



October 2018

News Of Wesley



NOW
NEWS OF WESLEY



Courageous + Contagious Generosity

Life is tough.

- Employment is uncertain. Jobs are changing and careers are shifting.
- Families are under pressure. Work - School - Activities- everyone is so busy.
- Society seems divided - even polarized. It's enough to make a person feel anxious.

But be encouraged, Church! Our hope comes from God, whose grace and strength are enough to make a person courageous. And when we share our courage with others, it becomes truly contagious!

Almost every Wesley member has a story of how our spiritual home on 502 E. Front Street has helped lift and lead them to the courage that only Christ can supply. Wesley, with its inspirational services, rich educational opportunities, rewarding mission adventures, and warm fellowship, inspires and nurtures COURAGE in troubled times. And when you see others stepping up boldly, you feel a little braver, yourself.

This October we will be tapping into that "Courageous and Contagious" Wesley spirit as we prepare for our annual stewardship appeal. We challenge you to ask yourself one simple question ...

Can we be courageous in our generosity?

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World Communion Sunday October 7, 2018

According to the National Council of Churches, World Communion Sunday began in the Presbyterian Church in 1936 as a way to recognize the diversity that exists within Christ's church and to celebrate that we are united under the lordship of Jesus. At its heart, World Communion Sunday is about just that, the whole world communing together on one day. One of the most sacred traditions for Christians everywhere is the practice of receiving Holy Communion. So, on October 7, not only will we join believers from all around the globe in receiving the bread and cup, but we'll also take time to think about the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world.

One need in particular that the United Methodist Church has chosen to uplift on World Communion Sunday is leadership development and education of persons from around the world. On this Sunday, Wesley UMC, along with UM churches all over the planet, will take a special offering to support those students for whom graduate education has traditionally been out of reach or unaffordable. According to UM Communications, students like Mary Grace Galapon, a deaconess in the Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference, credit funds from World Communion Sunday with enabling her to attend school so she can educate herself on ways to eliminate poverty in her hometown.

So, won't you join me in worship on Sunday, October 7 as we celebrate our common bond in Christ with believers around the world? And will you join me in giving a generous gift to the World Communion Sunday fund so that some of our brothers and sisters can receive the education they are seeking? May God's grace be with each of us as we look forward to this Sunday together!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Justin

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Courageous + Contagious Generosity

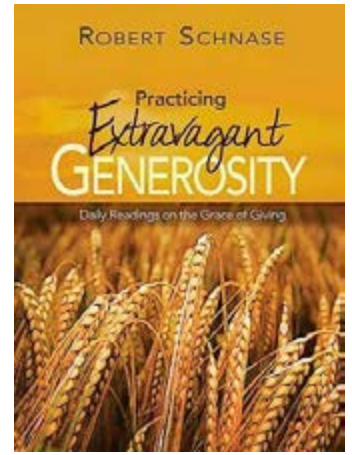
The answer, of course, is YES! As we learn to trust God to provide for our needs, we become more generous. And as we model generosity, we help others become more courageous. That's how "Courageous Generosity" becomes "Contagious!"

Courageous and Contagious Generosity is Stewardship 2018. Don't miss these opportunities to grow in courage and faith:

- Throughout the month of October you'll hear stories about the Courageous and Contagious Generosity Wesley has inspired.
- Pastor Justin and James Ingold are leading a study devoted to Christ-like generosity during the Sunday School hour. (article above)
- On Wednesday evening, October 17 join us for a prayer service to prepare our hearts and minds for "Courageous Generosity."
- On Sunday, October 28th we will boldly bring our commitments forward during both services and offer them back to God.



Enjoy the stories, sermons, and studies throughout the month and let it help lift and inspire you. And let's see what God can do with our "Courageous and Contagious Generosity!"



Generosity Study

Last Sunday, September 30 a new four-week study began in the Lounge during Sunday School (10:15 AM). It's not too late to join Pastor Justin and James Ingold for *Practicing Extravagant Generosity*, a devotional and study by Michael Reeves, Robert Schnase, and Jennifer Tyler.

Generosity takes many forms. Join us as we walk through Christ's GENEROUS lessons.

This study replaces the study *First*, by Pastor Mike Slaughter. If you have the *First* book it may be exchanged for the new study book. Contact Pastor Justin for more info at jverson@wesley-umc.com.

