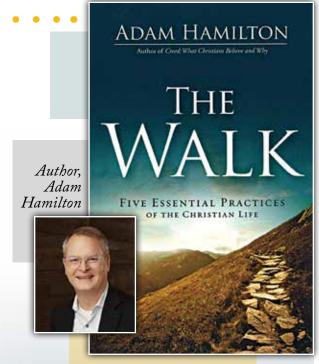


Sunday Services - 9:00 & 11:15 AM \* Christian Education - 10:15 AM 502 East Front Street \* Bloomington, Illinois 61701 \* 309.827.8046 \* wesley-umc.com

Wesley Is On "The Walk"! 5 Spiritual Practices for Christian Discipleship On January 19, Wesley set out on a "Walk" with Adam Hamilton (Church of the Resurrection) to strengthen our spiritual muscles, deepen our relationship with God, and improve our spiritual fitness! Using the study book "The Walk," and the prayer journal by the same name, Wesley members and friends have been working on our spiritual health in the following areas:

- Week of January 19: WORSHIP/PRAYER
- Week of January 26: STUDY
- Week of February 2: SERVE
- Week of February 9: GIVE
- Week of February 16: SHARE

In addition, we're adding a little physical exercise to our routine! On Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon, "Walk with the Pastors" takes us out into our neighborhood to notice and pray for the folks around us! On Wednesdays at noon, join us for "Wesley Zumba" in Wesley Hall for a little cardio, stretching, and a lot of fun! (Both of these physical exercise opportunities conclude in time to get back to work by 1 pm.)



# "The Walk" ACTIVITIES & STUDY SCHEDULE

We have already started our "Walk" but it's not too late to join us!

See the list below for several ways to grow both spiritually and physically this month.

Sign up online at www.wesley-umc.com, call the office at 309.827.8046 or

contact Kathi Pritts at kpritts@wesley-umc.com. Let's take this "Walk" together!

MONDAYS from 6:30-8:30 pm (2/10, 2/24, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11)

Hosted by GEMS - Growing Each Mom Spiritually (in the Junior High Lounge)

TUESDAYS from 7:00-8:00 am (2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/3, 3/10)

Women's Group (in the Lounge)

TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS at NOON (January & February)

Walk with the Pastors (stroll the neighborhood with us)

TUESDAYS from 6:30-8:00 pm (1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11)

Study Group (in the Lounge)

WEDNESDAYS from 12:00-12:30 pm (1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19)

ZUMBA in Wesley Hall

WEDNESDAYS from 12:00-1:00 pm (1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19)

Men's Group (in the Garden Room)

WEDNESDAYS from 6:10-7:10 pm (1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19)

With Pastor Justin (in the Lounge)

THURSDAYS from 9:30-10:30 am (1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13)

Hosted by Thursday Morning Bible Study (in the Library)

SUNDAYS from 10:15-11:00 am (1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16)

With Pastor Sara and Kathi Pritts (in the Lounge)

SUNDAYS from 12:30-2:00 pm (1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16)

Twenty and Thirty Somethings with Pastor Justin (off-site lunch and learn)

SUNDAYS from 12:30-2:00 pm (1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16)

With Pastor Sara (lunch and learn in Wesley Hall)

