



November 2018

# News Of Wesley



**NOW**  
NEWS OF WESLEY



## Your Wesley Staff Is Thankful

Of all the months, November is the month set aside to take stock of our blessings. The “harvest” of blessings throughout 2018 are to be noted, acknowledged, and individually lifted up with a grateful heart.

The Wesley Staff has been embracing this November/Thanksgiving spirit and has been taking note and making lists of the many blessings that we find here in this church home, the church we are blessed to call our workplace. Below you will find, in no particular order, blessings listed from staff members.

### The Wesley Staff thanks God for Wesley because...

- it's such a welcoming church
- I get to work with an excellent staff
- of its amazing children and youth
- of the inspiring and exceptional music program
- of Wesley's warm hospitality
- of its generous and supportive members
- of leadership and committees who are committed, caring, creative, and inclusive
- Wesley is committed to make and nurture disciples for Jesus Christ
- of the many volunteers who are reliable, flexible, and committed
- it is truly a family who have become loving extended parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles to staff
- of its focus on Christian education and spiritual growth
- of Wesley's missions, missions, missions
- of its willingness to work with other churches throughout the community
- SPRC strives to be mindful of our workplace, our workloads, and our compensation
- the church continues to strive for excellence in service to the Lord - be it Sunday worship, weddings, funerals, visitations with those in need, missions, education, or fellowship

### THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS,

From Your  
Wesley Staff



## “Gracias!”

If English-speaking Americans know one Spanish vocabulary word, it's probably “Gracias” – which means, “thank you!” I studied Spanish in high school and college, but I'm pretty sure I knew how to say “Gracias” from the preschool days of Sesame Street. And of course, “Muchas Gracias” means “Thank you very much!”

But as you can no doubt guess, the Spanish word “Gracias” comes from the Latin root for “grace.” “Gracias” says “thank you” for grace received – not earned, not deserved, not paid for by the recipient, but freely given and unconditionally received.

It reminds me that so many of the blessings I receive every day are not a matter of merit, equal exchange or negotiation, but an offering of unconditional love, by a God who cares for me simply because God is Love. How about the fact that I got up this morning? That when I opened my lungs, clean air flowed in, and when I opened my eyes, I saw the light? How about the food on my table, the tea in my cup, and the silly grin of my husband as he peeked over the kitchen counter at me? These are not benefits I have earned by being good, or prizes I have won for being clever. They are just gifts of God which have come to me undeserved, and for which I want to say “Gracias” – “Grace!” – “Thank you.”

November is the season for thanks-giving, which could be an opportunity for gathering with family and friends and celebrating our various successes and achievements since we were together last... OR it could be a time of stepping back to notice the blessings God has provided, without any help from us at all. Take time to reflect on these questions: Where has grace been evident in your life? What would you be missing without the grace of God? Is there anything we could accomplish without God's gift of grace? How can we be more aware of, and thankful for, God's grace in our lives?

Next time you get ready to tell somebody “thank you,” try saying “Gracias!” instead, to remember that most of our blessings come undeserved, unearned – but simply as acts of grace. And when it comes time to thank God – let's say “MUCHAS GRACIAS!”

- Pastor Sara

## Baby Announcements

Presley Ann Watts was born October 2nd at St. Joseph's. She weighed 8 lbs 8 oz and was 20" long. Parents Emily and Ryan Watts are delighted and big brothers Liam (5) and Sawyer (6) are anxious to play with her! Congrats Watts family!



JD Martin and Destiny Runyon welcomed their first baby, a boy, Grayson Elliot Robert Martin on October 15th. What a blessing! Congrats!



## Welcome Kendra Bull

Wesley is excited to welcome Kendra Bull to the Wesley staff as our new full-time Communications Director. Kendra has an impressive background in communication arts, and as a long-time Wesley member, she brings a unique passion for the role.

