



Time for the Wesley

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, May 4, from 8am-2pm at the Interstate Center



One look at the smiling volunteers in this photo and you'll see why our Rummage Sale is like no other!

The Wesley Rummage Sale dates back to the early 1970's and is held every spring. It is by far the largest community effort and fundraiser supporting our church ministries and missions. Donations from church members, neighbors and friends make this enormous effort possible as well as the hundreds of volunteers who help us collect, price, sort and keep things running smoothly... *with a smile!*

Our sale is a valuable resource for many families who find quality, low priced items that meet their needs. We have something for everyone with more than 20 well-stocked departments including clothing, shoes, toys, jewelry, furniture, books, antiques, housewares, kitchen items, tools, sporting goods and bikes. All proceeds from the sale support our Wesley Youth mission trips and choir tour, as well as United Methodist Women's missions and supported agencies. Don't forget to stop by the bake sale for tasty goodies to keep your energy up!

Please join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and frugal finds!



Ways to Serve:

VOLUNTEER:

Many hands make little work! If you still wish to volunteer, please contact Rummage Sale Chair, Brenna Martin, at bmartin@wesley-umc.com, call the church office at 309.827.8046, or visit www.wesley-umc.com for more details about this exciting event!

MAKE A DONATION:

Donations are a vital part of our sale success! We can accept the following items: clothing, shoes, toys, jewelry, books, housewares, antiques, furniture, bikes, tools, sporting goods and kitchen items...and so much more!

INTERSTATE CENTER DONATION DROP OFF (1106 Interstate Drive, Bloomington):
Monday, April 29 from 12-9pm

Tuesday, April 30, thru Thursday, May 2, from 9am-9pm

Do you need help moving large items? Contact Chuck Knudson at 309.838.1182

MARVELOUS METALS: *Do you have mismatched or broken jewelry?* Did you know that you can DONATE your REAL GOLD and SILVER JEWELRY to melt down and collect the cash? Please note: costume and undamaged real jewelry will be saved and sold at the sale. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**





A Note From from Pastor Sara

I See You; I Hear You; I Feel You; I Get You. RESPONSES TO GENERAL CONFERENCE 2019

On April 12, 39 of us gathered in the Wesley Hall to talk about the results of General Conference 2019, and how Wesley Church members might respond. It was a very good meeting. The group represented a variety of ages (approx. 30-80) and perspectives. We worked under the "RESPECT" guidelines we've used in other settings (www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/eric-laws-respectful-communication-guidelines). And we shared with each other honestly and honorably. In some ways, that was the purpose of the evening: to practice honest and respectful conversation with one another. Continuing this kind of practice, whether in response to a significant event, in preparation for one, or simply to strengthen our relationships and health as a congregation, will be an ongoing opportunity with priceless rewards. Taking time to be with each other, to share a meal together, and to not be afraid to talk about tough topics, regardless of whether we agree or disagree – that's a healthy thing for a church like ours! Our hope is to be able to say:

I see you – often persons who feel themselves in the "minority" for one reason or another feel invisible. They believe their only options are to speak out, and risk alienating relationships, or to stay silent and keep their feelings hidden. When we gather together and acknowledge each other in the room, we say, "I see you. You are here, and you matter." *I see you* also enables us to talk "with each other" rather than "about each other," according to biblical principles (Matthew 18).

I hear you – sometimes we "listen" to others speak, but only well enough to prepare our own rebuttal, to catch a few key words that we can push back against when it's our turn to talk. That's not really listening. To say, "I hear you" is to say, "I really want to understand where you're coming from. Thank you for being vulnerable enough to tell me."

I feel you – I learned this phrase from my millennial children. It sounds awkward to me, but I think it's an expression of empathy. I care enough about your feelings to want to feel them with you. I want to understand where you're coming from.

I get you – To say you "get it" is to say you can say it back to the other person and receive their affirmation – *yes!* – *that's what it's like to be me!* It's not easy to "get" someone if you've never actually walked in their shoes. But the more we listen, the more we try, the closer we come to truly understanding, and the closer we come to reconciliation and peace.

