

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





### a Note from the Holy Land

#### from Pastor Justin

 $\it Hello, dear friends!$  I'm writing this to you as I'm flying approximately 37,000 feet over the North Atlantic Ocean. It's incredible to think that tomorrow I'll be joining 12 others from Wesley, plus 3 of their family and friends,

as we start our journey through the Holy Land! This once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage has been planned for over a year now, and my fellow pilgrims and I couldn't be more excited to visit sites like the Church of the Nativity, Jacob's Well, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and many others.

Another location we'll visit is the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. While scholars debate the legitimacy of this site, I have heard that many pilgrims find this place particularly special. You see, the skull-shaped rock formation adjacent to the property has led many to believe that it was in this place that Jesus sacrificed His life and then rose victoriously over sin and grave, the place where He became 'Christus Victor' for our sake. Sisters and brothers, as we rapidly approach Easter, and we prepare our hearts to worship the risen savior, I wonder, are there dead areas in our lives that need to experience Christ's resurrection power? Do you have need of a

miraculous victory in your life? If so, will you join me as I think back on the Garden Tomb? I think we'll find someone walking the gardens there who is capable of healing our every ailment and ridding our every sin - someone who can show us a whole new way of living. Hallelujah!

### The Power of PRAYER GROUP

Join us as we gather to pray for our congregation, our community and the world. Contact Pastor Justin for upcoming dates and details.

### Happy Easter, Pastor Justin



### Easter Greetings from Pastor Sara

A kindergarten class was once shown a dandelion and asked why they thought a dandelion might be a good symbol for Easter. One child said, "the dandelion is bright and beautiful, like Jesus!" Another child answered, "dandelion seeds blow around everywhere and bloom where you

don't expect them, just like the Holy Spirit!" There were parent volunteers in the room that day, and one of them whispered to the other, "Dandelions are just like Jesus – we try and try to kill them, but they just keep coming back!"

Easter means a lot of things to a lot of people. But one of the greatest is the fierce victory of life over death. They tried to kill Jesus – they really did. But he just wouldn't stay in the grave. Despite all human effort to the contrary – Jesus came back! We all have times in our lives when we feel like "death" has taken the upper hand – like there's no hope – like all is lost. But Christ's resurrection calls us to look ahead beyond the darkness of Good Friday to the dandelion-bright Son-rise of Easter morning. There is a plan beyond what we can now see. There is a bigger picture at work that we haven't imagined. And there is a re-birth waiting in the wings.

This Easter, go pick some dandelions. Give them a place of honor at your table. And when you find them back in your yard again – just think about Jesus.



