

WESLEY DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY *Answering the Call*

Wesley continues to serve those in need in our community through our paper distribution ministry. What started as a small outreach helping 24 families, has grown in the last year into a thriving and beloved ministry that supports over 1,000 individuals. The success of this ministry is fueled by the passion and unwavering dedication of its chair, Wesley UMC member Karen Daudelin, whose years of experience with United Way enable her to serve others through this ministry so effectively. Wesley has also proven to be an incredibly generous church in both product and monetary donations, but we don't do it alone. We are blessed and grateful to receive a monthly truck load of paper goods from Midwest Food Bank to stock our shelves, and the truck itself is loaned by Wesley church member, Ann Baugh. While the many product donations we receive keep this ministry going, our monetary donations are just as important as they enable us to buy specific items when supplies run low. We are also amazed by the many smiling volunteers who sign up and serve each month to pitch in and help give it all away! *God is SO good!*

We also appreciate the response to our changing donation requests, as each month varies based on the needs of our families. Thus far we have been fortunate to be able to meet most of the needs of our families. Please also know that each donation, big or small, is vital to keep this wonderful ministry alive! We hope you will continue to look for updates about our needs this spring, as the temperature rises so do our numbers!

Partners in Giving: In addition to our Wesley Distribution at Wesley West, we are thrilled to announce that we are now



partnering with First United Methodist in Normal to distribute our paper products to local college students through their weekly food pantry. The need for staples such as napkins, toilet paper, feminine products and paper plates is just as great among college students in our community, and we are thrilled to partner with another generous church congregation to help meet this need. Roughly 100-200 college students are served through their food pantry each week, and Wesley is able to provide much needed paper items as well! *Our outreach is growing...and we are SO happy to be giving it all away!*

Super Saturdays: If you are interested in pitching in, please consider donating your time. Each month we have a group "host" the Saturday distribution, but all are welcome! We are also in need of volunteers to help fill and then unload the truck once a month (this usually happens two weeks prior to our distribution date). Our calendar for 2019 is already filling up with wonderful volunteer groups who have made the commitment to help (we thank you in advance)! Contact us if you think your group, or even just your own family, might like to pitch in!

How to Help: We are always accepting product donations. Please deliver items to the bins located across from the



2019 Distribution Volunteer List:

- March 16th - GEMS
- April 20th - Next Step
- May 18th - K thru 3rd Graders
- June 15th - Monday Bible Study/
HOPE Circle
- July 20th - Beth Sennett & Friends
- August 17th - 4th & 5th Graders
- September 21st - Wesley Youth
- October 19th - Ad Council
- November 16th - GEMS
- December 21st - Church & Society
and Missions

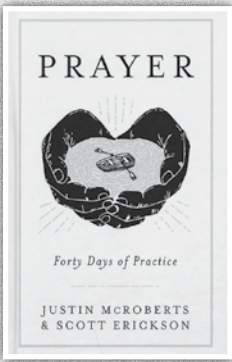
Garden Room. If you wish to make a monetary donation, mail your gift to the church office, drop it in the offering plate on Sundays, or give online at www.wesley-umc.com/give (please mark your gift WDM). For more details, contact Karen Daudelin at 309.838.5723. Giving to someone who has very little is an experience you will find rewarding in so many ways. **Thank you, Wesley, for your support of this amazing program!**



A Note from Our Pastor

The Power of Prayer: Has anyone ever offered to pray for you? If they have, you know just how powerful their words can be. I had a great-uncle with whom I became pen pals over the years. While I was in seminary, I received a letter from him in which he told me that every morning, upon waking up, he would check the weather in Sioux Falls, SD, where he lived, and then in Wilmore, KY, where we were. Then, he wrote something that I will never forget - that he prayed for Kimberly and me, and the day that was before us, EVERY SINGLE DAY!

Because prayer can have such an impact on our lives and on the lives of those we pray for, Pastor Sara and I are excited to present a Lenten sermon series on prayer. Each week, starting Sunday, March 10th, we'll ask questions we've all pondered like: What happens when our prayers aren't answered? Is prayer supposed to be a private thing? And, does it matter where we pray?



