

What's happening in worship

**Worship Celebrations at
8:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m.**
Nursery care is provided during both celebrations.

A song from about 10 years ago asked the question, "What if God was one of us?" What is so important about us believing God was "one of us" in Jesus Christ. In my life I have found it is extremely important that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. If the story of Jesus was a man who taught good lessons and helped people, then He would be admirable but not worthy of worship. His response to the hate and sin of the world was to be victorious over death and return to us so we would be reconciled with God. He alone had the power to overcome hatred and death to give us new life.

I've needed the resurrection because in the past I have hurt people and made sinful choices. We all have to some degree, and we cannot go back in time and change what happened. Instead of driving us away in anger, God longs for us to turn around, be forgiven, and restored by His forgiveness and love. As I mentioned in the sermon on Sunday; if Paul did not encounter the forgiveness of Jesus, his story would have ended in tragedy when Jesus said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4). Paul received new life from God through the forgiveness of the resurrected Christ, and could say, "Therefore, there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 8:1).

On our "Journey of a Lifetime" the forgiveness of Jesus is vital, because it frees us from the condemnation of guilt, so we can live in freedom. The healing power of Jesus allows you not to be driven by hurt and guilt of your past, so you can make healthy choices. The healing can happen through truth, trust, and triumph:

- **Truth:** Be honest in a gentle spirit about the pain you have experienced and the sin in your past. Confess any wrong doing to Jesus with the confidence that "if we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). If the hurt you experienced is very deep you may want to talk about it with a trusted Christian friend or counselor. It may take time.
- **Trust:** Trust Jesus to love you even though He knows the worst about you. During His life and after His resurrection He sought out people others called "sinners" and sought to restore them to the Father's love. Trust also can take time and gradual build, just as it does in any relationship.
- **Triumph.** Jesus was triumphant over the world and sin, and we are told that we have the "indwelling Christ." His resurrection is in us and just as He brought goodness (everlasting life and reconciliation through the resurrection), through tragedy (the cross), He promises to do the same in us.

We are a resurrection people who are going to Jerusalem, where the people who witnessed the resurrected Jesus gather.

Live the Life!

Pastor Wayne

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Upcoming Messenger Deadlines:

April 16, for publication April 21

There will be no Messenger the week of April 28.

April 30, for publication May 5

May 7, for publication May 12

Enjoy the Journey

An Easter Devotional

At Westwood United Methodist Church we are on The Journey of a Lifetime, which is a path with Jesus to be at home with God. Part of the journey is listening to God and allowing Him to guide your steps toward home. In April we invite you to think about how Jesus is with you on your path. Each week we offer five Scriptures and ask you listen to what God is saying. Choose one word in the passage and make it your "focus word" for the day. Then write down a response to the question as it applies to your life. Enjoy the journey-God wants you to succeed in finding your peace, rest, and resurrection in Him.

Week 3: April 13-19

Galatians 1:11-24 Focus Word _____
Who praises God because of the change in your life?

Psalms 9 Focus Word _____
How has Jesus help you overcome sin or adversaries?

Psalms 34:17-22 Focus Word _____
When were your crushed in spirit and God saved you?

Ephesians 4:14-24 Focus Word _____
How have you grown up and are no longer an infant in faith?

Ephesians 5:8-14 Focus Word _____
How are you living in God's light and goodness?

Week 4: April 20-26

Psalms 25 Focus Word _____
What do you need to release so you can receive God?

Galatians 3:26-29 Focus Word _____
How can you view people as "one in Christ Jesus"?

Galatians 2:19 Focus Word _____
How are you living for God?

Galatians 2:20 Focus Word _____
How are you denying yourself (being humble toward God)?

Galatians 2:20-21 Focus Word _____
How is Christ living in you?

Jane Wright: Worship and Fine Art Ministries
Phone: 344-7165 ext. 205. Email: jwright-wumc@sbcglobal.net



Music in Worship

Date	First Service 8:30	Second Service 10:55
April 13	The "Q"	The "Q" / Praise Team
April 20		Praise Team
April 27	Chancel choir and WHBE	Chancel Choir/WHBE/Praise Team

Special Music Opportunity:

April 20 6PM Capital City Ringers, Westwood Chancel Choir & Handbell Ensemble

Camp Westwood Meeting

May 13, 6:30 p.m.

(VBS through the arts)

There will be an organizational meeting on Tuesday, April 1 at 6:30. Please come if you are at all interested in participating as a leader or helper. The Theme is a Beach Party.

