

NEWS FOR APRIL 2018
Wesley United Methodist Church
Charleston, IL
Connecting everyone to a growing relationship with God through Jesus Christ and His mission on earth.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT WESLEY UMC

SUNDAY, MARCH 25



PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday our worship will be filled with music, and children are invited to meet in the sanctuary entryway before the **8:30 & 10:45 AM** services to participate in the annual Palm Parade! Our Handbell, Chancel, and KidzPraise choirs will all be participating in worship that morning.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Everyone is invited to a family-friendly **Maundy Thursday** Service of Remembrance at **6:00 PM**. The service will begin in our Fellowship Hall and end in the Chapel. Please see the accompanying article on page 2 for full details.

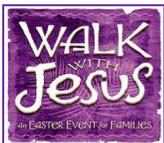
FRIDAY, MARCH 30



GOOD FRIDAY

Our observance of **Good Friday** will take place in the Sanctuary at **7:00PM**. The Chancel Choir will be singing and Rev. Swickard will bring the message. Join us on this somber, holy night when we remember Christ's sacrifice for us.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31



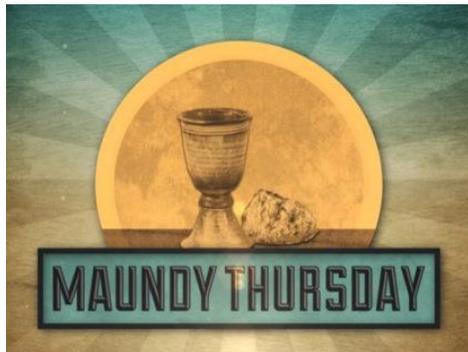
10:00AM ♦ WALK WITH JESUS! Folks of all ages are invited to "Walk with Jesus" during the last week of his life. Participants will stop at five different stations to gain a greater understanding of Jesus' last week as well as his resurrection! (See page 2 for more details).

SUNDAY, APRIL 1



EASTER SUNDAY

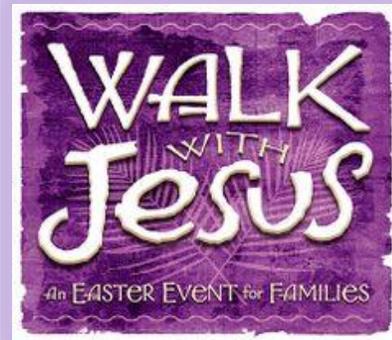
Easter Celebration Services will take place at both **8:30 & 10:45 AM**. Our Chancel Choir, accompanied by brass, will lead us in song during both services. Children's Sunday School will take place, and we will also offer our usual time of fellowship between services. It will be a glorious celebration you won't want to miss!



Everyone is invited to a family-friendly **Maundy Thursday** Service of Remembrance on **Thursday, March 29 at 6:00 PM**. UM clergy women connected to Wesley UMC will direct the service as we experience the events of Jesus' last evening with his disciples. The service will begin in the Upper Room (our Fellowship Hall) and end with prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (the Chapel). The focus of this service is The Last Supper. ***Please note that this will be the only time the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered during Holy Week and Easter.*** If you need nursery care for younger children, please contact the church office or indicate their names and ages on your Making Connections card on Sunday morning and place it in the offering basket. We hope you will join us as we experience this holy night in a new, inspiring way.



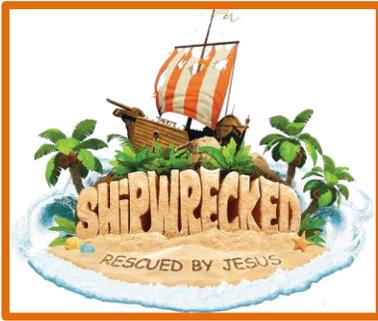
Our sympathy is expressed to Jeannie Hawkins and her family on the death of Bob Hawkins, March 2, 2018.



WALK WITH JESUS! **10AM – 12PM,** **Saturday, March 31**

Kids and their families, **and** folks of all ages, are invited to experience an amazing and thought-provoking Easter journey. You will “Walk with Jesus” through five stations representing the events of Holy Week. Participants will experience the excitement surrounding Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the significance of the Last Supper, the darkness at Gethsemane, the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, and the joy of his resurrection. Families and friends will walk together from station to station, experiencing this journey that will provoke introspection and offer opportunities to discuss their faith. Groups of 15 – 20 will depart for the stations every 15 minutes beginning at 10:00AM and ending at 11:30AM. We will begin and end in the Fellowship Hall. Would you like to help, or do you need more info? Speak with Gina Swickard (217-345-3917 or email gswickard@charlestonwesley.org).





