

Blessings

- ☼ The youth are rehearsing for the 4th Annual Dinner Theatre production (March 24). The youth stay after church every Sunday to practice until about 3 pm. You can help by volunteering to bring a lunch for about 20 people. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for a Sunday, please contact Bill Schick (616-261-0428) or write "youth lunch" on your communication card and Bill will give you a call. The following dates are available: January 14, 21, and 28; February 4, 11, 18, and 25.
- ☼ Just a reminder that we are collecting new and gently used winter gear for West Elementary. They are in need of boots (size 12/13-6), snow-pants (gender neutral, size 4-16), gloves (water proof ones), and coats (size 4-16). They would also love to gather up about 30 sleds for their sliding hill. You can drop them off at the Church office or contact Cindy Lang (616-822-9679) to arrange pick up.
- ☼ Your year-end giving is a blessing. Help us support the work of Christ around the world through our Ministry Shares. We have received \$35,002 to date, and have \$7,014 remaining before the end of the year. God bless your generosity.
- ☼ Interested in membership at Wesley Park? Meet with Pastor Dean at 11 am each Sunday in January in the Pastor's Study downstairs.
- ☼ The Church Office is closed December 25, 26 and January 1.

Birthdays

- ☼ December 25: Zach Kinney
- ☼ December 26: Pam Hoag
- ☼ December 27: Deb Workman
- ☼ December 28: Shirley Diederiks
- ☼ December 30: Paula Hartley, Jon Rice
- ☼ December 31: Joanne Gustafson

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Written by Charles Wesley within a year of his conversion, this song was first published under the title "Hymn for Christmas Day" in *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1739). There is no gentle warmup for this song; it jumps right into the action when the angels appear to the shepherds and herald the birth of Jesus. Much of the text in the first stanza is an adaptation of Luke 2:14. Wesley does inject his own theological interpretation of this grand event with the statement "God and sinners reconciled." www.umc.org

- ☼ Esther Fernandez - Please pray for Tiffani. She lives in Tampa. She has had diabetes since she was 3. She is in her 30's and she needs a kidney. She is getting so tired. Thank you! The children are so awesome! Wonderful job singing. God bless you. Happy birthday dear Jesus!!
- ☼ Diane Carpenter - Good to see Ava back in church. The children's choir sounded good.
- ☼ Mary Mingledorff - Praising God for healing Tom!
- ☼ Lois Bowyer - Please pray for Bruce Simpson.
- ☼ Ken & Linda McKenney - Great sermon on angels and messengers. Be an angel to someone. Be a blessing.
- ☼ Chuck & Sally Dear - Prayers for Rug Harrington. He fell and broke his hip. He is recovering at Mary Free Bed. Nancy could use your prayers for both of them.
- ☼ Annette Jeltema - Continued prayers for my brother, Jim.
- ☼ Maynard Culver - Safe travels for all those traveling for Christmas.
- ☼ Kathy DenHollander - Prayers for Mike as he heals from snowboarding injuries. Yesterday's brain surgery went well.

Wesley Park

United Methodist
Church

December 24, 2017



- ☀ Lynda Edsall - Prayers for everyone who has suffered loss this time of year. Prayers for Jim DeGraff as he heals from surgery to remove cancer.
- ☀ Val Rienks - Prayers for positive feedback at my appointment at Mary Free Bed on Wednesday.
- ☀ Freddi Angus - Yesterday was awesome to see all the people who helped lay the Veteran wreaths. It was wonderful to be a part of it with my son and friends. Thanks to everyone who had a part in organizing such a project. It was heartfelt. Pray for Sandi. Her sister passed away December 16. Peace for her.
- ☀ Judy Driesenga - Please pray for my husband, Dale, and give him strength.

Silent Night

The original German lyrics "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!" were written in 1816 by Josef Mohr, a Catholic priest from Austria. Tradition holds that two years later, faced with a rusty, broken organ (some say damaged by mice) on Christmas Eve, Mohr gave the lyrics to Austrian headmaster Franz Gruber and asked him to compose the melody on guitar. At first Gruber declined because the guitar was popularly used for drinking songs, but finally agreed and created a Christmas song loved throughout the world. "Silent Night" is said to be one of the songs both English and German soldiers sang together in the great Christmas truce of 1914 during World War I. www.umc.org

Wesley Park United Methodist Church

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Away in a Manger

Also known as "Luther's Cradle Hymn," a popular belief in the early 1900s held that Martin Luther composed this hymn in the 16th century. One published version of the song in 1887 stated that Luther composed it for his children, though it does not appear in his works or in German church history. It is more likely that the carol was written by German Lutherans in Pennsylvania. The first two verses were published in the 1885 Little Children's Book without an attribution to an author. The author of the third verse ("Be near me, Lord Jesus") is also unknown.

- ☀ Julie Riemersma - Pray for families who are missing people that won't be able to be there for Christmas this year. Pray they still find peace, joy, and hope. We love you Lord. Thank you for all I have.
- ☀ Anonymous - Loved the children's song. It was simple and meaningful! Great service.
- ☀ Dolores Sanford - Our service today was beautiful. Thank you to all.
- ☀ Pat Beadle - If you prayed for my step-daughter and son-in-law; thank you. They are both doing better.
- ☀ Harry Blauwiel - Pray for Cindy Rice who is in cancer treatment.

- ☀ Sallie McLean - Thank you to Freddi's Angels and their cards and support in our stay at Metron. Thank you for Sue who is supposed to be with me while I learn to walk again. Give her more time to walk.
- ☀ Dorie DeCommer - Pray for Stephanie, Danielle, and Sallie.
- ☀ Mary Tremblay - Prayers for my daughter, Collette, who is going through a rather stressful time. Prayers for calmness, peace, and guidance. Thank you.
- ☀ Marilyn Knapp - Thank you for praying. We are also thanking our Lord for His blessings and encouraging experiences in India and Nepal. We were able to hold a separate meeting for 40 ladies who were excited to be able to ask questions and share their needs!
- ☀ We praise God for the life of Lucille Eichenberg, long time member of Wesley Park, who died December 16, 2017.

Angels We Have Heard on High

The French roots of this carol can be found in the 1700s in "Les Anges dans nos Campagnes," which means "the angels in the countryside." The French verses were coupled with a refrain taken from Luke 2:14 in the Latin version of the Bible: "Gloria, in excelsis Deo," which means "Glory to God in the highest." The traditional tune is attributed to Edward Shippen Barnes, an American organist who studied at Yale University from 1910-11 and then briefly at Schola Cantorum in Paris. www.umc.org