

THE MESSENGER



WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

To live so that others will become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



Pastoral Reflections

“THE SEASON OF ADVENT”

As hard as it may be to believe, a new Church year has begun. Advent began on November 27, and it ushered in the new Church year. Advent is the season during which we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ and anticipate His return. Throughout this season at Westlake UMC, we will focus our worship and study on preparing both our hearts and our minds for the birth of Jesus and the anticipation of his return in final victory. This year, during Advent each Sunday will have a distinctive theme. On November 27 we celebrated Jesus as our hope. On December 4 we will remember that Jesus came as the Prince of Peace. On the third Sunday of Advent, December 11, we will rejoice for the joy that Jesus' birth brings, and on December 18 we will remember that our Triune God is a God of love.

On November 20 during JingleGobble Fest, there was a dedicated time for the hanging of the greens. This tradition is a great reminder of why we decorate our worship space for the season of Advent. The color, shape, and design of the objects that are used are all reminders of the true meaning of this special season. The circular Advent wreath has been carefully placed in the front of the sanctuary. Its shape is a powerful reminder of life without end which Jesus offers to us. Garlands of greenery were hung with great care as we prepared the church for the coming of Christ. These evergreens are a reminder of the eternal Christ.

Paraments are the pieces of cloth on the altar, lectern, and pulpit. The color of the paraments we use throughout Advent is purple. This color has historically been used to signify royalty, and that is what we use as we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ, our King.

(CONT'D P.2 →)

Share the Message of Hope at Christmas



Invite someone to Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship on Saturday, December 24th

3:00 p.m. Traditional Service

7:00 p.m. Contemporary Service with Praise Band

5:00 p.m. Children's & Family Service

9:00 p.m.* Traditional Service

Childcare will be offered at the 3 o'clock, 5 o'clock, and 7 o'clock services

**will be live-streamed*



Join us on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 a.m.

to celebrate Jesus' birth with Christmas songs & story!



Our church is beautiful and especially shines during the month of December. Share the gift of Advent and Christmas worship with those that don't have a church home. Many people are open to being invited to church at Christmas. There are business cards with our Christmas Eve worship times available for you to use. Keep one in your wallet to share with someone this holiday season!

Volunteers Needed on Christmas Eve and After!

Please consider volunteering at a Christmas Eve worship service in addition to the one you will attend. We also need help at the Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. "Songs & Story" Worship. To serve as an usher, please contact Duane Miller at duanemiller08@gmail.com. To serve as a greeter contact Barbara Lachowicz at blachowicz@preferredproperties.net. To volunteer in our new-comer mug delivery after Christmas, please contact Ellie Peiffer at epeiffer@westlakeumc.org

WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

27650 Center Ridge Road * Westlake, Ohio 44145 * (440) 871-3088 * westlakeumc.org

Sunday Worship at 8:15, 10:00 and 11:28 a.m.

NEWS, SMALL GROUPS, & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

(PASTORAL REFLECTIONS CONT'D)

On Christmas Eve we will change to white and gold paraments which symbolize the purity, holiness, and joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. You may also see Chrismon ornaments around the church. Chrismons are Christmas decorations that are Christian symbols. I invite you to examine the Chrismon ornaments and think about the meaning of each of them.

As you spend time at Westlake UMC this holiday season, I invite you to take in the beauty and deep meaning of all of the signs and symbols used to remind us of the true reason for this season. At this time of the year, it is very easy to get caught up in the commercialization of Christmas. The busyness can distract us, and it is easy to lose focus on the meaning of this sacred time. My wish for each of you during these seasons of Advent and Christmas is that your lives will be filled with the hope, peace, joy, and love that come from Jesus the Christ.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Mellie

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SPONSORS

December 4	The Peiffer Family
December 11	Carole & Russ Miller
December 18	Emory Crowder
December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Cleanup for Christmas!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

8 A.M.—12 P.M.

Trustees are hosting a morning housekeeping event — inside where it's warm and cozy! Please stop by and spend an hour (or four!) with us as we prep our Church home for the holidays! Tasks will include detail cleaning, furniture wipe down, kitchen cleaning, and light maintenance around the building. No tools or supplies needed, just your willing hands! Coffee will be available, and a light lunch will be served around 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Cookie Baking

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 9 – 11:30 A.M.

