

DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE

# WESLEYAN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
WESLEY UMC





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# PASTOR'S COLUMN



Greetings Members and Friends of Wesley United Methodist Church,

It's hard to believe we are coming into the final days of 2023! For many it has been a long, painful year. The war in Ukraine has continued, there have been more mass shootings in our country, fighting has escalated in the Middle East, families seeking asylum have been sleeping in tents, police stations, and shelters as they await services, wildfires ravaged Hawaii, and so much more. In the coming weeks we will be exploring What Can Wait in worship. I think that what we will find is that much of what takes up our time and energy can wait, but some things can't wait: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love!

Speaking of Peace...on November 8th, I signed onto the following letter that was sent to our interfaith brothers and sisters to stand in solidarity with them as the fighting in the Middle East has shown an increase of threats and violence against our Jewish and Islamic siblings.

*Dear Neighbors,*

*In this time of global unrest and heightened tension between people of diverse faiths, we want you to know that we stand in solidarity with you, our neighbors. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that we join hands and hearts across the chasms that divide members of our common human family. Together, we bear witness to the power of authentic spiritual community and the transforming power of love.*

*We categorically reject all forms of religiously-motivated harassment, discrimination, and violence. And we join you in praying for and working toward a peaceful community that is truly welcoming of diverse religious expressions.*

*We are grateful for your witness and for your ministry to the physical and spiritual needs of our wider community. We affirm the value of your religious and spiritual tradition. We firmly believe that our community is enriched by the diversity of religious and spiritual beliefs to be found here.*

*In peace and with love,*

*Signed nearly a dozen progressive clergy in the greater Aurora area.*

On December 3rd at 1pm, we will join with fellow progressive Christians at St. David's Episcopal to stand in solidarity and to pray. And you too will be given the opportunity to sign on the letter pledging to stand in solidarity.

Blessings,  
Pastor Tammy Scott

A SERVICE OF  
**PRAYER**  
FOR THE MIDDLE EAST  
FOR THE WORLD  
FOR PEACE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD  
@ 1PM  
St. David's Episcopal Church  
701 N Randall Rd  
Aurora, IL 60506

SPONSORED BY  
Becoming ELCA  
New England Congregational  
St. David's Episcopal  
Wesley UMC

# ADVENT



## **Advent Worship Series--What Can't Wait?**

Advent is a season of waiting, but is idle waiting what God wants of us? In preparation for the coming Messiah, we wonder together—what things can't wait? What demands our immediate attention? What requires our work and preparation? What is it that God can't wait for? Is it our praise, reconciliation, and proclamation? Is it the end of suffering, isolation, and fear? This Advent, we invite you to join us in imagining, prioritizing, and preparing. As we wait, what can't?



Wesley UMC Aurora

## **Advent Worship**

Sun. 11/26	Isaiah 2:1-5	Hope Can't Wait!
Sun. 12/3	Matthew 3:1-12	Peace Can't Wait!
Sun. 12/10	Luke 1:46-55	Joy Can't Wait!
Sun. 12/17	Matthew 1:18-25	Love Can't Wait!

## **Christmas Eve Worship**

9:30am(online)	Luke 2:1-20	What Can't Wait?
10:30am	Luke 2:1-20	What Can't Wait?
4pm	Cookies & Carols	in the Parlor
5pm	Luke 2:1-20	in the sanctuary

## **ALL Church Conference--Sunday, December 10th**

Please join us as we celebrate the life and ministry of this past year, elect leaders for 2024, and hear an inspiring message from our District Superintendent, Rev. Jeffrey Bross. We will meet in the Gathering Place following worship (about 11:30am). Light refreshments will be provided.



# ADVENT SEASON



## Advent to Epiphany at Wesley UMC

This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday! Officially, the church calendar would say that Christmas Eve does double duty as the Fourth Sunday of Advent. But we want Christmas Eve to be its own special celebration. So we are beginning Advent one week earlier! Advent literally means “arrival” or “beginning,” and the season is traditionally understood to be a season of waiting and expectation. This year we’ll be asking the question: What CAN’T Wait? as we travel together through the season.

## Four Sundays of Advent:

On each of these four Sundays we’ll gather at our regular worship times.

November 26. The theme of the day is **HOPE**.

