

News Of Wesley

February 2018



IF:BLOOMINGTON is Happening at Wesley

Wesley will be one of 1,700 locations hosting an IF:GATHERING this February 9 & 10.

Never heard of IF:GATHERING?

IF:GATHERING is a non-denominational gathering for women which is held live in Texas and simulcast around the globe. The ministry has very humble beginnings; a young woman sensed God telling her to disciple a generation. It seemed to be an impossible and improbable calling. She began to share this seed of a vision with trusted friends, the response was collectively, "Yes, I'm in." Since then, women around the world took leadership in their own communities and hosted the streaming of IF:GATHERING in their homes, churches, and theaters. Women experienced what it was like to be a part of a global movement where each person had a place and lives were changed.

The event strives to gather, equip, and unleash women to live out God's calling in their lives. A live streamed event, followed by breakout groups, fellowship, and prayer inspires and energizes. IF:GATHERING events to do just that.

Wesley UMC will host an event Friday, February 9 and Saturday, February 10 in Wesley Hall. A suggested donation to cover costs is being accepted (\$25 per person).

Friday, February 9

6:00-9:00 pm- Session 1 (refreshments provided)

Sat, February 10

8:00-9:00 am- Doors open for day 2, breakfast

9:00 am-12:00 pm- Session 2

12:00-1:00 pm- Lunch

2:00-5:00 pm- Session 3



Learn more at www.ifgathering.com.
Register online at wesley-umc.com.
Tickets will also be available through Kathi Pritts
kpritts@wesley-umc.com.

Sign up for this one-of-a-kind event and experience the power of "IF"!



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

Loving Through Kindness A Valentines Challenge

I am writing this note to you from aboard a charter bus making its way back to Bloomington from Silver Birch Ranch in White Lake, WI. A group of thirty-one of us traveled together this weekend to the Ranch for this year's youth retreat, Winterfest. For twelve years, Wesley UMC has taken its youth group here to enjoy winter activities and to learn more about our faith. It was a joy to spend this time with Wesley's youth, where we had the opportunity to study together about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

As I sit here pondering what to write for the month of February, I can't help but think about Valentine's Day and the enormous pressure society places on consumers to spend money on gifts for the ones they love. While I believe tokens of affection are one of the many wonderful ways to express love, I wonder if perhaps the best way to show love is to act kindly toward one another.

In John 13:35, the theme verse for this weekend's retreat, Jesus tells his followers that the world will know that they are His disciples by their love. And in the verse just before, Jesus tells us to love each other as He has loved us. Brothers and sisters in Christ, at a time when threats of nuclear war are being lobbed around the world on a regular basis, when our president is using derogatory names to describe other nations, and when countries are building walls to keep out foreigners appears to be the new norm, it would seem that we could use a little more love in our world. So, as we enter into this "month of love," let us rededicate ourselves to the work of loving those around us. Let us show up when we are needed. Let us give whatever we can spare. Let us speak words of hope into the lives of both kin and stranger alike. Let us be disciples who follow our Lord's command to go boldly and love the world.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Justin

Lenten Speaker Series

Things seem so unstable in the world around us. What does our future hold? We have faith that all is in God's hands, but can we get a real glimpse into what is our immediate path forward?

To answer questions like these, Wesley is bringing together experts and leaders from within our community to help us get a sense of the future for our area and beyond. Join us for the speaker series -

The Road Ahead: Insights from Local Leaders

February 21 - March 21
Lunch & Lecture
Noon to 1:00 PM

Topics to be discussed will include:
Education, Agriculture, Local Government,
and Technology

Join us and join the discussion as we gain insights from some fascinating and knowledgeable leaders right here at home.

Speaker roster, room location, and lunch price will be announced closer to the first event. For more information contact Kathi Pritts at kpritts@wesley-umc.com.

Thank You Wesley - From the Houska's

It is difficult to find the words to express our deep gratitude for the loving concern during the illness and recent passing of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather. Your many prayers, cards, and general concern for his welfare and that of his family members, has been constant during the past couple of years. The entire staff at Wesley Church was instrumental in preparation for the celebration of life service. It was no small task to take down the preparations on Saturday noon for his service in the afternoon and then reassemble them after the service on Saturday evening for church on Sunday. Our thanks to each.

The respect shown George and his family by the presence of many at the funeral and reception afterward was very gratifying. Our deep appreciation to those who volunteered to assist with the meal preparation at the reception and to those who ushered at the service.

How blessed we are at Wesley to have the pastoral staff and accomplished musicians who are prepared to accommodate the requests of family in funeral preparations. - Mary Houska & Family

A Gift of Time Update

Just shy of 250 people have committed to rolling up their sleeves and getting involved in at least one of Wesley's many ministries. Most within that group expressed interest in more than one. We are excited!

