

It's almost time for...

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Vacation Bible School
FROM AUGUST 2-4 IN WESLEY HALL

ALL members and friends of Wesley are invited to join us for an exciting and fun Vacation Bible School this summer from August 2-4, 2019, that is a real BLAST! (registration deadline August 1, 2019).

ALL are welcome at Wesley VBS! Bring a friend!

Wesley VBS welcomes ages 4 thru 5th grade. Adults and youth (ages 6th grade and up) are invited to help lead and join in on the fun! Children ages 3 and under can participate in Sparky's Lab while their parents volunteer. All campers will participate in stations involving music, crafts, recreation, and more in a safe and fun science-themed learning environment!



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:



Friday, August 2 from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

(dinner will be served at 5:30 pm, free-will offering accepted)

Saturday, August 3 from 10:00 am - 1:15 pm

(lunch will be served at 11:30 am, free-will offering accepted)

Sunday, August 4 from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

(families are welcome to attend the 9:00 & 11:15 services)

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Wesley VBS is FREE for ALL ages! Join the fun!

HOW TO HELP?

We are still seeking volunteer adults and youth (6th grade and up) to help run stations and keep things organized. We are also accepting donations to help offset our cost. To complement our science theme, we are seeking lab tools such as test tubes, glass flasks, microscopes, and lab coats (that can be returned to you). **THANK YOU** for helping to make this another great VBS!



HOW TO REGISTER:

STEP 1: Visit www.wesley-umc.com to REGISTER your child ONLINE or contact Kathi Pritts, Director of Christian Education at Wesley UMC, via email at kpitts@wesley-umc.com or call 309.827.8046 (ext. 23)

STEP 2: Tell a friend! ALL are welcome at Wesley!

STEP 3: Get ready for fun and learning at Wesley UMC Vacation Bible School!



A Note From from Pastor Sara

Happy Anniversary, Beloved! Did you realize that July 1 marks our one-year anniversary together? That's right – Bishop Beard appointed me as your senior pastor July 1, 2018. Wow – we've had quite the first year together! Celebrations and losses, tender time and tough times... and I wouldn't trade a minute of it!

You probably know that pastors and churches are brought together by the Bishop and Cabinet of the Annual Conference. We know they work hard to match gifts and graces of clergy with needs and character of the congregation. We know they pray hard, discuss much and consider all the information before making a decision. But still - it can make a pastor – or a church – nervous. Is this “arranged marriage” really going to work? I want to thank you, Wesley, for all you do to “make it work!” You have shown my family and me warm welcome, great patience, and unconditional love. You have affirmed and encouraged me - and also sometimes gently nudged me back on track when I have wandered. You have made a space for me to grow and to flourish, and let me be myself.

Wouldn't it be amazing if every church treated every person that way? Wouldn't it be awesome if every person who walked through the doors of every church walked back out after worship thinking, “I think I've found my home!”? The great news – and one of the reasons I love you most – is that you DO treat people that way, Wesley. This “arranged marriage” is not an exclusive one, where we only love each other; you consistently and faithfully reach out to people you don't even know and welcome them like family. Thank you, Thank you, THANK YOU for being such a wonderful church!

Over the next year, we're going to be exploring together “new ways to welcome” – ways to embrace not only those who are part of our regular community, but those who visit for the first time, and even people who don't think they want to set foot inside a church but who are curious about what kind of people pray for neighbors they don't even know, do other people's laundry, feed strangers at Safe Harbor and give away tons of toilet paper and diapers for free. Stay in the loop this summer; it's going to be fun!

With love (I really mean it!), *Pastor Sara*



(l to r) Gail Scoates (class instructor), Sadie (our “strange dog” required for the test), Judy Ronan-Woodburn & Zeta, Meda Smith & Shellbee, Mike Laesch & Hazel, Stephanie Company & Toby, and Julie Hess & Casey. Larry Lowery & Lucas are not pictured)

P.A.W.S.
*Pets Are
Working Saints*

Congrats to our graduates! Special thanks to those standing in the back row from Town & Country Kennel Club who served as our evaluators (a required element in the Canine Good Citizen test). We are SO excited to begin our ministry at Martin Health Center. The residents love spending time with our furry friends as much as we love spending time with them!



