

Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, December 28	Florentine's Fund Raiser	Shirley Diederiks	
Tuesday, December 29	Praise Team, 7 pm	Patricia Lowe Mary Workman	
Wednesday, December 30	Prayer Group, 10 am	Paula Hartley Jon Rice	
Thursday, December 31		Joanne Gustafson	
Friday, January 1	Happy New Year!		Ann & Larry Bellgraph
Saturday, January 2			
Sunday, January 3	Worship, 9 am VCI Home Team, 10 am Worship, 11 am	Anna Rabine	

## Dates to Remember

☆ Florentine's Dinner: **December 28**

☆ *Purchase your ticket (\$10 adult, \$4 child) after worship today just outside the sanctuary or at the door. Remember to add on your tip for good service.*

☆ Vital Church Initiative Home Team Update: **January 3, 10 am. All Invited!**

☆ *Plan to come to the FLC in between the 9 and 11 am services to learn more about Vital Church Initiative from the Wesley Park UMC VCI Road Team!*

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 27, 2015

## The End of the Year

Dear friends, as we come to the close of 2015, let us look back and celebrate some of the ways God has been at work in our community of faith. We cannot name all of the blessings and challenges we have experienced over the course of the year. But these highlights are representative of the ways God is always moving among us, inspiring and challenging us to grow in our faith. Let us thank God for an amazing year.

- ☀ In 2015, 28 people joined Wesley Park UMC, including 12 baptisms.
- ☀ In 2015, we said goodbye to Bonnie Wheeler.
- ☀ In 2015, we said hello to Phil Pletcher as the Director of Music Ministries, and Tabi Fischer as the Office Manager.
- ☀ In 2015, we set a goal to pay our Ministry Shares at 100%.
- ☀ In 2015, we invested in the completion of the FLC Kitchen.
- ☀ In 2015, we began Phase I of Vital Church Initiative.
- ☀ In 2015, we started Family Promise, and transitioned into a Host Congregation.
- ☀ In 2015, we prayerfully chose to begin again United Methodist Women.
- ☀ In 2015, we adopted a new Mission and Vision.
- ☀ In 2015, we celebrated the work, dedication, and faith of the youth, who among many other meaningful experiences went to New York for their Mission Trip.
- ☀ In 2015, over 120 different people assisted in worship ministries each month (acolytes, ushers, greeters, teachers, nursery providers, music, sound, video, etc.).
- ☀ In 2015, we had 105 worship services with approximately 11,341 in attendance.
- ☀ In 2015, 94 people were involved in ministry teams or coordinating ministry areas, including two youth representatives on the Church Council.

# Prayers

- **Nancy Spalenka** - Please pray for Gordon Spalenka as he recovers at Medilodge (Tendercare).
- **Paula Pawloski** - Please continue to pray for my husband, Fred. His cluster headaches seem to last throughout the winter months.
- **Annette Jeltema** - Prayers for my husband Joe, and the staff at Beacon Hill as they care for him.
- **Ken & Linda McKenney** - Prayers of safety for those who travel to be with family for Christmas.
- **Adrienne Prentiss** - Please pray for Will and for all the people involved in planning next steps for his schooling. Please pray that all adults evaluating and advocating for him would have open hearts and minds and be led by God's spirit. Please pray that the people most able to help Will would be led to do so.
- **Val Rienks** - Prayers for Debbie Patton who lost her husband to a major heart attack on the 16th. Prayers for Juleanne Shephardson who lost her mom yesterday. Prayers for the entire Tubergen family who will be traveling during the the holidays.
- **Marilyn Knapp** - Please pray that my cousin Penny will come to Jesus!
- **Richard & Jan Kutschinski** - Jan wants to thank everyone for their prayers and cards. Keep her in prayer as her next chemo treatment is on the 28th.
- **Jim & Joanne Gustafson** - Prayers for Carolyn and her family. Rest in peace Russ.
- **Pat Beadle** - Please pray for my sister Barbara's family in Illinois as they deal with an unexpected death.
- **Susan Kaminski** - Merry Christmas Wesley Park family. May many blessings be yours as we celebrate the Light of the world. Love you all.
- **Toni Pullen** - Thank you to the carolers who came to my house Sunday. You just made my night!
- **Lynda Edsall** - Prayers for healing for Joyce Swanson. She is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery. Praise God for the ultimate Christmas gift - Jesus.
- **Allie Schick** - Christmas is almost here!!
- **Julie Riemersma** - My friend Terry who had cancer passed away. One of the ladies had her baby last night. Baby boy, Oliver. Dale, a friend, has cancer. Family Promise, what a true blessing. I had fun with them. God bless us all. Thank you, Lord.
- **Charlie & Kathy Swanson** - Prayers for Joyce Swanson, Charlie's mom, as she recovers from shoulder replacement surgery.
- **Nancy Carpenter** - Dean, thank you for speaking the TRUTH!
- **Carolyn Forbes** - Carolyn Forbes called with a huge thank you to Wesley Park for coming to sing Carols at Vista Springs Sunday. It made her cry. She wishes everyone here a very Merry Christmas!
- **Continued Prayers:** Prayers for Hannah Steenhagen, Ben Peterson, Warren Slesman, Bill VanDalsen, Jack Boyer, Karin Drost, Jan Kutschinski, Rev. Myron Williams, Bev Slesman

## Adult Faith Formation

January through March @10am Sundays we will be discussing a book called Tattoos on the Heart. I read it this summer and have not been able to stop talking and thinking about it since. This book showcases a brilliant vision of the kingdom of God made tangible for all.

Here's Publishers Weekly review: In this artful, disquieting, yet surprisingly jubilant memoir, Jesuit priest Boyle recounts his two decades of working with gang members in Los Angeles County. Boyle's Homeboy Industries is the largest gang intervention program in the country, offering job training, tattoo removal, and employment to members of enemy gangs.

Books are \$9. If you would like a copy ordered for you please let Anna Spencer know.

## 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

\$54,081 has been our share of offering Christ to the world through the United Methodist Connection this year. Mid-year we introduced the blue bags and the people of Wesley Park UMC have responded with generous, loving, gracious hearts. You have given sacrificially so that students can attend school, emergency support can be offered in times of disaster, young people can follow God's call to ministry, and the church can grow in its diversity. You have helped people around the world know Christ. Thank you!

### 100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:

**\$35,244**

**(26 Weeks Completed)**

Remaining Balance Needed:

**\$5,243**

**(1 Week Remaining)**

Offered last week: **\$982**

Questions? Contact: Al Pittenger

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[www.wesleypark.org](http://www.wesleypark.org) (new website)