

Wesley United Methodist Church – Bloomington, Illinois
The Needs of Our Neighbors: Ahavah – November 15, 2020

Greeting

Organ Prelude

Festive Trumpet Tune - German

John Stombres, organist

Unison Call to Worship

The Lord knows my name!

God, who gave me life, knows my name!

The One for whom time and space bend, knows my name!

He calls me, “Beloved!”

Opening Song

Your Love Awakens Me - Phil Wickham

Matt Sherrill, guitar

Children’s Time

Anthem

To God Be the Glory - Dobrinski

Bells of Wesley

Scripture Deuteronomy 10:12-22 (NRSV)

¹² So now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? Only to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to keep the commandments of the LORD your God and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being. ¹⁴ Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the LORD your God, the earth with all that is in it, ¹⁵ yet the LORD set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today. ¹⁶ Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. ¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, ¹⁸ who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. ¹⁹ You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You shall fear the LORD your God; him

alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. ²¹
He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things
that your own eyes have seen. ²²Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy persons;
and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in heaven.

Sermon

The Needs of Our Neighbors: Ahavah

Reverend Justin Iverson

Sermon Response

I Will Go - Starfield

Matt Sherrill, guitar

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Prayer Hymn UMH #413 *A Charge to Keep I Have*

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer

Closing Hymn #438 *Forth in Thy Name, O Lord*

Announcements and Benediction

Worship Participants

John Stombres, Organist

Matt Sherrill, Guitarist

Kathi Pritts, Children's Time

Ron Kiesewetter, Hymn Singer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS – LOVING OUR CHURCH STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you, Wesley Church, for your faithfulness and generosity in our 2021 Stewardship Appeal! As of the writing of this update, we have received 156 commitment cards so far,

representing faith commitments of \$715,056. And more cards arrive in the mail every day! Forty-nine members have increased their commitment, and 16 households filled out cards for the first time.

We are humbly grateful for your generosity at such a time as this. We know it hasn't been easy for some of us – and we know that others of us have stepped up to bridge the gap. What an amazing congregation you are, Wesley UMC!

Financial faith commitments for 2021 are still needed, and we encourage every Wesley member to be a part of assuring the love of Wesley Church in the coming year. If you need a card mailed to you, let us know; we'll be happy to send it. Every gift, no matter how large or small, is a sign of our gratitude for God's generosity, and a promise to Love God – Love Neighbor – Love You through Wesley Church.

Commitment cards may be submitted in any of the following ways:

1. Mail your commitment card to 502 E. Front St., Bloomington IL 61701
2. Use the electronic commitment card found at [here \(https://www.wesley-umc.com/2020/10/2021-commitment-card/\)](https://www.wesley-umc.com/2020/10/2021-commitment-card/)
3. E-mail our Business Manager, Myrna Simpson at msimpson@wesley-umc.com
4. Drop off the commitment card in a sealed envelope at the church Monday – Friday, 9am – 3 pm

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, November 18 – NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS WDM DISTRIBUTION

Join us Wednesday, November 18th for our Paint the Town Wesley event—a paper goods drive throughout Bloomington-Normal. This past Sunday, Pastor Justin encouraged you to invite your friends and neighbors to help our community by providing paper products for the Wesley Distribution Ministry. (Collection bags are still available in the collection bin just outside the main entrance (west side) of Wesley West for those who still wish to participate.) On Wednesday, November 18th retrieve the filled bags from your neighbors and deliver the items to Wesley West from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Let's invite our neighbors and friends to join us in helping our community!

Wednesday, November 25 – SEND YOUR THANKS

Since it's the night before Thanksgiving, we know there will be lots going on and some will even be traveling. So, to involve you wherever you are, watch Pastor Justin's daily devo video on Wednesday, November 25th. Then, pick up a few thank you cards and take part in this week's Paint the Town Wesley activity anytime, anywhere! And don't forget to let us know what you're thankful for by posting your blessings on Facebook with #wesleyumcbloomington. Happy Thanksgiving!

REMINDER

Pie Pick Up

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday (November 21st-24th) from 9-11 AM.

1. Pull into a designated spot in the parking lot east of the church.
2. Remain in your car. We will bring your pies out to you.
3. If you have questions please call: Judy Bute (309-261-4366) or Diane Yount (309-531-1500)

WESLEY DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY NEEDS

The following items are needed for the monthly paper goods distribution:

- Diapers – sizes 4, 5, 6
- Diaper wipes
- Feminine hygiene items
- Bar soap
- 2021 calendars
- Scarves
- Ear warmers

You may drop off the items in the collection box located at the entrance door of Wesley West at any time, Monday - Friday. Monetary donations are welcome! [CLICK HERE](#) (<https://www.wesley-umc.com/give/>) to give online (be sure to note WDM in the memo) OR mail to the church at: 502 E. Front Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE – WITH A TWIST!

November is upon us and it is time to think about the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. As with almost everything else in 2020, this year's food drive will look different. We all look forward to receiving the grocery bags that have been decorated by our children. However, this year the

logistics involving decorated grocery bags are a bit difficult. So, for 2020 only, we will be doing a monetary Thanksgiving Food Drive. We will collect financial contributions and distribute the funds received to the food pantries at The Salvation Army, Mount Pisgah Church and Saint Vincent DePaul. This is a highly effective way to help the food pantries. Having financial resources allows them to purchase specifically what they need when they need it. So, please be as generous as you can. Consider how much you would have spent for a bag of groceries – or two bags! Then send your contribution by November 22:

- By mail to 502 E. Front St. Bloomington IL 61701
- Through the website - www.wesley-umc.com/give or
- By text - "\$XX ThanksgivingFood" to 309-822-4442.

Make sure to include "Thanksgiving Food Drive" in the memo if using the mail or website options.

Thank you for helping make someone's Thanksgiving special! Grace and peace!

SURGE MEETING SUNDAY NIGHTS

Surge (Grades 6-12) meets on Sunday nights! We will be using a rotation schedule between our Jr. High and High School students. 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.

- November 15th SURGE
 - All junior high (6th-8th grade) from 6-7 pm
- November 22nd SURGE
 - 9th/10th grade from 6-7 pm
 - 11th / 12th grade from 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

NEW – Advent study begins December 1

Join us for a new Advent study, *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*. Class will meet via Zoom on Tuesday nights from 6-7 p.m. for four weeks. (December 1 – 22) Please contact Kathi Pritts at kptritts@wesley-umc.com for the Zoom link and a book.

Learn the meaning behind the names of Christ and the difference He makes in our lives this Christmas. His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. In *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth.

This Advent season church families will come together to remember what's important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness. Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ child for our lives and world today!

"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*. Class will meet via Zoom on Tuesdays 6-7 p.m. through November 24. Please contact Kathi Pritts at kpritts@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 via zoom from 1-2 p.m. through November 19.

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

Prayer with the Pastor will not meet today, Sunday, November 15. ***Watch upcoming publications for some NEW prayer opportunities.***

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