

Wesley United Methodist Church – Bloomington, Illinois

Baptism of the Lord Sunday – January 10, 2020

Greeting

Organ Prelude

God's Time is Best - J.S. Bach

Craig Deets, organist

Unison Opening Prayer

Lord, be present to us in this hour of worship.

We have many sins to be washed away.

We are increasingly aware of our shortcomings, our divisions, our strife, our distorted thinking, and we need your help.

We have troubles and fears to be relieved, and we seek your aid.

Be with us now and speak to us your words of hope and promise:

“You are my people. I have claimed you as my own. Come to the waters and be made new.”

Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness. May our hearts believe your promises as our voices join in song. Amen.

Opening Hymn UMH #193 *Jesus! the Name High over All vs. 1, 3, and 4* (to the tune of *Azmon - O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*)

Children's Time

Praise Song

Holy Water (We the Kingdom)

Matt Sherrill, guitar

Scripture Mark 1:4-11 (NRSV)

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out

of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon

"Remember Your Baptism and Be Thankful"

Reverend Justin Iverson

Service of Baptism, Confirmation, & Member Reception

Rhys Nelson Samp, Jen Schottland, and Sienna Schottland

Hymn of Reflection UMH #605 *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

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.

Invitation to and Blessing of the Offering

Closing Song

Invitacion Fountain (Michael J. Pritzl)

Matt Sherrill, guitar

Announcements and Benediction

Worship Participants

Reverend Sara L. Isbell, Senior Pastor

Reverend Justin Iverson, Associate Pastor

Craig Deets, Organist

Matt Sherrill, Guitarist

Kathi Pritts, Children's Time

Brenna Martin, Hymn Singer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Epiphany: Spiritual Re-Set

The New Year brings us a fresh opportunity to start anew and re-center with purpose and intention. Whether you are a person who likes to make “New Year’s Resolutions” or not, our Epiphany Series, ***Spiritual Re-Set***, will help you get your spiritual life and relationship with the God who loves and empowers you, back on track.

Join us in January and February as we:

- o Renew Our Covenant (Jan. 3)
- o Remember Our Baptism (Jan. 10)
- o Recharge through Prayer (Jan. 17)
- o Reconnect with Scripture (Jan. 24)
- o Refresh through Generosity (Jan. 31)
- o Re-energize through Service (Feb. 7)
- o Revive our Witness (Feb. 14)

Better yet, you don’t have to do this on your own. COVID has been a lonely season, but the Church is about Community. If the year 2020 wore you out, a short-term sermon series, paired with the support of a small **Covenant Group**, will help get you back on track! Join together with a group of 6-12 friends for a weekly uplift. **Covenant groups** pray for each other, encourage each other, and help each other remember to trust in God.

Choose your own group – maybe a small group you’re already part of, maybe a few friends you miss seeing at church. Or contact [Kathi Pritts](#) to be connected with some new friends. You can find the meeting plan attached [here](#). For more information contact [Kathi Pritts](#) or [Pastor Sara](#) .

“LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR, LOVE YOU” - STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thanks to the generosity of so many faithful members, we have received (as of Jan. 5) 200 “Love God, Love Neighbor, Love You” commitment cards, representing \$829,220 for the coming year’s ministries. That brings us to about 64% of our budget goal of \$1.3M. *Thank you, Wesley, for your generosity!*

Your Ad Council and Finance Committee will meet this month to determine next steps. If you have any questions or would like to submit a commitment card, please contact Myrna Simpson (msimpson@wesley-umc.com) or Pastor Sara (sisbell@wesley-umc.com). We’d love to hear from you!

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/>)
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

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY - SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

One of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church, **Human Relations Day** gives us an opportunity to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. During the challenges of the past year, we have seen how systemic inequality affects the most vulnerable people. When neighbors experience poverty and live in communities that have less access to community resources, as a denomination, we can do so much more together than we could ever do on our own. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. As society begins to recover from this health and financial crisis, these programs are vital in strengthening communities that are most impacted.

You may give by writing a check to Wesley UMC with "HRD" written on the memo line or click [here](https://www.wesley-umc.com/give/) to give online. (<https://www.wesley-umc.com/give/>)

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.

Our upcoming PTTW events are accessible to everyone and invite our artistic expression, while affirming what we believe and hope for:

Wednesday, January 13– "I Have a Dream"

This week, Jan. 13 – is entitled, "I Have a Dream." Gather your paints, markers, colored pencils and a bit of creativity, and help us share our dreams for our community, nation and world in the form of a special church-wide art project that will be on display at the Washington St. entrance. Be sure to watch Pastor Justin's devo on Monday for details. After the craziness of 2020, let us lean into the hopeful teachings of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and dream about the possibilities for a brighter future!