Join in a festive morning of baking and decorating Christmas cookies for shut ins and those needing a little cheer this holiday season. All bakers are invited and childcare is offered for infants and kids up to age 6.

Please RSVP your attendance and let us know what you can bring. How? Easy! Three simple steps...

1. Click this link to go to our invitation page on SignUp.com: <http://signup.com/go/pHyESg>
2. Enter your email address (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots. SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders.

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Ellie Peiffer to sign you up manually.

Please reserve your **childcare spot** by emailing Patti Barnes at goofycat5@sbcglobal.net

You can also RSVP by calling the office at (440) 871-3088

ALL FRIENDS OF WESTLAKE CHURCH!

...Please mark your calendars!



*United Methodist Women
will present their
Christmas Tea (and coffee)
on Thursday, December 1st
at 1:00 p.m.*

This is the United Methodist Women's
FREE GIFT to the congregation
and their friends.

You will be entertained with music by
Westlake High School (WHS Company D).
Afterward, there will be a delicious reception.

Please come! It will be a great way to begin
this special season!



Poinsettia Sale and/or Scholarship Fund

Poinsettias are available for purchase to help decorate the altar for Christmas Eve.

You may also contribute to the scholarship fund of WUMC in addition to, or in place of, poinsettias.

Each poinsettia plant costs \$15.

Order forms available at the office.

Orders for poinsettias due by **Sunday, December 4th.**

Seeds for Scholarships

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

Every year WUMC awards college scholarships to youth who have served and participated in our church. Wayne Asplin established the WUMC Scholarship program over 30 years ago, and the family and friends of Carl Zellers built upon this endowment in 1996. The number of active youth in our church is growing, and we want to continue to be able to nurture our youth as they go forth into the world. A **Seeds for Scholarship collection** will be taken on **December 4th** to help fund this worthy cause. Prayerfully consider giving a donation to continue to support our youth who are our future.

Advent Study

Down to Earth: The Hopes and Fears of All the Years Are Met in Thee Tonight

Join us for a **four-week Advent study** that opens up God's Christmas surprise to us and examines how it changed everything. This book and DVD study, written by Mike Slaughter and Rachel Billups — the lead pastor and executive pastor respectively at Ginghamburg UMC in Dayton, Ohio — focuses on recalling Jesus' ministry and preparing ourselves to follow him in a down-to-earth way.

- ◆ **Sundays at 5:00 p.m. beginning November 27.** *This is open to all!*
- ◆ **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning November 30.** *This women's group is facilitated by Gretty Myers.*
- ◆ **Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. beginning December 1st.** *This is open to all, facilitated by Pastor Mollie.*

Year End Giving

While we are in the season of giving and receiving gifts in recognition of God's goodness and blessings, you may want to consider an above and beyond gift to the church. The WUMC Legacy Gifts are managed by the East Ohio Foundation until such time as they are needed to support building, mission, scholarship, or library expenditures that are in excess of our operating budget. Over the years, legacy gifts have played an important role in establishing, sustaining and growing the physical infrastructure and missional outreach of the church. If you have questions about how to give a Legacy Gift, please contact John Rife, Legacy Giving Team Chair, or Sharon Parks, Finance Manager.

Flat Rock Children's Christmas Gift Collection brings Joy to Many!

Thanks to the congregation for the amazing response to the Flat Rock Giving Tree! More than 60 gifts were donated and will brighten the holidays of the amazing children that call Flat Rock their home! Thanks to the Monday afternoon Christcare group for organizing this service project and wrapping the gifts!.

About Flat Rock

**Flat Rock is a Christian based residence providing care and community services to children and adults diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To learn more about Flat Rock visit www.flatrockhomes.org*



Christmas Cantata

COME CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH J.S. BACH'S
CANTATA NO.63: "CHRISTIANS, ENGRAVE THIS DAY!"