See you Easter morning! Pastor Sara

### CALFNDAR

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APRIL 3	Faiths of Our Neighbors Wesley Lounge 7-8:30 pm
4	Disciple Bible Study Fast Track with Pastor Sara - Lounge 7 pm
5 8	SURGE Game Night - Wesley 6 pm GEMS (Growing Fach Mom
9	Spiritually) Wesley 7 pm WBB DINE TO DONATE
10	That Burger Joint 11:00 am Faiths of Our Neighbors
11	Wesley Lounge 7-8:30 pm Disciple Bible Study Fast Track with Pastor Sara - Conf. Rm 7 pm
11 11	Hope Circle - Lounge 7 pm Pets Are Working Saints (PAWS)
12	Choir Room 6:30 pm Responding to General
14	Conference Wesley 6-8 pm Palm Sunday Cantata
17	Sanctuary 9:00 am service Holy Wednesday Service Sanctuary 6:00 pm
18	Holy Thursday Service Sanctuary 6:00 pm
19	Good Friday Service 2nd Presbyterian Church: 12:00 pr
20	Wesley Sanctuary: 6:00 pm Paper Distribution Event
21	Wesley West 9:30-11:30 am Easter Sunday - Sanctuary 9:00 am and 11:15 am services
22	GEMS (Growing Each Mom Spiritually) Jr High Lounge 7 pm
23	Loads of Love 4:30-8:00 pm The Wash House
24	Faiths of Our Neighbors Wesley Lounge 7-8:30 pm
25	Disciple Bible Study Fast Track with Pastor Sara - Lounge 7 pm
25 ****	Pets Are Working Saints (PAWS) Choir Room 6:30 pm
1	Disciple Bible Study Fast Track with Pastor Sara - Lounge 7 pm
2	Pets Are Working Saints (PAWS) Choir Room 6:30 pm
4	WESLEY RUMMAGE SALE The Interstate Center 8am-2pm
6	GEMS (Growing Each Mom Spiritually) Wesley 7 pm
8 9	Faiths of Our Neighbors Wesley Lounge 7-8:30 pm Pets Are Working Saints (PAWS)
9	Choir Room 6:30 pm Disciple Bible Study Fast Track
9 13	with Pastor Sara - Conf. Rm 7 pm Hope Circle - Lounge 7 pm
	GEMS (Growing Each Mom Spiritually) <i>Jr High Lounge 7 pm</i>
15	Disciple Bible Study Fast Track with Pastor Sara - Lounge 7 pm
16 18	Pets Are Working Saints (PAWS) Choir Room 6:30 pm Mission Team Leader Training
23	with Tammy Kunz 9 am -3 pm Pets Are Working Saints (PAWS)
28	Choir Room 6:30 pm Loads of Love 4:30-8:00 pm
28	The Wash House UMW Guest Speaker
30	Kim Kaufman 6:00 pm Pets Are Working Saints (PAWS)
30	Choir Room 6:30 pm American Red Cross Blood Drive Wesley Hall 2-6 pm
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### News & Events

6th-12th Grade Youth by Frank Newburn



The youth of Wesley UMC are here to help! On Saturday, April 27, our youth will be holding our annual spring "Rent a Youth" service day. Whether it's raking leaves, mowing the grass, mulching, washing windows, or other needs, we are here to assist. If you are interested in having us come to your house to help, sign up in the Garden Room on Sundays, April 7 and 14, or call Frank Newburn at 309.827.8046 by April 22nd. There is no charge for this service, but free will donations are gladly accepted and will go directly to youth missions for this summer.

There are still spots available for our Senior High Mission Trip to Arizona and our Junior High Mission Trip to Arkansas. Senior High students will be serving on the Navajo Indian Reservation through work projects and VBS from July 13 thru 21. Junior High students will be serving at the Heifer Ranch and learning about global hunger from June 12 thru 28. Information flyers are available for both trips at the welcome table, or by contacting Frank Newburn at fnewburn@wesley-umc.com. Hurry! Space is limited for both trips, and the deadline to sign-up is April 7.



Join SURGE as we host a game night filled with fun and fellowship on Friday, April 5, from 6-9 pm in Wesley Hall for 6th through 12th graders. We will play 9-Square, board games and enjoy a few slices of pizza. FREE ADMISSION. Sign-up at the welcome table or contact Frank Newburn at 309.827.8046 or fnewburn@wesley-umc.com.

Mark Your Calendars NO SURGE on Wednesday, April 17, due to the Holy Week service. Join us for worship and we'll see you back in Wesley Hall on Wednesday, April 24.

### Welcome TO WESLEY!

On Sunday, March 17, seven new members were received into our church family. If you see any of the smiling faces below, be sure to introduce yourself and congratulate them on making this commitment. God is SO good!



ANDERSON

**ARY ANDY** 







KAISNER **ISBELL** Not pictured: RACHEL PAYTON

MONKEN

JUDITH AND PAUL **UNGER** 

### 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/

### Responding to GENERAL CONFERENCE

The events of the Special Session of General Conference in St. Louis have brought forth a variety of responses and emotions. We'd like to give an opportunity for persons to express their feelings about the decisions made in February, and to offer support and care to those who need it the most. On Friday, April 12, join us at Wesley from 6-8 pm for open conversation, including a time of worship, prayer, and sharing ideas. Childcare available upon request. Please call the office for more details at 309.827.8046 or email: Pastor Sara: sisbell@wesley-umc.com Pastor Justin: jiverson@wesley-umc.com





WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

W.I.S.E. (Wesley's Intergenerational Sunday Experience) for Kindergarten through 5th grade meets every Sunday between services at 10:15 am in Wesley Hall and Rooms 219,21,22,24 and 29.

