



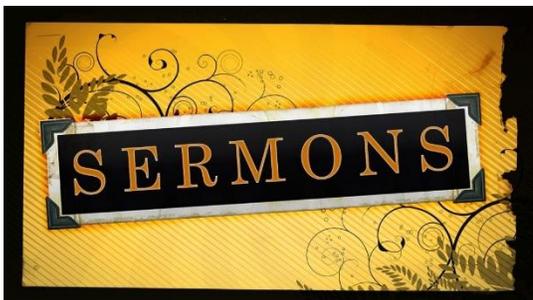
NEWS FOR AUGUST 2018

Wesley United Methodist Church
Charleston, IL

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME IN AUGUST!

Wesley's Choirs will begin rehearsals for the upcoming choir season soon! The **Chancel Choir** will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, August 29. All singers age high school through adult are invited to join them in the choir room (room 122) each Wednesday at 7:00PM. The Chancel Choir sings at both services the first service of the month and at 8:30 only on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays. The **Handbell Choir** will begin meeting again on Tuesday, August 28. They rehearse at 6:00PM on Tuesdays in room 122. They generally play at both worship services on the 4th Sunday of each month, as well as for special services throughout the choir season. Please watch upcoming bulletins, Facebook posts and Friday emails for more information as the dates draw closer!



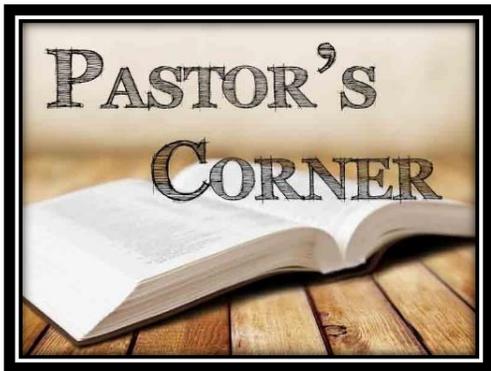
SUNDAY SERMONS AVAILABLE IN MULTIPLE FORMATS

If you would like a hard copy of Rev. Tom's sermons, you can pick one up at the table in the sanctuary entryway. You can also find it on Facebook the following week and watch it on YouTube! Sunday morning worship services are uploaded to YouTube the following week. If you would like an audio copy of the entire service, stop by the sound booth on Sunday morning and our audio/visual team can make one while you wait. Sharing sermons with those who can no longer attend worship services is a wonderful way to help them still feel connected to their home church. We encourage you to share freely!

BACKPACK BLESSING AUGUST 12



All students K – 12 are invited to bring their backpacks to church on Sunday, August 12 for a Backpack Blessing. During worship, children and youth will be asked to bring their backpacks forward to be blessed as they head into a new school year. Parents and teachers – we hope you will make a special effort to be here, too!



“Think About These Things”

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:4-8)

“Rejoice” seems like a good word with which to begin. (“Finally” seems a bit premature!) Stephanie, Ben, and I are rejoicing over your kindness and welcoming spirit. Whether you brought food, offered help, asked us how we were doing, wrote a note, or simply accepted us with open arms, we are truly grateful. Transitions are stressful, and we have felt that. But you have eased the stress with your kindness. We already can begin to see what we like about you.

Philippians 4:4-8 (above) is my favorite passage of scripture. I want it read at my funeral, not because I’m good at it, but because I hope by then I will have become better at not worrying and at thinking about the good things. These are worthy goals.

That said, I want to say, as I did on my first Sunday, I am looking around to see the good things that are happening here. I’m not particularly interested in what’s wrong and needs to be fixed. I’m far more drawn to what is good and can be cultivated and grown into more good.

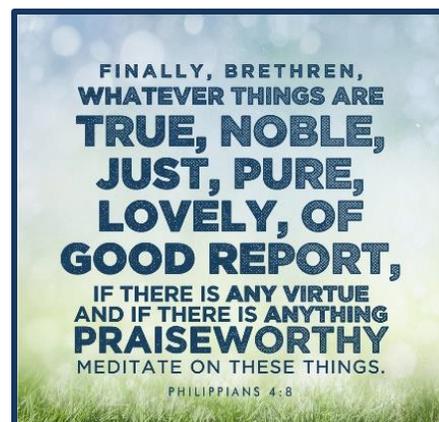
I already am taken by two characteristics of Wesley Church. One is that you truly are a kind, welcoming, caring people. As such, you reflect God’s love toward the whole world. The world needs more of that, so let’s cultivate it and make it grow. The other characteristic that stands out is how many people are willing to volunteer in a variety of ways. That reflects your love for God and the church. The world needs more of that, too, so let’s cultivate and grow our serving.

