

Let's Go *for a Walk!*

"The Walk" Study Opportunity: Jan. 19 – Feb. 16

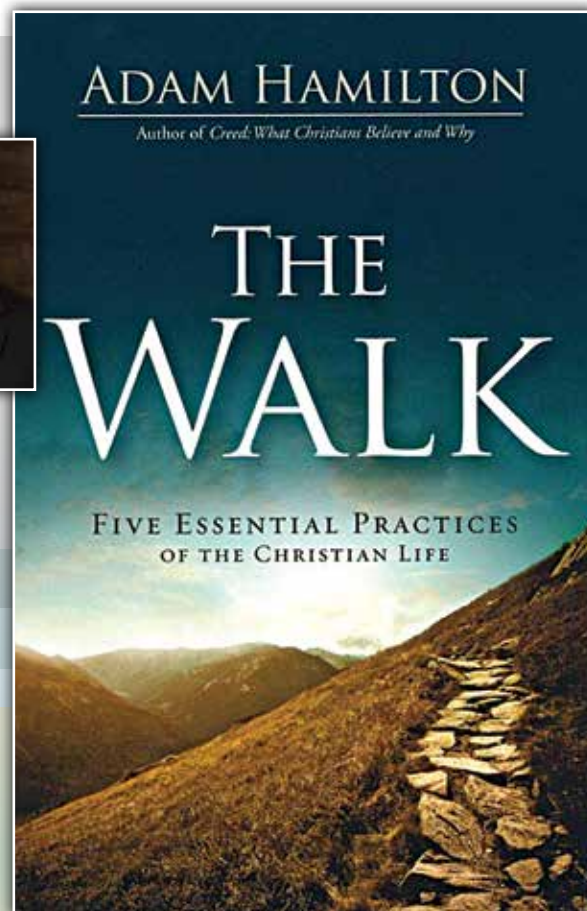
You know how our bodies get stiff and out of shape when we don't exercise them regularly? The same can be true of our souls. Regular "exercise" and spiritual activity is important to keep us spiritually healthy and functioning. This winter, rather than settling for New Year's Resolutions we don't really intend to keep, we will journey together with Adam Hamilton (Senior Pastor of Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City) in the brand-new study, "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life." Everyone is invited to participate in "The Walk" – from elementary school children, to older adults – and to renew and refresh their spiritual walk using five basic practices: Worship and Prayer, Study, Service, Giving, and Sharing. New and several existing small groups will take "The Walk" together, including:

- *Adult Sunday School (begins Jan. 19 at 10:15am)*
- *Wednesday Study Group (begins Jan. 22 at 6 pm)*
- *Other groups as announced in January*

We'd also like to invite you to do some physical "walking" this winter, and to strengthen your body and soul at the same time. Maybe your small group would like to walk and talk together! Watch for our "Walk with the Pastor" and other exercise opportunities. Let's get "in shape" together!



*Author,
Adam
Hamilton*



'The Walk' focuses on these five basic principles:

Session 1: Worship and Prayer

Session 2: Study

Session 3: Serve

Session 4: Give

Session 5: Share

Session 6 (optional):

*The Five Practices from the Cross
(preparing for Lent)*

Although there are many opportunities for study in a small group setting, we also invite you to do the study alone, if you prefer. Pick up your copy of "The Walk" at the Welcome Center for only \$10 or contact the office for more details at 309.827.8046.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER.....

- 24 Wesley Office Closes at Noon
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
5 pm Children & Family Service
7:30 pm Candlelight & Holy Communion (7:00 pre-service music)
11 pm Candlelight & Holy Communion (10:30 pre-service music)
- 25-27 Wesley Office Closed (Holiday Break)
- 29 ONE combined service at 10 am

JANUARY.....

