

# wesleyan

NOVEMBER 2023 EDITION



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# Pastor's Column

Greetings Members and Friends of Wesley United Methodist Church,

Several years ago, I read Grateful by Diana Butler Bass. She opens the book by explaining that she has always (even from childhood) struggled with writing “thank-you” notes. I have to admit that I too fall short on this one and I have not done a very good job of teaching this to my girls either. We receive “thank-you” notes from my nieces after we have attended their birthday parties, but I am not so good at having my girls send “thank-you” notes for the gifts they receive. In fact, I think we still have the notes they wrote to friends after a party this past summer, but we never sent them out! In our house, we are much better about saying thank-you than we are writing thank-you! However, I also know how much my heart is warmed to get handwritten mail these days! So, I am once again taking on the “Month of Gratitude” challenge.

What is the “Month of Gratitude” challenge? It is about being intentional and giving thanks for any variety of things in your life. It can be constant things like family, friends, employment, or church. But it can also be about noticing the small things like being allowed to go next in line at the grocery store because you have only a few items or receiving an unexpected invitation to have lunch or coffee with a friend. The hope is that in this month of being intentional in looking for gratitude that the joy that comes from gratitude will spread!

So, how might one share their daily observations and thankfulness during the “Month of Gratitude”? There are lots of ways to participate: a journal or calendar, posting on Facebook or Instagram, writing cards or letters or emails to friends. And this year we will have a “Thankful Tree” in the Narthex that gives us a place to share all those things we are grateful for! This year in addition to my Instagram and Facebook posts, I will also send out 30 thank you cards...one for each day of the month. Notice I did not say I would send one out per day! I would likely fall behind and then get down on myself, defeating the purpose of the “Month of Gratitude”.

I hope you will join me in this “Month of Gratitude”!

Here is my first gratitude post for November...

I am grateful for being appointed to serve as pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church. This is a loving church family who is dedicated to one another and to serving God and their community. #MonthOfGratitude

Blessings,  
Pastor Tammy Scott

*Pastor Tammy Scott*

P.S. Here's my first thank-you of the month too...



Thank you to all who gave me cards and thoughtful gifts for Pastor Appreciation Month. You sure know how to make a pastor feel appreciated! I am so thankful to be serving alongside you!

## **Our Money Story**

This season we are being invited to think about Our Money Story. Though we each have our own money story, our stories are so interconnected that they ultimately create one story. The work at hand is the process of releasing, reclaiming, restoring, and renewing our stories so they take on the contours of God's story.

We all have a money story, whether we recognize it or not. Perhaps we are living from a story of fear or shame. Or a story that the church is dying and no longer relevant. Or a story that our actions won't have an impact.

Or a story that we don't have enough. Where might God be speaking a new narrative into the limited ones we have told ourselves? This season we are invited to think about our money stories in light of God's money story of liberation and justice. This sermon series encourages us to transform our stewardship practices into more full expressions of who we are and what we believe.

It is the hope that the stories we hear from each of the 4 Gospels and the key theme for each week (Remember, Release, Reimagine, and Restore) will guide us in our personal reflections and prayer life as we consider how we might support the life and ministries of Wesley UMC in 2024. You are asked to prayerfully consider your 2024 tithes and offerings and to share a pledge with the church on Sunday November 19th. These amounts pledged will guide our pastor and leadership team to shape our 2024 budget so that we are able to continue and hopefully increase the ways that we are serving one another and our community in the name of God's love!

*Holy God,  
It is not always easy to give what we have.  
We count pennies.  
We weigh the pros and cons.  
We calculate what we have given before,  
And we remind ourselves what we are giving now.*

*And yet,  
Even though it can take work for us to practice release,  
We trust that you can take these gifts—  
However freely or reluctantly given—  
And use them to build a more beautiful world.*

*For that is who you are.  
You are forever building castles out of sand,  
Disciples out of people, and new life out of cautious gifts.  
Right what is wrong.  
Balance the systems of injustice.  
Use these gifts to build the world that we can only imagine  
But you can bring forth.*

*In Christ's name we pray,*



# Member Visits



Faith Burnett, Lynn Burnett, Carol Stoffel, Amy Karl and Ella Karl all celebrating Ruth Ann Little's 91st birthday at The Pearl of Tillers in Oswego. The bottom picture is of Pastor Tammy with Ruth Ann Little on her 91st



# United Women in Faith



The UWinF reading Program will be meeting Nov 29, 2023 to see the movie, Hidden Figures.

