

NEWS FOR MARCH 2018

Wesley United Methodist Church Charleston, IL

*Connecting everyone to a growing relationship with
God through Jesus Christ and His mission on earth.*

THE ANNUAL WUMC RUMMAGE SALE IS AROUND THE CORNER!

Clean out your closets and help support our youth and their adult chaperones who will be traveling to Appalachia this June. Our mission team will be traveling to Kentucky to do home repairs with ASP to keep those in need warmer, safer, and drier.

You can bring your donation to the fellowship hall beginning **Sunday, March 4th after 2:00 pm**. This gives our team a little time to get set up for your donation. The sale will be held Thursday, March 8th (5-8pm); Friday, March 9th (8-12 noon and 3-8pm); and Saturday, March 10th (the \$1 bag sale and 1/2 price large items) from 8-11 am. If you can carry it in the door we will try to sell it! Please keep in mind this means no large furniture. Also note: this year we can no longer accept screen electronics (TV's, computer items, VCR's, etc.). The past few years our volunteers have had to pay to recycle these items. **ALL** hands are welcome to help sort, price and sell throughout the week. Come join the Fun!



SUPPORT OUR MISSION TEAM BY BUYING ASP STOCK!

Youth who will be going on this summer's Appalachia Service Project mission trip are selling ASP stock after both church services beginning this Sunday. Stock is \$10 per share. Be sure to stop by the Information Center this Sunday and support this summer's mission trip!

WHAT IS APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT?

ASP provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation — bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families. For 48 years, they've worked to make homes **warmer, safer, and drier^(R)** for families and provided transformational service experiences for volunteers. Last year, 16,231 volunteers served with ASP, providing critical repairs for 493 families and constructing 26 new homes. For more information, see their website: <https://www.asphome.org/about/>

EASTER FLOWERS AND MUSIC FUND DONATIONS



Wesley UMC is once again offering the opportunity to purchase flowers to decorate the sanctuary and foyer on Easter morning. In lieu of flowers, you may contribute to our Music Fund which helps to pay for special music on Easter, as well as other music needs throughout the year. Flowers can be ordered for **\$15.00 each** and may be designated in honor or in memory of a loved one, or they can be given as a gift to the church. The order deadline is **Monday, March 26**. Donations to the **Music Fund** may be given in any amount and will be recognized in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please write **separate checks** for flowers AND for music indicating on the memo line that the check is for **Easter Flowers** or **Music Fund**. Plants may be picked up after the 10:45 service on Easter morning. An order form will be included in the Sunday worship bulletin, or you may stop by the office during the week.



*Our sympathy is
expressed to
Connie Berry
on the death of
her sister,
Jean Hunt,
on February 9, 2018.*

WESLEY STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a one-on-one ministry and is designed to share Christ's love with those who are having a stressful period in their lives, for instance, loss of a spouse, illness in the family, divorce, loss of a job, sometimes problems with children, sometimes children leaving home; things that bring short-term stressful situations into people's lives. Stephen Ministers can pick up where clergy members often must leave off. Stephen Ministers listen – just listen. It is not designed to solve the problems, but to listen, to care, to remain strictly confidential. If you would like a friend who listens well and faithfully as you travel through the stress of life, please call Rev. Swickard, or Janice Kahl at the church (217-345-3917), or Ruth Ann Craig at 217-345-7273.



MARCH MISSION PROJECT: UMCOR SUNDAY



Wesley UMC's March mission project is **UMCOR Sunday**. This is the annual appeal for funds to underwrite the operational expenses for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing.

(Article continued, next page)

(UMCOR Sunday, continued from page 2)

UMCOR is in its 78th year of helping people in crisis around the world.

In 2015, UMCOR contributed \$374 million to United Methodist benevolent causes such as soup kitchens, clothing drives and other non-Methodist benevolent causes. Approximately \$22 million was donated by UMCOR for disaster responses, both locally and internationally.

