

Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, July 10			
Tuesday, July 11	SPRC, 5:30 pm	Heidi Young	
Wednesday, July 12	Women's Prayer, 10 am	Madeleine Hosfelt Eric Terry Judy Vander Meer	
Thursday, July 13	Congregational Care, 2 pm Softball, 6:15 pm Softball, 7:30 pm		
Friday, July 14		Matthew Hitch Hugh Prentiss	
Saturday, July 15	Youth Mission Trip, 10 am		
Sunday, July 16	Worship, 9:30 am Fellowship, 10:30 am Faith Formation, 11 am Finance Meeting, noon	Zimmer Elliott Pat Walcott	

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!
- ⊗ Sign up to provide cookies and juice for our 10:30 am **Fellowship Time**.
- ⊗ **Bikes and Books**, July 22, Donate books, funds, or sign-up to help.
- ⊗ Sign up for **Family Camp**, August 18-20 at Lakeview United Methodist Camp. \$56 per site.
- ⊗ **Blessing of the Cars**, August 24 Water Donation, or volunteer August 26.
- ⊗ **Circles of Grand Rapids**, sign-up if interested in connecting.



Wesley Park Weekly

July 9, 2017

You may be wondering, "How's the softball team doing?" Does the lack of updates mean that our team has been handily winning each and every game by such a margin that there is really no need to bring it up? No. That's not been the case. In fact, for most of the season we have experienced mercy. Meaning, if one team is ahead by over 15 runs, the other team is mercied. That's been us. Outmatched, outplayed, outscored. Our coach has encouraged us, yelled at us, laughed with us, changed up the lineup, but for most weeks, we have gone home without a win. Mercied.

But I want you to know, that hasn't affected how we treat each other. We are still encouragers. We congratulate the other team when they play well. We root each other on. We pray for one another. We like each other, and like playing - win or lose. And I don't think we can lose, if we are playing with the Spirit of care and compassion. I think we win, regardless of the score, when we treat one another and ourselves with respect and encouragement. The games are filled with hope, prayer, grace and, yes, mercy. When we keep our focus on the bigger picture, we can grow in any situation.

This might sound like someone who is trying to find the silver lining for a winless season. That is not the case. Because on Thursday, June 29, things began to turn around. Hits started falling, runs started to cross the plate, routine and miraculous plays were made in the field. The game went into extra innings. And, with the bases loaded and two outs, Tim Witt hit a sharp line-drive single. We won! We continued to support one another and have fun. We never stopped respecting the other team. Our smiles might have been a little bigger. I wondered if the teams that win all the time experience that same degree of joy?

Softball reminds us to have fun, show respect, try hard, encourage one another, work together, pick each other up, hope, grow, and appreciate every moment we are together. May these things be a part of all you do in life.

Randee Prentiss

Prayers

Esther and Alfredo Fernandez - Molly and Marlow, you sounded amazing. I love that song from Jaci Velasquez. I have the CD. Marlow, you have a beautiful voice. Thank you for sharing with your church family. I love your hair. God bless you and your family. Pastor Dean, thank you—awesome message.

Annette Jeltema - I am so thankful for my family and my extended family. God is good to me!

Jane Ellen and Chuck Johnson - Our brother-in-law, Tom, has blood clots in his leg from his ankle to his hip. Prayers needed for freedom from pain and that the blood clots will dissolve to prevent further issues.

Marilyn Knapp - I leave this week for Tennessee where we'll have a Joni and Friends Retreat for Families With Disabilities. May our Father's Strength and Wisdom lead us as we seek to lift up, refresh, and encourage these dear ones.—In Him.

Jackie Matson - Thank you, Dean, for a great message. Thank you, Molly and Marlow, for the beautiful song.

Scott and Kathy Maynard - Wonderful service!

Al and Peggy Pittenger - Marlow and Molly—absolutely beautiful song and message. You touched many hearts today. Please amaze us again sometime with your God given talents. Great service, Dean!!

Julie Riemersma - Prayers for all the pastors starting at new churches this month. Also, pray for the church families.

Val Rienks - Last chemo done! Fatigued and bone, joint, and muscle soreness. Will have my radiation consultation in the next week or two. My port comes out on July 20th. Radiation will start after that for four weeks, five days a week.

Ron and Dolores Sanford - Marlow and Molly, your song was wonderful. So beautiful!v Thank you!

Bill and Vicky Van Dalsen - Prayers of comfort for my Aunt Bernice and my cousins. MyUncle Paul passed away early Saturday morning at their assisted living facility in Traverse City.

Alan and Susan Wright - Marlow, what a beautiful and wonderful voice. Thank you.

Carolyn DuBuis - Pray for safe travel for my grandson as he returns to Washington DC on Tuesday.

Prayers

Freddi Angus - Marlow and Mommy—Beautiful!

Patricia Beadle - Good job, Marlow!

Nancy Carpenter - I am so proud of my beautiful daughter and granddaughter!

Linda Carter - Please keep me in your prayers as I am dealing with another problem. I need strength.

Dorinda DeCommer - Pray for Sallie and her health.

Jess, Connor, and Brennan Hughes - Please keep Jess' family in your prayers. Her grandma Gert passed away last week. We all miss her.

Brian and Judy Hepp - Dear God, please help all of our appointed, hired, and elected officials come together under the banner of Christ to reign and rule according to GOD'S will and word for the good of all our citizens so that the USA can lead the world back to Christ.

