

Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, December 5	Trustees, 6:30 pm	Jacob Van Essen	
Tuesday, December 6		Claire Bronkema Came Valdez	
Wednesday, December 7	Women's Prayer, 10 am Youth, 6 pm Kitchen Team, 6:30 pm		
Thursday, December 8	Congregational Care, 2 pm Chancel Choir, 6 pm Spanish, 6:30 pm Praise Team, 7:30 pm	Richard Kutschinski	
Friday, December 9	Freddi's Angels, 6:30 pm	Gene Culver Alarick Parkey	
Saturday, December 10		Ryan Osborn Mary Pluim	
Sunday, December 11	Family Promise Clean up, 8 am Worship, 9 am Faith Formation, 10:10 am Worship, 11 am Christmas Concert, 4 pm	Brett Brooks Hannah Hosfelt Mary Tremblay	

Wesley Park United Methodist Church  
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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

December 4, 2016

## Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Advent and Christmas can be difficult seasons. Amid the messages of cheer and good tidings, it can be a challenge for any who are experiencing pain and sadness. Some may feel pressure to purchase more than they can afford, to make family and friends feel loved and appreciated. Cloud-filled days and dark nights can affect our moods. Others feel the pain of infertility during a season centered around the birth of a baby. Many have experienced significant losses in their lives, particularly the death of a loved one. For all of these reasons, and so many more, this season can be painful. Jesus, who was born into a messy and complicated world, certainly understands.

If you are feeling the stress and sadness of the season, there are some things you can do. Talk to someone. Schedule a time to meet with me, or make an appointment to go out with a friend. Talk about how you are feeling. This is a great time for people to meet with a therapist, to stay as healthy and balanced as possible. You may want to change your traditions and try something new. Light a candle for a loved-one, or volunteer at a Soup Kitchen. Honor the changes in your life and find a way forward. If the pain you are experiencing is so severe that you are contemplating hurting yourself, call the Suicide Hotline immediately (1-800-273-8255). There are compassionate people ready to help. Here are some additional resources in our community:

- ☀ Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids provides Cancer Support and Grief Support for children, youth, and adults. You can find more information at [www.gildasclubgr.org](http://www.gildasclubgr.org).
- ☀ First United Methodist Church of Grand Rapids (227 Fulton Street East, Grand Rapids) is offering a Blue Christmas Worship Service Wednesday, December 7 at 7 pm with Scripture, prayer, song, light, and silence, specially planned for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one, health, employment, or relationship.

*RaDea Martin*

## Family Promise Christmas Store

Family Promise needs our help to stock their annual Christmas Store. This is replacing the shoe boxes we normally do. They are looking for donations of toys, games, and gift cards for parents to purchase at reduced costs. More than 100 kids get Christmas gifts because of this store. We will have a Christmas tree for unwrapped donations to be placed. Gifts will be accepted until December 8th. Please stop by the Welcome Desk for a list of suggested gifts.

## Advent and Christmas at Wesley Park

- ★ **The Christmas Music Concert and Celebration** is Sunday, December 11 at 4 pm. Come celebrate the season in song.
- ★ **Christmas Eve Services**, including singing, a Christmas message, and the lighting of candles, will be at 7 pm and 11 pm.
- ★ **Worship on Christmas Day** will be at 10 am. Bring a gift to exchange!
- ★ **The Bishop's Special Offering** will go to support the people of Haiti.

## Annual Choral Christmas Concert

Please join us next Sunday (December 11th) at 4pm for our annual choral Christmas concert. This will be a great collaboration of our Children's Choir, Praise Team, and Chancel Choir.

## Adult Faith Formation

**Advent Class will be held December 4, 11, & 18 in the FLC.** Advent beginnings the church calendar (liturgical) year. It is a season that teaches us to wait. It calls us to slow down, to wonder, and seek. It challenges us to be present and open to all the different ways, in which, God is among us. Together join the chorus of angels singing, "Come, Lord Jesus!" In the chaos and unrest present in our world, we await Emmanuel (God with Us). Join us this Advent season as we wonder, wait, and watch. **Everyone is welcome. Consider inviting a friend to join us.**

## Family Promise Week

Our Family Promise guests arrive today! There are still some holes to fill this week. Prayerfully consider donating some of your time this week to our guests. Please contact Mary Ann Keyes (616-532-6361) if you are able to help.

## Blue Bags Ministry Share Offering

### 100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:  
**\$29,663**  
**(47 Weeks Completed)**

Remaining Balance Needed:  
**\$8,987**  
**(5 Weeks Remaining)**  
Offered last week: **\$828**

# Prayers

**Kim Johnson** - Prayers for classmate and childhood friend, Chris, and her family. Almost 9 years cancer free from Breast Cancer and it's back but stage 4 now. She has a deadly form, and it is very hard to cure. She is only 39 with 2 children. The youngest is 13.

**Makaila Johnson** - I have a baton solo in my baton competition.

**Steve Bravata Sr.** - Woke up feeling unsettled getting ready for church. The closer I got the more comfort and peace came over me. Maybe I feel that I often fall short of God's hope for me. But from the door to the pew, the music, the sermon, the family, God spoke to me, "I love you as you are." Tears filled my eyes the whole service.

**Pam Bravata** - Asking for prayers for my mother, Pauline Shinn. She has many struggles yet strong in faith. We know Jesus' healing hands are there. I worry for her yet am confident. Also for my brother, Ralph, who is fighting cancer on top of cancer. Positive yes, but is all so fearful for his spouse and her future. Prayers of healing for my mom's shoulder.

