

**Worship Celebrations at
8:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m.**

Nursery care is provided during both celebrations.

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

In my late childhood I saw a movie entitled, "Death Takes a Holiday," in which a boy meets death (a dignified man in a business suit) who has come to take the boy's grandfather. The boy manages to get death stuck in a tree, so that death cannot take the boy's grandfather. Eventually, the boy understands death is inevitable and is also, in many ways, a gift of release. The story's meaning of the inevitability of death stayed with me, yet with a different understanding, because Jesus. The miracle of the resurrection of Jesus, and His healing love through people is greater than death's power.

Such a miracle of life beyond death and healing love in this world is more than we can ask or imagine. One of the blessings of a faith-filled life is we can be the presence of Jesus' love even in difficult times. As people face illness and death, we are not left in the quagmire of the boy who tries to trick death into leaving his grandfather alone. We realize death afflictions may come, yet we can be part of God's healing presence, bringing comfort, hope, and renewal. We can strengthen their faith and become a living answer to prayer by intentionally allowing God to work within us.

Our church is focusing on intentionally connecting with one another and with God. One way we invite you to do this is to join a group of people, organized by Sallie Platt, who are keeping in touch with older members of our congregation. Another way of connecting is through Stephen Ministries, through which people experiencing difficult times are put in contact with a person who can meet with them numerous times. Sallie's phone number is 343-3917. Phil Bowman organizes the Stephen Ministry and if you would like to talk with a Stephen Minister, or receive training to be a Stephen Minister you can call him at 375-9580. You may also call the church office at 344-7165.

God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or think through His power in you. You can be a blessing beyond your requests or imagination.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Wayne

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Upcoming Messenger Deadlines:

May 7, for publication May 12
May 14, for publication May 19
May 21, for publication May 26

Answered Prayer

It has been happening over much of the time during which I have overseen the activities of the group in our church called "55 Plus". In 2000 I took over the leadership of this "ministry" when Helen Sikkenga retired, planning monthly meetings, contacting speakers/groups, and editing the Golden Gazette, our means of communication.

Gradually over the past few years, we have seen a decline in attendance due to illnesses, moves to different living situations, and deaths. My dilemma has been how to increase participation, I was unclear which direction to take. It had been mentioned that having potlucks most months was difficult for some who live alone and/or have mobility problems. I tried as an alternative to prepare a meal instead. Knowing my own limitations, I shared with Louise Jameson my concerns, and welcomed her interest and prayers. Recently, after praying and discerning, she and her husband, Jim, came to me with an idea which they felt might help restore and encourage greater participation. Jim and others he knows are looking for ways to serve our congregation. He offered to prepare a "catered" meal for future 55 Plus meetings. I was sure our Merciful God had interceded. This may not be the only direction we need to take, but I am confident it will help to keep 55 Plus going. I welcome other suggestions for improving the quality and quantity of participation.

55 Plus is part of the Older Adult Council, a self-funding group which does not depend on the church budget for money to operate. In the past, we have used our designated money to pay speakers and groups for programs, as well as minor expenses. This is becoming almost infeasible with such a small group. Jim Jameson would do this on a free-will basis, beginning with a light lunch on May 7 at noon in Simpson Hall. I am all for giving this a chance to help advance our purpose of fellowship and friendship. Are you?

Please pray for us, as I heard one person say after worship recently, "I haven't figured out how to stay young, I only know how to get older!" We do need each other as we age together. Thanks for listening and Thank God for answered prayer.

Yours in Christ,

Sallie Platt, Chairperson OAC

Meet the Pastor Gatherings

Since last August, many of the church members have been hosting "meet the Pastor" gatherings. These were designed to be times where a small group of people could gather together and get to know our new pastor Wayne, his wife Joy and their daughters Catrina and Rachel. It was also a time when they could get to know us!

An invitation to the final gathering recently went out to everyone by way of the Midweek Messenger and the Community Life and Mission moment in the worship service. This meeting happened on April 22nd. Though the exact statistics are not ready yet, it would be safe to say that a very high percentage of the congregation attended one of these gatherings. They were a time of informal conversation and light refreshments as well as a time for everyone to express their opinions.