Men's Ensemble Rehearsals For Mother's Day

Men of Westwood, rise up and SING!! We will rehearse on May 1 and 8 at 7:00. If you are interested, please come and help us make a joyful noise unto the Lord. It is amazing to hear all the Westwood guys singing.

Collecting Items For Camp Westwood

There is need of clear plastic 2 liter bottles – washed out. We would like to borrow some surf boards if there are any around. Also – beach items, such as beach balls, umbrellas, flotation devices, Colorful pails and shovels, sand sifters, etc.

Capital City Ringers In Concert At Westwood

Sunday, April 20 at 6pm

The Capital City Ringers, Inc., under the direction of Jane Wright, will be in concert at Westwood UMC on Sunday, April 20 at 6:00 PM and is called: "**Letters from Camp CCR.**" The concert includes a variety of music selections, including some that will be done with the Chancel Choir and Handbell Ensembles of Westwood UMC! CCR owns over six octaves of Malmark handbells and handchimes, and incorporates electronic keyboard and a variety of percussion instruments. This ensemble is unique in their expert handling of their instruments, their musicality, and their usual smattering of humor that brings joy to all. A freewill donation will be taken.

A demand for recordings has inspired CCR to produce three recordings and they will be available at the concert. For additional information, recordings, membership, photos, concert dates, and full repertoire list, be sure to visit their award-winning website at www.capitalcityringers.com for more information and a complete concert music listing.

Thought for the week

Worship and God have a way with our soul. We might not be what we ought to be, or what we want to be, but we are not what we used to be, by the grace of God.

April 2008

An informal monthly overview of ministry happenings

The Alpha Course

The Alpha Course held their Retreat at W.K. Kellogg Biological Station Conference Center with the Alpha Course members from Almena UMC on March 15th. The current Alpha Course ends April 15th. Next Course begins September 2008. Look for details soon and consider bringing a friend!

Church Council

Thom Andrews

The Culture of Discipleship implementation team has been named. It includes: Louise Jamison, Matt Knewton, Bob Strobel, Mike Turner, Deb Hazel, Matt Sturdy, and Thom Andrews.

Communications

Mike Turner

- Easter gifts for guests will be continued for a while but will be just a welcome gift. Please make sure any first time guest you meet at worship gets a gift either from an usher or Roxanne Frey.
- The Welcome to the Neighborhood Ministry is in dire need of Welcome Kit deliverers. Please contact Mike Turner (207-6150) if you have an interest or a question concerning this ministry.
- Current Project is to assist Kingdom Kids Leadership Team in preparing for their Rededication Service on Sunday May 18th. Look for information in the Messenger. See what those Kids are up to now!

Fine Arts Ministries

Jane Wright

The Easter season became a journey of a lifetime,

- The "Rose Of Calvary" was offered at Westwood on March 9 and involved Joe Mitchell as Narrator, Amy Lubbert in Liturgical Dance along with the Chancel Choir. Handbells
- Westwood Singers were found ringing or singing at the Palm Sunday worship time.
- Holy week involved a special music vocalist, Duane Hagen who sang a solo written by himself and John Chamberlin.
- Prayer stations (Maundy Thursday and Good Friday) in Simpson Hall both meaningful and appreciated
- Holy Communion was experienced at the Maundy Thursday service, and a Prayer Service at the noon hour on Good Friday was also offered by Pastor Wayne.
- Easter Sunday is always a joy, with the Son Rise service created and led by the Westwood Youth, breakfast offered by the Appalachia Service Project team, and the two additional Easter Resurrection Sunday Services at 8:30 and 10:55
- Many thanks to Dani Sturdy, who continues to provide children with meaningful time during the children's sermons at the 10:55 service.
- The Chancel Choir offered "The Rose of Calvary" at Northwest UMC on April 6.
- On April 20, the Chancel Choir and Westwood Handbell Ensemble will be featured at the Capital City Ringer Concert here at Westwood at 6PM. This is CCR's 24th year and it was founded and is directed by Jane Wright.
- There will be a Men's Ensemble and Women's Ensemble singing in worship in upcoming weeks and others who like to sing are invited to participate.

Missions

Nancy VandenBrink

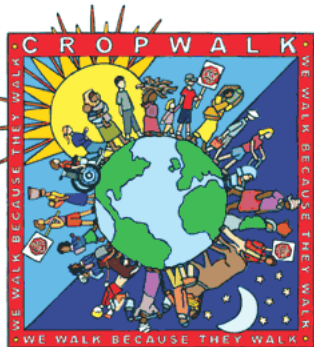
- \$819 was given for One Great Hour of Sharing which underwrites the work of UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief.
- \$200 was sent from loose coins to UMCOR for "Super Tuesday" tornadoes.