A Big Thank You!

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and outpouring of love and sympathy for our daughter-in-law, Sherry, during her struggle with cancer and her passing. We are so thankful to have such a loving and caring church family.

Tom and Ruth Noble

Blue Bags Ministry Share Offering

100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:

\$18,911
(27 Weeks Completed)

Remaining Balance Needed:

\$32,401
(26 Weeks Remaining)

Offered last week: **\$1,435**

Anything But Ordinary, July - September 2nd

11am - Noon -- Every Sunday -- Downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Our summer Adult Faith Formation series will be an in-depth study of the Abrahamic family narratives found in the first and second books of the Bible (Genesis and Exodus). Whether you are a first-time guest or life-long member you are invited to enter into these stories (anew) through our study. This season of the church year (lectionary) is called ordinary time but we want this summer to be Anything But Ordinary for you!

All participants will receive a beautifully illustrated devotional which will guide our weekly reflections and provide space for you to explore these stories more on your own or with a small group.

*The Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah
Leah and Rachel*

The Birth of Jacob and Esau

Jacob's Dream at Bethel Jacob Marries

Jacob Wrestles at Peniel

Joseph's Brothers Sell Him into Slavery

Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

Moses' Birth

Moses and the Burning Bush

All-Church Study, September 10-October 15

Clip In: Risking Hospitality in Your Church Small Group Book Study

September 10th – Oct 15th

"When are a cyclist and a church alike? The cyclist goes nowhere without balance and momentum. Neither does a church. For the cyclist, the risk begins when he or she clips into the pedals. For a church, the risk comes with balancing attention toward existing members while generating momentum through reaching new people. But when the focus goes from the "functions" of hospitality to creating a culture of hospitality, a church's growth will shift into high gear."

If you are interested in facilitating a small group for this study, please contact Anna Spencer (aspencer@wesleypark.org).

Tuesday Night Small Group Book Study

Tuesday, July 18th - August 28th in the Welcome Center 6-7:30 pm

As a follow-up to our poverty study with Rev. Julie Liske, Anna Spencer will be leading a small group book study. For **seven weeks**, we will think deeply about "Compassion, Justice, and the Christian Life" by Robert D. Lupton. This book addresses important questions such as "What are some meaningful alternatives to the ways we have traditionally attempted to care for the poor? How do people, programs, and neighborhoods move towards reciprocal interdependent relationships?"

You will be asked to read between 20 and 40 pages per week. Space is limited to twelve people in order to maintain a small group experience. We may do this study again in the fall if there is great enough interest. Books are **\$9** and are available at the Welcome Desk. EBooks are also available through online retailers. **Get your book and sign up at the welcome desk today! Bookmarks with reading and meeting schedule are there as well.**

Kids Faith Formation Announcements

July & August

Summer Cinema starts July 9th at 11 am for children in preschool through 5th grade. Each week children will watch part or all of a movie and do age-appropriate discussion questions and activities. The classes will meet in the 4th + 5th-grade room to start each week.

Looking for a place to serve? We have multiple opportunities open to help during the worship service and our 11 am faith formation hour. Contact the office or Anna Spencer (aspencer@wesleypark.org) to find out more.

Prayerwalk

In hundreds of cities around the world people are praying as they pass through the streets of their communities. Many have come to use the word "Prayerwalking" to describe this kind of on-site intercession. During a prayerwalk, the folks who pray extend beyond their own concerns and focus directly on the needs of others and open themselves to see their neighbors with God's eyes and heart.

On Friday, July 14 at 10:00am I would like to spend some time, about an hour, quietly praying through the neighborhoods around Wesley Park. If you would like to join me I will have routes, options for prayers, scripture and notepads available. We will begin in the sanctuary and pray for the Spirit of God to accompany our steps and words. We will then divide up in pairs or groups and begin our walk.

This is not a time for evangelistic conversations it is rather, a time to begin a more holy relationship with the children of God living around our church.

Please join me,

Jane Ellen Johnson

1-616-259-9896

Blood Pressure Checks

Susan Kaminski will be in the Family Life Center after the service this today during the fellowship time to do blood pressure checks. She will be there until 11 am.

Bikes & Books

[Saturday, July 22nd 10am – 1pm]

Free Bike Repairs + Free Kids Books

**WE WANT TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY
RIDE & READ THIS SUMMER!**

- * A Bike Repair Truck will be in our parking lot providing tune-ups and basic repairs for kids and families in our community.
- * New and Gently Used Kids Books will be given away to promote summer reading and greater access to book ownership.

We need your help!

- Donate gently used or new Kids Books.
- Donate funds to purchase books.
- Sign up to help at the event or drop off books at the Welcome Desk.

United Methodist Women

As a service project for UMW, we would like to collect the following items for a local elementary school, Oriole Park. Please consider any of the items below and put them in the tub labeled "UMW" in the welcome center. Thank you for all you do!

Disinfectant wipes

Facial tissue

Large glue sticks (Elmers)

Spiral notebooks (single subject)

#2 Pencils

Whiteboard markers (black) skinny

2 pocket Folders

Crayons

Watercolor paint

Tape

Big erasers (no cap ones)

Playdough

Scissors

Loose leaf paper

Square sticky notes

Pencil boxes/pouches

Clipboards

Lanyards

Dollar store gift cards

White card stock