**Cookie walk is December 9, 2023.** We need bakers to make seven dozen cookies of one kind. Please contact Emmy Lou John to volunteer.



## Aurora Food Pantry

Thank you for showing a desire to volunteer with us at Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry. We serve the surrounding 5 counties; Kane, Kendall, Will, DuPage, & DeKalb. The food pantry has seen the need for our service increase for many in our community. Currently, we are serving 1,250 families each week and we expect to see those numbers increase over the next couple of months. We would appreciate you joining us in the service of our neighbors. We welcome individuals and groups 14 years and older here on any regular day of volunteer service. Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday are our food distribution days and our largest need. On these 3 days, we need volunteers at the pantry from 9 am - 2:30 pm. During this distribution, we need volunteers to work in the market, warehouse, and outside. Please call or email to set up your 1<sup>st</sup> shift with us. 1110 Jericho Rd., Aurora, IL., 60506 ~ Volunteer Coordinator Marcy Robles 630-692-3056 [mrobles@aurorafoodpantry.org](mailto:mrobles@aurorafoodpantry.org)"  
Respectfully,

## Lift Replacement Campaign

One of the things that Wesley is becoming known for is our connection with our community! In order to be welcoming to ALL, we really need to improve our access to the building. The Trustees have sought bids to replace the exterior lift that allows people who struggle with or cannot climb stairs easy access into the building. After meeting with a couple of companies, a bid has been selected. The cost of the new lift will be \$40,000. In order to sign the contract, we need YOUR help! We are asking members and friends of Wesley to consider an additional gift to help us get this new lift installed as soon as possible. Thanks to the early donations from several generous givers, our lift fund balance is already up to \$12,150. That means we are more than 25% of the way to funding the new lift! How can you help? Well, gifts of all sizes are needed in order to reach our goal! You can make a one time contribution or make a pledge to be paid out over the next year. Did you know that if you are 70 ½ you might be able to make a tax free contribution from an IRA or other retirement fund directly to the church! If you have questions you can call Pastor Tammy or Courtney in the church office.



# Trunk or Treat Event and Pictures



## **Wednesday Night Gathering**

Come out to our multigenerational community gathering this month! Dinner is served followed by activities for all ages. We'd love to see you there for community connection and fun! Events are listed below.

### **November 1st: Dia De Muertos Celebration**

Tamales with Pan De Muerto and a viewing of the movie Coco with Dia De Muertos crafts

### **November 15th: Thanksgiving Dinner**

Thanksgiving Dinner will be served with thankfulness exercises in partnership with The Perch. Meat, potatoes, and stuffing are provided. Bring a side or dessert to share if you're able!





# 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! We had a great time at our Masques Party at the Loagues! The masks were creative and fun and the fellowship was priceless! Our next event will be Saturday, November 11 at the home of Laurel and Jim Gilbert. The theme is Friendsgiving, in celebration of Thanksgiving. The party starts at 6:30 pm. Guests are asked to bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share, either savory or sweet, and a favorite beverage for yourself. And mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Party/Irreverent White Elephant gift exchange! We've added a carol sing-a-long, just for fun! The date for this fun and highly anticipated event is Saturday, December 9. 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](mailto:psalmmom418@gmail.com). I will gladly add you to the list!

## Bad Girls Bible/Book Study

Women of Wesley and friends, do you love to read? Are you looking for a group of people with whom to discuss really good books? Then check out the Bad Girls Bible/Book Study! We have read some great books over the past many years and our discussions are quite lively! Bad Girls will be meeting Wednesday, November 8, at the home of Lin Waid. We will meet at 6 pm for a soup and salad dinner. Discussion of our book begins at 7 pm. We are currently reading "The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth" by Beth Allison Barr. We will be discussing chapter 4 and the discussion promises to be lively! We won't meet again until December 13, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We will meet at the home of Meredith Lindgren for our annual Christmas party and book gift exchange on Wednesday, December 13. More details on that meeting will be provided later. If you are interested in joining us, contact Meredith Lindgren, 630-788-6911 or [psalmmom418@gmail.com](mailto:psalmmom418@gmail.com).

