



KITCHEN RENOVATION!!

The Wesley kitchen is getting a facelift! The Trustees have been working hard to come up with a great renovation plan that will provide much-



needed upgrades which should be complete by Thanksgiving. The Sunday Hospitality Teams have plans in place to continue providing fellowship time while the work is going on. Many thanks to everyone for working together to make this project happen!

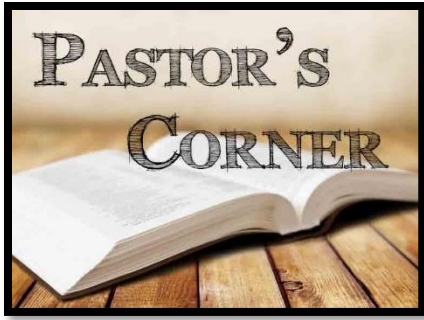
HUNGER HIKE

An effort is underway toward an alternative version of Crop Walk, which has been on hiatus the last couple years. With Wesley UMC playing an active leadership role in the former Crop Walk, we were invited to join in the planning of its new version, the Hunger Hike. Hunger Hike is scheduled for Saturday, October 13 in Morton Park—with registration at 8:30 am, walking starting at 9:00 am, and the closing ceremony at 10:15 am. Unlike the walking layout of the former Crop Walk, this version will take place just at Morton Park, with participants walking the perimeter of the park with no specified distance commitments. If you are interested in a fund-raising packet for pledges/donations or have any questions about this project, please contact Rich Wandling at rich.a.wandling@gmail.com or leave a voice mail at 345-1450. It will be good to have a healthy WUMC showing to support local and global efforts toward food insecurity!



PARENT MEETING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

All parents/guardians of Pre-K – 6th grade children are welcome to join Director of Children's Ministries Jessica Ulrich for a great conversation on current and upcoming Children & Family Ministries at Wesley. We will be meeting in Room 126 (Club 1-3 Room) during fellowship time on Sept. 9th. **PARENTS:** your input matters – please come share!



“THE BREAD OF LIFE”

Through August, we listened to Jesus speak

of himself as the bread of life, the bread of God come down from heaven. He is our food and our drink. As repetitive as he is in the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel, even four Sundays in a row (plus the feeding of the five thousand prior to that) could never be enough to unpack what it means to understand Jesus as the bread of life, much less to experience it.

I want to invite you to feast on the bread of life during the month of September (and beyond) in a couple of ways. First, let me explain that I am a lectionary preacher. That means I follow a three-year weekly ecumenical table of scripture readings which include a reading from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), a Psalm, a reading from the New Testament epistles, and a reading from the gospels.

I like using the lectionary because it hands me a set of scriptures and says, in essence: *Do something with this.* This dumping of scripture in the preacher’s lap affords me the opportunity to preach from texts I like and texts I don’t like, passages that give me “the feels” and passages with which I am prone to argue (and I will!), scriptures that challenge me to stretch and grow and those which give me tremendous comfort. Out of the four texts presented, I typically include in the worship services only the one(s) I plan to address in the sermon.

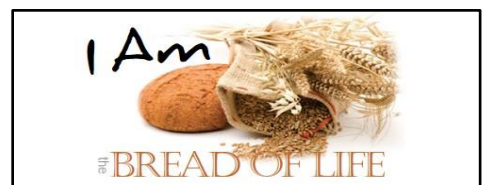
In September, the lectionary offers gospel readings from Mark, which is the focus in Year

B (though, especially since Mark is short, other gospels are highlighted during Year B as well, such as John was in August). I plan to read the texts from Mark and preach from them, as well as those from the letter of James, which is conveniently covered over the five Sundays in September.

The letter of James is a prime example of scripture from which I wouldn’t necessarily preach if left to my own devices. A favorite parishioner from a church gone by once said to me, “I like James because he steps on your toes.” I, on the other hand, prefer to think of him as being a bit crabby. Preachy, you might say. If I am either of those things, I would prefer that no one knows it. That said, James is practical and to the point. You don’t walk away from him wondering what he’s trying to say. Neither does he pretend that we folk who claim to belong to Christ and to the church are anywhere near perfect. I believe James’s pointed message(s) and Mark’s words about, and from, Jesus will be for us bread which conveys to us the bread of life.

I also want to invite you to prayerfully consider joining me in *Disciple Fast Track: Remember Who You Are* on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:45 p.m. beginning September 12. Further information can be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Wesley Circuit*. It’s been quite a few years since I’ve led *Disciple Bible Study*. I believe this in-depth study of scripture will deepen my experience and awareness of the bread of life, and I believe it will do the same for you. I look forward to it!

Faithfully yours,
Rev. Tom Corum



Confirmation

CONFIRMATION CLASS

This year's Confirmation Class will take place on Sundays from 3:30-4:45 pm beginning September 16 and continuing through the spring. All youth seventh grade and older who have not been confirmed are welcome to participate. Rev. Tom Corum and Brock Warren, Director of Youth Ministries, will lead the class.