Wesley Financial Update

General fund receipts as of 8/31/18	\$ 843,667
General fund expenses as of 8/31/18	852,997
	<hr/>
Deficit	\$ 9,330

Commitment Sunday is October 28. As you prayerfully contemplate how much you will designate as your financial commitment to Wesley for 2019, keep in mind there are several ways you can give regardless of how often you are able to physically attend worship services on Sunday mornings.

Several people mail their contributions to the church office (502 E. Front St, Bloomington IL 61701) or bring them to the office while at the church for other business during the week. Others go through their banks to set up automatic payments to the church to make regular weekly, monthly, or one-time payments.

Another growing method of giving is through Wesley's website (www.wesley-umc.com). Simply click the Give button at the top of the page, then click Online Giving and you will be directed to the Vanco website. From there, it's a quick process to set up your payments on a regular or one-time basis. There is a fee charged to the church for using this payment method, but your entire contribution will be recorded on your giving statement.

Of course, we love to see you in worship on Sundays, so giving by physically placing a check or cash in the offering plate is the number one method used. However, when you see the offering plate pass through hands that don't add to it, those people are likely giving in other ways. Please remember to mark your check accordingly if you would like your donation to be used for anything other than budgeted operating expenses. Thank you for supporting all the ministries of Wesley UMC!

- Myrna Simpson, Business Administrator

Dates to Note

Courageous + Contagious Generosity - Stewardship 2018 -

- **Wednesday, October 3**
Grief Support Group Begins - 3:30 PM
- **October 4 - 7**
Walk to Emmaus - Women's Walk, Peoria
- **October 5 - 7**
Junior High NOW in Carlinville
- **October 6 - 8**
Senior High Retreat at East Bay Camp
- **Sunday, October 14**
Church & Society - Loads of Love Collection
Charge Conference - Colfax, IL - 3:00 PM
- **Monday, October 15**
Deadline for November NOW
- **Wednesday, October 17**
Courageous + Contagious Generosity
Prayer Service - 7:00 PM
- **Saturday, October 20**
Habitat for Humanity Work Day - 8:00 AM
Wesley Distribution Ministry - 9:30 AM
Surge Corn Maze - Rader Farms - 5:15 PM
- **Sunday, October 21**
Special Sunday Service - Children's Sabbath
Community Band Concert @ Wesley - 3:00 PM
- **Wednesday, October 24**
Surge Trick or Can Fund-raiser
- **Thursday, October 25**
Trunk or Treat with First Presbyterian - 6:00 PM
- **Sunday, October 28**
Courageous + Contagious Generosity
Courageous Walk Forward - both services
Golden Anniversary Luncheon - 12:30 PM
- **Wednesday, October 31**
NO W@W Activities

All New Wesley Parents

PLEASE - WE NEED YOUR HELP -

We are looking for Wesley members who have become parents of new babies since November 1, 2017. We will be recognizing our new born as well as those members who have passed during All Saints Sunday on November 11.

If you are a new Wesley parent, please send your baby's name, birth date, and picture to Molly at the church office. We want to make sure that no Wesley newborn is left out. mmccue@wesley-umc.com.

Many thanks - and congratulations again!

Congratulations

Longtime Wesley member Amanda (Aukerman) married Tony Bieneman on August 18th...yes, that's...8/18/18. They better not forget THAT anniversary date!

Congrats to the happy couple!

A Brief Absence

Pastor Justin anticipates being out of the office October 13-27 for sinus surgery. If you have any needs during this time, please direct them to the church office (309-827-8046) or Pastor Sara at sisbell@wesley-umc.com.

Wesley Director of Communications

LOL Circle

LOL will meet for lunch on October 1 and October 15. Our October project is serving Labyrinth and Stepping Stones. This presents a challenge - we found that there is little we can do in person. We can help by providing gift cards in \$10 increments to Walmart, gas stations, or Visa gift cards.

Please bring your donations to one of our October lunches. 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.

Faith Circle

Faith Circle will meet October 24 in the multipurpose room at Westminster Village from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM. After refreshments and fellowship Pastor Keith Ferguson will share with us his journey in our visitation ministry.

We look forward to your joining with us!

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

GEMS

October 8th GEMS will meet at the Midwest Food Bank. Our own Sara Newburn will be our group leader. No childcare will be available.

October 22nd, we will meet at the home of Missy Dundov and hear more about Home Sweet Home's "Bridges for Hope" project.

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

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

Find a UMW Circle that fits you!