Sunday, December 11th

10:00 am Worship Service

FEATURING: THE WUMC CHANCEL CHOIR,
FOUR TRUMPETS, THREE OBOES, BASSOON,
TIMPANI AND STRINGS, & VOCAL SOLOISTS

Beginning and ending with two majestic choruses, the piece outlines the joy at Christ's birth, the celebration of freedom He brings, and harkens to His triumph over evil.

*Come feel the power of one of Bach's
greatest compositions in the Christmas spirit!*



COMPASSION & CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Individual Prayer Time & Communion WITH PRAYER PARTNERS

**SUNDAYS 9—9:30 A.M. OR
11—11:30 A.M.**

Stephen Ministers are available **every Sunday morning** in Room 203 from 9:00 – 9:30 and also 11:00-11:30 to offer a quiet, reflective time for individual prayer and communion. We also have sets of prayer beads available for you during this time.

All are welcome!

Caregivers Support Group

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
7:00—8:00 P.M.**

Westlake UMC, in conjunction with Rockport UMC, holds **monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month at Westlake UMC**. Caregivers are welcome to bring their care partner. A separate space and activities are available for them, staffed by volunteers. The group is facilitated by Thurston Cosner, Stephen Leader from Rockport UMC, and Gretty Myers, Stephen Leader from Westlake, UMC.

Please contact Gretty Myers to participate or to volunteer at (216) 701-2067 or grettymyers@sbcglobal.net.



Prayer Beads

God calls each one of us into a relationship with him through prayer. Christian (Anglican) prayer beads are a tactile aid to prayer as a way to connect with God. The beads become a way to deepen your prayer life by encouraging not only the mind but the body to participate in prayer. The prayers keep the mind focused and the passing of beads through the fingers keeps the body engaged in prayer.

Christian prayer beads have a great deal of symbolism woven into the design and give some structure to praying. Sets of prayer beads are available at no cost for you and others who need to be reminded that God is with us.

Stephen Ministers are available every Sunday morning in Room 203 from 9:00-9:30 and again 11:00-11:30 to help you understand the impact prayer beads can have in your prayer life. Please stop by on Sunday morning for your own set of prayer beads or a set for someone else and a brief explanation of how to use them.

We are able to make these prayer beads available with a generous donation of beads from Eleanore Lehto, handmade crosses from Alex Combs, and the creative hands of Linda Eads and Mary Saffles.

Questions? Please contact Gretty Myers at grettymyers@sbcglobal.net

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” ~1 THESSALONIANS 5: 16-17

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES & UPDATES

YOU ARE INVITED...

Instead of a monthly mission event in December, we encourage everyone to participate in at least one of the many mission opportunities at WUMC or in the community this month. Check the *Messenger*, or the lobby for the projects.

HOW DO YOU HELP?

We would like to know the many ways WUMC members were the hands and feet of Christ this month. There is a list on the lobby bulletin board to add your mission work *** No names needed! ***

UPCOMING!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming mission events. On **Saturday, January 21st, 9:00-1:00** we will be helping at the Twice Blessed Free Store, and **Saturday, February 11th**, time TBA, we will be at Kids In Need Resource Center. Sign-up on the lobby bulletin board.

RECEIPTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE for donations left for the Twice Blessed Free Store. Find them on the donation box in Fellowship Hall.

WSCH — COOKIE COLLECTION!

We will be providing cookies for Westside Community House Christmas Party in December instead of a monthly meal. Please have cookies (preferably home-

made) to the church kitchen between **Sunday, December 4th and Wednesday, December 8th**. Please mark them WSCH.

SOCKS & UNDERWEAR COLLECTION November 6th—December 1st

Again this Christmas season, the United Methodist Women are asking our church members and friends to donate socks and underwear to needy boys and girls (*any children's sizes*). They will be much appreciated in this cold weather. Please put them in the UMW basket in the lobby across from the elevator from November 6th through 27th, or bring them to the Christmas Tea. Christian Blessings to all!

