

*Christmas Eve Services*

DECEMBER 24, 2018

- 5:00 PM | FAMILY SERVICE AND CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCE (SANCTUARY)
- 7:00 PM | PRE-SERVICE MUSIC (SANCTUARY)
- 7:30 PM | CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (WITH COMMUNION - SANCTUARY)
- 10:30 PM | PRE-SERVICE MUSIC (SANCTUARY)
- 11:00 PM | CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (WITH COMMUNION - SANCTUARY)



*Missions*  
**ADVENT OFFERING**

Celebrate the season of Advent by making a special offering during the month of December to support local social agencies making a difference for those in need.  
*Give as you can. All donations are appreciated!*



JUST A FRIENDLY  
*Reminder*

THERE WILL ONLY BE

ONE SERVICE  
~ON~  
SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 30  
~AT~  
10:00 AM



*Just One*  
**JANUARY COLLECTION:**

AS THE NIGHTS GET COLDER, HELP US KEEP THOSE IN NEED WARM BY DONATING NEW AND GENTLY USED BLANKETS THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL AGENCIES.



*Please leave your donation in the Just One Bin across from the Garden Room. THANK YOU!*

*Paper* DISTRIBUTION NEEDS:

*On the 3rd Saturday of each month, we distribute paper goods to those in need, and our supply is low! We are in need of the following items to replenish our supply for our next event on January 19:*

- Diapers (sizes 3,4,5,6)
- Diaper Wipes
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissues
- Feminine Hygiene Items
- Paper Plates

*Please bring your donation to the church. THANK YOU for your support of this wonderful Wesley ministry!*

*To volunteer at this event contact Karen Daudelin at 309-838-5723*





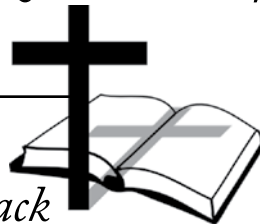
# A Note from Our Pastor

*Beautiful Star of Bethlehem – Your Light Has Come!*

I don't know if you know this about me, but I'm an early riser. I usually get up before 5:00 am and head to the gym before Andy gets up in the morning. I lay out my clothes ahead of time and try very hard to move quietly in the darkness so I don't wake him. But more often than not, the darkness of the room causes me to bump the furniture, kick the wastebasket, or run into the door frame on the way to the bathroom. Yesterday I kicked the cat's bowl and spilled water all over the bathroom floor. Ugh. So much for quiet! I've even got a couple of annoying bruises from trying to navigate the house in the darkness! I keep thinking, *why don't we put a nightlight in the bedroom so I can find my way?*

As the world pulls down the Christmas lights and packs them away for another year, God sends a special new light to shine in the darkness and help us find our way in the dark. We call it the Star of Bethlehem. This is the star that guided the Wise Men to the Christ Child, which the Church celebrates on January 6, a day called "Epiphany." Epiphany means "Manifestation." Christ was manifested, revealed, not only to his own people, but to travelers from far away, whose race, religion and language were different from his own. The light of this special Star shone across the earth, lit up their path and led them to Jesus. John 1:5 tells us that the light of Christ "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Think about that. As soon as one candle, one flashlight, one bulb comes to life, a pitch-dark room is no longer pitch-dark. It only takes one light to poke a hole in the darkness. And no one can bring enough darkness to hide it. St. Francis of Assisi is credited with saying, "all the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of one small candle." *Francis probably had a nightlight in his bathroom.*

So before you put away all the candles and lights this year – be grateful for the way they have poked holes in your darkness. You might even leave a couple of candles out for the rest of the winter, to remember the Star of Bethlehem and the Light of Christ. Walk in safety, friends, and don't stumble. **Let your light shine for others, so they can walk well, too.** – *Pastor Sara Isbell*



## Disciple Bible Study: *Fast Track*

A new session of "Making Disciples Through Bible Study" will begin on Wednesday, March 13, led by Pastor Sara. The "Fast Track" curriculum is 12 weeks for the Old Testament; 12 weeks for the New. We will complete the Old Testament by the end of May (or first of June) and pick up with the New Testament in the fall.

