

wesleyan

NOVEMBER 2022 EDITION



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Pastor's Column

I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11-14

God promises a future filled with hope. Are you hopeful? If so, what commitments are you making? What action steps are you taking?

The benefits of having been appointed to Wesley United Methodist Church for 10 years is the opportunity (and really the privilege) I've had to see God's hope that is in each of you. We've held hands, prayed and mourned together. We've also celebrated and had fun together. I've watched some of you endure difficult challenges, but I've also seen your hopeful resiliency and the ways you persevere in love. It has inspired me and makes me hopeful because I see the hope God has placed in your hearts. You are all Jeremiahs!

Your hope is not an accident or happenstance. Your hope comes out of your deep commitment to prayer, to seeking God and to making a pledge to the future of Wesley United Methodist Church. This congregation truly prays without ceasing. We continually hold one another in prayer. Jeremiah writes: ***When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. (vs. 12)*** We also seek God, together. When I was appointed in 2013, the first thing we did was seek God's guidance together through a vision process. Since then, our ministry and mission is the result of an intentional commitment by each of you to seek God's will and guidance. ***When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. (vs. 3)***

I recently sat and shared a meal with a young adult. I listened to them tell me about how the church is disconnected from the challenges and struggles people are going through. This person talked to me about the hopelessness so many people experience, and the brokenness found in our communities. Wesley UMC is making a difference. It *is* meeting the needs of people who are struggling and giving them hope because of the commitment of hope you have made with your prayers and financial contributions.

Some of you already make a weekly, monthly or annual commitment to Wesley UMC. Some of you make contributions throughout the year without filling out a pledge card. This year we are asking everyone to make a commitment at whatever level you can.

November 13th is Consecration Sunday for our fall stewardship campaign: *Stepping Up and Out in Faith*. If you have never made a financial commitment, please prayerfully ask God what God would have you do and consider stepping up and out in faith. If you are already in the good habit of giving, consider prayerfully stepping up and out as well in the coming year. Prayerfully consider what a commitment to hope looks like for you.

God promises us this: ***I will be present for you and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile.*** This is our hope.

May it be so! I hope to see you on November 13th for Consecration Sunday.

Blessings,



Worship

Interfaith Thanksgiving

Mark your calendars! This year's Interfaith Thanksgiving service will take place on Sunday, November 20th at 3pm at Society 57, 100 S. River St, Aurora.



Pastor Appreciation

On October 16th, we celebrated Rev. John Bell and his nearly ten years of faithful service to Wesley and its community.



Thank You

I want to thank everyone for the cards, notes and gifts for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. I feel the love and appreciation. It is a joy to be your pastor and I'm grateful for the opportunities we have to partner in ministry.

John Bell

Fox Valley Brass Band

Songs from the North Sea—Fox Valley Brass Band Fall Concert

Saturday, November 5, 2022 at 3pm in Wesley's Sanctuary

A concert featuring brass band music from Denmark, England, Sweden, Norway, Scotland, and the Netherlands. Come hear the classic Vaughan Williams, "English Folk Song Suite", Philip Sparke's Scottish masterpiece, "Hymn from the Highlands" and Johannes Hanssen's "Valdres March".

Ticket Prices Online: Student/Seniors: \$12; Regular: \$15

Ticket Prices at the Door: Students/Seniors: \$15; Regular: \$18

Click [here](#) to purchase tickets in advance.

Holidays Around the World—Fox Valley Brass Band Fall Concert

Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 3pm in Wesley's Sanctuary

Featuring Hanukkah and Christmas brass band music from around the world. Fox Valley Brass Band will have you singing and dancing along to Steven Bulla's "Rhapsody for Hanukkah", classic Christmas Carols and favorites from Leroy Anderson.

Donations to Wesley United Methodist Church are appreciated.



Wesley United Methodist Church has Safe Gatherings trained and screened staff and volunteers. For more information, please go to <https://safegatherings.com/about-us/who-we-are/> or scan QR Code.



Outreach

Mutual Ground Winter Wonderland Client Holiday Shoppe



Help Make The Holidays Brighter

This year we're partnering with Mutual Ground and providing gifts for their annual Winter Wonderland Client Shoppe where their clients can browse donated items for gift giving.

Click [here](#) for a video highlighting the 2021 event.

Click [here](#) to sign up to provide a gift for a child or teen. Please drop off your donations to the church office before November 27 (so there is enough time for Mutual Ground to arrange the shop for clients which will be open December 7th-14th).

AID Holiday Hopes Gift Program

We are also participating in AID (Association for Individual Development)'s Holiday Hopes Gift Program. Sometime in November, we will be getting the wish list of ten AID clients with disabilities, in crisis and/or experiencing homelessness. More details to come!

Trunk or Treat

Thank you to all who showed up for Trunk or Treat both displaying trunks and trick or treating. We had a great turnout and fun blasting spooky music and filling bags with candy. We're so thankful the weather held up for some sunshine for the first time in years for Trunk or Treat!