### CALENDAR

#### JANUARY.

19 "The Walk": WORSHIP/PRAYER

26 "The Walk": STUDY

26 Wesley Youth Lunch & Auction 10am-2pm in Wesley Hall

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 "The Walk": SERVE

Souper Bowl SURGE Collection Between services outside Sanctuary

2 Scout Spaghetti Supper

Ticket Sales in the Garden Room

2 Andrew Johnson Senior Recital 4 pm in the Sanctuary

3 Ladies Outreach & Lunch Location to be announced

7 Night in a Car HSHM Event Trinity Lutheran Parking Lot

8 Scout Spaghetti Supper 5-7 pm in Wesley Hall

9 "The Walk": GIVE

9 SCOUT SUNDAY

9 UM UPDATE at Wesley 2-4 pm in Wesley Hall

10 GEMS Meeting

7 pm in the Junior High Lounge

13 HOPE Circle Program

6:30 pm in the Lounge Valentine Family Fun Night

6-8 pm in Wesley Hall

15 Wesley Distribution Ministry 9:30-11:30 am at Wesley West (Ladies Outreach & Lunch)

16 "The Walk": SHARE

16 New Member Sunday

16 Youth Led Worship Services 9 and 11:15 am in the Sanctuary

17 Ladies Outreach & Lunch Location to be announced

17 Power of Prayer Group

4:30-6 pm at Wesley West

18 Loads of Love Laundromat Ministry 4:30-8:00 pm The Wash House

Wesley Singers' Musical

ONE SERVICE at 10 am - Sanctuary

24 GEMS Meeting

25

28

7 pm in the Junior High Lounge

UMW Fellowship Program 9:30 am in the Garden Room

25 Loads of Love Ministry

4:30-8:00 pm The Wash House

26 Ash Wednesday Service

6:30 pm in the Sanctuary
Wesley's Bright Beginnings

OPEN HOUSE 6-7 pm at Wesley

29 Youth Service Day



### a Note From from Pastor Sara

"What Will People Say?" Wesley Church has faced quite a number of deaths and funerals lately. On the fourth funeral Saturday in a row, members, memorial visitors and funeral home staff alike all started saying to me, "we've got to stop meeting like this." Losing beloved members of our church family has been hard on the families, hard on the church,

hard on our volunteers and staff; it's been a tough season. And yet, it's been a truly grateful season, and there has been a lot of rejoicing these past several Saturdays, as we have sung and prayed and laughed and cried and told wonderful stories about these beloved saints who made such a powerful difference in our lives before they moved on to the kingdom beyond.

Pastor Justin and I have considered it a tremendous honor to have been trusted to gather up many of these stories and weave them into funeral homilies to offer back to the family. Over and over again I hear people say to me, "I actually enjoyed this funeral! I didn't know all those things about Patricia (or Jon, or Don, or Ann, or Bruce...); I learned so much about their lives by attending the service. I expected to feel sad, but instead I left feeling grateful." It has caused me to wonder "what will people say" about me when I am gone, and how do I want to live today in order to leave behind a positive legacy? It has reminded me again of how important it is to live intentionally, faithfully, prayerfully... in other words, to live a life that others will rejoice to remember at our earthly end. Not all of us will be famous or witty or talented or well-known, even in the church. But to live this earthly life in such a way that others are grateful to have known us - that they say we made a difference - that's a worthy goal.

We have been practicing this very kind of living as we enjoy taking "The Walk" together as a congregation. Remembering to work into our daily routines the exercises of Worship, Prayer, Study, Service, Giving and Sharing, helps to gradually form us into the kind of people others will remember with gratitude. (If you haven't joined a small group yet, there's still time!) But in other ways, we don't depend on our memory; we depend upon Christ to lead us in those right paths for His name's sake. We don't have to know all the answers or do all the right disciplines. We just have to ask him for guidance, and then follow where he leads.

I'm so thankful we get to do that together at Wesley Church! Thanks for being my walking prayer partners!

Pastor Sara Isbell



UM Update: Sunday, February 9 from 2-4 pm in Wesley Hall There's been a lot of news lately about a potential "United Methodist Church Split." Not all of it is accurate. Join us for an information meeting, hosted by Pastors Sara & Justin, so we can provide the background, bring you up-to-speed, correct any misconceptions, and then talk about what the upcoming General Conference session in May, 2020 means for us. All are welcome to join us at Wesley. Childcare provided by request.



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



### Souper Bowl SUNDAY SET FOR FEBRUARY 2

We are collecting donations to support Safe Harbor, a local Salvation Army shelter that provides services for low income members of our community. Drop your spare change in our SOUP POTS on Sunday, February 2, to support this mission! **SUMMER CAMP 2020:** 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! Come join the fun!

# Wesley DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY Written by Karen Daudelin

 $Angels\ Among\ Us$  Do you believe in angels? I do. I see them among us when we are handing out paper products each month at Wesley West. They are in the smiles of the people who wait patiently in line for their turn to fill a bag with paper products. They are the helping hands that unload, shelf, fill the tables, contribute paper products and experience pure joy in serving. They are angels of every size and age but seem to shine most brightly in the eyes of the youngest among us, lending a helping hand, showing us how to care and how to receive. I invite you to come and experience for yourself how God's angels are working among us. Each month, a group volunteers to lead the paper distribution. Our 2020 calendar is already filling up, but there are still a few spots open!