The objective of Confirmation Class is to provide students with a broad understanding of Christian faith and discipleship from a distinctly United Methodist perspective and to foster conversations that will help them make their own decisions about affirming their faith, committing themselves to being Christian disciples, and becoming professing members of Wesley United Methodist Church.

We will use the United Methodist curriculum *Confirm*. Lessons are organized into six units. The six units are as follows:

- Our Journey
- Our History and Heritage
- Our Life Together
- Our Beliefs
- Our Theology
- Our Faith and Calling

Confirmation Class is an important journey in your youth's spiritual development. Should your youth participate, we will expect your strong commitment to seeing that s/he is present at all required classes and events or that the effort is made to make up essential material that is missed. Please contact either

of us (tcorum@charlestonwesley.org, bwarren@charlestonwesley.org, or call us at 345-3719) to indicate your youth's interest in participating or if you have any questions or concerns. You also can sign up in the Information Center at church on Sunday or during the week.

KIDS CHOIR HAS BEGUN!



Parents: would you like to see your kids perform at Wesley Church? Or perform in a Christmas musical? Kids choir meets on Wednesdays from 5 to 6:30 pm, meeting in the children's (education) wing. All kids in 1st-6th grades are welcome. Pizza is provided! If you have questions, please email Michael Mellott at mwmellott@yahoo.com.

HANDBELL & CHANCEL CHOIRS, TOO!



Music will once again fill the air when our Handbell & Chancel Choirs are now rehearsing. The Handbell Choir meets Tuesdays at 6:00 pm – all adults are invited to ring. The ability to read music is a plus, but not necessary. The Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:00PM. All singers age high school and older are invited to join. Both choirs meet each week in Room 121 in the Education Wing. Come make a joyful noise with us!

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU) will be offered again for those looking to eliminate their debt and build their retirement wealth. The 9-week study will begin Tuesday, September 18 at 7:00 pm; sessions last approximately 90 minutes. FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get you from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. Cost of class materials is \$93 which is a one-time membership fee. Once you've purchased a membership, you can return to future classes or the FPU website as often as you would like. For more information or to sign up, please contact John Kramer at 217-549-2780. You may also sign up by writing FPU on your Making Connections card on Sunday morning.

BOY SCOUT NEWS

Nico Walters, son of Wesley members Erin and Dan Walters, passed his Board of Review on Sunday, August 26 completing requirements to become Troop 141's 48th Eagle Scout.

Over 150 EIU students new to Charleston took advantage of Troop 141's canoes to paddle on the lake during new student orientation....with only one capsized (and those were staff members)!



Boy Scout popcorn is pricier than Walmart's because 70% of the price directly benefits

Lincoln Trails Council, Troop 141, and the scout who you purchased it from, so please consider buying some for yourself or gift giving. Scouts will be selling a variety of Trails End popcorn varieties in September.



STEPHEN MINISTER PROFILE

Kathy Hampton has lived in a lot of places but finally settled in Charleston in 1996 when her husband retired from the U.S. Army. She found her church home at Wesley where she plays in the bell choir and participates in Helping Hands, the Women's Study Group and Vacation Bible School. Kathy is a registered nurse and worked at Carle for 20 years. She says that having once been a care receiver in Stephen Ministry showed her the power of this program. When she retired from her nursing career she volunteered for Stephen Ministry in order to pass on that Christian care in a time of crisis that she had received. Now this nurse is able to be a different kind of care-giver serving the mission of Christ. She feels being a Stephen Minister has made her a better listener.





Happy September birthday to the following Wesley UMC folks!

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Carol Adams | Lois Baker |
| Cal Campbell | Evan Carr |
| Hannah Choate | Polly Claeys |
| Charles Eberly | Delaney Goddard |
| Barbara Grant | Joan Gregg |
| Carol Sue Hankins | Margaret Hitchings |
| Greg James | Terry Kelly |
| Loretta Lahr | Esther Lutz |
| Gordon Monahan | Rosalee Noble |
| Sonya Schuette | Sam Schuette |
| Maury Shepherd | Steve Starwalt |
| Doris Steinmetz | Charles Titus |
| Paul Wieck | Tory Wilson |
| Donna Wohlstein | Ron Wohlstein |
| Betty Young | |
| Adrienne Thornburgh | |



Happy September anniversary to the following Wesley couples!

- Jim & Terri Farley
Bruce & Rachel Gubbins

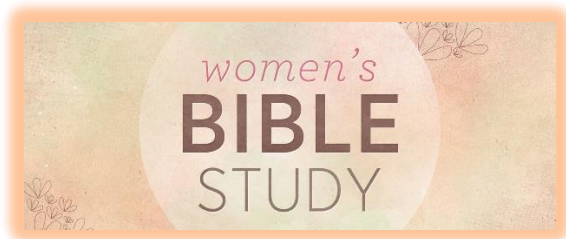


Congratulations to Skyler James & Noah Przygoda who were married in the Wesley sanctuary on July 28, 2018.