CALENDAR

JULY	
2	Ladies Outreach and Lunch (LOL) Habitat for Humanity 9-11am
3	SURGE Serving at the Midwest Food Bank in Normal
4-5	Wesley Church Office Closed
7-11	Intergenerational Handbell Camp
8	GEMS Meeting (off-site) 7:00 pm
9-13	DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSIONS Wesley Lounge and Conf. Room
10	SURGE Summer BBQ (Neal Home)
10	ANCHORED Potluck Dinner 6:30 pm (Sherrill Home)
12	Outdoor Movie Night at Wesley 7:30 pm in the Garden
15	The Power of Prayer Group 4:30-6:00 pm at Wesley West
13-21	Senior High Navajo Reservation Trip
17	SURGE Summer BBQ (location TBD)
20	Wesley Distribution Ministry Wesley West 9:30-11:30 am
21	Summer Choir Performance 9:00 (8 am rehearsal in the Choir Room)
21	Outdoor Worship Service 11:15 am Wesley West
22	GEMS Meeting (off-site) 7:00 pm
23	Loads of Love 4:30-8:00 pm at The Wash House in Bloomington
24	SURGE Summer BBQ (Martin/Sutter)
26	Outdoor Movie Night at Wesley 7:30 pm in the Garden
28	MISSION SUNDAY - Mission Fair Garden Room between services
31	SURGE Serving at the Midwest Food Bank in Normal
AUGUST	
1	1-Day Mission Trip to Butler, IL ALL ARE WELCOME!
2-4	Wesley Vacation Bible School Wesley Hall and Classrooms
9	Outdoor Movie Night at Wesley 7:30 pm in the Garden
11	Adria Schumann Celebration and Choir Reunion 10:00 am
11	Summer Choir Performance 9:00 (8 am rehearsal in the Choir Room)
17	Wesley Distribution Ministry Wesley West 9:30-11:30 am
18	Outdoor Worship Service 11:15 am Wesley West
25	Sunday School Resumes
27	Loads of Love 4:30-8:00 pm at The Wash House in Bloomington

Lifetouch® Start Practicing
Your Smile!

Lifetouch will be onsite at Wesley to take our member directory photos from July 9-13! If you haven't scheduled your session yet, contact Kendra Bull via email at kbull@wesley-umc.com or call the church office at 309.827.8046 (ext. 26). Visit www.wesley-umc.com for details!

SURGE News & Events

6th-12th Grade Youth by Frank Newburn


SUMMER BBQ & Bible Studies

Each week from 6-8pm this summer we'll meet at a different home and enjoy food, fellowship, and sharing faith stories. Each host home will provide the main dish and drinks. We ask that students bring 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. Please contact Frank if you would like to host at fnewburn@wesley-umc.com.

2019 SUMMER SCHEDULE:

- July 3: Serving at the Midwest Food Bank (2031 Warehouse Rd, Normal)
- July 10: The Neal Home (rain or shine) at 321 Garfield Rd, Bloomington
- July 17: The Schottland Home (rain or shine) at 1902 Hedgewood Dr, Bloomington
- July 24: Martin/Sutter's (rain or shine) at 10 Kleggstone Cir, Bloomington
- July 31: Serving at the Midwest Food Bank (2031 Warehouse Rd, Normal)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH WESLEY DISTRIBUTION *Ministry*



Happy summer! We frequently receive many of the same questions about our beloved Wesley Distribution Ministry. This month, we would like to take the opportunity to try to answer them!

Q: What are your greatest needs?

A: Our needs vary greatly from month to month with many paper products; however there is always a need for diapers, baby wipes and feminine hygiene items (tampons and pads).