At most meetings, Pastor Wayne asked everyone to respond to three questions: (1.) your name, and your interests or hobbies (2.) what do you really like about Westwood UMC? And (3.) if Jesus were here, what do you think He would like to see happen at this church in the next 2-5 years? The answers to these questions have been recorded and will soon be available for all of us to review. It was a lot fun hearing what we like about our church and celebrating that for each person it is something different. We all love the church, and for many different reasons!

As we look at the current and future direction of our church ministry, it was especially interesting to hear the answers to question #3, "if Jesus were here, what do you think He would like to see happen here in the next few years?" You see, the input of each congregation member is vital to the churches future. And this has been a great place to recognize where we are now and where we would like to be on our path of discipleship. More later!

Bob Strobel, Lay Leader

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

FIRST SERVICE 8:30
May 11 Men's Ensemble
May 18 Tina Egan
May 25 Chancel Choir

SECOND SERVICE 10:55
Men's Ensemble, Praise Team
Tina Egan , Praise Team
Chancel Choir, Praise Team

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.

CAMP WESTWOOD THIS AUGUST

CAMP WESTOOD – AUGUST 4-14 (Monday- Friday of week 1, Monday – Thursday of week two)
For ages – entering Kindergarten and entering 9th grade. It's a BEACH PARTY!!

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.

THANKS TO OUR YOUTH AND THEIR LEADERS WHO LED WORSHIP APRIL 20

Many thanks to Dan and Nicole Malseed and all of our youth for their hard work to prepare and lead the worship time for April 20 here at Westwood UMC. What a wonderful thing to see the Youth taking leadership roles such as this. Thanks for being a vital part of our church family, youth. Our hats are off to you. Thank you so very much for Sunday!! We hope to see more of this in the future!

Hymn Quote for the week

Marvelous, Infinite, Matchless Grace. Freely bestowed on all who believe. You that are longing to see His face, will you this moment His grace receive? Julia Johnston



Mother's Day Flower Sale

Sunday May 11 ASP will sell hanging flower baskets and small 4" potted plants. Wouldn't this be a great gift for mom? (you should include the actual transplanting into the ground with your gift of the small potted plants . . .) The added bonus is proceeds go to support ASP.

An informal monthly overview of ministry happenings

ASP - Emily Strong

- The ASP 2008 Team will be having their Silent Auction and Potato Bar on May 18 following the 11:00 service. Please come and support our 2008 ASP Team!
- This year's team consists of 42 Youth and Adults 2nd we will be staying at an all year round center in Chavies, KY which means bunk beds!
- I believe this will be Westwood's 33 year of service.

Church Council - Thom Andrews

- Church Council met recently. The team implementing the Culture of Discipleship reported that small task forces will be formed to create our vision message and communication plan; evaluate worship, Sunday School, and missions; implement Small Group ministries; and attend to leadership development.
- In the financial report, the Council learned that, as of April 30, our income is \$92,295 while our income budget is \$107,936 (-\$15,641). Our expenses for the period were \$101,863 which is \$7,827 under budgeted expenses of \$109,690.

Missions - Nancy VandenBrink

- \$525 was sent to Kalamazoo Deacons Conference for their Christian ministry of relief and development that shares Christ's love with people in need.
- Loose coins dropped in the offering plates in May will go to Church Camp Renovations.
- Kalamazoo Valley CROP Walk was May 4, with donations going to fight hunger around the globe as well as here in Kalamazoo.
- Golden Cross Sunday was May 4. This is a special offering through the West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church for health and welfare ministries. Half of the total gifts will go to the Free Health Clinic in Kalamazoo, the other half to Conference health ministries which includes the chaplaincy program at Bronson Hospital.
- Peace with Justice Sunday is May 18. A special offering to support peacemaking ministries and programs in West Michigan, the U.S., and around the world will be taken.
- Orders for Celebrate Summer! Baskets of cookies and muffins will be taken May 18 and 25, with pick-up on June 1. Sale proceeds will support our commitment to Resurrection UMC in Voronezh through the Russia Initiative.

