

## THE WESLEY CIRCUIT NEWS FOR May – 2019

Wesley United Methodist Church • Charleston, IL

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

### CHANGE THE WORLD WEEKEND IS MAY 18 & 19

**Change the World Weekend** is coming back to WUMC, with a variety of projects and activities planned by the Church & Society Work Area for Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19. That weekend, congregation members of all ages will join together in service to the vulnerable of our area. Projects for Saturday May 18 include a Helping Hands Ministry Work Day; a rice-and-beans packaging event in partnership with Illini Fighting Hunger; preparing and serving lunch at the Haven (formerly PADS); a gardening and butterfly project for children; and a project focused on serving our homebound members.



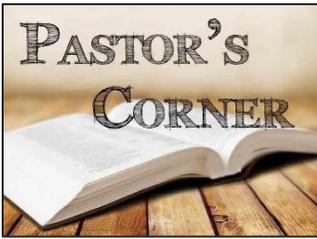
On Sunday May 19, an all-church cookout/potluck will be held at 12:00PM following 10:45AM worship. The cookout/potluck will provide an opportunity for the congregation to celebrate the service and impact of the **Change the World** projects. The Church & Society Work Area will provide grilled meat – just bring a side dish or dessert to share. ALL are invited! **T-Shirts** for participants and supporters are also available. The t-shirts are the same as the shirts we have had in the past so you may already have one.

Please sure to check out the **Change the World** volunteer sign-up sheets and t-shirt order sheets located at the Information Center in the sanctuary hallway. Please plan on helping us **Change the World!**



### HELPING HANDS WORK DAY – MAY 18

Helping Hands will be doing their spring cleanup for folks in need on **Change the World Day, Saturday, May 18**. If you are in need of help with projects around your house, such as changing batteries, filters, or light-bulbs, doing window cleaning or small yard or shrub or gutter cleaning, please let us know by writing it on your Making Connections card or by contacting Pastor Janice in the church office (217-345-3917) or at [jkahl@charlestonwesley.org](mailto:jkahl@charlestonwesley.org). We need people to rake, trim, climb ladders or hold them, and be "go-fors." If you know of a neighbor who has a specific need, please check with them first and then let us know. Some jobs are too large for our Helping Hands or need professional help to complete. If you would like to join our fun-loving, active group of Helping Hands on May 18, please sign up at the Information Center or speak with Pastor Janice or John Kramer. Adults, youth, families – all are welcome to help others in need. There is something for you!



## **“Everybody’s a Greeter”**

Every Sunday I get to walk through the doors of Wesley Church and

receive a greeting. It’s just a short walk from our front door to the church, so there is very little time to shift gears from whatever mood I’m in to “being at church.” The greeting can make all the difference.

Several weeks ago, I signed up to be the greeter at our noon Rotary meeting. As a long-time Rotarian, I confess I had never, ever, ever signed up to be a greeter for fear some pastoral responsibility would arise at the last minute and I wouldn’t be able to be there. But, alas, something took hold of me and I signed up. When the day arrived, I showed up early, just as I should, put on my name badge and the greeter badge, and took my place outside the door into our meeting room. One by one, my fellow Rotarians arrived, and with a smile I shook every hand. It was fun. It felt good. I felt even more connected to the group than usual.

Most of us are faithful in greeting one another in the meeting. There are some you can especially count on to offer a friendly “hello” and a genuine “how are you.” But I tell you, that day it was different, shaking every hand, greeting every person, being reminded how much I have come to enjoy and appreciate so many of them in less than a year’s time as well as being encouraged to get to know some of them better. I thought to myself, “It’s great to be a greeter.” And then I thought, “Everybody’s a greeter. At least they should be.” And my thoughts (it’s hard for this not to happen) turned to church. Every Sunday, some of you are official greeters, standing in the

prescribed places and helping folks who have come a short or a long distance, in whatever mood they may be in, transition to being at church, to being in a place where they are welcome and wanted and loved. I suppose that means something to just about everyone, whether they are thinking about it or not, but I’m certain it means even more to some folks on some days and some perhaps every single Sunday.

Then, just a few days ago, on a Saturday, I was walking to the Wesley Foundation, and just as I was about to cross the entrance to our parking lot, Jessica Ulrich pulled in and I waved. “It’s a welcoming committee,” she said, as she slowed down and rolled down her window. “Welcome to Wesley,” I said, with a grin. And my thoughts (it’s hard for this not to happen) turned to church. What if we had people standing at the parking lot entrance every Sunday, waving and welcoming people to Wesley? That could be pretty cool. Maybe someday we should try that.

