon and 1:00 to 3:00; lunch will be provided at noon. Sign up on the back of the green card or on the sheet in the Lobby. Many hands make light work and will be greatly appreciated.

### **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.

### **Faith-Hope Circle – Apr. 25\***

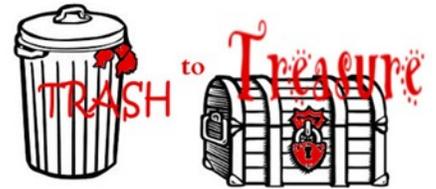
Faith-Hope Circle, a United Methodist Women's group, will meet at Friendship Village, 1400 N Drake, Room 1A on Wednesday, Apr. 25, at 1 pm. Everyone is welcome. Questions call Helen Lancaster, 344-9874, or Jeanette Jupp, 345-8833.

### **Appetizers and Anne's Update – Apr. 27**

Join Anne Klute as she presents her update on The March for Our Lives which she attended in Washington DC on March 24, 2018...her first March ever! We will meet in the Gathering Room at 6 pm on Friday, April 27 at WUMC. Please call or text Anne at 352-6861 so she knows how much food and how many chairs! You are still welcome even if you forget to RSVP. And, invite a friend if you would like!

### **Trash to Treasure Sale - Apr. 27-28**

Our semi-annual Trash to Treasure sale will be held on Friday, Apr. 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, Apr. 28 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. You may drop off items to be included in this sale in room 16 next to the theatre from Sunday, Apr. 22 to Thursday, Apr. 26 at 2:00 p.m. If you have questions, please call Beth Mitchell, 343-6806.



Can you join the fun and volunteer a couple of hours to make this sale successful? All proceeds benefit mission projects supported by United Methodist Women. Help is needed:

Monday - Thursday, Apr. 23 – 26: noon to 3 p.m. (drop in): sort donations

Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28: check-out customers, tidy tables, etc. (especially Friday morning when it is the busiest)

Saturday, April 28 at Noon to pack up unsold items which will go to the Rescued Treasures Store operated by the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission

### **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!



### **Friendship Luncheon – May 2**

All are invited to the Friendship Luncheon on Wed., May 2 at Noon in the Lobby. 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.

### **Update from Erin Frey, Missionary to Florida, Part 3**

Below is part three 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.

#### **#5000 Letters**

Under the leadership of Bishop Ken Carter, the Florida Conference initiated the #5000 Letters Campaign in response to the February 14<sup>th</sup> Parkland High School Shooting. The campaign's purpose was to generate 5,000 letters from local churches to government officials expressing their concerns on gun violence and calling for reform. My local church in Clearwater participated by generating letters following *The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church 2016*, section on the call to end gun violence (<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/gun-violence>). While this campaign was generated in Florida, it is open to anyone who is concerned and wants to participate. I encourage everyone at Westwood to look into the campaign ([www.5000letters.com](http://www.5000letters.com)) and to consider contacting officials in Michigan. To some, gun violence can be seen as a partisan issue, but I want to emphasize that this campaign does not endorse or target either political party; it is about our call as Christians to engage in political issues and speak out on matters of injustice and social concerns. The letters do have a political message, but it is one that is not partisan in nature.

#### **Lealman Community Garden**

Just recently we at The FISH teamed up with a local farmer to start building a high-yield community garden in the heart of the Lealman community. The garden will be completely volunteer based and anyone who helps will be able to take as much food as they want. All excess produce will be given to the community church and to the neighborhood family center. This garden will be used to not only produce an abundance of fresh food for residents, but also as an educational garden to teach organic and sustainable farming as well as healthy eating. Even though we only have the ground plotted, we are already looking forward to when we can plant our summer vegetables!