Q: Do I have to be a member of Wesley to volunteer?

A: Nope! EVERYONE is welcome to volunteer! We even have had some of our guests return the following month to help! Please contact Karen Daudelin for details at 309.838.5723.

Q: How can I help?

A: Simply buy paper products and drop them in the collection box across from the Garden Room. You may also order online and have your items shipped to the church. Financial donations are also welcome, which we'll use to buy items in bulk and tax-free (please put WDM on the memo line of your check). Of course, PRAYERS for this ministry are equally as important!

Q: When I volunteer on Saturday, where do I go and where do I park?

A: Please come to Wesley West and park in one of the church lots to the East of the church or Wesley West lot on Front Street. Some volunteers will be assigned to the Garden Room for hospitality, but we'll be sure to let you know before you come!

Q: What are the hours of the paper distribution?

A: Volunteers are asked to arrive at 8:30 am, and our doors open to guests to pick up paper products from 9:30-11:30 am. We are usually cleaned up and closed by 11:45 am.

Q: How many families do we serve?

A: We typically average around 200 families each month, serving as many as 950-1500 family members. Since we have started in January, 2018, we have registered over 1000 families served!

If you still have questions about this wonderful ministry, please don't hesitate to ask. Providing essential products to people who have so little is truly one of the greatest joys you can experience. Come help us give it all away! Thank you for your support! Karen Daudelin

SENIOR HIGH *Mission Trip*

Please be praying for our Sr. High mission trip team who will be serving on the Navajo Indian Reservation from July 13-21! They will be serving that community through various work projects and leading a Vacation Bible Study for local children.

Summer

SCHEDULE CHANGE

Just a reminder that there will be NO Sunday School for any ages July 28 thru August 18 as we get ready for the new school year. We look forward to picking it up again on August 25. Enjoy your summer!

NEEDS FOR JULY:

- Baby Wipes
- Diapers (Size 3-6)

Please deliver items to the Bin across from the Garden Room. THANK YOU!

Our next event is Saturday, July 20, 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.



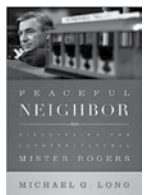
July Focus:

Preschool: Our Preschoolers will be learning that **GOD LOVES US** and will always be with us.

Elementary: Elementary kids will be concentrating on Fruits of the spirit. We will also have learning stations in **WISE ALL SUMMER** and the kids love it! For more information please call 309.827.8046 or email Kathi Pritts at kpritts@wesley-umc.com.



JULY Adult Education at Wesley



Sundays from 10:15-11:00 am
"PEACEFUL NEIGHBOR - Discovering the counter cultural Mister Rogers" by Michael G. Long
In the Lounge with Judy Bute



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

REACHING 'OUT' Outdoor Worship AT WESLEY WEST

We have two more outdoor worship services at 11:15 am this summer on July 21 and August 18! Join us in the Wesley West parking lot (across McLean St.) for an informal and joyful service open to the whole community! It's like a baseball game, a parade, or a play in the amphitheater – but it's all focused on the God who loves everyone!

We know that some people we'd like to invite to church are hesitant to enter the building and sanctuary. It's beautiful to us, but it may be intimidating to those who have never been inside a church – at least, not such a large one!

But if we bring the praise to the people, we just may make some new friends and introduce them to Jesus!

Consider joining us outdoors this summer, once each month. Bring a friend! And let's let our neighbors know we love them!

Outdoor MOVIE NIGHT AT WESLEY

Wesley is hosting outdoor movie nights on July 12, July 26, and August 9! Join us early for games at 7:30 pm and stay for the movie at sunset. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and a friend! Here's a hint about our first feature: This pachyderm is little and gray, but his large ears enable him to fly! We'll catch the 2019 remake of this movie on July 12th.

Come out and join us!