SCHOOL UNIFORM COLLECTION

The Wednesday Afternoon Christ Care Group is asking for donations of clothing for the Toni Morrison Elementary School in Lorain. Quite often the teachers need to give the students appropriate clothing. This is a list we have been given of items that are needed by the students. It was put together by the principal and several other members of the school staff. — **PLEASE DONATE CLOTHING THAT IS NEW OR GENTLY USED, CLEAN AND IN CONDITION TO BE WORN AT THE SCHOOL; NEW UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS**— Sizes - Pre-school to 12-14 (XL.) A complete list of needed items is with the donation box in the lobby. Thank you!

CHRISTIAN ED & FAMILY EVENTS



From the Desk of Christian Ed

Mrs. Carol Ryan — cryan@westlakeumc.org

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS....

Our Governor is promoting the digital highway signs encouraging folks to talk to their kids about drugs. School newsletters encourage us to talk to our family about tolerance. And I could include the heavy topics like “After School Specials” programming addresses with teens but then our young family parents might cover their eyes or pass out. Yet, in this season of anticipation, do we need some coaching on how to talk to your kids about the Lamb of God, Messiah, Christ, Son of Man, Emmanuel, JESUS! The Bible teaches us that “Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and people.” (Luke 2:52) This is what we hope for our children, too. Here are some ways parents can help faith grow at home (with credit for the headings to Rev. Linda Coatoam):



Develop a language of faith at home.

Make it comfortable to talk about God, Jesus, and things of faith. This doesn't have to be “churchy” or super holy language but instead is natural conversation that incorporates things of faith when appropriate. Current research indicates the greatest predictor that a child will develop and carry a mature faith into adulthood is simply having regular conversations about faith with their parents!

Seize the teachable moments.

Challenge yourself for every mention of that big guy dressed in red or an elf on that shelf to insert a question or thought bubble of Jesus into a conversation. Use whatever color cup Starbucks hands you but wonder with your kids how thirsty Joseph and Mary must have been when they arrived in Jerusalem. Pause at that glorious wall of shining wrapping paper in Target and again wonder with them how strange it must be to wrap your newborn baby in linen, in swaddling clothes. While bemoaning picking “that” unmovable line at the grocery (perhaps just me, always), wonder aloud with your children how long would a line be if it were taking the census in your town. Welcome Siri and Google to help explain a census.

Keep it simple.

Children don't need a theological treatise in response to their questions. In fact asking a question is a better way to respond. For example: “That's an interesting thought. What do you think about that?” Questions that begin with “What” and “Why” gets everyone talking. For teens whose questions can be challenging the same technique is a good one. Another idea is “I wonder what Jesus/God might say?” This is a terrific opportunity as we all discuss current events with children of all ages.

Keep your own faith growing and active.

We always worry over what our children hear, see, and observe outside of our home, our presence. But what we must remember, children are constantly watching US. If we want our children to grow in their faith, we must continue growing in ours. We need to be as open about our faith, our love, our reliance on Jesus as they perceive us to be about the Buckeyes, Anderson Cooper, Target, or the smartphone in our hand.

THIS SUNDAY!

Are you receiving “THIS SUNDAY” updates regarding weekly children's programs? If not, please contact cryan@westlakeumc.org

KIDS PLAY IN — PARENTS PLAY OUT!

Kids Only Christmas Party!
Free time for Parents!

By Evelyn S. on behalf of 6th-7th Grade

When: Sunday, December 4th, from 12—4 p.m.

Where: WUMC

Who: Ages 3-10 and must be potty trained

Cost: 1st child \$20; 2nd child \$10; Max charge is \$40.

Lunch and snacks will be provided while kids make fun Christmas gifts for parents. There will also be fun activities and games.

Mrs. Ryan adds that all proceeds will go to support their class mission partner, Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Liberia. For more information about Ganta UM Hospital, please check out their website at gantahospital.com. To register, please click [HERE](#) or contact Mrs. Ryan.



**CHRISTMAS DAY
AND NEW YEAR'S DAY
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

There will only be one worship service, at 10:00 a.m., on both Christmas Day & New Year's Day

On **Christmas morning**, the Sanctuary will fill with sounds and stories of carols. We invite all our families to join in this special worship service. For those in need, the nursery will be open but unstaffed.

