

Wesley United Methodist Church – Bloomington, Illinois

Incarnation: Messiah and King – November 29, 2020

Greeting

First Advent Candle Lighting by Robin and Glenn Rinker

Organ Prelude

Improvisation on Divinum Mysterium - arr. Stombres

John Stombres, organist

Call to Worship from Micah 5:2

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn UMH #220 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Children's Time

Scripture Matthew 2:1-6 (NRSV)

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Sermon

Incarnation: Messiah and King

Reverend Sara L. Isbell

Ritual of Anointing

Sermon Reflection UMH #229 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Prayer Song

Messiah - Kari Jobe

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

How Many Kings - Down Here

Matt Sherrill, guitar

Announcements and Benediction

Worship Participants

Reverend Sara L. Isbell, Senior Pastor

John Stombres, Organist

Matt Sherrill, Guitarist

Kathi Pritts, Children's Time

Ron Kiesewetter, Hymn Singer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 6 IS COMMUNION SUNDAY

Please join us for "online Communion" by preparing your own bread and grape juice at home.

*Note: In Jesus' day, Passover/ritual blessings were observed with wine. United Methodists are sensitive to the needs of those who abstain from alcohol, and so we use unfermented grape juice in our public worship services. However, if your household has any of the following available for use in Holy Communion you are welcome to use: grape juice, grape juice cocktail, cranberry grape juice, red wine (fermented or unfermented), or even water, if you have none of the above. For bread, any kind of bread will suffice, including pita, tortilla or even crackers.

ADVENT 2020: INCARNATION

This year Advent looks a little different. Families are staying home; shopping is done online; carolers are visiting friends by phone. It's a season to remember that God didn't wait for us to gather all together in heaven to meet us face-to-face; *God came to us* – visited us where we

lived – brought the kingdom to us in the form of a baby boy. Divine Presence took on human flesh – that’s what *Incarnation* means.

This year Wesley will be bringing Advent “home” by looking at the ways Christ comes to us, right where we live. We’ll be using Adam Hamilton’s “Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas,” to look at the different titles describing Jesus – in His day and ours. Titles include: Messiah/King, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, Word made Flesh.

Incarnation will also be the theme of our Tuesday evening Advent study, using Hamilton’s study book. The group will meet by Zoom from 6-7 p.m. for four weeks. (December 1, 8, 15 & 22) Please contact [Kathi Pritts](#) for the Zoom link and a book.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Sunday, November 29 is **United Methodist Student Day**, one of six Special Sundays when we receive an offering for a particular ministry through the denomination. On the last Sunday in November, your gifts through this offering benefit students as they pursue opportunities in higher education. Your contribution will be joined with those of millions of other United Methodists to provide scholarships to deserving recipients. This offering has raised more than \$400,000 and helps more than 300 students a year.

Student Day was first celebrated in 1940 when a college education could be attained for \$450 annually. Today, that same education costs an average of \$23,000 each year. We are invited to invest in young leaders by giving generously on United Methodist Student Day as part of our offering. Please be in prayer with the students who are recipients of the education made possible through this special offering.

Nov. 29 we will also have an opportunity to lift up the ministries supported by **Native American Ministries Sunday** (traditionally celebrated in the spring but postponed this year because of COVID-19). Gifts toward NAMS (Native American Ministries Sunday) go to support Native American ministries across the U.S. and to provide seminary scholarships for native students. Mark your check/donation “NAMS.”

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>

Click here to learn how this will affect Wesley UMC: <https://www.wesley-umc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Tier-3-mitigations-Nov-18-2020.pdf>

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS – LOVING OUR CHURCH STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you, Wesley Church, for your faithfulness and generosity in our 2021 Stewardship Appeal! 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."

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!

Wednesday, December 9– WESLEY'S MASKED SINGERS

Join Director of Christian Education, Kathi Pritts, on Wednesday, December 9th at 7pm for a Wesley edition of the popular television show, The Masked Singer. Try to guess the identity of each singer as familiar voices from Wesley sing popular Christmas carols from inside costumes. **Contact [Kathi Pritts](#) to receive a Zoom link.**

HELP WANTED

Wesley UMC seeks a **part-time video editor** for our online daily devotions and weekly worship services. Please send cover letter & resume to [Myrna Simpson](#). Click [here](#) for a job description.

Wesley UMC is also seeking a full-time **Director of Communications** 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.

SURGE MEETING SUNDAY NIGHTS NOW ONLINE

Surge (Grades 6-12) meets 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.

UPDATE! SURGE will not meet today, Sunday November 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Due to the growing number of COVID cases in McLean County, SURGE will move to online programming until further notice. Students are invited to join our zoom meeting room at 6:00 pm for a time of devotion, games, and fellowship.

Please note that on December 6 EVERYONE (6th-12th grade) is invited from 6:00-6:30 for a game and then students will separate for their weekly small group meeting at 6:30.

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

Please feel free to contact Kelsey with any questions/concerns! 618-558-0748.

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 Prittts](mailto:kprittts@wesley-umc.com) at kprittts@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!

MISSION ADVENT OFFERING

Wesley Missions Advent Offering supports many local & state organizations and domestic missions. Some of the local organizations are Home Sweet Home Mission, Labyrinth House for Women, Dreams Are Possible, and Wesley Paper Goods Distribution. Give as you can by sending your contribution by mail to 502 E. Front Street, Bloomington IL 61701, or through the website – <https://www.wesley-umc.com/give/>.

For more information about these organizations, see the website <https://www.wesley-umc.com/2020/11/2020-missions-advent-offering/>

Give as you can. Every donation is appreciated.

WESLEY DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY NEEDS

The following items are needed for the monthly paper goods distribution: • Diapers – all sizes

- Diaper wipes
- Adult diapers
- Feminine hygiene items
- Bar soap
- Paper Towels
- 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