

Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, September 4	Labor Day, office closed		
Tuesday, September 5		Kristen Brink	
Wednesday, September 6	Women's Prayer, 10 am Internal Readiness Team, 6 pm Youth Group, 6 pm Kitchen Team, 6:30 pm Faith Development, 7:45pm	Kendall Heyboer	Terry & Jen Losinger
Thursday, September 7	Knitting Group, 10 am Food Truck, 5 pm Chancel Choir, 6 pm		
Friday, September 8	Freddi's Angels, 6:30 pm		Max & Gail Gibbard
Saturday, September 9	Baptism Class, 10 am Young Adult Group, 7 pm		
Sunday, September 10	Worship, 9:30 am Fellowship, 10:30 am Faith Formation, 11 am Staff Meeting, noon Bus Trip Meeting, 1 pm		

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**.
- ❖ **Circles of Grand Rapids**, sign-up if interested in connecting.
- ❖ Drop off **Adopt-a-Classroom** items



Wesley Park Weekly

September 3, 2017

The Pastor's Page

The United Methodist Church celebrates two sacraments: Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. The Protestant church recognized that Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, and that he took, blessed, broke, and gave the bread at the table with his disciples consecrating the first Holy Communion.

The bread was unleavened - flat bread - and was a reminder of how quickly the Israelites had to flee from the Egyptians during the Exodus from slavery. The wine was not only what was served at the meal, but also the Cup of Elijah, a ceremonial cup that was poured looking forward to the day that Elijah would return and the world would be redeemed.

Today, we use bread that is cubed, as well as gluten-free bread, and cups and wafers that are sealed. We share grape juice rather than wine. We believe that the communion table is open to all people, all ages, all backgrounds, all abilities. Communion is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet and a sign of the presence of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

We usually celebrate Holy Communion once a month, a custom going all the way back to the itinerant preachers on horseback serving each church on a four-point charge once each week. John Wesley said that communion was to be "the grand channel whereby the grace of Christ's Spirit was conveyed to the souls of all the children of God." Wesley encouraged regular communion.

As you prepare to receive Holy Communion, forgive those who have sinned against you, and receive the forgiveness that comes from the grace of the Holy Spirit. Pray for peace in the world, and dedicate yourself to work for that peace. Honor your pain and sorrow, and also receive with great joy as we are invited to gather around the Lord's table, together, a life-giving sacrament for all.

Ros DeArmitt

Prayers

Julie Riemersma - Pray for all kids, teachers, bus drivers, crossing guards, and helping hands to schools in our world. I pray they will be safe and learn lots. Thank you.

Lynda Edsall - Thank you Loretta, Sara, Dave, and Keith for blessing us with your love of God. Prayers for the Palasek's and their health issues. Prayers for teachers and students.

Charlie & Kathy Swanson - Prayers for our friend, Tom, who just had a cancerous tumor removed from his spine.

Alfredo & Esther Fernandez - Thank you for all your prayers while we were in Tampa for Roberts memorial. It was beautiful and peaceful. I miss you when I am away. I am glad to be back. Pray for Naomi as she starts CC Monday. Loretta, wonderful message. You did a great job! Keith, I love it when you sing.

Brian & Judy Hepp - Please pray for the Ralph L. Popma clan as we gather for the funeral of my uncle, Bob Popma, who died Saturday evening.

Ken & Linda McKenney - Prayers for those affected by the hurricane in Texas.

Carol Eckert - Thank you Loretta for your meaningful message.

Rick & Kellie O'Connor - Loretta, you did a great job preaching today. Thank you! Prayers for Karter in Washington DC. He is going through his 4th round of chemo. Prayers he is well enough to go home soon.

Pat Beadle - I need prayers for my son-in-law, Colin, who is having health issues which might require surgery. Thank you.

Kathy DenHollander - Prayers and joys for two friends. Genie had surgery for a detached retina that went ok. She still needs surgery for tearing in the other eye. Judy was sleeping when two guys tried to break in. She is ok, but not able to sleep peacefully yet.

Freddi Angus - Healing prayers for Jennifer Hassell. The doctor removed 3 golf ball sized tumors from her brain on Friday. She is awake and talking. Praise the Lord! Also pray for her sister, Sandy, who is in charge of her and very stressed. Wonderful service Loretta. Thank you.

Steve & Diane Ellens - Great job Loretta. Thank you!

Val Rienks - 2 more treatments and then only follow up appointments and medication for the next 5 years. We had great weather last weekend for family camp. It was a fun and restful weekend.

Fall Rummage Sale

It's that time of year again to start cleaning out your garages, closets, cupbards, etc. The youth are holding their fall rummage sale on Saturday, September 30 from 8am-2pm. If you know you are going to be needing a pick up from your home, please contact Eric Terry to schedule it. You can bring your items in to the church beginning September 25 during office hours or Friday evening beginning at 7 pm.

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."

