
WESLEY PARK United Methodist Church

Together In Spirit This Advent



Emmanuel, God is With Us. The name of Jesus is both a promise and an assurance. God is with us, even when we cannot be with one another. We have been practicing, and we know what we need to do to prepare for the coming of Christ. Worship, prayer, scripture, compassion, generosity, and faithfulness will help us get from where we are today to Bethlehem. Ritual acts, like the lighting of the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love can keep us connected with each other and with God in this Advent season. Over and over again, the angels will remind us, "Do not be afraid." God is with us. Let us do all we can to stay connected and hold onto that promise.

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Peace,

Roxanne R. Hill

Treasurer's News

Dear friends, Wow! It is hard to believe that we are in November! In terms of the finances of the church, this strange year has been filled with worry, wonder, "what ifs", but above all...immense gratitude that God has continued to place supporting the church on your hearts. Though we have had to back down from in-person ministries such as the food truck due to safety concerns, we have been able to continue to financially support Feeding America and several other ministries in our community who have been in high demand during the pandemic, primarily those that provide food and housing. God bless you, for continuing to give and helping Wesley Park do more than just "get by" during this time. Thanks to you, we have been able to continue to be God's hands and feet in new ways in our community. As the end of this year approaches, there are a few things I would ask that you consider and pray over:

1. End-of-year giving. Along with the spiritual fulfillment, many people find tax benefit in charitable contributions! Please consider if this is something that might be beneficial to you, and how you can accomplish this before December 31. You can send in a donation to the church, or speak with your financial advisor to see if contributing directly from your IRA's required minimum distribution might be helpful at tax time. Please call me at (616) 988-6738 if you have any questions.
2. You will be receiving your 2021 giving commitment (pledge) form in the mail very soon. I ask that you pray over the ways that you might be able to commit your resources to the church and its ministries in the coming year. We are brothers and sisters in Christ with all who are struggling, out of work, without food or shelter or healthcare, and I have been overwhelmed by the generosity in action I have seen this year from this faith community. These commitment forms serve many functions, part of which is projecting how we may be able to plan to serve these community needs in the coming year. THANK YOU for praying over this deeply and lovingly.
3. Ministry Shares! - We have currently paid 100% of our district ministry shares, and are SO CLOSE at 80% paid to our Michigan Conference! Amazing! I would love to make a final push to pay our Conference ministry shares in full! These funds are hard at work all over the world, addressing many needs including the global health crisis. If you would like to pay a bit extra toward ministry shares at the end of this year, please indicate it on your giving envelope or choose the Ministry Shares dropdown on EasyTithe online giving.
4. Remember all the ways you can give! Send a check to the church, give online, text-to-give, use online bill pay from your financial institution, or speak with myself or Paula Hartley to have a monthly amount drafted from your bank account. • Go to wesleypark.org and click the button to give online • Text to give at (616) 213-0707 • Mail your check to 1150-32nd Street SW, Wyoming MI 49509 • Use your online Bill Pay service through your bank to send a check to the church. Thank you for all the ways your giving shows care for our church and the surrounding community! Sara

December Birthdays

December 4	Pat Warren	December 20	Monica Fischer
December 5	Jacob VanEssen	December 21	Aimee Terry
December 6	Claire Bronkema	December 21	Vicky VanDalsen
December 6	Cami Valdez	December 23	Aubrielle Valdez
December 10	Ryan Osborn	December 24	Treva Freeman
December 11	Mary Tremblay	December 25	Zachary Kinney
December 12	Jessica Folkert	December 26	Pam Hoag
December 12	Duane Rowlson	December 27	Deb Workman
December 17	Lynda Edsall	December 28	Shirley Diederiks
December 17	Abby Reidel	December 29	Nolan Warner
December 17	Elaine Urrutia	December 30	Terry Essex
December 19	Bob Williams	December 30	Paula Hartley

Thanksgiving

Children of Wesley Park,

Thanksgiving: the expression of gratitude, especially to God.
Your church family and I want to express our gratitude to God for all of you! What a blessing each of you are to Wesley Park and the world.

Gratefully,

Jane Ellen



We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness of this pandemic and help us shine. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Peace. May the visitation of your Holy Spirit give us the courage to work for peace. O come, O come, Emmanuel.



We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy. Even in the challenges, full us with joy for the salvation we find in Christ. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

We light this candle as a symbol of Divine Love. May this light testify to the Love of Christ so that we may trust in its power and presence. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Giving Thanks to God

- ✿ We thank God for the Tuesday Guys, who gathered up three trailer-loads of leaves and drove them to the Wyoming Leaf Collection Site. Bill Kerby, Duane Rowilson, Dennis Strong, David Fisher, Chuck Starnes, and Ken Oesch were surely being supervised by Earl Morrow in heaven.
- ✿ We thank God for the United Methodist Women and the Mission Message from Marilyn Knapp. When was the last time someone gave you a gentle push to do something you were afraid of doing, or go someplace you were afraid of going?
- ✿ We thank God for our worship team including Sara Kropp, Dave Strumfeld, Adrienne Prentiss, and Rev. Jane Ellen Johnson. Worship will continue online until it is safe for us to gather in person together again. Go to www.wesleypark.org for the link to the service. If you do not have the internet, call 616-383-9221 to listen to worship anytime during the week.
- ✿ We thank God for the positive completion of our Church Conference with the District Superintendent. We praise God for those connected to our community of faith who have completed their earthly mission and entered the peace of heaven this year: **Bev Slesman, Ron Sanford, Joanne Gustafson, Jackie Price, Mary Boyer, Earl Morrow, Dorie DeCommer.** May their memories be a blessing forever.

Wesley Park United Methodist Church
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