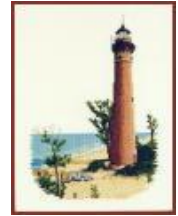


## North Michigan District of The Wesleyan Church

**Vision:** *Transforming people through Christ. Empowering an expanding number of churches to be missionally healthy, to passionately transform diverse cultures for Christ.*

**Mission:** *Exists to equip, enrich, administrate and communicate to pastors and laity in redemptive ways to accomplish the Great Commission*

<https://northmichigandistrictofthewesleyanchurch.org>



March 30, 2017

### April 2017 DS Tom Newsletter

**Psalm 134 says:** Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD  
who minister by night in the house of the LORD.  
Lift up your hands in the sanctuary  
and praise the LORD.  
May the LORD bless you from Zion,  
he who is the Maker of heaven and earth.

This is a time when we are in the midst of preparing for Easter worship services. There will be many people who do not attend church at all or very often. What a great opportunity to tell the hope filled message of Jesus Christ! One of Dan Reiland's posts, that is attached to this DS letter, is 3 Mistakes to Avoid for Easter.

Let this be a time of praise because we have prepared effectively for all who will be in worship on Easter and every time we worship!

Praying for the Holy Spirit to work in a tremendous way during this Spring and Easter ministry time.

Please use this DS newsletter as a resource for prayer time, events, scheduling and ministry application. Each of you are in my prayers.

Pastor DS Tom

#### **NMD Prayer requests and some praises:**

- Andrew Thompson as he struggles with abdominal issues that causes him to lose weight along with extreme shoulder pain that needs surgery
- Robert & Kay Bickert as they continue ministry in China and Philippines.
- Movement of The Wesleyan Church to reach the Unchurched throughout North America and the world.
- Pastor search:
  - Midland Faith – Search for new pastor
  - Coleman – Search for new pastor
  - Sault Ste. Marie – Brooks and Jill Sayer will be voted on to be pastor.
  - West Golden – Ryan and Lisa Fish are scheduled to candidate
  - Crystal Lake – Scott and Rachel McNett will be voted on to be pastor.
- Pastors in transition:
  - Jack and Elaine Steenbergh as they retire.
  - Chuck and Shannon Hollenbeck as they seek new ministry.
  - Dennis and Sue Curell as they seek new ministry
  - Ron and Carole Rickard as they retire
  - Chris and Jean Austin as they move into a new parsonage (practically homeless for a couple weeks)

#### Ministry involvement:

- Bellaire – Direction for ministry
- Saginaw – Monday night live services

- Fremont - Outpost Ministry
- Cheboygan – Community Unity Ministry
- Shoreline Alpena – Direction for a Community Center
- Pinconning – Special Events of music and outreach – also need funds for new roof & furnace
- Cornerstone – construction on addition
- Muskegon First – Multi-Ethnic ministry
- Muskegon Community – Direction for ministry
- Family of retired minister Frank Klassen who departed this earth a couple of weeks ago.
- Ministry life of North Michigan District
  - every church in NMD to have people come to know Christ every month in 2017.
  - every church in NMD has people baptized.
  - every church in NMD supports at least one Global Partner – missionary.
  - every church in NMD has at least one Made New Gathering, new outreach event in 2017.
  - every church in NMD has at least one person called to full time ministry!
  - every church in NMD has an effective discipleship ministry.
  - every church in NMD is financially secure to make greater ministry impact outside the walls of the local church.
  - every church in NMD involved in Church Multiplication by sending, praying, planting, seeking
- Directors, Workers and attendees at Family Camp, Camp 180 (Student/Teen Camp) and Kid's Camp
- Larry and Molly VanZandt are new grandparents on March 28..
- Greenville baptized 25 people last Sunday
- Sault Ste Marie received 20 new members.

