

Wesley United Methodist Church – Bloomington, Illinois

Thanksgiving As Thanksliving – November 20, 2020

Greeting

Organ Prelude

Processional on Nun Danket - Hustad

John Stombres, organist

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Opening Hymn UMH #694 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Children's Time

Anthem

We Gather Together - arr. Sanborn

Ellen Hagen, piano

Scripture Hebrews 12:1-2 (NRSV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Sermon

THANKSGIVING AS THANKSLIVING

Rev. E. Paul Unger

Sermon Response UMH #131 We Gather Together

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer

Closing Song

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing - Crowder

Matt Sherrill, guitar

Announcements and Benediction

Worship Participants
Reverend Sara L. Isbell, Senior Pastor
Reverend Justin Iverson, Associate Pastor
John Stombres, Organist
Ellen Hagen, Pianist
Matt Sherrill, Guitarist
Kathi Pritts, Children's Time
Ron Kiesewetter, Hymn Singer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 Update for Bloomington Wesley UMC

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, Illinois Governor Pritzker announced that the entire state of Illinois would be moving to Tier 3 COVID restrictions beginning Friday, Nov. 20. Tier 3 is not a mandated "shelter-in-place," but can be described as "If you don't have to do it, don't."

On the same day, Bishop Beard issued a letter to all IGRC churches instructing a pause in all in-person worship (inside and outside), limiting building use to 10 persons or less, and asking that all church staff work from home as much as possible. These restrictions are to be observed until Dec. 13, at which time the conference will re-evaluate. You can find the letter at <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Pastoral-Letter-from-Bishop-Frank-J-Beard.html?soid=1101770231079&aid=JnFqngsox8A>

For Wesley UMC, this means the following:

Until Dec. 13 or the lifting of restrictions by Bishop Beard,

- All COVID precautions currently in place (masks, social distance, hand-washing, sign-in/out, temp/symptom check) will continue and will be strictly enforced
- Worship will continue online only until further notice
- Committees and small groups will move online until further notice
- Wesley Distribution Ministry will continue this week, with additional precautions (information can be found on our website www.wesley-umc.com)
- Short-duration (1 hour or less) essential task groups (e.g, mailing volunteers) may meet for short periods of time, working at increased social distance (15-ft) and taking 10-min. breaks every 30 minutes for air exchange in the room, including allowing fresh air inside if possible.
- Non-essential and longer-duration (more than 1 hour) gatherings will move to Zoom or complete tasks from home

- Staff will work from home (custodial staff will keep watch over the building and ongoing projects)
 - *There will be a staff member available to answer phones Monday -Thursday from 9:00am-3:00pm and Fridays from 9:00am-1:00pm.*
- Materials may be picked up and dropped off by calling the church office for available access

We thank you for your cooperation and support – but especially for your prayers. May God watch over Wesley Church and keep us safe and healthy to serve!

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 163 commitment cards so far, representing faith commitments of \$738,816. And more cards arrive in the mail every day! Fifty-one 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.

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!

Wednesday, December 2 – VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

Put on your thinking caps and join Brenna Martin and Kelsey Ross via Zoom for a festive night of Virtual Christmas Trivia on Wednesday 2nd at 6:00pm! Our game will include questions covering a variety of Christmas themed topics such as Christmas movies, Wesley staff Christmas traditions, Christmas music, Santa and His Cronies, and the Christmas story. If you would like to participate please email Brenna Martin at bmartin@wesley-umc.com and provide:

1. Your team name.
2. The names of your team members. ***Your team DOES NOT have to consist of only people in your household since Zoom breakout rooms will be used. Feel free to team up with friends and other family members that do not live with you.***

Prizes will be given for the most creative team name and the overall winner! We can't wait to see you for a night of fellowship and competitive fun!

SURGE MEETING SUNDAY NIGHTS NOW ONLINE

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.

UPDATE! Due to the growing number of COVID cases in McLean County, SURGE will move to online programming for November 22nd and have no meeting on November 29th for the thanksgiving holiday. Students are invited to join our zoom meeting room at 6:00 pm for a time of devotion, games and fellowship.

Please note that EVERYONE (6th-12th grade) is invited from 6:00-6:30 for a game and then High School students will stay for their weekly meeting from 6:30-7:00 pm.

Link to zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87184121766>

HELP WANTED

Wesley UMC seeks a full-time **Director of Communications** and a part-time **Video Editor** to help us get out the good word about Wesley Church! For information or application, contact Pastor Sara at sisbell@wesley-umc.com or (217) 299-4870.

REMINDER

Pie Pick Up

If you ordered a holiday pie, you may pick up your order Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday (November 22-24) 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!

As with almost everything else in 2020, this year's food drive will look different. 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!

ADULT STUDY OPPORTUNITY

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](mailto:kpritts@wesley-umc.com) at kpritts@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 invites us to slow down, 'holiday at home,' and remember what's really important about Christmas. 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!