

wesleyan

JUNE 2023 EDITION



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Pastor's Column

In preparation for writing my last newsletter article, I went back and read my first newsletter article from July of 2013. I also read my first sermon from July 7, 2013. In both places, I outlined a set of priorities for myself and our partnership in ministry. I had no idea I would have ten years to work on them!

The first priority I set was to remain true to God's calling on my life as your pastor. It was a reminder to me to always focus on what gives each of us energy and life: our calling. The choices I made as your pastor were grounded in my calling. It's also why I spent time cheerleading each of you in understanding your calling and the things that give you life and energy.

The second priority was to follow the three simple rules: Do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God. I applied these rules to the ways we built community with those on the edges of life. I'm proud of the ways we have worked together as a beloved community to practice this in every aspect of ministry.

The third priority was to love our neighbors, which was also the theme of the first worship series I preached. Seeds that were planted back in 2013 took time to bloom. Today, the building and the congregation are an asset to our neighbors and our community. It's clear to me now that Wesley UMC would be missed if it closed its doors!

Finally, I made a commitment in my first sermon to extend radical hospitality to everyone. The way Jesus interpreted scripture led to acts of reconciliation, reparations, liberation and radical hospitality. I've tried to embody this through my relationships.

There are many other things you and I have accomplished over the past ten years. Surviving and thriving through a pandemic was an accomplishment for sure. Through the good times and the challenges, I have learned to trust in God. I've also learned to trust in each of you.

Now Pastor Tammy gets to write their first article and preach their first sermon about their priorities and aspirations for your time together. I'm excited about the leadership Pastor Tammy will provide this congregation. I'm confident I'm leaving Wesley in capable hands. I hope and pray you will extend to Pastor Tammy the same respect and love you have shown me.

At the end of the day, at the end of a decade, at the end of a lifetime, we are all children of God. We are doing the best we can with what we have. And every day, I strive to do better. Thank you for letting me be your pastor. I am blessed.

Blessings!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John".

Worship

2023 PRIDE Celebration—Sunday, June 11th, Worship at NECC

This year, Wesley is once again partnering with New England Congregational Church and the Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva to offer a day of fun PRIDE activities for the whole family and to share in a profound witness to the unconditional welcome of our communities! Here's an overview of what to expect:

- 8:30-10am - "Pride Cakes" pancake breakfast @ NECC, Friendship Hall (cooked/served by Wesley UMC)
- 10:00-10:30am - Combined Community Worship Service, NECC Sanctuary
- 10:30-10:40am - Gather near the Hawthorne Door/Main Parking lot area. All of us can walk down to the Parade staging area together as a group.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/AuroraILPrideFestival> to get more details about other fun Pride events planned during the weekend.

June 18, 2023—Guest Preacher, Nick Thompson

June 25, 2023—Guest Preacher, Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger



On May 14th, James Gilbert and others lined up to receive a pot with soil and seeds as part of our Mother's Day Celebration.



Also on May 14th, we welcomed Lore Baker and Becky John into membership at Wesley.

Children & Families

Summer Programming!

May 31st showing of
The Incredibles



Family Movie Night

Encanto—Friday, June 16th at 7pm

Join us for an outdoor movie night! Bring your own lawn chair. Hot dogs, popcorn and beverages will be served. Free will donations are welcome.

Meals on the Move

Every Thursday from 12:30-1:30pm from June 8 through August 10th, Wesley will set up a tent with arts & crafts, outdoor games, learning activities, and sports equipment for families attending the lunch program provided by the Northern IL Food Bank at [William V. Plum Park at 337 Plum Street, Aurora](#). ***We need volunteers from 12pm-2pm*** who are willing to get to know our neighbors through conversation and through interacting with children. All abilities are able to help! There is room for all to help. Volunteers can simply engage in conversation with neighbors, or help set up our tent and games. Contact Michelle with any questions at michellecuriel.wumc@gmail.com.

Art & Soul Camp

This summer we are holding an Arts Camp centered around self love and communal love. Art & Soul Camp will be held from July 10th - 13th from 5-8pm. ***We need kitchen volunteers, crew leaders, station leaders from art, culinary, and music/movement.*** There is room for all abilities to help. Please consider ways you can be a part of providing a free and fun camp for our neighborhood! Contact Michelle with any questions at michellecuriel.wumc@gmail.com.