**WHAT YOU WILL FIND In this DS newsletter or is in an attachment:**

1. Remember **LEADER CONNECT** on first Tuesday of every month.
2. Report on **ENGAGE – District Women's Retreat**
3. **SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE** at Whispering Pines (Family, Camp 180 & WK Camp)
4. **NMD PRAYER CONNECT – Unity in Prayer emphasis**
5. **2019 The Gathering**
6. **2017 Dates to Remember**
7. **Easter Information**
8. **LEADERSHIP EVENT – LEADERCAST on May 5, 2017 (See attachment)**
9. **Free and Low cost Vacations**
10. **Festival on Preaching May 22-23, 2017 at College Wesleyan Church/IWU Wesley Seminary**
11. **Robert & Kay Bickert Ministry Letter – China and Philippines**
12. **Discipleship Information from Church Multiplication and Discipleship (See attachment)**
13. **National Church Multiplication Sunday June 4, 2017 (See attachment)**
14. **Dan Reiland's recent leadership posts (See attachment)**
  - March 6 "Leading Someone Who Dislikes You"
  - March 13 "Passing the Baton of Leadership to Millennials"
  - March 20 "3 Mistakes to Avoid this Easter"
  - March 27 "Is Spiritual Maturity an Impossible Road?"
15. **Instructions to connect to Zoom**

**1. April Leader Connect via ZOOM is April 4, 2017 at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm**

**2. REPORT ON ENGAGE – DISTRICT WOMEN'S RETREAT at Shoreline Inn, Muskegon on March 25**

About 100 women gathered at the Shoreline Inn last Saturday for the Women's Retreat. I have heard many positive comments about the worship through music and teaching. Grant worship team led in worship and the speakers were Rachel Brockway, JoJean Thompson, Molly VanZandt and Tracy Brown. This great ministry impact was led by District Women's Ministry Director Bev Kimball and her team.

**3. SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE at Whispering Pines**

**Family Camp** – Consider attending one weekend, two weekends or both weekends and days between the two weekends.

Revival Weekend Camp June 30-July 2

Family Weekend July 7-9.

**Camp 180 for Teens** – July 11-15 for Junior and Senior High.

**WK Camp – Wesleyan Kids Camp** July 17-19 for children ages 6-9 and July 19-22 for children 10-12.

Find pricing, forms for registering and other pertinent information by going to the Whispering Pines website:

[www.whisperingpinescamp.org](http://www.whisperingpinescamp.org).

#### **4. NMD PRAYER CONNECT**

The second NMD Prayer Connect will take place on April 12. Thank you to First Wesleyan Muskegon for hosting the first NMD Prayer Connect. Ferry Wesleyan and Midland Faith had groups to join in on Zoom. Almost 50 others joined in on FB Live. There was a power outage that kept others from connecting as planned. NMD Prayer Connect will be “live on location” at 7:15 pm every second Wednesday of the month. It is 15 minutes at 7:15 pm to pray for the people of our North Michigan District churches to have a relevant relationship with God and with their community. It is a prayer time that will be live via FB live (Facebook Thomas K. Schmidt) and Zoom. (Connect to Zoom information is at the end of the newsletter.

- ✓ Praying for relevancy of ministry
- ✓ Praying for revival
- ✓ Praying for relationship ministry
- ✓ Praying for radical outreach

Contact DS Tom ([nmdoffice.dstom@yahoo.com](mailto:nmdoffice.dstom@yahoo.com)) to schedule a “live on location” NMD Prayer Connect at a Bible Study, Small Group, worship time, prayer meeting or other local church ministry event.”

**5. THE GATHERING 2019** is taking place January 9-12, 2019 at Royale Caribe Resort in Orlando, Florida. Save the date and pray for participants and leadership. This is the time for every local church to begin putting funds aside for travel, lodging and meals.

#### **6. 2017 DATES TO REMEMBER:**

April 4 - Leader Connect by ZOOM 9:00 am or 7:00 pm  
 April 12 – 7:15 pm NMD Prayer Connect via FB live or ZOOM  
 May 2 - Leader Connect by ZOOM 9:00 am or 7:00 pm  
 May 5 & 6 - DBMD ministerial student and ordination candidate interviews  
 May 10 – 7:15 pm NMD Prayer Connect via FB live or ZOOM  
 May 18 – Retired Elders Assisting in Ministry Luncheon in Cadillac  
 May 18-19 – Pastors Prayer & Fast at Whispering Pines Conference Center  
 June 14 – 7:15 pm NMD Prayer Connect via FB live or ZOOM  
 June 24 – District Conference is scheduled to take place at Houghton Lake  
 June 30-July 2 and July 7-9 – Making Memories Family Camp at Whispering Pines  
 July 11-15 – Camp 180 for students (teens) at Whispering Pines  
 July 12 – 7:15 pm NMD Prayer Connect via FB live or ZOOM at Whispering Pines  
 July 17-19 & 19-22 – Wesleyan Kid’s Camp (WK Camp) at Whispering Pines  
 August 9 – 7:15 pm NMD Prayer Connect via FB live or ZOOM  
 September 9 – Celebration of Ministry Banquet and Ordination  
 September 13 – 7:15 pm NMD Prayer Connect via FB live or ZOOM