The work we began on April 12 is just a first step. Seeing, hearing, feeling and "getting" each other doesn't necessarily mean we agree with each other, or that we see eye-to-eye. But it does mean we embrace each other, heart-to-heart. This is an important value for us, not only at this moment in the church's life, but anytime we face change or challenge. I want to thank all those who participated in the conversation, and all those who will participate in the future. If you'd like to know more, or if you have questions, please don't hesitate to come talk to me. *I look forward to seeing, hearing, feeling and getting you soon!*

Pastor Sara Isbell

CALENDAR

MAY

- 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 LOL (Ladies Outreach & Lunch)
The Night Shop
- 8 Faiths of Our Neighbors
Wesley Lounge 7-8:30 pm
- 9 Pets Are Working Saints (PAWS)
Choir Room 6:30 pm
- 9 Disciple Bible Study Fast Track
with Pastor Sara - Conf. Rm 7 pm
- 9 Hope Circle - Lounge 7 pm
- 10-11 8th Grade Retreat - Wesley Hall
- 12 Blanket Sunday Collection
during services 9:00 & 11:15 am
- 12 Handbell Camp Bake Sale
Garden Room - 10:15 am
- 13 GEMS (Growing Each Mom
Spiritually) Jr High Lounge 7 pm
- 15 Disciple Bible Study Fast Track
with Pastor Sara - Lounge 7 pm
- 16 Pets Are Working Saints (PAWS)
Choir Room 6:30 pm
- 18 Mission Team Leader Training
with Tammy Kunz 9 am -3 pm
- 18 Wesley Distribution Ministry
at Wesley West 9:30-11:30 am
- 19 Confirmation (8th Graders)
in the Sanctuary 9:00 am
- 19 Senior Recognition
in the Sanctuary 11:15 am
- 22 LOL (Ladies Outreach & Lunch)
All Day Work Session Chatham MDC
- 23 Pets Are Working Saints (PAWS)
Choir Room 6:30 pm
- 23 GEMS Moms Night Out
Applebee's 7:00 pm
- 28 Loads of Love 4:30-8:00 pm
The Wash House
- 28 UMW Guest Speaker
Kim Kaufman 6:00 pm
- 30 American Red Cross Blood Drive
Wesley Hall 2-6 pm
- 30 Pets Are Working Saints (PAWS)
Choir Room 6:30 pm

JUNE

- 6-9 YOUTH CHOIR TOUR
- 15 Wesley Distribution Ministry
at Wesley West 9:30-11:30 am
- 25 Loads of Love 4:30-8:00 pm
The Wash House

SAVE THE DATE: We are updating our Wesley Member Directory! LifeTouch will be onsite the week of July 9-13 to take your photograph if you wish to be included. Mark your calendars and keep your eye out for more details!





Time to Start Thinking About . . . *Senior Pictures!*

All seniors should have received a letter the week of April 22 including information about Senior Recognition at the 11:15 a.m. worship service, Sunday, May 19th. We also included additional information about the Senior Brunch. We ask that you start to consider a senior photo for the insert that will be included in the bulletin the week of May 19th. *The deadline for submitting your photo is May 12th. If you did not receive a letter, or have questions, please contact Frank Newburn at fnewburn@wesley-umc.com or Stacy Ash at sash@wesley-umc.com.*



Save the DATE:

Confirmation (for 8th graders) will be on Sunday, May 19, during the 9:00 service. Contact Stacy Ash for details and questions at sash@wesley-umc.com

Senior Recognition will be on Sunday, May 19, during the 11:15 service.

Contact Frank Newburn for details and questions at fnewburn@wesley-umc.com



SUMMER BBQ and *Bible Studies*

Surge will be off-site for the summer starting Wednesday, May 29, thru July 31 for our summer BBQ and Bible studies! Each week from 6-8 pm we will meet at a different home and enjoy food, fellowship, and study God's Word. Each host home will provide the main dish and drinks, but we ask that everyone else brings either a side dish, chips, veggie dish, or dessert to share with the group. Please also bring \$2 to help cover the expense of the main dish. *If you are interested in hosting a BBQ this summer, check the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table or Surge Board to see the available dates. We hope you can join us!*



WESLEY DISTRIBUTION *Ministry*

The 3rd Wesley Distribution event last year occurred on April 17, 2018, on a cold, rainy day. Despite the fact that we don't open the doors until 9:30 am, people began to gather at 7:30 am. We watched them trickle in as we set up for the distribution, and by the time we opened the door there was already a line stretched around Wesley West. Women, men, children, old and young waiting patiently to fill their bags with paper goods. An older gentleman caught my attention as he stopped to greet me before picking up his bag to begin his shopping. His name was "Pete" and he

said he was shopping for himself and his wife. He was warmly dressed but had no hat to protect his head from the elements, nor gloves to warm his hands. But he did have a sunny disposition and seemed happy to be at Wesley West. With his bag full, Pete headed for the door, but once again stopped to talk to me; "I want to go into your big building sometime." I told him we would be happy to have him join us at any of our worship services, Sunday School, or other special events. "I know some of your members," Pete said. "Then you need to come!" I replied. "I'm going

to do that sometime," He said, smiling, as he was out the door with a bag of paper goods to share with his wife. We hope to see Pete again at an upcoming distribution. We especially hope to see him in the big building for worship soon. *Written by Karen Daudelin*

NEEDS FOR MAY:

- Baby Wipes
- Size 1 Diapers
- Feminine Hygiene Items (tampons)

Please deliver items to the Bin across from the Garden Room. Thank you!

