

News Of Wesley

January 2018

a giving
faith
a gift of time
stewardship 2018



What a Gift - Thank You Wesley

You took time. You've made time. And all just in time to help the church. What a gift!

Thank you for the overwhelming response to the "a gift of time" stewardship campaign. Information from sign up forms, turned in on paper and online, has been entered into the Wesley database and is currently being distributed to leaders of various committees, groups, and missions. These leaders will be reviewing their new list of volunteers and setting up dates to contact volunteers for the new year.

Expect to be contacted by the leaders from your areas of interest during the first weeks of the new year. If, however, you are not contacted by the end of January, please email connect@wesley-umc.com, and we will follow up for you. Your time matters to us and we appreciate your gift!

It's not too late to join in. Go online at www.wesley-umc.com/serve or visit the Welcome Center in the Wesley Lobby for a paper form.

We are very excited and energized by the response to this stewardship effort. Thank you Wesley. Working alongside each other miracles are surely in store.



Welcome New Members

On Sunday, November 26 our Wesley family grew in numbers. We are delighted to have you!



NOW
NEWS OF WESLEY

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

The Seven Deadly Needs A Different Kind of Game

Some years back now, a colleague introduced me to a terrific little book. It is a playfully written work by Edward Bear entitled "The Seven Deadly Needs". Most of us are familiar with the "seven deadly sins"--- and we've been rightly taught to try to avoid them: Pride, Anger, Envy, Sloth, Avarice, Lust, and Gluttony. But Bear's book takes off in a different and creative direction. He suggests that it's not just sinful desires that can become obstacles to living a spiritually rich life. Just as often it's our patterns of thought and our attitudes toward ourselves and others that trip us up.

In his book, Bear's list of unhealthy needs includes things like the need to know it all, and the need to be right all the time. Those needs, Bear says, emerge out of a prideful denial of the fact that many of the issues we tend to feel most strongly about are actually much more complicated and nuanced than we realize. The path to giving up the need to be "right" all the time begins with the humble acknowledgment that we are not God and that much of life has mysterious and subtle dimensions that defy simple, black and white explanations.

Similarly, Bear says, the need to judge, the need to get even, and the need to keep score are common postures that do us spiritual harm, because they are built on the assumption that life is a competition rather than a gift.

I have a long-time minister friend who in his retirement played on a city league softball team. According to my friend, the unwritten rule which he and his teammates (all of whom were in their later years) agreed to was that they would steadfastly NOT keep score in any of their games. He said, "When people heard this, they would be amazed. Folks would ask me, 'What's the point of playing if you don't know who wins?' Why even play if you don't know the score?' And I would always reply, 'If all you can think about is winning, then you're the one who doesn't know the score! On my team we've decided that as long as we're still playing, we win!'"

I don't know about you, but I sometimes forget how true that is. Even in the busyness of the holidays may you find moments to breathe deeply and remember that for another Christmas holiday season, and another new year now ahead, you're still in the game....and that is a win indeed! Now, if I could just get everybody else to see how right I am and agree with me on this!

Peace, Vaughn

Musical Triumph

On Sunday, December 10th the Wesley Sanctuary was lifted by the sights and sounds of our brilliant choral and instrumental ensembles performing "What Sweeter Music - A Festival of Carols". Both performances were very well attended. More than 600 people experienced this holiday treat!

Many thanks to our musical maestros including Adria Schumann, Brenna Martin, Gail Welk, Kimberly Martin-Boyd, and many others who made this holiday spectacular come to life.

A Christmas treat indeed.



Wesley Financial Update

General fund receipts as of 11/30/17	\$ 1,195,461
General fund expenses as of 11/30/17	1,163,074
 Surplus	 \$ 32,387

As the year comes to a close I'm pleased to say a word to our Wesley family about the current state of our finances, and about our projections for 2018. First, the good news. The prospects of us finishing the year 2017 with a modest surplus is highly likely. As you can see in the numbers above, we entered the month of December with a positive balance, and our history tells us December is generally a good month, making a good ending for the 2017 year end likely. Thanks so much to all of you for your faithful giving in support of the mission of Wesley!

