

wesleyan

JULY 2023 EDITION



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Pastor's Column

Greetings Members and Friends of Wesley United Methodist Church,

Change is one thing in life that we can count on especially in The United Methodist Church. In fact, Heraclitus, the pre-Socratic Greek philosopher, said that "Change is the only constant in life", but what he didn't believe or take into account is that God is also a constant in our lives. This is what we are taught in Sunday school and in sermons over and over again. We have personal stories and those of families and friends that confirm for us God's constant present in our lives. We experience God in the greatest moments of joy and celebration, we feel God's comforting presence in our most difficult and challenging moments of life. And when we are feeling distant from God or uncertain, we have scripture to remind us of God's constant presence. One of my favorites is Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

One of my hopes and dreams for our journey together is that we share our stories. After all it is our common story, the story of God's children from creation until now, that brings us to this place where our stories will coincide.

So...here's a brief glimpse at my story. I was born and raised a United Methodist. I got the nickname "The Founder" at my home church for my role in starting a Jr/Sr High Youth Group and beginning the tradition of biannual youth summer mission trips. When I was in confirmation, my pastor told me that she saw in me qualities that would make me a good pastor. I was 13 years old and laughed it off. I had grand plans of becoming a play by play announcer for the Chicago Cubs. I briefly studied radio broadcasting for a year in College, but ultimately received my Bachelor's Degree from The University of Illinois at Chicago in Communications. After a couple of years "wandering in the wilderness" and working as a personal banker (I had been a bank teller during college), I began what has been one of the greatest challenges and yet most rewarding journeys of my life, seminary and the road to becoming a pastor. I earned my Master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in 2006 and was ordained a Deacon in 2009. I have served churches in Joliet, Chicago, Wilmette, Bolingbrook, Minooka, and Naperville.

I look forward to hearing your stories in the coming weeks and months! Let's meet for coffee, lunch, dinner, or just to chat and get to know more about one another.

As we embark on this new chapter in ministry together, I am certain that God is with each of us. In our excitement and curiosity, in our fear and doubt, in our grief and sadness, and in our shared stories...God's love is constant for you and for me. Now let's go write some new stories!

Blessings,

Pastor Tammy Scott

Worship

When we allow ourselves to be open to new experiences and new encounters, we may find that we are invited into new relationships and new ways of living out our faith. Join us at Wesley UMC this summer as we practice being open so that we can hear and respond to invitations to love and be loved, to follow and lead, to dream and be inspired, to be the church, and more!

July 2— Open to God (Invited to be loved and to love) Isaiah 6:1-12 Call of Isaiah

July 9— Open to Jesus (Invited to Follow and to Lead) John 1:43-50 Call of Nathanael

July 16— Guest Preacher

July 23— Open to the Spirit (Invited to dream and be inspired) Acts 1:3-10 Foreshadowing of the Spirit

July 30— Open to Connection (Invited to be the church/body of Christ) John 15:1-8 I Am the Vine

Thank You from Pastor John

Thank you for the wonderful gathering on June 3rd. A special thank you to Kathy, staff and everyone who helped coordinate the evening. It was a joy to remember and reflect on the last 10 years. I was truly blessed by your words and presence. Thank you for all the cards, gifts and well wishes. It has truly been a wonderful sending forth. Thanks be to you. Thanks be to God.

Thanks, also, to Pastor Tammy Scott who has been spending extra time with me, the staff, and the governing board to prepare for this transition. I appreciate Pastor Tammy and how intentional she has been in preparing to be your new pastor. Please give Pastor Tammy a warm welcome and sign up for a listening session with them in August or September.

I'm happy to announce that I will be the pastor at First Lutheran Church (ELCA) in downtown Louisville. First Lutheran Church is a reconciling and progressive congregation that just celebrated their 151st anniversary. I'm looking forward to partnering with this congregation in ministry.