#### April Focus:

**Preschool:** Our preschoolers will be learning the Easter message.

**Elementary:** Our elementary children will focus on HOPE and the Light that Jesus brought into the world at Easter.

**Easter Sunday Schedule:** We will host an Easter egg hunt in Wesley Hall after the children's message during both the 9:00 and 11:15 services. *Join us!* 

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



### April Adult Education at Wesley



Sundays from 10:15-11:00 am "HE CHOSE THE NAILS" by Max Lucado In the Lounge with Pastor Justin Iverson

Up next after Easter: "Fear of the Other" by William Willimon



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

### Disciple Bible Study



DISCIPLE Fast Track
with Pastor Sara Isbell

The newest Disciple study has begun, and we have 24 excited

in the fall.

learners! Disciple Bible Study is designed to grow disciples for Jesus Christ through the vehicle of group bible study. Participants meet weekly to share insights and perspectives on the scriptures with one another. Each student also commits to daily scripture reading and prayer, and to letting God speak to them through the Bible and through conversation with one another. Please pray for these learners as we grow together through the Old Testament this spring, and move into the New Testament



### APRIL JUST ONE C O L L E C T I O N

This month we are collecting gently used and new children's books for ages preschool through 6th grade. We will donate to local schools to support families in need. *THANK YOU!* 



Consider training your dog to provide companionship and fur-therapy to those in need. Classes are held weekly at Wesley on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm from April 11 thru May 30. Contact Gail Scoates for more details via email at ghscoates@gmail.com or call 309.310.3697

# BEGINNINGS

www.wesleysbrightbeginnings.com

### REGISTRATION

If you have a preschool aged child from 1 (by September 1, 2019) to 4 years old, and are interested in enrolling in a preschool for the 2019-2020 school year, we invite you to learn more about our play-based learning, meet our wonderful teachers and tour our rooms! For more details about our Wesley preschool, please contact Julie Loy, program director, at 309.827.8046 or wesleysbrightbeginnings@gmail.com.

#### DINE TO DONATE

APRIL 9 11:00 am - 9:00pm That Burger Joint 2105 N Veterans Pkwy, Bloomington



**Bev and Harold Smith** would like to express sincere appreciation for those who prepared and delivered the casserole dinners they received. They were delicious and nutritious!



Make a difference in the lives of others, and give blood! We invite our Wesley members and friends to participate in a Blood Drive on Thursday, May 30, from 2-6 pm at Wesley Hall. Contact Colleen Hensley at the church for more details at 309.827.8046.



Join us for the next Loads of Love event on Tuesday, April 23rd, 4:30 to 7:30 pm at the Wash House. Each month, several volunteers serve with a smile as we share detergent and quarters to help grateful local neighbors complete this daily task. We have an ongoing need for donations, leave a few quarters in the cylinders outside the sanctuary, or make a donation marked "Loads of Love" and drop it by the office or in the offering plate. To volunteer, please contact Gary Thompson at garyt23@frontier.com.

### Palm Sunday

Wesley Music will be presenting a Cantata, "A Time for Alleluia", on Palm Sunday (April 14) at the 9:00 am service. Please join us for a special morning of worship through song and music! Contemporary service will follow at 11:15 am. *Childcare is available.* 

### IWU Choral Concert

Stick around after services on Palm Sunday (April 14) at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary to enjoy a choral concert presented by the Illinois Wesleyan Choir!

### SAVE THE DATE

Join UMW on Tuesday, May 28, at 6:00 pm for dinner and international award-winning speaker, Kim Kaufman! Kim's presentation, "Recalculating" is about living in a world of change, learning how to navigate new roads, and finding opportunities for growth. ALL are welcome! Bring a friend!