Healing Rides is ready to kick-off the 2019 riding season from June 1 thru September 30 with two BRAND NEW BIKES! Because of your generosity, they were able to afford this purchase and DONATE the old bikes to local families in need. THANK YOU! Healing Rides takes daily afternoon rides at 1:00 and 2:00, Monday thru Sunday, on the beautiful Constitution Trail. If you would like to pedal, donate, or know someone who might benefit from a ride, please contact Barbara Brown at healingrides@gmail.com or call 309.531.8768. Visit www.healingrides.com for more details.

Welcome to the World!

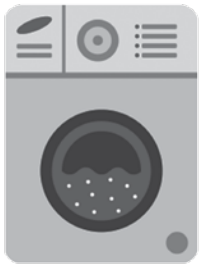


Molly and Rory McCue welcomed their first child, Ronan Patrick, on June 6, 2019. All are doing well and would like to

thank their Wesley family for all the wonderful cards, love and prayers they have received.

Power of Prayer

We invite you take a moment from your hectic day and join us to pray on Monday, July 15, from 4:30-6:00 pm at Wesley West. ALL are welcome to receive prayer, pray with others, or pray in silence. Stay as little or as long as you like! Please contact Pastor Justin Iverson at jiverson@wesley-umc.com for details.



LOADS OF Love

Join us for the next Loads of Love event on Tuesday, July 23, 4:30 to 8:00 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 so 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.



JULY JUST ONE COLLECTION

The Church and Society Committee will be collecting Bibles, devotionals, study books and Christian literature of all kinds during the month of July. We plan to deliver these to Love Packages in Butler, Illinois, in August. Love Packages is a warehousing operation that ships Bibles and books to needy countries all over the world. What a wonderful way to help spread the Word of God to people eager to read it! This is a great opportunity to purge your bookshelves of those treasured books that are hard to part with. THANK YOU!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Church

GEMS Growing Each Mom Spiritually.....

GEMS will be meeting at 7:00 pm on Monday, July 8, at the home of Kara Thompson and also on Monday, July 22, at the home of Michelle Watson. Childcare is available for \$3 per child. For details contact Liz Tomera at tomeras@comcast.net.

HOPE CIRCLE.....

We are taking the summer off! Enjoy! Mary Ann Knudson will be leading this fall.

LOL Ladies Outreach and Lunch.....

Our service project will be at Habitat for Humanity's Restore Tuesday, July 2, from 9-11 am. Join us for brunch at the Cracker Barrel at 11 am! On Monday, July 15, we will enjoy lunch in Karen Daudelin's beautiful backyard garden! If you would like to join us in our fellowship and mission work, please contact Elaine at estokes65@gmail.com.



On Wednesday, May 22, these caring ladies from LOL volunteered at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center! Thank you for your time!

1-DAY Mission Trip Hospital VISITATION

Have you always wanted to go on a mission trip but never had the time? Join us on Thursday, August 1, for a FREE 1-Day trip to Butler, IL where we'll spend the day packing Bibles and other literature to be sent all over the world. We have a job for all ages and abilities! RSVP to Pastor Justin by July 28 at jiverson@wesley-umc.com or 309.827.8046.

Please remember to let one of the pastoral staff know if you or a loved one is in the hospital (or homebound) and would like a visit. Due to HIPAA regulations, hospitals will not share this information with visitors, even clergy.

Please call 309.827.8046 or email:

Pastor Sara: sisbell@wesley-umc.com
Pastor Justin: jiverson@wesley-umc.com

Greetings from Greta

Hello Wesley members! Last month, I had the opportunity to attend Annual Conference and learn more about the United Methodist Church and how it operates. Annual Conference greeted me with an overwhelming feeling of family and support. Being in a space where everyone present is actively seeking to love God and love others was truly comforting despite the lingering tension in the UMC as a whole. Conference also gave me the opportunity to reconnect with some of my old pastors, which is always uplifting and encouraging to me. During the business portions of Conference, I learned how votes are cast and how people can make motions for the body to vote on. One motion that passed was to increase the percentage of youth and young adults that attend Annual Conference. This vote in particular gave me hope since this means that people my age, and people younger than me will be able to use the voice that they may not know they have. One other large take-away from Conference for me was that we, as a church, are still working on having tough conversations and that we can all practice talking with others in grace and humility. I learned that it's okay to still feel confused, hurt, lost, or scared; and that it's also okay to feel empowered and ready to grow into whatever God is calling the church to become.