*"I am originally from Aviston, Illinois (a small, southern farm town) but came to this area to play volleyball at Illinois State University and earn a degree in Graphic Design. After a season of professional volleyball, I returned to Bloomington and accepted a position as a graphic designer with Country Financial for several years, then served as a Creative Director for 361 Marketing Solutions until we decided to start our family. Since then, I have been fortunate enough to work freelance design out of my home and build a successful small business while spending my days with our children Reagan (age 11) and Bracken (age 9).*

*I am excited for this new chapter in my professional life, to join a talented Wesley staff, and be a part of its continued growth and success. I mostly look forward to investing my time serving a church family that has shown so much support and love to our family."*

- Kendra

Welcome to Wesley Staff, Kendra! We are ready for this new and exciting chapter to begin together!

# Wesley Financial Update

General fund receipts as of 9/30/18	\$ 959,014
General fund expenses as of 9/30/18	959,795
	<hr/>
Deficit	\$ 781

By now, you have probably already received the annual mailing from the church about commitment Sunday on October 28. There is some interesting information in that packet that I hope you will take a few minutes to review. For example, the sources of revenue chart indicates that 96% of the church's revenue comes from YOU! How could we accomplish anything without your gifts? And it's satisfying to see that these gifts are used for ministries and mission opportunities that we all value—education, worship, youth, music, missions, discipleship, pastoral care and support for all the ministries. Oh, and be sure to read the letter from the pastor. Isn't Sara's courage and enthusiasm contagious? See you during the walk to the cross on October 28!

- Myrna Simpson, Business Administrator



## We've Got Shoes To Fill

The Wesley's Bright Beginnings Preschool Board would love to have you on the board! What better way to help shape and learn about your child's program? By volunteering, you will have a hand in creating a safe, challenging, inspiring, and fun school environment for our program.

Other benefits include:

- Connecting with other parents
- Having a voice in activities that support the program
- Gaining experience to join your child's PTA in the future

The board meets once a month on the last Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM.

The board would love your support and input!

Open Seats: Secretary - Teacher Appreciation - Marketing - Personnel - Fundraising  
Please contact Board Chair Judy Bute at [butej54@gmail.com](mailto:butej54@gmail.com).

## AROUND THE CORNER...CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESLEY

5:00 PM - Family Service / Children's Pageant  
7:30 PM & 11:00 PM - Christmas Candlelight

Spend Christmas Eve  
with your Wesley Family!

## Dates to Note

- **Sunday, October 28**  
Courageous + Contagious Generosity  
Courageous Walk Forward - both services
- **Wednesday, October 31**  
NO W@W Activities
- **Saturday, November 3**  
Rent-a-Youth Leaf Raking
- **Sunday, November 4**  
Thanksgiving Bags Distributed  
IWU Choir Concert - 3:00 PM
- **Wednesday, November 7**  
Gingerbread Houses for Baby Fold
- **Saturday, November 10**  
Rent-a-Youth Leaf Raking
- **Sunday, November 11**  
All Saints Sunday  
Thanksgiving Bags Returned  
Acolyte Training - 12:15 PM
- **Monday, November 12**  
NOW Newsletter Deadline
- **Thursday, November 15**  
Loads of Love Ministry - 5:00 PM
- **Saturday, November 17**  
Wesley Distribution Ministry - 9:30 AM  
Habitat for Humanity Work Day - 8:00 AM
- **Sunday, November 18**  
Honduras UMC Benefit Concert - 6:30 PM
- **Wednesday, November 21**  
Wesley Office Closes at Noon  
NO Wednesdays@Wesley Activities
- **Thursday, November 22**  
Wesley Offices Closed - Thanksgiving
- **Friday, November 30**  
Wesley Office Closed  
Wesley Advent Family Night - 6:00 PM

## LOL Circle

LOL will meet for lunch and fellowship on November 5 at Kobe Steak House.

Our service project for the month of November will be assisting with the coat distribution at the Salvation Army.

If you would like to join our service and social times, please email Elaine at estokes65@gmail.com.

The Ladies, Outreach & Lunch (LOL) Circle are for those women with a flexible schedule or recently retired.

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**Find a UMW Circle that fits you!**

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## GEMS

GEMS will meet November 12th at the home of Kristy Funk for SPA NIGHT. Come relax with us before the holiday season hits us at full speed. No childcare will be offered.

GEMS will meet November 26th at the home of Sara Newburn. We will discuss strategies for talking with our kids about money.

Contact Liz Tomera for more information or questions at tomeras@comcast.net.

All Growing Each Mom Spiritually (GEMS) Circle members are mothers of young children.

