

Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, January 8	Launch Team Meeting, 6:30 pm Finance, 7 pm	Suzie Harvey	
Tuesday, January 9	SPRC, 5:30 pm	Freddi Angus Jillian Fischer	
Wednesday, January 10	Women's Prayer, 10 am Youth Group, 5:30 pm Square Dance, 6:45 pm		Doug & Cindy Lang
Thursday, January 11	Congregational Care, 2 pm Chancel Choir, 6 pm	Jake Drost	
Friday, January 12			
Saturday, January 13	Community Round Table,		
Sunday, January 14	Worship, 9:30 am Fellowship, 10:30 am Blood Pressure Check, 10:30 am Faith Formation, 11 am Membership class, 11 am Dinner Theater Practice, noon Staff Meeting, noon	Steve Ellens	

Mark Your Calendars



- ◆ Community Round Table Event: January 13th
- ◆ Family Promise week: February 4-11
- ◆ Wesley Park 2nd Annual Talent Show: Feb. 11th



Pastor's Page

Last week, on the last Sunday of 2017, we looked back at some of the things that happened during the past year. Vital Church Initiative was a major part of the work of Wesley Park in 2017, and living into our prescriptions so that they become a part of our DNA as a church will be a big part of what we do in 2018.

This year we will launch a second worship service! The purpose of this new service is not only to engage and inspire those who are already a part of Wesley Park, but also to open wide the doors to connect with people in our neighborhood who have not yet found a community of faith.

Between now and Easter (April 1, 2018), we need to have at least 100 energized, positive people working to launch the new service. What we need are children, youth, and adults, those who plan to participate in the new service, and those who might not, folks who are ready to engage the neighborhood and spread the word, and those who can do some of the behind the scenes work.

Come to the Worship Launch Team gathering tomorrow at 6:30 pm. And respond to the invitations to help. And pray for the neighborhood, and for Wesley Park. And give thanks for what God is doing among us.

We have some goals to accomplish prior to Easter, 2018. We have been working on plans to create clearer signage throughout the church (and have just received the cross and flame from the former Conference Center). We also will be gathering donations to install a beautiful awning at the Welcome Center entrance to help create a safe, dry, and attractive space to drop off loved ones. We want to complete some painting, with the brightening up of the narthex, and adding color and energy into the children's wing of the church. We also have some work to do in the Family Life Center with video projectors and acoustical tiles. And, we will be forming teams that will be focusing on Children and Youth, Covenant Groups, Hospitality, Technology, Ushering, and Worship.

2018 is going to be an amazing year living out our mission, to build a Christian community with all people. I look forward to all the ways God will work with us to be a shining light in this neighborhood.

Peace,

Rosie Martin

Lord...Hear Our Prayers

Each week, everyone who attends worship at Wesley Park is welcome to share any joys or concerns they may carry in their heart. These are the requests we received from the December 31st communication cards...

- Ron Thompson** - Prayers for my brother, Joe, as he goes thru health issues.
- Jess Hughes** - Please pray for the Hildebrand family. They are mourning the loss of Ernie, who passed away on December 20th.
- Val Rienks** - Praise! I moved my mother-in-law on Saturday (12/30). Now to finish cleaning out her apartment. I will hopefully be done on Thursday. Prayers for me to be able to destress after moving her and all the stress involved. Prayers for her to settle in and for the women she is living with.
- Chuck Johnson** - Prayers for finding pain meds that will work.
- Pat Johnson** - Prayers for my husband, Roger, as I bring him home and for me as I love and care for him.
- Carolyn DuBuis** - Please pray for my son and his family as he looks for the help they need for my grandson.
- Marilyn Knapp** - Thank you Keith for singing.
- Damary Lofgren** - Prayers for my family. We lost my uncle in Puerto Rico. He was my mother's youngest brother. Please give comfort and peace to my aunt who's like his second mother. Beautiful singing, Keith. Thank you!
- Esther Fernandez** - Happy 2018 my dear church family. I hope 2018 is peaceful and with health for all of us. Please pray for Robert's son in Tampa. Their dog, Ben, is really sick. Vet gave the dog 3 to 4 months to live. Great job singing, Keith. Pastor Dean, thank you for the message today.
- Steve Bravata** - Didn't raise my hand. I had struggles with sounding like it was about me. What I wanted to say was in 2017, I found that I can love Jesus even more than I do now.
- Pauline Shinn** - Thank you and I pray I feel better. In Jesus name I pray.
- Freddi Angus** - A blessed new year to all. I loved the song, Keith.

Anna Rabine - Praise! My brother, David, is home after a 2 week stay in the hospital for treatment of pneumonia. Prayers for his body to continue to heal from leukemia and chemo.

Anonymous - Please pray for my Aunt Krista and her kid, Karter, who has cancer.

Dolores Sanford - Prayers that we find a new cancer drug that will agree with Ron's system to fight the cancer.

Kathy Challa - So happy I picked this Sunday to make it back to my family. Service and music was beautiful. Thank you Keith.

