

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

**UMW Sunday - September 13, 2020**

Greeting

Organ Prelude

*Reverie*

–MacFarlane

Sam Fleming, organist

Responsive Call to Worship – Led by Anita Crowe

Leader: In Ephesians 4, Paul reminds us in practical ways about God’s call, our unity of faith, and God’s gracious gifts that create a community that works together: “. . . from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” If you are ready to be a part of this “leading-together” community, please join with me in this act of commitment.

Too often leadership is about “moving up.” Let us be more about “moving out” into our whole community. Too often leadership is about position. Let us be about relationship. Too often our leadership is in places of familiar comfort. Let us connect across differences to the farthest edges of the circle.

**All: Let us lead together to create this community “promoting the body's growth in building itself up in love.”**

Leader: To lead in this community asks us to look at our own selves and our identity-related power. To lead together in this community asks us to reach across boundaries, to know when to stand up and when to step back.

**All: Let us create this community “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.”**

Leader: To lead in such a community asks us to listen fully, to hear one another's stories, to respect one another's identities and value our differences. To lead in this community asks us to build upon all our gifts. This diversity of gifts offers new insights, boosts our creativity, imagines new dreams and creates a renewed community.

**All: Let us create this community knowing that doesn't mean that all should “look and speak and act the same,” as “each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.”**

Leader: We are bound symbolically together in reaching out and across to each other. Let us make “every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one

Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.”

**All: Knowing we are strengthened by this community bound together in Oneness, we commit ourselves to the service to which we have been called. We commit ourselves to the responsibilities that we have received. We commit ourselves to the community that we will become: “joined and knit together, by every ligament with which [the body] is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself in love.”**

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Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn UMH #127 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Children’s Time – Led by Judy Bute and Kathi Pritts

Scripture Romans 14.1-12 (NRSV) - Read by Elaine Stokes

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Sermon

*Let God Be the Judge*

Reverend Sara L. Isbell

Prayer Song

*City on the Hill*

-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.**

Invitation to the Offering and Special UMW Love Gift – Led by Elaine Stokes and Deb West

Closing Hymn UMH #560 *Help Us Accept Each Other (to the tune of Aurelia)*

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**

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

Last Friday 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 mid-week, Wesley has raised over \$1200 for headphones for schoolkids! That's 60 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!"

Our goal is 100 sets of headphones – and we are already over halfway there!

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.

### **DONATIONS NEEDED FOR WESLEY'S PAPER DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY**

The following items are needed for the upcoming September 19th paper distribution: diapers sizes newborn, 4 & 5, diaper wipes, feminine hygiene items, Depends, 2021 calendars, gallon jugs of water, and reusable shopping bags. You may drop off the items in the collection box located at the entrance door of Wesley West at any time, Monday - Friday.

### **DONATE TO HURRICANE LAURA RELIEF**

If you would like to make a donation to Hurricane Laura relief, please go to UMCOR's website or send a check into the Church office with 'Hurricane Laura' in the memo line. For those wishing to note the appropriate fund when they make their donation, it is the 'US Disaster Response and Recovery Fund #901670.

### **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.

- **Wednesday, Sept 16: THE AMAZING gRACE – 6:00 p.m.**
  - Join us at 6pm on Wednesday, September 16th for 'THE AMAZING gRACE,' an Amazing Race style event in which participants will travel around town deciphering a series of clues that will lead them from one location to the next. A special prize will be awarded to the first team (vehicle) to complete the race. (Families or individuals who are podding together are encouraged to sign up as a team in order to promote social distancing.) The race will begin at 6pm from the main Wesley UMC parking lot, so arrive a few minutes early to get your starter

packet. This is sure to be a fun event for all ages!

Click the link below to register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QVQ5TPF>

- **Wednesday, Sept. 23: KINDNESS competition**
  - On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, we encourage you to share some kindness with another and then share that experience with us. It's as easy as 1 – 2 – 3!
  - Think of something kind to do for someone else and do it on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - 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)**
- 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 Pritts' devotion on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> for more instructions or contact her at [kpritts@wesley-umc.com](mailto:kpritts@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

### **SURGE SEPTEMBER EVENT**

Our September Surge event will take place on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 Normal Plaza park. Students are invited to come play "socially distanced capture the flag" complete with water squirters and colored masks from 5-6:30. ALL Surge students 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade and their friends are welcome to attend. After the game our high school small groups are invited to stay at the park for their weekly bonfire meeting from 7-8:00 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.

Please note that social distancing will be observed at all Surge activities and masks are required to participate.

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## **ADULT STUDY**

### **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 six-week study on the Bible and Justice – study ends September 22nd. 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://tinyurl.com/y68k23bu>); talk to Pastor Sara ([sisbell@wesley-umc.com](mailto:sisbell@wesley-umc.com); 217-299-4870) for more information.

## **PRAAYER 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).