- 5 Covenant Renewal
9:00 & 11:15 am in the Sanctuary
- 5 BOOK LOOK in the Lounge
- 7 LOL to pack food boxes
Tinervan Family Foundation
- 9 HOPE CIRCLE 6:30 pm the Lounge
- 10 Family Noodle Night
6-8 pm in Wesley Hall
- 12 Baptismal Renewal
9:00 & 11:15 am in the Sanctuary
- 12 BOOK LOOK in the Lounge
- 12 New Member Pie with the Pastors
4-5:30 pm in the Garden Room
- 13 GEMS 7 pm the Jr High Lounge
- 14 Wesley's Bright Beginnings
Preschool Open House
- 17-20 Senior High Winterfest
Silver Birch Ranch
- 18 Wesley Distribution Ministry
9:30-11:30 am at Wesley West (ANCHORED serving)
- 19 Adult Education "The Walk"
10:15 am in the Lounge
- 20 LOL Lunch
11:30 am Original Pancake House
- 20 Power of Prayer
4:30-6:00 pm at Wesley West
- 22 Wednesday Study "The Walk"
6 pm in the Lounge
- 26 Wesley Youth Lunch & Auction
10am-2pm in Wesley Hall
- 26 Adult Education "The Walk"
10:15 am in the Lounge
- 26 Scout Spaghetti Supper
Ticket Sales in the Garden Room
- 27 GEMS 7 pm the Jr High Lounge
- 28 Loads of Love Ministry
4:30-8:00 pm The Wash House

FEBRUARY.....

- 2 Scout Spaghetti Supper
Ticket Sales in the Garden Room
- 8 Scout Spaghetti Supper
5-7 pm in Wesley Hall
- 9 Adult Education "The Walk"
10:15 am in the Lounge
- 16 Adult Education "The Walk"
10:15 am in the Lounge
- 25 Loads of Love Ministry
4:30-8:00 pm The Wash House



A Note From from Pastor Sara

What are we praying for? This past fall, we invited the congregation to help "create a legacy of generosity" at Wesley by making financial and prayer commitments for the coming year. You responded so generously (see the "Finance" article on page 6) – but not just with your finances. You responded generously with your prayers, too!

Perhaps you remember: two of the questions on the prayer card read, "My prayer for Wesley Church in the coming year is..." and "My prayer for Wesley in the next 5-10 years is...". The responses of this congregation to these two questions was truly inspiring.

- The majority of you are praying for "growth." You used words like "grow," "expand," and "increase," in areas such as "membership," "attendance," "spirituality," and "outreach/missions."
- The second most frequent prayer is for "welcome and inclusion." Many people mentioned LGBTQ persons in particular; others are praying in general that ALL people would feel welcome at Wesley.
- The next most frequent prayer is for young people: youth, young adults, young families – many of you are praying for Wesley to be a spiritual home for younger generations.

These prayer requests really inspired me, Wesley. Your hearts are clearly open and turned outward toward people who may be seeking a spiritual home and who just may find it here, if we will reach out to them with the love of Jesus! God bless you!

As we move into the New Year, and particularly toward the season of Lent, we will have several opportunities to think and pray about reaching out to our neighbors and welcoming them to be part of our faith community.

- Our January-February Worship and Study series, "The Walk," culminates in an invitation to "Share" – your faith, your journey, your church home.
- Our Lenten Worship series is entitled, "You Are Invited," and focuses on inviting others to be part of the Lenten journey.
- A really fun new Lenten study series, "Generous Hospitality at Work" includes movies and meals as a way to practice hospitality and welcome new friends.

Looks like it's going to be a wonderful, welcoming winter!
Keep praying, Wesley! God is ready to answer our prayers!

Pastor Sara

SECRET MISSION: The Generosity Challenge

A few Sundays ago, worshipers were invited to take home an envelope with a "Secret Mission" inside: a simple act of generosity to make somebody's day! Below are some "Generosity Challenge" reports from our members:

- baked pumpkin bread and brought coloring pages/crayons for the laundry ministry
- helped a neighbor who was struggling financially
- passed \$5 along to somebody who needed it
- offered to pick up groceries for 3 neighbors
- paid it forward at the sandwich counter
- gave one of their own books to a friend
- baked cranberry bread for a neighbor
- babysat his little cousins for free
- gave a friend a ride to church
- donated to a favorite charity

Would you like to participate in the challenge?
Envelopes are still available...



