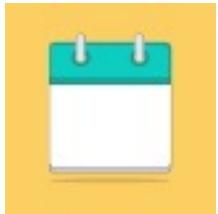


Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, January 1	Office Closed - Happy New Year!		Larry & Ann Bellgraph
Tuesday, January 2			
Wednesday, January 3	Women's Prayer, 10 am Kitchen Team Meeting, 6:30 pm Square Dance, 6:45 pm	Anna Rabine	
Thursday, January 4	Knitting Group, 10 am Food Truck, 5 pm Chancel Choir, 6 pm	Aubrie Chambers Dan Scribner	
Friday, January 5		Tabi Fischer	
Saturday, January 6		Jim Gustafson	
Sunday, January 7	Worship, 9:30 am Fellowship, 10:30 am Faith Formation, 11 am Membership class, 11 am Dinner Theater Practice, noon	Madeline Brink Jeff Osborn Nicholas Workman	

Mark Your Calendars



- ◆ Office is closed January 1
- ◆ Square dance lessons start back up on January 3
- ◆ Community Round Table Event, January 13th



Pastor's Page

Here we have gathered, on the eve of a new year. Let us look forward with hope! And let us look back with gratitude.

- ☼ January: 2017 started with our Vital Church Initiative Consultation Weekend January 20-22.
- ☼ February: VCI Town Hall meetings followed, with our VCI vote held at the Church Conference on February 26. The Season of Lent started three days later, and we began one blended worship service. During Lent, we prayed about whether the garden could become a Memorial Garden with a Columbarium.
- ☼ March: Gary Step led us in a Service of Prayer and Healing on March 19. The Worship Transition Team began to meet regularly. Worship Coaching with Cathy Townley began. Worship Launch Team meets the 2nd Monday of every month. Youth Dinner Theatre entertains.
- ☼ April: Our website was updated, and our Internal Readiness Team (focusing on hospitality), External Readiness Team (focusing on evangelism and community connections), and the Faith Development Task Force (focusing on a path to Discipleship) were formed. Wesley Park hosts Family Promise (and will again in August and November).
- ☼ May: Dave Selleck leads our Core Values Workshop. Softball begins.
- ☼ June: Michigan Annual Conference is held at Grand Traverse Bay. Funds are approved to be used for Congregational Redevelopment.
- ☼ July: Bikes and Books begins our series of Bridge Events. Lay Leadership Development Team is formed. Youth Mission Trip July 15-21.
- ☼ August: Family Camp. Blessing of the Animals Bridge Event. Blessing of the Cars Bridge Event. The Memorial Garden and Columbarium is approved by Council.
- ☼ September: All-Church study Clip-In begins.
- ☼ October: Bishop Don Ott and Cecile Adams join us to start our 6-week Children's Sabbath series.
- ☼ November: Wesley Park Church Conference. Youth Craft Show supports the Family Promise Christmas Store.
- ☼ December: Christmas through the eyes of Joseph.

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 24th communication cards...

Anonymous - Happy birthday Lord Jesus. We love you Lord. Thank you for all I have and I am.

Marilyn Knapp - Please pray for protection and wisdom from Jan 1 - 18th as we share God's word in the mountains of Peru. We will be visiting in homes and with church groups.

June Jones - My sister, Pat, in Florida has some serious medical problems.

Anonymous - Prayers for peace in the world.

Tjeerdsma/Volkers families - Prayers for our mom. She had her first chemo treatment this past week and is struggling with our dad's death in November.

Val Rienks - Received positive feedback from Dr. Vandenberg at the appointment. The treatment team will meet to discuss my case and will get back to me after the first of the year. May have found a room for my mother-in-law to move into by the 31st.

Damary Lofgren - Prayers for the Durso family on the loss of Elayna Durso, our spanish teacher at Lee.

Lynda Edsall - Continued prayers for Jim DeGraff. His cancer is removed and he also had a triple bypass 5 days after cancer surgery. God is good. Merry Christmas. Christ is born.

Marlow Jeltema - Believe in God.

Chuck Johnson - Prayers for friends, Don and Judy, for safe travels. Prayers for vets breakfast group for health issues.

Kathy DenHollander - Last Saturday, Mike, a friend's son, had brain surgery and he went home on Tuesday with a full recovery expected! Somehow the brain surgery at 13 allowed his healing this time. A true miracle!

Anna Rabine - Prayers for those who have experienced the loss of loved ones at this joyous time of year.

Ava Kropp - Dear Lord, I pray for my grandpa who is in the hospital. We are visiting him today. I can't wait until he is out of the hospital. He is my grandpa and I love him. A few nights ago I found out he was having some problems. I cried so much.

Dolores Sanford - The book of Joseph was wonderful. Many new thoughts.

Jessica Schick - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Keith & Pat Warren - Blessings to Samantha for a new friend in the picture.

Chuck & Sally Dear - Please keep Rug in your prayers. He's making some progress, but its going to be a while in Mary Free Bed.

Pauline Shinn - Prayer for healing.

Jackie Price - Merry Christmas!

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**.

New Membership Classes

Interested in membership with Wesley Park? Meet with Pastor Dean in the Pastor's study downstairs each Sunday in January from 11am - noon. Any questions, please contact the church office at 616-988-6738.

Upcoming Faith Formation Sessions

What Now?? - A New Adult Faith Formation Series about the book of Ezekiel.

Join us this January and February in Fellowship Hall at 11 am as we **sample portions of the book of Ezekiel. All are welcome!**

Ezekiel was a priest but his role was changing. The Israelites understanding of God was tied to a specific land (Israel) and a specific place (the Temple). It was here that God resided. The Babylonian Empire had other ideas. The book of Ezekiel chronicles the time period before and after the destruction of the temple by the Babylonian Empire. In addition to this, the Babylonians were deporting the Israelites out of Israel and into exile in Babylon. **Everything Ezekiel and the Israelites knew was changing. It is in this experience of dislocation that Ezekiel begins his prophetic ministry.**

January

7	Introduction	
14	How's your heart?	Ezekiel 11:14-25
21	Pinky Promise	Ezekiel 34:11-31
28	Only in Exile	Ezekiel 1-3:11

February

4	Finger Pointing	Ezekiel 18:1-32
11	Breathe In/Out	Ezekiel 37

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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.

Blue Bags Ministry Share Offering

100% Ministry Shares Challenge

Received To Date:

\$36,611

(52 Weeks Completed)

Remaining Balance Needed:

\$5,372

(1 Weeks Remaining)

Offered last week: **\$1,642**

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