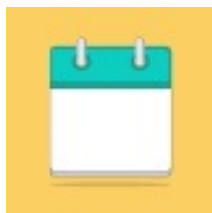


Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, December 4	Trustees, 6:30 pm Young Adults Group, 7 pm	Pat Warren	
Tuesday, December 5			
Wednesday, December 6	Women's Prayer, 10 am Youth Group, 5:30 pm Kitchen Meeting, 6:30 pm Square Dance, 6:45 pm	Claire Bonkema Cami Valdez	
Thursday, December 7	Knitting Group, 10 am Food Truck, 5 pm Baton, 5:30 pm Chancel Choir, 6 pm		
Friday, December 8	Christmas By Candlelight, 7 pm	Richard Kutschinski	
Saturday, December 9		Alarick Parkey	
Sunday, December 10	Worship, 9:30 am Fellowship, 10:30 am Blood Pressure Check, 10:30 am Faith Formation, 11 am Dinner Theater Practice, noon Staff Meeting, noon	Ryan Osborn	

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

December 3, 2017

Pastor's Page

Happy New Year! Yes, that's right. The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new Christian year. The Christian calendar follows the story of Christ:

- ☀ Advent: Preparation for his coming birth.
- ☀ Christmas: Celebration of his entrance into the world.
- ☀ Epiphany: Recognition of his divinity.
- ☀ Lent: Preparation for his suffering, death, and resurrection.
- ☀ Easter: Celebration of his resurrection.
- ☀ Pentecost: Recognition of his eternal presence through the Holy Spirit.

The joy and wonder of faith in Christ is the ongoing opportunity we all have to begin again. Most people experience ups and downs in life. Challenges arise to disrupt and disengage some from a life of worship, study, prayer, and action. The burdens of life are at times overwhelming. But the seasons of preparation, celebration, and recognition continue to come around with constant "on-ramps" to rejoin the journey in ways you might not have been able to previously. Perhaps this new year will be that new opportunity for you, and for our neighborhood. Remember this, from Isaiah 43 (The Message):

"Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. You're mine. When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end— Because I am God, your personal God, The Holy of Israel, your Savior... I'd sell off the whole world to get you back, trade the creation just for you."

Randall Martin

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 26th communication cards...

Nancy Carpenter - Thank you, Makaila, for sharing your beautiful young voice with us. We are so blessed to be part of Family Promise. If you haven't come to help before, you should come. You will be beyond blessed!

Al Pittenger - Prayers for Peg's nephew, Chris, as he heals after being hit by a truck while doing landscaping work on a curb. Also, Tom and Ruth Noble's grandchildren and great grandchildren who were hit head on by a truck in Virginia. Thank you for your prayers.

Kathy DenHollander - Two friends came here on the 19th. They so enjoyed the service and hospitality!

Elaine Weaver - I appreciate the cards from church friends. I am doing well at Grand Pines Assisted Living Center in Grand Haven.

Deb Parkey - Alarick and I will be heading out for a week long cruise in early December to celebrate his 40th birthday and our 20th anniversary! Your prayers for a safe, smooth, and fun trip is appreciated.

Dave & Marcia Coates - Prayers for our daughter who just had a new baby.

Freddi Angus - Please pray for Sallie and Dorie. There is a "bus" issue.

Julie Riemersma - We are all so blessed. Thank you Lord for everything you are.

Darlene Pinder - Beautiful poem, Adrienne! Lovely song. Lisa gave us so much to think about!

Jackie Matson - Pray for my daughter, Keri, and my grandson, T.J.

Annette Jeltema - Continued prayers for my brother, Jim, and for my husband, Joe.

Barb DeCan - Thankful my friend, Judy, could come worship with me today. Please pray for my friend, Jessie, and her daughters, Elisie and Sadie. Jessie's husband, Greg, died last weekend. He was only 36. I am grateful for the strong faith they all have lived by.

Ken & Linda McKenney - Prayers for those suffering cancer. Prayers for healing and a cure.

Dolores Sanford - Ron started chemo and is having a little trouble with the side effects. Thank you, Adrienne.

Val Rienks - We are looking for low income housing for my mother-in-law to be moved into by December 31.

Bill & Vicky Van Dalsen - Prayers for my cousin's daughter. She was 9 weeks pregnant with their first child and was diagnosed with Leukemia 2 weeks ago last Thursday. She lost the baby the next day. She is being treated at Spectrum Hospital. She lives in Traverse City.

Pat & Keith Warren - Prayers for people in the shopping malls to remember the true meaning of Christmas and to be kind to fellow shoppers.

Esther Fernandez - Thank you for sharing your gift of music with us, Makaila. You sing beautiful. Thank you Lord for family, church family, and all the beauty of the earth.

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.

Blue Bags Ministry Share Offering

100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:

\$32,913

(48 Weeks Completed)

Remaining Balance Needed:

\$9,070

(5 Weeks Remaining)

Offered last week: **\$814**

A Thank you

The BOLD team would like to thank you so much for allowing us to dance for you! We love sharing our gift with others and hope we touched some hearts in your congregation. Praying you all have a wonderful holiday season!

Blessings, Breath of Life Dance Team

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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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.

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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.

Donations for West Elementary

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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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