SURGE

WESLEY UMC YOUTH GROUP
We're in this together.

WINTERFEST: Plans for the annual trek to the Senior High Winterfest at Silver Birch Ranch from January 17-20 are underway! Please sign-up on the Surge board. The cost is \$140, registration deadline is on January 8. Come join the fun!

This fall, Surge has committed themselves to the prayer of Ubuntu: "I am who I am and you are who you are because of who we are together". As we are getting to know our new group identity, we are also thanking God for who He has made us to be and remembering that as Christians, we are a family and we're in this together. - Kelsey Ross, Director of Youth Ministries



SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITY:

ALL current students are invited to participate in conference camping this summer! Junior and Senior High students are invited to attend AIR from June 21-26 at Little Grassy. Look for more details about fundraising for this event so we can make it possible for everyone to enjoy this experience!

Wesley DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY

Written by Karen Daudelin

2019 Year in Review:

Our ministry continues to grow, both in guests who come for paper goods and volunteers who come to serve. We have just completed our 2nd full year of service. In this time, we were able to touch the lives of 1189 families, with over 5300 family members served! We have had over 198 volunteers, including 21 who were previous guests who returned to show their appreciation! We welcomed volunteers of ALL AGES including 25 elementary and high school students, many who have become regular volunteers. We have much to be grateful for. This has also proven to be a special year since establishing a partnership with The Tinervin Foundation. Their generosity not only supplies hundreds of food boxes each month, but they allow us to use their truck to help transport our

paper goods! We are so grateful and feel truly blessed in serving others! Our next endeavor is to place benches outside Wesley West to offer seating for both our patrons and community members waiting for the bus each day. We are SO excited about this project! Our distribution relies on the generous donations provided by our Wesley congregation and we are SO grateful! To give, please leave paper goods in the WDM bin outside the Garden Room or mark your financial donation "WDM" and drop it by the office or in the offering plate. **THANK YOU!**

We face 2020 with challenges and opportunities. With God's guidance, the support of our Church staff and the continued devotion to serving others through our actions, we will be surprised by joy and humbled by the gifts and graces we receive. May you and your family find JOY in serving others in the New Year!

NEEDS FOR JANUARY:

Baby Wipes • Diapers (Sizes 3-6)
Pull-Ups • Tampons • Tissues
Upper Room Booklets

NEXT EVENT:

Saturday, JANUARY 18,
9:30-11:30 am at Wesley West.



Wesley MUSIC

Was one of your New Year's resolutions to become more involved in Wesley's wonderful music program? If so, we have many singing and ringing opportunities in January for you to get started! Don't be shy! Contact Brenna Martin, Director of Music Ministries, for details and let's sing (and ring) in the New Year together!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020:

- CHANCEL CHOIR 7:45am in the Choir Room
- BELLS OF ADORATION 3:00pm in the Chapel
- JUBILATION YOUTH CHOIR 4:00pm in the Choir Room
- CELEBRATION RINGERS 5:00pm in the Chapel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020:

- EXALTATION 5:30pm in the Choir Room
- CHIMES OF GLORY 5:30pm in the Chapel
- CHERUB CHOIR 5:45pm in Room 202
- SONSHINE CHOIR 6:20pm in Room 202
- WESLEY SINGERS 6:30pm in the Choir Room
- BELLS OF WESLEY 7:00pm in the Chapel
- CHANCEL CHOIR 7:15pm in the Choir Room
- ASBURY CHORALE 8:30pm in the Choir Room





January

JUST ONE COLLECTION

NEW sweatshirts, sweatpants and T-shirts for adults in sizes 2X-3X are needed for the Compassion Closet within Advocate Bromenn Hospital. Many patients are in need of new clothes to wear home when they are discharged. Because of the hospital's hygiene regulations, used clothing items cannot be accepted. This very specific request is urgently needed! Wesley UMC is a prayer partner and proud member of the Advocate Bromenn Delegate Church Association, which includes several local churches. *Thank you for your generous support!*

January Focus:

Preschool: We will be learning about FAITH!