December 3. The theme of the day is **PEACE**.

December 10. The theme of the day is **JOY**.

December 17. The theme of the day is **LOVE**.

## Christmas Eve is Sunday December 24

On Christmas Eve, we’ll enjoy regular morning worship—with lots of carols! with two additional gathering times for afternoon / evening celebrations of the day.

**9:30 am:** Online service will be “published” and will be available all day.

**10:30 am:** Christmas Eve morning worship in the Sanctuary

**4 pm:** Cookies and Carols in the Parlor

Nativity Tableau: We’ll provide costumes for anyone who wants to participate!

No need to memorize anything, we’ll have a narrator!

**5 pm:** Christmas Eve worship in the Sanctuary.

This will be a traditional service with lots of carols and of course the singing of “Silent Night” by candlelight.

## New Year’s Eve is Sunday December 31

On this important day, we’ll use John Wesley’s Covenant Prayer to shape our time together. This prayer informed Wesley’s theology and preaching, and he expected the people called “Methodists” to pray it together at the beginning of each new year as a way of remembering and renewing their baptismal covenant and their own commitments.

**9:30 am:** Online service

**10:30 am:** Worship in Gathering Place.

## Our Celebration of Epiphany is Sunday January 7.

Officially, Epiphany lands on the 6th. The twelve days of Christmas conclude on the 5th, with celebrations called “Twelfth Night” for Epiphany Eve. Congregations celebrate Epiphany on the Sunday closest to that day. The symbol of the day is the star, since on it we remember the journey of the sages and the signs in the sky that led them to Jesus. We’ll be invited into reflection as we look forward, and we’ll receive a “star word” to be a guide for us in the coming year. We’ll also share communion.

**9:30 am:** Online service

**10:30 am:** Worship in the Sanctuary

## Other Important Days During This Season:

### Sunday, December 10th

Fox Valley Brass Band Holiday Concert 3 pm

Don’t miss this festive program from our “resident” brass ensemble! This one’s free (of course, financial donations to the ensemble are appreciated).

### Thursday December 21

Longest Night Observance: Light Up The Night 5:30 pm

On this, the longest night of the year, we gather with local agencies committed to care and mutual aid for a time of vigil to remember individuals who have passed in the last year, but whose names may not have been spoken in public. With candles, a few short readings, and a recitation of names, we honor their lives and remember that everyone is sacred and worthy. We’ll share more details closer to the day, but we gather downtown, and participating groups have included Hesed House, AID, Mutual Ground, Interfaith Food Pantry, Simply Destiny, Pride, Indivisible Aurora, and Every Town for Gun Safety.



# Angel Tree

This year we are partnering with AID to help provide gifts for individuals in our community. Please take a tag, purchase a gift for a local family, return the gift unwrapped by Sunday, December 10th.



**DIAPER SHOWER FOR NINA (BIONDO) & KEVIN FARMER--SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD AT 11:30AM**

**DIAPER SHOWER**  
Let's "shower"  
Nina (Biondo) and Kevin Farmer as  
they await the arrival of their baby!  
Sunday, December 3rd at 11:30am  
Refreshments will be provided.  
You are asked to bring diapers (any size)  
and/or wipes for the Farmer family.

## **2024 Pledge Update**

On Sunday, November 19th, we were invited to bring our commitment cards for 2024. So far we have received 21 pledge cards and have a total of \$112,020 committed for the 2024 budget.

It's not too late for you to bring in your pledge card and help us know in what way you will participate in the life and ministries of Wesley UMC.

## **Lift Update**

On Monday, November 20th, we had another company come out to look at our existing lift to see if it could be repaired and to offer a quote. They were able to temporarily fix the lift, but we do not know how long it will be in working order. We are still hoping to replace the lift as soon as possible. So far we have received commitments of \$20,451 toward the new lift. We are more than 50% of the way toward our goal of \$40,000.

Thanks to all who have already sent in money or commitments.

Again, it is not too late to send in your commitment!





United  
Women  
in Faith



EMMY LOU JOHN, LYNN BURNETT,  
LAUREL GILBERT, AND CAROL STOFFEL



LOIS SCOTT, SHIRLEY MCKNIGHT,  
AND SHARON LIVINGSTON

Hannah Circle met on Tuesday November 14 at the home of Sharon Livingston. After gathering around the table for delicious desserts, Emmy Lou gave an interesting program about Deaconesses and Home Missioners.