UMCOR's ability to respond is due to the generosity of United Methodist congregations and individuals around the world. Gifts to UMCOR Sunday underwrite UMCOR's costs of serving local churches in times of disaster. This helps keep the promise that 100% of every gift made to UMCOR projects goes directly to those in need --- not for administrative costs. Incidentally, operating costs are under 10% of UMCOR's total budget so, if funds collected for UMCOR SUNDAY exceed the amount needed, the overage is directed to the most needy or under-funded UMCOR projects.

If you would like to help with this effort, please make out your check to **Wesley UMC** with **UMCOR SUNDAY** 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.

Your Missions Ministry Team



WUMC CHURCH & SOCIETY TEAM SEEKS NEW MEMBERS



Wesley UMC's Church & Society Team is looking for a few new members to help them carry out their mission in Charleston and the surrounding area. The team oversees a budget that supports local entities such as Dial-a-Ride, HOPE of East Central IL, SACIS, CASA and PADS just to name a few. They have also impacted the lives of Wesley folks by offering Helping Hands work days twice a year. For Change the World weekend in May of 2017, Church & Society arranged for groups of Wesley volunteers to package rice and beans for local food pantries, serve lunch at PADS, sent a team to visit our homebound, had a "spruce up the church grounds" project for kids and their parents, and MORE!

As you can see, the scope of projects our Church & Society Team oversees – both monetary and hands on – are so vital in the life of Wesley UMC, as well as the Charleston community and the surrounding area. If you are interested in helping with Wesley Church & Society Team, please speak with or email Rev. Bob (bswickard@charlestonwesley.org), or Pastor Janice (jkahl@charlestonwesley.org). You can also write **CHURCH & SOCIETY** on your Making Connections card on Sunday morning.

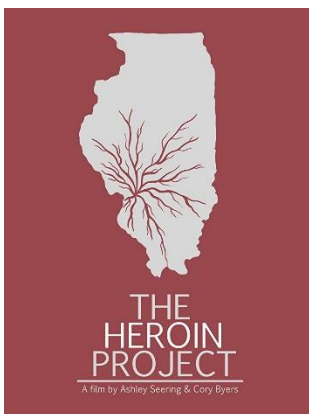


WESLEY CAREGIVERS GROUP

Caregivers are certainly a blessing. They offer love, support, care, and attention that are essential to someone in need. Yet caregivers also need support and care. Wesley UMC Caregivers Group is a confidential group that meets to share information, support and Christian care. They meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in room 129. You are welcome to join them this month on Tuesday, February 27, and in March on Tuesday, March 27. For more information, please contact Ruth Ann Craig at via email at rtcraig@consolidated.net, or by phone at 217-276-7273 or Sue Harvey at 217-294-2082.

EIASEA TO OFFER DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

The Eastern Illinois Area Special Education Association (EIASEA) and the Illinois Education Association (IEA) invite the public to a free viewing of a documentary regarding the heroin problem in our community. This event will take place on

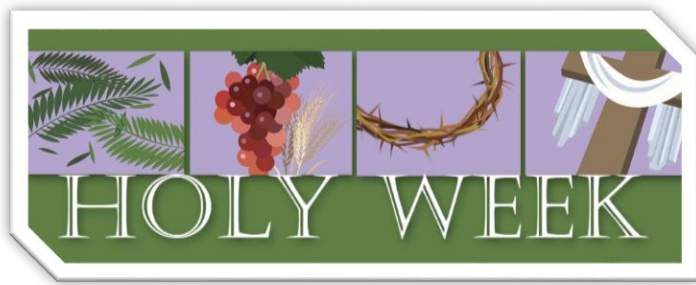


Tuesday, March 6 at 6:00 PM at the EIASEA board room, 5837 Park Drive, Charleston. The approximately 50-minute video showcases the everyday struggles that affect not only families, but entire communities. Following the documentary, there will be a Q & A session with a panel of personnel involved with the heroin issue in our area. Panelists have not yet been confirmed but may include the coroner, sheriff, states attorney and paramedics as well as someone in recovery. We hope you will attend, and let others know about this important event.

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY!