Now the more challenging aspect of my report; looking ahead to 2018. Thus far the return of our 2018 faith commitment cards has not kept pace with last year. To date, we have 303 cards returned in comparison to 323 for 2017, in part due to a larger than usual number of deaths and relocations in our church family. Beyond that, some members have felt uncertain about future giving in response to economic challenges, early retirement incentives and other financial realities now front and center with some larger community employers. We certainly understand and respect the difficulty these challenges cause.

It is true that many people who do not submit a commitment card still generously contribute, and for this we are grateful. Prudence in our church planning requires us to budget based on a conservative educated guess as to how much we might receive both from the amount of money we have pledged and, based on historical data, un-pledged gifts we expect to receive. For 2018, when that figure is added to the commitment card total, we are still about \$130,000 short of what is needed to cover the budgeted ministry costs. In response we'll of course have to tighten our belts, be good stewards of what is given and be thankful for the 2017 surplus as we prepare for what may well be a more challenging than normal fiscal year. We are so grateful for your continued faithfulness to support the ministries of the Church!

Vaughn Hoffman, Senior Pastor; James Ingold, Finance Chairman; Myrna Simpson, Business Administrator

Dates to Note

- **Wednesday, December 20**
Meal Served - 5:00 PM
Contemporary Service - 6:00 PM
No Wednesdays@Wesley Activities
- **Sunday, December 24**
Pre-service Music - 9:45 AM
Family Worship Service - 10:00 AM
No Sunday School

Pre-service Music - 7:00 PM
Service of Carols & Candlelight - 7:30 PM

Pre-service Music - 10:30 PM
Candlelight & Communion - 11:00 PM
- **Wednesday, December 27**
No Wednesdays@Wesley
- **Sunday, December 31**
One Service only - 10:00 AM
No Sunday School
- **December 25 - January 1**
Wesley Office will be CLOSED
- **Wednesday, January 10**
Wednesdays@Wesley resume

Welcome Little One

Vincent Dean Doyle was born at 5:47 AM on December 5, 2017 to Kristi Merz and Jacob Doyle. The handsome 19" lad weighed 7 lbs 3 oz.

Kristi is the daughter of Jane and Don Underwood of Bloomington and is the granddaughter of Norma and Darrel Kline also of Bloomington.

Congrats all round!



Midweek Reset

As Midweek Reset, the weekly Wednesday evening Communion service, comes to an end, be watching for the announcement of a new group study led by Pastor Justin on Wednesday evenings. The study will be suitable for adults of all ages and levels of theological knowledge.





Winterfest

All Senior High students are encouraged to join in for the annual Senior High winter retreat - Winterfest.

They will travel to Silver Birch Ranch in Wisconsin for a weekend of fun winter activities, an amazing speaker, powerful worship, and tons of fun and fellowship.

Cost is \$110 plus travel meals. Scholarships are available if needed.

They will leave at 4:45 PM on Friday January 12 and return by 9:00 PM on Monday January 15.

Information sheets are available at Surge on Wednesday nights and on the Surge board across from the Junior High lounge. Registration and deposits are due by Monday, January 8th. Registration forms can be placed in Frank's mailbox or given to him directly. There is limited space so turn your information in ASAP to reserve your spot on the bus.



Anchored had a great fall! They started the year by moving their weekly meeting time to a new night - Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. With this move came a new focus on various faith topics, including what it means to live in community, how God has a call for every person, and what pacifism looks like in today's world.

This summer Anchored looks forward to traveling to Texas to help with the continued rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Harvey.

Keep an eye out in the coming months for an announcement of the group's new name, as they continue to revamp this great ministry for those in their early and mid-career stages of life. Join them on Wednesday evenings, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM in the Garden Room.

Locked-In Fun

Shut your eyes. No, really - shut them. Now picture in your mind's eye the halls of Wesley church. Now picture seventy three teenagers invading, camping in, playing, and praising God all throughout Wesley. Now that's some frenetic activity!

It was an amazing evening for teenagers and adult leaders alike. Wesley hosted thirty visiting youth at the event. Many of these friends are frequent attendees in our youth program. What a great way to spread Wesley joy and fun. With no sleep! Zzzzzzz. HA!



Wesley UMC was awarded third place in the Jaycees Christmas Parade float contest on Saturday, December 2nd!

Congrats to all of the organizers and participants! WELL DONE!



Wesley well represented in the Christmas Parade.



