



December 2017

# News Of Wesley

## You are Invited - the Star Beckons

Just as the Christmas Star invited the shepherds to drop everything and head to Bethlehem, the Wesley Advent star invites you

to stop, breathe, and take in the peace and joy of the blessed season. Attached you will find a large postcard with Advent dates to add to your calendar. Hang it on your fridge. Place it close to your computer. Put it where you can be reminded of the celebrations to come, and then join your Wesley family for the holidays.



Consider yourself invited - an Advent Invitation.



## Wesley Christmas Cafe

Friday, December 15

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Wesley Hall



Come, relax, and enjoy an evening of music and merriment while supporting the Jubilation Choir's upcoming summer 2018 choir tour to Virginia. Enjoy Wesley

Singers, Asbury Chorale, Bells of Wesley, Jubilation, and Exaltation as they serenade during this festive event.

Free baked goods, a fun photo booth, and a Christmas card room (for creative card making and sending) to spread cheer to Wesley members who are home bound.

No tickets and no cost to attend this event, but donations are very welcome. The Wesley Christmas Cafe is fast becoming a treasured Wesley tradition. Come enjoy this evening full of holiday music and fun.

For more information or questions, contact Brenna Martin - [bmartin@wesley-umc.com](mailto:bmartin@wesley-umc.com)

**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)

# Peaceful Longing For a Special Gift

Have you ever longed for something? No, I'm not thinking about the child-like wish that shows up when we find ourselves wanting something immediately. I'm thinking instead about the deeper, more intense emotion that reveals itself in the depths of our souls and manifests itself in the pits of our stomachs.

From the Hebrew people crying out to God to be freed from Pharaoh (Exodus 3:7) to their desperate pleas in the wilderness for an end to their wandering (Exodus 16:2-3), and from David's own tortured heart (Psalm 13) to his supplications on behalf of God's people (1 Chronicles 16:35), for millennia God's people longed for a messiah who would come to save them and offer them forgiveness. Fortunately, since the beginning of humanity's relationship with God, God had promised one (Genesis 3:15). And for many centuries following, God's people heard prophecies about this promised one. It was said he would be the offspring of Abraham, someone who would bless all people, throughout all time (Genesis 12:3). Moses said he would be a prophet like him, someone we should all listen to (Deuteronomy 18:15). Others had very specific prophecies, including that he would be from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) and be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).

And then one day, He just showed up. Out of nowhere. "A baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12).

Can you imagine what that day must have felt like for those who realized that God's promise had been fulfilled? I presume it must have been the greatest feeling in the world! All of that waiting, all of that longing, finally finished.

And yet, that longing is what Advent is all about. While you and I enjoy knowing God's Messiah, we don't yet know a world in which the peace of Christ reigns in every heart. So, while we have our own waiting to do, ours doesn't have to be a passive endeavor. You and I know the love of Jesus Christ. You and I know the salvation He offers. And you and I have many incredible opportunities to share Him with the world.

So Wesley Church, this is my prayer for us this Advent season: as we long for the next coming of our Savior, may we be the church that's out in the world, sharing Christ with anyone and everyone we can. "Joy to the world! The Lord has come!"



Christmas Blessings,  
Pastor Justin



## 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

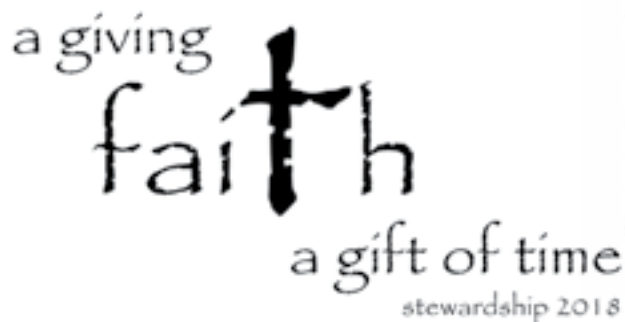
Needed  
**ALL WESLEY MEMBERS TO WALK BEHIND THE FLOAT** - to wish all a Merry Christmas from Wesley UMC.

