

From the Heart of the Pastor

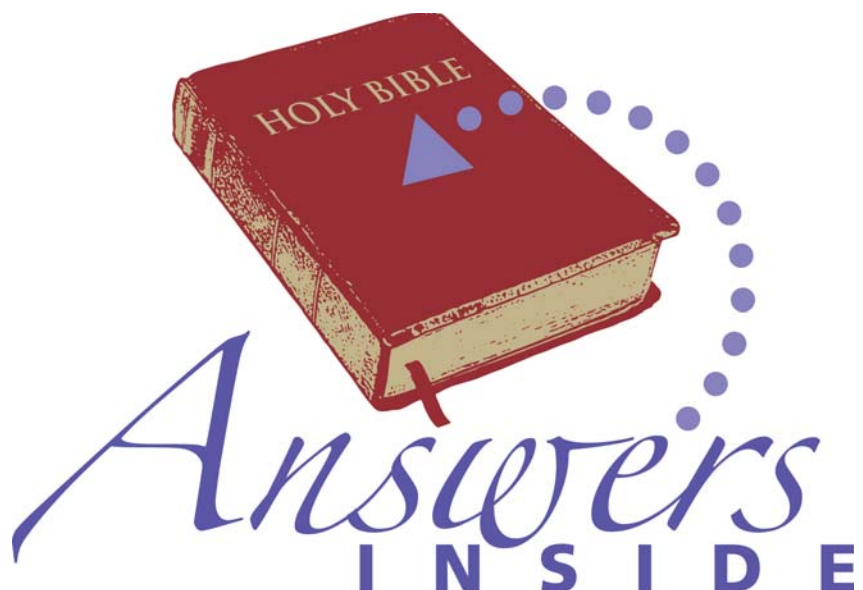
Each one of us is precious to God. He has created us distinctively, yet with many commonalities. All of us need the strength of God and the support of others. How we give and receive God's support is distinctive depending on our life experiences and personalities, among other factors. When a loved one passes away we grieve their passing because our relationship with them is unique and different from all other relationships.

On November 1, on All Saints' Day, we will be remembering the people in our congregation who passed away this last year. We will light a candle in remembrance of them and give thanks for their presence in the life of Westwood UMC. Each of us will have the opportunity to write the name of a loved one who has passed away and bring it forward during the time of Communion. We will praise God for giving us the gift of each unique person.

Sometimes we do not realize the distinctiveness of our own lives and gifts until we remember those who passed before us. Each of us is leaving a distinctive mark upon this world. In this way, each of us has unique gifts to offer one another while we are on this earth. In worship, on Sunday, October 25 we will explore what we offer to one based on our: Spiritual gifts, heart (what matters to us), abilities, personality, and experience. These attributes combine to make up the "SHAPE." (The "SHAPE" idea was originated by Rick Warren). Our shape is a combination of our experiences, our learning, and the way God made us. We are distinctive, yet we all need love from one another and from God. Think and pray about how you can distinctively offer who you are to God, and be His loving presence to those around you.

Gratefully serving Jesus with you,

Pastor Wayne



Church Directory Pictures

If you were not able to get your pictures taken at WUMC and still want to be included in the pictorial directory, please contact Beth Arbogast at 343-3937 today. You can make an appointment at another church or submit your own photo (Just submit a print or electronic copy to Beth or put it in the Messenger mailbox.) for inclusion into the directory.

Dates to Remember

Flu Shots at Westwood UMC on Nov. 1, 9:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (\$30.00 without Medicare)

Basement Sale at WUMC on Nov. 13 & 14
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon



News from Our Missionary in Zambia

Paul Webster explains, "Now that I have missionary colleagues working with me it has come time to assign them a region in which they could itinerate and raise funds for our missionary work here at Mujila Falls. In consultation with General Board of Global Ministries, we have agreed that I would give some of the Conferences I was poorly serving to Tshala and Betty Mwengo (Tshala is co-director of the project) so that they could have a fresh start and I could concentrate my visits in a smaller, more manageable area. This will also save GBGM travel expenses and make our itineration areas more compact and less stressful for us to manage. We hope that this will meet with your approval and that you will know that regardless whether you are supporting Tshala and Betty or if you are continuing to support me, the result will be your continued support for Mujila Falls Agriculture Centre and its many projects.