Books can be purchased at the Welcome Desk from now until the book study begins in September. Books are \$12 each. You can pay by cash, check (made out to Wesley Park UMC), and debit/credit card. Sign ups for our Clip In Small Group Studies are now available! Meeting day/times vary from Sundays, Tuesday, and Thursdays. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or online at <http://bit.ly/2fKISjm>

Metro Cruise Report

The kickoff for last weekend's Metro Cruise started on Thursday, August 24th, with Wesley Park's "Blessing of the Cars". This was our first year at providing yet another opportunity to reach out to our community. We had 20 vintage/antique cars/pickup trucks in attendance. Also, the Flutterbyes square dancers performed and incorporated the audience in their dance. Thank you Scott and Kathy Maynard for making this happen. The Flutterbyes will be offering square dance lessons here at the church this fall!! Hot dogs, chips, cookies, and water was provided for the community and all in attendance. We served approximately 125 people. The cost for the food was absorbed by various members of the church. The culmination of the event was the special "Blessing of the Cars" graciously done by Anita Vogel. She gave a tribute to her late husband, Don, whose red vintage pickup was part of the event, and then blessed all the cars taking part in the Metro Cruise over the weekend. Many thanks to all the staff and members who helped make this event special for our community!

Acolyte Class

A new Acolyte class is forming and we are reaching out to see if there are any 2nd grade or older kids that would like to join. If so, Please contact Pat Beadle at mamabeadle@gmail.com or 616-277-4051 for any questions or to be added to the list.

Blue Bags Ministry Share Offering

100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:

\$22,992

(35 Weeks Completed)

Remaining Balance Needed:

\$23,655

(18 Weeks Remaining)

Offered last week: **\$190**

Prayers

Vicky Van Dalsen - Bill is in need of prayers. Although his recent CT scan had very good results, he is suffering from side effects of his chemo.

John & Kathy Challa - Beautifully done Keith.

Betty Stoutjesdyk - Thank you for making my birthday so special.

Barb Schondelmayer - I enjoyed your message Loretta.

Earl & Sally Morrow - Our daughter, Nancy, is donating a kidney on September 8.

Jess Hughes - Thank you for our time at family camp with our church family members who were able to attend. Our family is so blessed. Please bless all the children starting and returning to school.

Ron & Dolores Sanford - The message today was wonderful. Thank you Loretta.

Young Adult/College Group

The college group will be meeting this Saturday at 7 pm at Ross and Erin Vanderlaan's home. They will be providing the main course, please bring a dish to pass. Their address is 807 Walcott SW, Wyoming, MI 49509. Please contact Erin if you have any questions (616-745-6490).

Youth Group Happenings

Wednesday Youth Group

Eric will be kicking off Wednesday night youth group this week at 6 pm. Wednesday night youth group meets all school year long. We will be watching the movie "I'm not Ashamed". The storyline is as follows: The Columbine Massacre of April 20, 1999 completely redefined America's view of the lives of high school students. Drawn straight from Columbine victim [Rachel Joy Scott](#)'s words and journal entries, through the insight of her mother, [Beth Nimmo](#), it is the true story of a high school student whose compassionate, caring faith caused her to reach out to fellow students including her killers who made her a target of their murderous plan. The following weeks will include discussion time for the different topics that are introduced in the movie.

Sunday Morning Youth Group

Please join Eric down stairs in the "couch room" in the youth hallway from 11 am-noon every Sunday for a bible study and discussion (and maybe a few shenanigans).

Youth Potluck

Calling all youth 6th grade thru 12th grade! Eric will once again be hosting the fall potluck at his house on Sunday, September 10 from 4-7. He will be grilling up burgers and hot dogs. The whole family is invited to a great get together. Please bring a dish to pass. His address is 3935 41st St, Grandville, MI 49418. Please contact Eric if you have any questions. We hope to see you all there!

Music Ministry Fall Kickoff

Chancel Choir: If you like to sing in 4-part harmony chancel choir is the place for you! We are in need of members in ALL sections. Do you love to sing but need some support around you? You will have a section of sopranos, altos, tenors, or basses surrounding you to lift you up and encourage you as you gain confidence. Reading music is helpful, but NOT necessary! Pitch matching works equally as well. If you don't know what section you belong in, I can help with that. Please join us! **Our first rehearsal is Thursday September 7 at 6:00 p.m.!** It is not about skill, or technique, though we strive for that as much as we can, but about singing with our hearts and lifting up His word in song. It is a beautiful way to minister to the congregation. Prayerfully consider if you would like to be a part of this group.

Children's Choir Opportunity for Adults: Kristen and I are in need of at least one other person to help with children's choir this year. Primarily we need an additional person to be present and help corral children and keep them on task, meet with them on Sunday mornings that they sing, etc. If you play piano, that would be a bonus. Children's choir meets right after service for about 20 minutes, wrapping up before the start of faith formation. We rehearse for 3-4 weeks prior to performances, and most of the time we have a week or two break in between sessions. I am looking to start rehearsals for the children later in September, perhaps the 17th or 24th.

Children's Choir for the Kids!: Any children ages 3 years old to 5th grade are welcome in children's choir. See above for more info on practice times. I will put out a schedule for the year closer to the first rehearsal date. We have a Facebook page for the children's choir where information is relayed. (If you don't have Facebook we would be happy to contact you other ways) If you are interested let me know ahead of time if you want to be added to the group.