- January 18 Chancel Choir
- February 15 Ladies Outreach & Lunch
- March 21 Wesley Bell Choirs
- April 18 HOPE Circle/ Finance Committee
- May 16 Trustees
- June 20 OPEN

- July 18 *OPEN*
- August 15 K-5th Graders
- September 19 *OPEN*
- October 17 OPEN
- November 16 GEMS/Youth
- December 19 Church & Society/ Missions Committee

One need not be a member of any of the above groups to serve at a paper distribution. We need many helping hands. Do you believe in angels? Come, serve and rub shoulders with so many angels here at Wesley. Contact Karen Daudelin at 309.838.5723 or email kpdaudelin@frontier.com to volunteer. THANK YOU!

#### **NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY:**

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

**NEXT EVENT:** Saturday, FEBRUARY 15, 9:30-11:30 am at Wesley W





Our very own Organist and Chancel Choir Director, Andrew Johnson, is hosting his SENIOR RECITAL at Wesley UMC for all to enjoy! Please join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 2, at 4 pm for an afternoon of organ music. The performance will include selections by Langlais, Franck, Bach, and Vierne followed by a reception in Wesley Hall. We hope to see you there!

### Sneak-Peek: LENTEN STUDY AND WORSHIP SERIES "Forty Days of Faith, Film and Fellowship"

This year's Lenten series is an engaging opportunity for everyone! Sermon/worship themes will be paired with films/readings/ Bible study for a multi-dimensional, interactive, engaging Lent for everybody! Films include Babette's Feast, Julie and Julia, and Amish Grace, among others. Consider hosting a small group for five weeks as we look at the impact of food, fellowship and faith on our daily lives. You're going to enjoy this!

See the link below to the study material, if you'd like to look ahead: www.theologyofwork.org/small-group-studies/generous-hospitality-at-work



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.

### February Focus:

All ages will be learning about LOVE and WALKING in FAITH! For more details please call 309.827.8046 or email Kathi Pritts at kpritts@wesley-umc.com.













VALENTINE'S NIGHT: Join us Friday, February 14, from 6-8 pm for a family-friendly event of learning and fun with a Valentine theme! Bring a friend! ALL are welcome! Contact Kathi Pritts for details at kpritts@wesley-umc.com











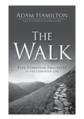


### FEBRUARY Adult Education at Wesley



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

In the Conference Room with Barb Phend



The Walk" BY ADAM HAMILTON: We are offering several opportunities for group study of this tremendous book or you may choose to do the study alone. Visit www.wesley-umc.com to sign up online and view our full list of classes and activities. For details, see the schedule on the front page of this newsletter, call the office at 309.827.8046, or email Kathi Pritts at kpritts@wesley-umc.com.

### 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/.



### Rummage Sale Reminder Call for Donations! Start Saving!

As you are cleaning out your closets and making space for all the shiny new gifts,

remember our upcoming Rummage Sale on May 2, 2020! We will be collecting toys, clothes, housewares, furniture, jewelry, and tools! Keep your eye out for drop-off details!

Save the Date FOR THE WESLEY RUMMAGF **INTERSTATE CENTER** SATURDAY MAY 2, 2020

# POWER of Prayer

We invite you to take a moment to join us in prayer on Monday, February 17, 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!



### NIGHT IN A CAR

Experience the hidden homelessness in our community.

How would you manage if you had to spend a winter night in your car? On February 7, 2020, you and dozens of others can experience homelessness on a small scale at Home Sweet Home Ministries' Night in a Car event, to be held in the parking lot at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Bloomington. Last February, 50 people representing 12 area churches, hunkered down to gain an appreciation for the plight of homeless individuals in our community in addition to raising funds for Home Sweet Home Ministries.