**Sherry Richards** - Our cousin, Wanda Jacobs, as she recover's from a lung transplant.

**Dave & Marcia Coates** - Prayers for Doreen Coates as she is in hospice care. Prayers that she receives the care that is needed.

**Laura Szczepanek** - Lots on my plate, the pot is on boil. Everything from my cats to my family and business. Asking God and my church peeps for some prayers. Love you all. God will get me thru. Oh the wonderful Holidays.

**Aimee Terry** - Prayers for people from broken families as the holidays can be lonely, frustrating, and a time of much sadness.

**John & Kathy Challa** - Thank you for our church and my guardian angel, Esther. Love you Barb.

**Mike & Jill Beck** - I visited Barb Brechting and she says she loves her Wesley Park family.

**Linda McKenney** - Prayers for our son on decision he has to make.

**Marilyn Knapp** - I'm grateful for your prayers and the privilege of serving our dear brothers and sisters in Nepal, India. The mountain church at the Epicenter of the Earthquake was destroyed but they've rebuilt and 200 sat on the floor studying and worshipping with us. 80% had lost their home but were praising God.

## Lunch with the Youth

The youth are currently working on their 3rd annual Dinner Theatre production that will take place in March. The kids stay after church every Sunday to practice until about 3pm. We are looking for volunteers that would like to have lunch with the "Best Youth On The Planet" and bring in a lunch for about 20 people. Please prayerfully consider having a lunch with a great bunch of kids. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for a Sunday, please contact Bill Schick (616-261-0428) or put it on your communication card and Bill will give you a call.

## Christmas Caroling

Phil Pletcher is hosting a caroling event on December 18th at 5pm. Please contact the office or mark your communication card with "caroling" and if you can drive and how many people can fit in your vehicle. If you know of someone that would enjoy having some carolers, let the office know and we will compile a list of homes and/or retirement villages. After caroling everyone will gather in the Family Life Center for a light dinner. Phil will provide the meat again this year, but is looking for volunteers to provide buns, chips, hot chocolate, and cookies/brownies. Stop by the Welcome Desk for more information or to sign up.



**Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Welcome Center and pick up your Name Tag! You can leave your name tag in the baskets by the church exits on your way out. Enjoy getting to know one another!**

## Wesley Park Worship Online.

The Holiday's can be very busy and we now have a way for you to still "attend" a worship service no matter where you are via the Periscope app. This is a free app that can be found for both iPhones and Androids. Search for @wpworship to tune in. The broadcasts remain viewable for 24 hours after the service.

### Easy Tithe Works!

Giving is a snap! Just download the app! Go to the App Store for your phone and search for Easy Tithe. Download the app and fill in your information. Enter the Zip Code 49509 and you will find Wesley Park UMC. Now you can give when you want, how you want using the debit or credit card information you entered or by taking a photo of a check. If you have any questions, ask the Welcome Desk helper.

### Meal Ministry Request

Rick Carter has just returned home from having heart surgery and is requesting some meals while he regains his strength. You can go to <http://www.takethemameal.com/> (Carter, Wesley Park) to sign up for a day or contact Aimee Terry (616-534-5556) and she will sign you up.

**11 am Worship Helpers:****Greeters:** Lynda Edsall**Ushers:** Lynda Edsall**Acolyte:** Jillian Fischer**Sound Tech:** Pat Carruthers**Video Tech:** Kathy Carruthers**Nursery:** Skyler Maitner, Michelle

Volkers

**Child Advocates:** Phyllis Prentiss, Skyler

Maitner

**Musicians:** Phil Pletcher, Paula Hartley,

Carole Sutphen, Sara Kropp, Molly

Jeltema

# Prayers

**Keith & Pat Warren** - Thank you Phil for the prelude and postlude singing. I pray my eyes will be well.

**George Peterson** - Thank you church for prayers and cards while I was at Vista Springs. I moved to Barbie and Gary's house. All is good.

**Val Rienks** - My mother-in-law, Phyllis, is gaining strength and walking better every day. Pray she keeps working hard with her physical therapy and occupational therapy. Care conference was discouraging but there is much progress to be made.

**Rick & Sheryl Jones** - Thanks for doing prayers of congregation again.

**Esther Fernandez** - I hope and pray that my beautiful country, Cuba, will be free someday so I can visit. Pray for our world. God is so good all the time.

**Gary Hodges** - Please pray for Deb, that they will find out what is wrong with her and her illness.

**Anna Reidel** - I pray for Barb who has cancer and is very sick.

**Anita & Shawn Vogel** - Prayers for 19 yr old, Michael Palazzolo, who is being tested for Huntington's Disease. The same disease took his father's life and many of his family members. It is a 50% chance for him to carry this awful gene. Prayers of strength for Michael, mother Sue, family and friends. A negative result would be the best Christmas gift ever. Lord hear our prayers.

**Ron & Delores Sanford** - Our service today was wonderful to start our season of Lent.

**Gibbard Family** - Prayers for guidance, discernment, and peace.

**Freddi Angus** - Prayers for safety for all the police and service people. Thank you Lord.

**Susan Kaminski** - Absolutely love our choir. Bless each of you as you bless us with your voices.

**Kathy Tjeerdsma** - Pray for family promise. Pray for Scarlett's family during this 1st holiday season without her.

**Chuck Johnson** - Prayers for the people at Standing Rock. Pray that the Governor does not run this into another Wounded Knee. I was there and watched people die.

**Kathy DenHollander** - Prayers for my friend, Pat. Tuesday she is having surgery on both wrists and one elbow. Also, prayers for those who are alone during the holidays. May they feel God's love.