

News Of Wesley

June 2018

Grateful, Honored, Thankful

These are my parting words for those of you who read this column in the News of Wesley. At the end of this month I will begin my retirement, 36 years after I was first ordained into ministry on June 12, 1982. The past fourteen years I have spent here as your senior pastor have passed all too quickly, but what a very good time it has been for me!

I can tell you I am so grateful to all of you for the privilege of being a part of this great church. Thanks for honoring me by joining me in the weekly exercise of worship--- listening, engaging, not always agreeing with what I've said no doubt ...but always respecting me and always kind in your response. So thank you for that.

And thank you for allowing me into your lives at critical moments: births, baptisms, weddings and funerals, and for being included in countless other important moments of both joy and sadness. There simply is no greater honor than to be allowed into the lives of others like that....it's one of the greatest privileges of ministry.

I want to say too, thank you for your commitment to mission, and for making this church a jumping off point for so many good things to happen. I think of all the places I have been



privileged to go, either with you, or on your behalf these many years. From Habitat for Humanity builds in Alaska to Medical clinics in Nicaragua; from AIDS workshops in India to Holy Land sites in Israel and Turkey; from remote campsites in Wyoming and North Carolina, to beautiful hiking trails in Colorado, to long bicycle tours on remote Nebraska back roads raising funds for hunger relief-- thank you for all those opportunities, and for all the good you have done as a caring church. I have loved it all.

And thanks too for being a loving and generous extended family for Lori and me and our children and, as the years went by, their spouses and our grandchildren. All of you know I have not been on this journey alone. Lori has been with me every day, every step of the way from the very beginning. Her encouragement and expenditure of effort in enabling my own work are beyond measure. Her wise counsel and support has

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NOW
NEWS OF WESLEY

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

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Grateful, Honored, Thankful - continued

made me a better person than I otherwise would have been. And as we move into this new chapter in our life together, I find myself especially grateful for her ongoing love and care.

I would be remiss if I did not also say a special word of thanks to our wonderful church staff, many of whom have tenures here that exceed mine...and all of whom have demonstrated a supportive and cooperative manner that enhances the life of the church, and has been a joy to me.

Know of my best wishes to all of you at Wesley, and of my sincere conviction that there are very bright days ahead for you under the leadership of your new incoming Senior Pastor, Sara Isbell. Sara, you will quickly see, is an exceedingly talented, bright, and skilled pastor, who will lead you well and with a sense of energy and deep faithfulness. I am sure you will welcome her and her husband Andy warmly, even as you did for Lori and me.

My dream and personal request of you is that you will fill the sanctuary on July 1, Sara's first Sunday as your preacher, and provide her by your presence the encouragement and positive energy that is an on-going part of how this church approaches faith and life.

So farewell, my dear friends. May God bless you, every one!

Peace, Vaughn

Gone Fishing - From Men to Fish

Join Wesley United Methodist on **Sunday, June 10** as we celebrate the retirement of our Senior Pastor, Vaughn Hoffman. Join us in wishing him all the best as he spends more time with his family and chasing trout at remote fishing holes.

Please feel free to join us for all or portions of the day as you are able. Lunch will be catered by Jason's Deli. Each lunch is \$5. Tickets will be available: **Sunday, May 27 & June 3** - Wesley Garden Room

Tickets are also available online with payment mailed to the church. Deadline for lunch ticket purchase is **Sunday, June 3**.

10:30 AM - Vaughn's Last Sermon

One Sunday Service - no Sunday School
Wesley Sanctuary - all welcome

11:30 AM - Lunch at Wesley

Wesley Hall - ticket required

1:00 PM - Retirement Program

Wesley Sanctuary - all welcome

2:00 PM - Well Wishes & Cake Reception

all welcome

For questions contact connect@wesley-umc.com or
www.wesley-umc.com/hoffman-retirement.

A retirement gift collection is being taken. To give make your check out to "Wesley UMC", write "retirement gift" on the memo line, and put the check in the collection plate on Sunday or get your check to Myrna Simpson in the church office by June 3.



Wesley Financial Update

General fund receipts as of 4/30/18	\$ 467,714
General fund expenses as of 4/30/18	410,594
	<hr/>
Surplus	\$ 57,120

The days after the rummage sale are always filled with questions from those who put hours of work into the preparations, wanting to know what it was worth. How much did we make? My answer is always some dollar estimate based on what has been deposited and what our expenses were last year. Eventually, when it seems obvious that all receipts and expenses have been accounted for, a "final" profit figure is announced. This year, that figure was \$29,861. While that set a new record for the rummage sale, I think there was just a little bit of disappointment that we didn't quite make \$30,000.