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Wesley Financial Update

General fund receipts as of 12/31/17	\$1,353,598
General fund expenses as of 12/31/17	1,302,710
Surplus	\$ 50,888

Stewardship Update

James Ingold, Stewardship/Finance Committee Chairman

Back in December, Richard Johnson provided to our congregation an update on the 2018 Stewardship Appeal. He explained that we were anticipating a significant current expense deficit for 2018 based on both our anticipated revenue for the new year, and the budgeted needs as developed by our staff and various leadership committees. Thanks to a generous congregation, we did receive additional faith commitment cards, and several increases in pledged giving for the new year.

This reduced our anticipated shortfall significantly, though some anticipated shortfall remains. I'm writing to let you know several things.

First, we ended 2017 in a strong position, with a surplus of almost \$51,000 and that surplus will allow us to close our anticipated spending gap for the new year even further. Beyond that, the Finance Committee worked with the staff to find alternative resources to fund certain ministries for 2018. We also made some strategic budget cuts which we felt would not drastically inhibit the mission of the church. And, while I am never a fan of approving a deficit budget, we felt that we could look at 2017 and 2018 together and pass the budget with the expectation that when the two years are looked at together, we will have a small surplus for the period.

We have an excellent staff who are very diligent at staying within their budgets and almost without exception, often spend less than their budget dictates. This gave us confidence in approving the budget, knowing they would once again manage their ministry areas as the faithful stewards they have always been in the past.

We understand the local economy has some unknowns in it as we head into 2018, but we also know that God has always been faithful and will continue to bless our church's generous and dedicated members. By faith, I am confident we will have a strong 2018 and will continue to fulfill our mission of making and nurturing disciples for Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace to you all.

- continued

Thank you for your response and your willingness to get involved. It isn't too late. You can still sign up online at wesley-umc.com/serve or pick up a paper form at the Wesley Welcome Center.

Please email connect@wesley-umc.com if you committed time to a ministry and you have yet to be contacted by a leader. Your time and commitment matter to Wesley!

Dates to Note

- **Friday, January 26 - January 27**
Youth Cabinet Retreat
- **Tuesday, January 30**
Wesley's Bright Beginnings
Open House - 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
- **Friday, February 9**
IF:GATHERING - 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- **Saturday, February 10**
IF:GATHERING - 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- **Sunday, February 11**
Scout Recognition Sunday
- **Wednesday, February 14**
Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 PM
- **Friday, February 16 - February 19**
Wesley Michigan Ski Retreat
- **Thursday, March 1**
Community Band Concert - 7:00 PM
- **Sunday, March 18**
Wesley Singers Musical - 11:15 AM
- **Thursday, March 29**
Maundy-Thursday Service - 7:00 PM
- **Sunday, April 1**
Easter Sunday
- **Saturday, April 14**
Wesley Rummage Sale

Rummage Plan

The Rummage Sale already...really? Yes, it will be here before you know it. The Wesley Rummage Sale Committee is already hard at work planning for the Saturday, April 14th sale and the busy week leading up to it.

Join the planning process on your own - what do you plan to donate - can you plan to work a shift or two - are you planning to invite neighbors to the sale?

Plan on more info in the month ahead.

LOL Circle

LOL Circle (Ladies, Outreach and Lunch) has had great fellowship together since our inception in October. We have gone to lunch, toured the Safe Harbor, rung the Salvation Army bells, entertained children at Bloomington Day Care Center with stories and cookies, and visited the Baby Fold.

It's not too late to join in on our fun and service to others. We meet the first Monday of the month for lunch only, and the third Monday for lunch and a service project. If you would like to join us and be on our email list, please email Elaine at - estokes65@gmail.com.

Pets As Working Saints

Are you and your dog interested in the PAWS ministry? The PAWS ministry will be offering a Canine Good Citizen class in April and May. When you receive your CGC certificate - you are encouraged to visit nursing home and other locations where you and your four-legged friend can offer love, memories of former best friends, and other Christian gifts of friendship. These classes will be offered weekly beginning April 12th. Classes will be held every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 at the church for 6 weeks. The final night will be a testing night the CGC certificate. There is no charge for the class, but class size is limited and members of the church will be given priority. Please contact Gail Scoates at 309-310-3697, or email to ghscoates@gmail.com, to register.



**Love Crafting?
Good at Organizing?
Like Leading?**

The Creative Crafters (Creative Clique Craft Group) is searching for a new leadership team to direct the making of crafts for the 2019 Craft Fair. The Fair is held every two years and provides additional funds for local and state United Methodist Women mission projects.

