



# Wesley Park Weekly

January 15, 2017

## Prescriptions for Wholeness

Standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave one of the most important and memorable speeches of all time. He captured the hopes of progress and articulated a dream for a new day. His words resonate with us today, as we seek to build a Christian community with all people.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

May we live into the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr. and do all that we can to carry it forward and keep the dream alive.

Our Vital Church Initiative Consultation Weekend is this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Please plan to come together for one worship service at 10 am next Sunday, January 22. Rev. Gary Step will be preaching, and then sharing from 11 am until around noon the complete VCI Report and Prescriptions written uniquely for Wesley Park.

*Rev. Gary Step*

Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, January 16	Council, 7:00 pm		
Tuesday, January 17	Senior Saints, noon Rock and Mineral, 6:15 pm	Sally Morrow	
Wednesday, January 18	Women's Prayer, 10 am Youth, 6 pm	Peggy Pittenger Kirgin Tanis	
Thursday, January 19	Chancel Choir, 6 pm Spanish, 6:30 pm Praise Team, 7:30 pm	Jackie Andary Carolyn Forbes	
Friday, January 20	Pastor's Interview, 8 am VCI Interviews, 10:30 am VCI Team Lunch, 12:30 pm Pastor's Dinner, 5 pm VCI Focus Group, 7 pm	Kevin Graham David J. Mosqueda Myron Williams	
Saturday, January 21	All Church Workshop, 10 am VCI Writing Team, 3pm	Ginny Hughes Becca Steenhagen	
Sunday, January 22	Worship, 10 am VCI Prescriptions, 11 am Youth Practice, noon	Danny Bloomer Sallie McLean Keith Warren	

### 11 am Worship Helpers:

**Greeters:** Charlie Swanson, Linda Hagen

**Usher:** Lynda Edsall

**Acolyte:** Allison Kinney

**Sound Tech:** Pat Carruthers

**Nursery:** Jessica Schick

**Child Advocate:** Skyler Maitner

**Musicians:** Phil Pletcher,  
Paula Hartley, Sara Kropp, Molly Jeltema,  
Erin Vanderlaan

Our mission is to build a Christian community with all people.

# Prayers

**Nancy Chambers** - Good to see Gordon back in the choir.

**Nancy Carpenter** - Praying for honesty, integrity, and love for one another.

**Julie Riemersma** - Thank you for a great message.

**Lynda Edsall** - Prayers for Clara Vanderlaan and Dawn Vanderweide as they battle cancer. Prayers for healing. Prayers for the VCI process and for it to help us.

**Andrew & Jess Hughes** - Please pray for our friend's newborn son, Kyler, who was born at 34 weeks and is in the NICU.

**Kathy Carruthers** - Please pray for my friend who is preparing for open heart surgery. She is a single mom with 3 teenage boys.

**Cathy Tjeerdsma** - So blessed and thankful. Prayers for those who are struggling.

**Marilyn Knapp** - My missionary friends are working on Lesvos Island by Greece and the needs are overwhelming. Thousands of refugees are facing many problems including severe violence. Pray for wisdom, grace, and strength.

**Freddi Angus** - Thank you Phil and choir.

**Mary Ann Keyes** - Please pray for Katie (Berends) Pell and her family. Their son, Brenym, had a brain tumor removed this week. He is in for a long recovery period and will need all our prayers for strength and faith. Also, for his family surrounding him as they help him recover.

**Cindy Lang** - I am blessed to belong to such a caring, loving church.

**Pat Beadle** - It has been my honor and joy to help train our acolytes. Besides Adrienne, I want to thank Deb Hodges and Wendy Harr for their assistance in the classes. Also, thank you to the parents who support their acolytes and get them to church to serve. Finally, thank you acolytes!

