

# News Of Wesley

July 2017 Edition

## Welcome to the Family

Pastor Iverson and family are moving to Bloomington June 30th. He will be preaching his first sermon Sunday, July 9th. Be there to welcome Justin and his wife Kimberly into the Wesley family!

You will find these bright “welcome” labels in your July 9th bulletin. Sign your name. Fill out how long you’ve been a Wesley family member. Then join our family gathering in Wesley Hall between services and introduce yourself to our newest addition.

Note - there will be **no Sunday School on the ninth** so that everyone can join the gathering.

Welcome to the Wesley family Pastor Justin & Kimberly!

Read Pastor Justin’s letter to Wesley on our website at [www.wesley-umc.com/2017/05/welcome-pastor-justin-iverson/](http://www.wesley-umc.com/2017/05/welcome-pastor-justin-iverson/)



## A Successful Choir Tour Missouri Churches “Came Alive”

The Jubilation and Exaltation Choirs sang praises throughout Missouri during their weekend “Come Alive” Tour June 16 - 18. Campbell United Methodist Church in Springfield, MO and Jerseyville First United Methodist in Jerseyville, MO were the lucky congregations able to hear and share in the “Come Alive” concerts. Feedback was very positive and the experience was uplifting. A couple of impromptu songs were performed by our choirs underground - literally - in the Meramec Caverns. Acoustics were amazing. People stopped to experience the “goosebump” performance. It was captured on video. See it for yourself on our Wesley Facebook page.

Another fun stop along the way was Silver Dollar City amusement park. Smiles, good times, and memories were all made and enjoyed.

Thanks to Assistant Director of Music Ministries, Brenna Martin for her great efforts...and to all of the crew, chaperones, and choir members...THANKS!



Look for more fun photos and insights on our website and Facebook page.



**NOW**  
NEWS OF WESLEY

Sunday Services - 9:00 & 11:15 AM • Christian Education - 10:15 AM

502 East Front Street • Bloomington, Illinois 61701 • 309-827-8046 • [wesley-umc.com](http://wesley-umc.com)

## Brother Louie's Car Horn

There is a Garrison Keillor story I like which came out of his many years as radio host for "Prairie Home Companion". It is the story of a mythical Lake Wobegon resident named "Brother Louie":

"Brother Louie had a car which was a rolling display of Scriptural truths. Not only did his license plate display a verse of Scripture, but additional ones were plastered all over the inside of his car – across the dashboard, both sun visors, the back of the front seat, the ashtray and glove compartment. But the best thing about Brother Louie's car was its horn, which played the first eight notes of the Doxology (the song we sing when we receive each Sundays' offering)..."

"It sounded like a trumpet. Louie blew it at pedestrians, oncoming traffic, while passing, sometimes just for his own pleasure. On occasion, vexed by a fellow driver, Louie gave in to wrath and leaned on the horn, only to hear "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow..." Keillor says, "It calmed him right down".

Keeping a doxology – a word of praise to God for the blessings that are constantly flowing into our lives but which can often go undetected by us – that is a consistent instruction found in the Bible. "Rejoice in the Lord always", St. Paul would tell the early church, "and again I say, 'rejoice'".

And what I find remarkable about Paul's insistence on being always ready with your doxology is that it is not to be only a response to good times and happy days. Many of the strongest injunctions to praise in Paul's life were written when life was hard and harsh, even when he was in prison, chained to a wall, and unsure if he would ever be free again. In his way of seeing things, we are called to embody a defiant doxology or word of praise regardless of the circumstances of the moment. "I know what it is to have plenty," he would say, "And I know what it is to be in want. I am ready for anything through him who strengthens me."

Like most anything worthwhile, to live like that does take some effort and practice. The theologian Parker Palmer reminds us: It requires no special talent or effort to look at our world and point out the things that numb us, or dumb us down, or depress us. But becoming keenly and consistently aware of what's good, true, beautiful, and life-giving around us and within us demands a discipline: we must open our eyes, minds and hearts. And we must keep them open.