On **New Year's Day**, children in 3rd grade and under will be partying, while 4th grade and up is invited to the Sanctuary to worship with their families.

ATTENTION YOUTH!

... Have you heard?

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the creator of fantastic potatoes, Rick Grane, and to his faithful helper, Will Peiffer. Also, kudos to the directors of the skits and ALL the youth who participated (too many to name). Your entertainment was thoughtful, humorous and well-written. All of your hard work and effort made SPUD Night, the skits, and the movie a success! You are each a blessing to the church (and to me!).

SCHEDULE:

Nov. 27th: Regular Youth

Dec. 4th: Time Change! 6th-12th grades:

----- Meet at 4:15 for game, dinner at 5.

----- Middle schoolers go home at 5:30,

----- High school small group from 5:30-6:15.

Dec. 11th: Pack college care packages:

All grades 5-7 p.m.

Dec. 18th: Youth Christmas Party. Stay tuned!

Dec. 25th/Jan. 1st: No Youth Programming.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

YOUTH NEWS FOR DECEMBER:

College Care Packages are coming! If you have a young adult in college (or ARE a young adult in college), PLEASE make sure that Mrs. Carol Ryan (who is compiling the addresses) has your most

20th ANNUAL WORLDWIDE CANDLE LIGHTING
Sunday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m.
Unity Spiritual Center, 23855 Detroit Rd, Westlake

You are invited to an incredible evening of beautiful music, video tribute, labyrinth, and blessings as we remember children who have died too soon. Family and friends are invited to share in this time of healing and hope with pictures, poems, items of loving remembrances, and/or cookies to share. The service begins at 6:30 with candle lighting at 7:00. Ashley Rudd is the featured soloist.



current college address! Email her at:

cryan@westlakeumc.org

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGE CHALLENGE:

Who can bring in more? **High School** or **Middle School?** There will be TWO boxes, and every **item** counts!

The winning group will win the following prizes: **High School Wins:** Their own "room" at the winter lock in. **Middle School Wins:** Their choice of game for the first 2 youth groups in January (That EVERYONE will play!!)

FILL YOUR GRADES BOXES WITH...

- School Supplies (fun pens, Post-it notes, highlighters)
- Candies (Mints, chocolates, etc)
- Snacks (individually packaged... can be stored in a dorm room)
- Easy Mac (mac and cheese)

may the best group win!

****All donations MUST be in by December 11th in the morning to be counted!****

QUESTIONS? Contact Rachael Haning, WUMC Youth Coordinator at youth@westlakeumc.org



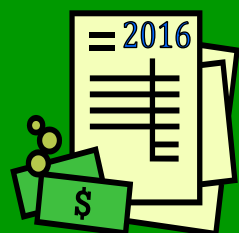
**YOU CAN JOIN WESTLAKE UMC AT THE 10:00 SERVICE WITH OUR
LIVE STREAMING!****



Traveling? Can't make it to church on a Sunday morning? Worship with us via our website: westlakeumc.org for the 10:00 service. You will see the link to the broadcast in the lower left corner of the home screen. You are also invited to register your attendance, send prayer requests, and/or make contributions online.

***Please note that due to copyright & licensing restrictions, not all music or multimedia presentations may be broadcast.*

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Reminder from the Financial Manager's Office:

Donations intended to be credited to 2016 MUST be received in the church office by **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30TH, 2016 AT 12:00 P.M.**

Any questions, please contact Sharon Parks at (440) 871-3088 x12 or sparks@westlakeumc.org

