

Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, December 12	Finance, 7 pm	Ed Clouh Jessica Folkert Mike Halstead Duane Rowlson	
Tuesday, December 13	SPRC, 5:30 pm		
Wednesday, December 14	Women's Prayer, 10 am Youth, 6 pm		Jeff & Kristen Brink
Thursday, December 15	Chancel Choir, 6 pm Spanish, 6:30 pm Praise Team, 7:30 pm		
Friday, December 16	Freddi's Angels, 6:30 pm		
Saturday, December 17		Beth Billett Brook Brooks Lynda Edsall Kim Johnson Jeremiah Najar Jr Abby Reidel Elaine Urrutia	
Sunday, December 18	Worship, 9 am Faith Formation, 10:10 am Worship, 11 am Caroling, 5 pm		

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.



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.
- ☀️ 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.

Rae Dea Martin

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.

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 today at 4pm for our annual choral Christmas concert. This will be a great collaboration of our Children's Choir, Praise Team, and Chancel Choir. We will be serving cookies and punch following the performance.

Adult Faith Formation

Advent Class will be held December 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.**

Blue Bags Ministry Share Offering

100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:

\$30,553

(49 Weeks Completed)

Remaining Balance Needed:

\$8,097

(3 Weeks Remaining)

Offered last week: **\$890**



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!

Prayers

John & Kathy Challa - I am so fortunate to have such caring and loving friends. I am so much better off than many. Thank you to all who have been reaching out to me.

Val Rienks - Though my mother-in-law, Phyllis, is progressing; she has been advised that she cannot go home without having a physical presence of another person with her 24/7.

Al Pittenger - Prayers for the family and friends of Barb Brechting. Also, prayers for Doreen Coates who is at Trillium Woods.

Shirley Diederiks - Thank you for your prayers for Don. He is doing better after his fall. He had bruised his ribs. Still pray his other pain gets better. God bless!

Peggy Pittenger - Praise God! Our dear friend, Barb Brechting, is rejoicing with her savior in Heaven. No more pain - Eternal life!!

Chuck & Donna Gress - Thank you to the new UMW gals for a lovely Christmas by Candlelight party Friday night.

Linda Carter - Please pray for me that I will stay strong as I have arthritis in my neck and it is painful.

Lynda Edsall - Prayers for a young man named Carson. He was in a motorcycle accident a few months ago and is paralyzed. Pray for healing, a good mind set, and pray hope on Carson.

Steve & Pam Bravata - Thank God for love! Thank you Dean for all your love. God bless you.

Julie Riemersma - May we all enjoy our time this Christmas season. May we find ways to help and love all people; a smile, hand shake, hug, cup of coffee, etc.

Madeline Brink - Please pray for Deb Hodges. Please pray she gets better.

Ken & Linda McKenney - Prayers for all who are suffering from illness. May they be comforted.

Max & Gail Gibbard - Prayers for discernment and wisdom as Max deals with another job search.

Brian & Judy Hepp - Please pray for the Hepp family. The situation with Scott is deteriorating rapidly. We need wisdom, understanding, and peace.

Carole Sutphen - Please keep in your prayers my two young Muslim friends in Georgia. They are very concerned about what will happen to them and their families in the coming year.

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Delores Sanford - Thank you for a lovely night at the “Christmas by Candlelight”.
David Waugh & Tena Podein - Prayers of comfort for all who have lost a loved one during this blessed season.
Ava Kropp - I pray that my friend, Lucas, is ok. He swallowed a sucker stick whole.
Nancy Carpenter - Please, Lord, help me to love as you do.

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.

11 am Worship Helpers:

Greeters: Lynda Edsall

Ushers: Max & Gail Gibbard

Acolyte: Angel Najjar

Sound Tech: Kyran & Matthias Vieau

Video Tech: Nancy Carpenter

Nursery: Skyler Maitner, Laura Reidel

Child Advocates: Skyler Maitner

Musicians: Phil Pletcher, Paula Hartley,

Carole Sutphen, Sara Kropp, Molly

Jeltema, Erin Hartley

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