Art & Soul Camp

art & soul camp 2023

Monday, July 10 – Thursday, July 13

5:30 – 8pm

14 N. May Street

Free of Charge and
dinner is provided

Ages 4 – 12

Information:

michellecuriel.wumc@gmail.com

630-896-1033

Register
here



Discipleship

Mug Club



Enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation. This is a social group of men with lots to talk about and too much time on our hands. We have not had too many solutions, but we've had lots of fellowship. We invite you to join us! For more details call or email Rich Brown at 630-881-7931 or rwb7247@gmail.com.

Every Thursday at 9am at Sugar Grove Café, 1942 Rte. 30, Sugar Grove

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! Summer is here and we will be on hiatus until fall. 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!

Bad Girls Bible/Book Study

Bad Girls will be meeting at the home of Carol Stoffel on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. We will have a potluck dinner at 6 pm, and will enjoy fellowship and conversation. Everyone should bring a dish to pass and be ready to talk and find out what everyone is doing this summer. If you have any good books you are reading or have read, you can share those with the group for ideas for summer reading.

Our next Bad Girls book will be a fun Cozy Mystery book: "Twisted Tea Christmas" by Laura Childs. Lynn and Emmy have read it and thought it would be a lighter book for summer. We will meet for a Christmas in July meal and book discussion, date to be determined when we meet June 14.

If you are interested in joining us for fun, fellowship, and great book discussions, contact Meredith Lindgren, 630-788-6911 or psalmmom418@gmail.com.

Discipleship

NDY (Not Dead Yet) Group

The NDY (Not Dead Yet) Group met Friday, May 26th at Mother's Restaurant at noon. Sadly, this was Wendy Evans' last time to be with us as she is moving to Shelton, WA. She promised to keep in touch.

In 2018, Wendy and Ruth Ann Little invited anyone interested in getting together for lunch to join the monthly lunch group. They decided to name the group Not Dead Yet as they were told there was no senior fellowship group because everyone had passed away.

The monthly meetings were initially at Oak Street Restaurant in North Aurora. During Covid, in the warm weather, everyone brought their own lunch and chair to sit outside spaced apart on the lawn at Wesley.

NDY now meets at Mother's the last Friday of each month. If you are interested, please contact Lynn Burnett at le.burnett@yahoo.com.



Wesley Garden Club

Calling all gardeners! Our Wesley gardens are in need of some TLC during the summer months. Please consider helping out with weeding and watering throughout the summer. You can call Jenny and let her know you will be stopping by to do some garden work. She has a key for the faucet by the garden. There is a hose and a sprinkler available. You need the key to turn on the water. Jenny works until noon, so plan to stop by in the morning if you plan to water. You will also need to bring a craft bag for yard waste. With many hands we can keep our gardens in beautiful shape to welcome people as they enter our church building. If you have questions, please call Meredith Lindgren at 630-788-6911, or email me at psalmmom418@gmail.com.

Pride Month

SUNDAY, JUNE 11 8:30 - 10AM
AT NEW ENGLAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
406 W. GALENA BLVD.

PAY WHAT YOU CAN! ALL PROCEEDS GO TO AURORA PRIDE
ENJOY PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, JUICE, WATER AND COFFEE

United Women in Faith

- GREENFEST: The No Idling Project was at Aurora's GreenFest on May 13 under the leadership of Sarah Swanson, our United Women in Faith's Social Action Coordinator. She was assisted by Cindy Whitehall, Vicki Martin, Emmy Lou John, and Lynnette Singh.

Part of the reason for being there was to encourage people to draw their ideas for a bumper sticker that alerts others to turn off their car while waiting in line. You are invited to participate too. On the welcoming desk in the Narthex are supplies for making your creation. We will be choosing a design soon.



- JFON: Our congregation and UWinF have been involved with Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) since it started in Aurora. Recently, they have been coming to Wesley for their activities. While they are here, I often ask if either the staff or clients would like to look at our Sanctuary. This past month several of the staff visited. I also showed them the Prayer Shawl Box and said how our Unit of UWinF makes shawls to share with others to let them know God loves them and we pray for them. One young woman asked if she could have one as her friend was graduating from college that day, and her mother had died just the night before.

