

**Wesley United Methodist Church – Bloomington, Illinois**

**Reconnect with Scripture – January 24, 2021**

Greeting

Organ Prelude

*This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made* - arr. Giamanco

Craig Deets, organist

Call to Worship Psalm 119:1-2, 105 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD. <sup>2</sup> Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart,

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Invocation

Opening Hymn UMH #529 *How Firm a Foundation* vs. 1-3

Children's Time

Blessing of Bibles for Confirmation

Reagan Bull and their mentor Cara Rabe-Hemp

Melinda Dhas and their mentor Stephanie Hoy

Hunter Hardwick and their mentor Bill Witt

Alyson Oganovich and their mentor Michelle Jones

Brenden Reardon and their mentor Chris Hoy

Gavin Sutter and their mentor Chad Boyd

Abigail Witt and their mentor Devon Severson

Scriptures

II Timothy 3:14-17 (NRSV)

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 (NRSV)

<sup>18</sup> You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. <sup>19</sup> Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. <sup>20</sup> Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, <sup>21</sup> so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

Sermon

*Spiritual Re-Set: Reconnect with Scripture*

Reverend Sara L. Isbell

Sermon Response

*Thy Word* (Amy Grant)

Matt Sherrill, guitar

Invitation to Prayer

Prayer Song

*Word of God Speak* (Mercy Me)

Matt Sherrill, guitar

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Invitation to and Blessing of the Offering

Closing Hymn UMH #600 *Wonderful Words of Life*

Benediction and Announcements

Worship Participants

Reverend Sara L. Isbell, Senior Pastor

Reverend Justin Iverson, Associate Pastor

Craig Deets, Organist

Matt Sherrill, Guitarist

Kathi Pritts, Children's Time

Brenna Martin, Hymn Singer

Addie Sherrill, Jayci Tomera, and Surge Winterfest Students, The B.I.B.L.E Singers

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **EPIPHANY: SPIRITUAL RE-SET**

The New Year brings us a fresh opportunity to start anew and re-center with purpose and intention. Whether you are a person who likes to make “New Year’s Resolutions” or not, our Epiphany Series, ***Spiritual Re-Set***, will help you get your spiritual life and relationship with the God who loves and empowers you, back on track.

Join us in January and February as we:

- Renew Our Covenant (Jan. 3)
- Remember Our Baptism (Jan. 10)
- Recharge through Prayer (Jan. 17)
- Reconnect with Scripture (Jan. 24)
- Refresh through Generosity (Jan. 31)
- Re-energize through Service (Feb. 7)
- Revive our Witness (Feb. 14)

Better yet, you don’t have to do this on your own. COVID has been a lonely season, but the Church is about Community. If the year 2020 wore you out, a short-term sermon series, paired with the support of a small **Covenant Group**, will help get you back on track! Join together with a group of 6-12 friends for a weekly uplift. **Covenant groups** pray for each other, encourage each other, and help each other remember to trust in God.

Choose your own group – maybe a small group you’re already part of, maybe a few friends you miss seeing at church. Or contact [Kathi Pritts](#) to be connected with some new friends. You can find the meeting plan attached [here](#). For more information contact [Kathi Pritts](#) or [Pastor Sara](#) .

## **BISHOP EXTENDS CHALLENGE**

In order to encourage intentional spiritual formation, Bishop Beard has extended a challenge to all people in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. He has issued a challenge to learn and memorize scripture by posting it on our refrigerators. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **WESLEY YOUTH TO SPONSOR COLLECTION TO FIGHT HUNGER!**

Continuing the tradition, SURGE (Wesley Youth grades 6-12) will sponsor the annual *Souper Bowl of Caring* loose change collection on Sunday, February 7th. You are invited to drive up to Wesley West on the day of the “big game,” from 10-11:00 am to donate your loose change. SURGE students will be at the drive through station where you can drop your change in the bucket marked with the team name for which you are rooting. All proceeds will be donated to Safe Harbor a local homeless shelter.