Additionally, this Lent, I invite you to join me in praying through "Prayer: Forty Days of Practice" by Justin McRoberts and Scott Erickson, a book filled with beautiful illustrations coupled with short prayers for you to pray each day during this holy season. If you're interested in a non-traditional devotional that takes barely any time to read, but leaves you contemplating, questioning, and praying for the rest of the day, then this book is for you. Copies of the book are now available for purchase at the Welcome Center.

Finally friends, a new prayer group is forming at Wesley UMC and we'd love to have you join us. Participants are discovering new methods of prayer together, are exploring the development of dedicated prayer space around the church building, and are of course praying for those who request prayer. If you'd like to know more about the group, let me know. I'd be happy to share more.

May God's grace surround all of us this Lenten season as we spend time with our Creator in prayer. - Pastor Justin Iverson

Wesley Prayer Team

We have started a Power of Prayer Group at Wesley to regularly pray for our congregation, our community, and the world. Please join us for our next meeting on Monday, March 4, from 4:30-6:00 pm at Wesley West. We plan to gather together regularly to pray, learn more about prayer, and help our Wesley congregation explore new opportunities for prayer.

If you would like to join our Power of Prayer Group, or the Leadership Team to help coordinate our effort, please mark your calendar with the upcoming dates:

- MARCH 4** The Power of Prayer Group
Wesley West 4:30-6 pm
- MARCH 20** The Power of Prayer Group
Garden Room 4:30-6 pm
- MARCH 24** The Prayer Leadership Team
Conference Rm 2:30-3:30 pm

For more details, contact Pastor Justin Iverson at jiverson@wesley-umc.com or call the church office at 309.827.8046.

CALENDAR

MARCH

- 3 General Conference RECAP
Wesley Hall 1:30-3 pm
- 4 The Power of Prayer Group
Wesley West 4:30-6 pm
- 4 LOL (Ladies Outreach & Lunch)
Wesley 11:30 am - off site
- 6 Ash Wednesday Service
in the Sanctuary 7-8 pm
- 7 WBB DINE TO DONATE
Portillo's 4-8 pm
- 8 SURGE - Girls' Retreat
Wesley Hall 6:30 pm
- 9 New Member - Methodist 101
Garden Room 9:30 am
- 10 New Member - The Next Step
Garden Room 2:00 pm
- 11 GEMS (Growing Each Mom Spiritually) Wesley 7:00 pm
- 13 Faiths of Our Neighbors
Wesley West 7-8:30 pm
- 14 Disciple Bible Study Fast Track
with Pastor Sara - Lounge 7 pm
- 14 Hope Circle
Lounge 6:30 pm
- 15 SURGE - Boys' Retreat
Wesley Hall 7:00 pm
- 16 Paper Distribution Event
Wesley West 9:30-11:30 am
- 17 New Members Received
Sanctuary (9:00 & 11:15 services)
- 18 LOL (Ladies Outreach & Lunch)
Wesley 11:30 am - off site
- 20 The Power of Prayer Group
Garden Room 4:30-6 pm
- 20 Faiths of Our Neighbors
Wesley West 7-8:30 pm
- 21 Disciple Bible Study Fast Track
with Pastor Sara - Lounge 7 pm
- 24 The Prayer Leadership Team
Conference Rm 2:30-3:30 pm
- 25 GEMS (Growing Each Mom Spiritually) Wesley 7:00 pm
- 27 Disciple Bible Study Fast Track
with Pastor Sara - Lounge 7 pm

APRIL

- 3 Faiths of Our Neighbors
Wesley West 7-8:30 pm
- 4 Disciple Bible Study Fast Track
with Pastor Sara - Lounge 7 pm
- 9 WBB DINE TO DONATE
That Burger Joint 11:00 am
- 10 Faiths of Our Neighbors
Wesley West 7-8:30 pm
- 11 Disciple Bible Study Fast Track
with Pastor Sara - Lounge 7 pm
- 14 Palm Sunday Cantata
Sanctuary 9:00 am service
- 17 Disciple Bible Study Fast Track
with Pastor Sara - Lounge 7 pm
- 20 Paper Distribution Event
Wesley West 9:30-11:30 am
- 21 Easter Sunday - Sanctuary
9:00 am and 11:15 am services
- 24 Faiths of Our Neighbors
Wesley West 7-8:30 pm
- 25 Disciple Bible Study Fast Track
with Pastor Sara - Lounge 7 pm
- 26 Loads of Love
The Wash House 4:30 pm

