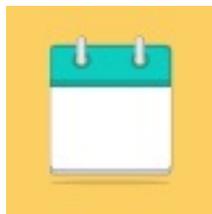


Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, December 18	Young Adults Group, 7 pm Council, 7 pm		
Tuesday, December 19	Senior Saints, noon	Bob Williams	
Wednesday, December 20	Women's Prayer, 10 am Youth Group, 5:30 pm Square Dance, 6:45 pm	Monica Fischer	Alarick & Deborah Parkey
Thursday, December 21	Chancel Choir, 6 pm	Nicole Bates Aimee Terry Vicky Van Dalsen	
Friday, December 22			
Saturday, December 23		Amy Carpenter Aubrielle Valdez	
Sunday, December 24	Worship, 9:30 am Fellowship, 10:30 am Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm Christmas Eve Service, 11 pm	Zoe Christianson	

Upcoming Reminders



- ◆ Christmas Eve services: 9:30 am, 7 pm, and 11 pm
- ◆ No Faith Formation on December 24
- ◆ Church office is closed December 25 and 26
- ◆ Church office is closed January 1



Wesley Park Weekly

December 17, 2017

Pastor's Page

"When we become hollow bones there is no limit to what the Higher Powers can do in and through us in spiritual things." – Attributed to Frank Fools Crow, Oglala Lakota Grandfather
Shamans refer to our human bodies as "hollow bones" that conduct the breath of Spirit to heal what is torn in the fabric of our being by the nature of what it is to live and move in a world of form. Each of us comes into this world a physical vessel for Spirit. And from the moment each of us are born, Spirit moves through us in the form of music.

Deaf bioethics scholar Rachel Kolb wrote recently, "Music is about the body, about what happens when what we call sound escapes its vacuum and creates ripples in the world...it is wonderfully and inescapably visual, physical, tactile - and, in these ways, it weaves its rhythms through our lives." "Ruach," one Hebrew concept of Spirit, moves as voice and as breath through our bodies and the instruments we put our hands to, allowing Spirit to weave a new thing in our collective experience of the divine. When we call breath up over our vocal cords, when we strike or draw our hands over an instrument, when we hold a singing child in our lap or take our shoes off so we can feel the reverberation of a piano or an organ or a guitar, when we do this together and with intention, we call forth a Creator who answers us, joyfully, soulfully, wildly. As God moves through each of us, exactly as we are, we make with God a living thing that shimmers in our midst long after our singing and our playing have ceased.

In this season of Advent, of the earthy human and the luminous divine, of hard questions and adoring response, music brings enduring life, and light, and hope. May we receive these gifts, and many, and know how very beloved, and whole, we are. Amen.

Adrienne

Please consider staying for the 11 am Hymn Sing this morning, in the sanctuary.

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 December 10th communication cards...

Barb DeCan - My husband, Gary, is such a blessing in my life. Prayers to ease his shoulder pain.

Anonymous - Dean, what a wonderful message as to how Joseph felt!

Ava Kropp - I pray for my grandpa because he had brain surgery and I love him so much. On Tuesday we found out that the mass on his brain was cancer from the lungs. Lord, thank you for helping him survive. My dog had surgery on her eye because she had this thing in her eye and after she had to wear the cone of shame.

Pat Johnson - Thank you all for the prayers you have raised to God for my husband, Roger. Please continue prayers that he will have patience as he continues to heal in rehab at Mary Free Bed.

Pat Beadle - Prayers needed for healing for my son-in-law, Colin, who had a major surgery last week.

David Waugh & Tena Podein - Prayers for peace, love, and comfort for all who are hurting. May we all find ways to show them they are loved.

Ken & Linda McKenney - Prayers for those in pain. May they be comforted.

Annette Jeltema - Thank you Pastor Dean for Joe's service. You touched so many hearts and words can never express my gratitude for all you have done. As Joe said, "Awesome Man!"

Dolores Sanford - Pray for strength for Ron.

Freddi Angus - Christmas by Candlelight was so beautiful. Thank you Wesley Park Women. My friends that I invited thank you too.

Rich Austin - Understanding, acceptance, forgiveness, and love.

Kathy DenHollander - Praise God that my nephew's family is safe from the L.A. fires. Also that my bother and his wife can step in to care for the grandchildren. Prayers for the children's safety and well being. Also for my friend with Parkinson's and now has a fractured hip.

Carolyn DuBuis - Please pray for all the young people coming home from college for the holidays.

Val Rienks - Prayers for success in finding my mother-in-law, Phyllis, a short term apartment and for her name to move quickly up the waiting list at Pine Oaks. Prayers for a successful job search. Prayers for my appointment at Mary Free Bed on December 20th.

Keith & Pat Warren - Peace and calm for our daughter.

Nancy Carpenter - Please pray for my friend, Jean, and her granddaughter, Bobbie. Bobbie's baby boy passed away Thursday (he was about 1 month old). Needless to say, they are heartbroken.

Bill & Vicky Van Dalsen - Prayers for those grieving the loss of loved ones this Christmas season. Also, prayers for Kathy Challa. She is home but is house bound until her hip heals more. Phone calls, cards, and visits are much appreciated.

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**.

Blue Bags Ministry Share Offering

100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:

\$33,728

(50 Weeks Completed)

Remaining Balance Needed:

\$8,255

(3 Weeks Remaining)

Offered last week: **\$293**

Hymn Sing

Please join Sara in the Sanctuary today at 11am for a great time of singing out of the hymnal. What is even better...you get to pick what we sing. The Wesley Park Hymn Sing will be in place of our regular Faith Formation. Come ready to share your favorite hymns. They can be Christmas songs or just one of your all time favorites. Give Sara (616-988-6738) a call if you have any questions.

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 3: DEC 17 [Hymn Sing]

WEEK 4: DEC 31 Begin Again

Everyone is welcome.

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Lunch with the Youth

The youth are currently working on their 4th Annual Dinner Theatre production that will take place in March. The kids stay after church every Sunday to practice until about 3 pm. 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 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 "youth lunch" on your communication card and Bill will give you a call. The dates that are available include: January 14, 21, and 28; February 4, 11, 18, and 25.

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.

Senior Saints Lunch

There **will be** a December Senior Saints lunch this Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall at noon. Various soups will be provided. Please bring an appetizer or goodie to share. Please mark you communication card with "Senior Lunch" if you are planning on attending. Please talk to Sheryl Jones if you have any questions.

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