Invite your friends and family to learn about our neighbors who do not have a warm bed on cold winter nights. Last year, Home Sweet Home Ministries provided 18,000 nights of safe shelter to 287 men, women, and children who had nowhere else to stay. HSHM also provided 87,000 meals to our shelter residents and community members, in addition to 450 households who received items from our Bread for Life Food Co-op. Our Night in a Car event directly supports all of these services. Our goal for this year's Night in a Car 2020 is to raise \$125,000.

Please consider being a participant in this eye-opening event. You can sign up online at www.nightinacar.org or contact LeeAnn Kiper at 309.319.2839 (email lkiper@hshministries.org) to learn more.



# LOADS OF \_\_\_\_

Join us to share a smile (and a few quarters) on Tuesdays, January 28 and February 18, from 4:30 to 8:00 pm at the Wash House (609 N. Clinton Street, Bloomington). 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. Thanks to all those who have volunteered. ALL are welcome! Come help us share the load!



# February JUST ONE COLLECTION

PODS OF DETERGENT for the Loads of Love Laundromat Ministry (see article above) are needed for February (liquid detergent is often too cumbersome). Please bring pods to the JUST ONE BIN across from the Garden Room. Please also note, we are no longer collecting empty detergent bottles for Midwest Food Bank, but are SO appreciative of those that were donated! Thank you, as always, for your generous support.





### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

The United Methodist Church

### HOPE CIRCLE

On Thursday, February 13, we will host a program on UMW Activism presented by Sally Zuhn. Our Circle starts at 6:30 pm in the Church Lounge. We will begin our evening with refreshments and fellowship. *Please contact Mary Ann Knudson to join our group at maryann.knudson@frontier.com. ALL women are welcome!* 

### $\mathsf{LOL}$ Ladies Outreach and Lunch $\dots$

Our lunch planned for Monday, February 3, will soon be announced! Join us Saturday, February 15, to volunteer at the Wesley Distribution (at Wesley West). Please contact Nancy Erickson at nancye416@gmail.com to learn more! Join us!

### Save the Date!

Join us for a Prayer and Self Denial Fellowship Program on Tuesday, February 25, at 9:30 am in the Garden Room. Complimentary breakfast will also be provided, no ticket purchase necessary. ALL are welcome! Keep your eye out for more details.

### JUST ONE Collection

January: NEW sweatpants and sweatshirts sizes 2XL and 3XL for the Compassion Closet at Advocate BroMenn Hospital.

February: PODS of detergent for the Loads of Love Laundromat Ministry.

March: NEW TWIN SIZE SHEET SETS for the West Bloomington Revitalization Project Bed Blitz April: FINANCIAL donations for Care Packages for the Military.

Certain restrictions apply on snacks and items that can be received.

Committee will purchase compliant items.

May: CLOTH BAGS with handles for Safe Harbor Food Panty June: PEANUT BUTTER (16 oz. jars) for local food pantries July: New and gently used CHILDREN'S SHOES for

"school children in need in our community.

August: SCHOOL SUPPLIES including crayons, markers and

pens to be held for second semester.

September: NON-PERISHABLES for School Street Food Pantry October: SOCK IT TO US! New and gently used children's and adult socks for local school children and homeless shelters.

November: THANKSGIVING FOOD BAGS.

December: STOCK THE SILLS! Full size shampoo and

soaps for Home Sweet Home Mission.

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!

# BEGINNINGS Open House

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, FROM 6-7 PM AT WESLEY UMC

If you know a young family with children (ages 1-4) seeking a preschool for the 2020-21 school year, please share our program with them! ALL are welcome to attend our OPEN HOUSE on Tuesday, January 28, from 6-7 pm at Wesley UMC. This event will give new families and opportunity to tour our classrooms and meet our staff! 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 –



General fund receipts as of 12/31/19

\$1,328,658

General fund expenses as of 12/31/19

\$1,316,439

Surplus

\$12,219

We did it! We ended 2019 with a surplus! At the end of November, we were showing a shortfall of nearly \$33,000. Thanks to the arrival of several year-end donations, we were able to not only cover that shortfall, but cover all of December's expenses as well. While this year-end catch-up of finances has been a trend for several years, it always amazes me how you, Wesley Church, step up year after year to support this church. Thank you for being diligent in honoring your financial faith commitments for 2019.