## Hope Circle

Hope Circle continues the study from Adam Hamilton's book, *Unafraid*. Read Chapters 5-8 (Part Two) for our November 8th meeting at 6:30 PM.

Newcomers are welcome to jump in at anytime. Contact Judy for more information at Judy Bute butej54@gmail.com.

Hope Circle consists of working and just recently retired women.

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## Faith Circle

Faith Circle will not meet in November or December.

Faith Circle is our senior circle with very active, long retired ladies.

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## Box Tops Collection

UMW is collecting 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.

Thanks for your mission contribution for children!

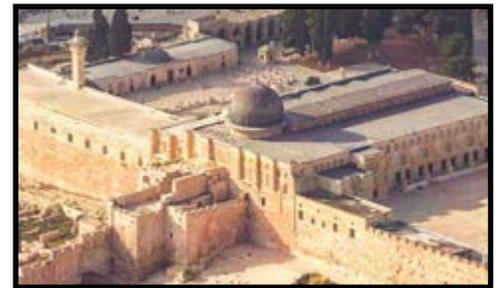


## Thank You Wesley

Thank you Wesley for your support during our popcorn and Christmas greens fundraiser. Once again, with your help, Troop 18 had another successful year.

**SAVE THE DATE - SPAGHETTI DINNER**  
Saturday, February 9th 2019  
More details will be coming.

- Wesley's Boy Scout Troop 18



## 2019 Holy Land Trip

**- NOTE THIS DATE -**  
**November 19th**

The last day to sign up for the 2019 Holy Land Tour without incurring any additional fees is November 19, 2018.

Join Pastor Justin on an 11-Day "Journey through the Bible" program March 5-15, 2019 that will expand our knowledge of the Bible and this sacred land. This Holy Land journey will follow in the footsteps of Jesus, Paul, Samuel, and David - will change the way you read the Bible - and you will learn why scholars refer to the Holy Land as the "Fifth Gospel".

For more information go to [www.wesley-umc.com](http://www.wesley-umc.com) or contact Justin at [jiverson@wesley-umc.com](mailto:jiverson@wesley-umc.com) to join the trip. Save the date and bring a friend!

# Wesley Singers Musical

Sunday, December 2nd - 11:15 AM Service

Experience a musical - crime thriller. - "Arrest These Merry Gentlemen"

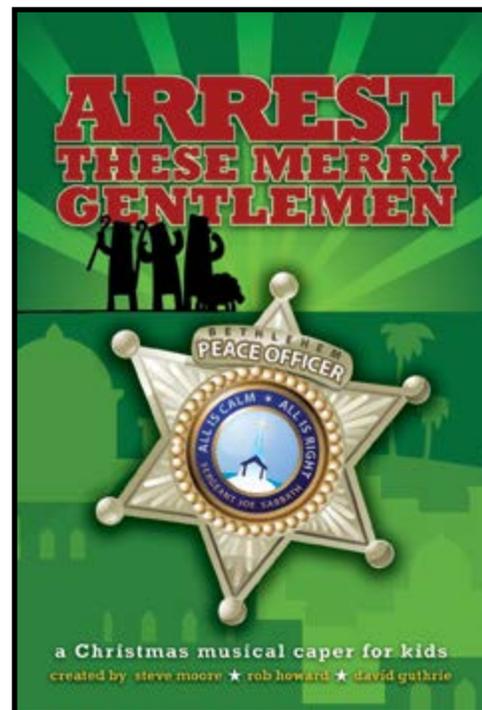
Join our young Wesley Singers as they lead us in worship like no other. Their musical, well, think of it as "Bethlehem meets Dragnet. It is a "caper" featuring a detective from the Bethlehem Police (Joe Sabbath) investigating an alleged gang of joyfully-rowdy shepherds "disturbing the peace" with a crazy story about angels and a mysterious baby.

## Who are the Wesley Singers?

Wesley Singers is a children's choir at Wesley made up of very talented second, third, fourth, and fifth-graders. This wonderful choir will begin rehearsals throughout November to put on a show that you won't soon forget.