Deaconesses and Home Missioners are laywomen and laymen who are called by God to a full time vocation in ministries of love, justice and service. An offering was taken to be sent for their work.

We will not be meeting in December.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 16. Place not yet determined.

## COOKIE WALK

Help us support United Women in Faith's mission projects! We are accepting prepayments only until all boxes are sold. No payments will be accepted at the door.

Order online by clicking [here](#).

**Pick up orders from 1-2:30pm on Saturday, December 9th at Wesley UMC, 14 N. May St., Aurora, IL.**

- \$10.00 per homemade (prepacked by UWF) box of cookies
- \$2.00 per plate of 20 buttermints
- \$2.00 per 3 rosettes
- \$3.00 per bag of bean soup
- \$4.00 per 1/2 lb. bag of peanut brittle



# CRAFTERS



The Tuesday Crafters and the Knotters & Knitters met after the Wednesday night dinner on Nov. 16.

We shared projects that we have been working on:  
Diamond Point, crocheting, knitting, quilting and card making.

Betty Walters then gave a demonstration on painting water drops that look 3D.  
With paint brushes in hand we all gave it a try. Results...more practice is needed!

We all took home a pillow box to decorate & will be posting the results on our Facebook page,  
or bringing to the United Women in Faith's Christmas gathering on  
Dec. 3 at 5:30 pm. held at Lekha Cristanujaya's home.

Watch for when we the various craft groups will be meeting again in January.  
All Crafters are invited to come.

Blessings,  
Emmy Lou



L-R MEREDITH LINDGREN, BETTY AQUIZE, MARI CURLESS, EMMY LOU JOHN,  
BETTY WALTERS, VICKI MARTIN, CLAUDIA SMITH, AND LYNN BURNETT

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT GATHERING

Join us for a multigenerational gathering with dinner and activities.  
This past month, we celebrated Dia De Muertos, Thanksgiving, and gratitude.



Here are the scheduled activities for November/December:

- November 29th** - Baked Potato Bar with Game Night
- December 6th** - Pasta Dinner with Holiday Card Making
- December 20th** - Dinner TBD with Christmas Party

Pictures from Nov 1 Dia De Muertos



Pictures from Nov 15 Thanksgiving





# DISCIPLESHIP

## Let's Go Adult Fellowship—ALL ARE WELCOME!

Let's Go is a social group open to all adult members and friends of Wesley. All Are Welcome. Our Friendsgiving party at the Gilbert's home was great fun, filled with delicious foods reminiscent of Thanksgiving!

Our next event will be Saturday, December 9, at the home of Meredith Lindgren. This is our annual Christmas Party/Irreverent White Elephant gift exchange!

We've added a carol sing-a-long just for fun!

Each guest/couple should bring a savory or sweet dish to share, and a favorite beverage. And don't forget to bring a wrapped gift, one per person, the funnier the better!

If anyone would like to host a get-together, or if you have any ideas for get-togethers, please contact me. If you are interested in attending future Let's Go functions and aren't on the list, please contact Meredith Lindgren, 630-788-6911 or psalmmom418@gmail.com. I will gladly add you to the list!



This is the only picture from our last Let's Go event, but it's a good one! This was Carol Stoffel's appetizer that she made and brought!

## WANTED: READERS AND GREETERS!

Are you looking for ways to serve at Wesley? Do you like to read? Are you friendly and welcoming? Then this is the job for you! I could use more readers for Sunday worship and for the online service, and I would love to have a few more greeters to welcome friends and guests each Sunday.

I provide the readings each week for the readers, along with instructions on recording for the online service.

Help is available for those who don't know how to record. Readers need to be at church on their assigned Sunday by 10:10 to go over details and do a sound check. It's that simple!

Greeters are stationed near the doors to welcome people as they come in and offer any assistance that is needed. For those visiting our church for the first time, it is so helpful to be greeted by a friendly face! Greeters need to be at church by 10 to greet and direct.