Alison and I will be renting a house for the next year. Our new address is 3526 Craig Ave., Louisville, KY 40215.

Blessings!

John

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



Children & Families

Summer Programming

We need your help! In order to continue the work we do at the Meals on the Move Program at Blackhawk Park and Summer Camp, we need all the volunteers we can get. Please consider ways you can be involved.

Meals on the Move

Every Thursday from 1-2:30pm until August 10, Wesley sets 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 on 337 Plum St., Aurora. We need volunteers 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.



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 10 - 13 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.

Family Science Night:

Crash Test Cars STEAM Activity

Join us on **Wednesday, July 26 from 5:30 - 8:30pm** for a family STEAM night! Each family will work as a team and strategize to protect their egg in a simulated crash test. All ages welcome, activity is geared towards ages 8 and up. Younger ages will work as a family unit. This is a free event with dinner included. Free will donations are appreciated.



Registration appreciated at link: <https://form.jotform.com/231796238015054>

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 Bob McKnight at 630-896-5287 or redwoodcats@sbcglobal.net.

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!

NDY (Not Dead Yet) Group

Remember this group is NOT just for Wesley members. We normally meet for lunch the last Friday of each month. All are welcome! Contact Lynn Burnett at le.burnett@yahoo.com for details on our next meeting.

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.

Discipleship

Bad Girls Bible/Book Study

Bad Girls will be meeting for a Christmas in July meal and book discussion at the home of Carol Stoffel on Wednesday, July 26, 2023. We will have a potluck dinner at 6 pm, with dishes based on the delightful book we are reading for the summer, a fun Cozy Mystery book titled “Twisted Tea Christmas” by Laura Childs. Check the back of the book for possible recipes and, if you don’t find a recipe that you like, use one that hews to our theme of Christmas in July! As always, we will enjoy fellowship and conversation, as well as a discussion of the book. If you have any good books you are reading or have read, you can share those with the group for ideas for more summer reading.

I have sent out emails about the upcoming meeting. Please RSVP to the email and indicate what you plan to bring so we don’t have duplicates! If you are interested in joining us for fun, fellowship, and great book discussions, contact Meredith Lindgren, 630-788-6911 or psalmmom418@gmail.com.

United Women in Faith

- At their June meeting, the Hannah Circle created beaded sun catchers. Hannah Circle typically meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:30pm in the parlor. Hannah Circle will not meet in July.



- The Susanna Circle meets at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Susanna Circle will not meet in July.

July Birthdays

Grey Winfree 7/1

Lois Scott 7/4

Sarah Swanson 7/10

Sharon Livingston 7/13

Jonathan Akyea 7/18

DiAnn Wiley 7/21

Woody Geeting 7/23

Paul Erickson 7/25

Roger Curless 7/30

Visitation Committee



Phyllis Starke and Carol Stoffel visited Martha Griffith at Brighton Gardens in St. Charles on June 13th.

Financial Update

	1/1— 6/15/23	Annual Budget for 2023
Pledge and Non-Pledge Giving	126,311.24	280,899.96
Other Income	111,207.12	188,979.12
Expenses		
Worship	4,870.75	8,049.96
Discipleship	581.32	4,350.00
Outreach	1,999.54	3,500.00
Operating Costs	84,177.12	127,009.12
Salaries & Benefits	137,805.29	288,244.80
Apportionments	0	37,000.00

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

Staff



Rev. Tammy Scott
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

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

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 in Parlor)

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

Kathy Breazeale

Wally Loague

Jim Merk

Mary Terrell

DiAnn Wiley

Roger Curless

Rev. Tammy Scott

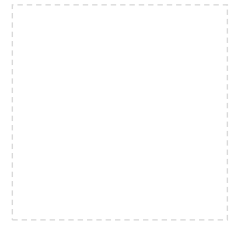
Jonathan Akyea



Wesley
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

14 N May St, Aurora IL 60506-3867

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