

Wesley United Methodist Church - Bloomington, Illinois
Finding Courage to Love Your Neighbor - October 18, 2020

Greeting

Organ Prelude *Toccata in F Major* -Buxtehude
John Stambres, organist

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn UMH # 549 *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

Children's Time

Anthem *Now I Walk in Beauty* -Gregg Smith
Chancel Choir

Scripture Luke 5:27-30 (NRSV)

²⁷ After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸ And he got up, left everything, and followed him.

²⁹ Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them. ³⁰ The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Video *From Adversaries to Relationship*

Sermon *Finding Courage to Love Your Neighbor*
Reverend Sara L. Isbell

Sermon Response Song TFWS 2222 *The Servant Song vs. 1, 2, and 4*

Prayer Song *Oceans (Where My Feet May Fail)* -Hillsong
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 Prayer

Giving Testimony by Members of the Wesley Staff

Closing Song

Send Me Out

-Steve Fee

Matt Sherrill, guitar

Announcements and Benediction

Worship Participants

Reverend Justin Iverson, Liturgist

John Stambres, Organist

Matt Sherrill, Guitarist

Kathi Pritts, Children's Time

Brenna Martin and Ron Kiesewetter, Hymn Singers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, OCT. 25 IS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY! LET'S WORSHIP TOGETHER!

This year's Stewardship Sunday will be something special! Join us in the **EAST PARKING LOT for WORSHIP TOGETHER on Oct. 25 at 12:30pm.** (The service will be recorded and posted on our website on Monday, Oct. 26.) We will enjoy Wesley worship and music together, closing with Holy Communion and our Walk to the Cross dedication of financial commitment cards. Please bring your own lawn chair and plan for mask-wearing and social-distancing.

Following worship, please stick around for a 1:30 Block Party with our neighbors and friends! COVID-safe activities and refreshments, and more live music will inspire our afternoon!

In order to help us plan and prepare please register ahead of time by following this link: <https://www.wesley-umc.com/2020/10/stewardship-sunday-worship-together/>. We look forward to seeing you all and worshipping together soon!

"PULSE-CHECK" WESLEY FALL SURVEY

Would you take 10 minutes to let us hear from you about your hopes and dreams for Wesley, and your feedback about our ministries? [Click here](#) to participate in a short, 6-question survey to help us better reach you and our neighbors. Answers will be received and collated confidentially. Thank you!

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our annual Church Conference is scheduled to be held as an online meeting on Sunday, October 25 at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend – Ad Council members are encouraged to attend. If you would like to attend, please contact Jody Robbins at jrobbins@wesley-umc.com to receive meeting information and online link.

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, October 21: Back to School Blessing

With area schools making plans to return to in person learning, Wesley UMC would like to bless our families and teachers as you prepare to head back into school. Join us for our Paint the Town Wesley event on Wednesday, October 21st from 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Wesley UMC main parking lot. Kids will play games and adults can visit with each other about the change in learning format. At the conclusion of the evening, we'll have a time of **prayer for our students, parents, and teachers**, along with a special back pack blessing. Don't forget to **bring your back packs!** Everyone who attends will be sent home with a **'Transition Kit' that will be filled with things to help you navigate this transition back to school.** Come join us!

JUST ONE COLLECTION

This month's collection is **NEW children's socks (any kind or size) and underwear (sizes 6-8)** to be distributed to local schools. Some children don't have enough socks to wear to school every day, even during the winter months. With cold and damp weather just around the corner, we want to equip some of our local schools with the resources they need to help students. **Bring your donations to the Back to School Blessing in the Church's main parking lot on Wed, Oct 21, 5:30-6:30pm.**

Wednesday, October 28: Trunk or Treat

On October 28th at 6:00 p.m. the parking lot will be transformed into a pathway of fun! Kids (of all ages) will enjoy games and treats from their cars as they travel through the church parking lot visiting decorated stations (cars).

If you would like to decorate a car and provide a game that can be played from a vehicle, please contact Kathi Pritts at kpitts@wesley-umc.com. There are lots of ideas online and many are very simple.

SURGE MEETING SUNDAY NIGHTS

Surge (Grades 6-12) is now meeting on Sunday nights! 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.

- October 18: 6th/7th grade 6-7 pm, 8th grade 7-8 pm
- October 25: 9th/10th grade 6-7 pm, 11th/12th grade 7-8 pm

[Click here](#) to see our official Fall 2020 calendar for information on all events, meetings and programming.

SURGE STUDY

Surge is pairing up with Normal UMC to offer a new study for all 6th-12th grade students! We will be using *The Problem of Racism: A Faith and Action Response* curriculum from Castleton UMC to lead our students in a connectional discussion about racism, injustice, and our call as Christians in the world. We will meet on Thursday nights in October and November from 7-8:00 pm via zoom. Contact Kelsey at kross@wesley-umc.com with any questions!

FALL ADULT STUDIES

"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. Class will meet via Zoom on Tuesdays Oct. 6-Nov. 24, 6-7 p.m. Please contact Kathi Pritts at kpitts@wesley-umc.com to register for the class and receive the zoom link.

"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 kpritts@wesley-umc.com to register for the class and receive the zoom link.

PRAYER WITH THE PASTOR

Sundays 4-5 pm – All are welcome. 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, infection protocol and self-report form on our website, 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 facemask.
2. Maintain a minimum of 6-ft distance from other persons.
3. Practice frequent handwashing 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