SIGN UP TO HELP WITH THIS SUMMER'S VBS!

This summer kids in our church and community will experience the love of Christ through **SHIPWRECKED VBS!** The evenings of **Sunday, July 8 through Thursday, July 12** kids will go on an adventure to an uncharted island where they will be rescued by Jesus and anchored in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms. There are SO many ways in which you can help – from being a kitchen helper, to acting as a group leader, decorator, game leader, assistant, to registration and crafts (ETC.!). Sign-up sheets are available at the Information Center, or in the church office. Please fill one out and place it in the offering basket or in Brock Warren's mailbox in the church office. Watch for more info about our VBS volunteer luncheon following the 10:45 service on Sunday, April 29.

IGRC SUMMER CHURCH CAMP



Is church camp part of your plans for this summer? Many opportunities for fun, adventure and Christian fellowship are offered at four Illinois locations. If you are between the ages of 6 and 100, there is a camp for you! Each camp has a unique theme and mission

to help campers become aware of God's love in an outdoor setting. For more information, pick up a camping brochure in the church office or visit the IGRC Camping Ministry site at <https://www.igrc.org/camping>. WUMC will help with half your expenses up to \$325, so don't miss out on the camping fun this summer!



Happy April birthday to the following Wesley folks!

Rick Addison
Joyce Cassell
Max Coffey
Jane Dawson
David Ebdon
Judy Feterl
Sherry Hawker
Dan Hockman
Joyce Jackson
Eleanor Lawson
Karen Maris
Dennis Pearson
Mary Ann Taber
Dustha Wahls
Carol Winkleblack

Grace Braden
Rand Chappell
Brenda Cooper
Terry Diss
Savannah Esarey
Judy Gillespie
Donna Helton
James Honnold
Mary Jorstad
Kenton Macy
Evelyn McArthur
Ruth Schmidt
Sam Taber
Kaylee Wilson

Happy April anniversary to the following Wesley couples!



Richard & Betty Durham
Howard & Jan Eads
Jim & Barbara Grant
Greg & Bonnie James

Not listed? Please call the church office with your info!



APRIL MISSION PROJECT: MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER

The Missions Ministry Team has selected the **Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC)** for our April project. The MMDC, located near Chatham, Illinois, is associated with the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and is operated by the United Methodist Church as part of the UMCOR relief supply network in the United States which responds to natural disasters worldwide. MMDC is a non-profit and receives 100% of its funding from private donations. The operation of this distribution center depends entirely on the generosity of individuals, churches and communities. For many church groups, it provides a “hands-on” mission experience.

For example, on January 30, 17,562 pounds of supplies worth \$135,000 were loaded onto a truck bound for Key West, Florida. From there, the MMDC has partnered with the U.S. military's Southern Command (“SouthCom”), and they will transport these supplies (school kits, school desks, medical supplies, bicycles and back packs) to several countries in Central America.

If you would like to donate to the April Mission Project, please make out your check to **Wesley UMC** with **MMDC** on the memo line or visit our

website at www.charlestonwesley.org and click on the **\$ button** at the bottom of the page. If you prefer to make a cash donation, there are blue mission offering envelopes in the pew backs. Thank you very much for your support.

The Missions Ministry Team

ON A WING AND A PRAYER

You are a caregiver if you worry about the person you love. Caregivers are those who are the most selfless people in the world. Yes, you are a caregiver. You are amazing, and God bless you for what you are doing. You are a caregiver because you care about him/her and ultimately, you are the one who is in a position to advocate for him/her. You have his/her best interests at heart. There is no cookie-cutter formula for the endless roller coaster ride that is caregiving. **Wesley Caregivers** is a confidential group of caring people who are also traveling this rewarding and difficult road in life. If you would like to have a place to be cared for and listened to, please join us the 4th Tuesday of the month. We meet at 6:30PM in room 129 at Wesley UMC. Our next two meetings will be on March 27th and April 24th. For more information, please contact Ruth Ann Craig via email at rtcraig@consolidated.net, or by phone at 217-276-7273 or call Sue Harvey at 217-294-2082.



