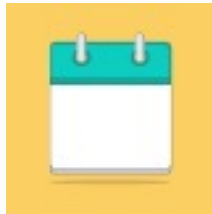


Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, November 27	Florentines Dinner, 4 pm Young Adults Group, 7 pm	Aaron Carruthers	
Tuesday, November 28	UMW, 6:30 pm		
Wednesday, November 29	Women's Prayer, 10 am Youth Group, 5:30 pm	Hannah Steenhagen	
Thursday, November 30	Chancel Choir, 6 pm	Brad Hitch Gayle Poertner	Bill & Vicky Van Dalsen
Friday, December 1			
Saturday, December 2		Matthew Moore	Mark & Sandy Farmer
Sunday, December 3	Worship, 9:30 am Fellowship, 10:30 am Faith Formation, 11 am Dinner Theater Practice, noon		

## Mark Your Calendar



- ◆ December 8: Christmas By Candlelight, 7 pm
- ◆ December 15: Caroling, 5:30 pm
- ◆ December 17: Hymn Sing, 11 am
- ◆ Christmas Eve services: 7 pm and 11 pm



# Wesley Park Weekly

November 26, 2017

## Pastor's Page

I am thankful for the experiences of Children's Sabbath at Wesley Park UMC. Bishop Don Ott and Cecile Adams started this series on October 22 with our focus on children and justice. In the ensuing weeks, we were inspired by the work of community schools with Erika VanDyke, children and hunger issues with Kids' Food Basket, ministry with children with special needs through King's Table Ministries, help for refugees at Bethany Christian Services, and today, a focus on the power of shelter for children with Family Promise. I hope and pray we will continue this important work, and build on these life-giving relationships.

Next week, our worship returns to the Sanctuary for the Season of Advent. Our focus for Advent will be on the Adam Hamilton resource, [Faithful: Christmas through the eyes of Joseph](#). Purchasing the book is not required, but you can find it at most book stores. Here is the description:

From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us.

Joseph's story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves. At times it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

Exchange your doubt for courage this Advent and Christmas season. The story of Joseph provide us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

Please extend an invitation to everyone for this season of preparation. Especially reach out to fathers, step-fathers, foster-fathers, grand-fathers, and those who have been cared for by these father-figures.

*Ron DeArmitt*

## 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 November 19th communication cards...*

**Lynda Edsall** - Prayers for all of those who are traveling for Thanksgiving. Praise God! I have so much to be thankful for.

**Dolores Sanford** - Ron starts radiation today for the next 4 days and again on Monday.

**Jane Ellen Johnson** - Please pray for a peaceful transition of power during the take over of the government in Zimbabwe. May this time of change be filled with care and concern for the people rather than the government and those seeking control. Keep the students, teachers, and staff of Africa University safe.

**Ken & Linda McKenney** - Prayers for those alone and those who are refugees.

**Ann Bellgraph** - Thank you to Amir for sharing his story with us. We are happy you are here.

**Carolyn DuBuis** - Praise for the family coming home for Thanksgiving from far and near. How blessed we are to have them with us.

**Janice Starnes** - Please pray for the Dingle family after the death of Bob, who is a friend of Chuck's for the last 50 years.

**Val Rienks** - Prayers for my mother-in-law, Phyllis, as we have to find a place for her to be moved into by December 31. Prayers as I search for a new job as Graphic Arts searches for someone new for my position.

**Myrtle Hartzog** - Great dance and song.

**Chuck & Donna Gress** - Thank you Liz. Your selections were outstanding.

**Esther Fernandez** - I love the song and the dancing by Kathy and Pat. Thank you to both of you. Please pray for my daughter Kristie. She hit a deer on her way to work last Tuesday. I thank our God for protecting her first. She needs a car to go to work. She is looking. Thank you Amir. You did a great job. Your story touched my heart.

**Barb Schondelmayer** - I enjoyed my special birthday. It was awesome with my amazing family and church friends. What a blessing. What a wonderful young man and his remarkable story. God bless him.

## Family Promise Christmas Store

This year the Christmas Store for Family Promise will be held the evening of December 8 and the morning of December 9, 2017. Our deadline for bringing unwrapped gifts to our church will be December 7th, and we will deliver the gifts to Cornerstone the following day. We are encouraged to give in the following manner: cash donations, toys for children of all ages, gift cards from Target, Walmart, or Meijer. The tree has been set up in the Welcome Center for you to drop off your donations. Last year your participation gave much to the families involved. May God bless you as you consider giving to this wonderful cause again.

## Florentine's Fundraiser



The Florentine's Dinner will be Monday, November 27 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.

## Blue Bags Ministry Share Offering

### 100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:

**\$32,099**

**(47 Weeks Completed)**

Remaining Balance Needed:

**\$14,548**

**(6 Weeks Remaining)**

Offered last week: **\$865**

## Faith Formation Series

Here is the list of upcoming worship service topics for our Children's Sabbath series. I have also listed the speakers and events we will be doing for Adult Faith Formation during this series. **Please pay special attention to November 26th as this is an intergenerational service projects we are participating in during our usual Faith Formation time.**



**Nov 26th - Today's focus will be Family Promise.** We will be decorating cards, drawing pictures, and praying for those that are here for Family Promise Week (November 26th - December 2nd). This project will be our Faith Formation experience for children, youth, and adults.

## United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women will meet at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 in the Marv and Omie Tanis Welcome Center. The annual World Thank Offering will be received. This channel of Mission Giving is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission and advocacy in the United States and around the world. All women are welcome. Childcare is provided.

## 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**.

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## Christmas By Candlelight



The annual Christmas by Candlelight will be held December 8, 2017, 7:00 P.M. in the Family Life Center. It will be a dessert bar and program entitled "Nativities Around the World" by Kay DeMoss. It will be sponsored by the United Methodist Women. A free-will offering will be taken and childcare will be provided. Please stop by the Welcome Desk to sign up.

## 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.

## Adult Faith Formation: Slow [Advent]

This is the season of rushing around. There is so much to do and so little time. It is also the season of waiting. We wait for the kingdom of God to be shown to us again in the birth of Jesus Christ. We light candles, celebrate traditions, experience the tension/joy of the holidays in the midst of it all. What if we acknowledged the rush of life and intentionally slowed down in small ways? What if we began again in this new church year? Join us this advent as we acknowledge the rush, try slow down for a few breaths, and get ready for 2018.

WEEK 1: DEC 3 The Rush  
WEEK 2: DEC 10 Slow Down  
WEEK 3: DEC 17 [Hymn Sing]  
WEEK 4: DEC 31 Begin Again  
Everyone is welcome.

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