Elementary: We will be focused on KNOWLEDGE of God in the Gospels.

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



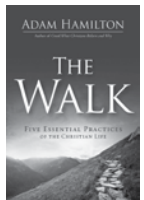
FAMILY NOODLE NIGHT: Join us Friday, January 10, from 6-8 pm for a family-friendly event of learning and fun with all things noodles! Bring a friend!

JANUARY Adult Education at Wesley



Sundays from 10:15-11:00 am
"BOOK OF REVELATION"

In the Conference Room with Barb Phend



STUDY BEGINNING JANUARY 19

Sundays from 10:15-11:00 am (in the Lounge)

"THE WALK" by Adam Hamilton - Focused on re-centering ourselves in the Best of Methodism, our membership vows, and faithful living and discipleship. Come join us!

BOOK LOOK: Stop by the Lounge on Sundays, January 5 & 12, to browse a few book selections we are considering for our next study and place your vote!

Snow Removal Ministry



Help keep our sidewalks and parking lots safe this winter by joining our Snow Removal Team! This hard working group of volunteers ensures the safety of our Wesley staff and members. If you can help and would like more details, contact Dave Koth at 309.663.6770 or email davekoth@comcast.net to sign up.

Snow Days Reminder

In the event of inclement weather, Wesley follows the guidelines of School District 87 for closings, cancellations and delays. For the most recent updates, please visit our facebook page @wesleyumcbloomington or check the WJBC CANCELLATIONS page online at www.wjbc.com/wjbc-cancellations/.



POWER of Prayer

We invite you to take a moment to join us in prayer on Monday, January 20, from 4:30-6 pm at Wesley West (across from the church). ALL are welcome to receive prayer, pray with others, or pray in silence. *Stay as little or as long as you like! Please call the office for more details at 309.827.8046. Come join us!*



United Methodist Women would like to thank our Wesley congregation and friends for supporting our snowman sales this year! We sold over 2200 with ALL proceeds supporting our missions. A HUGE thanks to the many elves who spent hours each Tuesday morning enjoying each other's company while crafting! **THANK YOU!**



Rummage Sale Reminder

Call for Donations! Start Saving!

As you are cleaning out your closets and making space for all the shiny new gifts, please remember our upcoming Rummage Sale this May! We will be collecting toys, clothes, housewares, furniture, jewelry, and tools! *Keep your eye out for drop-off details!*



LOADS OF Love

*Looking for a New Year's resolution? **VOLUNTEER!** Join us on Tuesday, January 28, from 4:30 to 8:00 pm at the Wash House as we share smiles and a few quarters! Leave your donation in the tubes outside the Sanctuary, or mark your gift "Loads of Love" and drop it in the offering plate or by the office. To volunteer, contact Gary Thompson at garyt23@frontier.com. Thank you!*



LOL spreads Christmas cheer at Luther Oaks!



Nell Eckley and
Jan Hoerber



Jan Hoerber and
Donna Maurer



Jan Hoerber and
Grace Sturgeon



Mae Clark and
Jan Hoerber



Verlynn Zachow and
Jan Hoerber

JANUARY & FEBRUARY *Worship at Wesley*

As we turn the page on a new year and a new decade, our worship themes will focus on helping us be who we are called to be as Christians.

For regular church-folks who sometimes get stuck in old routines, January is a fresh opportunity for renewal and rededication. For newcomers to faith who are curious about what "Christian" really means, it's a chance to find out what the church believes, test out some spiritual practices and see what it feels like to walk with Jesus.

Come renew and refresh with us – and maybe even invite a friend along on the journey.

JANUARY 5: Holy Communion and Covenant Renewal (Heb 10.11-25)

What do we believe about Holy Communion?

What does our ritual teach us, and what does it do?