The fun begins when Sergeant Joe Sabbath is charged with keeping the peace in the sleepy little town of Bethlehem, and he likes things QUIET! When word reaches him that a band of rowdy shepherds is inbound from the fields outside of town, boisterously celebrating with wild tales of angels and such, he is determined to get to the bottom of this case! Of course, what he discovers is no simple "disturbing the peace" beef. It seems he's stumbled upon the caper that changed the world!

COME JOIN THE MUSICAL FUN - START THE CHRISTMAS WITH SOME FUN



copyright - Little Big Stuff Music



## Welcome Jesse Boyd

The littlest members of our choir family, the Cherub and Sonshiners, have a new choir director, Jesse Boyd. Welcome to Wesley's Staff! Wesley is thrilled to have you on board.

Jesse, a musically talented, fun, mom, and long-time member of Wesley is stepping in for our own dedicated and exceptional Kelly Snyder, who just moved to Philadelphia for a new job with State Farm. All our best and our love, thanks, and appreciation goes with you, Kelly.

*"I grew up here at Wesley and learned to sing and love music from Adria and countless other amazing people. I studied music theory at Central College in Pella, Iowa for two years and graduated from ISU in 2009. I've remained close to music as an adult and currently have a four year-old son, Hill, in the Cherub Choir. I'm so excited to work with your children and can't wait to be a part of the team that creates music lovers for the future!" - Jesse*

Welcome to the Wesley Music Department!



## IWU Collegiate Choir

- Wesley Welcomes -

Illinois Wesleyan University Choir  
3:00 PM Sunday, November 4

Our own organist, Andrew Johnson, will be part of this impressive ensemble. Come out, enjoy the music, and support Andrew!





Lynn Haven United Methodist Church in Panama City, Fla., lost the roof over its sanctuary and its back wall in the winds of Hurricane Michael. Photo courtesy of Lynn Haven United Methodist Church.

## Hurricane Michael Disaster Relief

United Methodists across the southeast are preparing to offer long-term relief after the most powerful hurricane in nearly 50 years slammed into the continental U.S.

Michael, which roared onto the Florida Panhandle as a Category 4 hurricane, has left a path of destruction across multiple states and at least five United Methodist conferences. The storm has caused at least 11 deaths — four in Florida, five in Virginia, one in Georgia and one in North Carolina — and in its wake are upturned trees, collapsed buildings, broken roads and hundreds of thousands of people without electricity.

Search-and-rescue teams are operating across the panhandle, communication is extremely limited in damaged areas and it's still not safe for church-trained early response teams to come on the scene. Michael is the most intense storm to batter Florida since at least 1851, when records began to be kept on such things.

To donate to UMCOR disaster response in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, please give to UMCOR Advance #901670.

Please DO NOT SELF DEPLOY to these areas. First responders are working. For up to date information in each of the damaged annual conferences, please visit the following websites.

- Alabama-West Florida Conference: <https://www.awfumc.org>
- South Georgia Conference: <https://www.sgumc.org>
- Florida Conference: <https://www.flumc.org>
- South Carolina Conference: <https://www.umcsc.org>

Let's keep all who are affected and those who are responding in our prayers.

## A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE METHODIST CHURCH IN HONDURAS



Featuring: **MISSIONS CALL**

TODD TUCKER, JAMES INGOLD, TIM BYRNE,  
RONNIE JONES AND CLAY MARTIN

*Singing Southern Gospel favorites*  
from Bill Gaither and Ernie Haase & Signature Sound



**SUNDAY**

**November 18, 2018 at 6:30 PM**

**Wesley United Methodist Church**

502 East Front Street • Bloomington, Illinois

**FREE ADMISSION:** A freewill offering will be taken with all proceeds going to support the construction costs of the United Methodist Church and Conference Center in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

## Bishop Meetings - 2019 General Conference

Bishop Frank J. Beard has announced he will host meetings throughout the Illinois Great Rivers Conference discussing the three plans which have been offered as plans for A Way Forward with regard to the issues of human sexuality and unity.