Tshala has already visited many of the churches in Illinois so you have already met him and some of you are already enthusiastically supporting him. He and Betty are looking forward to corresponding with Conference Missions Chairs in Indiana and in East and West Ohio Conferences so that they can be welcomed next year (2010)."

Your Servant in Christ,
Rev. Paul L. Webster

Operating Fund Financial Picture

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Income	\$19,382	\$25,408	\$20,243	\$219,688
Total Expense	\$21,815	\$23,926	\$28,021	\$234,428
Net Income/(Loss)	\$(2,433)	\$ 1,482	\$(7,778)	(\$14,740)

Operating Fund Balance as of 9/30/09: (\$12,566)

Support the Troops

“Operation Holiday Cheer”

Hosted by Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., Southwest, MI
Help make the Holidays special for our Military

Westwood will be collecting donations of individually packaged items as they are best to ship and easy for troops to carry in a pocket. Some of the items being collected (collection box located near Missions bulletin board) are listed below. Then on Saturday, November 21, at Calvary Bible Church, 855 S. Drake Rd., there will be a program at 1 p.m. followed by packing on the donations to send to the troops. View military photos/items and enjoy refreshments too.

Powdered drink sticks/on-the-go packets (Propel, Crystal Light, etc.)

Tea (bags and instant)

Tuna and chicken in a pouch

Fruit snacks

Trail mix

Beef jerky

Breakfast/granola bars

Playing cards

Black socks

Disposable cameras

Eye drops

Hand sanitizers

Footballs

Soccer balls

Baseballs

Plastic Mattress covers (protection from bed bugs)

Letters and cards of support

Store packaged cookies (Oreos, Chips Ahoy, etc.)

Hot chocolate

Coffee

Gum

Hard candy

Cheese/peanut butter crackers

Peanuts

Pop Tarts

Flavored oatmeal packets

Uno cards

Hand held games

White socks

CDs

DVDs

Powder or cream for athlete's foot

Phone cards

Dryer sheets (keeps bugs out of boots)



Laugh Your Way To A Better Marriage For People Who Hate Marriage Seminars!

You've heard your friends talking up this free video seminar... We're putting it on a third time, so come and join us on Friday, October 30th and Saturday, October 31st for *Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage* By Mark Gungor.

Mark is one of the top marriage and family speakers in the United States, with thousands of couples attending his seminars every month. Mark has been married for more than 33 years – to the same woman. Born in New York, Mark resides in Green Bay, Wisconsin where he is the CEO of “Laugh Your Way America” and Pastor of Celebration Church. Mark and his wife Debbie have 2 married children and 3 grandchildren.

Beginning at 7:00 p.m. on October 30th, (at Westwood Church in York Theater) we will begin watching a hilarious video series starting with *The Tale of Two Brains*. We'll have a snack break and end around 10:00 p.m. (way before your bed time)!

Come back at 9:00 a.m. the following morning and enjoy a free continental breakfast and we will continue on with the series, including *How to Stay Married and not Kill Anybody*. We'll have you out of there by 1:00 p.m. to enjoy the rest of the weekend!

Men... this is not one of those “beat up on the men for not being women” seminars!
Women...this counts as a “date”!

If you're 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 SEMINAR!

Please see us or call us to:

- sign up for the seminar
- ask any questions
- sign up for free babysitting during the seminar

Bob and Karen Strobel – 342-8816 –or-
Thom and Laurel Andrews – 375-6831
(Call soon as space is limited in York Theater)!

Disclaimer...

Warning... some folks are known to have TMJ after this seminar from laughing so much!

United Methodist Churches Reach \$400,000 Benchmark for Worldwide Hunger Relief!

