

Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, December 7	Christmas by Candlelight, 5:30 pm		
Tuesday, December 8	Praise Team, 7 pm	Richard Kutschenski	
Wednesday, December 9	Prayer Group, 10 am	Jean Culver Alarick Parkey	
Thursday, December 10	Baton Group, 5:30 pm Chancel Choir, 7 pm	Ryan Osborn Mary Pluim	
Friday, December 11		Hannah Hosfelt Mary Tremblay	
Saturday, December 12	VCI, 9 am	Jessica Folkert Michael Halstead Duane Rowilson	
Sunday, December 13	Worship, 9 am Faith Formation, 10 am Worship, 11 am		

Wesley Park United Methodist Church
1150 32nd Street SW Wyoming, Michigan 49509
616-988-6738 wesleyparkumc@gmail.com
www.wesleypark.org (new website)

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 6, 2015

Adult Faith Formation During Advent

Please consider joining us during this Advent season for Faith Formation Sundays at 10 am in the Family Life Center. All are welcome!

December 6

In the season of Advent, what are we waiting for and how do we wait?

Luke 3:2-22 + Lectio Divina + Labyrinth

December 13

Why is the posture of waiting so uncomfortable?

Philippians 4:4-7 + Centering Prayer + Labyrinth

December 20

What do we learn in seasons of waiting that we have a hard time learning otherwise?

The Magnificat (Luke 1:47-55) + Taize Songs + Labyrinth

During the 10 am Faith Formation Hour the nursery is open for the littlest children. Teachers have also prepared lessons for the older children based on the Scripture that we focus on in worship. The children's classes are located down the "Little Lambs" hallway, on the main floor near the nursery. Part of these lessons include choir rehearsal for all the children. Downstairs in the youth lounge, the youth meet for Faith Formation at 10 am. Some adult small groups meet at 10 am, some people choose to visit with one another in the Welcome Center, and many Seniors gather downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for cookies, coffee, and fellowship. May God bless your Faith Formation!

Prayers

- **Richard & Jan Kutschinski** - Prayers for Jan as her next chemo treatment is coming up on Friday, December 4th.
- **Bill & Vicky Van Dalsen** - So nice to have both services combined so we can all fellowship together. What a way to celebrate the first Sunday of Advent!
- **Annette Jeltema** - I am so excited to be a member of Wesley Park. I definitely have found my home Church!
- **Ron & Dolores Sanford** - So happy to be members of Wesley Park UMC!
- **Esther Fernandez** - Thank you dear Lord for babies. They are our future. What beautiful babies were baptized today. God bless all of them. Beautiful service today. God bless you Pastor Dean.
- **Sallie McLean** - Sam is home from the hospital.
- **Carolyn DuBuis** - Praise God and the nurses. Russ is doing much better! Thank you for all your prayers and offers of help.
- **Jayne Schafer** - Praise to God! My father-in-law's surgery went very well and is healing faster and less pain than expected. He should come home from Ann Arbor heart surgery on Monday or Tuesday.
- **Tena Podein** - My son is going to have some tests. Pray that they can diagnose what is wrong. Thank you.
- **Julie Riemersma** - Prayers needed for family and friends. Tricia's grandma passed away. Dan has a blood clot. Terry fell and has cancer. This is also blue season for some people. Take time to call someone you haven't from lately. Check in, they may need you.
- **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, Bev Slesman

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.

December 20, Christmas Caroling

Plan to meet at the church at 5 pm to car-pool to various locations where the church will sing Christmas Carols. Hot cocoa and sloppy joe's will be prepared for you when the singing is completed. Please mark on your Communication Card if you plan to attend.

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:

\$28,310

(23 Weeks Completed)

Remaining Balance Needed:

\$12,177

(4 Weeks Remaining)

Offered last week: **\$392**

Questions? Contact: Al Pittenger

Dates to Remember

Family Promise at Wesley Park: **December 13-20**

God With Us Musical Celebration: **December 13**

Christmas Caroling: **December 20**

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

Florentine's Dinner: **December 28**

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.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2015

Lectionary Texts:

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

Reflection

Advent is a season of preparation in which we get ready for the coming of Christ anew and God's Kingdom among us. Joan Chittister writes,

“Advent is the season that teaches us to wait for what is beyond the obvious. It trains us to see what is behind the apparent. Advent makes us look for God in all those places we have, until now, ignored.”

When the days are short and the nights are long we eagerly await the Dawn. It is here in this pregnant pause that we read John the Baptist's prophetic call in the wilderness (Isaiah 40). John shouts, "Prepare the way of the Lord" as crowds gather in greater and greater number (Mark 1). Faithful Jews were anxiously anticipating the coming of their Messiah. What did they make of John's words here? Whom were they expecting their Messiah to be?

Question

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Question

In the season of Advent, how are we to wait?

Practice:

Sit in a dark room for a few breaths. When you are ready, light a candle or turn on a flash light. What do you notice in the light and darkness of the room? In these still moments, remember God's presence is close.



Prayer:

As new light steams out of darkness, we open wide our hearts to the healing light of your encircling presence. Open our eyes to the opportunities this day has to offer. Surprise us with small joys and pieces of beauty scattered through the hours.

Prayer taken from Seven Sacred Pauses, by Macrina Wiederkehr.

Walk the Labyrinth:

Throughout Advent, we will have a labyrinth set up in the Family Life Center. Everyone is invited to take a turn walking this ancient path that winds from the edges into the center. In this season of waiting and watching, the labyrinth allows us to participate in walking prayers. Further instruction and resources will be located in the FLC near where the labyrinth is set up.

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