

## *From the Heart of the Pastor*

During May we will focus on keeping spiritual strong. The image we will use is the "Armor of God" which is described in Ephesians 6. Paul tells us that we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces. I invite you to think of it this way: If you have a disagreement with someone, or are hurt by them, the earthly situation is the conflict. The spiritual battle is with bitterness, spite, and animosity. We need to work things out relationally, and we also need to work spiritually protecting our heart, mind, and approaching the situation with the peace of Christ. Paul describes our spiritual armor in the following way:

**Belt of truth.** The Gospel of John uses the word "truth" often. In John, it means Jesus' sacrifice, forgiveness, and resurrection. Jesus comes from God for our restoration. In the Roman armor the belt held all the other armor in place, and was a place that held the sword. Jesus sacrifice, love, and resurrection helps us hold it all together and be ready for anything.

**Breastplate of righteousness.** Righteousness is to live life the way God wants us to live life, because God is righteous. The breastplate protects our heart, which was the essence of being in the Bible times. So, being right with God protects our very being.

**Shoes of the gospel of peace.** Wherever our feet take us is where we will be. Therefore, if our feet are shorn with peace, we will enter every situation with the presence of peace.

**Shield of faith.** Faith protects us from evil words and thoughts. Threats will come from outside of us, and threaten our spiritual strength. Believing Jesus died for us and lives with us, gives us faith that He will be with us through anything. It helps us to bear in Jesus love and peace when we are under attack.

**Helmet of salvation:** Knowing we are saved by Jesus' forgiveness and love protects our thinking. If we are thinking unkind thoughts about other people, or if we are condemning ourselves, knowing we are forgiven enables us to love others and ourselves. Jesus' sacrifice enables us to think gracefully.

**Sword of the Spirit,** which is the word of God. The word of God enables us to know God's character and will for us. If we do not know what God says, we will not know how to protect ourselves and win battles of our mind and will.

My vision for the month of May, is that you will be better equipped for living faithfully with Jesus; strengthened by the armor He provides. May we go in strength and grace.

Gratefully serving our Lord with you,  
Pastor Wayne

### **District 7 Conference**

Registration is open for the District 7 Uniting Conference on Saturday, May 12 at Pathfinder UMC (8740 S Westnedge Ave, Portage). The event will last from 10:00-noon (registration at 9:30) with lunch to follow. Join us as we celebrate the ministry of the more than 100 churches, 2 camp and retreat centers, and a Wesley Foundation in the new District 7. This historic and inspirational event will include worship with a message from DS Dwayne Bagley and Holy Communion. We will also find out our District name and elect leaders. Register online by May 7.

### **Friendship Luncheon – May 2**

All are invited to the Friendship Luncheon on Wed., May 2 at noon in the lobby. Doug Merriman will entertain us with the playing of his harmonica. 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.

### **Life-Line Screening at Westwood UMC – May 3**

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Westwood United Methodist Church on 5/3/2018. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. *In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) or text the word circle to 797979*

### **Mother Daughter Tea – May 5**

Our annual Mother Daughter Friend Tea will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. in the lobby of the church. All are welcome. Once again, we will have the 10-cent sale as well. Everyone brings something from home, new or old, that someone else might enjoy. Tickets are \$3.00 each and will be on sale April 22 and 29. This is a FRAN event. Invite your friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors for a casual, fun-filled fellowship time together. For additional information, contact Beth Mitchell at 343-6806 or [barmitch55@gmail.com](mailto:barmitch55@gmail.com).

### **Fine Art Ministries Sunday – May 6**

I just want to let our congregation know that a special service is being planned for May 6, and will lift up the subject of how God is Glorified in worship through the arts, and will feature a bit of history regarding the arts in “the church” and also focus on how God works as creator in our world, in our hearts. Additionally, we will focus on how God also inspires artists to create for His Glory. We hope this day will be inspiring for all of us as worshipers and creators with God. Our congregation is so richly blessed in the area of the arts, I hope you will find this to be an exciting and inciteful day of worship at Westwood UMC. Serving Him with you – Jane Wright, Director of Fine Art Ministries. *PLEASE NOTE:* There will be no Children's Worship this morning.

### **Golden Cross Sunday – May 6**

Golden Cross Sunday provides an offering opportunity to support:

Camperships for summer campers needing extra help to get to camp

Children who have been abused or neglected

Seniors who have outlived their savings

The organizations represented are:

Michigan Area United Methodist Camping

Methodist Children's Home Society

United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) Foundation

Special offering envelopes are in your giving envelope packet dated May 6. Your donations are much appreciated!