*If you are interested in Disciple Fast Track, please contact Pastor Sara at [sisbell@wesley-umc.com](mailto:sisbell@wesley-umc.com) or join us for an informational meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 13.*



# CALENDAR *A Look Ahead*

## DECEMBER

- 24 Christmas Eve Schedule:  
5:00 pm - Family Service  
*(in Wesley Hall)*  
7:00 pm - Pre-Music  
7:30 pm - Candlelight Service  
with communion  
*(in the Sanctuary)*  
10:30 pm - Pre-Music  
11:00 pm - Candlelight Service  
with communion  
*(in the Sanctuary)*
- 30 ONLY ONE SERVICE 10:00 am  
*in the Sanctuary*

*Please note the church office will be closed from noon on December 24 thru January 2. See you in 2019!*

## JANUARY

- 10 LOL Ladies Outreach and Lunch  
*at the Olive Garden*
- 10 Hope Circle Meeting  
*in the Lounge 6:30 pm*
- 13 Prayer Team Informational Meeting  
*in the Garden Room 2:00 pm*
- 14 Honduras Mission Trip  
Informational Meeting  
*in the Lounge 6:00 pm*
- 14 GEMS Meeting  
*Wesley UMC 7:00-8:45 pm*
- 18-24 SURGE - Winterfest  
*at Silver Birch Ranch*
- 19 Paper Distribution Event  
*at Wesley West 9:30-11:30 am*
- 23 LOL Ladies Outreach and Lunch  
Service Project  
*Midwest Food Bank 11:30 am*
- 26 Wesley Musical Retreat  
*in the choir room 9-11 am*
- 27 Wesley Leadership Retreat  
*Wesley West 12:00-5:30 pm*
- 28 GEMS Meeting  
*Wesley UMC 7:00-8:45 pm*
- 29 Wesley's Bright Beginnings  
*Open House 6:00-7:00 pm*

## FEBRUARY

- 9 Scout Spaghetti Supper  
*in Wesley Hall*
- 10 Scout Sunday  
*in the Sanctuary*
- 13 Disciple Bible Study Fast Track  
Informational Meeting
- 16 Paper Distribution Event  
*at Wesley West 9:30-11:30 am*



# SURGE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH YOUTH  
6th-12th Grade Youth

## News & Events



### WINTER BREAK REMINDERS:

- No Surge December 26 or January 2  
(resumes Wednesday, January 9)
- No Sunday School December 23 and 30  
(resumes Sunday, January 6)

## Winterfest

January 18th thru January 21st

All Sr. High students are encouraged to join us for our annual Sr. High winter retreat...*Winterfest!* We 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 and scholarships are available, if needed. We will leave

at 4:45pm on Friday, January 18, and return by 9pm on Monday, January 21. Information sheets are available at SURGE on Wednesday nights and on the SURGE board across from the Jr. High lounge. Registration and deposits are due by Wednesday, January 9th (if you would like a Winterfest shirt) or Monday, January 13th (no shirt). Registration forms can be placed in Frank Newburn's mailbox or drop it by his office. *There is limited space so please respond ASAP to reserve your spot on the bus.*



## SURGE LOCK-IN

A NIGHT OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

A special thank you to all of our youth participants, chaperones and families who made our Lock-In on Friday, December 7th, a huge success!

We began the night at Wesley UMC with games and food, and ended at the Pepsi Ice Center for skating and broomball! As always, we had a lot of new faces in the halls at Wesley!

If you know a 6th thru 12th grade student who might like to join the fun, contact Frank Newburn, Director of Youth Ministries at 309.827.8046 or email [fnewburn@wesley-umc.com](mailto:fnewburn@wesley-umc.com).