Wednesday, January 20 – Peace Poles

Join us on January 20th as we make Peace Poles for your front porch! In this season of uncertainty, we hope to spread the message of God's prevailing peace on earth by adorning our

front porches with a message of hope. Swing by Wesley West to get your materials between 6-7pm then join us via zoom for a step-by-step tutorial together at 7!

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

Everybody Always

Everybody Always by popular author Bob Goff will be offered each week beginning January 13th. What happens when we give away love like we're made of it? In his entertaining and inspiring book, Bob Goff takes readers on a journey into the secret of living without fear, constraint, or worry. In *Everybody Always*, Bob shows us the simple truths that:

- ❖ it's easy to love kind, lovely, humble people, but you have to tackle fear to love people who are difficult;
- ❖ dark and scary places are filled with beautiful people who need our unconditional love; and
- ❖ extravagant love has extraordinary power to change lives, including your own.

The study will meet for five weeks on Tuesday evenings, 6-7 pm beginning January 19th. Contact kprittts@wesley-umc.com for more information and the zoom link.

Covenant Groups

On Tuesday January 12th from 6-7 pm join Kathi Prittts in a zoom session on **starting your own covenant group--a group of people gathering together to carry one another through life**. She will be glad to walk you step by step through the process and give you resources to begin and even set up your zoom calls if you need. If you are not available at this time Kathi would be glad to send these resources to you. Contact kprittts@wesley-umc.com for more information and the zoom link.

Wednesday Men's Group

In early January (Wednesdays at noon) the men's group will study ***Words of Life: Jesus and the Promises of the Ten Commandments Today***. In this book of scripture and inspiration, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most famous set of rules in history, recovering the Ten Commandments as more than just a set of onerous prohibitions. He considers the commandments in their historical context, unpacking the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, how Jesus reinterpreted them, and how Jews and Christians have understood them over the millennia. He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholism, materialism, and social

media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace. Contact Greg Yount to get the zoom link. gyount@cbcregroup.com

SURGE-YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

SURGE will continue to meet online until further notice. All youth from 6th - 12th grade are invited to join our zoom meeting at 6:00 pm on Sundays for a game until 6:30, then small group lessons until 7. We are continuing with our "Bonfires of Belonging" series for this school year and invite EVERYONE in 6th-12th grade to join us and be a part of our Surge family!

Click this link to join <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88264297419>

Winterfest 2021 is ON!

We are having a 1-day "Parking Lot Retreat" held at Wesley UMC featuring Rev. Roxy Delong as our speaker on January 16th! ALL high school students and friends are invited to join us for a day of worship, fellowship and fun winter activities!

Students will be responsible for meal times at noon and 5:00 pm on their own to allow social distancing. Please arrange for students to have some form of transportation around town for our different activities throughout the day (carpooling with other students is allowed, with permission from both parents). We are asking for a \$20 donation from all participants to offset the cost of our speaker and materials. (Encouraged, not required)

Register Here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScORKfNgtfXpaBq9bnhv-WE1OJg9Wc_kJSLAX7CVd3_Qxd6Gg/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScORKfNgtfXpaBq9bnhv-WE1OJg9Wc_kJSLAX7CVd3_Qxd6Gg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Please feel free to reach out to Kelsey with any questions or concerns 618-558-0748 or via e-mail: kross@wesley-umc.com

WESLEY DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY NEEDS

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

- Diapers – sizes: newborn, 4, 5, 6
- Depends (men & women)
- Feminine hygiene items (pads)
- Pens
- 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

JANUARY JUST ONE COLLECTION FOR CARLE BROMENN COMPASSION CLOSET

Church & Society Committee has selected the Compassion Closet at Carle BroMenn Hospital as the January *Just One* Project.

When accident victims are ready to be released, they frequently do not have anything to wear. The Compassion Closet collects and provides sweat clothes to meet this need.

Current needs: New Adult sweatpants & sweatshirts – sizes small, medium, large
Monetary gifts are also accepted – please be sure to mark your donation with the notation: *Just One Project*.

Donations can be dropped off during the month of January in the collection box that can be found outside the East entry of the church on Tuesdays, 10 am – 2 pm and Thursdays, 2 pm – 6 pm.

UNITY SERVICE FOR MLK DAY

The Three Rivers Parish (Pleasant Grove, Ellsworth and Colfax UMC's) and East Alton First UMC will host a virtual Unity Service in observance of Martin Luther King Day on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 4 p.m.

Bishop Frank J. Beard, episcopal leader of the Illinois Area, will be the guest speaker for the event. Pastor Bobby Davis is the host pastor along with Pastor Ken Burgard of Downs UMC and Pastor Ed Granadosin of East Alton First UMC.

If there are questions, you may contact Davis at 618-409-2914, the Ellsworth UMC office at 309-724-8266 or the Colfax UMC office at 309-723-6551 for more information.

Watch for a link to this service in next week's *Alive!*