Please register in advance as a courtesy to our venue host. Register at <https://igrc-reg.brapp.com/gc2019briefings>

The following dates have been confirmed:

- Sunday, Nov. 11 -- Edwardsville St. Johns UMC, 4 to 6 PM
- Monday, Nov. 12 -- Jacksonville Grace UMC, 4 to 6 PM
- Thursday, Nov. 15 -- Marion First UMC, 7 to 9 PM
- Saturday, Nov. 17 -- Chatsworth UMC, 10 AM to noon
- Sunday, Nov. 18 -- Peoria First UMC, 4 to 6 PM
- Monday, Nov. 19 -- Arthur UMC, 6 to 8 PM



## Loads of Love

Church & Society has created a new community outreach ministry, "Loads of Love". This ministry will assist those who need assistance with laundry. Wesley volunteers will help patrons with their laundry needs and expenses.

The first evening of Loads of Love will be Thursday, November 15 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Wash House, 609 N. Clinton Street, Bloomington.

Please contact Gary Thompson garyt23@frontier.com if you would like to participate.



## 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:  
Reverend Sara L. Isbell (217) 299-4870  
Reverend Justin Iverson (701) 809-1203

## MAKE AN **IMPACT**

Thank you to all who baked, purchased baked goods, or supported the Wesley Missions bake sale at the Bloomington Farmer's Market on September 8 and in the church Garden Room on September 9. Even though it was a cool blustery day at the farmer's market, \$365.75 was raised for the "Our Conference Our Kids" campaign for the spiritual care programs of the five child welfare agencies in our conference – The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and Spero Family Services (formerly the United Methodist Children's Home).

Want to make an impact? Get involved. Contact Sandi Hinrichs of Wesley Missions at sandi.hinrichs@yahoo.com to get started.

## WESLEY **IMPACT** — UMC MISSIONS —

## JUST ONE

Thanksgiving feasting...not everyone can...  
...so in November Just One will be asking for non-perishable food items to help stock local food pantries to share our feast.

Please take home a decorated Thanksgiving bag on Sunday, November 4th. Fill the bag with things like canned vegetables, soup, peanut butter, canned meats and return the bag to the Wesley Garden Room hallway on Sunday, November 11th.

Thanks for helping with Wesley's annual Thanksgiving food drive!





## College Workshop

If you were unable to join us for the college workshop that Surge hosted in September we've got good news for you! We will be hosting the workshop again on Thursday November 8th with financial representatives Sara Newburn, Jake Rolfs, and Bruce Paulsrud from Thrivent Financial. The workshop is titled "College Planning Strategies - Three things you never knew about college... and how it may save many families thousands!" The workshop is designed for all high school families with a special emphasis on those with sophomores and juniors.

Registration begins at 6:00 PM with the workshop following at 6:15 PM. There is no cost for attending this event which will be held in Wesley Hall. Refreshments will be served. To reserve your place, please email or call Frank Newburn at [fnewburn@wesley-umc.com](mailto:fnewburn@wesley-umc.com) or 309-827-8046 ext. 24. Space is limited to the first 15 families who register!

## Fall Leaf Raking

It's autumn again and the leaves are falling. Tired of raking up all those leaves yourself? The youth of Wesley UMC are here to help. Stop by the Garden Room on Sunday morning between services on October 28 for your **last chance** to sign up to "Rent-a-Youth" to do your raking for you. Our raking days are Saturday November 3rd and Saturday November 10th.

The service is free but we gladly appreciate any freewill donations given - all of which will go towards our 2019 mission trips to Arizona and Arkansas.

### We can use your help with this fundraiser! We need RAKERS!

There are two shifts available: 8:45 AM to noon and 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM.

Please sign up for one or both of those shifts and bring friends to help as well.

On Saturday, November 10 we will finish up any yards we don't get to on November 3.

We especially encourage anyone planning to go on either of our summer mission trips to Arizona and Arkansas next summer to sign up to help with this BIG fundraiser, but everyone is welcome to help. Questions? Call Frank or Stacy at the church at 827-8046.



## Mission Trips - 2019

Next summer we have two mission trips available for our students. For Senior High we will have the opportunity to travel to Arizona for a week of mission work on the Navajo Reservation. We will be partnering with a local Navajo church to help with local home construction and repair projects in their community and also leading a VBS for children in the area. Dates for this trip are July 13-July 21 and this trip is open to any students who will be in 8th grade or high school this school year.