Hope Circle

Hope Circle will meet Thursday, October 11 at 6:30 PM for refreshments and then continue the book study *Unafraid* by Adam Hamilton.

Discussion will center on Chapters 3 & 4 led by Judy Bute. Contact Judy for more information at judybute54@gmail.com.

Hope Circle consists of working and just recently retired women.

Good News and Bad News

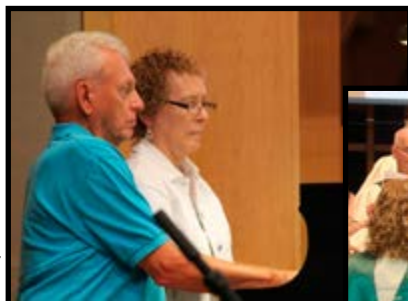
The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has some good news, and some bad news.

The good news is, we have approved moving the "Communications Coordinator" position from part-time to full-time, beginning November 1, 2018. SPRC has confirmed that full-time status is necessary for achievement of the goals, potential and workload of this significant position. A full-time Director of Communications will be able to significantly enhance our outreach to the growing Bloomington-Normal community.

The bad news is, we are saying "farewell" to our current Communications Coordinator, Cindy Lorimer. Cindy has brought amazing skill, energy, creativity, and dedication to this position, and has been invaluable in helping the SPRC understand and re-think its potential. We are deeply grateful for Cindy's work and her dedication to Wesley which has greatly enhanced our communications ministry. We hope to call on her expertise in the future for extra help and advice.

Applications for the Director of Communications position will be received through October 8. Please send PDF files of cover letter, resume and voluntary samples of past work to Myrna Simpson at msimpson@wesley-umc.com.

For a detailed job description go to www.wesley-umc.com/communications-director.





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 or contact Justin at jiverson@wesley-umc.com to join the trip. Save the date and bring a friend!

WESLEY
DISTRIBUTION
MINISTRY

Close to 200 families were served during our September distribution. That's approximately 927 people served. WDM is really making a difference in the community.

Now we need to keep the pantry stocked and we'd appreciate your help. Our October inventory needs are diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products, and facial tissues. Thanks Wesley!

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**

During Missions Sunday, August 26, 2018, our congregation was encouraged to share feedback, ideas, and suggestions related to missions. Several suggestions were shared and work is underway to implement some of the ideas. Stay tuned for more details in the future.

If you have input but did not have the chance to share it, please do so by contacting Sandi Hinrichs of Wesley Missions at sandi.hinrichs@yahoo.com or by talking to any Missions Committee member: Jay Corwin, Karen Daudelin, Betty Hornbrook, Marc Hinrichs, Sara Isbell, Justin Iverson, Karen McConnell, Bob Pederson, Gary Pritts, Julie Smith, Alan Tatum, Fran Tatum, or Judy Woodburn.

Want to make an impact? Get involved. Share your ideas and passions for missions.

Thank you for your generous support.

WESLEY **IMPACT**
— UMC MISSIONS —

JUST **ONE**

The Just One item we are collecting during the month of October is new and gently used children's coats sizes 2 through 14. Please leave them in the hall crate just across from the Garden Room.

Just One is a ministry designed to address a local single need each month. Items given are delivered by the Church and Society committee to a variety of local elementary school family counselors, social workers, and social service agencies for distribution to those in need. Last year's 72 coats went to the Boys and Girls Club, Bloomington Day Care Center and the Sarah Raymond School of Early Education.

A donation may be placed in the offering plate with "Just One" on the memo line or a gift card deposited in the slotted box attached to the Just One crate.



Serving Others - a Night Making a Difference

On September 12th Surge held its Fall service night at the Midwest Food Bank. Over 50 students and adult leaders gathered for a night of food, fellowship, and service and there was a ton of energy and excitement.

We learned about the history and mission of the food bank and then packaged cereal that will be shipped to the southern part of the U.S. to help with Hurricane Florence relief work. It was encouraging to know that what we were doing was going to have an impact and bring assistance to those who were going to be affected by this storm. Our group worked very hard and in the end was able to package in less than two hours enough food to supply 10,200 meals. Amazing! It was a great night of service!

Fall Leaf Raking

It's autumn again and the leaves are falling. Tired of raking all those leaves up yourself? The youth of Wesley UMC are here to help. Stop by the Garden Room on Sunday mornings between services on October 14, 21, or 28 and put down your name and information or call Frank or Stacy at the church and we will come rake your leaves for you on Saturday November 3rd or 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. Questions? Call Frank or Stacy at the church at 827-8046.