## Fill the Sills: 8th Graders Focus on Service



In January our 8th graders focus on service to others, and what it means to live in this world

with the heart of a servant. We use Biblical study on servanthood and group discussion to explore how the students can impact their community, and active service projects to put into action what we have learned. Again this year our 8th graders will be serving 5th graders at Irving School by collecting personal hygiene products for them. These products are put

into health kits and given out to the 5th graders during their health class. Some of these students may not have access to basic hygiene products. We are collecting for 60 students. **WE CAN ONLY USE FULL SIZED PRODUCTS (no sample or travel sizes), and SINGLE/INDIVIDUAL PACKAGED items only.** Items needed are: Shampoo, Conditioner, Tooth Paste, Tooth Brush, Soap Bars, and Deodorant. *Please help us "Fill the Sills" by leaving your donation in our "Fill the Sills" box in the hallway across from the Garden Room. Thank you for helping us serve others!*

January Focus:

**Preschool:** Learning that we need Jesus with stories of helping and healing.

**Elementary:** Concentrating on self-control with wisdom we gain from Proverbs.

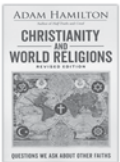
January Adult Education at Wesley



Sundays from 10:15-11:00 am (starting January 6)  
"LOVE DOES" by Bob Goeff  
In the Lounge with Kathi Pritts



Sundays from 10:15-11:00 am (starting January 6)  
"JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE" (Romans)  
In the Conference Room with Richard Johnson



Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 pm (starting January 9)  
"CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS" by Adam Hamilton  
In the Conference Room with Stephanie Hoy



Coming Soon: (starting February 13th)  
DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY FAST TRACK with Pastor Sara

Rummage  
Sale  
Reminder



Call for Donations

As you are cleaning out your closets and making space for all the shiny new Christmas gifts, please remember our upcoming 2019 Rummage Sale in May! We are already collecting toys, clothes, housewares, furniture, tools, and more in preparation for this big event.

Keep your eye out for donation dates and dropoff locations this spring!

Welcome  
to the World



We are thrilled to announce that Wesley members Craig and Kelsey Lutes have welcomed a new baby to their family. Andi Jayne was born on December 5th and is welcomed home by big brother Davis (age 2). Congratulations!



www.wesleysbrightbeginnings.com

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** from the Wesley's Bright Beginnings Preschool Staff and Board. May your holidays be filled with much love and laughter!!! Classes resume after winter break on Monday, January 7th. We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

**Wesley Bright Beginnings Open House**

If you have a preschool aged child at home and think our preschool might be a good fit, please join us for an OPEN HOUSE on Tuesday, January 29, from 6:00-7:00 pm for an opportunity to meet our staff and tour our classrooms!

Making an Impact

The Annual Festival of Trees supports the Baby Fold and its mission to help children and families become safe, whole, and healthy. Wesley recognizes the importance of their efforts and regularly participates in the event, as well as gives financially to support this mission. This past year was no different. Through the generous giving of our Wesley congregation, we were able to make a \$500 donation that will have a positive impact on our community. Thank you for your generous giving!



# Just One January Collection



As temperatures drop and nights get longer, please consider helping those who might need a little extra warmth this winter. Our Just One Collection for January will be new and gently used blankets that will be given to local agencies for the homeless and needy. *Please leave your donation in the Just One box across from the Garden Room.*

*A BIG THANK YOU to those who were able to contribute to our December Just One Collection! Your generous giving allowed us to provide much needed school supplies that are often in short supply this time of year.*

# Scouting News & Events



## Girls are Joining the Pack!

There is an exciting new opportunity for girls age 11-17 to earn Eagle Scout. We currently have an all-male troop, 918. We are planning to start an additional all-female troop. This new all-female troop will provide opportunities for camping, hiking, rock climbing, swimming and a lot of other outdoor activities. The goal of the program is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. *To sign-up or request more information contact Glenn Harbin at [glenn@bsaeagle.com](mailto:glenn@bsaeagle.com) or 309.287.4267.*

## Annual Spaghetti Supper

Mark your calendars for the Boy Scout Troop 918 Annual Spaghetti Supper set for Saturday, February 9, from 5-7 pm in Wesley Hall. Tickets will be sold between services in the Garden Room on January 27 and February 3 (Adults \$9 in advance/\$10 at the door, Kids \$7 in advance/\$8 at the door). *Bring your family and big appetite to this tasty event!*



## Scout Sunday February 10, 2019

If you're a scout or a leader (past or present) we invite you to join us for Scout Sunday on February 10! All scouting groups are welcome, Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venture groups. We will wear our full class A uniforms. *If you would like to participate, please contact Jim Robinson at [jrobinson@wesley-umc.com](mailto:jrobinson@wesley-umc.com).*