Our next event is Saturday, May 18, from 9:30-11:30 am at Wesley West. If you would like to volunteer at an upcoming event please contact Karen Daudelin at 309.838.5723.

May Focus:

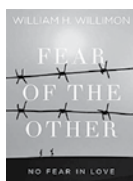
Preschool: Our preschoolers will be learning that God MADE us and will HELP us do BIG things!

Elementary: Our elementary kids will concentrate on PERSERVERANCE in the New Testament.

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



May Adult Education at Wesley



Sundays from 10:15-11:00 am (Begins April 28)
"FEAR OF THE OTHER" by William Willimon
In the Lounge with Kathi Pritts and Fran Tatum



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

Coming Soon: Beginning in June we will read the book "Peaceful Neighbor" about discovering the counter-culture of Mr. Rogers.

Wednesdays: A small group will meet on Wednesday evenings in the Conference Room from 6:15-7:15 pm with Stephanie Hoy.



This dedicated crew of Wesley volunteers meets the third week of each month at Stevenson School (2106 Arrowhead Drive, Bloomington) to fill bags with food for children in need to take home in their backpacks each weekend.

Food for the backpack program is provided by Midwest Food Bank.

Thank you for your hard work and servant hearts!

BLANKET SUNDAY

C O L L E C T I O N

Church World Service provides kits and blankets to those in need all over the world (Haiti, Syria, Honduras, and Serbia to name a few)! This year, the United Methodist Women of Wesley are taking a monetary collection during our services on **Sunday, May 12**, to aid the effort. For more details, contact Fran Tatum at fran412@yahoo.com.



CHURCH
WORLD
SERVICES

MAY JUST ONE

C O L L E C T I O N

The Church and Society Committee will be collecting reuseable cloth grocery bags with handles for the food pantry at the Salvation Army. Many patrons have to walk to the food pantry to pick up canned goods, etc. These can be too heavy to be carried home in flimsy plastic grocery store bags. Deliver your bags to the JUST ONE Bin across from the Garden Room. Thank you for your generous giving!



Petals OF Prayer

You may have noticed the lovely variety of Post-It Notes on the windows of the Garden Room. Take a closer look and you'll see they are prayer requests from our Wesley members and friends. Stop by if you wish to add one of your own!





Join us for the next Loads of Love event on Tuesday, May 28, 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.

Save a Life

Make a difference in the lives of others, and give blood! The American Red Cross responds to an emergency every 8 minutes. No one else does this. From small house fires to multi-state natural disasters, the ARC goes where they are needed, so people can have clean water, safe shelter and hot meals when they need them most.

*Their greatest need is blood.
Please consider taking a moment
out of your day to donate
life-saving 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 chensley@wesley-umc.com or call the office for details at 309.827.8046.



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.....

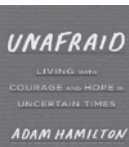


We will continue our study of "Bad Girls of the Bible" on Monday, May 13, from 7-8:30 pm. *Childcare is available for \$3 per child.*

We will also meet for Mom's Night Out at Applebee's on Monday, May 27, at 7:00 pm. Contact Liz Tomera at 847.224.1194 or email tomeras@comcast.net for more details.

LOL Ladies Outreach and Lunch.....

The LOL Circle will meet at the Night Shop in downtown Bloomington for lunch and fellowship on May 6th. On May 22, six of our members will be traveling to the Midwest Distribution Center in Chatham for an all day work session. *For more details about joining our circle, please email Elaine at estokes65@gmail.com.*



HOPE CIRCLE.....

We will continue our study of "Unafraid" by Adam Hamilton on Thursday, May 9, at 6:30 pm in the Lounge. *Newcomers are always welcome!*

SAVE THE DATE.....

Join UMW at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, May 28, in Wesley Hall for dinner and a chance to enjoy 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.

Tickets are available for \$10 each, and will be sold in the Garden Room between services on May 12, 19, and 26. *Childcare is available, please let us know when you purchase your ticket. ALL are welcome!*

Kim is the recipient of international public speaking awards, and a masterful writer and story teller. With experience as a professional actor, television news reporter and a corporate communications professional, Kim's presentations offer something for everyone. Her honesty, insight and humor keeps audiences captivated from start to finish.



