

**Wesley United Methodist Church - Bloomington, Illinois**

**"Love Your Enemy" - September 20, 2020**

Greeting

Organ Prelude

*Prelude in A Major (BWV 537)*  
Sam Fleming, organist

-J.S. Bach

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn UMH #591 *Rescue the Perishing*

Children's Time

Scripture Jonah 3:10 - 4:11 (NRSV)

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. <sup>4</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

<sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup>The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." <sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Sermon

*Love Your Enemy*  
Reverend Sara L. Isbell

Sermon Response Hymn UMH #569 *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*

Prayer Song

*Jesus, Friend of Sinners*

-Casting Crowns

Matt Sherrill, guitar

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.**

Offering

Closing Song

*This Is Amazing Grace*  
Matt Sherrill, guitar

-Phil Wickham

Announcements and Benediction

Worship Participants

Reverend Justin Iverson, Liturgist

Sam Fleming, Organist

Matt Sherrill, Guitarist

Ellen Hagen, Pianist

Kathi Pritts, Children's Time

Brenna Martin, Hymn Singer

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DIRECTORIES HAVE ARRIVED!!!!!!**

If you have ordered a 2019 Wesley UMC Church Directory, please drive thru Wesley West on either Sunday (TODAY!) or Monday (TOMORROW!) from 1:00-3:00pm to collect it.

### **HEADPHONES FOR STUDENTS - WAY TO GO, WESLEY!**

Two weeks ago, we invited our Wesley family to contribute toward the purchase of headphones for schoolkids who don't have them. Headphones can be critical to a student's ability to focus as they block out background noises and other distractions in this already difficult situation. The headphones that we purchase have a microphone on them which also enable the teacher to hear the student. Each set of headphones cost around \$20.

As of Wednesday, Wesley has raised over \$2,000 for headphones for schoolkids! That's 100 more kids who will be able to concentrate, hear their teachers, participate in class, and do their work! The first batch was delivered already to Oakdale School – and students and teachers there say, "Thank you!"

If you would like to help provide assistance to students, please send monetary donations to the church - 502 E. Front Street, Bloomington, IL 61701. Make sure you write "headphones" in the memo portion of your check. You may also donate through online giving via our website. Click on the red GIVE ONLINE. Make sure to check the "other" box and type in "headphones".

We thank you in advance for your generous donations.

### **CALLING ALL 8TH GRADERS**

With another school year started, it means we're beginning to think about confirmation for this year. If you are in 8th grade and would like to participate in confirmation, please email Pastor Justin by September 30th at [jiverson@wesley-umc.com](mailto:jiverson@wesley-umc.com) to let him know. More information about confirmation plans for this year will be sent out early in October to those who sign up.

### **PAINT THE TOWN WESLEY – ALL-CHURCH WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM**

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. Please see bottom of announcements for our COVID-19 participation guidelines.

#### **Wednesday, Sept. 23: KINDNESS competition**

On September 23rd, we encourage you to share some kindness with another and then share that experience with us. It's as easy as 1 – 2 – 3!

1. Think of something kind to do for someone else and do it on Wednesday, September 23rd.
2. Send a picture or description of your act of kindness to [kpritts@wesley-umc.com](mailto:kpritts@wesley-umc.com) .  
(Please no photos of kindness recipient)
3. Watch for the fun awards to be posted on Wesley's Facebook page on Thursday, September 24 – awards will be given for:
  - most creative
  - cutest

- most extravagant
- sneakiest
- and most Christ like.

Be sure to watch Kathi Pritt's devotion on Tuesday, September 22nd for more instructions or contact her at [kpriitts@wesley-umc.com](mailto:kpriitts@wesley-umc.com).

### **Wednesday September 30<sup>th</sup>: Therapeutic Drumming**

Are you feeling stressed? Join us at 6:00pm on Wednesday, September 30th in the main Wesley parking lot for an evening of therapeutic drumming. Kimberly Iverson, a Board-Certified Music Therapist, will be leading a time of intergenerational group drumming using 5-gallon buckets. Group drumming can create unity, improve mood, and release emotional and physical tensions. No experience necessary!! Can't attend but want to find out what it's all about? Check out the Wesley UMC Facebook page for a Facebook Live of the event. In case of inclement weather, we'll move to Wesley Hall\*\*, where we can remain socially distanced. Please bring a 5-gallon bucket with you to the event. If you don't have one, a bucket will be available for you at the event (\$3 suggested donation to help cover costs). You can register for the event here by following this link, <https://forms.gle/ZvbueKF1EfAVgC3S8>.