Maynard Culver - Blessed new year, Wesley Park!! May the new year be better in every way!!

Ken & Linda McKenney - May one and all have a safe, healthy, peaceful and joy filled 2018.

Barb DeCan - Beautiful song, Keith. Thank you.

Ann Bellgraph - Larry and I celebrate our 15th anniversary on January 1st. I am truly blessed.

Welcome Desk Welcomes All



Stop by the Welcome Desk this morning in the Welcome Center.

- ✦ Get a **name badge**, even if this is your first Sunday!
- ✦ Drop off **Adopt-a-Classroom** items.
- ✦ Donations for **West Elementary**.

Upcoming Faith Formation Sessions

What Now?? - A New Adult Faith Formation Series about the book of Ezekiel.

Join us this January and February in Fellowship Hall at 11 am as we **sample portions of the book of Ezekiel. All are welcome!**

Ezekiel was a priest but his role was changing. The Israelites understanding of God was tied to a specific land (Israel) and a specific place (the Temple). It was here that God resided. The Babylonian Empire had other ideas. The book of Ezekiel chronicles the time period before and after the destruction of the temple by the Babylonian Empire. In addition to this, the Babylonians were deporting the Israelites out of Israel and into exile in Babylon. **Everything Ezekiel and the Israelites knew was changing. It is in this experience of dislocation that Ezekiel begins his prophetic ministry.**

January

7	Introduction	
14	How's your heart?	Ezekiel 11:14-25
21	Pinky Promise	Ezekiel 34:11-31
28	Only in Exile	Ezekiel 1-3:11

February

4	Finger Pointing	Ezekiel 18:1-32
11	Breathe In/Out	Ezekiel 37

Ministry Shares Update

Because of the generosity of the Wesley Park family; our ministry shares for 2017 have been paid in full! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the "blue bags" each week.

Lunch with the Youth

The youth are currently working on their 4th Annual Dinner Theatre production that will take place in March. The kids stay after church every Sunday to practice until about 3 pm. We are looking for volunteers that would like to have lunch with the "Best Youth On The Planet" and bring in a lunch for about 20 people. Please prayerfully consider having lunch with a great bunch of kids. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for a Sunday, please contact Bill Schick (616-261-0428) or put "youth lunch" on your communication card and Bill will give you a call. The dates that are available include: February 11 and 18.

Donations for West Elementary

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.

Blue Bags Ministry Share Offering

100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:

\$37,354
(53 Weeks Completed)

Remaining Balance Needed:

\$0

(0 Weeks Remaining)

Offered last week: **\$743**

Marriage Retreat - Weekend to Remember

Great marriages don't just happen. But with an understanding of God's blueprints and a willingness to work at it, you can return to, even surpass, the honeymoon phase and create a legacy of greatness.

FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember offers priceless tools to improve communication, resolve conflict, and rekindle passion in your marriage.

<http://weekendtoremember.com>

Grand Rapids weekend - Feb 23-25 OR Kalamazoo April 13-15.

See Tom or Loretta Jahncke for more information -

[\(616\)706-4781](tel:6167064781) / TomJahncke@gmail.com

Wesley Park Variety Show

Can you sing, dance, play an instrument, tell jokes, cook, or any other talent? We need you to sign up for the variety show on February 11 at 4pm. We will also be having our very own "Wesley Park Art Gallery". We want to display any crafts, paintings, drawings, quilts, etc that you have made (these will NOT be for sale).

Please fill out the form at the welcome desk to sign up. Contact Cindy Lang (616-531-0862) if you have any questions. Deadline for signing up is Sunday, February 4.

2018 Giving Envelopes

The 2018 giving envelopes are now available and ready for pick up. There are in the Welcome Center. If you do not have a set of envelopes and would like one, please talk to Paula Hartley or Al Pittenger.

Florentine's Fundraiser



The Florentine's Dinner will be Monday, January 22 from 4 pm to 8 pm at the Florentines in Grandville. Tickets are \$10/adult and \$4/child (11 and under). Meal includes all-you-can-eat salad bar, spaghetti, bread, and drink (tip not included). Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Welcome Desk with cash, check, or debit/credit card. They

can also be purchased at the door. The proceeds this month will go to the General Fund.

Family Promise Host Week



Our next opportunity to serve guests from Family Promise will be February 4-11, 2018. I know that came up really fast again.

Our guests will move in Sunday, February 4th. It takes much prayer and many hands to make each Family Promise week successful and give our guest a loving, safe, warm, and welcoming place to stay. Please check your calendars and prayerfully consider when and how you might be able to

assist our guests. The Signup Genius site will be ready soon. If you have questions, please contact MaryAnn Keyes or Eric and Kelly Olsen.

New Membership Classes

Interested in membership with Wesley Park? Meet with Pastor Dean in the Pastor's study downstairs each Sunday in January from 11am - noon. Any questions, please contact the church office at 616-988-6738.