# Wesley Financial Update

General fund receipts as of 10/31/17	\$ 1,062,064
General fund expenses as of 10/31/17	1,057,948
Surplus	\$ 4,116

As of this newsletter's deadline, we have received 275 commitment cards totaling **almost** \$1,000,000 for next year's ministries! Thanks to all who have made that possible! That's great, isn't it? A million dollars? Yes, that is great, but if you look at the above numbers, you can see that a million dollars will **almost** cover expenses through October of next year. While that is a lot of money, our proposed budget for all of 2018 totals over \$1.3 million. The Finance Committee is now looking at ways to cut expenses from next year's budget, and anticipate having to use some invested funds to pay for certain expenses that are necessary. Some ministry areas are likely to be negatively impacted. You can make a difference in whether an activity takes place next year or not. If you have not yet turned in a commitment card for 2018, please do so this Sunday, or you can mail the card to the church office.

- Myrna Simpson, Business Administrator



## Giving time changes lives - especially yours.

### Wesley Stewardship, Time & Talents

Feel you are too busy to make a difference? Is there a way that you could use your talents to gratefully pay forward the gifts God gives you? The answer is YES! Wesley has many opportunities to do just that. You just need to check a box.

Please fill out a "gift of time" commitment form and mark all areas where you would like to serve. Forms were mailed to your home, they are in the church pews, at the Welcome Center, or you can submit an online form at [wesley-umc.com/serve](http://wesley-umc.com/serve).

**PLEASE** fill out a form to recommit to areas where you are already serving so that we can update our Wesley volunteer database.

**Please prayerfully consider serving Wesley. Forms can be returned anytime.**

You will be hearing from various ministry groups by the first of the year. Thank you for your gift. We look forward to serving alongside you.

## Dates to Note

- **Friday, December 1**  
Advent Family Night - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- **Saturday, December 2**  
Bloomington Jaycees Parade - 9:00 AM
- **Sunday, December 3**  
ISU Horn Choir - 8:40 AM pre-service
- **Sunday, December 10**  
Wesley Christmas Cantata - 9:00 & 11:15
- **Friday, December 15**  
Christmas Cafe - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- **Wednesday, December 20**  
Meal Served  
Contemporary Service - 6:00 PM  
No Wednesdays@Wesley Activities
- **Sunday, December 24**  
Preservice Music - 9:45 AM  
Family Worship Service - 10:00 AM  
  
Preservice Music - 7:00 PM  
Service of Carols & Candlelight - 7:00 PM  
  
Preservice Music - 10:30 PM  
Candlelight & Communion - 11:00 PM
- **Wednesday, December 27**  
No Wednesdays@Wesley
- **Sunday, December 31**  
One Service only - 10:00 AM
- **December 25 - January 1**  
Wesley Office will be CLOSED

## An October Little One

Congratulations to the Scritchlow family on the addition of a new son / little brother, born in October. His arrival just missed the November NOW edition, so welcome a bit late.

Baby boy, Moses Macai Scritchlow born October 23rd to parents Miles and Monica and big brother Micah, age 2 years-old. Congratulations all!





## Surge Goings On

### Trick-or-Can Success

Wesley youth outdid themselves with an exceptional food drive effort during the month of October. The ninth annual event brought in almost **2,900 cans of food** for those in need. Quite a stash! Thanks for all of your donations and help. Surge couldn't have done it without you.

### Raked in a Fabulous Donation

Thanks to all who participated, rakers, rakees and adult helpers. Due to your generous donations we've collected over **\$1,500** that will go towards our summer mission trips. We are literally on our way. Thanks.



## Christmas Lock-In

On Friday December 8th we will be having our annual Surge Christmas lock-in from 7:00 PM Friday night until 8:00 AM Saturday morning. There will be lots of games, activities, food, broomball, laser tag, and more.

Cost is \$5 at the door plus a wrapped white elephant gift to exchange and a release form signed by your parent to play broomball at the Pepsi Ice Center. We are also asking each person who comes to bring a package of paper towels, toilet paper, or diapers (any size and brand) to go towards our churches' new paper distribution ministry that will be run out of the new Wesley West building starting in January.