WDM Service

In September Surge took its turn serving at the Wesley West Paper Distribution event and it was an amazing experience!

So many Surge students and adult volunteers came out to serve and were blessed by the experience. We got to meet those coming for donations, helped them pick out the products they needed, and replenished the products when they got low. It was moving to see how the people were impacted by this ministry and their sincere gratitude for the giving spirit of Wesley UMC! We can't until next September when we will be back to serve again!



Surge in October

Corn Maze-

All students are encouraged to join us on Saturday October 20th for the Surge Corn Maze event. We will meet at church at 5:15 PM and drive to Rader Farms in Normal for a night of fun and return to the church by 9:30 PM. Cost is \$10 and includes the maze, jump pillow, and campfire. Food and drinks can be purchased at the café there but you will need to bring extra money if you want to buy anything. Sign up at the welcome table or the on the Surge board.

Trick or Can-

On October 3rd we begin our small group competition for our annual Trick or Can food drive. Bring in canned food items to your small group room and place them in the assigned box and whatever small group has collected the most by Wednesday October 24th will win a pizza party and dessert made by Frank. There will be prizes for 2nd and 3rd place small groups as well. We will go into the community on Wednesday October 24th during Surge to complete our collection.

The items that we are in need of are the following:

- Canned foods of all kinds including vegetables, fruit, soup, spaghetti sauce, and meat
- Dry foods, such as cereals and macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, boxed dinners
- Personal items such as soap, toilet paper, shampoo, diapers, baby food and formula



Anchored is back at Wesley West starting Wednesday, October 3 at 7:00 PM. They will begin a study series on 'Tough Topics'.

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
this 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

begins October 3

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

Half Truths book by Adam Hamilton

led by Stephanie Hoy

begins October 10

6:45 PM - 7:45 PM - Lounge

Children's Ministry

Camp Stories

Our preschoolers will camp out this fall and learn that God loves them with great stories with Shadrach, Hagar, and Moses.

Contentment

Our elementary kids will learn about contentment with stories from the Old and New Testament and game show fun!

New Testament Launch

The Wednesday evening year-long Bible study, "The Grand Sweep" 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.

This very instructional and beneficial study also serves as preparation for the 2019 Holy Trip. Please join us Wednesdays at 5:45 PM and dive into the New Testament with a great group of people. Hope to see you in November!

For more info contact
Kathi Pritts, Director of Christian Education
kpritts@wesley-umc.com

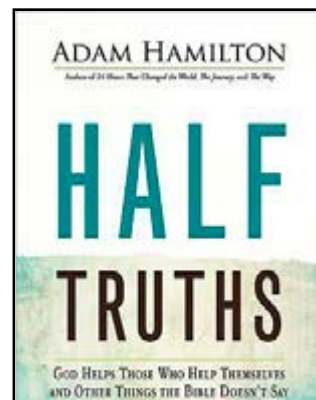
New Wednesday Study

- Starts October 10 -

Adult Study in the Lounge

led by Stephanie Hoy

6:45 PM - 7:45 PM



True or false:

1. Everything happens for a reason.
2. God helps those who help themselves.
3. God won't give you more than you can handle.
4. God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
5. Love the sinner, hate the sin.

All true? Not so fast. We've heard these phrases all of our lives, but in Adam Hamilton's new book, Half Truths, you'll learn that although they capture some element of truth, when compared to the wisdom found in Scripture, they're really just popular sayings.

Trunk or Treat



Thursday, October 25 Wesley will join First Presbyterian-Normal for their Trunk or Treat from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Stay tuned for more information to come.

Living Faithfully

Human Sexuality
and The United
Methodist
Church

A Four-Week Small Group Study

The Way Forward - Questions, Corrections, Clarifications

In August, Pastors Justin and Sara co-led three Informational Meetings on The Way Forward (the process by which a representative commission of people are seeking a way through the impasse regarding human sexuality and the United Methodist Church). Nearly 170 people participated. A few questions were asked in those sessions that your pastors didn't have the answers to. But we've done our homework, and here's what we found out:

Question #1: Why did the Commission on the Way Forward not include any youth?

The Commission was formed through nominations by the bishops of the United Methodist Church. Youth were not selected for the Commission because of the commitment that all group members would attend every session in person (which was not possible for young people in school). Other complicating factors included transportation and child safety policy issues. But youth were consulted during the process, and your pastors hope to include youth and young adults in meaningful conversations at Wesley, as often as possible!