### **Singing Crusaders Male Chorus – May 6\***

Come and enjoy an afternoon of great Christian Music as the Singing Crusaders Male Chorus present their Spring Concert, joined by the Men of A-Chord Chorus of Chicago and the Heritage Singing Men of Grand Rapids. The concert will be held at the 12<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church at 3911 S 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Kalamazoo on Sunday, May 6, at 3:00 pm. Free-will offering.

### **Mother's Day—May 13**

For Mother's Day on May 13, we would like everyone to bring a small picture of your mother to be put on display. Please plan to pick up your picture on Sunday May 20.

### **Love Your Neighbor Fundraiser Breakfast – May 13**

9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM - Come After First Service or Before Second Service

The Outreach Team will be serving another fabulous breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, pancakes, and biscuits and gravy. As payment for your breakfast, please bring gift cards of \$10, \$15, or \$20 to a local grocery store, gas station or fast-food restaurant. If you prefer, you can bring cash and we will purchase the gift cards with the monies collected. These gift cards will then be given to the Sheriff's Department Deputies to distribute when they encounter our neighbors who might find themselves out of gas, in need of a few groceries or a hot meal. Though a reservation is not required, we appreciate your signing up on the sign-up sheet in the lobby or on the back of the green card as this helps with planning. See you on May 13th for good food, good fellowship and all for a good cause.

### **Book Discussion Group – May 15**

On Tuesday, May 15 at 7:00 , we'll be discussing Finding God in a Bag of Groceries, by Laura L. Willis. "In a tiny food pantry, the author discovers her own hunger for God, and a world of neighbors she never knew: the lonely, unemployed, chronically poor, and middle-class folks surprised to be struggling in a great recession." ALL are invited to come, listen, and share any of your experiences! We'll meet in Simpson Hall. Amazon has many used copies.

### **Men's Prayer Breakfast – May 19**

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 19, 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.

### **Pentecost Sunday - May 20**

Sunday, May 20 is Pentecost Sunday. We would like everyone to wear something red on that day when they come to service to help celebrate the Birth of the Church.

### **WUMC Prayer Service – May 20**

The WUMC Prayer Service will Sunday evening, May 20, at 6:00 pm. Join us for this monthly time of prayer and worship together, lifting up the needs of our congregation and giving thanks for God's blessing.

### **Women Connect: Breakfast with a Purpose— No May Meeting**

Women Connect: Breakfast with a Purpose will not meet in May. Please join us on Saturday, June 9, at 9:00 am in the Lobby for our next breakfast with prayer time to follow.

### Friend of the Week

Have you seen the Friend of the Week in the church bulletin on Sunday mornings and wondered what that's all about? These are members of our church that the Congregational Care Committee want to remind you to keep in your prayers, send a card, or give a call. Thank you from the Congregational Care Committee.

### Help Choose the Name for the New District—Due May 2

The United Methodist districts in Michigan have been re-districted, and our district needs a name. The District Vision Team has tried to choose options that reflect something identifiable about our area of the state and were geographically recognizable. Our church receives one vote but we need your input. Whatever received the highest number of votes is what we will submit to the district. Please vote by filling out your name (only one name per ballot or your vote for all those voting will only count for 1 vote) and checking one of the options. Then turn it in to the "VOTE" box in the lobby.

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#### District Naming Voting Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Options: (Choose One Only)

- Greater Southwest District
- Orchard Southwest District
- Southwest District
- Vineyard Southwest District

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### Now Hiring: Organist/Pianist Needed

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.

### **Update from Erin Frey, Missionary to Florida, Part 4**

Below is part four 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. This is the final article in a very thorough update from Erin. If you would like to support Erin, gifts should be marked "Erin Frey" (checks payable to Westwood UMC).

### **Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE)**

In early March I helped facilitate a Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE). COPE is an hour long training that takes participants through a month in the life of low-income individuals, or family, with all of its associated barriers, real experiences, and frustrations. It is primarily geared towards large groups who may have never lived in poverty or may have never recognized, not only the impact poverty has on families, but also the cost it has on communities.

The participants in my training consisted of ministry leaders, deacons, and pastors from an affluent church who wanted to expand their outreach programs. They were the exact composition of people that this training was designed for; they had hearts for service and wanted to share the love of God and the resources entrusted to them with the community, however they didn't have any experience with poverty.

Watching them go through the simulation, get into their roles, and come to terms with the realities and constraints was powerful. This was the third time I have helped facilitate the training, but it was the first time I saw people have such a deeply emotional response to it. At the end of the simulation, when we were in our debriefing discussion, three of the participants broke down in tears over realizations they had. I left the training feeling like the Holy Spirit was working within the participants to build hearts of compassion that would lead to building relationships and changing lives in that community.