This past week, a check was given to me from one of the department chairs who had sold some baseball cards online after the sale. Baseball cards. Just something taking up space in someone's basement or closet that they decided to put in the rummage sale instead of throwing away. Those old "useless" things added another \$750 to the rummage sale, bringing the new profit figure for the 2018 rummage sale to \$30,611! Thank you, God, for baseball cards and all the other things we thought was just junk.

- Myrna Simpson, Business Administrator

Wesley Rummage Sale Continues...

Wesley has an account at the Cal-di-lu Consignment Shop. Cal-di-lu welcomes donations of clothes, shoes, purses, and even jewelry every day except for Wednesday. If your donated items are sold, a portion of the money that usually goes to the customer is put into a Wesley account. The items need to be "in the current style". This is a great way for the Rummage Sale to continue to bring in more money and add to our phenomenal event this year.

Again, many thanks for your hard work, support, and contributions,

Rummage Sale Chairpersons
Phyllis Pederson, Frank Newburn, Brenna Martin, Tammy Houtzel, Lynne Morrison, and Karen Daudelin

Mother's Day Bake Sale

The Handbell Ministries would like to thank everyone who participated in our annual Mother's Day Bake Sale. Thank you for helping to organize, bake, and purchase all of the amazing treats. We sold out almost every item and in doing so raised \$570.00 which will be used to support our ringers going on our 26th Annual trip to Intergenerational Handbell Camp in July. Till next year...

Ringin' Praises! - Gail Welk



Dates to Note

- **Sunday, May 27**
Vaughn Retirement Lunch Ticket Sales
- **Monday May 28**
Memorial Day Holiday - Office Closed
Memorial Day Parade - Church Walk
- **Wednesday, May 30**
Surge first BBQ & Bible Study - 6:00 PM
- **Saturday, June 2**
VRD Farewell for DS Leah Pogemiller
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Dwight UMC
- **Sunday, June 3**
3rd Grade Bible Presentation - 11:15 AM

Party in the Park, Fairview Park - 6:30 PM

Vaughn Retirement Lunch LAST Ticket Sale
- **Sunday, June 10**
Vaughn's Last Sermon - 10:30 AM
No Sunday School - one service only

Vaughn Retirement Lunch - 11:30 AM

Vaughn Retirement Program - 1:00 PM

Cake & Well Wishes Reception - 2:00 PM

Choir Tour Leaves for Virginia - early AM
- **Saturday, June 16**
Wesley Red Cross Blood Drive - 8:00 AM
- **Sunday, June 17**
Choir Tour Home Concert - 11:15 AM
- **Monday, June 18**
NOW Newsletter deadline
- **Saturday, June 23-27**
Nebraska Conference Bike Ride
- **Sunday, July 1**
Reverend Isbell's first Sunday at Wesley
much more information to come -

Youth Mission Trip Commissioned

LOL Circle

LOL Circle (Ladies, Outreach and Lunch) will meet on June 4th at Karen Daudelin's home for a Garden Party and lunch.

June 12th LOL will be making and serving dinner at Salvation Army's Safe Harbor.

If you would like to join our fun social times and our service projects, please email Elaine Stokes at estokes65@gmail.com

Faith Circle

There are no Faith Circle summer meetings...a good time to enjoy being out and about! Stay tuned for our fall journey in FAITH!

Hope Circle

We have a room reserved for Thursday, June 14 at 6:30 pm for our end of year celebration at Mandarin Gardens, 106 Mall Drive, Normal.

If you have any ideas for next year's study, please bring any information you have to discuss possibilities.

GEMS

GEMS will continue to meet in the summer at the home of Missy Dundov. We are studying "Mom Set Free". Childcare is \$3/child.

June dates are 6/11 and 6/25. We will NOT meet May 28 due to Memorial Day.

Contact Liz Tomera for more information or with questions at tomeras@comcast.net.



CHOIR 18 TOUR

WESLEY

The Wesley UMC youth choirs hit the road for choir tour this June. First up – Newark, Ohio, followed by Washington, D.C. While in D.C. they'll tour FBI headquarters, then head out for an evening concert in Richmond, VA. The next day they'll have fun exploring the area. Next up, off to Charlotte, NC and then they'll finish up their tour in the Lexington, KY area. The last day of tour they'll experience the Ark Encounter before heading home to Bloomington.