Christian Education Classes for All Ages all throughout the week

ADULTS - Sunday 10:15 - 11:00 AM

Stroll Through the Bible

A Look at the Twelve Minor Prophets

Richard Johnson, leader

Conference Room

Christmas Gifts That Won't Break

Book by James Moore

Nancy Bollman, leader

Lounge

Present Over Perfect

Book by Shauna Niequist

Pastor Justin Iverson, leader

Lounge - starts January 7

STUDIES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

TUESDAY

Women's Bible Study

2017 Disciplines and Other Topics

7:00 AM - Lounge

WEDNESDAY

Men's Bible Study

**Boundaries: When to Say Yes,
How to Say No to Take Control of
Your Life** by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr.
John Townsend

12:00 PM - Garden Room

The Bad Habits of Jesus

Stephanie Hoy, leader

6:15 PM - 7:15 PM - Lounge

THURSDAY

Companions in Christ

Embracing the Journey

9:00 AM - Garden Room

Walk Through Experiences

December 24

10:00 AM

Walk the "recreated" streets of
Bethlehem in Wesley Hall

December 31

10:00 AM

Experience the Epiphany in
Wesley Hall

- first time Wesley events -

NO Sunday School on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Sundays...however... Wesley Hall will be transformed into the streets of the BIBLE. Kathi Pritts will lead our young kids downstairs during the 10:00 AM service (after the Children's Time) to walk the "recreated" streets of Bethlehem (12/24) and the Epiphany (12/31). Great Fun!

Children's Ministry

COMMITMENT

In January our elementary kids will be concentrating on commitment with great stories from Gospels.

JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING

Preschool children will learn that Jesus can do anything with great miracle stories all month.

Journey Bible Study

Journey resumes meeting on January 8 and begins a new book for the new year on January 15.

The Bad Habits of Jesus

by Leonard Sweet

Meets - Monday nights at 6:30 PM

The Tatum Home

13 Marvin Gardens, Bloomington

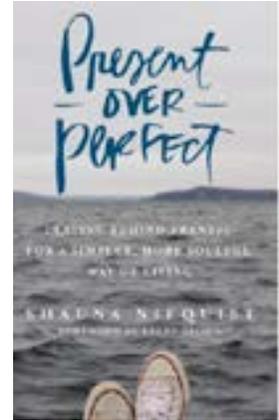
Contact - Fran Tatum at 829-6650.

Adult January Studies

Sunday Mornings

Present Over Perfect

10:15 - 11:00 AM - Lounge



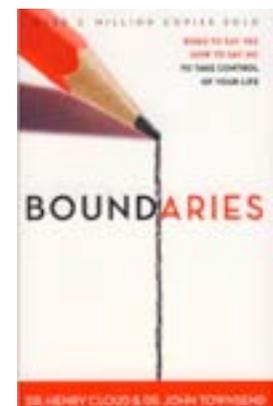
Present Over Perfect is writer Shauna Niequist's motto for how to live a rich, engaged, and loving life in the midst of what often feels terribly messy and imperfect. In vulnerable, honest stories and beautifully written short essays Shauna offers an invitation to a new way of living—full of grace, space, and connection.

Men's Study Group

Boundaries:

**When to Say Yes, How to Say No to
Take Control of Your Life**

Noon - Garden Room



New York Time's best seller. Over two million copies sold. Written from the Christian perspective.

Faith Circle

After a brief break, Faith Circle will meet Wednesday, January 24th, at 1:00 PM in the Westminster Village Multi-Purpose Room. Barb Willey will lead us in a study of Life's Transitions. Please RSVP to Betty Hornbrook 862-3304.



GEMS

Young mothers are invited to visit this circle which meets the second and fourth Mondays of every month from 6:45 PM - 8:45 PM at the home of Missy Dundov. GEMS will continue the study of "Growing Together" by Linda Anderson on January 8th and 22nd. For more information please contact Liz Tomera at tomeras@comcast.net.



Hope Circle

HOPE CIRCLE will meet - Thursday, January 11 at 6:30 PM in the Lounge for refreshments and at 7:00 PM they will continue their study, "The Best Yes (Making Wise Decisions in the Midst of Endless Demands)."



A Blessing - From a House to a Home

On Saturday, December 9th Pastor Justin helped to bless the Jennifer Ramirez Family home, formerly known to us as "the Wesley Habitat build on Mulberry Street". That "house" is now a "home". Just look at the smiles...especially on Jennifer's son (far left).