You must have your 2017-2018 general permission form turned in to attend this event. This is a great event to bring friends along. Please grab a guest lock-in permission form for any friends you invite. Sign up and release forms are available at the welcome table and Surge board.

This will be a great holiday party. Don't



### THANK YOU

**We raised over \$250 for the Baby Fold with our gingerbread houses at the Festival of Trees Nov 17-19.**

## Sunday School Help

We are currently in need of an additional teacher to help with our 6/7 grade Sunday school class from 10:15 -11:00 AM on Sunday mornings. Tory Dahmm is the lead teacher and is in need of a consistent second teacher to help, or several teachers who could create a consistent rotation during each month.

Curriculum is provided and it's a fun group of students to work with. Please contact Frank or Stacy if interested or would like more information.

## Opening to God: A Retreat IGRC February Event

Registration is open for "Opening to God: A Retreat" to be held February 2-3 at East Bay Camp.

The purpose of the retreat is to provide an immersion experience to help lay and clergy explore spiritual disciplines they may have never tried before and/or about which they wish to know more. It will be planned so that a large group of people can participate with a number of different leaders.

Each small group session will be 1 1/2 hours long with a 45-minute presentation, 30 minute self-directed "practice" time on the discipline followed by 15 minutes of sharing and feedback. Exact timing is flexible as long as all three parts are included. Four small group sessions are scheduled during the retreat. In addition, there will be a one-hour presentation period on topics for which it isn't possible to do "practice" time.

Cost is \$75 for those staying at East Bay, \$50 for commuters.  
<https://igrc-reg.brtaapp.com/OpeningtoGod> for more information.



# Christian Education Classes for All Ages all throughout the week

**ADULTS - Sunday 10:15 - 11:00 AM**

## **Stroll Through the Bible**

A Look at the Twelve Minor Prophets

Richard Johnson, leader

Conference Room

## **Christmas Gifts That Won't Break**

Book by James Moore

Nancy Bollman, leader

Lounge

## **STUDIES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

### **TUESDAY**

#### **Women's Bible Study**

**2017 Disciplines and Other Topics**

7:00 AM - Lounge

### **WEDNESDAY**

#### **Men's Bible Study**

**Faithful: Christmas through the**

**Eyes of Joseph** by 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

## ***Walk Through Experiences***

**December 24**

**10:00 AM**

**Walk the "recreated" streets of  
Bethlehem in Wesley Hall**

**December 31**

**10:00 AM**

**Experience the Epiphany in  
Wesley Hall**

**Be there for the sights and  
sounds of Bethlehem and the  
Epiphany**

**- first time Wesley events -**

**Dec 1 -**

**Advent Family Night 6-8 PM, Wesley Hall**

**Dec. 2 -**

**Christmas parade, sign up in WISE**

**Dec 10 -**

**Small group Christmas parties in WISE**

**Dec 17 -**

**WISE JINGLE JAM- a large group**

**Christmas party at 10:10 AM**

**Dec 22 -**

**Noon to 9:00 PM 4th and 5th grade  
Servanthood/Leadership Retreat**

**For more information about classes  
or activities contact Kathi Pritts at  
[kpitts@wesley-umc.com](mailto:kpitts@wesley-umc.com).**

## Adult Advent Studies

Sunday Mornings

### **Christmas Gifts That Won't Break**

10:15 - 11:00 AM - Lounge



What are the Christmas gifts that won't break? They are those gifts that cannot be lost, that never go out of style, and that are independent of the chances and changes of life. They are the gifts that have been graciously given by God.

Provides weekly Advent reading.

Looks at spiritual gifts that bring hope, peace, joy, and love to family, community, and world.

The Advent devotional book, "Unwrapping the Names of Jesus" by Asheritah Ciuciu, is available at the Welcome Center for \$10. Enrich the days leading up to Christmas with these daily devotionals, prayers, activities, and scripture readings. You can also order a copy through the church office.

## Children's Ministry -

### **GENEROSITY**

In December our elementary kids will be concentrating on generosity with the Christmas story being told from the books of Luke and Matthew.

### **A GIFT GIVEN**

Preschool children will learn about The Christmas story all month as they celebrate this gift God has given us.