### Wesley Distribution Ministry

Our guests at each paper distribution event continue to praise and thank Wesley for their generosity and friendliness. We are thanked many times as we hand our



guests much needed paper products. If you have not had the opportunity to serve at one of our paper distributions, we urge you to give it a try! We guarantee you will leave with a smile on your face and joy in your heart. The experience of giving a young family much needed diapers or a man in a wheel chair a supply of paper towels is priceless. Each month we have specific groups within the church assigned to be the lead, but we are ALWAYS in need of extra volunteers! Last month, three of our guests even offered to join us behind the tables to help us give it all away! If you aren't able to donate your time, our product donations are just as important to keep this ministry alive. We currently have a need for diapers (sizes 1, 3-6), diaper wipes, paper towels and Band-Aids. To volunteer, please call the church office at 309.827.8046 or contact Karen Daudelin at 309.838.5723 or email her at kpdaudelin@frontier.com. Thank you, Wesley, for you for your generous spirit! ~ Karen

### GIRLS ARE ALSO JOINING THE TROOP!

We still have an exciting new opportunity for boys and girls age 11-17 to earn Eagle Scout. We are actively growing our Scouts BSA Troop, 918. We have added 7 boys and 2 girls in the last month. We provide opportunities for 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. Join us Monday nights at 6:30pm in Wesley Hall for a meeting. To sign-up or request more information contact Glenn Harbin at glenn@bsaeagle.com or 309.287.4267.



### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

The United Methodist Church

GEMS Growing Each Mom Spiritually.....



We will continue our study of "Bad Girls of the Bible" on Monday, April 8th and 22nd, from 7-8:30 pm. Childcare is available for \$3 per child. Contact Liz Tomera at 847.224.1194 or email tomeras@comcast.net.

GEMS proudly hosted the Wesley Distribution on Saturday, March 16. Thank you for your service and smiles!

### LOL Ladies Outreach and Lunch.....

The LOL ladies will donate crafts and baked goods for Cunningham Home's fundraiser, Festival of Quilts, on April 5th. Four of our members will also volunteer at the Festival. On April 15th, we will have lunch and fellowship at Tony's Diner in Bloomington. For more details about joining our circle, please email Elaine at estokes65@gmail.com.



### HOPE CIRCLE

We are continuing our study of "Unafraid" by Adam Hamilton on Thursday, April 11, at 6:30 pm in the Lounge. Newcomers welcome!

General fund receipts as of 2/28/19	\$ 269,827		
General fund expenses as of 2/28/19	\$ 216,241		
Surplus	\$ 53,586		

There are several reasons for the surplus shown above - accelerated giving, careful spending, and awareness of this year's

budget limitations.
We are grateful for this surplus, as it will help financially as we enter leaner months later in the year.

It is incredible to see how your contributions are being used at Wesley. On a recent Tuesday evening, our Loads of Love

ministry provided \$300 worth of laundry assistance at a local laundromat, the Safe Harbor folks provided meals for the hungry, the Healing Rides team is gearing up for another busy summer of bike rides for the elderly and disabled, and the Wesley Distribution ministry continues to distribute paper products to the needy. Your donations have helped a local resident who was

behind on rent due to a lengthy hospital stay, and have provided prayer shawls for people who are hurting for a variety of reasons. The bins in the hallway outside the sanctuary are lovingly filled every day with Just One items, paper products, and gifts for special projects such as the recent collection of personal hygiene supplies for students.

Thank you all for your continuous gifts for the general fund, as well as for all these ministries and more that are in addition to budgeted expenses.

### Prayers of Comfort

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

Marsha Potts Evans - February 11

Jerry Simpson - February 23

Ed Diggle - March 1

Marian Youngblood - March 3

George Able - March 7

Elaine Licking - March 11



In February, we received an urgent call for help from Stevenson Elementary in Bloomington needing volunteers to help fill food backpacks for students in need.

Wesley answered the call!
On Valentine's Day, a team of smiling volunteers from our congregation showed up to help out.

Now that's what we call SHARING THE LOVE!