Looking Ahead: At the publication of this newsletter, we have received 243 financial commitment cards for 2020, for a total commitment of \$1,020,399! While we are SO grateful to those who have responded thus far, we still have a shortfall as we work to meet our needs for 2020. If you would still like to make your faith commitment, or submit a prayer request, you may pick up a brochure from the Welcome Center containing commitment cards. Please return your cards in the offering plate or to the office. You may also contact Myrna Simpson at 309.827.8046 or email msimpson@wesley-umc.com.

We are excited to see how God will use these gifts to help us grow in faith!

### Special Thanks

The Yount family would like to extend their sincere and grateful thanks to the many people at Wesley that offered support during the recent passing of Bruce Yount.

We would like to thank our Wesley Church family for your amazing love!
Your prayers and support for Mom (Ann Ingold) during her difficult days in the past several months and following her unexpected death are greatly appreciated.

- James and Martha Ingold



If you're a scout or a leader (past or present) we invite you to join us for SCOUT SUNDAY ON FEBRUARY 9! ALL are welcome, including Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venture groups. We will wear our full class A uniforms. If you wish to participate, contact Jim Robinson at jrobinson@wesley-umc.com.

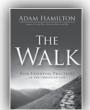


Mark your calendars for the Annual Boy Scout Troop 918 Spaghetti Supper set for Saturday, February 8, from 5-7 pm in Wesley Hall. Tickets will be sold between services in the Garden Room on January 26 and February 2 (Adults \$9 in advance/\$10 at the door, Kids \$7 in advance/\$8 at the door). For details, contact Jim Robinson at jrobinson@wesley-umc.com. 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 UMC? We are embarking on a spiritual journey called "The Walk," based on the

book 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 also 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, (see the front page of this newsletter for details) and then let us know if you're ready to join! There are several groups and activities throughout the week that you can join! Visit www.wesley-umc.com to easily sign up online, contact Pastor Sara at sisbell@wesley-umc.com or call the church office at 309.827.8046.

### BLITZ Success

Thank you for your contribution to the West Bloomington Revitalization Project Bed Blitz Program! We gratefully acknowledge your donation of laundry detergent. Because of generous donors like you, the Bed Blitz was very successful! One hundred local youth now have a new bedframe, a new mattress, sheets, pillows, laundry detergent, handmade quilt, fleece blanket, tooth brush, tooth paste, books, and a teddy bear. For some kids it was the first bed they have ever owned. We appreciate your support in making sure these kids get a good night's sleep in their new beds. The WBRP is proud to be the leader of the Bed Blitz along with our many partners. It is just one of the many programs we offer to the community. We have a Tool Library, a Bike Co-op, community garden, seed library, Book Bike, and the Veggie Oasis. We invite you to learn more about all of our revitalization efforts at our website www.westbloomington.org, on Facebook, or stop by the office. The Bed Blitz was possible because of people like you. Everyone made a meaningful contribution and together we made a big difference! We hope to see you at our 2020 event which will be bigger than all of our past Bed Blitzes combined! We are excited!

With sincere thanks, Deborah Halperin WBRP Board of Directors



Roots • Pride • Vision West Bloomington Revitalization Project

Join us in Prayer

Wesley UMC prays weekly for the prayer requests that are submitted via the orange cards during worship. If you would like to pray for those who request prayer each week, please send an email to mmccue@wesley-umc.com or call the church office to be added to the email list. We'll send you a list of prayer request once per week, with additional emails only being sent if there are emergency prayer requests.

# Prayers of Comfort

Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of the following:

Patricia Wynn - December 15, 2019 Donald Lowe - December 16, 2019 Bruce Yount - December 19, 2019 Jon Gilpin - December 22, 2019 Ann Ingold - December 26, 2019 Barbara Newhall - January 12, 2020 Kay Foster - January 16, 2020 Connie Price - January 17, 2020

# Creating a Legacy of Gener

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! If you have already made your faith commitment for 2020, THANK YOU! If you've not yet had a chance to submit your commitment, it's not too late! You may pick up a brochure containing a commitment card at the Welcome Center or email Myrna Simpson at msimpson@wesley-umc.com. We look forward to hearing from you. Let's "Create a Legacy of Generosity" together!



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

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