Feed My Starving Children PACKING SESSION RECAP

On Saturday, February 16, SURGE took a road trip north to serve at "Feed My Starving Children" in the Chicago Suburbs as well as enjoy some time at Sky High Trampoline Park. They spent the day packing food for kids in need from various countries around the world. It proved to be well worth the trip, and they were tremendously successful in their efforts! *At the end of the day, they prepared 55,944 meals that will serve 153 kids for an entire year! The estimated value of these meals is over \$12,300! BRAVO to these young adults for their efforts!*



Souper Bowl Sunday Success

Because of your generosity, the Youth of Wesley collected \$1,350 during the Super Bowl Sunday services for SOUPER BOWL for Safe Harbor! **THANK YOU** for your generous giving!

Fill the SILLS

This month, our 8th graders are still collecting personal hygiene products for 5th graders at Irving School in Bloomington. These items are put into health kits and distributed during their health class. Many students may not have access to basic hygiene products. We hope to collect items for about 60 students. Please note, **WE CAN ONLY USE FULL SIZED PRODUCTS (no sample or travel sizes), and SINGLE/INDIVIDUAL PACKAGED items only.** Items needed are: Shampoo, Conditioner, Tooth Paste, Tooth Brush, Soap Bars, and Deodorant. *Help us "Fill the Sills" by leaving your items in our donation box near the Garden Room. THANK YOU!*

SURGE Spring Retreats



SURGE will be hosting two retreats in March, for girls and boys. Both overnights include breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Sign up at the welcome table at the church, or contact Frank Newburn at 309.827.8046 or fnewburn@wesley-umc.com

GIRLS' RETREAT: Will be on Friday, March 8, at 6:30 pm (doors open 6:15 pm) through Saturday, March 9, at 1:00 pm. This retreat will be following the theme of "Daughters of the King". Come enjoy food, games, a service project, devotions, and more! Please bring \$5 and a package of feminine products to donate towards Wesley's distribution ministry and bring a friend!

BOYS' RETREAT: Will be on Friday, March 15, at 7:00 pm (doors open 6:45 pm) through Saturday, March 16, at 1:00 pm. Come enjoy food, games, a speaker, devotions, and more!

MISSIONS Lenten Offering

Make an impact in the lives of people around the world by giving to the Missions Lenten Offering. Our goal is \$10,000 and will support the following missions:

Africa University Scholarships
Bethlehem Bible College
Central Conference Pastor Pension Fund
El Porvenir - Clean Water for Nicaragua
Haiti Zero Charcoal 2020

Midwest Mission Distribution Center
New Hope UMC building project - Liberia
UM Ganta Hospital - Liberia
UM Kissy Clinic - Sierra Leone
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

Give as you can. Every donation is appreciated. For more information about these important organizations visit www.wesley-umc.com/category/news/

Calling ALL Singers!

The Wesley Music Department will be presenting a Cantata on Palm Sunday (April 14th) at the 9:00 am service. We have already started rehearsals, but it's not too late to join the fun! Contact Adria Schumann for details at aschumann@wesley-umc.com



March Focus:

Preschool: Our preschoolers will be learning that **THEY ARE WONDERFULLY MADE.**

Elementary: Our elementary children will focus on stories about individuality from the Old and New Testaments.

For more information please call 309.827.8046 or email Kathi Pritts at kpritts@wesley-umc.com.



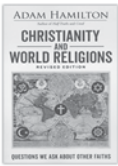
March Adult Education at Wesley



Sundays from 10:15-11:00 am
"DO YOU BELIEVE?" by Travis Thrasher
In the Lounge with Kathi Pritts
(*"He Chose the Nails"* with Pastor Justin Iverson to begin March 17)




Sundays from 10:15-11:00 am
"JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE" (Romans)
In the Conference Room with Richard Johnson



Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 pm
"CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS" by Adam Hamilton
In the Conference Room with Stephanie Hoy - newcomers welcome!