Summer time, with its slightly slower pace and increased opportunity for time outside, is a good time to recommit to living with open eyes, minds and hearts. Join us in church this summer, as we cultivate our inner doxology, and our capacity to respond with joy to the gifts of life which are unfolding all around us.

-- Vaughn

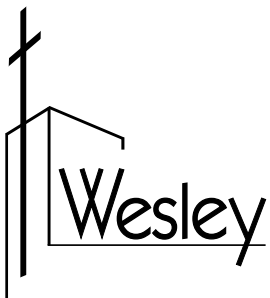
## Send Good Wishes

We will certainly miss The Lee Family as they move on to their new life in Champaign, Illinois. Send a card to wish them well -

The Lee Family  
201 Cattail Ave.  
Savoy, IL 61874

## Little Wonder Help Needed

Wesley's Little Wonders is in need of volunteers to help take care of Wesley's youngest members. Volunteers are asked to serve 75 minutes a month and are needed during each service as well as the Sunday School hour. Contact Liz Tomera 847-224-1194, [tomeras@comcast.net](mailto:tomeras@comcast.net) or see her in the nursery.



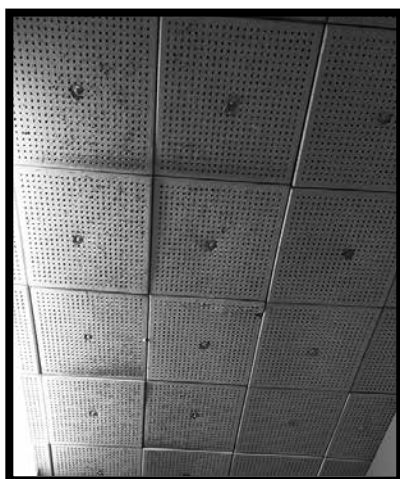
# Wesley Financial Update

General fund receipts as of 5/31/2017	\$ 574,491
General fund expenses as of 5/31/2017	507,967
Surplus	\$ 66,524

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Construction projects are all around us – new or improved roads, new buildings, renovations and landscaping projects. The detours and inconveniences can be annoying, but the end result is usually appreciated and worth the hassle. Such is the construction on the second floor of the church this summer, as an original ceiling is replaced in the hallway, along with light fixtures and other necessary infrastructure. As messy and noisy as it may be during the work phase, it will be another beautifully renovated area in a short while. Projects such as this one are made possible because of the generosity of those who have left a legacy gift to the church upon their passing. The funds from such gifts are used for building improvements or other projects carefully considered and evaluated by the church's Board of Trustees. Your benevolence when preparing your will can also make a difference in future building renovations of the church.

Old, worn ceiling tiles from the late 1950's, early 1960's will be replaced upstairs during construction. The uneven, bumpy, tiles will have new energy efficient replacements soon.



## Thank You Wesley

"We would like to thank our Wesley Church Family for all of your prayers, cards, memorials, love, and support shown to us during Dave's illness and passing.

A special thank you to Pastor Keith Ferguson for his many visits and prayers during Dave's illness, and to Pastors Vaughn and Keith, and all the musicians, for the beautiful Celebration of Life service held here at Wesley.

All the church staff was wonderfully accommodating and helpful, and Kathy Robinson and helpers provided an excellent luncheon for all of us afterwards.

Thanks to all for whatever you did to help us during a very sad time."