Income Statement— October 2016

	October 2016	YTD 2016	2015	YTD 2015	YTD Budget	Annual Budget 2016
INCOME						
CONTRIBUTION INCOME	\$37,113.87	\$426,378.48	\$43,902.72	\$424,597.73	\$468,827.40	\$570,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$37,113.87	\$426,378.48	\$43,902.72	\$424,597.73	\$468,827.40	\$570,000.00
EXPENSES						
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP.						
STAFF PARISH EXP.	\$26,521.78	\$271,814.02	\$27,686.14	\$263,882.81	\$296,331.60	\$355,634.00
OFFICE EXP.	1,511.84	19,148.00	2,321.14	19,795.55	18,856.20	22,583.40
FINANCE TEAM EXP.	437.70	2,488.70	917.82	2,440.78	1,613.30	1,880.00
FACILITIES EXP.	4,523.53	48,771.08	6,009.81	61,689.74	68,305.50	83,546.60
Subtotal Expenses	32,994.85	342,221.80	36,934.91	347,808.88	385,106.60	463,644.00
MINISTRY EXPENSE						
MUSIC EXP.	0.00	711.33	19.10	1,243.59	3,825.00	4,250.00
WORSHIP EXP.	594.45	5,849.53	916.80	6,847.344	6,981.25	8,375.00
EDUCATION EXP.	1,094.95	10,878.03	2,553.29	14,345.82	15,715.00	18,090.00
OUTREACH EXP.	154.52	5,065.15	47.99	2,405.31	6,790.00	8,065.00
MISSION EXP.	5,642.67	65,652.70	5,432.09	60,039.32	56,313.20	67,576.00
Subtotal Ministry Expense	7,619.40	88,156.74	8,969.27	84,881.38	89,624.45	106,356.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	40,614.25	430,378.54	45,904.18	432,690.26	474,731.05	570,000.00
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	-\$ 3,501.38	-\$ 4,000.06	-\$ 2,001.46	-\$ 8,092.53	-\$ 5,903.65	\$0.00

CHURCH FAMILY FOCUS

Life Events



BAPTISMS

William James Royce, son of Anthony and Bridget Royce, was baptized by Rev. Mollie Brown on November 13th.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We had 8 new members join the church in November. Please make a point of getting to know these new people and welcoming them warmly into the community of faith:



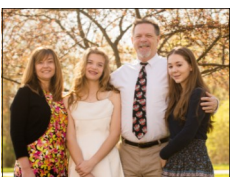
Annie & Kevin Kaschube: Kevin is an electrical engineer currently working for ArcelorMittal; Annie is our organist, handbell director and children's choir director! They have three children: Benny, Claire & baby Hannah. The Kaschube's have bought a new house and are moving to Avon Lake! They are also in the process of opening their own business, Christian Brothers which is a faith-based automotive repair business which will be located in Avon at Lear-Nagel Road. The business will open in April 2017.

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Mike & Boyung Pahls: Mike is an engineer and works as a program manager at BWXT (former Babcock Wilcox company) and specializes in business development and project management. He enjoys various car-related activities such as following Formula One and taking his race car to local road courses. Boyung has her undergraduate degree in Chemistry and a Master of Public Health. She specializes in big data mining/analytics of medical claims data and works in consulting for a variety of healthcare markets. Boyung was a Peace Corps volunteer teaching High School Chemistry in Tanzania, East Africa. She enjoys volunteering as a mentor to 1st generation college students, plus serving on boards of nonprofit organizations. They have 2 children: Siena is in 1st grade and Nathan is 3 1/2 years old.

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Margie & Jerry Steele: Jerry is an electrical engineer who owns his own manufacturing automation company. Margie is a manufacturing consultant for Oracle for our food and pharmaceutical customers. They have two daughters: Alison is in 9th grade and Caroline in 8th grade at Avon Lake Schools. Margie is one of the facilitators

for the 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School Class on *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*, and she is a Girl Scout Leader of two troops! Jerry participates with the WUMC Scholarship Awards and is into Ham radio and volunteers for Lorain Emergency Management.

Kelly Dailey and her daughter, Tori Rose Dailey: Kelly is a Vacation Travel Manager for American Express travel. She is a native to the Cleveland area but lived for 20 years in Nashville. She & daughter Tori Rose recently moved back here and have connected with us in many meaningful ways. Kelly was on the planning team of Trunk or Treat and helps with various Youth activities. Tori Rose is a sophomore at Olmsted Falls High School. She enjoys yoga and went on the youth mission trip to Minnesota this past summer.