New leaders would be responsible for selecting craft projects, acquiring the budgeted supplies, and attending the craft workshops at a convenient time set by the leaders.

There are 12 to 15 active workers in the Creative Craft group who are looking forward to the group's fellowship gathering and the creation of new craft projects.

If you are interested in helping with the leadership of this group or have questions regarding this position, please contact Elaine Stokes at estokes65@gmail.com or Paula Witt at pwitt67@msn.com.

Wesley Ski Retreat

How about starting 2018 by getting away, hitting the slopes, and coming back for some reflection and devotional time? Ahhh...sounds perfect. Let's do this!

Friday, February 16 to Monday, February 19 Wesley will be heading for Ironwood and Wakefield, Michigan for a Ski Retreat.

Go online for a detailed itinerary at wesley-umc.com or pick up a hard copy at the Welcome Center in the Wesley lobby.

Cost

\$225/participant + five meals

*Add \$75 if you plan to down hill ski.

(A continental breakfast is provided every day except 02/16. Sack lunches are provided on 02/17 & 02/18.)

What to Bring

Essentials for a four-day/three-night trip, money for five meals in restaurants, warm and movement-friendly clothes that can be worn in layers outdoors (avoid cotton fabrics), winter boots (gaiters are a nice addition if you have them, but not necessary), a change of clothes for the evenings, a photo ID, board games and/or movies, and a Bible.

Questions? Ready to sign up?

Contact Pastor Justin with any questions or to register at jiverson@wesley-umc.com.

The registration deadline is Friday, February 9th. This is sure to be a great group retreat, but space is limited, so register soon!

IGRC College Scholarship Available

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is offering a scholarship opportunity for the 2018-2019 school year to undergraduate students. Applicants must be members of a United Methodist Church for a minimum of one year. Scholarships awarded will be sent to the community college, college, or university that the student will be attending during the 2018-2019 school year to help pay for their undergraduate tuition. The scholarships awarded will be a minimum of \$500. The deadline is March 15. For more information check out the scholarship page on the Conference website - www.igrc.org.

JUST ONE

Blankets for local homeless shelters will be gathered during the month of February. New or clean, gently used blankets of all kinds and sizes are needed to keep the less fortunate warm in these extreme temperatures.

The Church and Society Committee plans the following schedule of monthly Just One collection requests for 2018. This may change as needs arise.

February

New or clean, gently used blankets

March

Laundry detergent in pods

April

Detergent pods for dishwashers

May

New or gently used children's books

June

Peanut butter for local food pantries

July

Gift cards

August

Children's underwear and sweat pants sizes 4-12

September

Diapers for adults and children

October

Coats

November

Non-perishable foods for Thanksgiving bags

December

School supplies: pencils, crayons, and markers

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

Scout Sunday - Annual Spaghetti Dinner



Wesley's Boy Scout Troop 18 will be recognized on Sunday, February 12. Wesley is inviting all scouts, both past and present, to be a part of this day of acknowledgment – Boy Scout, Cub, Girl Scout, Brownie, Venture, or leader. Contact Jim Robinson at jrobinson@wesley-umc.com or 309-530-6200 and proudly wear your class A/dress uniform.

Then mark your calendars and save the date for the Scout annual spaghetti dinner in Wesley Hall on Saturday, February 17. Take a night off, come out, and let the guys cook dinner for you. Tickets

are adults -\$7, kids -\$6 (2-10yrs) in advance, a dollar more at the door.

Tickets will go on sale in the Garden Room between services February 4th and 11th.

WESLEY

DISTRIBUTION

MINISTRY

Serving Our Community

Bloomington support agencies have a need. A need for family paper goods.

Wesley has a new facility with a large storage area in a big basement - Wesley West.

The two needs appear to mesh seamlessly. This is a new and EXCITING venture!

And so, Wesley United Methodist's Church and Society Committee has mapped out a way to provide the Baby Fold, Children's Home & Aid Society (Healthy Start Parents), Bloomington Day Care, and Heartland Head Start with a dedicated source of household paper products. Collection products include: Paper towels, toilet paper, diapers, wipes, and paper feminine hygiene products.

The Midwest Food Bank graciously offered to join forces and partner with Wesley in meeting the community need. Partnership at its finest.

The next two distribution dates from Wesley West will be Saturday, February 17 and Saturday, March 17. Get involved. Donate.