At each stop, the youth choirs will give an hour-long concert featuring four musical ensembles: Jubilation (junior and senior high vocal choir), Celebration Ringers (junior and senior high bell choir), Exaltation (small ensemble of senior high, college and young adult singers) and Bells of Adoration (small ensemble of senior high ringers). Each ensemble will share several musical selections, a mix of contemporary and traditional Christian music. Each concert will also feature a student sharing his or her faith story and special music for children!

Mark your calendars for the home concert on Sunday, June 17 at the 11:15 AM service!



Wesley UMC, Calvary UMC, and Normal First UMC are joining forces to serve Habitat for Humanity in a unified build named "Beloved Community House". Saturday, June 2nd will be

the groundbreaking for this project from 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM at 806 S. Madison in Bloomington.

Join us for the start of this special Habitat build. Contact Addie Moy for more information at addie.moy@gmail.com.



JUST ONE

Thank you so much, Wesley Church, for the 77 bags of laundry and dish washing detergent pods you gathered during March and April during the Just One collection. Relay for Life appreciated your support for the Hope Lodge in St. Louis, where cancer patients and their families stay at no charge during treatments.

- Church and Society Committee

Peanut Butter in 16 ounce jars will be collected throughout the month of June. Local food pantries have an increased need for peanut butter when school is out and hungry children are home for the summer. Pantries prefer several smaller jars to one giant size jar for easier distribution to more families.

Thank you, in advance, for blessing numerous families with your donations and prayers.

Upcoming Just One Collections -

July
Gift cards

August
Children's underwear and sweat pants sizes 4-12



Wesley United Methodist Church

502 East Front Street
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: 309-827-8046 Fax: (309)828-9625
www.wesley-umc.com

After Hours Emergencies:
Pastor Vaughn Hoffman (309) 212-2710
Pastor Justin Iverson (701) 809-1203



Healing Rides New Season

The Healing Rides 2018 season begins June 1. Healing Rides offers bike rides to those who cannot pedal for themselves. Thanks to pedaling volunteers, this unique ministry provides an opportunity to enjoy a day of fresh air and sunshine on the Constitution Trail. This program is free of charge to the rider and runs through September 30. For more information online go to www.healingrides.com. Call the church office to sign up for a ride.

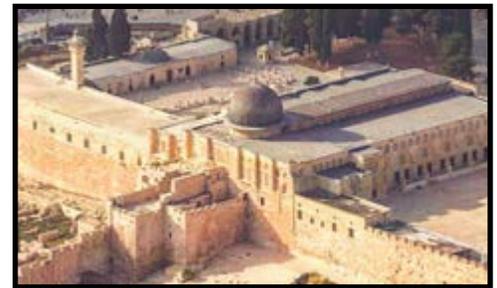


Partners in Healing

Wesley has been asked to be part of Advocate Bromenn's "Partners in Healing" program. Advocate recognizes the power of prayer and has asked community churches to lift particular areas of the hospital in prayer.

Wesley has been given the opportunity to pray for the administrations at Advocate BroMenn and Advocate Eureka for one year. Advocate has asked specifically for prayers for their leadership as they make decisions affecting patient care, facilities, safety, finances, and other areas of concern.

Please join Wesley in this invitation for prayer for our local community healthcare center.



2019 Holy Land Trip

I invite you to join me on an 11-Day "Journey through the Bible" program March 5-15, 2019 that will expand our knowledge of the Bible and this sacred land. This Holy Land journey will follow in the footsteps of Jesus, Paul, Samuel, and David - will change the way you read the Bible - and you will learn why scholars refer to the Holy Land as the "Fifth Gospel".

For more information go to www.wesley-umc.com or contact me at jiverson@wesley-umc.com to join the trip. Save the date and bring a friend!

- Pastor Justin



Mission Trip Update

This summer Wesley has two mission trips available for our students in Surge. Our Senior High will be traveling to Memphis, TN for a week of mission work July 8-July 14. We will be partnering with area churches to help with local home construction and repair projects in their community and also leading helping with local after school ministries and homeless shelters.

Our Junior High students will be serving at the Christian Discipleship Farm in Wisconsin August 5-11. They provide an enhanced Vacation Bible School Day Camp for children and young adults with special needs. The campers and their families spend the week having fun together, learning about God's love for them, and being loved on by the camp volunteers in an outdoor farm environment.

Both our teams have completed the first of two trainings to prepare them for their time this summer. The students and adult volunteers are very excited about their teams and the opportunities they will have to serve and be the hands and feet of Jesus this summer. Please be praying for them as they continue to train and prepare for all that God will have for them this summer.