For our Junior High students we will be going back to serve at the Heifer Ranch in Arkansas. At the Heifer Ranch we will learn more about world hunger, the impact that our daily lives have on the world, how our choices affect the lives of others, learn about our role as caretakers of this world, discover the value of serving others and focus on our responsibility as Christians to care for all of creation. We will participate in interactive learning activities, community building objectives, work projects to help Heifer's Ranch operate, daily personal devotions, and daily group time which will include debriefing the day, worship and Bible Study together.

Both trips have limited space and it is first come first serve so turn in your deposit ASAP to reserve your spot. Information sheets on both trips can be found on the Surge board and see Frank or Stacy with questions about either trip.



**- ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT -**  
Friday, November 30 - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Wesley Hall

# Wesley Christian Education Classes throughout the week

- SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES -  
CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

ADULTS - Sunday 10:15 AM - 11:00 AM

## Journey Through the Bible - Book of Acts

Richard Johnson, leader  
Sunday - Conference Room

## Practicing Extravagant Generosity

by Michael Reeves, Robert Schnase, and Jennifer Tyler  
Sunday - Pastor Justin & James Ingold lead in the Lounge

## STUDIES DURING THE WEEK

### - TUESDAY -

#### Women's Bible Study

#### 2017 Disciplines and Other Topics

7:00 AM - Lounge

### - WEDNESDAY -

#### Men's Bible Study

12:00 PM - Garden Room

#### Grief - A Support Group

led by Barb Phend  
3:30 PM - Conference Room

#### Wednesdays@Wesley Study ---

#### The Grand Sweep

#### 365 Days From Genesis to Revelation

book by J. Ellsworth Kalas  
5:45 PM - Lounge

This year-long Bible study will be finishing the study of the Old Testament and moving to the New Testament in November. For those who would like to join this study next month is an ideal time.

#### Half Truths book by Adam Hamilton

led by Stephanie Hoy  
6:45 PM - 7:45 PM - Conference Room

## Children's Ministry

### Thankful

Our preschoolers will learn to be happy and thankful helpers with great stories of Tabitha, Nehemiah, the Good Samaritan and Elijah and the widow.

### Cooperation

Our elementary kids will learn about cooperation with stories from the Old and New Testament and JAM Session fun.

## Children's Dates to Note -

### November 7 -

Decorate Gingerbread houses for the Baby Fold.

### November 11 -

Acolyte Training 12:30 PM -1:30 PM  
Pizza lunch for interested second graders and above.

### November 21-

No W@W due to Thanksgiving

For more info contact

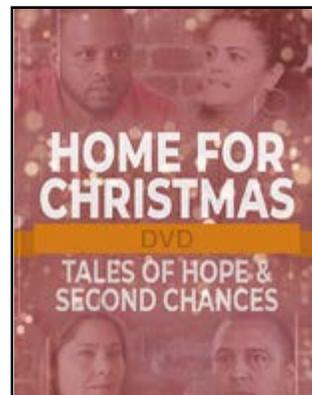
Kathi Pritts, Director of Christian Education  
kpritts@wesley-umc.com

## New Sunday Study

- Starts November 11 -

### Adult Study in the Lounge

led by Nancy Bollman  
10:15 AM - 11:00 AM



Even during hard times, the light of Christmas shines brightly. *Home for Christmas* shares the real-life stories of formerly incarcerated men and women as they find work and opportunity through Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, California. As we hear about their struggles, we recognize the Advent themes of hope, love, and peace in their lives. **Meet Nancy in the Lounge between services on November 4th to learn more.**



With the upcoming Special General Conference in February, there has been a lot of conversation around the topic of sexuality and the difficulty in navigating such a sensitive topic while maintaining a unified community. In light of this, Anchored will be discussing some topics that divide our community and how we can approach these topics with a focus on love and open-mindedness towards our brothers and sisters who may not share our same views.

Nov. 7 & 14 - Tough Topics Discussion  
Nov. 21 - No Anchored (holiday)  
Nov. 28 - Service Night



**WESLEY**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

502 East Front Street  
Bloomington, Illinois 61701  
309-827-8046

[www.wesley-umc.com](http://www.wesley-umc.com)

**Return Service Requested**

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Permit No. 103



*All  
Saints  
Sunday*

*Sunday, November 11*