For now, I’m simply saying thank you to those who serve as greeters. It may not seem like much to you, but your welcome could mean the world to someone. And to all of us, I think it’s true. Everyone really is a greeter, whether we are in the parking lot, the entry, the hallway, the fellowship hall, a Sunday School classroom, the sanctuary, or virtually anywhere. Every friendly and sincere greeting is a sign of God’s welcome, the good news that God wants and loves every one of us, no exceptions. Everyone needs to know and feel that. And that’s the heart of what we’re all about here.

Faithfully yours,  
*Rev. Tom Corum*



## MUFFINS WITH MOM SATURDAY, MAY 11

Calling all mothers to join us for a fun-filled Mother's Day Tea with a yummy brunch, meaningful Mother's Day Devotion, entertainment, and a surprise take home project!

When: Saturday May 11, 9:00am-11:00

Where: Wesley Fellowship Hall

All mothers young and old are welcome to attend! Please sign up on the sheet at the Information Center in the Sanctuary hallway. For more information contact Dustha Wahls ([dustha@consolidated.net](mailto:dustha@consolidated.net)) or Kathy Wright ([wrightone10@yahoo.com](mailto:wrightone10@yahoo.com)).



## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS MAY 12

We hope you will join us for Confirmation on Sunday, May 12. A group of 11 students have been engaged in study with Rev. Tom and Youth Director Brock Warren since September and will be accepted into membership that day. The confirmands will serve communion during the service, and a reception in their honor will take place during Fellowship time. Please join us as we celebrate this milestone in their faith journey.



## MAY MISSION PROJECT: OUR CONFERENCE/OUR KIDS

Our May mission project is the "Our Conference/Our Kids" endowment sponsored by the United Methodist Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church. The plan is to ultimately raise \$2,500,000 for an endowment that will fund the spiritual life programs at our Conference Children's Homes which include: The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates David Neighborhood House, and Spero Family Services.

If you would like to help with this effort, please make your check to **Wesley UMC** with **Kid's Endowment** on the memo line or visit our church website at [www.charlestonwesley.org](http://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*



Congratulations to Wesley UMC member **Libby Damann** who was named **Sarah Bush Lincoln Volunteer of the Year for 2019!**



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

- |                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Don Bardsley    | Makayla Brawner        |
| Robyn Carr      | David Clausing         |
| Brenda Crimmins | Libby Damann           |
| Michael Dietz   | Alec Easter            |
| Jim Ernst       | Brock Esarey           |
| Daniel Fagaly   | Frank Fraembs          |
| Jane Gilbert    | Jim Grant              |
| Jack Helton     | Judy Jewell            |
| Bob Jorstad     | Lori King              |
| Graydon Kramer  | Dorothy Macy           |
| Jean Mapes      | Jan McMorris           |
| Pat Meyerholtz  | Terry Noble            |
| Jim Replogle    | Sheryl Snyder          |
| Susan Snyder    | Juan Socarrás          |
| Janet Truesdale | Maria Fichter Wandling |
| Bonnie Woodyard |                        |



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

- Stephen & Connie Berry
- Max & Kim Coffey
- Ron & Jane Johnson
- Jeff & Cheryl Laursen
- Robert & Julie Sterling
- Eric & Dustha Wahls



**STEPHEN MINISTRY PROFILE**

Kathy Wright grew up in Kewanee IL, graduated from Western Illinois University and taught elementary school in Mattoon for 34 years. After retirement she continues to substitute in the Mattoon schools and teaches reading at Lake Land College. She loves reading, gardening and being Grammy to three beautiful grandchildren.

She came to Wesley four years ago and immediately got involved. She sings in the choir, serves on the Church and Society Work Area and has organized several women’s retreats. She also became a Stephen Minister after learning about the program at another church. She says she was attracted to the idea of church people helping each other through difficult times in their lives.

Kathy writes, “Christ calls us to be loving, caring people. Becoming a Stephen Minister has helped me to grow in my faith and to be more excited about doing Christ’s work. Everyone at some time in their lives needs unconditional support and love and having a Stephen Minister can help you get through those difficult times and gain a lasting, loving relationship.”



*Our sympathy is expressed to the family of  
Linda Kristine “Kris” Vaught  
who died Sunday, April 14, 2019.*



## SAVE THE DATES FOR VBS! ATHENS: PAUL'S DANGEROUS JOURNEY TO SHARE THE TRUTH

Mark your calendars and save the dates! July 7 – 11 is Vacation Bible School! This year children will be going on a journey with Paul! “Imagine leaving a life of privilege and power to face angry mobs, painful imprisonment, and chain-breaking earthquakes—all to spread the **life-changing truth** of God’s love. Learn the **jaw-dropping story** of the Apostle Paul...straight from Paul himself! In an ancient “anything goes” culture, Paul will inspire kids to share the truth of **God’s immeasurable love** today!” Keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to share your gifts & passions. More information coming (REAL) soon.



