

Wesley United Methodist Church - Bloomington, Illinois

The Needs of Our Neighbors: The Importance of Noticing AND Asking - November 8, 2020

Greeting

Organ Prelude

God of Grace – Manz

John Stombres

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn UMH #568 *Christ for the World We Sing*

Children's Time

Anthem

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God – Handel

Chancel Choir

Scripture Matthew 25:31-46 (NRSV)

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of

these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Sermon

The Needs of Our Neighbors: The Importance of Noticing AND Asking

Reverend Justin Iverson

Prayer Song

Follow You

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

Closing Hymn UMH #436 *The Voice of God Is Calling*

Announcements and Benediction

Worship Participants

Reverend Sara L. Isbell, Liturgist

John Stombres, Organist

Joshua Dahmm and Maxie Scifres, Pianists

Matt Sherrill, Guitarist

Kathi Pritts, Children's Time

Brenna Martin, 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! This year's Stewardship Sunday, though a little chilly in temperature, was warm and

welcoming to all, and proved your desire to Love God – Love Neighbor – Love You. As of the writing of this update, we have received 136 commitment cards so far, representing faith commitments of \$621,996. And more cards arrive in the mail every day! Forty-two members have increased their commitment, and 14 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 11– GINGERBREAD HOUSE KITS

Paint the town Wesley on Nov 11th will be a drive through pick up of a gingerbread house kit at Wesley West from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Miss Kathi will greet you and provide a gingerbread house kit that can be made and donated for the Baby Fold Festival of Trees event. Choose between a simple traditional type, a minion house, a gingerbread lighthouse, or some other fun creation. Miss Kathi has about 20 kits on hand (first come- first served). If you prefer you may buy your own kit as well. Have fun making the gingerbread house and then once you get it

made, it can then be delivered directly (by families) to the festival at EASTLAND MALL on Saturday, November 14, 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. The gingerbread area will be in the area where MC Sporting Goods was located.

Wednesday, November 18 – COMMUNITY MISSION PROJECT

Join us Wednesday, November 18th for our Paint the Town Wesley event—a paper goods drive throughout Bloomington-Normal. During today’s sermon, Pastor Justin will invite you to encourage your friends and neighbors to help others by providing paper products for the Wesley Distribution Ministry. Collection bags can be picked up Sunday, November 8 – Wednesday, November 11 at Wesley West. They can be found in the collection bin outside the main entrance (west side) of Wesley West. Wednesday, November 18th is the day you are to 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!

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

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!

RESTORATIVE LISTENING CIRCLES – BUILDING AND UNDERSTANDING EMPATHY

During this year's election cycle, tempers have flared high and empathy has run low. Nearly all of us, at one time or another, have shaken our heads and said, "I just don't understand how people can think that way."

How might this world be different if we could understand? If we wanted to, and even chose to understand?

Restorative Listening Circles are an opportunity to hear and to be heard – to create peace by building empathy. Participants gather on a 90-minute Zoom call moderated by a trained facilitator, to share their thoughts and feelings in response to specific questions. There is no debate or discussion: just hearing and being heard. The process is called "Restorative," and indeed, it is.

Two opportunities to participate in a Restorative Listening Circles will be offered this coming Monday, Nov. 9. Check this [flyer \(https://www.wesley-umc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/circles-flyer-post-election-1.pdf\)](https://www.wesley-umc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/circles-flyer-post-election-1.pdf) for details.

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 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 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

Prayer with the Pastor will not be meeting on Sundays, November 8 or 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