

Wesley United Methodist Church - Bloomington, Illinois

“Non-Forgiveness is Not an Option” - August 16, 2020

Greeting

Prelude

Marching to Zion

-arr. Gordon Young

Andrew Johnson, organ

Unison Opening Prayer

Lord, we come before you today thankful for all that you have done. You have been so faithful to us. You provided every blessing in our lives. Your grace has set us free from sin. Thank you. Help us today to offer our lives as examples of what your love can do. Help us to forgive others when they wrong us. Help us to show grace whenever we are able. And now Lord, hear our song of praise as we lift our voices together for you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Opening Hymn UMH #98 *To God Be the Glory*

Children's Time

Scripture Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him

over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

*Tough words from a gentle Teacher. **Thanks be to God!***

Sermon

Non-Forgiveness is Not an Option

Reverend Sara L. Isbell

Prayer Song

Forgiveness

-Matthew West

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 and Prayer of Dedication

Closing Song

Your Grace is Enough

-Matt Maher

Matt Sherrill, guitar

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

NEXT SUNDAY! OUTDOOR WORSHIP-AUGUST 23 AT THE CORN CRIB

Join us for worship on Sunday, August 23rd at the Corn Crib Stadium (1000 W Raab Rd, Normal, IL). We'll begin at 10am and celebrate Confirmation Sunday together. Please wear your mask and bring a lawn chair, as we'll be sitting under the awning near the concession stand. Water

will be provided and social distancing will be observed. The service will be recorded and available for viewing on YouTube by 7pm that day. We can't wait to see you in person!

Please register ahead of time by going to www.wesley-umc.com.

ALL CHURCH WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM TO BEGIN AUGUST 26

Wesley UMC is finding new ways to do ministry during Phase 4 of COVID-19. Please plan to join us every Wednesday evening this fall for "*Paint the Town WESLEY.*"

As a church family we will be engaging in safe, socially distanced activities in an attempt to show the community how much God loves them, who we are, and to bind us together during this challenging time.

We will kick-off the fall with an all-church event on August 26th at 6pm in the church parking lot to prepare our Paint the Town Wesley "uniforms." We will provide Wesley t-shirts (or you can bring your own) and have multiple tie-dye stations and outdoor games available. Let's come together and prepare to be out in the community this fall!

Please note, tie-dye kits will also be available for purchase for those who wish to participate from home. Please also wear a mask and plan to social distance.

'Paint the Town Wesley' is for everyone, families with kids, empty-nesters, individuals, the young at heart, etc. ALL are encouraged to participate and are welcome to invite friends! Remember Church, we're in this together! We can't wait to see you soon!

Please register ahead of time by going to www.wesley-umc.com.

SURGE (Youth grades 6-12) MEETING ON WEDNESDAYS

Surge will welcome small groups back to Wesley for a new series in Phase 4, "Bonfires of Belonging". Groups will meet outdoors in the main parking lot.

Students will meet in a 2 week rotation with High schoolers meeting August 19: 9th/10th grade from 6-7pm and 11th/12th grade from 7-8pm. Middle schoolers will meet August 26: 6th/7th grade 6-7pm and 8th grade 7-8pm.

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.

ADULT STUDIES – IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN!

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, 6:30-7:30 PM. Contact Kathi Pritts kptritts@wesley-umc.com to register and get a book.

Inter-racial Bible Study: JUSTICE

Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15pm, starting August 11, by ZOOM Join Rev. Sara Isbell, Rev. Dr. Brigitte Black, and members of the Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bloomington, for a six-week study on the Bible and Justice. Wesley and Wayman AME have been neighbors for a long time, but we don't know each other as well as we'd like. Let's get to know each other – and get to know what the Bible says about Justice. Watch the ALIVE and bulletin announcements for the Zoom link (<https://tinyurl.com/y68k23bu>); talk to Pastor Sara (sisbell@wesley-umc.com; 217-299-4870) for more information.

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 *Alive* e-newsletter. (**Meeting ID: 926 3446 4078; Password: 628292**)

WUMC JOB OPENINGS

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