### Pack a Child for Camp

Westwood UMC will be collecting items for children and youth in need in our community who will be able to attend summer camp through Family and Children Services. These items are small daypacks or backpacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, towels and washcloths, and new swimsuits. Place items in the collection bins in the lobby by May 27. Thank you!

### “A Shelter from Their Storm” Campaign – May 20

Kalamazoo Gospel Mission's campaign to replace the old buildings on Burdick St. in order to better serve the increasing number of women, children, and men with children is asking area churches to take a special offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, to support this much needed project. With a goal to collectively raise \$1 million dollars as a church united, Westwood UMC will join in this unified effort of churches. Special giving envelopes will be in the bulletin on May 20 (checks payable to Westwood UMC). This is one way to do something significant to display God's love for the least of these and make a difference in our community.



### Thank You for Supporting the CROP Hunger Walk

Westwood UMC supported the Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk on April 29 with \$1,475 being raised for four local agencies and many worldwide programs coordinated by Church World Service. Walking the 5K route (3.1 miles) on behalf of Westwood were Dan Brooks; Derick, Andrea, and Lydia Daniels; Joan Melvin, Joe Mitchell; Brenda Tiefenthal; Dennis and Nancy VandenBrink; and Chris, Emily, and Lyla Sipsma (family related to Brenda). Thank you to all who donated or raised funds and those who walked on behalf of hungry people!

### Messenger Newsletter News:

*Beginning in June, the newsletter will only be published once a month. Please watch the next newsletter for information regarding the changes. Thank you for your understanding.*

### 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

- heartly soups
- spaghetti noodles
- dish soap
- flavored rice
- paper towel
- tooth brushes & tooth paste (both adult & children's)



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

##### **Saturday, May 05, 2018**

Committee Member: Maggie Blair  
Name: Brenda Tiefenthal  
Name: Sandra Bibilomo  
Name: Megan Kime  
Name: Phil Engel

##### **Saturday, May 19, 2018**

Committee Member: Brenda Tiefenthal  
Name: Joyce Branch  
Name: Liz Prentice  
Name: Barb Elliott  
Name: Diane Herpolsheimer

##### **Saturday, June 2, 2018**

Committee Member: HELP NEEDED  
Name: Barb Elliott  
Name: Donna Blair  
Name: Carolyn Parker  
Name: Jane Waite

## 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>May 6, 2018</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	<b>May 13, 2018</b> 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. <b>MOTHER'S DAY &amp; Communion</b>
<b><i>Serving you in Worship</i></b>		
Worship Assistant	Sandra Bibilomo	Sally Mahieu
Altar	Tracy Quintanilla	Judi Dean
1st Service Audio	Derick Daniels	Seth Virgo
1st Service Video	Mike Kosten	Mike Kosten
2nd Service Audio	Seth Virgo	Emmanuel Sikaundi
2nd Service Video	Brian VandePolder	Mark Longstroth
Children's Moment	Jane Wright	Pastor Wayne
Children's Worship	No Children's Church	Helga Mortensen, TBD
Power Point Preparer	Jane Wright	Gary Lubbert
<b><i>Serving you through Welcoming</i></b>		
1st Service Greeters	Jane & Gary Waite, Doug Tipken	Jeanette Jupp, Jim & Louise Jameson
2nd Service Greeters	Ron Anspach, Royanne Anspach	Diane Rathburn, Roxanne Frey
Hospitality	Shirley Mitchell, Joy Price	Beth Mitchell, Karen Bowman
1st Service Ushers	Joe & Shirley Mitchell	Phil Engel, Bud Mahieu
2nd Service Ushers	Diane Rathburn, Mark Reid, Sheila Skinner. TBD	Bob Mitchell, Brian VandePolder, Mary & Dan Brooks
<b><i>Serving you Through the Week</i></b>		
Counters	Phil Engel, TBD, TBD HELP NEEDED	Phil Engel, TBD, TBD HELP NEEDED
<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)

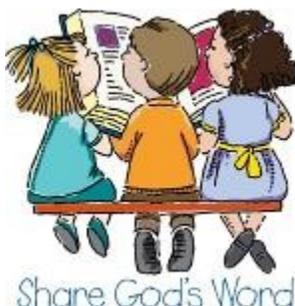
Prayers for healing and strength to the homebound

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***

<b><i>Deadline</i></b>	<b><i>Publication Date</i></b>
May 24	May 30*

\*Delayed 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](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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