*Gifts were recently given to our **Memorial Fund** in memory of Dona Green and Bob Hawkins.*



NEW STEPHEN LEADERS TO BE TRAINED

Wesley's Stephen Ministry has the joy of sending Jeff Baker and Maria Ficher-Wandling for training to become our newest Stephen Leaders. Maria has served as a Stephen Minister at Wesley for three years, being commissioned in April 2015. Jeff has served as a Stephen Minister for more than four years at the 1st Christian Church in Champaign, being commissioned in March 2011 in the inaugural class there. Jeff and his wife Connie have recently moved back to Charleston, joining Wesley January 14, 2018. Maria and Jeff have provided confidential Christian care to others who need someone to walk with them through difficult times. They will attend Stephen Leader training in St. Louis, Missouri starting April 8, 2018. The week-long course is designed to overview leadership of the ministry and to teach new Stephen Leaders how to find the areas of Stephen Ministry leadership in which their skills and abilities are best employed. After leadership training Maria and Jeff will be commissioned to assist in organizing, teaching, supervising, and leading in Wesley's Stephen Ministry. Please join us as we celebrate this joy, keeping Maria and Jeff in your hearts and prayers as they become Stephen Leaders at Wesley.

SILVER ANIVERSARIES

It's time to remember that in August 1992, the Wesley UMC congregation moved into our current sanctuary. Our conference bishop presided



over the consecration service of worship. We celebrated with a colorful brochure describing the stained-glass feature above the chancel area and a reception in the very unfinished fellowship hall. By February 1993, we celebrated "Wear Your Sneakers to Church" Sunday and consecrated the renovated fellowship hall and new youth rooms. It will be a few years yet before we note the silver anniversary of the education/music addition finished in 1999.

Also, during these 25 years, two of our young members became ordained ministers in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. Robert Swickard joined Wesley in 1975 and transferred to the Conference in July 1995. Jason Woolever joined Wesley in 1988 and transferred to the Conference in 2002. Another Wesley member, Sarah Beck, was ordained in 2014 and now serves in the Yellowstone Conference of the United Methodist Church. Upon ordination all United Methodist pastors become members of the conference, rather than individual churches. We're proud of Wesley's "sons and daughters"!

from Joan Gregg

THERE IS STILL TIME TO BUY ASP STOCK!



Youth going on this summer's Appalachia Service Project mission trip are currently selling ASP stock after both church services. Stock is available for \$10 per share. There are currently over 50 ASP participants signed up! Be sure to stop by the table in the sanctuary hallway this Sunday and support this summer's mission trip.

SCOUT NEWS

With over 130 merit badge topics available, scouts learn about character development,



hobbies or career interests as well as traditional outdoor skills. Among recent ones earned by Wesley's boy scouts were Camping,

Geocaching, Personal Management, Family Life, Citizenship in the Community and in the Nation, Energy, Moviemaking, Oceanography, and Emergency Preparedness. This month Dr. Fleming will be offering an opportunity for scouts to earn the Medicine merit badge.

Scouts are selling \$5 camp cards to help fund their attendance at scout camp or other activities. They can be used every day for a year for discounted offers at 30 businesses in eleven towns. Those in Charleston include Ace

Hardware, Kirchner Building Center, Jackson Avenue Coffee Shop, McDonald's, Neal Tire, Papa John's, and Rural King, and in Mattoon they include Auto Zone, D to Z Sports, Family Video, Shores Jewelry, Kirchner, McDonalds, and Rural King. If you would like a card, stop in at the scout room(Room 112), or ask Alex or Andrew Pearson, Mikey Fleming, Daniel Fagaly, or Danner VanHise.

Six eleven-year-olds joined Troop 141 this month to form our newest patrol, the Cobras.

An all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 7:00AM to noon, Saturday, April 21, to help the troop budget. Tickets will be available in advance or at the door: \$6 for adults; \$3 for kids 5 to 12; under 5 free.



Congratulations to Wesley member Julie Krietemeier who was baptized on Sunday, March 18, 2018.

Congratulations to Matthew Cottrell & Kharis Christi Campanano wed in our sanctuary on Saturday, March 17, 2018.



OFFICE CLOSURE DATES

Please note that the Wesley UMC office will be closed on Good Friday (March 30) and Easter Monday (April 2) so our staff can spend time with their families (and rest!).



WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 2206 4TH Street
 Charleston, IL 61920-3903
 Phone: 217-345-3917
www.charlestonwesley.org

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Our Sunday Schedule:

Worship - 8:30 & 10:45 AM

A Time of Fellowship takes place at 9:30AM

Sunday School for all ages - 9:45AM

THE WESLEY CIRCUIT
April - 2018



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