Carol Nygaard & Family

## Mark Your Calendars

**Sunday, July 2nd - ONE SERVICE ONLY**  
10:00 AM and NO Sunday School  
Rev. Leah Pogemiller, Superintendent,  
Vermilion River District preaching

Monday, July 3rd - OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, July 4th - OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, July 9th - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
Reverend Justin Iverson preaching  
Rev. Iverson Welcome Reception  
10:15 AM - Wesley Garden Room

Friday, July 28 - Sunday, July 30 - VBS  
Vacation Bible School with  
The Ladd - register online

## Congratulations to

- Rachel Walters & Zachary Holt who were married at Wesley on June 17
- new arrival Harrison Daniel Kuik born to Jenna and Jonathan Kuik on June 6th
- new arrival Drew Alsene Dawson born to Katie and Tim Dawson, big sister Maggie, grandparents Steve & Judy Bute, and great-grandma Donna Rae Alsene on June 20th
- new arrival Everly Nicole Schulz born to Chelsie Tallon and Steffon Schulz, big sister Nevaeh, and grandma Debbie Tallon on June 13th

## Thank You Wesley

From the late Judy Moberly who passed on Sunday, June 18th, but who made sure that her Wesley Family was acknowledged. Godspeed Judy.

"Sincere thank you to all for your calls, visits, cards and beautiful notes, food and..... BIG HUGS and prayers; I have felt them all. Your love and friendships are rich blessings and I thank each and every one of you for 'BEING YOU'!

In Love, Judy Moberly"

# The ParkLands Foundation 50th Anniversary Celebration

For 50 years the ParkLands Foundation has been an undisturbed oasis in an otherwise farmed McLean County. Their mission - to preserve, protect, and ecologically restore historic natural lands in the middle and upper Mackinaw Valley watershed. The ParkLands nature preserve provides a haven for passive public recreation, environmental education, and scientific research.

This August, join Wesley in celebrating this wonderful, and little known, treasure by joining us in activities at the ParkLands preserve and here at the church.

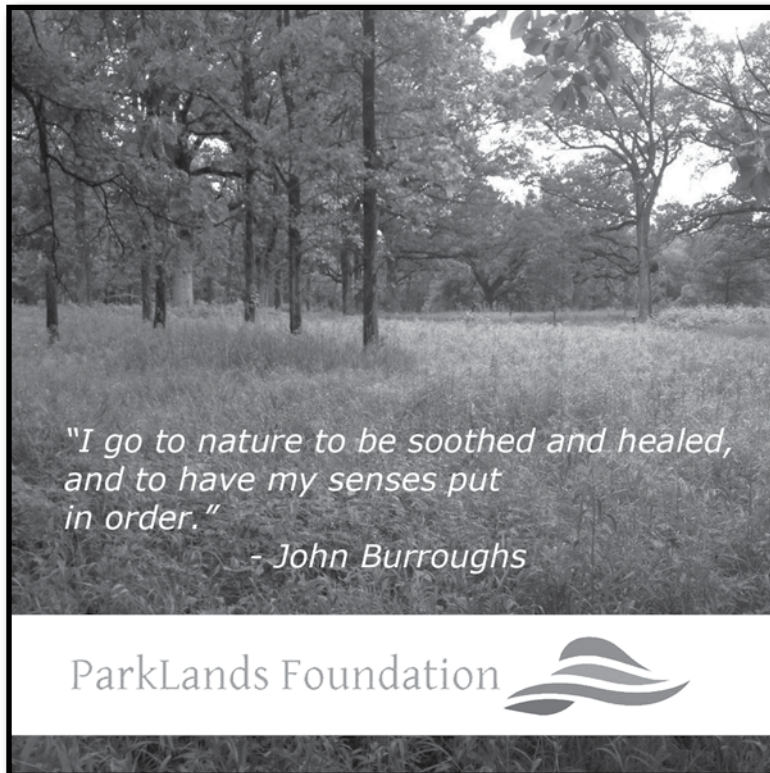
## AUGUST 5th - HALF CENTURY BIKE RIDE

Participate in a 7-, 20-, or 50-mile all day bike ride  
Register online at [www.parklandsfoundation.org/50th/](http://www.parklandsfoundation.org/50th/)

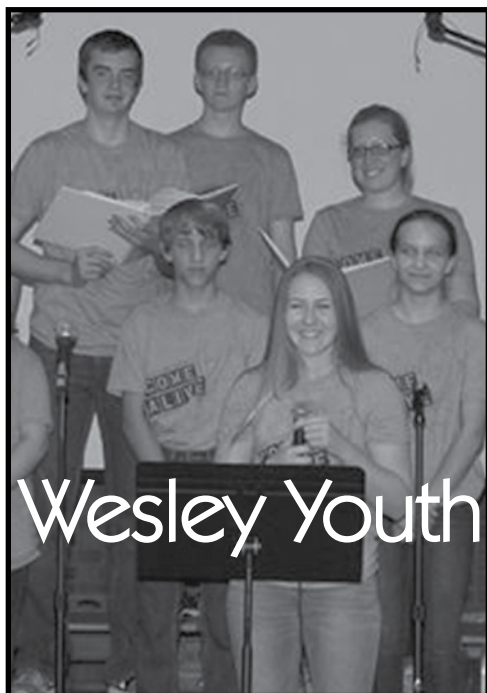
AUGUST 6th - 10:15 AM - Info at the Parklands Reserve  
and 1:00 walk. (Starts in Wesley Lounge)

AUGUST 19th - 9:00 AM – West Gate Work Day

AUGUST 20th - Wesley Study "Serving God, Saving the Planet" in Sunday school @ 10:15 AM



Rev. Vaughn's August Sermon Series - "The Hopeful Earth"



## Jr. High August Mission Trip - Gear Up!

Pack up your gear and get ready for an experience like no other starting Sunday, August 6 through Friday, August 11. Junior Highers will head north to Wisconsin to work with children and teens with special needs at the Christian Discipleship Farm in Sullivan, Wisconsin. Our Junior Highers, the campers, and their families will all camp during this unique week long VBS. Daily worship, team devotional time, and debriefing sessions will enrich and reenforce this special service experience. For more info visit - [www.christiandisciplefarm.com](http://www.christiandisciplefarm.com)

## Surge Summer Bible & BBQ

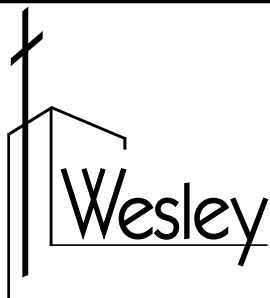
**July 5 -**  
Dahmm's  
1016 N. Evans St. Bloomington  
(if it rains this week, we will meet at church)

**July 12 -**  
Sherrill's  
1505 Royal Pointe Dr. Bloomington

**July 19 -**  
Roll's  
2113 Current Ct. Bloomington

**July 26 -**  
TBD

**August 2 -**  
Machek's/Curry's  
671 County Rd. 2000 East, Secor  
(bring appropriate swimming suit,  
towel and change of clothes)



## Sunday Classes for All Ages 10:15 - 11:00 AM

### ADULTS Sundays -

Stroll through the Bible with Richard Johnson at 10:15 AM in the Conference Room starting September 10th.

“The Hopeful Earth” - begins Aug 20 in the Lounge. This will be part of a short sermon series as well as focus on the 50th Anniversary of the ParkLands Foundation. See more in the ParkLands Anniversary article on page four.

### Other Adult Opportunities -

#### TUESDAYS

Tuesday morning in the lounge 7:00 AM - this Fall only  
Women’s Study - 2017 Disciplines and other topics

#### WEDNESDAYS

Men’s Group - noon with lunch in the Garden Room

#### THURSDAYS

Small group study of the book of Matthew  
9:30 AM in the Garden Room starting September 7th

#### FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Due to the great response this summer to Financial Peace University, we are considering offering this course by Dave Ramsey again this fall. If there is enough interest, a fall class will be organized. If interested please contact Kathi Pritts at [kpritts@wesley-umc.com](mailto:kpritts@wesley-umc.com).

#### WESLEY CARES SINGLES

Wesley CARES Singles is in need of a facilitator in September. With the National Council on Aging reporting that more than 10,000 people are retiring a day and 79 million boomers are entering retirement, our needs in the aging demographic are as relevant as our needs in children and youth ministry. Would you consider helping? Contact Kathi Pritts at [kpritts@wesley-umc.com](mailto:kpritts@wesley-umc.com).

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### Children’s Ministry in Summer -

In July our elementary kids will continue learning about Creation. Our preschoolers will learn that KIDS ROCK with stories of important young people in the Bible like Jesus, Samuel, and David.

VBS is July 28-30 with THE LADS! Register online today.

Please save aluminum pie tins, old CDs, old crayons, and super hero “costumes” for VBS and be our Super Hero.

## Vacation Bible School



### Super Powered, Spirit-Filled VBS with The Lads

#### IT IS NOT TOO LATE

.....to register for Vacation Bible School.....  
in fact, this is THE time to register to join SUPER STARS, The Lads, for a powerful, fun, engaging, and spirit-filled VBS experience. Your kids won't want to miss the music, dancing, crafts, and fun.

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#### -- REGISTER ONLINE --

[www.wesley-umc.com/children/  
vacation-bible-school/](http://www.wesley-umc.com/children/vacation-bible-school/)

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There will be classes for four-year-olds up to 5th grade ONLY.

All the children will participate in stations involving music, crafts, recreation, and more. Bring your friends!

#### - Schedule -

- Friday, July 28 -  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

- Saturday, July 29 -  
10:00 AM - 1:15 PM

- Sunday, July 30 -  
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM



## Spiritual Growth Retreat

Join the Vermilion River District UMW as they host a spiritual growth retreat here at Wesley. The program will be presented by Sue Coons, IGRC Spiritual Growth Coordinator.

### “Running the Race with Perseverance”

Saturday, August 12, 2017

8:30 AM Registration

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Cost for the day is \$10 which includes lunch and materials. Bring your Bible and an attitude for fellowship.

**Reservations must be received by August 5, 2017**

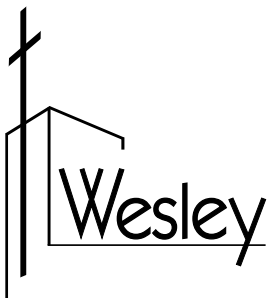
For more information, please contact

Karen Fleming -  
karen@acomtreeconsulting.com

Watch for more information on  
wesley-umc.com

## Hope and Faith

Hope and Faith Circles will resume meetings in the Fall.



## GEMS Growing Each Mom Spiritually

Are you a young mom looking for some new friends at Wesley? You're invited to visit the GEMS circle of UMW meeting the second and fourth Mondays of every month from 6:45-8:45 PM at the home of Missy Dundov. We will continue our new study by Linda Anderson, "Growing Together."

For more information, please contact Liz Tomera at tomeras@comcast.net.

- Sunday, June 23rd -  
Costa Rica Mission Trip Recap  
Sr. Highers share both services

## JUST ONE

Peanut Butter is the item most requested by the Safe Harbor food pantry during the month of July. Hungry children home from school on hot summer days cannot seem to get enough of this nourishing protein, so Just One is out to collect jars and jars of peanut butter. Help us by dropping off a jar or two.

Please continue to provide names of military members, whether they be friends, family, or acquaintances, to take advantage of our June "Munchies for the Military" shipment. The Church & Society Committee plans to pack boxes Tuesday, July 11th in the Conference Room starting at 9:00 AM. Get those names and "munchie" donations in to participate.

A thank you to Wesley for our May diaper drive -

## Missions Update

The Missions Lenten offering raised \$11,911.

Thanks, Wesley, for your generous support of the Missions Lenten offering which supports world and national projects.

The Mid-West Distribution Center received \$1202, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief received \$1100. Additional funds will go to support the work of Kissy Medical Clinic in Sierra Leone, Ganta Hospital in Liberia, Bethlehem Bible College, Haiti Hot School lunches, Africa University scholarships, El Porvenir which provides clean water and sanitation, and funds for the Central Conference Pastor pensions.

Karen McConnell, Missions Chair

"We cannot thank you and the congregation enough for holding a diaper drive for us! Kiki, our Case Manager, was ecstatic as well! That is her in this picture!"

Blessings,  
Marne Fauser  
Donor Relations Director  
The Salvation Army





## Summer Choir News

Love singing? Wondering if choir is a fit for you? Summer is the perfect time to try out your vocal skills with a light and relaxed choir schedule. Careful...you're going to have fun! We meet at 8:00 a.m. in the choir room on the following Sundays and learn the song that we will sing at the 9:00 a.m. service that morning. Two Sundays left - **July 16th and August 13th**

## Ringin' Praises

To everyone who participated in the Handbell Ministries annual Mother's Day Bake sale by either organizing, baking or buying all of the yummy treats!! This year we made \$532 which will go partially to our trip to Handbell Camp on July 9-14. The four campers this year are Gail and Bill Welk, Jonah Robinson and Ashley Oganovich.

Gail Welk, Director

## Catch a Movie

Diversity, Movie, Meal and a Message led by Reverend Thompson will meet

**July 16th**  
Wesley Hall  
5:30 PM

The movie will be "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" starring Spencer Tracy, Katherine Hepburn, and Sidney Poitier. Dinner and popcorn are available with a free will offering. Call the church office to reserve your spot.

# Wesley United Methodist Church

502 East Front Street  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
Phone: 309-827-8046 Fax: (309)828-9625  
www.wesley-umc.com

After Hours Emergencies:  
Pastor Vaughn Hoffman (309) 212-2710

Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Pastor of Visitation  
Director of Music Ministries  
Asst. Director of Music Ministries  
Organist  
Director of Christian Education  
Early Childhood Coordinator  
Director of Youth Ministries  
Asst. Director of Youth Ministries  
Business Administrator  
Pastors' Executive Assistant  
Receptionist  
Clerical Assistant  
Communication Coordinator  
Facilities Manager  
Custodians  
  
Food Service Coordinator

Rev. Vaughn Hoffman  
Rev. Justin Iverson  
Rev. Keith Ferguson  
Adria Schumann  
Brenna Martin  
Marcia Hishman  
Kathi Pritts  
Elizabeth Tomera  
Frank Newburn  
Stacy Ash  
Myrna Simpson  
Jody Robbins  
Molly Brown  
Colleen Hensley  
Cindy Lorimor  
Brad Schumann  
Jim Robinson  
Matthew Dahmm  
Kathy Robinson



*"I am truly honored and humbled by this ministry. Today I shared a ride with a wonderful woman who is suffering from a neurological illness and vertigo. Along the way she gave her testimony to the power of prayer. She said, 'this gives me hope!' All glory goes to God our Father!"*

- Amy Edwards, driving for Healing Rides

## "Our Conference Kids" Baseball Fundraisers

The VRD Conference is hosting "Holy Baseball" - two fundraising games to support "Our Conference Kids".

**Sunday, July 16**  
GCS Ball Park  
2301 Sauget, IL 62206  
worship - 5:05 PM | game - 6:05 PM

**Sunday, August 6**  
The Corncrib  
1000 Raab Rd.  
Normal, IL  
worship - 3:30 PM | game - 4:35 PM

All tickets are \$10  
Go to [www.igrc.org](http://www.igrc.org) for more info.



## Wesley United Methodist Church

502 East Front Street  
Bloomington, Illinois 61701  
309-827-8046  
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Bloomington, IL  
Permit No. 103



Be sure to check out the extremely large trophy our Wesley men brought home from the Conference Tournament this June. Congrats Guys!



Great Day of Golf  
Award Winning Team