### Congratulations to our 2019 Wesley UMC graduates!

#### **Mason Daugherty**

Charleston High School  
Son of Matt & Melissa Daugherty

#### **Abby Esker**

University of Iowa Medical School  
Daughter of Jerry & Lana Esker

#### **Trent Esker**

University of Illinois  
Son of Jerry & Lana Esker

#### **Nathan James**

Northern IL University  
Son of Greg & Bonnie James

#### **Benjamin Lanman**

Charleston High School  
Son of Mike & JoDe Lanman

#### **Preston Smith**

Charleston High School  
Son of Shane & Lesley Smith

#### **Mitchell Starwalt**

Lake Land College  
Son of Steve & Joy Starwalt

#### **Nico Walters**

Charleston High School  
So of Dan & Erin Walters

#### **Jake Wilson**

Charleston High School  
Son of Scott & Tory Wilson

### WHAT HAPPENS AT CAMP SHOULD NEVER STAY AT CAMP!

Real transformation comes as campers take their experience home with them. Campers find new friends, discover new things about themselves, learn to unplug from media and hear about the love of Christ. Camp follows young people home and impacts their daily lives, their families, and their communities as they continue to grow and share Christ's love with others. Wesley wants you to have this experience, so we will help with half your expenses up to \$325.00. The camping website is <https://www.igrc.org/camping> or pick up an informational flyer at church.



## TWO NEW SUNDAY MORNING STUDIES HAVE BEGUN

### VOICES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The 2019 Special Session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church resulted in a vote for a traditionalist plan with stricter disciplinary enforcements. This has prompted a variety of conversations on human sexuality and Christianity. The Voices Sunday School Class wishes to continue exploration of this important topic, to seek greater understanding not only of scriptural and theological questions but also what it means to be LGBTQ+ and Christian. We invite you to join us in the library (Room 108) on Sundays from 9:45 – 10:30AM. We will read a variety of materials, including the book, “Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-VS.-Christians Debate,” by Justin Lee (Jericho Books, 2012). This book is readily available through your favorite bookseller. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Maria Fichter-Wandling: [fichterwandling@consolidated.net](mailto:fichterwandling@consolidated.net).

### THE LIVING WORD CLASS

The Living Word Sunday School Class invites all adults to a DVD study by Rev. John Ortberg entitled "Who Is This Man?" The study is a testament to the impact that Jesus has had on human history, on the human condition, and on our understanding of the obligations of one

person to another. Come and learn about what it means to live in the image of Jesus. Join us for discussion in Room 113 just off the Fellowship Hall. Grab a bite to eat, a cup of coffee and join us from 9:45 – 10:30. Although not necessary, Rev. Ortberg's book can be ordered in paperback from Amazon or your favorite bookseller.



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ -  
*I just wanted to take a moment to express my personal thanks to the members and friends of Wesley UMC for your generous giving through the Society of St. Andrew, to share healthy food with hungry neighbors. You are sharing more than 29,000 servings of nourishing fruits and vegetables through your \$880 Advance gift. That's a LOT of great nutrition – AND real hope for a better tomorrow, for so many families struggling to get by!*

*We are so grateful that you've made the Society of St. Andrew one of Wesley UMC's partners in mission for the past nine years! Thank you, as well, for all of the OTHER mission outreach ministries of your congregation that make a difference for people in Charleston and all around the world Thank you for being Christ's hands and feet!*

*With you in faithful service,  
Lynette Johnson  
Executive Director*





**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 2206 4<sup>TH</sup> Street  
 Charleston, IL 61920-3903  
 Phone: 217-345-3917  
[www.charlestonwesley.org](http://www.charlestonwesley.org)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Non-Profit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Charleston, IL**  
**PERMIT NO. 107**

**WESLEY UNITED  
 METHODIST CHURCH**

2206 4<sup>TH</sup> Street,  
 Charleston, IL

Phone: 217-345-3917  
[www.charlestonwesley.org](http://www.charlestonwesley.org)

**Follow us on Facebook!**  
<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

Open hearts, open minds, open doors.

**THE WESLEY CIRCUIT  
 MAY – 2019**



**In this issue of the Circuit:**

- PAGE 1:** Change the World  
& Helping Hands Work Day
- PAGE 2:** Pastor’s Corner
- PAGE 3:** Muffins With Mom  
Confirmation Sunday  
May Mission Project
- PAGE 4:** May Birthdays & Anniversaries  
Stephen Ministry Profile
- PAGE 5:** VBS – Save the Dates!  
2019 WUMC Graduates
- PAGE 6:** Two New Sunday Studies
- PAGE 7:** May Calendar