Many thanks to all who worked so hard and dedicated time, talent, and materials to this effort. The House Blessing ceremony was well attended and very special indeed.

Taking the Show on the Road

We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to hear beautiful choirs and talented musicians every Sunday as we sit in the pews at Wesley. How easy it is to forget those who are not mobile or are unable



to get to church. Can you imagine missing out on the fabulous music we have been experiencing during Advent?

Wesley choir members thought about it...and then did something about it! On Saturday, December 2nd, after a long Cantata rehearsal, choir members went caroling to several homes and facilities where Wesley members and friends are home bound. And those choir members are still SINGING about the experience and how it touched their hearts...the true meaning of Christmas. Well done.

Taking Down & Putting Up for Wesley Sale

At the end of the holiday season, as you begin to take the tree and Christmas decorations down, keep the April 14th Wesley Rummage Sale in mind. Holiday items are appreciated and popular. So pack some up for your attic and then pack those that you would like to donate in a box, label it, and bring it to the Interstate Center the week of the sale. Less to haul up to the attic...better "haul" for the Wesley Rummage Sale!

JUST ONE

Socks and soap are being gathered for the January Just One collection for local needy families. Local agencies are requesting bars of soap (hotel sample size and full size bars) as well as new and gently used adult and children's socks.

Paper products, especially wipes, diapers for adults and children, and feminine hygiene products are being collected to supply our January 20th distribution at Wesley West.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Warmth for Little Ones

Heartland Head Start is asking for children's winter neck scarfs. This is the perfect use for any yarn sitting around your house and an excuse for meditative knitting time. Any pattern, knit or crochet will work - approximately 3 feet by 8 inches will do.

Wesley is collecting pieces throughout the month of January. Thank you in advance from the little ears, necks, and cheeks you will warm in the new year.

Wesley United Methodist Church

502 East Front Street
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: 309-827-8046 Fax: (309)828-9625
www.wesley-umc.com

After Hours Emergencies:
Pastor Vaughn Hoffman (309) 212-2710
Pastor Justin Iverson (701) 809-1203

Thank You Wesley - From Your Troop



A heartfelt thank you goes out to Wesley UMC from Boy Scout Troop 18 for your generous support during this year's fall popcorn and Christmas greens sales. Your donations and fundraising dollars help ensure that the boys are able to continue the exceptional scouting activities that are offered through Wesley's Troop program. Learn more about the Troop, the program, and their mission as part of Wesley on Scout Sunday, February 11.

On Saturday, February 17th the annual Scout Spaghetti Dinner will be held in Wesley Hall from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Let the

Troop cook dinner for you that evening! More information to come.

Court of Honor was held Monday, December 11th. Merit badges and honors were awarded to many members of Troop 18. The following were awarded leadership roles: Austin Oganovich, Senior Patrol Leader; Braedon Robinson, Patrol Leader; Matt Lizakowski, Troop Guide. Congratulations all.

Opening to God: A Retreat IGRC February Event

Registration is open for "Opening to God: A Retreat" to be held February 2-3 at East Bay Camp.

The purpose of the retreat is to provide an immersion experience to help lay and clergy explore spiritual disciplines they may have never tried before and/or about which they wish to know more. It will be planned so that a large group of people can participate with a number of different leaders.

Each small group session will be 1 1/2 hours long with a 45-minute presentation, 30 minute self-directed "practice" time on the discipline followed by 15 minutes of sharing and feedback. Exact timing is flexible as long as all three parts are included. Four small group sessions are scheduled during the retreat. In addition, there will be a one-hour presentation period on topics for which it isn't possible to do "practice" time.

Cost is \$75 for those staying at East Bay, \$50 for commuters.
<https://igrc-reg.brtaapp.com/OpeningtoGod> for more information.



WESLEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

502 East Front Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701
309-827-8046
www.wesley-umc.com
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Christmas at Wesley



Sunday, December 24 – Services

10:00 AM - 7:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Pre-service Music a half-hour before each service



*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*

Christmas Eve at Wesley

*Bring the entire family to your
Wesley home for Christmas.
We are celebrating throughout
the day & night.*

WALK THRU
BETHLEHEM

Children's Church

Sunday, December 24

10:00 AM Service