

## *From the Heart of the Pastor*

We are heirs to the Heavenly Father's blessing on Jesus, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17), because all who received Jesus and believed in Him, "...He gave the right to become children of God...born of God" (John 1:12-13). Paul adds, "So you are no longer a slave but a son (or daughter); and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir (Galatians 4:7). We are blessed to be children of God, and loved as cherished children and part of God's family. You were chosen to be a child of God (John 15:19), and it supersedes other aspects of your identity. As God's children we are blessed to be beloved by the heavenly Father.

Henri Nouwen points out we need to cultivate the presence of God day after day year after year, lest the other voices of the world drown out God's voice. Ken Smith is teaching a Sunday school class on Attentiveness to God, and this last week the devotions focused on taking quiet time to reflect on Scripture and prayer to hear God's voice. Every day God gives us gifts of His loving presence through whom we meet, what we see, and what we read. God wants to speak to us in various ways, and that is why John Wesley encouraged us to avail ourselves to every means possible so we might hear God.

God has placed an awareness of being beloved and our being saved to serve on my heart. I, and a number of people at Westwood UMC with whom I have spoken, are sensing God is getting ready to, and is doing something great in our congregation. As I look around at our culture, it strikes me how much people need to know they are beloved of God. The primary way they will be open to the truth is through our loving service to them. We are saved to serve.

The biographical movie, [The Soloist](#), challenged how I think of serving (The movie does have some language and some rough scenes-yet is very good). In the movie, a Los Angeles Times journalist, Steve Lopez, encounters a man, Nathaniel Ayers, who plays a two string violin on the streets of LA. He discovers the man has formal musical training and is very talented as a musician, yet has schizophrenia. At the beginning of the movie I thought it would be another Hollywood formula movie of "one man's kindness helps another man overcome." It was much more, while being much less. Steve writes about Nathaniel and obtains a beautiful cello (Nathaniel's primary instrument). He goes to great lengths to turn Nathaniel's life around, including finding an apartment and trying to get him on medication. Nathaniel rebels against Steve's intentions in large part because of his mental illness.

Steve is frustrated and beside himself, when he realizes he needs to humble himself and offer Nathaniel a reliable friendship, being willing to hang in there regardless of the circumstances. Henri Nouwen put it this way, "As I grow older, I discover more and more that the greatest gift I have to offer is my own joy of living, my own inner peace...my own sense of well-being...Who helps the most?...The one who is willing to share his or her life with me" (Life of the Beloved, 113). The more we are aware of being beloved, the more we can share it with the world, simply as people who come alongside each other and hang in there with humble hearts. I invite you to pray about Westwood UMC being such a presence in Kalamazoo, caring for the least of these (Matt. 25), whether it be helping with their needs or changing systems and policies. May we humble our hearts, come alongside them so the community will know it is beloved.

Pastor Wayne

## **Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage**

Last Spring Westwood hosted two “Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage” video mini-seminars. Over 80 members and friends attended the Friday evening/Saturday morning fun filled and enriching events. Some folks have asked, “Why don’t you do that marriage laughing seminar thing again? We couldn’t make it last time and missed out on all the fun”. To which we have replied, “Okay! Let’s do it again!!”

If you are looking to:

- Achieve insight into yourself and your spouse...
- Improve your marriage...
- Learn how to respect and be sensitive to each other...
- Eat great food...
- Have a blast...

***You won’t want to miss this free seminar!!***

Beginning on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the York Theater we will begin viewing the video series, starting with “A Tale of Two Brains”. We will have a snack break and end around 10:00 pm (way before your bedtime).

Come back at 9:00 am on Saturday for a light breakfast and continue with the series, including, “How to Stay Married and Not Kill Anybody”. We’ll have you out of there no later than 1:00 pm, ready to enjoy the rest of your weekend.

Please call us to:

- Sign up for the seminar
- Ask any questions
- Sign up for free babysitting

Bob and Karen Strobel 342-8816  
Thom and Laurel Andrews 375-6831





## *The Alpha Course*

What is the point of **life**?

What happens when you Die?

Is forgiveness possible?