Disciple Bible Study



Fast Track
with Pastor Sara Isbell
A new session of "Making Disciples Through Bible Study" will begin on Thursday, March 14, led by Pastor Sara. The "Fast Track" curriculum is 12 weeks for the Old Testament; 12 weeks for the New Testament. We hope to complete the Old Testament around the end of May and pick up with the New Testament in the fall. If you would like to join us, please contact Pastor Sara at sisbell@wesley-umc.com

Warm Hearts ♥♥♥♥

Blankets donated during our January Just One Collection were so very much appreciated in this especially severe winter! Thank you, Wesley, for 44 warm blankets distributed to the homeless through Home Sweet Home Mission and the Salvation Army Safe Harbor!

DINE TO DONATE

Wesley's Bright Beginnings has two upcoming DINE TO DONATE events at local restaurants. Join us for a tasty meal and help raise money for our beloved preschool!

MARCH 7 from 4-8 pm

Portillo's

202 Landmark Drive, Normal



APRIL 9 at 11:00 am

That Burger Joint

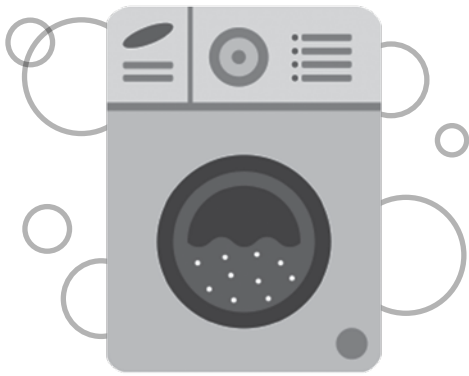
2105 N Veterans Pkwy, Bloomington



MARCH JUST ONE COLLECTION School Street Food Pantry

Our March Just One Collection is for food items to stock the shelves of the School Street Food Pantry, located at Normal First United Methodist Church, to support local college students in need. We are seeking non-perishable food items as well as gently used or new kitchen utensils. Please deliver your items to the Just One bin located across from the Garden Room. THANK YOU!





LOADS OF LOVE

Join us for the next Loads of Love event on Tuesday, March 26, from 4:30-7:30 pm at the Wash House in Bloomington (609 N. Clinton Street) as we lend a hand and a few quarters! *If you would like to help, contact Gary Thompson at garyt23@frontier.com.*

Prayers of Comfort

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the following members and friends of Wesley who have passed:

Hattie Sheffler - January 21

Thelma E. Coatney - February 3

Myra Shepard - February 5

Lenora Quackenbush - February 9

February
JUST ONE
COLLECTION



We are still accepting donations to help fund the Healing Rides Ministry's purchase of a new bike as they prepare for the 2019 spring riding season! It's not too late to give if you still wish to help.

Donations of any size are welcome! There are many ways to give. Visit www.wesley-umc.com/give (please note Healing Rides as your ministry), deliver your donation to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings (please write Healing Rides on your envelope). For more details contact Barb Brown at 309.531.8768, email healingrides@gmail.com or visit the website www.healingrides.com. THANK YOU!

Celebrating Scout Sunday FEBRUARY 10, 2019



Wesley UMC proudly supports scouts and leaders of all ranks and genders. We celebrated Scout Sunday a few weeks ago, and salute them for their dedication to our youth and the positive impact they have in our community. If you know of a young person (ages 11-18) who might be interested in joining scouts, or an adult interested in a leadership opportunity, there are many ways to get involved!