Choirs, vocalists, musicians, hand-bell ringers and members from area United Methodist Churches gathered at Vicksburg United Methodist Church on October 11 to participate in the **21st Annual Great Gospel Sing-Out**. A capacity crowd was on hand for an afternoon of rousing gospel music and fundraising to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This year all monies raised were designated to UMCOR's worldwide hunger relief operations.

Members of Vicksburg United Methodist Church founded the Great Gospel Sing-Out in 1989 to raise money for UMCOR's hunger-fighting programs. Many United Methodist Churches from throughout southwest Michigan have participated in Sing-Out over the years. Thirteen churches performed this year.

Participating churches often raise money throughout the year in support of the project. Those funds are added to the donations from audience members following each church's performance. **A total of \$18,209.12 was raised this year—which brought the 21-year total for the Great Gospel Sing-Out to \$400,275.54.**

"We are just thrilled with the results of this year's Great Gospel Sing-Out," said Sing-Out Chairperson and Vicksburg UMC member Terri Franklin. "From the moment we closed the books on Sing-Out 2008, which saw the 20-year total reach \$382,000, it was my hope that we would hit that amazing \$400,000 mark this year. However, with the very difficult economic times we all are experiencing, I really didn't know what to expect. Clearly the Lord has blessed everyone's efforts. We actually raised almost \$800 more than last year, which is nothing short of a miracle as far as I'm concerned!"

Participating churches:

Climax United Methodist, Climax
Galesburg United Methodist, Galesburg
Hope United Methodist, Edwardsburg
Keeler United Methodist, Cass County
Mendon United Methodist, Mendon
Oshtemo Community United Methodist, Kalamazoo
Portage Prairie United Methodist, Niles
Schoolcraft United Methodist, Schoolcraft
Scotts United Methodist, Scotts
Silver Creek United Methodist, Dowagiac
Vicksburg United Methodist, Vicksburg
West Mendon United Methodist, Mendon
Westwood United Methodist, Kalamazoo

The event also featured an opening solo by the Rev. Neil Davis, District Superintendent for the Kalamazoo District of the United Methodist Church. The audience insisted that the donation buckets be passed after Rev. Davis' performance and an additional \$157.20 was raised.

The date for the next Great Gospel Sing-Out has been set for Sunday, October 10, 2010.

What Happens In Heaven

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, 'This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received.' I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world. Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section. The angel then said to me, 'This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them.' I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth. Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. 'This is the Acknowledgment Section,' My angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed 'How is it that there is no work going on here?' I asked.

'So sad,' the angel sighed. 'After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments.'

'How does one acknowledge God's blessings?' I asked.

'Simple,' the angel answered. 'Just say, 'Thank you, Lord.'

'What blessings should they acknowledge?' I asked.

'If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the worlds wealthy.'

'And if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity.' Also, 'If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ... you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day.'

'If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... you are ahead of 700 million people in the world.'

'If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world.'

'If your parents are still alive and still married ...you are very rare.'

'If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair.'

Ok, what now? How can I start?

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all. Have a good day, count your blessings, and if you want, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

Acknowledge Dept.: 'Thank you Lord, for giving me the ability to share this message and for giving me so many wonderful people with whom to share it.'

Musical Offerings In Worship

Date	First Service 8:30	Second Service 10:55
Oct 25	Chancel Choir, Westwood Singers	Chancel Choir, WWS, Praise Team
Nov 1	WHBE, C Choir, W. Ringers	WHBE, C Choir, W. Ringers
Nov 8	Wesley Foundation here	Wesley Foundation here
Nov 15		WW Singers, H.S. Choir, Praise Team
Nov 22	Chancel Choir	C. Choir, Jr Chimes, Praise Team

Great Gospel Singout For UMCOR

The day was a huge success. I hope you will find more about this in a separate article. Thank you everyone for your contributions to UMCOR and to those who came out to support the event.



Season Of Praise

Christmas Cantata Rehearsals:

All singers are welcome to attend the rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata. They are Thursdays at 7PM and each week, we work through two or three movements of the Cantata, which will happen on Sunday, December 20 at both services. Please come and sing. We would like a nice full group for this event and we need your voice!!!!