Please contact Meredith Lindgren, 630-788-6911 or psalmmom418@gmail.com





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



*12/05 Rebecca John*  
*12/7 Susan Clarke*  
*12/10 Betty Walters*  
*12/15 Lekha Cristanujaya*  
*12/20 Lynnette Singh*  
*12/28 John Herb*  
*12/31 Claire Agora*  
*12/31 Courtney Kimble*

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

	1/1— 11/15/23	Annual Budget for 2023
Pledge and Non-Pledge Giving	247,192.42	252,431.63
Other Income	190,252.08	188,979.12
Expenses		
Worship	7,424.65	8,387.39
Discipleship	2,067.81	5,912.50
Outreach	4,094.64	5,041.74
Operating Costs	247,192.42	252,431.63
Salaries & Benefits	260,437.16	275,239.14
Apportionments	2,000.00	26,592.50

# STAFF



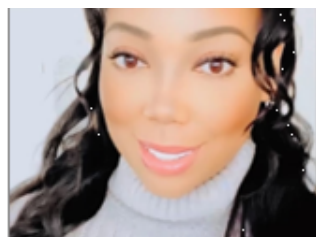
**Rev. Tammy Scott**  
Senior Pastor  
revtammyscott@gmail.com



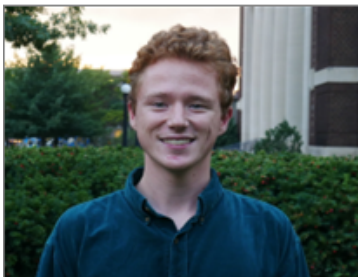
**Thew Elliott**  
Director of  
Traditional Worship  
thew.wumc@gmail.com



**Michelle Curiel**  
Director of Praise &  
Worship / Children & Family  
michellecuriel.wumc@gmail.com



**Courtney Kimble**  
Administrative  
Coordinator  
courtney.wumc@gmail.com



**Sean Moore**  
Audio-Visual Editor and  
Technician  
sean.wumc@gmail.com



**Claire Agoro**  
Custodian email

# COORDINATORS



**Carol Stoffel**  
Congregational Care



**Meredith Lindgren**  
Worship



# SMALL GROUPS



Bad Girls Bible Study  
Meredith Lindgren  
630-788-6911  
psalmmom418@gmail.com

Fine Arts Committee  
TBD

Hesed House  
Bob McKnight  
630-896-5287  
redwoodcats@sbcglobal.net

Let's Go Fellowship  
Meredith Lindgren  
630-788-6911  
psalmmom418@gmail.com

Knitters & Knotters  
Claudia Smith & Betty Aquize  
Claudia: 312-523-6688  
Betty: 331-222-6364

Mug Club  
Rich Brown  
630-881-7931  
rwb7247@gmail.com

NDY Group  
Lynn Burnett  
le.burnett@yahoo.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry  
TBD

Special Events Coordinator  
Lynn Burnett  
le.burnett@yahoo.com

Faithlinkers (held on Mondays at 7pm CST via Zoom)  
Emmy Lou John  
630-264-2892  
emmyloujohn@yahoo.com

Tuesday Crafters (held on the second Tuesday of each month)  
Emmy Lou John  
630-264-2892  
emmyloujohn@yahoo.com

United Methodist Men  
Herb John  
630-264-2892  
herbjohn@ymail.com

United Women In Faith  
Emmy Lou John  
630-264-2892  
emmyloujohn@yahoo.com

Wesley Gardeners  
Meredith Lindgren  
630-788-6911 psalmmom418@gmail.com

Wesley Golfers  
Ralph Breazeale  
630-897-6657  
jrbreeze47@comcast.net

Yoga Classes  
Ann Merk  
630-643-3115  
asm52@yahoo.com

# GOVERNING BOARD



Bob McKnight  
Wally Loague  
Mary Terrell  
Roger Curless  
Jonathan Akyea

Kathy Breazeale  
Jim Merk  
DiAnn Wiley  
Rev. Tammy Scott

*Merry  
Christmas*



**Wesley**  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH



14 N May St, Aurora IL 60506-3867  
Return Service Requested

14 North May Street, Aurora IL 60506-3867  
630.896.1033 | wesleyumcaurora.org  
Office Hours: 9:30-1:30pm

Remember to "Like" our Facebook page at Wesley UMC in Aurora, IL and our NEW Instagram Page at Wesley UMC Aurora to stay up to date on everything that is happening at Wesley!