## UMW Fellowship Dinner Christmas During the Civil War



Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00 PM Wesley will be going back in time and celebrating Christmas during the Civil War in Wesley Hall.

The United Methodist Women Fellowship Dinner will host local historians, speakers, and planned surprises to help us all go back to a time in our history when Christmas was experienced at a different pace and sacrifices were essential.

Tickets are \$5 and go on sale in the Garden Room between services Sunday, December 3 and Sunday, December 10.

For more information or to reserve your seats for this historical Christmas experience, contact Tricia DePew at [depewtj@yahoo.com](mailto:depewtj@yahoo.com).

## 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. GEMS will have Christmas Dinner (spouses welcome) on **December 11** from 6:00-8:00 PM in the Garden Room. Main dish and tableware provided; please bring a dish to pass. RSVPs for dinner and childcare are needed by December 6th. Childcare is \$3/child. For more information please contact Liz Tomera at [tomeras@comcast.net](mailto:tomeras@comcast.net).

## Faith Circle

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

## Hope Circle

HOPE CIRCLE will meet - **December 14** at 6:30 PM in the Lounge for refreshments and at 7:00 PM will continue their study, *"The Best Yes (Making Wise Decisions in the Midst of Endless Demands)."*

## LOL Circle

Ladies Outreach and Lunch (LOL) is a new circle formed to provide opportunities to serve, grow, and socialize. On the 1st Monday of each month, they meet at a restaurant for lunch and Christian Fellowship. On the 3rd Mondays of each month, they meet for lunch and service projects. Join us!

During December LOL will meet: December 4th and December 18th

For more information, please contact Elaine Stokes at [estokes65@gmail.com](mailto:estokes65@gmail.com) or 309-664-5379.



## Warmth for Little Ones

Heartland Head Start is asking for children's winter neck scarfs. This is the perfect use for any yarn sitting around your house and an excuse for meditative knitting time. Any pattern, knit or crochet will work - approximately 3 feet by 8 inches will do.

Start your knitting now and Wesley will begin collecting your pieces in January. Thank you in advance from the little ears, necks, and cheeks you will warm in the new year.



# JUST ONE

Paper Products of all kinds will be collected as the Just One item during the month of December. Paper plates, paper towels, diapers for both adults and babies, wipes, toilet paper, and paper feminine hygiene products are needed now to supply our new Wesley West Paper Distribution project. We are eager to build an inventory for our first distribution event Saturday, January 20th.

These items will be available on the 20th to local families in need referred by the Baby Fold, Bloomington Day Care Center, Children's Home and Aid and Heartland Head Start. We have been advised that generic diapers and wipes from dollar stores are as good as name brands, and considerably less costly.

Both crates in the hallway will be earmarked for the collection of paper products during December to start-up our inventory. Cash donations are welcome.

Please earmark your check "Paper Products" in the memo. Thank you.

## Wesley Troop 18

**Friday, December 1**

East Bay Campout

**Monday, December 4 - 6:30 PM**

Troop 18 Scout Meeting, Wesley Hall

**Monday, December 11 - 6:30 PM**

Court of Honor, Wesley Hall

## 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

## Wesley Bright Beginnings Job Opening



Wesley's Bright Beginnings preschool is currently hiring an assistant to work four mornings a week in the 2's and toddlers room beginning January 8, 2018. Hours are 8:30 AM -12:00 PM.

Responsibilities include helping the lead teacher prepare and implement developmentally appropriate practices. Must fulfill CPR requirement and completion of Wesley United Methodist Church background check.

Interested applicants please send letter of intent and resume to WBB at 502 East Front Street or email to [welseysbrightbeginnings@gmail.com](mailto:welseysbrightbeginnings@gmail.com).

## 2018 Advent Offering - Missions in Action

The goal of the Missions Advent Offering this year is \$12,300. This offering supports the work of local social service organizations including -

### Local

Community Health Care Clinic

Faith in Action

Wesley West Paper Goods Distribution

Habitat for Humanity

Immanuel Health Center

Labyrinth House

Salvation Army/Safe Harbor

Western Ave. Community Center

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House,  
East St. Louis

Evenglow Lodge, Pontiac

Sunset Home, Quincy

Wesley Village, Macomb

United Methodist Village, Lawrenceville

### National

Henderson Settlement and Red Bird  
Mission in KY

United Methodist Special Day Offerings

The Advent Offering will be taken in church on Sunday, December 10 - but offerings can be made throughout the entire month.