### Handbell Camp 2019

Join us for our 27th year attending the Intergenerational Handbell Camp in Parkville, Missouri, this summer! Camp dates are July 7-11, 2019, and open to all ages - no ringing experience needed!

Contact Gail Welk at 309.825.4402 or visit www.handbellcamp.org for more details about this fun experience!

### The Faiths of Our Neighbors

We have received tremendous interest in this special six session series featuring speakers of different faiths in our community.

There are still several dates left on the calendar... please join us!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sponsored by ANCHORED: A Wesley Ministry for twenty and thirty somethings

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 IN THE LOUNGE AT WESLEY UMC WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FROM 7-8:30 PM

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



# WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

20,19 RUMMAGE SALE VOLUNTEER FORM

Yes! I am happy to help! Please complete the form below and return it to us. You may mail it the church, deliver to the office or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. For questions, contact Brenna Martin, Rummage Sale Chair, at 309.827.8046 or email at bmartin@wesley-umc.com.

VOLUNTEER PERKS: In addition to
serving our community and building
funds to support many wonderful
Wesley ministries, ALL volunteers who
serve at least 5 hours, get exclusive
access to our Friday night PRE-SALE!
It's our way of saying THANKS!

it's Our way Or Saying THANKS!
NAME(S):
PHONE: (home)(cell)
EMAIL:
☐ I would like to be the coordinator of a section and am able to recruit

volunteers and keep things organized

and running smoothly.

I can bring something to the Bake Sale on Saturday, May 4
I have a truck and can help haul heavy items at night on
Monday, April 29, thru Thursday, May 3 from 6-8 pm

 $\Box$  I can help price items on Friday, May 3 from 9am-6pm

 $\square$  I can help at the Sale on Saturday, May 4 (please mark availability):

□ 8-10 am □ 10am-12pm □ 12-2pm

☐ I can help cleanup after the Sale on Saturday, May 4, from 2-5pm

 $\square$  I can help drive leftover clothing/items to shelters on Saturday, May 4, from 2-4 pm

 $\square$  I am bilingual and able to help our Spanish speaking guests on the day of the Sale

☐ I am able to help organize and set up tables the week before the Sale between Monday, April 29, and Friday, May 3 (please mark availability below by placing an "x" in times you CAN volunteer):

SALE SETUP:	9am-11am	11am-1pm	1pm-3pm	3pm-5pm	5pm-7pm	7pm-9pm
Monday (4/29)						
TUESDAY (4/30)						
WEDNESDAY (5/1)						
THURSDAY (5/2)						
FRIDAY (5/3)						

Cut here and return the top portion of this sheet to us as soon as you can. Thank you in advance for your time and talents!

## WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE RUMMAGE SALE

Wesley members, friends and families – it's that time of year again! It's time for the Annual Wesley Rummage Sale, set for Saturday, May 4, from 8am-2pm at the Interstate Center. All proceeds from the Rummage Sale support the 2019 Choir Tour, Youth Mission Trips, and the United Methodist Women mission projects. The Wesley Rummage Sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it takes many hands to make it a success! You can help by donating unwanted items, volunteering your time at the sale, baking items to sell, picking

#### SATURDAY, MAY 4 from 8am-2pm at The Interstate Center

up and delivering donations, pricing items or helping with clean-up after the sale. Another important way to help is by spreading the word to your family, friends and neighbors about how great our sale is and the wonderful work Wesley UMC does for our community using the funds raised. We ask that you take a moment to consider how you might be able to help by completing the form above and returning it to us. You may mail it the church, deliver to the office or drop it in the offering plate. For questions, contact Brenna Martin, Rummage Sale Chair, at 309.827.8046 or email at bmartin@wesley-umc.com. THANK YOU for your time and talents!



### Wesley United Methodist Church

502 East Front Street | Bloomington, IL 61701

phone: 309.827.8046 fax: 309.828.96<u>25</u>

website: www.wesley-umc.com

After Hours Emergency Contacts: Reverend Sara L. Isbell 217.299.4870 Reverend Justin Iverson 701.809.1203

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