## WANTED: READERS AND GREETERS!

Are you looking for ways to serve at Wesley? Do you like to read? Are you friendly and welcoming? Then I have a 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 people to worship. If you are interested in one or both of these ministries, please contact Meredith Lindgren at 630-788-6911, or [psalmmom418@gmail.com](mailto:psalmmom418@gmail.com)



# Let's Go Pictures



# November Birthdays



Carol Stoffel - 11/01  
Brigitta Neumann- 11/02  
Cheryl Thompson -11/12  
Inti Smith-11/13  
Isaiah Burnett-11/15

Vincent Escobedo- 11/18  
Joseph Janavicius-11/19  
Genevieve Akyea-11/20  
Jerry Livingston-11/21  
Jim Merk-11/30

# Financial Update

1/1 – 11/15/23

Annual Budget for 2023

<b>Pledge and Non-Pledge Giving</b>	234,674.62	275,379.96
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<b>Other Income</b>	190,252.08	188,979.12
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## Expenses

<b>Worship</b>	7,184.65	9,149.88
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<b>Discipleship</b>	2,067.81	6,450.00
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<b>Outreach</b>	4,094.64	5,500.08
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<b>Operating Costs</b>	209,684.30	260,379.96
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<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	250,054.26	300,260.88
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<b>Apportionments</b>	3,355.00	24,150.04
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Questions? Please contact Courtney Kimble , Financial Secretary, at [Courtney.wumc@gmail.com](mailto:Courtney.wumc@gmail.com)



# Staff



**Rev. Tammy Scott**  
Senior Pastor

Rev.tammyscott@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

Courtney.wumc@gmail.com



**Sean Moore**  
Audio-Visual Editor and  
Technician

Sean.wumc@gmail.com



**Claire Agoro**  
Custodian

# Coordinators



**Carol Stoffel**  
Congregational Care



**Meredith Lindgren**  
Worship

# Small Groups

**Bad Girls Bible Study**  
Meredith Lindgren  
630-788-6911  
[psalmmom418@gmail.com](mailto:psalmmom418@gmail.com)

**Fine Arts Committee**  
TBD

**Hesed House**  
Bob McKnight  
630-896-5287  
[redwoodcats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:redwoodcats@sbcglobal.net)

**Let's Go Fellowship**  
Meredith Lindgren  
630-788-6911  
[psalmmom418@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:rwb7247@gmail.com)

**NDY Group**  
Lynn Burnett  
[le.burnett@yahoo.com](mailto:le.burnett@yahoo.com)

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
TBD

**Special Events Coordinator**  
Lynn Burnett  
[le.burnett@yahoo.com](mailto:le.burnett@yahoo.com)

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

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

**United Methodist Men**  
Herb John  
630-264-2892  
[herbjohn@ymail.com](mailto:herbjohn@ymail.com)

**United Women In Faith**  
Emmy Lou John  
630-264-2892  
[emmyloujohn@yahoo.com](mailto:emmyloujohn@yahoo.com)

**Wesley Gardeners**  
Meredith Lindgren  
630-788-6911  
[psalmmom418@gmail.com](mailto:psalmmom418@gmail.com)

**Wesley Golfers**  
Ralph Breazeale  
630-897-6657  
[jrbreeze47@comcast.net](mailto:jrbreeze47@comcast.net)

**Yoga Classes**  
Ann Merk  
630-643-3115  
[asm52@yahoo.com](mailto:asm52@yahoo.com)

# Governing Board

Bob McKnight

Wally Loague

Mary Terrell

Roger Curless

Jonathan Akyea

Kathy Breazeale

Jim Merk

DiAnn Wiley

Rev. Tammy Scott



14 N May St, Aurora IL 60506-3867

Return Service Requested



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Office Hours: 8am-12pm

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to donate

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!