BOY SCOUT TROOP 918

Wesley proudly hosts a thriving and busy troop of young men. Troop 918 meets every Monday night at 6:30 pm, at Wesley, with meetings structured around learning, guest speakers and the occasional field trip. In addition, they participate in service projects, work on ranks, and experience adventurous outdoor activities including fishing and biking. There are also monthly camping trips and overnight opportunities that members can choose to participate in. During the summer, a high-adventure extended trip is planned for older members. In recent years, the troop traveled to Canada and New Mexico! These camps are a terrific opportunity for our scouts to travel and learn in an exciting and safe environment. In order to finance these activities, Troop 918 participates in several fund-raisers throughout the year including popcorn and holiday greenery sales, as well as a much anticipated annual spaghetti supper (hosted at Wesley) every February. While our young scouts have strong and supportive leaders, adults encourage scouts to rely on their own skills and effort to advance through the ranks, which will build responsibility and independence in our youth.

GIRLS CAN NOW ALSO JOIN THE TROOP!

We are starting new all-female troops within the Scouts BSA program. This new all-female troop will provide leadership and character building to our youth. The troop also provides adventure opportunities like: camping, hiking, rock climbing, swimming and a lot of other outdoor activities. The goal of the program is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. There is now an opportunity for these girls to earn the Eagle Scout achievement. For more details visit our facebook page: www.facebook.com/Troop918ScoutsBSA

If you know of a young person (ages 11-18) who might be interested in joining either of our Scout Troops, contact Glenn Harbin at 309.287.4267 or email glenn@bsaeagle.com to learn more about this exciting opportunity!

2019 Rummage Sale Call For Volunteers



Coordinators are needed in several areas for our sale on Saturday, May 4, to organize, recruit volunteers and keep each section running smoothly. To help, contact Brenna Martin at 309.827.8046 or bmartin@wesley-umc.com. The following areas are in need:

- Bikes
- Electronics
- Housekeeping/Window Treatments
- Linens
- Online Sales (ebay)
- Picture Frames

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS!

That's the song I'm singing again this week, as the Finance Committee held probably the shortest meeting on record, having approved the 2019 budget WITHOUT any further reductions to missions and ministry. Your incredibly

"courageous and contagious" response to our second appeal was a great step of faith, and a testimony to the power of God who makes all things possible.



Here's the recap:

October:

Your Finance Committee proposed a \$1.38M budget for 2019, based on the requests from staff and ministry leaders, and our hopes for this year's programming.

November-December:

\$1M was committed through our fall campaign. So Finance went to work trimming and consolidating and reconsidering expenses as best we could, to bring the proposed budget down to a manageable level. Staff and ministry leaders graciously accepted the cuts and reassured us they could still accomplish their goals.

January:

But we still had a significant gap between "what we needed" and "what we expected to receive." We then made a second appeal requesting \$70,000 in increased commitments. It was a long shot to expect the congregation to respond at that level. And so we all waited. And we all prayed.

February:

And God provided for our need! Currently, Wesley has received financial commitments for an additional \$68,092 in generous giving. A \$1,339,960 budget has been approved. We stand amazed and humbled at the goodness of God and the generosity of our congregation.

Thank You
WESLEY!

For your great generosity!
You gave \$68,000 towards
our second budget appeal!
Love, the Finance Committee



Diane and Tom Winkler would like to thank everyone at Wesley for their prayers, calls and cards....especially Anita, Jeannie, Angela, Nancy. Diane has finished her radiation treatments and will have CT and PET scans over the next 3 to 6 months. Praying she will be in remission and stay in remission. We are in Orange Beach for the months of February and March for some rest and recuperation. We will miss our Wesley family. Again, thank you all for your love and prayers.

Phyllis and Bob Pederson would like to thank the wonderful members of Wesley for all that you have done and given to us during the past month. With your generous, kind, and always present loving support, casserole dinners, help, and most importantly, prayers, we are doing well and things continue to heal. Surely, the presence of the Lord is in your hearts. We are most grateful and blessed to be a part of this precious church family!

— GENERAL CONFERENCE —

Bishop Frank J. Beard has announced he will host meetings throughout the Illinois Great Rivers Conference following General Conference to discuss the action taken by the special session of General Conference. If you plan to attend, register at www.igrc-reg.brapp.com/PostGC2019briefings to reserve a spot.