Money Matters



General fund receipts as of 3/31/19	\$ 401,248
General fund expenses as of 3/31/19	\$ 327,266
Surplus	\$ 73,982

Contribution statements for the first quarter of 2019 were recently mailed to anyone who made a financial faith commitment for 2019. Please note: these statements are not bills! Rather, they are intended to remind you of your financial commitment to help fund regularly budgeted expenses for 2019, and to let you know what your progress

toward that commitment looks like as of the end of March. For most people, 25% of your total commitment will have been given at this point. But if you are an annual giver, your entire gift may have already been received, or you may be planning to give the entire amount in the fall. Whatever your situation, these statements are simply

intended to be informational. Please be sure to notify me if you see that your donation has not been properly applied. Thank you for continuing to support Wesley's operating budget, as well as all the special offerings and various opportunities for giving.

What a wonderfully generous Church!
- Myrna Simpson



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!

For details about this fun experience, please contact Gail Welk at 309.825.4402 or email josling2355@comcast.net. You may also visit www.handbellcamp.org to learn more! We hope you can join us!



Save the Date for Sweets!

To help us raise money and support those traveling to handbell camp (see above), we are hosting a bake sale between services on Mother's Day (Sunday, May 12) in the Garden Room.

Come enjoy a tasty treat for a good cause!



2019 Choir Tour

Thursday June 6th thru Sunday June 9th



Who? Jubilation (junior high and high school) and Exaltation (high school) Youth Choirs (18 students) plus 11 adult chaperones.

Where? We plan to perform four concerts on our way to Bloomington (MN)! Our first concert will be in Bloomington, IL, at Westminster Village on June 7th, at 7:00 pm. Then we hit the road with a stop in Madison, WI, for a performance. We'll continue north to Bloomington, MN, where we will sing and spend some time at the Mall of America! We'll head home Sunday morning and complete our tour with a concert locally on June 9th.

Why? Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and ministering to others!

For more details about this event, contact Brenna Martin at bmartin@wesley-umc.com or call the church office at 309.827.8046.



Anchored will be hosting a short-term local mission trip this summer that will be open to everyone. Keep an eye out for sign up details - coming soon!

The Faiths of Our Neighbors

Anchored is hosting a special six session series featuring speakers of different faiths in our community. Please join us for our final event!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sponsored by ANCHORED: A Wesley Ministry for twenty and thirty somethings
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'S *Bright* BEGINNINGS

A fun place to play... and learn!

www.wesleysbrightbeginnings.com

PRESCHOOL *Registration*

If you know a family with a preschool aged child (1 thru 4) who might be looking for a preschool for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year, please share our program with them! We still have several spots available in many of our classes, and we welcome new families to tour our classrooms and meet our wonderful teachers!



For more details about Wesley's Bright Beginnings including pricing and class schedules, please contact Julie Loy, Program Director, at 309.827.8046 or wesleysbrightbeginnings@gmail.com.

Mission TEAM LEADER *Training*

If you are interested in or curious about leading a mission team but don't know what all it entails, this training is for you. Rev. Tammy Kunz, the North Central Jurisdiction Volunteers in Missions Coordinator, will be holding Mission Team Leader Training on May 18 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm here at Wesley! In this training, you will learn about the best practices in leading a mission team. You will also discover ways to keep your team safe as you help them connect with people, ways to accomplish a task while "doing no harm", ways to lead participants in receiving a spiritual awakening, how to prepare a realistic budget, how to communicate with your team and the mission project you plan to visit, and much more. To register, visit www.igrc-reg.brtapp.com/missiontltrainings by May 10th. Cost of the training is \$10 and includes lunch. For details, contact Bunny Wolfe, IGRC Missions & Outreach Coordinator at bwolfe@igrc.org. We hope you can join us!



We would like to invite Wesley members and friends to have an opportunity to make a special offering by giving financially or donating items to send along with Pastor Sara Isbell to the 2019 Annual Conference June 6 thru 8. Please see below for needs:

SPECIAL OFFERINGS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

Laity Session: John Kofi Asmah School, West Point, Liberia (to maintain the facility)

Friday Morning Manna: Our Conference, Our Kids

Friday Afternoon: Tom Brown Scholarship, Wiley College

Saturday Morning: 2019 Ordinands' Trip to Holy Land

(formational experience for Pastors at the beginning of their ministries)

MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER COLLECTION

The truck will be at Annual Conference from 8 am Thursday to 6 pm Friday

- \$9 donation for two totes
- 2 boxes of gallon-size resealable bags
- 1 roll of duct tape
- 24 heavy-duty trash bags, rolled (35-45 gallon) for trash removal
- 24 clear trash bags (20-33 gallon) for larger personal items
- 2 pair of work gloves
- 2 permanent markers (i.e. Sharpies)
- 2 dust masks (no surgical masks)

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

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U.S. Postage
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Bloomington, IL
Permit No. 103



“The steadfast *love* of the LORD never ceases,
his *mercies* never come to an end;
they are NEW every *morning*;
GREAT is your *faithfulness*.”

{ LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 }