Westwood Music Ministries At Friendship Village

November 22, the Westwood Music Ministries will be connecting with Community while being featured in concert at Friendship Village at 7PM in the KIVA. There will be several groups attending (Westwood Singers & Ringers, Chancel Choir, Glory Connection, Westwood Handbell Ensemble and Q) Thanks and God Bless you - to all our performers who are giving of their time and talents for this event for the sake of the Friendship Village residents.

All Saints Day - Nov. 1

If you have lost a loved one from WUMC this year from November 2, 2008 to November 1, 2009; and if you would like their picture displayed on All Saints Sunday, please send or bring them to the Church Office. All pictures will be returned. Thank you.

Heart Of The Staff

Jane Wright

Thank you for letting me share with you last Sunday (Oct 11) about some of the exciting things going on through the National United Methodist Conference. Because we are saved to serve, it is so very important to remember that like breathing in and breathing out, we the church need to be about Nurturing/Spiritual Growth and Service. So together, we can: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors. Perhaps you would like to do some exploring on your own at www.OpenDoors.org and www.RethinkChurch.org It might be fun to explore those web sites for yet more information. I also referred to the book written by Dan Dick entitled: Vital Signs. You can find that book through www.Cokesbury.com or also perhaps even cheaper through www.Amazon.com.

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Continued Dan has so many wonderful ways to unveil what qualities surround a vibrant church. However, he is quick to say, there is no set pattern or “thing” that will make a church vital. Instead he reminds us to find balance of thinking internal and external, of remembering that there is a place in the body of Christ for everyone and no part is more valuable than another. It is in the workings of these parts, how they relate to each other, work together and function transparently that is more important. Fellowship is a time of becoming “one” creating community with heart, mind and spirit unified and put the needs of community ahead of personal ones. It is also a time of welcoming into Fellowship, the newcomer.

Vital congregations view the place to which they go as that place where they are trained and equipped to be the “church in the world.” We come together to learn so we can go forth and serve. It is simple, yet takes a mind set of remembering that every activity or program is designed with this purpose. All of who we are is balanced between how we grow and how we serve. Growing entails community and spiritual aspects.

Here is a neat book to tackle in you are in a small group: John Wesley’s *A Perfect love* especially “A Plain Account of Christian Perfection.” found within. Why not read about what John Wesley has to say?

Vital churches also develop ways to measure and evaluate impact. I find it very intriguing that all the leaders here at Westwood are now tabulating all the hours of volunteerism that is happening here at Westwood UMC. I think that is a very healthy thing and will possibly point to where we are putting a lot of our energy. I think we will all be amazed at how many man hours are being spent for the sake of “the Kingdom of God.” Westwood UMC is already offering much in terms of connections: Offering Christ, Growing in Faith, Touching Lives and Making a difference. It will be interesting to see more clearly perhaps, how we are coming to evaluate just what is happening and how many of us are actually involved in the process somewhere.

I have been saved to serve. How about you? In fact, I can site many times that I was saved. One example is the Muck Pond Story: Very early in my life (somewhere around 8 years old) I was walking with Mom and Aunt and cousins down at the muck pond area of the farm where Mom and her sister grew up. Mom had told me stories about the team of horses, the wagon, the truck and a couple of cars that had already been swallowed up into that pond. There was a huge log that had fallen and was extended out into the pond. I and my cousins thought it looked like the perfect time to go out and investigate this gray mass of ooze more closely. Cathy and I were one month apart in age, although she towered above me, and was always a bit on the clumsy side. For some reason, she thought she needed to get past me on the log, and in so maneuvering she lost her balance. To regain herself upright, she grabbed me, and in the pushing – there I went – instantly up to my shoulders into the infamous muck pond! There I was, slowly sinking, slowly dieing as I watched Mother, Aunt and two cousins laughing wildly from the safe edge of the pond. This stuff was the consistency of oatmeal gone bad. However, the 6 and 8 legged bugs managed to walk comfortably along the top of the stuff as if they had no clue this was dangerous stuff! So – it was me slowing sinking and the bugs, oblivious to my plight – staring at the laughing stock on the shoreline! Somehow, one of them managed to gain composure fast enough to extend me a branch that could haul me back onto the bank. The only satisfaction I got out of the day, was watching those comedians try to help me clean up enough to put me into the car to go home! So – in addition to learning that it is important to always have your own back-up plan for any given situation, I learned that somehow, God loved me enough to bring me out of the muck and back into the world! I did not take that action on God’s part lightly. While life is hard sometimes, God is good. So, with this story and many more imbedded into my forever memory – I know I have been saved to serve. I also know that God wants me to keep growing in Him and when I think I can venture out on a log all by myself, forgetting the one who created gravity, I once again find myself looking for the big branch of God’s to help me get my feet back on solid ground. God bless you in your journey of chasing after God’s Heart through growth and service.