#### **7. EASTER INFORMATION:**

Ministry Outreach Events, Salvations, Baptisms, worship attendance, stories of life transformation and all such things to celebrate should be reported to the District Office for publication in the next DS Newsletter following Easter.

#### **8. LEADERSHIP EVENT - LEADERCAST**

Alive on the Lakeshore (the people who bring you Unity Christian Music Festival) and Christian Business Roundtable are proud to present Leadercast West Michigan coming up on Friday, May 5!

Speakers this year include Andy Stanley, Dr. Henry Cloud and Tyler Perry.

We know that those who attend will be blessed and encouraged to become leaders worth following!

We encourage you to share the attached pdf with your church leadership and anyone else you know who would benefit from a time of learning and inspiration.

For more information and to purchase tickets go to: [event.leadercast.com/location/westmichigan](http://event.leadercast.com/location/westmichigan)

Lynn Morse  
 Alive on the Lakeshore  
 2735 E. Apple Avenue Suite D  
 Muskegon, MI 49442  
 (231)773-3361  
<http://www.unitymusicfestival.com>

## 9. FREE AND LOW COST VACATIONS AND RETREATS FOR PASTORS INFORMATION

Just wanted to pass along this free resource that might be a help to pastors in the North Michigan district.

It's a directory of over 150 Free and Low-Cost Vacations and Retreats for Pastors that I maintain. Pastors can search by state for low-cost getaways near them. All are discounted for clergy, and some are free.

This directory is free, and it's a great help to pastors who may not have the financial means to take family vacations, or just need a place for quiet personal retreat.

Would you be willing to pass along this link to the pastors in your district? Below is a blurb about the directory and some social media share links you can use if you like.

Thanks for your work on behalf of the church, and please let me know if I can be a help to you.

Larry

PS: If you or any of your pastors have used these retreats, I'd love to hear about your experience.

Lawrence W. Wilson  
(317) 622-8849  
LinkedIn

### Share Links

#### Free and Low-Cost Retreats and Vacations for Pastors

State-by-state listing of discounted or free vacations for pastors and missionaries. Includes North American and international retreat centers, B&Bs, resorts, and more.

Retreat Directory URL: <http://www.lawrencewilson.com/free-retreats-vacations-pastors/>

## 10. Festival on Preaching sponsored by College Wesleyan and IWU Wesley Seminary



May 22-23 College Wesleyan Church and Wesley Seminary are hosting a Festival on Preaching.

This two day conference will focus on preaching from the margins. Keynote speakers include Dr. Lenny Luchetti, Dr. Dave Ward, Rev Steve DeNeff and more. We would like your help in getting the word out to your local pastors. If you would be willing to let them know about this conference through your newsletter, an email, or Facebook that will help us spread the word about this great event. The cost of the conference is \$40. Any pastor or student who is currently in the DBMD process will get a \$15 discount, when they use the code "DBMD". Below is text we have been using in emails. The link to register is [www.collegewes.com/festival](http://www.collegewes.com/festival).

We want to personally invite you to be part of a gathering of preachers from various denominations for the purpose of sharpening our ministries, specifically in the area of preaching.

Across the Church there is a revival of preaching. Young men and women, in every denomination, are rediscovering their call to proclaim the Gospel. In fact, we think that many of today's preachers have the potential to be among the best in the history of the Church. But their talent must be matched by an unwavering commitment to root themselves in discipline and in virtue, and to root their ministry in the Word of God.