### **JANUARY JUST ONE COLLECTION FOR CARLE BROMENN COMPASSION CLOSET**

Church & Society Committee has selected the Compassion Closet at Carle BroMenn Hospital as the January *Just One* Project. When accident victims are ready to be released, they frequently do not have anything to wear. The Compassion Closet collects and provides sweat clothes to meet this need.

Current needs:

- New Adult sweatpants & sweatshirts – sizes small, medium, large
- Monetary gifts are also accepted – please be sure to mark your donation with the notation: *Just One Project*.

Donations can be dropped off during the month of January in the collection box that can be found outside the East entry of the church on Tuesdays, 10 am – 2 pm and Thursdays, 2 pm – 6 pm.

### **PAINT THE TOWN WESLEY: ALL - CHURCH WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM**

Wesley UMC is finding new ways to do ministry during Phase 4 of COVID-19. Please plan to join us every Wednesday evening. Our upcoming PTTW events are accessible to everyone and we hope you will join us weekly!

#### **Wednesday, January 27 – “Easier than Bob Ross Paint Night”**

Join Kathi Pritts on zoom at 6 pm to paint/draw a picture of Wesley’s stained-glass windows. It will actually be more like coloring with sharpies. Kathi will walk you through the process and

provide supplies. For \$3 per person or \$5 per family you can end up with your very own reminder or reminders of our beloved sanctuary for your worship and study space until we can get back to it. Contact Kathi Pritts at [kpitts@wesley-umc.com](mailto:kpitts@wesley-umc.com) to get the zoom link and supplies for this activity. **NO SPECIAL SKILLS ARE NEEDED.**

### **Wednesday, February 3 – “5-Finger Conversations”**

You are invited to join the Wesley UMC program staff for an interactive discussion and planning meeting about the future of our Paint the Town Wesley events and Phase 4 (or whatever we're in) programming! We want to have a productive conversation centered around YOUR needs, hopes and dreams for the future of our church and hope you'll join us! Come prepared to have a SURGE-style "5-finger conversation" with the beloved members of our (extended) church family via zoom on February 3rd at 6:00 pm. **If you've never heard of a 5-finger conversation, don't miss Pastor Sara and Kelsey's devotion on Feb. 2!**

## **STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS**

### ***Everybody Always***

***Everybody Always*** by popular author Bob Goff will be offered on Tuesday evenings. What happens when we give away love like we're made of it? In his entertaining and inspiring book, Bob Goff takes readers on a journey into the secret of living without fear, constraint, or worry. In *Everybody Always*, Bob shows us the simple truths that:

- it's easy to love kind, lovely, humble people, but you have to tackle fear to love people who are difficult;
- dark and scary places are filled with beautiful people who need our unconditional love;
- extravagant love has extraordinary power to change lives, including your own.

The study will meet for five weeks (Jan. 19-Feb 16) on Tuesday evenings, 6-7 pm. Contact [kpitts@wesley-umc.com](mailto:kpitts@wesley-umc.com) for more information and the zoom link.

### **Wednesday Men's Group**

In January (Wednesdays at noon) the men's group will study ***Words of Life: Jesus and the Promises of the Ten Commandments Today***. In this book of scripture and inspiration, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most famous set of rules in history, recovering the Ten Commandments as more than just a set of onerous prohibitions. He considers the commandments in their historical context, unpacking the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, how Jesus reinterpreted them, and how Jews and Christians have understood them over the millennia. He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholism, materialism, and social

media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace. Contact Greg Yount to get the zoom link. [gyount@cbcregroup.com](mailto:gyount@cbcregroup.com)

## **SURGE-YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES**

SURGE will continue to meet online until further notice. All youth from 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join our zoom meeting at 6:00 pm on Sundays for a game until 6:30, then small group lessons until 7:00. We are continuing with our "Bonfires of Belonging" series for this school year and invite EVERYONE in 6th-12th grade to join us and be a part of our Surge family!

Click this link to join <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88264297419>

Please feel free to reach out to Kelsey with any questions or concerns 618-558-0748 or via e-mail: [kross@wesley-umc.com](mailto:kross@wesley-umc.com)

## **WAYS TO CONNECT**

- Visit us online at [www.wesley-umc.com](http://www.wesley-umc.com)
- Subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel
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