What's going on at Westwood

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- \$463 was given on Easter to support our missionary in Zambia, Paul Webster.
- Food stuffs and other requested items were sent off to Chris Nuyen stationed in Iraq in early April.
- All Sunday school offering in March and April is going to the Hot Lunch program in Haiti, an ongoing UMCOR project. The hot lunch program serves a hearty, nutritious meal to nearly 17,000 school children in 93 schools through the Methodist school system every day, including rice, beans, and other local produce. This is the only hot meal many children will eat during the day. The average cost of a single meal for a student is \$1, but it can be as much as \$2 depending on the area, cost and availability of food.
- \$406 was given at the fundraiser dinner for Kalamazoo Deacons Conference on March 16. Loose coin offering in April will go to them as well in order to make a total gift of at least \$500.
- The Kalamazoo Valley CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, May 4. Sign-up to walk or make a donation to a walker representing Westwood UMC on Sunday, April 20 or 27 or May 4. 25% of your gift helps local hunger agencies while 75% fights hunger worldwide.

CROP Walk



Join your neighbors in walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world by participating in the Kalamazoo Valley CROP Walk on Sunday, May 4.

CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walks are unique in that proceeds

benefit both domestic and international poverty-reducing efforts. 25% of the funds raised remain in the Kalamazoo area to help local soup kitchens and food pantries while 75% are used by Church World Service to help impoverished people around the world.

Stop by the CROP Walk table to sign up to walk or financially support a walker on Sunday, April 20, April 27, or May 4. The Missions team would like to provide lunch for walkers following the 10:55 service on May 4 before you head down to Bronson Park for either the 2.1 miles or 6.2 miles route.

Put your heart and soles in motion to help stop hunger!

A Word from ISAAC

ISAAC is an interfaith organizing network of congregations and strategic partners working together to build a more just community. Westwood is an ISAAC partner congregation.

ISAAC held its annual banquet April 5 in Bernhard Student Center at WMU. Almost 400 people attended. There was great music, good fellowship, and inspiring messages including the keynote address by Howard Wolpe. He spoke of how he has been able to take the lessons learned here in Kalamazoo and apply them in his work for reconciliation in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. A good time was had by all celebrating ISAAC accomplishments to date. In addition to being a celebration, this was a fundraiser. Over 30 more people pledged to be sustainers, to give monthly to support the work of ISAAC in the community. If you wish to become a sustainer, please see a member of the WWUMC Core Team. If you wish to see a copy of the Banquet Program Book, a few are available in the Narthex. Check out the WWUMC ad (page 20.)

An Interview with Susanna Wesley The good mother says not, 'Will you?' but gives." English Proverb

By Wesley, the Church Mouse



Mouse: Westwood United Methodist church welcomed Mrs. Susanna Wesley to our middle high group last Sunday. Can you tell us a little bit about you and your family? We have a group of children who will be undergoing the confirmation course this spring and we

thought it would be nice to have you speak to them about what it was like to be the mother of two sons who have done so much for our denomination.

Susanna: My maiden name is Annesley and I was born on January 20, 1669, as the daughter of a London pastor and the youngest of 25 children. My pet name is Sukey. I was educated at home, with lessons supplemented by the intellectual atmosphere of father's many scholarly visitors. One of these was the son of a Dissenting minister, Samuel Wesley, then a student. We married in 1689 and soon started a family.

Mouse: What do you mean by "Dissenting" minister?

Susanna: With the 1662 Act of Uniformity, all Church of England ministers were required to support the Book of Common Prayer or be forced out of their parishes and banned from preaching in an Anglican pulpit. When some 2000 refused they were forced from their parishes, homes and university positions leaving many to make a living by teaching, writing or preaching where they could. However, Samuel decided to affiliate with the Church of England so he could attend Oxford University. As a new clergyman Samuel encountered a national spiritual apathy for English religious devotion that was at an all time low. Many had developed a belief in Deism, seeing God as a withdrawn and disinterested Creator. Church services had become dull and dry.

Mouse: Where did you and Reverend Samuel Wesley first serve a congregation?

Susanna: Samuel served other parishes before 1696, but we came to Epworth in the North Lincolnshire area,

and he served the church most of his life. Also during this time I had 7 children in 7 years.

