

Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, November 30		Brad Hitch	Bill & Vicki VanDalsen
Tuesday, December 1	Praise Team, 7 pm		
Wednesday, December 2	Prayer Group, 10 am		
Thursday, December 3	LaRee Ellens Knitting, 10 Food Truck, 5 pm Baton Group, 5:30 pm Chancel Choir, 7 pm		
Friday, December 4		Pat Warren	
Saturday, December 5		Jacob VanEssen	
Sunday, December 6	Worship, 9 am Faith Formation, 10 am Worship, 11 am	Cami Valdez	

Welcome New Members!

Annette Jeltema, Kyle Klaas, Amanda Klaas, Brayden Klaas, Rick O'Connor, Kellie O'Connor, Ashlinn O'Connor, Ronald Sanford, Delores Sanford

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

Our Vision: By 2018, Wesley Park will strive to inspire from the youngest to the oldest and everybody in between to live out the greatest commandment: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.



Wesley Park Weekly

November 29, 2015

Thank You for Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child. 41 gift boxes were collected for Samaritan's Purse to be sent to children around the world.

Stay for Brunch Today

We hope you will stay for brunch today, served in the Family Life Center. Donations will be used to purchase needed supplies for the kitchen. And, please add a family ornament to the tree in the Welcome Center!

December 7, Christmas by Candle Light

The Women's Christmas by Candle Light will be Monday, December 7 at Wesley Park. The doors open at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6 pm, and the program, *The Christmas Star*, created by Robyn Dykstra, at 7 pm. Tickets are on sale today for \$10. **Men** can also sign up as servers, or clean up (dinner provided).

December 13, Christmas Music Celebration

The Music Ministries of Wesley Park UMC invite you to *God With Us*, a musical celebration of Christmas Sunday, December 13 at 4 pm. Invite your friends and the community! Please use the FLC Entrance.

Food Truck, This Thursday

Please plan to come to the church to help with the Food Truck. Tables begin to be set up around 4 pm. The Food Line begins at 5:30 pm. Clean up by 7 pm. All help is welcome! If you cannot be there, lift up prayers for all involved.

Prayers

- John & Kathy Challa - Thank you Adrienne! What a beautiful story you shared. Wow!
- Sally McLean - Prayers for Sam.
- Freddi Angus - Your anthem was so wonderful. Well done Phil.
- Larry & Wendy Harr - It has been a long time since the choir sounded that good!
- Myrtle Hartzog - Very nice Adrienne.
- Patricia Beadle - Thanks to everyone for the prayers, cards, visits, food, etc. My recovery is going well.
- Esther Fernandez - I am so thankful to God for all the blessings he has provided. Thanks Adrienne for a beautiful message. I loved the song we sang and thank God for Phil. He is a very compassionate person. I am so glad he is our choir director.
- Anonymous - The choir was awesome!
- Dori DeCommer - I pray for Malinda.
- Dolores Sanford - Our sermon was wonderful. Thank you!
- Jim & Joanne Gustafson - Prayers for Russ and Carolyn Dubuis. May God hold them in his hands.
- Annette Jeltema - Fabulous service!! Thank you.
- Nancy Carpenter - Thank you, Adrienne, for sharing your beautiful heart.
- Julie Riemersma - Please pray for Becca and her new baby boy born 11/20. She is one of the girls we have been praying for. She is family and friend that we will be seeing this week.
- Kate Vandusen - Please pray for my teacher, Ms. Czarniecki, who passed away Friday morning from a brain tumor. She was 38. She is no longer in any pain with headaches.
- Susan Kaminski - Prayers for a safe move to Dorr. Praise God! Milo gets a new home today. Thanks friends for all your help. Thank you choir!
- Ken & Linda McKenney - Prayers for peace in the world.
- Richard Kutschinski - Prayers for Jan.
- Val Rienks - My sister, Steph, arrived safely in Florida yesterday. Thanks to Southwest for making it easy to send her off by allowing me to accompany her to the gate and in Florida by giving guest passes for brother, Pete, and sister-in-law, Lara, to pick Steph up directly at the gate.

Prayers Continued

- Linda Hagan - Praise to God! Our grandson was born 11/17 at 9:58 pm. He was healthy and beautiful. thank you all for your prayers.
- Barb DeCan - Please join me in prayer for Kayde, Ethan, and Paige. Also, prayers for Carolyn and Russ. Prayers for my husband, Gary, he has had a lot of leg pain again lately.
- Pam Osborn - Thank you, Adrienne, for your heart and truths.
- Continued Prayers: Prayers for Hannah Steenhagen, Ben Peterson, Warren Slesman, Barb Brechting, Bill VanDalsen, Jack Boyer, Karin Drost, Jan Kutschinski, Rev. Myron Williams, Russ DuBuis

Pledges to Honor Christ

Thank you for your pledges to honor Christ with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness! If you haven't made your pledge yet, please mail it or bring it to the church as soon as possible.

Ministry Shares

100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:

\$27,918

(22 Weeks Completed)

Remaining Balance Needed:

\$12,569

(5 Weeks Remaining)

Offered last week: **\$1,298**

Questions? Contact: Al Pittenger

Dates to Remember

Christmas Caroling: December 20

Christmas Eve Worship: December 24, 7 pm & 11 pm

Florentine's Dinner: December 28

Wesley Park United Methodist Church
1150 32nd Street SW Wyoming, Michigan 49509
616-988-6738 wesleyparkumc@gmail.com

The Theme for the Season of Advent is Waiting. Take Some Time to Reflect on Scripture, Practice the Spiritual Disciplines, and Pray Throughout the Week.

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2015

Lectionary Texts:

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

Reflection

The liturgical year begins with Advent, a season celebrated during the four Sundays prior to Christmas. It is a season of waiting, in which, we as the church are re-oriented around the mystery and wonder of incarnation. How does God taking on flesh change things?

The first century Jewish community might have found it difficult to imagine the Messiah would come as a vulnerable, illegitimate child, born to a pregnant teen before marriage, and raised by a man whose allegiance to the Torah would have been questioned, for choosing to stay with her. This is the world as it existed. A world waiting for Emmanuel (God with us). It is into these contentious circumstances that God enters the scene to be cared for and worshiped by a rather motley crowd of young parents, shepherds, magi, and faithful Jews.

We might prefer a more polished story, but this is not the world God inhabited then or does now. Advent literally means to wait or anticipate a coming. It is a beautiful and uncomfortable season which reminds us that God is present in the here and now, just as it is. Still today, the world does not look as we would like. It is chaotic and things are not as they should be. There is too much ignorance, suffering, corruption, poverty, hatred, and violence. I find myself overwhelmed by the weight of living in such a broken and yet beautiful world.

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Practice:

Place your palms face up in front of you. Now wiggle your fingers. This is the ASL sign for wait. Practice this sign as you contemplate the following question:

In this season of Advent, what are we waiting for?

Think about this question personally, for our faith community, and for the world.

wait



Prayer:

The gold cradle of the moon
is rising in the east,
and all the things that croak and hoot
and howl at night are silent now.

Moment before dawn
quietest of all quiet moments,
good medicine for the soul,
make plans to be there.

Prayer taken from [Seven Sacred Pauses](#), by Macrina Wiederkehr.

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