What relevance does **Jesus** have in our lives today?

**What is Alpha?** The course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening manner over ten, thought provoking weekly sessions. There is a meal together at the beginning of each session which gives you an opportunity to get to know each other. Listen, learn, discuss and discover. Ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile.

**Who is Alpha for?** Alpha is for everyone, especially:

- Those wanting to investigate Christianity.
- New Christians.
- Newcomers to the church.
- Those who want to brush up on the basics.

### **An Alpha Invitation Update**

Wow, the numbers are staggering! The Alpha Courses starting up this fall have reported from 8 to 36 guests participating in the first week of the course. I will report the final numbers to you when I get them. For now know that with your support we have tripled the number of guests on an Alpha Course in Southwestern Michigan this fall. Thank you all for your participation in the Alpha Invitation. You may take your yard signs down now and store them until right after Christmas as our winter course starts January 12, 2010.

### **Participating Churches**

Almena UMC, Battle Creek 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, 3<sup>rd</sup> CRC, Garrison Hills Wesleyan Church, Haven of Rest (Battle Creek), Hope Church of the Nazarene, Lawrence UMC, Schoolcraft UMC, Schoolcraft Assembly of God, Simpson UMC(Bangor), Wakeshma Community Church, Westwood UMC.

Our next Alpha Course begins January 12, 2010 with the introductory Dinner at 6:00 PM in Simpson Hall.

Please invite someone to Alpha.

Good food, good fun, real answers!

## Church Directory Pictures

If you were not able to get your pictures taken and have not yet scheduled your sitting for Oct. 12 - 14, please contact Beth Arbogast at 343-3937 today, or pick up a scheduling form by the church office, fill it out, and turn it in to the Messenger mailbox (outside of the office). If you would like a sitting of extended family in addition to your directory photo, you are more than welcome to do so. If you have any questions about scheduling or your photo sitting, please contact Beth Arbogast at 343-3937.

## World Communion Sunday

Your special gift for World Communion Sunday on October 4 provides college scholarships for racial and ethnic-minority students in the U.S. and international students. This is a vital offering that makes educational dreams come true for promising students around the world that will become leaders in the United Methodist Church. Special envelopes are in your envelope packet or will be available in the October 4 worship folder.

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## Westwood Singers News

During the next several weeks, your Westwood Singer families will be working hard to raise money for our choir program and activities. We are offering a collection of excellent merchant coupons from local businesses. These **Peel It Cards** cost only \$10 and represent an incredible value. They may be used through the end of 2010. Some are for unlimited use through 2010. Unlimited use coupons include Arby's, Bennigans, Big Apple Bagel, Dunham's Sports, and Family Video. See any Westwood Singer for yours! Merchants include:

**Restaurants:** The Craftsman Chop Co., TGIFridays, Ground Round, Buffalo Wild Wings, Big Boy, Old Country Buffet, Blackhawk Bar & Grill, Mission Pointe

**Entertainment:** Celebration Cinema, Rave Motion Pictures, Lazer Land, Video Hits, Kalamazoo 10, Airway Lanes

**Stores:** Best Buy, MC Sports

**Subs:** Quiznos, Lenny's, Blimpie

**Fast Food:** Burger King, Taco Bell, Fazoli's, Taco Bob's, Lee's, Big Apple Bagel, Noodles Co., Checkers

**Ice Cream/Coffee:** Dairy Queen, Coldstone Creamery, Biggby Coffee

**Pizza:** Godfather's Pizza, Hungry Howie's, Cottage Inn Pizza, Domino's Pizza, Cottage Inn Pizza, Samuel Mancinos, Papa Johns

**Auto:** Lentz

## Musical Offerings In Worship

Date	First Service 8:30	Second Service 10:55
Oct 4	WW Handbell Ens & Q	WWHBE/Q/ Instrumentalists
Oct 11	Chancel Choir	Chancel Choir/Praise Team

## Great Gospel Singout For UMCOR

If you would like to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief, please make your donation through Westwood by October 11 when the Chancel Choir will take our UMCOR donations to the Great Gospel Sing Out to be counted. The event begins at 3:00. Each music group representing their church sings one song. After the song, a collection is taken for UMCOR. People vote for their favorite choir by putting loose coins and dollars and their church UMCOR donation into the offering. At the end, all the donations are tallied and announced for each church. The entire amount is then donated to UMCOR and the winners receive a trophy for their division. Westwood has won two years running! Save your coins and go to Vicksburg for all the fun. This might be the year the Great Gospel Sing Out brings tops out at over \$400,000 total over the years. Every church however, gets credit toward our ministry shares to the United Methodist Church Conference.

