

Wesley United Methodist Church – Bloomington, Illinois

Give – January 31, 2021

Greeting

Organ Prelude

Prelude on “Darwall’s 148th” - Brenda Portman

Craig Deets, organist

Scripture Call to Worship Proverbs 11:23-25, 28 (NRSV)

²³ The desire of the righteous ends only in good; the expectation of the wicked in wrath.
²⁴ Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want. ²⁵ A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water. ²⁸ Those who trust in their riches will wither, but the righteous will flourish like green leaves.

Opening Prayer

Praise Song

Simple Living (Keith and Kristen Getty)

Matt Sherrill, guitar

Children’s Time

Prayer Song

Worth It All (Ben Cantelon)

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.

Scriptures

II Corinthians 8:1-5

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ²for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their

abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, ⁴begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— ⁵and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us,

II Corinthians 9:1-15

Now it is not necessary for me to write you about the ministry to the saints, ²for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year; and your zeal has stirred up most of them. ³But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you may not prove to have been empty in this case, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be; ⁴otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking. ⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion. ⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Sermon

Spiritual Re-Set: GIVE

Reverend Sara L. Isbell

Sermon Response *Lord, Thou Lov'st the Cheerful Giver* (to the tune Beecher - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling)

Invitation to and Blessing of the Offering

Closing Hymn UMH #92 *For the Beauty of the Earth* vs. 1, 5, & 6

Announcements and Benediction

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

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 at [Spiritual-Reset-Covenant-Groups-2021.pdf \(wesley-umc.com\)](#). For more information contact [Kathi Pritts](#) or [Pastor Sara](#) .

JOIN US FOR HOLY COMMUNION FROM HOME, FEBRUARY 7

You are invited to prepare for online Communion at home by gathering your own bread and juice.

BISHOP BEARD'S SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION 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. For more information go to [Bishop's New Year Challenge \(igrc.org\)](https://www.igrc.org).

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.

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, 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!** To join the conversation, follow the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88149826726>

Wednesday, February 10 – Valentine Jam

Wesley UMC, Heartland Church and First Presbyterian Church will partner for a FUN Family Experience called Valentine Jam. It will be a 30-minute whirlwind of fun including games, dancing, family discussion and a fun message. Bring a donut, box, and a balloon along on February 10th to join in on the fun at 6pm. Prizes are a possibility so don't miss out. Contact [Kathi Prittts](mailto:kprittts@wesley-umc.com) at kprittts@wesley-umc.com for the Zoom link.

WESLEY DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY 20

The following items are needed for the monthly paper goods distribution:

- Diapers – sizes: newborn, 5, 6
- Facial tissues
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper

You may drop off the items in the collection box located at the entrance door of Wesley West at any time, Monday - Friday. Monetary donations are welcome!

Go to (<https://www.wesley-umc.com/give/>) to give online (be sure to note WDM in the memo) OR mail to the church at: 502 E. Front Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

JUST ONE COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY – COATS FOR KIDS

Too many children are arriving at school with inadequate winter wear. The Church and Society committee wants to help fix that problem. For the month of February, we will be collecting new or gently used winter coats for children in kindergarten to 5th grade – around sizes 6 to 14. We will then distribute those coats to some of our local schools.

The coats can be placed in the *Just One* box which will be located just outside of the parking lot (east) door of the church anytime starting February 1. Staff and committee members will empty the box daily.

Thank you, Wesley, for all that you do!

RUMMAGE SALE 2021

The Rummage Sale Chairpersons would like to announce tentative dates for this year's sale. After conversations with the Interstate Center, a decision was made to schedule the sale for June 26 with preparation work dates of June 21-25.

We are hopeful that holding the sale later in the year will give us a chance to do so safely. Although, if this pandemic has taught us anything, we know that nothing is certain. The Rummage Sale planning team will continue to monitor the virus and the distribution of the vaccine in our area. As we get closer to our sale date, if we feel we cannot safely hold the sale, we will make the decision to cancel. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate through these unprecedented times together. If you have any questions you may contact Brenna Martin at bmartin@wesley-umc.com.

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 for more information and the zoom link.

Wednesday Men's Group

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

SURGE-YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

SURGE will continue to meet online until further notice. All youth from 6th-12th 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

COVID UPDATE FROM BISHOP BEARD

On January 27, 2021, Bishop Beard released a COVID update, moving Region Two (including McLean County) to Phase Four of the Restore Illinois/Coming Back to the Heart of Worship plan. [See news release at [Coronavirus \(igrc.org\)](https://www.igrc.org)].

Wesley's "Re-Entry Task Force," established in November to help navigate changing restrictions and church community activity, will meet soon to make a recommendation to the Ad Council regarding adjusting COVID restrictions. The Re-Entry Task Force includes Administrative Council chair, pastors, facility manager, public health and environmental health professionals in our congregation.

WAYS TO CONNECT

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