If you have any questions, please contact Brenna Martin at [bmartin@wesley-umc.com](mailto:bmartin@wesley-umc.com). We look forward to drumming with you!

\*\*As stated above Wesley Hall will be used as the rain location for this event. Due to Wesley's Phase 4 Guidelines, only 50 people are allowed in the building at a time for an event. Because of this, the "Therapeutic Drumming" event will have a 50-person cap. We suggest registering in advance to secure a spot.

### **SURGE MEETING SUNDAY NIGHTS**

Surge (Grades 6-12) is now meeting on Sunday nights! We will stick with our same schedule, using a rotation between our Jr. High and High School students. While we are changing the day of our meetings, the format will stay the same. Our "Bonfires of Belonging" series welcomes all students to come and belong as a part of our Surge family while we join in fellowship, games and spiritual devotion. Groups will meet in the church parking lot.

- September 20th: 6th/7th grade 6-7 pm - 8th grade 7-8 pm
- September 27th: 9th/10th grade 6-7 pm - 11th / 12th grade 7-8 pm

Click here ([https://www.wesley-umc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Surge-Fall-Calendar .pdf](https://www.wesley-umc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Surge-Fall-Calendar.pdf)) to see our official Fall 2020 calendar for information on all events, meetings and programming.

## **ADULT STUDIES**

### **Inter-racial Bible Study: JUSTICE**

Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15pm, by ZOOM Join Rev. Sara Isbell, Rev. Dr. Brigitte Black, and members of the Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bloomington, as they continue a study on the Bible and Justice.

The last session of the Tuesday night JUSTICE study with Wayman and Wesley will NOT meet on Sept. 22. Instead we have rescheduled our last meeting to Tuesday, Sept. 29. 6:15-7:15. 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. Here's the Zoom link (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88395758076>); talk to Pastor Sara ([sisbell@wesley-umc.com](mailto:sisbell@wesley-umc.com); 217-299-4870) for more information.

## **NEW ADULT STUDIES TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER**

### **“The Art of Neighboring”**

Join Kathi Pritts for an 8-week study (attend as many as you can) of *The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door*. The book study will be an added bonus to our October sermon series on “Loving Our Neighbors,” and it just might fill some of that empty space COVID-19 has put in our souls.

### **“More Parables”**

Barb Phend will lead an eight-week study called More Parables on Thursday afternoons beginning October 1st. Class will meet via zoom on Thursdays Oct. 1 – Nov. 19 from 1-2 p.m.

Jesus' parables are some of the most referenced lessons in all of scripture and scholars discuss their meanings all the time. Join us as we take a deeper look at the parables, ask questions, and engage in conversation. Please contact Kathi Pritts at [kpitts@wesley-umc.com](mailto:kpitts@wesley-umc.com) to register for the class and receive the zoom link.

## **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 below.

<https://zoom.us/j/92634464078?pwd=M09hUldDaFM2Qm1LdzFDdGhVNU5DZz09>

Meeting ID: 926 3446 4078

Passcode: 628292

#### **PHASE FOUR GUIDELINES FOR RE-ENTRY AT WESLEY CHURCH DURING PANDEMIC**

McLean County continues in Phase Four of the Restore Illinois re-entry plan. Find Wesley's re-entry guidelines on our website at [www.wesley-umc.com](http://www.wesley-umc.com).

It is the desire of Wesley UMC to minimize potential exposure to the Covid-19 virus. As we gather, both indoors and outdoors, we ask that you remember the following:

1. Wear a face-mask.
2. Maintain a minimum of 6-ft distance from other persons.
3. Practice frequent hand-washing or use of hand-sanitizer
4. Stay home if you are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 or have other illnesses.
5. Stay home if you have been exposed to Covid-19 within the past 14 days.
6. Stay home if you have a compromising condition due to age or other health conditions