Worship and Fine Arts Ministries - Jane Wright

- WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES CHANGE MAY 25 to 8:30 and 10:00.
- Worship Music Schedule:
 - ◆ Men's Ensemble will sing on May 11 (Mother's Day). All men singers welcome.
 - ◆ "Take Sabbath" a Jazz Service featuring the John Chamberlin Trio will be June 1.
 - ◆ Women's Ensemble will sing on June 15, Father's Day. All women singers welcome.
 - ◆ Many music groups are off during the summer, so June, July, and August offer opportunities for special music. Those interested contact Jane Wright.
- Mark your calendar:
 - ◆ Westwood Ringers (youth handbell ensemble under the direction of Vicki Reed) will participate in the May 18, 4pm concert with the Kalamazoo Ringers.
 - ◆ Camp Westwood (for K-9) will be August 4-14: Monday – Friday of week one, Monday – Thursday of week two with the closing program on Thursday evening, August 14 at 7PM and Sunday 2nd service on August 17.
- Thanks to all who brought in food and who attended the Capital City Ringers concert on April 20. The event was fabulous!

Editor's note: an oversight on my part caused the Golden Gazette to be missing from the last issue of the Messenger. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

May Golden Birthdays

Send a card-make a call-say a prayer

- 5/3 Don Herder, 329-2662
6600 Constitution Blvd #213
Portage 49024
- 5/3 Beverly Harvey, 353-4777
1633 Linden Tr (09)
- 5/6 Phyllis Harrison, 345-7524
Iroquois (06)
- 5/8 Helene Rysenga
Director's Hall
600 Golden Dr. (01)
- 5/9 David Wright, 544-2390
6864 Country View Drive (09)
- 5/10 Steve Engberts, 344-2683
1509 Turwill Lane (06)
- 5/11 Arlene Meadows, 344-1402
4714 Weston (06)
- 5/14 Helen Sikkenga, 343-3652
4210 Leisure Lane #924 (06)
- 5/16 Phyllis Bertch, 345-5334
2834 Junedale (06)
- 5/17 Norma Stafford, 375-3996
1304 N Eagle Lake Dr. (09)
- 5/21 Doris Johnson, 375-5128
5136 Green Meadow (09)
- 5/22 John Pick, 373-1888
4662 Weston (06)
- 5/25 Lois Ellis, 552-9533
104 Meriweather (06)
- 5/25 Barb Arbuthnot, 329-3485
7504 Currier, Portage (02)
- 5/26 John Penniman, 345-0275
1700 Bronson Way #352 (09)
- 5/28 Ted Halsted
2030 Chester Blvd #241
Richmond IN 47374
- 5/28 Al Gardner, 382-2065
2217 Strawberry Lane (04)
- 5/29 Mary Scott, 345-2262
4946 Weston (06)

June Golden Birthdays

Send a card-make a call-say a prayer

- 6/6 Al Ridderbos, 685-8501
1316 Jupiter, Plainwell 49080
- 6/7 Jo Turner, 375-3301
510 Woods Drive Mattawan 49071
- 6/8 Wendy Witt
4488 Lake Blvd
Clearwater FL 33762
- 6/10 Jim Fox, 353-3654
PO Box 513 Oshtemo, 49077
- 6/11 John Griffith, 343-2035
430 Parkdale Parchment 49004
- 6/12 Jean Ullrey, 342-2616
3113 Olney (06)
- 6/13 Nancy Roberts, 372-1134
1585 Skylark (09)
- 6/14 Marian Burkey, 344-8412
471 W South #505 (07)
- 6/16 Betty Dustin, 381-1183
625 Coolidge (06)
- 6/16 Ron Anspach, 381-3369
1187 Harrier Ridge (09)
- 6/21 Elise Hillman, 552-4317
4210 Leisure Lane #M914 (06)
- 6/23 Jan Berghorst, 345-0351
2133 Waite (08)
- 6/24 Margo Heystek, 372-1099
530 Woods Drive Mattawan 49071
- 6/24 Louise Jameson, 382-3463
3702 Glengarry (06)
- 6/29 Pat Bailey, 353-9418
1855 Quail Cove (09)

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55 Plus

On Wednesday, June 4, 2008, we will be guests for lunch at Friendship Village. Plan to arrive at 11:45 a.m. for a "lite" meal. You will make two choices from the following menu: Potato Au Gratin soup, club sandwich, salad bar, nut goodie bars, or ice cream sundae. The cost is \$6.00 per person. To avoid congestion, please fill out the reservation form below and include cash or check made out to Sallie Platt. Your reservation is needed by May 30. Note: because they are labor intensive, if you are considering the club sandwich as one of your choices, please indicate that on the reservation form. An approximate number is desired. Please return the form with money to the church office or give to Sallie. It is requested you not place it in the Sunday offering plate. Thank you.