# Paper Distribution Ministry



## Wesley Answers the Call

*Our November Distribution served over 1,500 members of our community! Over the past few weeks Wesley has responded to our calls to "restock the shelves". In addition, we received a truck load of paper products from MidWest Food Bank. We are only short in the area of diapers (all sizes), diaper wipes and paper plates. If you are able to purchase any of these items, it would be most appreciated! We recommend shopping ALDI or Walmart for best prices. If you prefer to shop online using Amazon or Walmart, you can have your items delivered directly to the church! Or, you may also donate cash or check (earmarked WDM) and we can shop for you. New volunteers are always welcome. Come help us give it all away! If you are able to volunteer, please contact Karen Daudelin at 309.838.5723.*



## SAVE THE DATE

*Our next distribution event is on Saturday, January 19th, from 9:30-11:30 am at Wesley West*

.....2019.....

## PAPER DISTRIBUTION EVENT DATES

at WESLEY WEST  
from 9:30-11:30 am:

Saturday, January 19

Saturday, February 16

Saturday, March 16

Saturday, April 20

Saturday, May 18

Saturday, June 15

Saturday, July 20

Saturday, August 17

Saturday, September 17

Saturday, October 19

Saturday, November 16

Saturday, December 12

# Missions Advent Offering

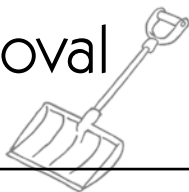
It's not too late to make an impact in the lives of people in our community, our state, and our country by giving to the Missions Advent Offering. The goal of the Advent Offering this year is \$12,400. This offering will support the work of the following local social service organizations, Illinois Great Rivers Conference Golden Cross ministries, and domestic missions:

Park Methodist Food Pantry  
Wesley Paper Goods Distribution  
Labyrinth House  
Faith in Action  
Home Sweet Home Mission  
Western Avenue Community Center  
Community Health Care Clinic  
Habitat for Humanity  
Salvation Army/Safe Harbor  
The Baby Fold  
Red Bird Mission

Evenglow Lodge  
Sunset Home  
United Methodist Village  
Wesley Village  
Alton Memorial Hospital  
Methodist Medical Center of IL  
Chaddock  
Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House  
Spero Family Services  
Henderson Settlement Mission

Check out our website for more information about these organizations by visiting <https://www.wesley-umc.com/category/news/>

## Snow Removal Ministry



If you are looking for a ministry that directly benefits the members of Wesley, consider helping with the Snow Removal Ministry! This hard working group of volunteers ensures the safety of our church staff and congregation, by leading the snow removal effort and keeping our sidewalks and parking lots safe. If you can help, please contact Dave Koth, via email at [davekoth@comcast.net](mailto:davekoth@comcast.net) or by calling 309.663.6770 for more details.

## Snow Days



In the event of inclement weather, Wesley follows the guidelines of School District 87 for closings, cancellations and delays. Please visit our facebook page [@wesleyumcbloomington](https://www.facebook.com/wesleyumcbloomington) or check the WJBC cancellations page at [www.wjbc.com/wjbc-cancellations/](http://www.wjbc.com/wjbc-cancellations/)



## THE Power of Prayer

We would like to start a Prayer Team here at Wesley to regularly pray for our congregation, our community, and the world. Please join us on Sunday, January 13, at 2:00 pm in the Garden Room for anyone desiring to gather together regularly to pray, learn more about prayer, and help our Wesley congregation explore new opportunities for prayer.

## Calling ALL Singers!

The Wesley Music Department will be presenting a Musical on Palm Sunday, April 14th, 2019, at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Rehearsals will begin in January, and we will host a retreat to get a jump start on the work from 9-11 a.m. on January 26th in the choir room. If you would like to join us for this special presentation, please contact Adria Schumann via email at [aschumann@wesley-umc.com](mailto:aschumann@wesley-umc.com).