Greta Long

Money Matters

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You may remember that as of the end of April, we had a surplus of \$73,983. As you can see in the chart, that surplus dropped by over \$55,000 in one month! Part of the reason is due to a few large expenses in May, but a larger part of the shortfall was due to smaller than usual offerings. As you begin the laid back season of vacations and relaxation, please remember that the Church's expenses continue all year long. We do anticipate lower expenses in June and July, and then an increase in purchases by August as we restart fall ministry

General fund receipts as of 5/31/19	\$584,461
General fund expenses as of 4/30/19	\$565,603
Surplus	\$18,858

programs. Whether you choose to give through the wesley-umc.com website, via your own bank's on-line banking, by mail, or in person, please remember to continue to send your contributions when you plan to miss a Sunday worship service. Thank you for your continued support of all of Wesley's ministries.
Article by Myrna Simpson

Anchored will meet monthly through the summer. Join us for our next meeting with a potluck meal at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, July 10, at the home of Matt and Lindsey Sherrill. Email mattdms87@gmail.com for more details.



A WESLEY MINISTRY FOR TWENTY AND THIRTY SOMETHINGS

Prayers of Comfort

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

Barbara Butler - May 18

Reverend Keith Ferguson - June 18

Jan Hoffman - June 18



Rev. Keith Ferguson, Wesley Visitation Pastor, passed away peacefully in the early hours of the morning on Tuesday, June 18, 2019. We are

thankful to God for sharing with us the life of this most gentle and godly man. Keith's care and compassion reflected the love of Jesus, and affected everyone who knew him.

Please continue to hold Keith's wife Barbara and their children Amy (Logan) and David (Laura) in your prayers, as well as grandchildren Ella and Xavier.

UMC Update

On Thursday, June 13, 75 members and friends of Wesley gathered in Wesley Hall to hear an update on happenings around the UMC, particularly in response to the Special Session of General Conference held in February. Pastor Sara gave a report on the "UMC-Next" gathering in Kansas City; lay members Dave Koth, and Alycia Hund as well as student intern Greta Long reported on the recent meeting of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. The decisions of GC2019 have met with significant resistance around the connection, particularly in the United States. While theology and social perspective vary widely around the nation, many "progressive," "centrist" and "traditionalist" United Methodists alike have been very uncomfortable with the rigidity of the Traditional Plan to be enacted beginning Jan. 1, 2020. That resistance has been evident in Annual Conference sessions all around the country, though not in every area. At Wesley, we are going to be working hard at valuing "people" over "position" – in other words, ensuring that all God's people: liberal, conservative, old, young, gay, straight, male, female or non-binary, are welcome in this place. Regardless of how you vote or which way you lean, when we say "All Means All," we mean YOU! And the best way to ensure that is by strengthening our relationships and growing our mutual respect. If you are invited into a "holy conversation" – to hear and to be heard; to be understood and to understand, please accept the invitation. The Holy Spirit sometimes speaks through the stories and experiences of God's people – and we all just might learn something new! For more information about opportunities to listen, talk, and learn, talk to Pastor Sara.

Calling All Singers!

ALL are welcome to join us for Summer Choir on July 21 and August 11! We'll have a short rehearsal that morning at 8:00 am in the upstairs choir room, then we'll sing for the congregation at the 9:00 am service. We also would like to invite ALL past and present choir members to join us on August 11 for a Choir Reunion in honor of our retiring Director of Music Ministries, Mrs. Adria Schumann! Join us for singing and celebration!