## Music Programing - Where all are welcome

**Fine Art Ministry Mission Statement:** The Fine Art/Music groups of Westwood United Methodist Church foster, nurture, share and serve through our gifts related to the arts; so that through each one, God may be Glorified and the world may come to know and worship Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Music and Fine Art Ministries exist** for the purpose of being used by God for the building of His Kingdom. They are also an avenue by which we offer Christ, grow in Faith, Touch Lives, make a difference.

Praise God in His Sanctuary . . . Praise him with the sound of trumpets . . . with tambourine and dancing . . . with resounding cymbals. Psalm 150 Sing to the Lord a New Song, His praise in the assembly of the saints. Psalm 149

**All groups welcome new faces** into their ministries. Please feel invited to come. If you have questions, be sure to call Jane Wright for information, rehearsal times and contacts for any group of interest. Phone: 344-7165, Ext 205. Email: [jwright-wumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwright-wumc@sbcglobal.net)

**Groups in action at Westwood UMC and beyond are:** Praise Team, Westwood Handbell Ensemble, Chancel Choir, Handbell "Q", High School Choir, Westwood Ringers, Westwood Singers, Junior Chimes, Glory Connection II, Instrumentalists.

## Ongoing Prayers for Westwood Members

*Prayers for comfort, healing and strength*

### Homebound

Julian Blair, 22979 Canary Ave., Mattawan, 49071

### Comfort, Healing and Strength

Beth Arbogast, 2639 Hazelnut Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004

Gary Babbitt, 47040 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Mattawan, 49071

Pat Bailey, 1855 Quail Cove, Kalamazoo, 49009

Don Bertch, Rose Arbor Hospice residence, #9, 5473 Croydon Avenue, Kalamazoo, 49009

Thom Carrington, Sojourner House, 1490 E. Beltline SE, Grand Rapids, 49506

Sue Clapp, 1974 Dunlin Court NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49505

Jolie Ann Corda, 617 Flamingo Avenue, Portage, 49024

Gary Cumming, 4867 Sweet Cherry Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004

Judy DeHaan, 612 Jenks Blvd., Kalamazoo, 49006

Arlo Dunkelberger, 1390 Ewing Way, Kalamazoo, 49004

(Lois passed away.)

Irene Dutton, 918 Nichols Road, Kalamazoo, 49006

Lynn (Ethlyn) Graebner, Upjohn Community Care Center, Heritage Community of Kalamazoo,  
2400 Portage, Kalamazoo, 49001

Vicki Hale

Dick Harrison, 3908 Iroquios, Kalamazoo, 49006

Samuel Jennings

Sally Krohn

Mabel Hillis, 3014 Winter Wheat, Kalamazoo, MI, 49004

Julie Lancaster, 1629 Turwill Lane, Kalamazoo, 49006

The MacGregor Family (Jim MacGregor died on Sept. 10)

Jim Parker, 5939 N. Westnedge, Kalamazoo, 49004

Mary Penn, 550 Chadd's Ford Way, Oshtemo, 49009

Jean Marie Peters (*Pastor Wayne's sister*)

Betty Pick, Bickford Cottage, Merry Bee, 4704 W. Milham Ave., Portage, 49024

John Reid, 1205 Bunkerhill, Kalamazoo, 49009

Mike Roush, 522 Cherokee #212, Kalamazoo, 49006

Patricia Smith

Norma Stafford, 1400 N. Drake Rd., #408, Kalamazoo, 49006

(Norma is at Friendship Village for rehab.)