Rent-a-Youth Thanks

Thank you to all who worked and donated towards our Spring Rent A Youth fundraiser! Together we raised over \$500 for this summer's youth mission trips to Memphis Tennessee and Wisconsin!

We enjoy the chance to come out and work with people in our congregation and community and share what God is doing in and through our lives and ministry.

We look forward to serving you again in early November through our Leaf Raking service project!



Anchored will be meeting at 7:00 PM once a month this summer at Wesley West. Together we'll be reading "The Orthodox Heretic" by Peter Rollins.

Copies of the book are for sale for \$10 on the book shelf in the Lounge.

Meeting dates -

June 6 - Book Discussion

June 27 - Grill Out

July 11 - Book Discussion

August 8 - Book Discussion

Join us at Wesley West this summer!



Welcome Intern Jacob A. Cielecki



I am twenty-three years old and currently work full time at a realtor company in Bloomington. I am from a south suburb of Chicago called Mokena. I grew up with two loving parents who have been there to support me through everything. My family consists of not only my parents, but two older brothers as well.

I came to Bloomington-Normal for college at Illinois State University. There I graduated in December of 2016 with a double major in Marketing and Finance. During the time spent at Illinois State University, I was heavily involved in a campus ministry, Encounter Campus Ministry. I was surrounded by people who were willing to support, encourage, love, and challenge me in my faith. I served on their Shepherd leadership team for about two years, where I was able to invest and serve other Christian college students.

After college my calling me led to the students at Surge. This is where I finally have been able to discern how God wants to use me and I am open to see what that looks like. I am excited for what the Lord has in store for me this summer while serving as an intern for Surge. I am excited to see what it looks like to be involved in full-time youth ministry as I lead small group Bible studies and learn essential ministry tools such as how to create a ministry budget, write curriculum, how to set up a year of ministry, and so much more. I look forward to meeting you all this summer! - Jacob



Christian Education Classes for All Ages throughout the week

ADULTS - Sunday 10:15 - 11:00 AM

Journey Through the Bible - Book of Acts

Richard Johnson, leader
Conference Room

Unafraid

Book by Adam Hamilton
Pastor Justin Iverson, leader
Lounge - begins June 3

STUDIES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

TUESDAY

Women's Bible Study
2017 Disciplines and Other Topics
7:00 AM - Lounge

WEDNESDAY

Men's Bible Study
Study To-Be-Determined
12:00 PM - Garden Room

The Grand Sweep
365 Days From Genesis to Revelation
by J. Ellsworth Kalas
5:45 PM - Garden Room

THURSDAY

Companions in Christ
Embracing the Journey
9:00 AM - Garden Room

A **NEW** Companions is Christ is forming - contact Kathi if interested.

- Wednesdays@Wesley -

W@W will resume after summer break on Wednesday, August 29.

Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 28

Join the parade route and walk with area churches to show a united front and feature our churches, our activities, and our multi-church efforts...like the upcoming Party in the Park....

Party in the Park on June 3 at Fairview with four area churches. 6:30-8:30 PM. This will be a fun-filled event for the whole family.

Contact Kathi Pritts
kpritts@wesley-umc.com

Children's Ministry

Bible Tells Us Which Way to Go

Our preschoolers will learn that the Bible tells us which way to go.

Confidence

In June our elementary kids will learn confidence with great active stories from the Bible.

Third Grade Bibles

On June 3rd children entering third grade will receive Bibles during the 11:15 AM worship service. The Bible will be celebrated during Children's Church. Please contact Kathi Pritts to make sure your child or grandchild is on the list even if they cannot attend on this date.

Vacation Bible School

July 27 - 29, 2018

The Lads are returning for another summer fun experience!



Our Vacation Bible School sessions will be led by the always popular Christian family rock band, The Lads. They will be leading sporting fun and bringing home our VBS message through music, fun, and interactive play. The Lads create fun wherever they go! You won't want to miss this special experience.

Learn more and register online at - wesley-umc.com

Legacy Journey Study

Want to live full and abundant lives in ways that will impact your families, friends and community both today and in the future? The Legacy Journey is a biblically based seven-lesson study that will show you how to live well now so you can leave a legacy of generosity and purpose. You'll learn how to grow your money, train your kids to be diligent and smart with money, plan for retirement, create a will, and more. This study helps you put together a plan for today and tomorrow to ensure your family is taken care of.

Leaders - James Ingold and Kelly Snyder
Mondays July 16 - August 27
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Contact Kathi if you are interested and would like to order a study kit.



WESLEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**SAVE THE
DATES**

July 27 - 29



**The Lads are good sports and
are coming to play...SPORT-TASTIC!**