A gentle reminder to all of you that the shawls are for sharing. Just mark in the book which one you have taken and to whom you are giving it along with the date and your name.



- BOOK CLUB: Our Reading Program under the direction of Lynnette Singh met on May 31 to discuss the book *Firekeeper's Daughter*. We recommend this book that you can get at the library as either hard copy or audio on Libby. The next book from the Reading Program list is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*. We will be meeting to discuss it on Wednesday, Aug. 30 at 7 pm. at Wesley.
- CIRCLES: Our circles gather to have fellowship and to gain knowledge of what God is calling us to do through Jesus. They usually meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the parlor, which this month is on June 20th, at 1:30 pm (Hannah) or 7 pm (Susanna).

Girl Scouts



On April 29th, Michelle Curiel attended the Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois 2023 Annual Meeting and Recognition Event at the Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center at NIU in DeKalb. She accepted an award for Community Partnership on behalf of Wesley.

An excerpt from the GSNI Annual Report:

Wesley United Methodist Church of Aurora has provided building space to troops and the Circle of Friends Service Unit for the past 10 years. Not only do they offer the use of the building whenever it is available, but church members also share their talents with troops when needed. The church has been exceptional in supporting troop fundraising through the use of its kitchen facilities to provide pancake breakfasts and spaghetti dinners. Along with the Circle of Friends Service Unit, Troop 4785, and Troop 4340, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois thanks all at Wesley United Methodist Church for their resources, time and support through the years!

A-Town Boxing Club

As you may know, Wesley shared its space with A-Town Boxing Club in the gymnasium from January through April in order to provide space for the kids in the club to prepare for the Chicago Golden Gloves tournament. We are happy to report that the A-Town had three champions at the tournament and they continue to compete in national level tournaments. In May, an A-Town boxer competed at the Golden Gloves of America National Tournament in Chester, PA.



Pictured: Emmanuel

As a member of A-Town, each participant must sign an agreement that he or she will participate in volunteerism as part of their training. We are happy to have been able to support this non-profit helping kids to succeed in sports and in life.

June Birthdays

Stefanie Frazier 6/1

Emmy Lou John 6/5

Linda Voelker 6/11

Pam Ely-Erickson 6/13

Luli Smith 6/14

Nathan Cristanujaya 6/23

Fox Valley Brass Band

This month!!

Brass Americana – Fox Valley Brass Band Concert

Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 3pm at Simmons Park (1201 E. Indian Trail)

Come soak up the summer sun with the Fox Valley Brass Band and enjoy show tunes, cinematic favorites and patriotic melodies! Gershwin, Porter, Sondheim, Williams, and more!!! Free will offerings to Wesley.

Financial Update

	1/1—5/15/23	Annual Budget for 2023
Pledge and Non-Pledge Giving	107,646.39	280,899.96
Other Income	90,964.27	188,979.12
	Expenses	
Worship	3,332.39	8,049.96
Discipleship	581.32	4,350.00
Outreach	2,237.54	3,500.00
Operating Costs	61,614.95	127,009.12
Salaries & Benefits	112,140.56	288,244.80
Apportionments	0	37,000.00

Questions? Please contact Jennifer Pawlowski, Financial Secretary, at jennifer.wumc@gmail.com.

Staff



Rev. John Bell
Senior Pastor



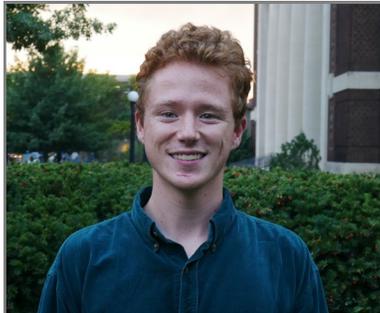
Thew Elliott
Director of
Traditional Worship



Michelle Curiel
Director of Praise &
Worship / Children & Family



Jennifer Pawlowski
Administrative Coordinator



Sean Moore
Audio-Visual Editor
and Technician



Claire Agoro
Custodian

Coordinators

Jennifer Pawlowski
Administration & Outreach
(pictured above)



Carol Stoffel
Congregational Care



Meredith Lindgren
Worship

Small Groups

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

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
rw7247@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 at church)
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. John Bell



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Instagram Page at Wesley UMC Aurora
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