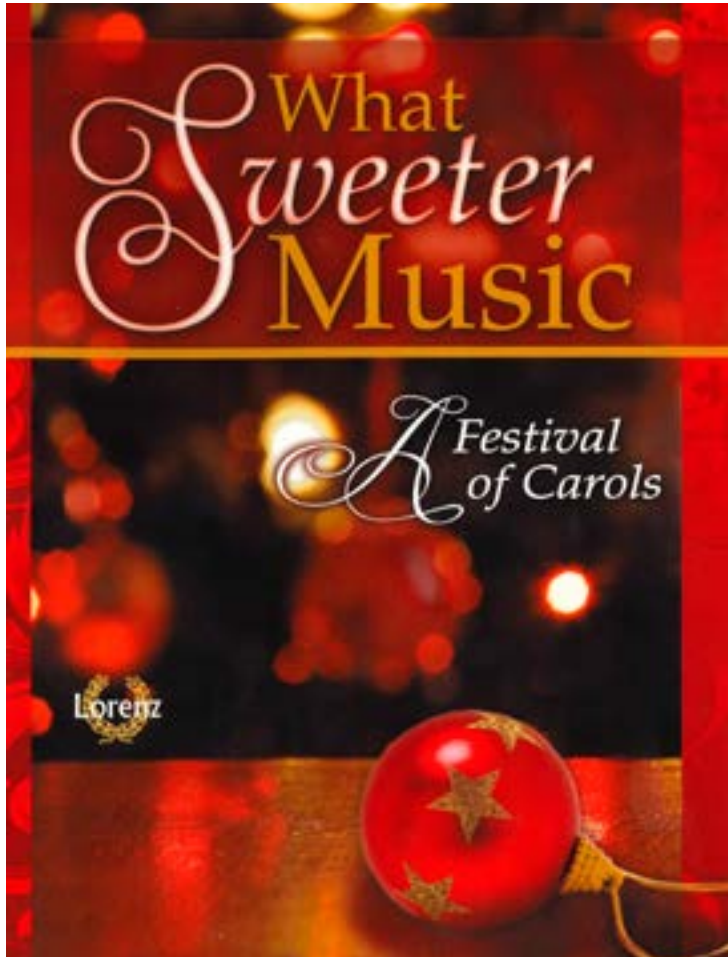


# WESLEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

502 East Front Street  
Bloomington, Illinois 61701  
309-827-8046  
[www.wesley-umc.com](http://www.wesley-umc.com)  
**Return Service Requested**

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



## Wesley Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 10th  
9:00 AM & 11:15 AM Services

### A Christmas Gift from Wesley Music Groups

The Wesley choral and instrumental groups will be filling the sanctuary with a special holiday musical like no other. Two performances only – 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM on Sunday, December 10.

“What Sweeter Music” is a festive selection of fifteen Christmas carols plus several original songs from the pen of one of this generation’s master composers.

Please bring friends and family for this “don’t want to miss” event.

**Don’t miss this special holiday musical tradition.**





## You are Invited - the Star Beckons

---

**Friday, December 1**

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Advent Family Night

Wesley Hall

**Saturday, December 2**

9:00 AM start time - Kingsley Jr. High

Wesley float in the Jaycee's Parade

**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 - Cantata

A Festival of Carols

**Tuesday, December 12**

6:00 PM

UMW Fellowship Dinner

Christmas During the Civil War

**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

Music by Children's Choirs

Piano by Todd Tucker

7:00 PM - Preservice Music

7:30 PM

Service of Carols & Candlelight

Music by Youth Choirs and others

10:30 PM - Preservice Music

11:00 PM

Service of Candlelight & Communion

Music by Adult Choirs and others

**Sunday, December 31**

10:00 AM

One Service Only

Christmas Blessings

Happy New Year



502 East Front - Bloomington, IL - wesley-umc.com