I want to invite you on a journey with me. I want us to look together at what is good here, what is good in Wesley Church and what is good in us, and I want to cultivate it and give it room to grow.

Thanks for making us feel so welcome. I hope you’ll join us in setting our minds on “any excellence and... anything worthy of praise...” May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Tom Corum





OUR AUGUST MISSION PROJECT: EIU WESLEY FOUNDATION

The Missions Ministry Team has designated **Wesley Foundation** as our August Mission Project. The Wesley Foundation at Eastern Illinois University is a campus ministry that is primarily supported by the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, and it receives \$2,500 annually from the Wesley UMC Missions Budget. The Wesley Foundation is a campus ministry of *open hearts, open doors, and open minds* that seeks to help young adults encounter the living God known through Christ. This is accomplished through worship, prayer, community, and service.

This year, the Wesley Foundation will launch The CONNECT Program, a new emphasis on connecting students with each other, with God, and with the world. This program will include events on campus to foster conversation and relationship-building among students, while continuing to offer weekly worship and Bible study times, as the Wesley Foundation has always done. Sunday suppers also help connect students with each other and with the community, and a spring break mission trip and local mission projects help connect students with the world around them. In all of this, the most important connection is with God.

Though many students may come to college without prior experience of church, the campus ministry's job is to help all students learn how to connect with God, so these events will also be focused on growing that connection with God.

Wesley Foundation prayer days and vigils also help instill that deep, sustaining connection with God.

The Wesley Foundation is deeply grateful for the support of Wesley UMC. You help make ministry possible through all your gifts, not just of money, but of your time and your talents, as well. Your continued support will help the Wesley Foundation continue to be a place where students find a home away from home and where they will make lifelong connections that will impact their faith and the church for years to come.

If you would like to help support the work **Wesley Foundation** does at EIU, please make your check out to **Wesley UMC** with **Wesley Foundation** on the memo line or visit our website at 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 Wesley Missions Ministry Team



Now in God's hands

By God's Grace, heirs of the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:7

*Our sympathy is expressed to
Jayne Bardsley and her family
on the death of her mother,
Caroline Christian,
on July 10, 2018.*

TIME TO TURN IN FILLED SCHOOLBAGS!

If you are buying supplies for our schoolbags, you can take advantage of the back-to-school sales; and don't forget to follow the following shopping list precisely so all the bags are alike:

- 3 spiral, one-subject spiral notebooks (8" x 10 1/2")
- 3 pens (blue or black)
- 3 unsharpened pencils
- 3 glue sticks
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 pencil eraser (2" or larger)
- 1 ruler 12" long with metric
- 1 box of 24 crayons (Crayola preferred)
- 1 pair round tip scissors (no plastic scissors)

The deadline for bringing in the filled schoolbags is **Sunday August 19th**. Happy shopping!



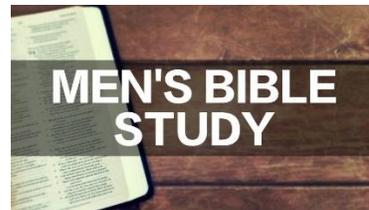
STEPHEN MINISTER PROFILE

Maury Shepherd grew up in Albion IL, served in the U.S. Navy, graduated from EIU and became a high school science and math teacher before taking a job in the chemistry department at Eastern in 1967. That move also brought him to Wesley, where he has been active ever since, teaching Sunday school and serving on numerous committees.



Maury credits his background with preparing him for Stephen Ministry. He was an only child who was responsible for elderly parents, lost his first wife at an early age, experienced single parenthood and tended his second wife through her long struggle with cancer – just some of the situations that Stephen Ministry may deal with. Maury has been in the program since 1995 and has had several long-term ministry relationships.

He says, "It's hard to live up to the example set by Jesus Christ, but we need to do what we can to help bear one another's burdens."



MEN'S STUDY MOVES TO FRIDAYS

The Men's Bible study is moving to Friday mornings at 7:00 am beginning August 10th so Rev. Tom can join us. We are wrapping up the book of Acts and will be choosing a new book of the Bible to read, study and discuss as we allow God to reveal it's meaning to us. Make every Friday a GOOD Friday by studying the Word of God with us.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

DON'T FORGET YOUR NAMETAG!

We are glad to see many of you wearing your nametag on Sunday morning! It helps ALL of us put names and faces together. Need a nametag? Check the box on your Making Connections card on Sunday morning and your new tag will be on the correct rack the following Sunday.