JANUARY 12: Baptism of the Lord and Baptismal Renewal (Matthew 3.13-17)

What do we believe about Baptism (Christ's, and ours)?

What does it mean to renew our promises?

JANUARY 19 – FEBRUARY 16: "The Walk": Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*

January 19 – Worship and Prayer

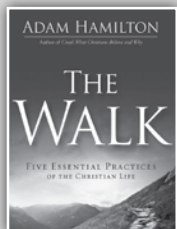
January 26 – Study

February 2 – Serve

February 9 – Give

February 16 – Share

*This series will be based on a study guide by Adam Hamilton called "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life." Copies are available at the Welcome Center for \$10, and several small groups will go through the series together. For more details about how to get involved, talk to the pastors or Kathi Pitts.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Church

GEMS Growing Each Mom Spiritually.....

GEMS will meet January 13 & 27 at 7 pm at Wesley. Childcare is available for \$3 per child. Contact Liz Tomera at 847.924.1194 or email ltomera@wesley-umc.com for more details. *Come join this special group of moms for fun and fellowship!*

HOPE CIRCLE.....

Hope Circle will meet on Thursday, January 9 at 6:30 pm in the Lounge for a SURPRISE program! Come see what it's all about! Contact Mary Ann Knudson to join our group at maryann.knudson@frontier.com. All women are welcome!

LOL Ladies Outreach and Lunch.....

Our LOL Circle will help pack food boxes on Tuesday, January 7, for the Tinervin Family Foundation. On Tuesday, January 20, we will enjoy lunch and fellowship at the Original Pancake House. If you would like to join our Circle or have questions, please contact Nancy Erickson at nancye416@gmail.com.

WESLEY YOUTH *Lunch AND Auction*

Sunday, January 26, 2020
from 10 am – 2 pm

Join us for lunch and an auction to support our Annual Choir Tour! This is a FREE event, but we are accepting donations to help cover the cost of the meal (and of course we encourage lots of BIDDING)! You can help by donating items to be auctioned off at our event. Ideas include gift baskets, art, game or concert tickets, electronics, time shares, certificates for services (think auto care, lawn care, salons etc.) or even donate an unwanted Christmas gift that you received! ALL donations are due by Sunday, January 5. For more details please contact Brenna Martin via email at bmartin@wesley-umc.com or Kelsey Ross at kross@wesley-umc.com.

WESLEY'S Bright BEGINNINGS 2020-2021 Registration

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year will be open to families currently enrolled in WBB AND Wesley Church members on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. A non-refundable fee of \$150 per family is due upon registration. This includes \$80 that will be put towards September tuition. A child should be enrolled in the class of the age that he/she will be as of September 1, 2020. Classes will be available only if adequate enrollment is received. Contact Julie Loy, Director, at wesleysbrightbeginnings@gmail.com for more details or call 309.827.8046.



With the help of Wesley members and many others in our community, we are **THRILLED** to announce that we finished the house! On Saturday, December 14, Habitat for Humanity was able to pass the keys to a young family just in time for them to spend their first Christmas in a new home. **THANK YOU** to all who were giving of their time and resources to make this happen! We are already making plans for our next build starting in May of 2020. Keep your eye out for more details!

Money Matters

by Myrna Simpson

As we near the end of the year, we reflect on the many joys and challenges of the past year. For Wesley Church, challenges included several staff changes, loss of members due to deaths or moves, and news from the General Conference. However, those challenges have been balanced by the addition of wonderful new staff, birth of new babies and welcoming of new members, and the knowledge that Wesley continues to thrive in worship, music, missions, education, youth and other ministries. *How will next year compare?*

As of the print date of this newsletter, we received 235 financial commitment cards for 2020 for a total commitment of \$1,000,179 (about 83% of our current operating budget needs). Our Finance Committee will be meeting soon to determine how to adjust the current proposed budget by nearly \$200,000 so that we enter the new year with a balanced budget. As we work on determining other funding resources and cutting expenses where possible, we will also keep the mission of Wesley Church at the forefront of any decisions. After all, we are all here to make and nurture disciples for Jesus Christ. We have done an awesome job of that in the past year, and will no doubt do the same in 2020. If you have questions about giving or still wish to make your commitment, please email msimpson@wesley-umc.com or call 309.827.8046.