So this year, College Church in partnership with Wesley Seminary invite you to The Festival on Preaching, which will focus on the art of preaching in exile because we believe the culture is changing, making it difficult for many preachers to be heard. Some are trying to say the same things differently, but perhaps it's time to say different things.

We would love for you to join us for two days, May 22-23, 2017, at College Wesleyan Church, in Marion, Indiana and explore how to diagnose the symptoms of a secular age and apply the gospel, with all its implications. Together we can create a movement that revives the holiness message and the holiness church. Register at [www.collegewes.com/festival](http://www.collegewes.com/festival)

#### **11. Robert & Kay Bickert Letter:**

Dear Family and Partners in Ministry,

**THANK YOU** for lifting us in prayer these past weeks. Many answers. Kay and I rejoice in how our loving Father is working and leading us.

#### **PRAISES:**

1. **Philippine Move:** Two weeks ago, we were encouraged by expressed interest in supporting us with a large portion of our estimated budget. More on this next time.
2. **China: New Course Preparation:** I have sent the major portion of the course for translation Monday. Pray for Jo as she works on this.
3. **Major Projects Finished:** Submitted statistics to our IRS Tax Consultant and Philippine Report to Global Partners.

4. **Work Opportunities:** Our son Tim gave me a week of painting in one of his big projects which I am still working on plus another paint job schedules end of April.
5. **Home Rental:** This week a friend asked about the possibility of renting our home while we are in the Philippines.
6. **Emilia Grace:** We continue to rejoice with Mark and Debbie as they share almost daily pictures and video of her development. She is such a joy to them and us. They shared this verse in their announcement: "**For this child I have prayed, and the Lord has granted me the desires of my heart,**" I Samuel 1:27.

#### **PRAYER FOCUS:**

1. **Giving Philippine Report this Sunday:** Kay and I will travel to Aurora, Indiana this afternoon to the Wellington Wesleyan Church to share Robert's January Discipleship Retreat ministry. Wellington is a financial supporting church pastored by Robert's cousin James Kessen.
2. **China Course:** Still have much preparation to complete before we depart April 12.
3. **Healing needed:** Kay is working with treatment to heal Plantar Faciitis in one foot. Due to our regular walking regimen, her podiatrist said she did more damage than good. So far not much progress.
4. **Complete Funding Philippines:** I would like to book our tickets ASAP to get a good price. Cost last week: \$872 round trip.

THANKS for partnering with us through faithful prayer backing.

Jesus assured us, "**Ask and you shall receive.**" We will have more to report before our China departure April 12.

Blessings- Robert and Kay

--

"Together, We can Make a Difference"

Dr. Robert and Kay Bickert

129 Lowry Lane, Wilmore, KY 40390 Resident 859-215-6044 Cell 336-617 1827 Robert

#### **12. Discipleship Information from Church Multiplication and Discipleship – See attachment**

#### **13. National Church Multiplication Sunday June 4, 2017 (See attachment)**

#### **14. Dan Reiland's recent leadership postings of March 6, 13, 20 & 28: - See attachment**

#### **15. Instructions for Connecting on Zoom Meetings:**

1. Go to <https://zoom.us>
2. Look in the upper right hand corner and find where it says... JOIN A MEETING, then double click.
3. You will be asked for a MEETING ID. Our meeting ID is... 9897790188. Please enter and double click, JOIN.
4. You will then need to install the Zoom software or click on Launch Application. Please follow all the instructions from Zoom.
5. Following installation, execute the software and open.
6. Or, there should be a Zoom Icon on your desktop. Double click.
7. Once you have double clicked the icon, this may take you right into the Zoom Online Meeting or you may have to reenter the MEETING ID.
8. Make sure your audio is unmuted and running through your computer.

#### **Instructions For Zoom Meetings on cellular smart phones (Apple and Android)**

1. Go to your app store.
2. Download Zoom
3. Select, Join A Meeting
4. For meeting ID, type in, 9897790188, and select JOIN.
5. You will now be connected.

Other information:

- Zoom can be used across all platforms, computers, tablets and smart phones.
- You do not need to create a user account to be a part of a meeting, but you may want to.
- If you are getting feedback from your speakers, you may need to turn the speakers down or your mic down. The best way to communicate without feedback is by using a headset with a microphone built in.