Mouse: How many children did you have and how did you manage?

Susanna: I had 19, 10 lived to adulthood. To manage such a large household and properly educate my children I established a definite routine for my household and family, aiming to help each child learn, mature and develop Christian character. I gave each child individual attention by purposely setting aside a regular time for each of them.

Mouse: Could you tell me about John and Charles?

Susanna: John had an interesting entry into the world. Both Samuel and I are strong willed and when Samuel prayed for King William at our table one night in 1702, I refused to say "Amen". I was a strong supporter of the Stuart King James who was overthrown in 1688. Neither of us would give in so we decided to go our separate ways. Eventually after 5 months and the death of King William, Samuel came home and from that reconciliation John was born in 1703. (Wait until I tell Samuel that in 2008, households are still experiencing political unrest as elections draws near!). We almost lost John on February 9, 1709 when the Epworth rectory caught on fire. I spotted him standing in a window; a neighbor lifted another man to his shoulders so the second man could snatch little John to safety just seconds before the roof fell in. John saw his deliverance as God's work and for many years referred to himself as a literal "brand snatched from the fire." A life size statute of John can be found at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky according to my friends Stacey Minger and Eric Beck.

Charles did not always agree with his older brother on church issues, but how that child could compose music. Unlike his older brother, Charles married and had a family. His 2 surviving sons, followed in Charles' footsteps in musical composition. Christ the Lord Has Risen Today is my favorite hymn of all the songs my son has composed.

Mouse: On a closing note, it sounds like life was difficult in the 17th and 18th centuries. What sustained

Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 20, 2008	
Youth Sunday	
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
9:45 AM	Adult Bible Classes
10:55 AM	Worship Celebration
12:30 PM	Youth Pie Auction
4:45 PM	Westwood Ringers
6:00 PM	Capital City Ringers Concert
6:00 PM	Youth Groups
Monday, April 21, 2008	
6:00 PM	Spiritual Formation
7:00 PM	Staff Parish
7:00 PM	Missions
7:00 PM	Courters
7:00 PM	BSA
7:15 PM	Board of Trustees
Tuesday, April 22, 2008	
10:00 AM	Staff Meeting
5:00 PM	HeadStart Parent Center Meeting
Wednesday, April 23, 2008	
12:30 PM	Prayer group
1:00 PM	Prayer Fellowship
5:00 PM	Basement Sale Setup
6:00 PM	Disciple I
6:00 PM	Westwood Singers
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
6:15 PM	The "Q" Rehearsal
7:00 PM	Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal
Thursday, April 24, 2008	
9:00 AM	Basement Sale Setup
11:45 AM	4th Day Men (Hunan Gardens)
1:00 PM	Basement Sale Open
6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
6:00 PM	Glory Connection II
7:00 PM	Foundation
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, April 25, 2008	
9:00 AM	Basement Sale
11:30 AM	Basement Sale Cleanup
Saturday, April 26, 2008	
	New Adventurer's Bunco Party

United Methodist Women

Early Eves

April 16

6:30 p.m.

Flower arranging will be demonstrated by Laura Anderson. Please bring a small container or pretty cup and saucer, and scissors to cut floral stems. Then you may take home your arrangement.

The domestic shelter item is shampoo for Caucasian or black women.

Hostesses are Bev Henson and Alberta Cummings. All women are invited for dinner and the program.

An Interview

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you though all your hardships: political and religious unrest, separation, poverty and the loss of so many children??

Susanna: If there is one thing I know, I was never left alone, for I could always call on Jesus' name. God can take away your pain if you chose to let it go. These words ring true throughout the centuries. May the people of Westwood continue their journey of making disciples through their work with the children of Kingdom Kids and through the wonderful UMW mission projects. I would like to end with my favorite blessing. The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

Thank you

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you all for the many cards, phone calls, and expressions of sympathy at the time of Henry's death. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the memorial service.

The service group prepared and served a wonderful luncheon and I know that took a lot of time and effort by many people.

Also thank you for the lovely blue prayer shawl. It's so soft and warm.

I miss you all very much.

Jo Clapp



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United Methodist
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The *Westwood Messenger* is a newsletter published weekly by the members and friends of Westwood United Methodist Church. There is no subscription fee. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe, call the church office at 344-7165.

Westwood UMC supports **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**

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For general information or if you are unsure where to direct your question, please email info@westwood-umc.org and your inquiry will be forwarded appropriately.

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