Emily Strong, 3504 Iroquois Trail, Kalamazoo, 49006

Betty Thompson, 1400 N. Drake Rd., Apt. 189, Kalamazoo, 49006

Nancy Wallus, 717 Kendall, Kalamazoo, 49006

Jane & Gary Waite and Carolyn and Jim Parker

(Florine Batchelor, Jane & Carolyn's mother, died this week.)

### Protection from Harm in Iraq and Afghanistan

Toby Brown

Anthony Earl

Nicholas Heystek

Neil McKenna

Carl Williams




Christopher Wilson



## Calendar of Events

<b>Sunday, October 04, 2009</b>	
	<i>Communion Sunday</i>
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Sunday School
9:45 AM	Praise Team
10:55 AM	Worship Celebration
4:45 PM	Westwood Ringers
6:00 PM	Youth Groups
<b>Monday, October 05, 2009</b>	
7:00 PM	Courters
7:00 PM	Spiritual Partners
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts of America
<b>Tuesday, October 06, 2009</b>	
10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
12:30 PM	Lay Ministers/Staff
6:00 PM	Alpha
7:00 PM	KAL IPMS
7:00 PM	Kingdom Kids Meeting
7:00 PM	Compassionate Friends
7:00 PM	BSA District Meeting
<b>Wednesday, October 07, 2009</b>	
10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
12:00 PM	55 Plus
6:00 PM	Disciple IV
6:00 PM	Westwood Singers
6:00 PM	High School Choir
6:00 PM	Companions in Christ Bible Study
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
6:15 PM	The "Q"
7:00 PM	WHBE
<b>Thursday, October 08, 2009</b>	
12:00 PM	4th Day Men
4:30 PM	ISAAC Meeting
6:00 PM	Glory Connection
6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
7:00 PM	Financial Peace University
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
<b>Friday, October 09, 2009</b>	
	No events scheduled.
<b>Saturday, October 10, 2009</b>	
	No events scheduled.
<b>Sunday, October 11, 2009</b>	
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Sunday School
9:45 AM	Praise Team
10:55 AM	Worship Celebration
4:45 PM	Westwood Ringers
6:00 PM	Youth Groups



- At Westwood United Methodist Church, we seek to connect:
-  with God, seeking a spiritual center for our lives
  -  with each other, creating friendships that last
  -  with our community, serving the needs of our neighbors

**Come and see!**

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

*Visit us on the web at:*

<http://www.westwood-umc.org/>

*Messenger Deadlines:*

The Westwood Messenger is published weekly (bi-weekly from June through September). Deadlines are the Thursday prior to publication.

*Upcoming Publications:*

Oct. 5

Oct. 12

Oct. 19



**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 [betharbogast@charter.net](mailto:betharbogast@charter.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 or comments, address them to the editor: Beth Arbogast at 343-3937.

**Westwood United Methodist Church Staff and Volunteers**

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

- Pastor, The Reverend Dr. Wayne A. Price ..... 762-4787  
E-mail: [pastorwayne@westwood-umc.org](mailto:pastorwayne@westwood-umc.org)
- Director of Worship and Fine Art Ministry, Jane Wright ..... 544-2390  
E-mail: [jwright-wumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwright-wumc@sbcglobal.net)
- Organist,  
Church/Staff Admin. Assistant, Lois Moeller  
E-mail: [lmoeller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lmoeller@sbcglobal.net)
- Child Care Staff
- Custodial Staff: Dan Malseed, Nicole Malseed, Ash Norton, Bill Urfer, Stephanie Knewtson, David Knewtson
- Lay Leader, Bob Strobel ..... 342-8816
- Lay Minister of Spiritual Formation, Louise Jameson ..... 382-3463
- Lay Minister of Worship, Matthew Knewtson ..... 349-5603
- Staff-Parish Chairperson, Irv Cumming
- Wesley Foundation Director, Lisa Batten ..... 344-4076  
Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College (Office)
- Westwood Messenger* Editor, Beth Arbogast ..... 343-3937  
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**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)**

**For general information or if you are unsure where to direct your question, please email [info@westwood-umc.org](mailto: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.