Wesley Senior High and Adult Leaders
at Winterfest 2018

WESLEY'S **Bright** OPEN BEGINNINGS HOUSE

Wesley's Bright Beginnings is hosting an open house Tuesday, January 30 from 6:00-7:30 PM for anyone interested in learning more about our play based preschool for the 2018-19 school year. It's a great opportunity to tour and meet the teachers. Please help spread the word and grow this important Wesley ministry!

Making Connections

Would you like to know more about your ancestry but don't know where to begin? Are you drawn to history and wonder who your ancestors were or what kind of lives they led? Tempted to dive into your genealogy?

Making Connections, a new group at Wesley, is starting up to help you discover your family roots. Bob Willey, with 47 years' experience writing his family genealogy, will be leading sessions to help you get started or move forward with an existing family genealogy.

Thursday, February 15
6:00 PM
Wesley Lounge

Please contact Bob in advance to RSVP at hogworc@comcast.net or 309-827-4147.



Dave Ramsey Classes - 2018 at Wesley



Financial Peace U.

Did you know that 76% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck? Or that 64% of Americans can't cover a \$1,000 emergency? This doesn't have to be true for you! All you need is a practical plan for your money—and Financial Peace University IS that plan. In nine easy-to-follow lessons, you'll learn how to get out of debt, create a budget, make wise spending decisions, save for the future, and so much more!

Financial Peace University

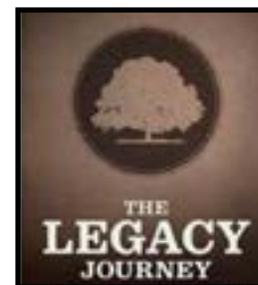
Mondays April 2 - May 28

Leaders - Kathi Pritts and Missy O'Shea

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

www.daveramsey.com/fpu

**While supplies last we have kits for both classes for \$50
- normally at least twice that price!**



Legacy Journey Study

Want to live full and abundant lives in ways that will impact your families, friends and community both today and in the future? The Legacy Journey is a biblically based seven-lesson study that will show you how to live well now so you can leave a legacy of generosity and purpose. You'll learn how to grow your money, train your kids to be diligent and smart with money, plan for retirement, create a will, and more. This study helps you put together a plan for today and tomorrow to ensure your family is taken care of.

Legacy Journey-Growing and Leaving a Legacy

Leaders - James Ingold and Kelly Snyder

Mondays July 9 - August 20

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

www.daveramsey.com/legacy

contact kpritts@wesley-umc.com

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

Present Over Perfect

Book by Shauna Niequist

Pastor Justin Iverson, leader

Lounge

Made for a Miracle

Book by Mike Slaughter

Nancy Bollman, leader

Lounge - starting February 18

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

Anxious for Nothing by Max Lucado

Pastor Justin, leader

5:45 PM - Garden Room

THURSDAY

Companions in Christ **Embracing the Journey**

9:00 AM - Garden Room

- Join us for Dinner -

Before the Wednesday study have
dinner with your class and catch up
or simply get to know each other.

Fellowship - Discipleship
the two go hand-in-hand
5:00 PM - Wesley Hall
Wednesdays@Wesley

Need Info on Classes?
Contact Kathi Pritts
kpritts@wesley-umc.com

Children's Ministry

Kindness

In February our elementary kids will be concentrating on kindness with great stories from the Old and New Testament books Titus, Ruth, and Matthew.

Jesus Loves Everyone

Preschool children will learn Jesus loves everyone with great stories of love from the Bible like the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, and the unloved woman and Peter.

Adult February Study

Wednesdays@Wesley

The Grand Sweep

365 Days From Genesis to Revelation

by J. Ellsworth Kalas

5:45 PM - 6:45 PM - Garden Room

Informational Meeting - Feb 14

Study begins - February 21



You want to read Scripture daily; you just need some direction. The Grand Sweep guides you through Scripture so that at the end of 365 days, you will have read every book of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Daily readings include only three to four chapters a day and moves through the Bible in biblical sequence, making this devotional a positive experience even for those just beginning a spiritual discipline. Author J. Ellsworth Kalas also provides a faithful daily summary of readings, but with a devotional quality to encourage warmth of spirit and knowledge.

- A PLANNED EVENT -

The Grand Sweep study doesn't end when the book does. A BIG, and we mean BIG, event is being planned that will take your newly acquired Biblical knowledge and apply it in an amazing way.

Come to the Info meeting and learn more.

THANK YOU - to all who painted chairs for the children's areas. They look GREAT!



WESLEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

502 East Front Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701
309-827-8046
www.wesley-umc.com
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Bloomington, IL
Permit No. 103

Troop 18 Spaghetti Supper

Saturday, February 17

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Wesley Hall

tickets on sale in Garden Room
February 4 & 11