### Organist/Pianist Needed for Fall

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, On behalf of the Fine Art Ministries, I would like to let you know that our own Dana Tipken has asked to be relieved of her position as pianist/organist for fall, as it is established that her husband Doug will be assigned somewhere in July. I am hoping you will keep them both in your prayers, and be sure to express your thanks to Dana, as she has become a sparkling gem in our midst, and we will truly miss her wonderful abilities and spirit. However, we certainly wish them both well, and now need to keep our eyes peeled for whom else might be wanting such a position at Westwood. You may or may not know someone, who might be interested. The job publicity is posted on our church website. Serving Him with you, Jane Wright

### Fair Trade Sale Coming in December

Last December, our church held its inaugural Fair Trade Sale. It was very successful, in large part due to all the wonderful volunteers who helped on the day of the sale, and with setting up the night before. We plan to expand our December 1st sale this year and are looking for more volunteers! We want to form several committees, especially for advertising, volunteer coordination, and food. Would YOU please prayerfully consider helping with this endeavor? Many hands make light work - and a lot more fun, too! Planning meetings will start up in June. Please contact Julie Lancaster (269-271-3336) or Nancy Snell (630-926-1235) with any questions- and to VOLUNTEER! You will be helping people throughout the world receive a fair price for the marvelous items they make and produce.

### Thank you, Westwood Family!

Thank you to the Westwood UMC family for all the cards, hugs and kind words following the recent loss of my husband, Don Henson. A special thanks to Pastor Wayne and the others who helped with Don's service and the refreshments that followed. With love, Bev Henson

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Thank you, Westwood Family, for the beautiful tulips. I so appreciate them. Lois Mallinson

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Westwood United Methodist Church,  
To all who have offered prayer and help during these times of health problems, we offer our thanks and prayers. God Bless, Violet and Ray Cutler

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The Westwood Vocal Ensemble extends a grateful THANK YOU to everyone who enjoyed Sunday dinner at Applebee's on March 18th. Just by eating out that day, you raised **\$101.95** for your youth choir. We are very thankful for the support of our church family.



### 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)



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

##### **April 21:**

Committee Member: *HELP NEEDED*

Name: Brenda Tiefenthal

Name: Laura Puwal

Name: Dee Cole

Name: *HELP NEEDED*

##### **May 5:**

Committee Member: Maggie Blair

Name: Brenda Tiefenthal

Name: Sandra Bibilomo

Name: Megan Kime

Name: Phil Engel

##### **May 19:**

Committee Member: *HELP NEEDED*

Name: Joyce Branch

Name: Liz Prentice

Name: Barb Elliott

Name: Diane Herpolsheimer

## 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>April 22, 2018</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	<b>April 29, 2018</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
<b><i>Serving you in Worship</i></b>		
Worship Assistant	Dan Brooks	Beth Mitchell
Altar	Beth Mitchell	Julie Lancaster
1st Service Audio	Brian VandePolder	Gary Lubbert
1st Service Video	Mike Kosten	Mike Kosten
2nd Service Audio	Bertha/Deontrae Morgan	Matt Knewtson
2nd Service Video	Mike Turner	Jim Frey
Children's Moment	Jane Wright	Pastor Wayne
Children's Worship	Helga Mortensen, Jill Reid	Helga Mortensen
Power Point Preparer	Kelly Graham	Barbara Hathaway
<b><i>Serving you through Welcoming</i></b>		
1st Service Greeters	Sallie Platt, Rachael Deneau	Lauretta Eisenbach, Kris Locke
2nd Service Greeters	Dan & Mary Brooks, Lisa Fuller	Beth Shirley, Beth Mitchell
Hospitality	Kim Longstroth, Sheila Skinner	Louise Jameson, Alberta Cumming
1st Service Ushers	Norm & Mary Grant	Doug & Pam Phillips
2nd Service Ushers	Clint & Jean Whitcomb, Kim Longstroth, Dickson Sikaundi	Jimoh Bibilomo, Art Klute, Roxanne Frey, TBD
<b><i>Staff</i></b>		
Nursery Workers	Melissa Lain, Violet Flores, Morgan Jung	Melissa Lain, 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)

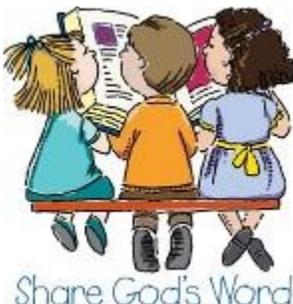
Prayers for healing and strength to the homebound

King-Westwood Elementary School & Staff

Our Westwood Neighborhood



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



### **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—by noon**

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Publication Date</i>
Apr. 26	Apr. 30
May 10	May 14
May 24	May 28

## **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.