March 2: Champaign Faith UMC, 10 am

March 4: Willow Hill UMC, 6:30 pm

March 7: Geneseo First UMC, 7 pm

March 9: O'Fallon First UMC, 10 am

March 14: Harrisburg First UMC, 6:30 pm

Wesley to Host General Conference RECAP

The Special Session of General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be held on February 23-26, in St. Louis, Missouri. Wesley invites you to join us for a RECAP of the many important topics covered on SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD from 1:30-3:00 pm in Wesley Hall. Let us know if you need help with childcare or transportation by calling the church office at 309.827.8046 by Friday, March 1st.

CONGRATULATIONS

Wesley UMC was well represented at the recent Salvation Army's Red Kettle Celebration. Sue Miller was awarded the "Volunteer of the Year for 2018" and our LOL Circle was honored for raising \$673.28 toward the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. WAY TO GO!



The Faiths of Our Neighbors

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SIX SESSION SERIES
FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS
IN OUR COMMUNITY - ALL ARE WELCOME!

SPONSORED BY ANCHORED
A Wesley Ministry for twenty and thirty somethings

March 13: Rabbi Rebecca Dubowe (*Judaism*)

March 20: Mark Anderson (*The Baha'i Faith*)

April 3: Sheheryar Muftee (*Islam*)

April 10: Dr. Ashlesha Raut (*Hinduism*)

April 24: Melanie Scott-Dockery (*Buddhism*)

May 8: Rev. Mary Moore (*Unitarian Universalism*)

HOSTED AT WESLEY WEST ON
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FROM 7-8:30 PM

413 EAST WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON IL

(located across the street from Wesley United Methodist Church)

For more details, contact Pastor Justin Iverson at 309.827.8046 or
jiverson@wesley-umc.com. All are welcome at Wesley!



New Member Class

We are offering several new member opportunities for those interested in joining Wesley. Meet our pastors, ministry leaders and learn more about our church! All are welcome!

UNITED METHODIST 101

Saturday, March 9 | 9:30-11:00 am
in the Garden Room

All are welcome, this class is for anyone wishing to know more about the United Methodist Church.

THE NEXT STEP

Sunday, March 10 | 2:00 pm
in the Garden Room

For anyone who is ready to be received into membership, and will focus on membership vows and getting involved.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Sunday, March 17 during
the 9:00 and 11:15 am services

RSVP by calling the church office at 309.827.8046 or email Jody Robbins at jrobbinswesley-umc.com.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Church

Faith Circle has gone inactive, but we invite current members to join our LOL circle for outreach, lunch and fellowship (see below for details).

GEMS Growing Each Mom Spiritually

We will meet at Wesley from 7:00-8:30 in the evening on Monday, March 11. Childcare is available for \$3 per child. We will also meet Monday, March 25, for Girls Night (location to be decided). For more details, please contact Liz Tomera at 847.224.1194 or email her at tomeras@comcast.net. Join us for fellowship and fun!

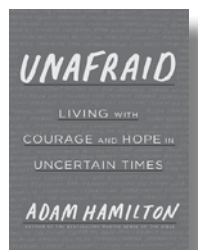
LOL Ladies Outreach and Lunch

The LOL will meet for lunch and fellowship at The Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Normal on March 4th. On March 18th, we will have a "Healthy Heart" program by a dietician at HyVee and then enjoy a healthy lunch. For more information about joining our circle, please email Elaine at estokes65@gmail.com.

Hope Circle

Join us Thursday, March 14, at 6:30 pm in the Lounge at Wesley UMC for refreshments and continued study of Adam Hamilton's book "UNAFRAID" (section 3).

Newcomers are always welcome!



Wesley United Methodist Church

502 East Front Street | Bloomington, IL 61701

phone: 309.827.8046

fax: 309.828.9625

website: www.wesley-umc.com

After Hours Emergency Contacts:

Reverend Sara L. Isbell 217.299.4870

Reverend Justin Iverson 701.809.1203

If you would like to go paperless and prefer to receive this issue in your inbox, please email connect@wesley-umc.com.



WESLEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

“Above all, *clothe* yourselves with *love*,
which *binds* everything *together* in
perfect harmony.”

{ COLOSSIANS 3:14 }



WESLEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