THANK YOU!
Dear WUMC Family,
Thank you for the beautiful bib and mother's prayer that we received for Will's baptism. We are so glad to be a part of this congregation and to raise our son in your presence. Many Thanks!
Sincerely,
Bridget & Anthony Royce

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Sincerely,
Bridget & Anthony Royce



Parish Nurse News

Kathy Tafuri, our WUMC Volunteer Parish Nurse, offers free blood pressure screenings most Sundays **after** coffee hour. Kathy is also available most Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m. to address your health concerns, plus offer free blood pressure screenings.

You can reach her via the church office (440) 871-3088 x17, or email ktafuri@westlakeumc.org.



For more details about events and to view the church calendar, please visit our website at westlakeumc.org

Breakthrough Prayer Initiative

with Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey

Author of Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH FROM 9:00 A.M.— 2:30 P.M.
AT WESTLAKE UMC**

What happens when a congregation unites to pray collectively and consistently for God to break through in new and miraculous ways? We can launch our congregation into the kind of churchwide **breakthrough prayer initiative** that fuels the atmosphere of possibility, and begins to shift our focus up-and-outward. Breakthrough prayer can be incorporated into what already happens in your daily life as a congregation. In the workshop, you will:

- Become equipped with inspiration, guidance, and practical ideas from churches of all sizes and settings who have implemented with innovation & impact
- Learn how to utilize breakthrough prayer through key aspects of your weekly worship
- Develop your church's heart to reach its neighborhood with the message and love of Christ
- Help shift the focus, direction and future of your church by implementing a simple breakthrough prayer initiative

COST OF THE WORKSHOP IS \$35 PER PERSON AND INCLUDES A SIMPLE LUNCH

Registration Requirements: Registration space is limited and will open on Monday, December 5th online at westlakeumc.org/spiritual

Rev. Dr. Sue Nilson Kibbey currently serves on the West Ohio Conference's executive staff as the Director of Missional Church Initiatives. Sue leads the Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI), a rigorous 360-degree coaching and training effort to jumpstart a new life cycle of ministry fruitfulness. More than 70 congregations across four different United Methodist Conferences have moved off plateau/decline and forged forward through the intensive work of the MCCI. Sue's newest book published by Abingdon Press,, *Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church*, features detailed content on Breakthrough Prayer.







**WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
27650 CENTER RIDGE ROAD, WESTLAKE, 44145 PHONE (440) 871-3088**



December 2016




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4  Poinsettia Orders Due</p> <p>12 - 4 pm Kids' Christmas Party!</p> <p>5pm Advent Study (107)</p> <p>Youth Group 4:15-6:15 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9am Stephen Min. Class (107)</p> <p>12:30pm Advent Study (100)</p> <p>7pm ChristCare-G/J/L (100)</p> <p>7pm Caregiver's Support Group (100 & 107)</p> <p>7pm Leadership Council (205)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9-11:30am Christmas Cookie Baking (Kitchen/FH)</p> <p>5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (FH)</p> <p>7:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:30am Purl Girls (100)</p> <p>1 pm Parish Nurse Available</p> <p>1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103)</p> <p>2 pm ChristCare-JMc (205)</p> <p>7 pm Advent Study (100/7)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9 am Advent Study (205)</p> <p>1 pm UMW Christmas Tea</p> <p>5:30pm Marijuana Anon (100)</p> <p>6:15pm Handbell Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 ORGAN TUNING</p> <p>12-9pm WECPTA Cookies with Santa (FH/Classrooms)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11 a.m.—8 p.m. <i>Private Recitals</i> <i>Avon Music School</i></p> <p>6:30pm ChristCare—JK/LK</p>
<p>11 10:00 a.m. <i>Christmas Cantata</i></p> <p>5pm Advent Study (107)</p> <p>Youth Group 5-7 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9am Stephen Min. Class (107)</p> <p>12:30pm Games 'N Such (FH)</p> <p>7pm ChristCare-G/J/L (205)</p> <p>7 pm Stephen Ministry (107)</p> <p>7 pm Trustees (105)</p> <p>7 pm SPRC (100)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (FH)</p> <p>7:00 pm Mission Team (107)</p> <p>7:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:30am All Staff Mtg (offsite)</p> <p>11:30am Purl Girls (100)</p> <p>1 pm Parish Nurse Available</p> <p>1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103)</p> <p>7 pm Advent Study (100/7)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9 am Advent Study (205)</p> <p>5:30pm Marijuana Anon (100)</p> <p>6:15pm Handbell Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Messenger Deadline</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8 a.m.—12 p.m. Cleanup Day for Christmas! (with the Trustees)</p>
<p>18</p> <p>5pm Advent Study (107)</p> <p>Youth Christmas Party 5-7 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9am Stephen Min. Class (107)</p> <p>7 pm Finance Cmmtte (105)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (FH)</p> <p>5:00 pm WSCH Comm. Meal</p> <p>7:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:30am Purl Girls (100)</p> <p>1 pm Parish Nurse Available</p> <p>1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103)</p> <p>2 pm ChristCare-JMc (205)</p> <p>5:30pm Community Meal</p> <p>7 pm Advent Study (100/7)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9 am Bible Study (205)</p> <p>10 am UMW Mission Outreach (F. Hall)</p> <p>5:30pm Marijuana Anon (100)</p> <p>6:15pm Handbell Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:00 pm Traditional Service</p> <p>5:00 pm Family Service</p> <p>7:00 pm Blended Service</p> <p>9:00 pm Traditional Service</p> 
<p>25  Worship Service 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Blessed Christmas</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12pm Purl Girls (100)</p> <p>1 pm Parish Nurse Available</p> <p>1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30pm Marijuana Anon (100)</p> <p>6:15pm Handbell Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p> <p>2016 DONATIONS DUE BY 12 NOON TO OFFICE</p> <p>Church Office closes at 12 noon</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>New Year's Eve</p>

WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mollie Brown	Senior Pastor: mgbrown@westlakeumc.org
Annie Kaschube	Organist, Children's Choir & Handbell Choir Director
Betsy Kaiser	Nursery Assistant
Carol Ryan	Christian Education Director
Don Lefelar	Visitation Pastor
Ellie Peiffer	Small Group & Welcoming Ministries
Gretty Myers	Stephen Ministry Coordinator
Jeanette Albrecht	Nursery Assistant
Jeanne Halaby	Nursery Assistant
Jill Farkas	Custodian
Joshua Konow	Director of Adult Choir
Kathy Tafuri	Volunteer Parish Nurse
Lynne Wolf	Office Assistant
Morgan Lux	Nursery Assistant
Patti Barnes	Nursery Coordinator
Rachael Haning	Youth Coordinator
Rich Gallo	11:28 Worship Leader
Sharon Parks	Finance Manager
Stephanie Fries	Church Operations Manager

WUMC Librarians: Nanci Danburg & Katie Salis

OTHER PASTORS CONNECTED TO THIS CONGREGATION:

Dr. Richard Parks	Rev. Ron Dietrich	
Rev. Don Lefelar	Rev. Bob Remington	
Rev. Diana Guyette	Dr. Richard Lehto	
	Rev. Tom Taylor	

Coming up:

12/1 UMW Christmas Tea & Coffee (p. 2)

All members and friends invited to this special free musical performance with light refreshments

12/6 Christmas Cookie Baking (p. 2)

Help make cookies for shut-ins and those needing some extra Christmas cheer!

12/10 Cleanup for Christmas! (p. 2)

Help make the entire building sparkle as welcome visitors in for the Christmas season!

12/11 Christmas Cantata (p. 4)

The Chancel Choir provides this special performance during our 10:00 service, with a full orchestra!

12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services (p. 1)

3:00 & 9:00 Traditional Services (live streamed)

5:00 Children & Family Service

7:00 Contemporary Service

12/25 10 a.m. Christmas Songs & Story Worship

* MESSENGER ARTICLES FOR JANUARY: DUE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH *

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY
Mailed November 29, 2016



*Live-streamed via our website

11:28 a.m. (Contemporary)

10:00 a.m. (Traditional)*

8:15 a.m. (Reflective)

Sunday Worship at

westlakeumc@westlakeumc.org

www.westlakeumc.org

(440) 871-3088

Westlake, Ohio 44145

27650 Center Ridge Road

CHURCH

UNITED METHODIST

WESTLAKE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED