

# News Of Wesley

November 2017

a giving

faith

a gift of time

stewardship 2018



## If you had no fear

How would you spend your time if you had no fear and had no restrictions? How would you use your talents? Do you know how you would feel led to use your time and talents to enrich yourself, others, and the world at large?

### Wouldn't that be a GIFT?

Wouldn't it be a gift to yourself, others, and the world around you if you could simply spend your time doing what made your heart sing and your talents not only shine, but grow?

What if you had the **faith** to start spending your time like this right now? You can't do this with all of your time of course, you have obligations: a job, school, chores, commitments, that's a given. What if you decided to carve out a certain amount of time - without fear - and gave that time to begin to make it happen? If you have the faith to begin, Wesley is ready to receive your time gift and let your talents soar, help you touch others, and help you make a difference in our community and even the world at large. Wesley will help you get involved and be enriched.

This season of stewardship, prayerfully consider giving not just financially, but faithfully with "a gift of time". You will be receiving information on how to do just that in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, go online at [wesley-umc.com/serve](http://wesley-umc.com/serve) to learn more.

No fear, no restrictions...with faith...reach out and give **a gift of time**.



# 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)

## Pick the Lens Set the Focus

Of all the decisions we have to make, probably none is more important than that of choosing a “lens” or way of seeing, that we will habitually apply to our day to day experiences. The extent to which each individual grabs hold of life’s potential is in substantial measure a matter of individual choice.

Will we choose a lens of consuming as the primary filter for what happens to us? Will we adopt a lens of contemplation, a lens of dedication to others by advocating for justice or investing ourselves in a great cause of some sort? Probably most of us wind up adopting some combination of all these ways.

But it’s still true that these basic decisions we make in the inner recesses of our lives wind up making all the difference in what life comes to mean for us—whether we will see it as a meaningless treadmill, a duty, a salesroom filled with relentless consuming, or a calling from God.

In a classic little book entitled “Man’s Search for Meaning”, Victor Frankl, a psychoanalyst and death-camp survivor, tells from first-hand experience how differently persons responded to being imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps. He wrote: “I became fascinated by how this relentless stress led some persons to behave like swine, and others like saints.”

Frankl came to the conclusion that what makes human beings unique is the power we have to decide for meaning in a way that is not dependent on our external life circumstances. He concluded that one of the most freeing revelations a person can have, in his words, “is the truth that it (does) not really matter what we expect from life, but what life expects from us.” Paul the apostle had thought along the same lines centuries earlier, when he endured his own imprisonment in Rome. From his jail-cell he wrote to the Philippians: “...For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know how to live when things are difficult and I know how to live when things are prosperous. I am ready for anything through the strength of the one who lives within me.”

I am both humbled and comforted in the perspective of people like Frankl and the apostle Paul. In those moments when I feel like my life or our world is sailing into a violent headwind, their example challenges me to ask: ‘What does the world expect of me in this situation, at this time?’. And beyond that, they remind me that, though I can’t control what happens to me, I can control how I’ll respond. There is freedom in that, and some genuine good news that we really can be ‘ready for anything’ through the one who lives within us.

See you in church!  
Vaughn

## Is Wesley a Fit for You? Learn more about Wesley

Are you considering joining a new church but not quite sure?

Do you need more information to determine whether you are ready to join a church?

Are you ready to join a church, you know that Wesley is a fit for you, and you’d like to know the next steps?

If any of these questions apply to you, then you will want to join us for an informal meeting with Wesley’s pastors and group leaders to learn more about our church and activities. But more importantly...you can get answers to any questions that you might have. Come meet with pastors, staff, and other active members of the church.

Join us Tuesday, November 14th, 7:00 PM in the Lounge. Let’s talk.



# Wesley Financial Update

General fund receipts as of 9/30/17	\$ 945,034
General fund expenses as of 9/30/17	949,097
Deficit	\$ (4,063)

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It's almost time. Time to consider the bountiful gifts we have been provided with, time to rejoice and give back, time to celebrate the future ministries at Wesley! You should have recently received a packet of financial information in the mail, along with a financial faith commitment card for 2018. We ask that you faithfully consider what you can commit to give financially for 2018 and return the card during the worship service on October 29. If you can't make it to church that day, please send the card to the church office (502 E. Front Street, Bloomington IL 61701) as soon as possible. It is very important to receive everyone's commitment before Thanksgiving in order to accurately prepare the 2018 operating budget.

How much should you give? That's a personal decision with various individual factors being considered. Some people have fixed incomes, some have unexpected medical or personal expenses, and others have a hard time juggling financial demands. Do you receive annual increases at your job? Do you pass some of that increase to the church, or do you give the same amount each year regardless of changes in your income? While we try to budget wisely for every dollar given, the church also experiences increased costs as staff costs increase, insurance costs go higher, and utility expenses are added for the new Wesley West building. Perhaps this is the year that an increase in your gift can help offset some of these increased costs. We ask each person or family to consider how they can best be a cheerful giver.

- Myrna Simpson



## THANK YOU - Wesley MADE a Difference

Alone we feel helpless and ineffective as we watch news coverage of the non-stop disasters playing out throughout the world.  
But together...together we made a HUGE difference.

Wesley raised more than \$7,000 for UMCOR.  
Wesley donated 340 lbs of flood buckets & supplies for UMCOR distribution.

Unbelievable! Thank you Wesley! Together we are quite a force. AMEN!

## Dates to Note

- **Friday, November 3**  
Cantus Novus Concert at Wesley - 7 PM
- **Saturday, November 4**  
Rent-a-Youth Fundraiser
- **Sunday, November 5**  
*Daylights Saving Time - **Clocks Back***  
All Saint's Day  
IWU Concert at Wesley - 3:00 PM
- **Tuesday, November 7**  
Live-Stream with Dave Ramsey - 7:00 PM
- **Saturday, November 11**  
Rent-a Youth Fundraiser  
Wesley Blood Drive
- **Sunday, November 12**  
Acolyte Training - 12:30 PM
- **Tuesday, November 14**  
Wesley New Member Info Meeting  
7:00 PM - Lounge
- **Saturday, November 18**  
Last Habitat Work Day for the Year
- **Monday, November 20**  
December NOW newsletter deadline
- **Wednesday, November 22**  
**NO** Wednesdays@Wesley
- **Thursday, November 23**  
Thanksgiving Day
- **Sunday, November 26**  
a giving faith - a gift of time commitment

## Thank You Wesley

Larry and I are moving to Raleigh, North Carolina to be closer to our daughter, her husband and Alistair, our grandson. We have enjoyed so many good times at Wesley. You all have made us feel so welcomed. Wesley is the friendliest church in town! If in the area, please look us up: 7812 Cape Charles Dr. Raleigh, NC 27617.

Love, Sandy and Larry Wills





## Surge Goings On

### Senior High Fall Retreat

Our Senior High students and adult volunteers spent the weekend at East Bay Camp early in October. The annual retreat is focused on slowing our lives down and focusing on what's truly important: spending quality time with God and others.

We spent a lot of time in fellowship as well as time in Gods Word and sharing and worshipping around the campfire at night. It was a powerful and impactful weekend for all involved. Check out our Surge Facebook page to see pictures from the retreat.

**October** - Surge will be wrapping up its 9th annual canned food drive in the end of October. So far we have collected over 14,000 items for local food pantries. Students collect as small groups as well as in the community.



**December** - Coming up our annual Senior High Chicago shopping trip December 2 and our Surge Christmas lock-in December 8-9. Don't miss it and stay tuned!



Junior High YAR - 2017

## Leaf Rakers Available

LAST CHANCE to recruit the Wesley Youth for fall yard chores! Stop by the Garden Room on Sunday the 29th between services to sign up for one of our work days. Saturday, November 4th and 11th our youth will be out working hard.

This service is free but we gladly appreciate any freewill donations given - all of which will go towards our 2018 mission trips to Memphis and Wisconsin. Questions? Call Frank or Stacy at the church at 827-8046.



Senior High Fall Retreat - 2017

## Live-Stream with Dave Ramsey November 7th at Wesley



- COURSE IS FREE -  
ALL ARE WELCOME

Join us in Wesley Hall on November 7th at 7:00 PM for a live-stream with well-known financial advisor, Dave Ramsey.

The Smart Money Live-Stream Experience will give you the proven plan for dumping debt and building wealth. You'll get a clear vision for your family's financial future while learning to work together and communicate more effectively with your spouse.

Contact Kathi Pritts for more information - [kpitts@wesley-umc.com](mailto:kpitts@wesley-umc.com)



# Christian Education Classes for All Ages all throughout the week

ADULTS - Sunday 10:15 - 11:00 AM

## Stroll Through the Bible

Richard Johnson, leader  
Conference Room  
The Book of Daniel

## Faithful - Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph

Book by Adam Hamilton  
Lounge

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## STUDIES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

### TUESDAY

#### Women's Bible Study

#### 2017 Disciplines and Other Topics

7:00 AM - Lounge

#### Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

Ends October 30th

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM - Garden Room

#### Live-Stream with Dave Ramsey

November 7 - 6:30 PM - Wesley Hall

### WEDNESDAY

#### Men's Bible Study

Moses - Adam Hamilton  
12:00 PM - Garden Room

#### The Bad Habits of Jesus

Stephanie Hoy, leader  
6:15 PM - 7:15 PM - Lounge

### THURSDAY

#### Companions in Christ

#### Embracing the Journey

9:00 AM - Garden Room

## ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT

December 1  
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Wesley Hall

DON'T MISS IT!

Nov 1, 8, 15 -

Decorate for The Baby Fold Festival of Trees

Nov 5 -

Thanksgiving bags are distributed.

Nov 12 -

Acolyte training for kids in 3rd grade up

Nov 22 -

NO W@W

Dec 1 -

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT - 6-8 PM

Dec. 2 -

Bloomington Jaycees Christmas Parade

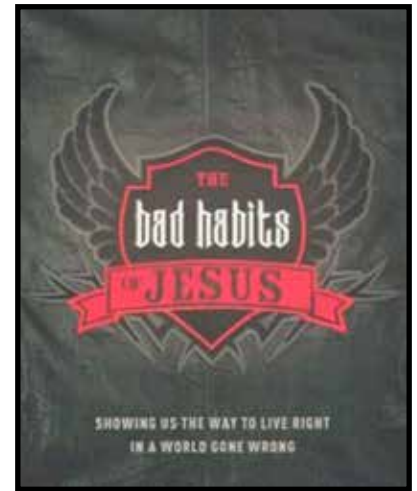
## New Adult Study

Wednesdays @ Wesley

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

### The Bad Habits of Jesus

6:15 - 7:15 PM - Lounge



Popular author and speaker Len Sweet examines the words and actions of Jesus and places them in context. We need to understand who Jesus really is if we are to follow him wholeheartedly. That is why it is so crucial to see the “rebellious rabbi” for who he is and not for who we may imagine him to be. The Bad Habits of Jesus will help you see the untamed Jesus, who isn’t sanitized for our culture. That Jesus just might transform how you live out your life and advance God’s Kingdom here and now.

For more information contact Kathi Pritts at [kptritts@wesley-umc.com](mailto:kptritts@wesley-umc.com).

## Children's Ministry -

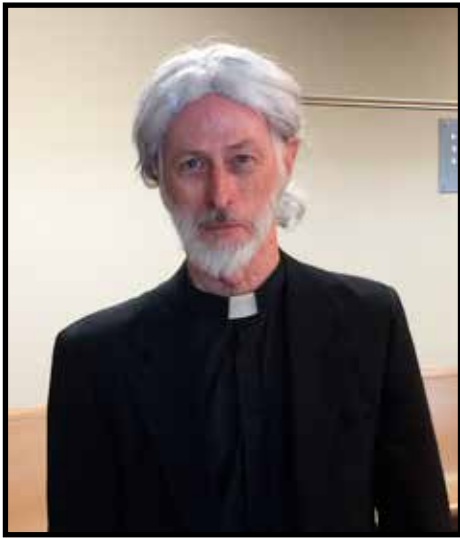
### GRATITUDE

In November our elementary kids will be concentrating on gratitude with biblical stories from Psalms, Matthew, and Luke.

### THANKFULNESS

Preschool children will learn about thankfulness all month as well as basic teachings like the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm.

## Faith Circle



Rev. Keith "John Wesley" Ferguson after his performance in Faith Circle's September theatrical. Impressive!

## GEMS

Young mothers are invited to visit this circle which meets the second and fourth Mondays of every month from 6:45 PM -8:45 PM at the home of Missy Dundov. They will continue their study of "Growing Together" by Linda Anderson.

For more information please contact Liz Tomera at [tomeras@comcast.net](mailto:tomeras@comcast.net).

## Hope Circle

HOPE CIRCLE will meet - **November 9** at 6:30 PM in the Garden Room for refreshments and at 7:00 PM will continue their study, "The Best Yes (Making Wise Decisions in the Midst of Endless Demands)."

Faith Circle will not meet November or December. See you in 2018!

## Craft Fair Thank You

The United Methodist Women wishes to thank all who volunteered their time and talents to make the 2017 Craft Fair a success! Also, thank you to our great shoppers who support our endeavors! With all of your help, we realized about \$6000 for our UMW mission work!

Thank you!  
Elaine Stokes & Karen Fleming  
Co-Chairs of Craft Fair



## Community Involvement Opportunity Change your life with Faith in Action

Faith in Action could not function without the dedication and generous hearts of their volunteers. FIA works to keep seniors independent and in their homes and we have several flexible volunteer opportunities available:

Transportation to and from appointments (volunteers select the rides that fit their schedule), grocery shopping assistance, friendly phone calls and visits, office help, light home maintenance, fall leaf raking.

They offer a rewarding and easy way to help our community. There is no minimum amount of time required to volunteer; volunteers do what fits into their schedule.

Many of our volunteers are retired. However, care receivers cherish interaction with moms with young children. That's why they encourage young mothers to involve their children in this ministry. The rewards for both age groups are life changing! If you are interested in volunteering, FIA asks that you attend a Volunteer Orientation.

Orientations are scheduled for:

**Tuesday, Nov. 14**  
1:00 - 2:30 PM or 5:30 - 7:00 PM

**Wednesday, Dec. 13**  
10:30 AM - noon

One-on-one orientation specifically for Wesley members can be arranged.

Interested? Want to learn more?  
Terri Thede, Volunteer Coordinator  
Faith in Action  
Helping seniors remain independent  
[terri@bnfia.org](mailto:terri@bnfia.org)

## Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, November 18 is the last build day at the Mulberry home. We'll sign in at 7:45 AM and begin work at 8:00 AM. We can use everyone, regardless of your talent level. Join our team and enjoy building up lives by building homes. Contact Jeff Snyder for more information - [jsnydes\\_normal@hotmail.com](mailto:jsnydes_normal@hotmail.com) and check out [www.habitatmclean.org/home](http://www.habitatmclean.org/home).

Thanks for all of your help throughout 2017!



## Red Cross Blood Drive

Life's a Gift, Give More of It. Donate!

Wesley is hosting a blood drive for the Red Cross on Saturday, November 11th.

Appointments begin at 8:00 AM and run until noon.

Bring a photo ID or you blood donor card. Contact Colleen at [chensley@wesley-umc.com](mailto:chensley@wesley-umc.com) or 827-8046 to make an appointment.

Walk-ins welcome. Free refreshments will be provided.



## Wesley Bright Beginnings & Their Cow

Please give a warm welcome to Oreo. She is a dairy cow from the Hendrich's Dairy Farm located in Breese, IL. She is a part of the St. Louis Dairy Council's Adopt-a-Cow program. The SLDC hopes to use their nonprofit program to help educate the importance of dairy in a healthful diet, and she's the new preschool addition!

We've been busy. The WBB Carnival was a hit. It was hot, but face painting and the bounce house was a hit! We had visitors from the Bloomington Fire Department...and we visited the petting zoo

## Wesley United Methodist Church

502 East Front Street  
Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone: 309-827-8046 Fax: (309)828-9625  
[www.wesley-umc.com](http://www.wesley-umc.com)

After Hours Emergencies:

Pastor Vaughn Hoffman (309) 212-2710  
Pastor Justin Iverson (701) 809-1203

## Boy Scout Troop 18

### November Dates of Note

**November 10** - Sand Ridge Campout

**November 13** - Scouts Pick Up Popcorn  
- Troop Meeting

**November 15** - Scouts Pickup Greens

**November 20** - Troop Meeting

**November 27** - Troop Meeting

**December 1** - East Bay Campout

### GET INVOLVED - ENJOY SCOUTS AGAIN

Troop 18 is looking for adult leaders and committee members to help support Wesley's scouts. Enjoy scouting from the adult role. We have a great time! Interested? Contact Tiffany Oganovich [t.oganovich@comcast.net](mailto:t.oganovich@comcast.net).

# JUST ONE

Just One will collect canned goods and non-perishable food for local food pantries in our annual Thanksgiving food bags during November. Sunday school children will decorate bags to be handed out to the congregation on Sunday, November 5th.

Please return these filled the following Sunday, November 12th. Canned soup, spaghetti sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats, cereal, and pasta are needed.

In both December and January, we will collect paper products to be distributed to the needy from Wesley West during our first distribution event of 2018, Saturday, January 20th.

Paper towels, toilet paper, diapers, wipes and paper feminine hygiene products are needed.

at Ropps Farm. We loved it!

**Monday, November 6** -  
No School - Staff in-service





## Western Development

banging - smashing - hammering - hauling

hauling - dumping - moving - rearranging

Yes, lots has been going on at our new Wesley West. Brad Schumann and his assistants have been leveling the floor, knocking out the front vestibule, reframing a new entrance, and realigning the ceiling. Yes, it has been pretty busy over there.

And not just in the construction area - Wesley West has already been serving as a Wednesday meeting spot for Anchored. They have made that their new home. The building will also serve as home for a new distribution center for paper product staples for those in need.

Exciting times! Quite the development.

## Midweek Reset



Partake of the Lord's Supper on Wednesday evenings. Join us for Communion, devotion, and prayer at 5:30 PM in the Library. Pastor Iverson leads in this quiet, small setting. Come as you feel led and be "reset" for the last half of the week.



## Thomas Merton Retreat

Step away from your norm. Make a pilgrimage. Study the theologian Thomas Merton and walk in his footsteps. Expand in a weekend.

- Cost: \$150 per person + 3 meals
- Dates: November 17-19 (Fri late afternoon to Sun evening)
- 15 total spots
- Visit Gethsemani Abbey & monks (where Thomas Merton lived), tour Mammoth Cave, hiking, down time, meet new friends
- Register by November 3rd

Contact Pastor Justin to sign up - [jiverson@wesley-umc.com](mailto:jiverson@wesley-umc.com)

## NEW - Wesley West Distribution Papering Washington St. with Hope

Bloomington support agencies have a need. A need for family paper goods. Wesley has a new facility with a large storage area in a big basement - Wesley West. The two needs appear to mesh seamlessly. And so, Church and Society has mapped out a way to provide the Baby Fold, Children's Home & Aid Society (Healthy Start Parents), Bloomington Day Care, and Heartland Headstart with a dedicated source of household paper products.

Collection products include: Paper towels, toilet paper, diapers, wipes, and paper feminine hygiene products.

Products would be distributed by different groups in the church, starting with GEMS from UMW. Youth, other UMW circles, men's group, Ad Council, Church & Society, Missions, Finance Committee, SPRC, etc. will be given the opportunity to participate. The goal is to give as many church members the opportunity to serve as possible.

Distribution will be held throughout 2018 - January 20, March 17, May 19, July 21, September 15, and November 17 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Wesley West.

We are VERY excited to begin to SERVE from our new facility! Be part of this.





# advent Invitation

## Advent Schedule Preview

### Sunday, December 3

8:40 AM - before 9:00 AM Service  
ISU Horn Choir

### Sunday, December 10

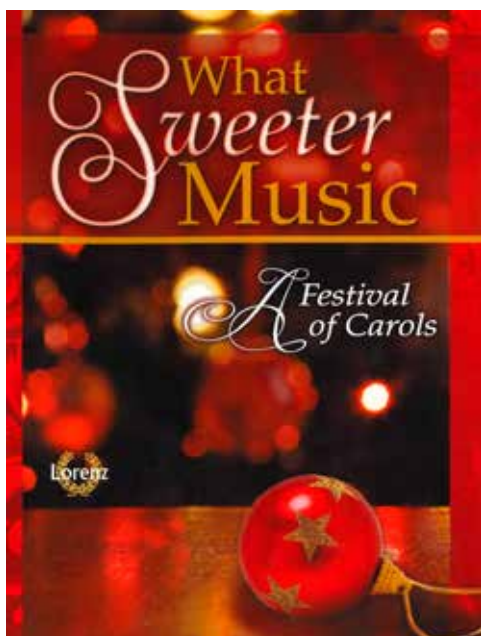
9:00 AM & 11:15 AM Services  
What Sweeter Music - Cantana  
A Festival of Carols

### Friday, December 15

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Christmas Cafe

### Wednesday, December 20

6:00 PM  
Contemporary Christmas Service



### Sunday, December 24

9:45 AM - Preservice Music

10:00 AM

Family Worship Service  
Message by Pastor Justin  
Music by Children's Choirs  
Piano by Todd Tucker

7:00 PM - Preservice Music

7:30 PM

Service of Carols & Candlelight  
Message by Pastor Vaughn  
Music by Youth Choirs and others

10:30 PM - Preservice Music

11:00 PM

Service of Candlelight & Communion  
Message by Pastor Vaughn  
Music by Adult Choirs and others

### Sunday, December 31

10:00 AM

One Service Only



## Bloomington Jaycees Christmas Parade

Wesley has entered a Float

Christmas is just around the corner and it is about time to usher Santa into town for all the boys and girls to see. The Jaycees have been organizing and participating in our Christmas parade for 85 years and enjoy this labor of Love. The Jaycees love to usher in the holiday season with Santa sitting atop one of the local Bloomington or Normal firetrucks. The parade occurs yearly on the first Saturday in December, with lineup starting at 9:00 AM and kickoff at 10:00 AM.

This year Wesley will be joining the Jaycees to wish Bloomington a Merry Christmas from our downtown church.

Bring out family, friends, and holiday guests to walk behind the Wesley float!

The parade details in brief -

Date

Saturday, December 2

Line-up

Starts at 9:00 AM Kingsley Jr. High with the finish in Downtown Bloomington

Kick-off

10:00 AM

Prizes for the best float or group

\$100 for first, \$50 for second

Needed

**ALL WESLEY MEMBERS TO WALK BEHIND THE FLOAT** - to wish all a Merry Christmas from Wesley UMC.



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

502 East Front Street  
Bloomington, Illinois 61701  
309-827-8046  
www.wesley-umc.com  
**Return Service Requested**

*Blessed. Thankful. Grateful.  
for Wesley United Methodist*



*Thanksgiving Blessings.*