WESLEY PRAYER MINISTRIES

Are you interested in praying for others? Wesley offers several ways for you to be involved in our Prayer Ministries. To be part of our E-Mail Prayer Chain, please contact Rosalie Addison at raddison@charlestonwesley.org. You will then receive requests as we are notified of a need. We also have a private prayer page on Facebook. You can find us at Charleston Wesley Prayer Team. You will need to ask for approval to be added to the page. Once added, you will see requests as they are passed on to us.

Wesley's Monday Afternoon Prayer Group meets during the school year at 1:00PM in the church library. The group will begin meeting again on Monday, September 10. This group prays for prayer concerns we have received through the Prayer Wall and on the Making Connections cards, as well as for requests brought forward in the group meetings; study is also incorporated. All adults are invited to join them.

If you would like to request prayer, please use the Prayer Wall, your Making Connections card, please email staff member Rosalie Addison at raddison@charlestonwesley.org, or call the church office at 217-345-3917.



Gifts have been given to our Memorial Fund in memory of Alice Lemkau & Caroline Christian.

MONDAY AFTERNOON PRAYER GROUP RESUMES SEPTEMBER 10

Wesley's Prayer Group will resume meeting on Monday, September 10. This confidential group meets in the library on Mondays at 1:00PM throughout the school calendar year.



Members of the group pray for the week's prayer concerns written on the Making Connections cards and left on the Prayer Wall, as well as any concerns that are brought up in the group. The group begins with prayer, then moves on to study.

The first study this fall is **Everybody, Always** by Bob Goff. "The study takes readers on a journey into the secret of living without fear, constraint, or worry. The path toward the liberated existence we all long for is found in a truth as simple to say as it is hard to do: love people without distinction and without limits."

Participant guides for this DVD-based study are \$7 each and can be ordered through the church office. So that the guides can be here in time for the first session, deadline for signing up is Sunday, August 26. A sign-up sheet is available at the Information Center in the sanctuary hallway, or you can contact the church office during the week. Please speak with staff members Rosalie Addison or Pastor Janice Kahl for more information. **PLEASE NOTE:** There is an optional **Everybody, Always** book which can be ordered from your favorite bookseller. This book is helpful but not required to participate in the study.



**Happy August
birthday to the
following
Wesley folks!**

Jeanette Baer
Sylvia Barry
Lori Bonnstetter
Alexander Carr
Reva Cougill
Courtney Esker
Mary Lou Gaskill
Jason Grant
Max Gubbins
Tina Held
Linda Inman
Bill Lair
Elizabeth Quivey
Deanna Smith
Lucy Stark
Lauren Wahls
Shayna Williams
Heather Lair Socarras

Jeffrey Baker
Bryanna Bensley
Lois Buckellew
Cindy Corrie
Betty Durham
Terri Farley
Joan Gossett
Rachel Gubbins
Sue Harvey
Diane Hutchins
Juanita Kasey
Sue Leathers
Jeff Schuette
Brando Socarras
Nancy Swinford
Jolene Whitley
Alyson Davis

**Happy August
anniversary to
the following
Wesley couples!**



Al & Kay Young	Ron & Diane Hutchins
Max & Joy Winkler	Trevor & Lisa Doughty
Stan & Jan McMorris	Scott & Tory Wilson
Don & Jean Mapes	Jack & Donna Helton
Rick & Rosalie Addison	Chad & Lisa Braden
Steve & Jody Johnson	

*"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass
under trees on a summer's day, listening to
the murmur of the water, or watching
the clouds float across the sky,
is by no means a waste of time."
+John Lubbock*

FAITH FRIENDS: A WIN-WIN MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

Wesley Church has people who are no longer able to attend church with us. To let them know that we do care and



consider them part of our faith family, the **Faith Friends Ministry** has been started. **YOU** are invited to become a part of a special group of people who are finding out that by blessing others they are blessed themselves. All we ask is that you visit or phone the same member, or more than one member, at least once a month. You can choose to visit by yourself, with a friend, a spouse, your children or your entire family. Men – we need you, too!

Can you give a few minutes a month to make a caring connection with someone who is either homebound or in a care facility? Become a **Faith Friend!** Sign up or express your interest on your Making Connections card or contact Pastor Janice at jkahl@charlestonwesley.org. You'll be glad you did, and so will God! Our **Faith Friends Ministry** has had 100% "wonderful" evaluations from both homebound members and their **Faith Friends**. We ask that you please consider joining this important new ministry at Wesley Church.

Our sincerest thanks to the many, many helpers who made **SHIPWRECKED VBS** such an amazing success! Each and every one of you made a difference to all the kids in attendance. **YOU ROCK!**





WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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 Charleston, IL 61920-3903
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www.charlestonwesley.org

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<https://www.facebook.com/charlestonwesley>

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
 AUGUST - 2018**



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