WESLEY'S Bright BEGINNINGS

Wesley's Bright Beginnings is looking for a part time assistant teacher for the 3 day 2's class and the 3's class for the 2019-2020 school year. Experience in early childhood education or related field preferred. Responsibilities include helping the lead teacher implement developmentally appropriate practices and curriculum for a play based program. We also currently have openings in both our 3-day and 2-day 2's classrooms. For more details, contact Julie Loy, Program Director, at wesleysbrightbeginnings@gmail.com



And just like that Choir Tour 2019 is over!

On Thursday, June 6, thru Sunday, June 9, 18 students and 11 chaperones took 1 bus to start our "mini" Choir Tour. This year we headed north! Our first stop was First Baptist

Church of Madison in Madison, WI. Many of the audience members at this church were familiar with Lauren Daigle's song "Trust In You" and sang along with Exaltation during the concert. It was such a moving experience to hear the sanctuary fill with people that didn't know each other come together and sing to God.

On Friday we continued to St. Paul, MN, where we spent the afternoon serving at a Feed My Starving Children (a non-profit organization that helps package and distribute food to families in developing countries) event. Many of the youth have served at FMSC before with Surge but for many of the adults it was our first time working with this organization. Alongside the other volunteers we packed 300 boxes of food (which is 64,800 meals and feeds 177 children for one year)! It was such a humbling experience for many of us and we even got to perform an impromptu, acapella song, "O Mighty Warrior", for the other volunteers that were there that day. Saturday, June 7, we stayed in the Bloomington, MN area. We started off the day with a concert at Presbyterian Homes, a nursing home in the Bloomington area. The residents loved having the students sing for them and we were told they will be talking about this for weeks! We finished the day shopping and riding until we dropped at the Mall of America. Each evening we would gather into our devotion groups and spend time in fellowship with each other learning about how much God loves each of us.

Overall it was a wonderful trip, and we can't wait until next year! Thank you to the Wesley congregation for your support of our youth music program. And thank you also to all of the students and adults who generously gave their time to travel with us and share the word of God with so many others.

Brenna Martin, Assistant Director of Music Ministries



CONGRATULATIONS
Andrew Johnson
CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR
Wesley welcomes and congratulates Andrew Johnson, who has recently

accepted the position of Chancel Choir Director for the coming year, following in the able footsteps of Adria Schumann. Andrew is not only blessed with extraordinary musicianship in general, he has studied choral conducting in particular, and has experience directing our own Wesley choir and Asbury Chorale, the Illinois Wesleyan University Choir, and the First Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir. This is wonderful news for Wesley. Better yet is this assurance: Andrew isn't giving up the organ. He will continue to serve as our Wesley UMC organist, and call on other capable musicians for choir accompaniment when needed. *Please congratulate Andrew when you see him and let him know how blessed we are to have such a fine musician on our staff!*

CHURCH AND SOCIETY *Serves Safe Harbor Meal*



Special thanks to these smiling volunteers who served 67 guests a meal at Safe Harbor on Tuesday, June 11. Wesley groups serve twice a month! To volunteer, contact Steve Brown at shadowbrown1956@gmail.com.

ZIMBABWE *Mission Trip*



THANK YOU for your support of the Fairfield Children's Home in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Because of your generous giving, Sandi Hinrichs and Keith Smith were able to collect \$1000! Combined with collections taken from other mission volunteers, the team presented \$2350 to the children's home administrator, Ceceillia Thobani, and used it to purchase 54 new school uniforms, school supplies, a year supply of laundry soap, and a variety of healthy foods. The group was also able to deposit an additional \$3750 in their bank account for future use. View more photos and learn more about their amazing adventure at www.wesley-umc.com. **GOD IS SO GOOD!**

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

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“When you pass through *deep waters*,
I will be *with you*.”

{ ISAIAH 43:2 }