Ongoing Prayers for Westwood Members

Prayers for comfort, healing and strength

Homebound

Henry & Genevieve Budzynski, 515 Turwill Lane, 49006

Comfort, Healing and Strength

Beth Arbogast, 2639 Hazelnut Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004

Gary Babbitt, 47040 24th Street, Mattawan, 49071

Pat Bailey, 1855 Quail Cove, Kalamazoo, 49009

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

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

Gary Cumming, 4867 Sweet Cherry Lane, Kalamazoo, 49004

Judy DeHaan, 612 Jenks Blvd., Kalamazoo, 49006

Arlo Dunkelberger and family, 1390 Ewing Way, Kalamazoo, 49004

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

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

Ann Marie Hovey and Family

Samual Jennings

Sally Krohn

Bud Mahieu, 1433 Barney Rd., Kalamazoo, 49004

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, 1304 N. Eagle Lake Dr., Kalamazoo, 49009

Emily Strong, 3504 Iroquois Trail, Kalamazoo, 49006

June Strong & Family, Apt. 424, 6503 Wilora Lake road, charlotte, NC, 28212

(Maggi Predum's uncle, Russell Strong, passed away this last week.)

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

Nancy Wallus, 717 Kendall, Kalamazoo, 49006

Protection from Harm in Iraq and Afghanistan

Toby Brown

Anthony Earl

Nicholas Heystek

Carl Williams



Calendar of Events




Sunday, October 25, 2009	
8:30 AM	Worship Celebration
9:30 AM	Sunday School
9:45 AM	Praise Team
10:55 AM	Worship Celebration
4:00 PM	Youth Groups - KSP
6:00 PM	Westwood Ringers
Monday, October 26, 2009	
7:00 PM	Courters
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts of America
7:00 PM	Church Council
Tuesday, October 27, 2009	
9:00 AM	Worship Planning
10:30 AM	Staff Meeting
6:00 PM	Alpha
Wednesday, October 28, 2009	
10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study
1:00 PM	Prayer Fellowship
6:00 PM	Westwood Singers
6:00 PM	Disciple IV
6:00 PM	Companions in Christ Bible Study
6:00 PM	High School Choir
6:15 PM	4th Day Women
6:15 PM	The "Q"
7:00 PM	WHBE
Thursday, October 29, 2009	
12:00 PM	4th Day Men
6:00 PM	Glory Connection II
6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
7:00 PM	Financial Peace University
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, October 30, 2009	
6:00 PM	Laugh your way to a Better Marriage
Saturday, October 31, 2009	
8:00 AM	Laugh your way to a Better Marriage
Sunday, November 01, 2009	
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



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There really is more to life!

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. 19

Oct. 26

Nov. 2



**Westwood
United Methodist
Church**

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(269) 344-7165

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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 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

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- Director of Worship and Fine Art Ministry, Jane Wright 544-2390
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- Organist,
Church/Staff Admin. Assistant, Lois Moeller
E-mail: lmoeller@sbcglobal.net
- Child Care Staff
- Custodial Staff: Dan Malseed, Nicole Malseed, Ash Norton, Bill Urfer, Stephanie Knewtson, David Knewtson
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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 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.