## Many Thanks

## Missions Concert a Huge Success!



On Sunday, November 18, Wesley's own "Missions Call" quartet hosted a tremendous concert to support the Methodist Church and Conference Center in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. This energetic concert had our toes tapping and the sanctuary was filled with the soulful sounds of Southern Gospel! Because of the support of our members, friends, and sponsors, this event raised over **\$17,000** to aid in the construction costs in Honduras! A big THANK YOU to everyone who gave financially, donated their time and talents, or attended this exciting event!

Our next mission trip to Honduras to continue construction work is set for June 15-23, 2019. If you are interested, please attend an informational meeting Monday, January 14th, at 6:30 pm in the Lounge. Contact Keith Smith for more details about this trip at 309.242.4318.

## Courageous + Contagious Update

We have received 263 commitment cards to provide \$1,020,058 towards next year's ministries! A BIG thank you to all who have responded! The difficulty for our Finance Committee is that we are still over \$170,000 short of what is needed to cover budgeted requests as we enter another financially challenging year. Decisions regarding next year's budget are currently being contemplated with hopes of balancing resources with needs, while remaining good stewards of your gifts. For those who would like to make a year-end donation, please remember that the church office will be closed from noon on Dec. 24 until Jan. 2. Financial gifts can be placed in the offering plate during services (*including Christmas Eve*), or brought to the church before noon on Dec. 24. If your donation is mailed, it must be postmarked by Dec. 31 in order to be included on 2018 giving statements.

### Financial Update:

General fund receipts as of 11/30/18	\$1,135,508
General fund expenses as of 11/30/18	\$1,203,841
<i>Deficit</i>	\$68,333



The Illinois Great Rivers Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is offering a scholarship opportunity for undergraduate students during 2019-2020 school year.

Applications are still being accepted, and must be submitted by 4:30 pm on March 1, 2019. Applicants must be members of a United Methodist Church in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for a minimum of one year. The scholarships awarded will be a minimum of \$500.

Please contact Christy Blickensderfer at [cblickensderfer@igrc.org](mailto:cblickensderfer@igrc.org) or Amy Shreve at [ashreve@igrc.org](mailto:ashreve@igrc.org) with any questions.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Church

## GEMS Growing Each Mom Spiritually

We will meet Monday, January 14, and Monday, January 28, from 7:00-8:45 in the evening at Wesley UMC.

Childcare is available for \$3 per child. Contact Liz Tomera at 847.924.1194 or email [tomeras@comcast.net](mailto:tomeras@comcast.net) for details.

## Box Tops

Please continue to collect General Mills Box Tops and pop can tabs to support Cunningham Children's Home, in Urbana, IL and Red Bird Mission School in Beverly, KY. Please place them in a labeled box in the stairwell at the East Door. Thank you for your mission contribution for children!

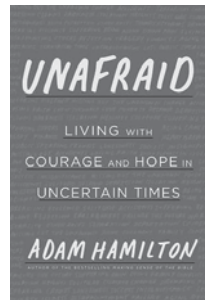
## Faith Circle

A friendly reminder that Faith Circle, our energetic seniors with very active, long retired ladies, will resume their normal schedule in January. See you in the new year!

## Hope Circle

Join us on January 10th at 6:30 pm in the Lounge at Wesley UMC for refreshments and continued study of Adam Hamilton's book "UNAFRAID".

Please read Part III, Chapters 9 & 10.



## LOL Ladies Outreach and Lunch

The LOL Circle will enjoy lunch at the Olive Garden on January 7. Our Service Project for the month will be on January 23 at the Midwest Food Bank. Please note that this is a Wednesday instead of our usual Monday. Moe's will be catering the lunch at the Food Bank at 11:30 am and our service will follow at 12:30. If you would like to join our Circle for fellowship, lunch and service, please email Elaine at [estokes65@gmail.com](mailto:estokes65@gmail.com) to receive emails about our activities.



# WESLEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

502 East Front Street  
Bloomington, Illinois 61701  
309-827-8046  
[www.wesley-umc.com](http://www.wesley-umc.com)  
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Bloomington, IL  
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“For unto you *is born this day,*  
in the city of David a *Savior,*  
who is *Christ the Lord.*”

LUKE 2:11



The staff at Wesley would like to send warmest wishes to our members and friends for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

May the *light* of Christ *shine* in all of us.