Congratulations

Congratulations to John and Betty Pick who are celebrating their 90th birthdays and their 67th wedding anniversary on April 11, 2008.

Prayers

The following persons need prayers for healing and strength:

Lois Mallinson, Ann Erickson & Marian Mahieu continue to recuperate from surgery.

Mary Scott is being treated at home for leukemia.

Jack Lancaster is home recuperating after hospitalization.

Gary Babbitt is receiving treatment for cancer.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Rick Sepanik. He died April 22. Services were held at the church on April 28.

**Reservation for 55 Plus Lunch at Friendship Village
Wednesday June 4, 2008**

Names: _____

_____ \$6.00 per person cash or check

Check if one of your menu choices might be the club sandwich.

Please turn in your reservation to the church office by May 30.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 11, 2008	
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Children's Sunday School
9:45 AM	Adult Bible Classes
10:55 AM	Worship Celebration
6:00 PM	Youth Groups
Monday, May 12, 2008	
7:00 PM	Communications Team
7:00 PM	Courters
7:00 PM	BSA
Tuesday, May 13, 2008	
10:00 AM	Staff Meeting
6:30 PM	Compassionate Friends
6:30 PM	Early Eves
6:30 PM	Stewardship & Finance
6:30 PM	Camp Westwood Meeting
7:00 PM	Alpha Small Group
7:00 PM	Stephen Ministry
Wednesday, May 14, 2008	
10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
11:00 AM	Worship Team
12:30 PM	Implementation Team
4:30 PM	ISAAC
6:00 PM	Westwood Singers
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
6:15 PM	The "Q" Rehearsal
7:00 PM	Prayer Group
7:00 PM	Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal
Thursday, May 15, 2008	
11:45 AM	4th Day Men (Hunan Gardens)
6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
6:00 PM	Glory Connection II
7:00 PM	Foundation
7:00 PM	BSA
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, May 16, 2008	
	No Events Scheduled
Saturday, May 17, 2008	
	New Adventurer's

Thank You

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and support when I temporarily lost the use of one of my wheels. Things are improving every day and one of these days I will be back at a worship service with you.

Sincerely,
Lois Mallinson

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.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT Funding Won!

New local construction trades pre-apprenticeships are now being funded by the Michigan Department of Transportation, for minorities, women and people with low incomes! Gamaliei of Michigan affiliates, including ISAAC, worked for this outcome for two years. Locally, the Kalamazoo County Poverty Reduction Initiative and ISAAC, with numerous other partners, co-convened the Southwest Michigan Regional Workforce Development Project to guide the local recruitment and training. Funding has been approved and recruitment and testing for the training has begun. The initial 5-week training is scheduled to begin in mid-April—a first step on a skilled trades career path.



ASP Fun at the Potato Bar & Silent Auction

The Annual ASP Silent Auction and Potato Bar will be on Sunday, May 18 following the 11:00 service. Don't miss the great food, great fun and great finds! And, don't forget to bring a friend for all the fun! If you would like to donate ANYTHING, Please see Kim Wood or Emily Strong.





**Westwood
United Methodist
Church**

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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 sknewton@sbcglobal.net by Wednesday of the week before it should appear. Your name may be used in the article. The *Messenger* is mailed Tuesday. Subscribers do not receive it before Wednesday. Articles must be submitted 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, comments or complaints, address them to the editor or call Stephanie Knewton at 349-5603.

Subscribing to the *Messenger*

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)**

Westwood United Methodist Church Staff and Volunteers

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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.

Note to Subscribers: If you will be out of town and chose not receive your 3rd class mail, please contact the church at 344-7165 to have your *Messenger* temporarily stopped. If it is not stopped, the church pays for the original postage, plus a fee when it is returned. Please help us save costs and contact us as soon as possible.