

Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, December 14			Jeff & Kristen Brink
Tuesday, December 15	Senior Saints, 12 pm Praise Team, 7 pm		
Wednesday, December 16	Prayer Group, 10 am		
Thursday, December 17	Chancel Choir, 7 pm	Lynda Edsall Kim Johnson Jeremiah Najar Abby Reidel Elaine Urrutia	
Friday, December 18	Freddi's Angels, 6:30 pm		
Saturday, December 19		Bob Williams Don Archibald	
Sunday, December 20	Worship, 9 am Faith Formation, 10 am Worship, 11 am Caroling, 5 pm		Alarick & Deb Parkey

Wesley Park United Methodist Church  
1150 32nd Street SW Wyoming, Michigan 49509  
616-988-6738 [wesleyparkumc@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyparkumc@gmail.com)  
[www.wesleypark.org](http://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.



## Family Promise at Wesley Park

It is an honor and a privilege to be a Host Congregation with Family Promise this week. Thank you for your outpouring of love and generosity as you have responded to the knock on the door and the request for a warm place to sleep for the night.

Please keep the families that will be our honored guests in prayer this week. And as you do, reflect upon the family of Christ. Mary and Joseph had no where to go when they arrived in Bethlehem. The city was over-crowded. The inns had been over-booked. Someone, unnamed, opened their home to these strangers. And the Savior of the world was born, in the sacred light of hospitality and love. When we care for one another, race, creed, economic condition, and all the other ways the world divides us up fade away. When we care for one another, we become a connected family of God.

Let us wait with wide-eyed anticipation for the ways in which we will experience the new life of Christ in the week to come. May God bless and keep you.

Peace,  
*Rae Deane Martin*

## 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 13**

Why is the posture of waiting so uncomfortable?  
Philippians 4:4-7 + Centering Prayer + Labyrinth

# Prayers

- **Ken & Linda McKinney** - Pray for peace.
- **Ron & Delores Sanford** - Today is a beautiful day.
- **Pat Beadle** - Our choir is awesome!!
- **Susan Kaminski** - Thank you Lord for a successful move. Pray for less dizzy spells for me.
- **Kristen Brink** - Please pray for quick recovery as I have surgery on Monday to repair a tendon in my ankle.
- **Gibbard Family** - Prayers for all those grieving a loss this Christmas season.
- **David Waugh & Tena Podein** - God bless you and thank you from the bottom of my heart for the love, prayers, and so many cards that have been sent to my son-in-law. You have made this journey they are one bearable.
- **Terry & Janice Thompson** - Please pray for our friend, Lin. She will be having surgery on her colon soon. God be with her.
- **Elliott Family** - Healing prayers for our neighbor undergoing open heart surgery. Also for our good friend diagnosed with uterine cancer, undergoing surgery on the 17th. Thanks be to God.
- **Val Rienks** - Praise! Sister, Steph, arrived safely home from trip to Florida. She had fun. Her PCP meeting for planning next year is Tuesday.
- **Liz Montcastle** - Praise God! Tom's CT scan has not changed.
- **Barb DeCan** - Prayers for work and upcoming challenges.
- **Adrienne Prentiss** - Please pray for Will and all the people who will be working in the next several months to figure out what services he needs in school.
- **Esther Fernandez** - Kristen, you made me cry. Your story was so touching and I thank you for sharing. You have two beautiful girls. God bless you all. God is so good. We have to learn to wait.
- **Stephanie Halstead** - Prayers are needed for a close family friend, Mike McPheron, who is in the end stage of IPG (a lung disease) and is now trusting the angels at Hospice in Florida. Please pray for peaceful days before his passing. Pray for strength for Michelle, Michael, and Mary Ann while Mike joins our Heavenly Father.
- **Steve & Pam Bravata** - Ralph Shinn is doing well with his chemo. Thanks be to God.
- **Sue Palmer** - Please pray for my sister, Karen, she needs hearing aids and can't find any that will work. Also, please continue prayers for people who live with me in the assisted home. Pray that God will hold them close.
- **Bev Slesman** - Thank you for the prayers, love, and support! I am home and doing well. I am thankful that the test results show I did not have a stroke. I am getting stronger.
- **Continued Prayers:** Prayers for Hannah Steenhagen, Ben Peterson, Warren Slesman, Bill VanDalsen, Jack Boyer, Karin Drost, Jan Kutschinski, Rev. Myron Williams, Russ DuBuis

## December 13, Christmas Music Celebration

The Music Ministries of Wesley Park UMC invite you to *God With Us*, a musical celebration of Christmas tonight, 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. So far, 31 are planning to sing!

## 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:

**\$32,297**  
**(24 Weeks Completed)**

Remaining Balance Needed:

**\$8,190**  
**(3 Weeks Remaining)**

Offered last week: **\$3,987**

Questions? Contact: Al Pittenger

## Dates to Remember

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

Christmas Caroling: **December 20, 5 pm**

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

One 10 am Worship Service: **December 27**

Florentine's Dinner: **December 28**

VCI Home Team Information Sharing: **January 3, 10 am in FLC - All Welcome!**

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.

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

### Lectionary Texts:

Zephaniah 3:14-20      Isaiah 12:2-6      Philippians 4:4-7      Luke 3:7-18

### Reflection

It's not easy to wait. The reminder to do so has got to be one of children's least favorite commands. Let's be honest though, we often have just as hard time with it.

Our fast paced and individually minded world conditions us to detest waiting even for the smallest of things. We are impatient in grocery store lines, infuriated by slow wifi, and frustrated when we cannot speak or take a turn immediately. If we can't wait for even the most mundane of matters, how will handle waiting in regards to more serious matters of health and well-being?

There is no question, it is hard to wait, no matter the reason. I wonder though if the season of Advent is asking us to be mindful again about the ways in which we wait. Waiting well is not a passive practice. Waiting well requires focus. This is why many Christians mark this season of waiting and preparation by using Advent wreaths or calendars. It is a way for the faithful to be attentive to that for which they are waiting and watching.

### Question

**Why is the posture of waiting so uncomfortable?**

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.

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

### Lectionary Texts:

Zephaniah 3:14-20      Isaiah 12:2-6      Philippians 4:4-7      Luke 3:7-18

### Reflection

It's not easy to wait. The reminder to do so has got to be one of children's least favorite commands. Let's be honest though, we often have just as hard time with it.

Our fast paced and individually minded world conditions us to detest waiting even for the smallest of things. We are impatient in grocery store lines, infuriated by slow wifi, and frustrated when we cannot speak or take a turn immediately. If we can't wait for even the most mundane of matters, how will handle waiting in regards to more serious matters of health and well-being?

There is no question, it is hard to wait, no matter the reason. I wonder though if the season of Advent is asking us to be mindful again about the ways in which we wait. Waiting well is not a passive practice. Waiting well requires focus. This is why many Christians mark this season of waiting and preparation by using Advent wreaths or calendars. It is a way for the faithful to be attentive to that for which they are waiting and watching.

### Question

**Why is the posture of waiting so uncomfortable?**

## Practice:

The next time you find yourself waiting, recite the following words:

**God, thank you for your presence here with me as I wait.**



## Prayer:

Out of the night we come,  
bathed and cradled in light,  
reaching through the dawn,  
we cover ourselves with day.

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.

## Practice:

The next time you find yourself waiting, recite the following words:

**God, thank you for your presence here with me as I wait.**



## Prayer:

Out of the night we come,  
bathed and cradled in light,  
reaching through the dawn,  
we cover ourselves with day.

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.