General fund receipts as of 11/30/19	\$1,176,447
General fund expenses as of 11/30/19	\$1,209,441
Shortfall	\$32,994



ANCHORED

A WESLEY MINISTRY FOR
TWENTY AND THIRTY SOMETHINGS

Anchored will serve the Wesley Distribution Ministry on Saturday, January 18, 2020. Please contact Pastor Justin for more details or to sign up to volunteer. Come join us!



Don't Forget!



There will be only
ONE SERVICE on
Sunday, December 29
at 10:00 am
Mark your calendar!

Special Thanks

*Christmas at Wesley is always special. Part of our tradition that is so memorable (and moving) is the talent of our Wesley musicians and singers! Special thanks to all of our members and friends who shared their time and talents with us this season. The hours spent rehearsing, time away from families (especially on Christmas Eve) and dedication to our music program is truly second to none. **THANK YOU** for helping carry on the tradition of wonderful Wesley music! **BRAVO!***



SCOUT Spaghetti SUPPER

Mark your calendars for the Annual Boy Scout Troop 918 Spaghetti Supper set for Saturday, February 8, from 5-7 pm in Wesley Hall. Tickets will be sold between services in the Garden Room on January 26 and February 2 (Adults \$9 in advance/\$10 at the door, Kids \$7 in advance/\$8 at the door). Bring your appetite to this tasty event!

New Member —OPPORTUNITY—

Take "The Walk" with Us! Have you been wondering if this might be a good time to join Wesley Church? This January-February Wesley is embarking on a spiritual journey called "The Walk," based on the book/study by Adam Hamilton (Senior Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City). "The Walk" helps Christians deepen their faith by leading us through five key practices of Christian discipleship: Worship/Prayer, Study, Giving, Serving, and Sharing. These disciplines are so important to the Christian life, and so similar to our church's membership vows, they provide an excellent preparation for becoming a member of Wesley! You are invited to join a small group for "The Walk" study, attend regularly during January and February, and then let us know if you're ready to join! Small group "The Walk" meetings will include a Sunday morning group, a Wednesday evening group, and several other options. In addition, a "Pie with the Pastors" get-acquainted meeting especially for those considering membership will be held on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 12, from 4:00-5:30. If you're interested or would like to know more, please talk to Pastor Sara at Church or call the office (309.827.8046).

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN *Recap*

Our United Methodist Women sponsored several wonderful events in recent months, including an authentic "Mexican Fiesta" (partnering with Western Community Center) and a "Victorian Christmas Splendor" (partnering with The Tea Ladies)! We hope everyone who attended either of these special events enjoyed an evening of fun and fellowship - THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Mexican Fiesta
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019



Victorian
CHRISTMAS SPLENDOR
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019



Creating a *Legacy* of Generosity STEWARDSHIP 2019

As we look toward the next 75 years of Wesley Church, what are our hopes, dreams and visions for the next generation? How can the investment we make in our church today help ensure a faithful legacy for many years to come? The future of the church begins right now! At the publication of this newsletter, we have reached 83% of the faith commitments needed to help us meet our financial goals for 2020. THANKYOU! If you've not yet had a chance to submit your commitment, we invite you to pick up a brochure found in your pew or the Welcome Center and return it with your response. You may also email Myrna Simpson at msimpson@wesley-umc.com. We look forward to hearing from you. Let's "Create a Legacy of Generosity" together!

Prayers of Comfort

Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Wesley member Patricia Wynn who passed away on December 15, 2019.

Our thoughts are with those who may be grieving the loss of loved ones during this holiday season.

Wesley United Methodist Church

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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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“ I am about to do a *new thing*;
now it *springs forth*,
do you not perceive it?

I will *make a way* in the wilderness
and *rivers* in the desert.”

{ ISAIAH 43:19 }