Many children will have school supplies thanks to generous Wesley folks. Last week two of our members delivered our 2018 **Fill A School Bag** mission project. Nearly a total of a quarter-ton included 93 filled bags (weighing 347 pounds) and 109 pounds of extra supplies (402 notebooks and sacks full of crayons, rulers, scissors, etc.). Midwest Mission Distribution Center, located near Chatham, IL, will send school supplies to local, national and even some international locations which have requested help. And, a \$978 check, at last count, will go to the Mission Center to provide transportation and to buy more school supplies. Thanks for caring and sharing!
Your Mission Ministry Team



Our sympathy is expressed to Sam & Mary Ann Taber on the death of Sam's brother Richard V. Taber on August 3, 2018; to the family of Wanda Hughes who died August 13, 2018; and to Mark & Donna Hudson on the death of Donna's father George Turner on August 20, 2018.



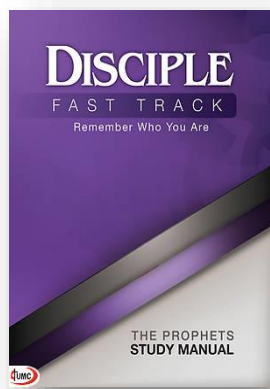
TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11

All women are invited to join the Tuesday morning Bible Study in the Parlor from 9:00-10:30 am beginning September 11. We will be participating in a Beth Moore study of the life and ministry of John, Christ's beloved disciple. The study will include daily homework and weekly discussion and DVD presentation. The cost of the workbook is about \$20. If you would like to join in this 10-week study, please let Nancy Marlow know no later than August 28 so she can order a workbook for you. E-mail Nancy at nancymarlow64@gmail.com.

DISCIPLE FAST TRACK: Remember Who You Are

Wednesdays,
5:30-6:45 p.m. beginning September 12
Rev. Tom Corum, leader

Disciple Fast Track is a twelve-session in-depth Bible study requiring thirty minutes of daily study and seventy-five minutes in a weekly group meeting. The fall session (12 weeks) will cover the Old Testament Prophets.



The spring session (12 weeks) will cover the Letters of Paul. Study manuals for the fall session are \$16 each. This study is open to all, regardless of your knowledge of, or familiarity with, the Bible. Whether you have participated in other **Disciple** or **Disciple Fast Track** studies or not, there is a place for you. Sign up at the Information Center on Sundays or during the week when the building is open or stop by or call the church office at 345-3719. **We ask that please sign up ASAP so books can be ordered.**



As was announced recently in worship, Juliane Sharp has accepted an offer to teach choral music at Eastern Illinois University this fall and therefore has resigned her position as Chancel Choir Director here at Wesley effective immediately. Juliane will continue in her position at Charleston High School, and we are delighted to know that she and her family will continue to be active here at Wesley. We are so grateful to Juliane for the tremendous leadership she has provided to our Chancel Choir over the past five years.

It is with great pleasure that we also announce the hiring of Mike Mellott as Chancel Choir Director, effective with the start of the fall semester. Mike teaches choral music in the Neoga Public Schools. He and his family have been active here at Wesley for over a year. Please join us in welcoming Mike!
Your Staff Parish Relations Committee



SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT: NATIONAL JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

The Missions Ministry Team has designated **UMCOR ADVANCE #901285: NATIONAL JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS (NJFON)**, a United Methodist Immigration Ministry, as our September Mission Project. We will donate specifically to UMCOR to make sure 100% of our money gets to where it is needed.

Low-income immigrants in under-served communities throughout the U.S. have their rights protected as a result of access to high-quality, low-cost legal immigration services provided by a national network of NJFON sites that are financially and organizationally sustainable. In 2017, NJFON added 18 new sites in the U.S.

Additionally, from January to December 2017, NJFON processed 13,067 cases and served 5,003 clients from 119 countries by giving advice and counsel, helping them escape violence, getting work authorization, family reunification and citizenship.

If you would like to help these immigrants, please make your check out to **Wesley UMC** with **Our Neighbors** 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

ATTENTION ALL YOUNG ADULTS & COLLEGE STUDENTS!

We invite you to be a part of the newest group at Wesley Church! The Young Adult Class invites all young adults and college students to get this fun Sunday group off to a great start. Young Adults meet in Room 129 (in the Education Wing) from 9:50 to 10:45 am. All who consider themselves a young adult are welcome. Grab some food in the Fellowship Hall and come to Room 129 for a study of the Adam Hamilton resource **Unafraid**. The class ends in time to attend the 10:45 service. Come meet other young adults, university students or not, for conversation, food, and study. For questions, contact Em Schmidt at emilyrosesch@gmail.com.



Are you part of an adult Sunday school class in need of a new study? Please contact Pastor Janice or Rosalie Addison in the church office to see what's currently available. We have lots of resources to choose from – many of them brand new! Some are DVD based which generally means easy leader prep. Please feel free to contact us any time the office is open.



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 - 9:50AM

**THE WESLEY CIRCUIT
 September 2018**



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