

Wesley United Methodist Church - Bloomington, Illinois

“The Kingdom of Heaven is a Mixed Bag” - July 19, 2020

Greeting

Organ Prelude *Nun danket alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God)* -Karg-Elert

Andrew Johnson, organ

Opening Prayer

Opening Song *Your Love Awakens Me* -Chris Quilala, Phil Wickham

Matt Sherrill, guitar

Children’s Time

Scripture Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

24 He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ 28 He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ 29 But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” 37 He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Sermon

The Kingdom of Heaven is a Mixed Bag

Reverend Sara L. Isbell

Prayer Song

From the Inside Out

-Hillsong

Matt Sherrill, guitar

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Closing Song

A Farmer in a Field

(to the tune of UMH #540 "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord", text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

Announcements and Benediction

Worship Participants

Reverend Justin Iverson, Liturgist

Andrew Johnson, Organist

Matt Sherrill, Guitarist

Kathi Pritts, Children's Time

Brenna Martin, Hymn Singer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RACIAL JUSTICE STUDY TODAY AT 10 AM (JULY 19th)

Join Pastor Justin Iverson and Youth Director, Kelsey Ross as they continue a study of Ijeoma Oluo's book, ***So You Want to Talk About Race***. This introduction to the topics of racism, white privilege, and racial justice is a New York Times bestseller and is on the 'Bonus Books' page of this year's UMW Reading Program catalog. While the book contains some strong language and challenging ideas, it is a helpful read for anyone wanting to broaden their understanding and work toward racial equality in the United States. Today's discussion will include chapters 6-11 on Sunday, July 19. The link to join can be found on our website at www.wesley-umc.com. Next week (July 26) will focus on chapter 12 through the end of the book.

RAISING WHITE KIDS STUDY CONTINUES – IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN!

Join Kathi Pritts and other parents for a book study, *Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America*, to help children function well in a diverse nation. *Talking about race, privilege, and fear is not easy, but silence is not an option. The resources and tools offered in Jennifer Harvey’s book will help parents creatively explore ways to have dialogue with their family, their church, and their community. Let’s work together to become outposts of love.*

- **Sundays, 8:00-9:00 p.m. via zoom.**
- Purchase the book online or follow along without a book
- Kathi will send highlights of the reading each week that will be discussed.
- Please contact Kathi Pritts at kpritts@wesley-umc.com if you’d like to participate.

NEW DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITY BEGINS AUGUST 6

Which Way Lord; Exploring Your Life’s Purpose in the Journeys of Paul - Join us as we travel to find our purpose together. Rediscover that you are wonderfully made, created for purpose, and equipped to live a life of significance, despite the adversity and detours you will encounter along the way.

The study will be led by Barb Phend and meets via zoom on Thursday Nights (Beginning August 6), 6:30-7:30 PM. Contact Kathi Pritts kpritts@wesley-umc.com to register.

SURGE (Youth grades 6-12) SCAVENGER HUNT

Surge students are invited to participate in a driving Scavenger hunt on Wednesday, July 22nd starting at 6pm. Drive thru the Wesley West parking lot to get your list, go to as many places as you can before 7 pm and find the houses with Surge stickers in their windows. Take a selfie in front of the house and post it on our Phase 4 Surge page!

We will be meeting at Carl's Ice cream on College Ave at 7pm for a socially distanced ice cream social. The winner of the scavenger hunt gets free ice cream!

Please note that we are committed to the safety of every student at Wesley and will be observing social distancing while together. Masks are required and all students will need to undergo a temperature check upon arrival.

ORGANIST NEEDED

Wesley UMC is seeking applicants for organist. Additional information and application process can be found on our website at www.wesley-umc.com.

CHILDRENS' EDUCATION

Looking for some summer fun? We are still providing opportunities to connect with our elementary children. The following are some things you might like to try:

- SUNDAYS, Children K-5 can join online fun at 11 am via Zoom. Contact Miss Kathi at kpitts@wesley-umc.com to sign up to receive a link to all the fun. Kids will enjoy videos, science experiments, and crafts.

PRAYER WITH THE PASTOR

Sundays 4-5 pm – All are welcome. We want to be available to you during this time, not just to pray *for* you, but to pray *with* you. If you have prayer requests, joys or concerns, let's bring them to the altar together (virtually) Sunday afternoons by Zoom. Pastor Sara will meet you there and we'll pray together for each other, our families, community, nation and world. The Zoom link can be found in the July 17 *Alive* e-newsletter. (**Meeting ID: 926 3446 4078; Password: 628292**)