## Blue Bags Ministry Share Offering

### 100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:

**\$939**

**(2 Weeks Completed)**

Remaining Balance Needed:

**\$55,038**

**(51 Weeks Remaining)**

Offered last week: **\$382**

## Vital Church Initiative Dates

- \* January 20: 8 am - 5 pm, VCI Team Interviews with Staff and Leaders
- \* January 20: 5 pm, VCI Team Dinner with Pastor
- \* January 20: 7 pm, VCI Team Interview with Focus Group
- \* January 21: 9 am, VCI Team Focus Group with Council
- \* **January 21: 10:15 am - 3 pm, All-Church Workshop with Potluck**
- \* **January 22: 10 am, Worship led by VCI Team**
- \* **January 22: 11 am, Reading of the VCI Report by Lead Consultant**
- \* **January 29: 10 am, 5th Sunday Worship followed by Potluck**
- \* **February 8: 7 pm, All-Church Town Hall Meeting**
  - \* (Time to explore the prescriptions and ask questions.)
- \* **February 15: 5 pm, All-Church Town Hall Meeting**
  - \* (Time to explore the prescriptions and ask questions.)
- \* **February 19: 2 pm, All-Church Town Hall Meeting**
  - \* (Time to explore the prescriptions and ask questions.)
- \* **February 26: 10 am, Worship**
- \* **February 26: 11 am, Church Conference Vote on Prescriptions**

## Childcare Help

We are need of **childcare volunteers** for some VCI gatherings this month and next (January 21, February 8, 15, or 19). If you are on the cleared list and interested in helping please contact Anna Spencer [aspencer@wesleypark.org](mailto:aspencer@wesleypark.org) to sign up. Also, **parents** we would like to know if you are in need of childcare for the Saturday January 21 (10:15-3pm) VCI gathering or any of the town hall gatherings (Feb 8 or 15th). Please contact Anna Spencer [aspencer@wesleypark.org](mailto:aspencer@wesleypark.org) so that we can plan accordingly.

## January + February Series: Cultivating Kinship

We are not meant to walk alone. We are built for community. We long for spaces and people with which we can be completely ourselves. We long to feel seen and heard. We crave a sense of identity, belonging, and mission (individually and communally). In a world riddled with unrest, we crave true community and kinship all the more. By cultivating kinship with one another, we live into the Kingdom of God. So we begin 2017 Faith Formation by gathering around stories of kinship. In the hopes that this January + February series will inspire and compel us to better live out our mission "to build a Christian community with all people". All are welcome!

### January Schedule

- \* **Jan 15** - David + Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)
- \* **Jan 22** - No Faith Formation. One 10 am service followed by VCI Reading of Prescriptions.
- \* **Jan 29th** - Fifth Sunday. One 10 am service. No Faith Formation.

### Other Learning Opportunities in the Community

Calvin's January Series Lectures <http://calvin.edu/january-series/>

## Marriage Retreat - A 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://www.familylife.com/weekend-to-remember> Grand Rapids weekend - Feb 24-26 OR Kalamazoo March 31 - April 2nd See Tom or Loretta Jahncke for more information - (616) 706-4781 / [TomJahncke@gmail.com](mailto:TomJahncke@gmail.com)

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## **Florentine's Fundraiser is Back!**

We are starting the Florentine's Spaghetti dinner back up this month. It will be Monday, January 23 from 4pm to 8pm 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 "best youth group on the planet."

### **Easy Tithe Works!**

Giving is a snap! Just download the app! Go to the App Store for your phone and search for Easy Tithe. Download the app and fill in your information. Enter the Zip Code 49509 and you will find Wesley Park UMC. Now you can give when you want, how you want using the debit or credit card information you entered or by taking a photo of a check. If you have any questions, ask the Welcome Desk helper.

### **Annual Statements**

If you contributed to Wesley Park in 2016, the giving statements are now ready for you to pick up. They are on the same table as the giving envelopes in the Welcome Center.

### **Giving Envelopes**

The 2017 giving envelopes have arrived! Visit the Welcome Center to pick up your new booklets. If you don't have one and would like a booklet assigned to you; please see Al Pittenger or Paula Hartley and they will make sure to get one for you.

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