Brett Bensley	Darlene Bingham
Gary Brinkmeyer	Justin Carr
Lauren Chappell	Paige Chappell
Mason Daugherty	Allen Davis
Priscilla Ebdon	Sharon Eberly
Sandy Ernst	James Farley
Mikey Fleming	Taylor Fleming
Kathy Gandolfi	Dennis Grant
Nancy Grant	Janice Grewell
Beverly Harrison	Kathy Hummel
Jody Johnson	Marie King
Michael Lanman	Janice Louthan
Timothy Loy	Hal Malehorn
Jeri Matteson-Hughes	
Hank Nilsen	Jayne Ozier
Alexander Pearson	Andrew Pearson
Rita Pearson	Brynn Symonds
Max Winkler	Deb Wolf

As always, if you do not see your birthday listed, please contact the church office at 217-345-3917 so that we can update our records. Thanks!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE HOLY WEEK EVENTS

PALM SUNDAY – March 25

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. Children are invited to meet in the sanctuary entryway before both worship services to participate in the annual palm parade!

GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE – March 29

Join us at 6:00PM for a short Maundy Thursday service. We will observe the events that took place the night before Jesus' crucifixion. There will be time for reflection and prayer in the garden, and communion will be offered. This quiet, reflective service will help prepare our hearts for Good Friday.

GOOD FRIDAY – March 30

A Good Friday service will take place at 7:00PM in our sanctuary. Our Chancel Choir will be singing and Rev. Swickard will have a short message. We hope you will come to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

WALK WITH JESUS – March 31

Walk With Jesus is a faith-filled event for folks of all ages! Families are invited to come experience the events of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Good Friday, and the Resurrection in a unique, hands-on way. The event will take

place from 10AM – 12PM, and will begin in the Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to spread the word and do remember to bring a few friends!

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 1

Come celebrate Christ's Resurrection at one of our morning worship services. Both the 8:30 and 10:45 services will be filled with music, joy and celebration! We will offer children's Sunday school and our normal time of fellowship between services that morning. You will not want to miss this uplifting, joyous service as we celebrate all that Jesus has done on our behalf.

SERVING AT WESLEY UMC



There are many ways to get involved in the life of Wesley Church! From greeting and ushering, to helping collate the newsletter monthly or the bulletin weekly, to visiting our shut-ins and care facility residents. Some tasks take place just once a year, so if you have time constraints, you can still fit in a few hours once every 365 days.

For more information about volunteering at Wesley, please contact Rosalie Addison in the church office at 217-345-3917 or via email at raddison@charlestonwesley.org, OR you may write VOLUNTEER on your Making Connections card on Sunday morning. Be sure to let us know what areas of service appeal to you. We will help you find a place to serve!



NEW MEMBER CLASS – SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Rev. Swickard will be offering a new member class at 2:00PM in the Wesley UMC parlor on Sunday, March 11. We ask that you sign up beforehand so that he can have materials ready for you. Please register by using the sign-up sheet at the Information Center or write NEW MEMBER CLASS on your Making Connections card.

YOUTH BOWLING NIGHT!



We know that not everyone leaves town for Spring Break, so if you are a youth between the ages of 6th and 12th grade, come on out for a night of

bowling at Chucktown Lanes on Wednesday, March 14. Meet at the Lanes at 6:00PM for bowling and fun! If you need more info, please speak with our Director of Youth Ministries, Brock Warren.



Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 10!

A PRAYER OF SAINT PATRICK

Christ be with us, Christ before us,
Christ behind us,
Christ in us,
Christ beneath us,
Christ above us,
Christ on our right,
Christ on our left,
Christ where we lie,
Christ where we sit,
Christ where we arise,
Christ in the heart of every one
who thinks of us,
Christ in every eye that sees us,
Christ in every ear that hears us.



Salvation is of the Lord,
Salvation is of the Christ,
May your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us.
~ *United Methodist Book of Worship, 529*

WELCOMING PRAYER

Welcome, welcome, welcome.
I welcome everything that comes to me today because I know that it is for my healing.
I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions.
I let go of my desire for power and control.
I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval and pleasure,
I let go of my desire for survival and security.
I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person or myself.
I open to the love and presence of God and God's action within.
Amen.

By Father Thomas Keating; We invite you to pray this at the beginning of your daily prayer time.



WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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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 MARCH - 2018



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