Question #2: What are the names and email addresses of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC) delegates to the special 2019 General Conference?

Clergy:

Rev. Sylvester Weatherall
Sweatherall@igrc.org

Rev. Andy Adams
andy@troyumc.org

Rev. Sara Isbell
Sisbell2@gmail.com

Rev. Chris Ritter
c.ritter@peopleneedjesus.org

Rev. Robert Phillips
soulfixer@hotmail.com

Laity:

Ms. Bunny Wolfe
bwolfe@igrc.org

Ms. Rhonda Whitaker
Whitakers@mchsi.com

Mr. Steve Schonert
sschonert@yahoo.com

Ms. Kimberly Woods
Woods220@gmail.com

Mr. Larry Weber
larryweber@mychristchurch.com

Question # 3: What are the most practical implications for local churches for each of the 3 models, but most especially the Connectional Conference model?

This question cannot be adequately addressed in a newsletter article. You can find the entire text of the Commission's report, including the 3 models, at <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/way-forward-report-released-in-all-four-official-languages-of-general-confe> But in the meantime, here is a quick outline of how the Connectional Conference model might play out in the local church: (*Note: this scenario is purely hypothetical, for the sake of explanation)

- Let's say our North Central Jurisdiction (the United Methodist Church in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, North/South Dakota), chooses a "Traditional" orientation; that is to say, the north central region of the U.S. identifies itself as predominantly "Traditional."
- Now our Annual Conference (Illinois Great Rivers) decides whether it fits that ideology, or whether it will choose to join a different Connectional Conference (say, "Progressive.")



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- Now Wesley UMC can choose, if it wishes, to stay in this “Progressive” Annual Conference, or if we prefer to switch our identification to a different Annual Conference (let’s say, “Contextual” – the one closest to the One Church Model)
- So now our local congregation is identified as a “Contextual” UMC, and our members can decide whether they feel comfortable with that, or they prefer to be part of a Traditional or Progressive Congregation – which, in a twin-city college town like Bloomington-Normal, is probably not too difficult to find. It’s messy, and a little confusing, but either way, everybody gets a church home.

Question #4: What are the “default settings” for each of the three models in relation to decisions about choosing to allow same-gender marriages?

- Traditional Model: no same-gender marriages
- One Church Model: each clergy can choose whether to perform ceremonies or not, according to their own conscience, but use of the sanctuary is determined by church vote (the only vote required by the One-Church Model). The default setting is “no same-gender weddings.”
- Connectional Conference: The default setting is determined by the ideology of the Conference. (Traditional = no; Progressive = yes; Contextual = church vote)

Question #5: Which of the models is least disruptive to the status quo of the UMC?

In some sense, the Traditional Model represents a maintaining of the status quo, but with more consistent enforcement of the rules. It is interesting to note, however, that the amount of language inserted into the Book of Discipline in order to specify accountability measures, enforcement procedures and disciplinary actions, significantly increases the wordcount and the focus on enforcement. Here’s a brief “word-nerd” glance at how many words would be changed under each proposal (in their current form, without amendments):

- One Church Plan - 1000 words
- Connectional Conference Plan - 3700 words
- Traditional Plan – 6500 words

Question #6: Does Wesley UMC get a vote, or a “say” in the special called session in February?

General Conference delegates are elected not by congregations, but by Annual Conferences. They are elected by the lay or clergy members of the session, to vote their conscience by prayer and discernment. However, Wesley UMC has a special opportunity that only nine other churches in our entire conference have: to talk with your Pastor-Delegate one-on-one and share your hopes, dreams and concerns. Pastor Sara is fortunate to have been elected as a delegate to the 2019 Session. She cares deeply for this congregation, values your input, and looks forward to hearing from you. Thanks so much to all who have already participated in the Informational Meetings and Living Faithfully studies!

Thanks for your questions! We enjoy the conversation and are so thankful to be part of a church family that talks “with” each other, not “about” each other, and grows together toward deeper faith and understanding!

– Pastor Sara and Pastor Justin

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.brtaapp.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



WESLEY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Bloomington, Illinois 61701
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WESLEY'S
Bright
BEGINNINGS



WESLEY
WEST

Wesley Out in the Neighborhood

- Dedications
- Carnivals
- Outdoor Services

Wesley is OPEN and touching lives within and outside of our physical walls. Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



WESLEY
DISTRIBUTION
MINISTRY