Wednesday Nights

Wednesday Night Gatherings

We're continuing our Wednesday Night Gatherings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month! Join us for dinner followed by multi-generational activities. Donations fund Wednesday Night Gatherings. Your donation will go towards food costs for our meals to feed both Wesley and community families. They will also go towards replenishing supplies for after-dinner activities. If you'd like to be a part of providing meals and activities, we invite you to donate here: <https://givebutter.com/VSyvkU>. Choose "Wednesday Night Fund" from dropdown menu.

Wednesday Night Gathering activities for November include:

Nov. 2nd, Día de Muertos Celebration: Join us for tamales for dinner followed by a viewing of Coco while we create our own sugar skulls.

Nov. 16th, Mini -Thanksgiving: Join us for a Thanksgiving dinner followed by a multi-generational night of gratitude exercises in partnership with The Perch (<https://www.theperchplace.com/>)

Wesley friends & family enjoying
tacos & bonfire night on
October 5th!



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! We had a great time at our Let's Go Leaf All Your Troubles Behind Party on October 28. Thanks to the Loagues for hosting! Our next party will be our annual Ugly Sweater/White Elephant Christmas Party on Saturday, December 17 at the home of Meredith Lindgren. The party will start at 7 pm. Each guest should wear their ugliest holiday sweater and bring something savory or sweet to share, along with a favorite beverage. A wrapped white elephant gift should also be included so we can all leave with something wonderful/crazy/goofy/whatever to add to our Christmas memories! If you are interested in attending 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!



Discipleship

Bad Girls Bible/Book Study

Bad Girls will be finishing the book, “The Vanishing Half” by Brit Bennett, at our next meeting on Wednesday, November 9 at Carol Stoffel’s home. This historical fiction book is summed up as follows:

“The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it’s not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it’s everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters’ storylines intersect?”

We have decided to change our meeting time to the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, due to some scheduling conflicts. At our meeting at Carol Stoffel’s lovely home we will have soup, bread, and dessert at 6 pm, with our discussion beginning at 7 pm. For those unable to attend live, we have a Zoom link.

We will not meet on the 4th Wednesday in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We will meet for our annual Christmas party on Wednesday, December 14, at the home of Char Dillon, one of our members. We will have our 2nd annual book gift exchange, as well as holiday goodies. We will also hopefully pick our next book, so if anyone has any ideas for a book, be ready to share! Stay tuned for more details. 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

5 Cups of Coffee

Thanks to everyone who participated in 5 Cups of Coffee this fall. We had a good group of men who gathered every other week for five sessions. We met on Tuesday evenings at Two Brothers Round House in Aurora. Based in scripture, we used discussion starters about our calling and discipleship. Everyone wants to spend their lives doing something that has meaning, uses their gifts, and is something that they enjoy doing. God's call for all people is, first, to be in relationship with God, and second, to work in the world. It was a joy getting together.

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.

United Women in Faith (UWF)

The Hannah Circle met on September 27th and crafted homemade cards together. The next Hannah Circle meeting will be Tuesday, November 29th at 1:30pm.



Meal Train for Mary

Meal Train for Mary Terrell

If you are able, please consider preparing a meal for Mary as she recuperates at home after her recent brain surgery. She will have a caregiver at home and needs a lot of help with daily tasks. She is being discharged from Lutheran General on Thursday, November 3rd and then will be receiving outpatient therapy three days a week thereafter.

You can sign up for a date to bring her a meal by following this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0d4eacac2ca2f49-meal>.

No shellfish dishes please and you will need to phone Mary first to make sure that someone is home to receive the meal.

Mary's cell phone: 630-293-4638

Mary's address: 853 Symphony Dr., Aurora, IL 60504

Congregational Care

Birthdays

Carol Stoffel 11/1

Brigitta Neumann 11/2

Cheryl Thompson 11/12

Inti Smith 11/13

Isaiah Burnett 11/15

Vincent Escobedo 11/18

Joe Janavicius 11/19

Genevieve Akyea 11/20

Jerry Livingston 11/21

Jim Merk 11/30



Bev Benson and Augie with altar flowers from Ruth Ann Little's birthday celebration on October 16th.

We celebrated Ruth Ann Little's 90th birthday during worship on Sunday, October 16th.



Financial Update

	1/1 – 10/15/22	Annual Budget for 2022
Pledge and Non-Pledge Giving	253,921.60	280,899.96
Other Income	89,762.93	188,979.12
Expenses		
Worship	5,008.05	8,049.96
Discipleship	4,044.86	4,350.00
Outreach	2,030.35	3,500.00
Operating Costs	124,086.55	127,009.12
Salaries	228,466.09	278,519.52
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
(pictured above)



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

Monday Morning Study

Emmy Lou John
630-264-2892
emmyloujohn@yahoo.com

Tuesday Crafters
TBD**United Methodist Men**

Herb John
630-264-2892
herbjohn@ymail.com

United Methodist Women

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

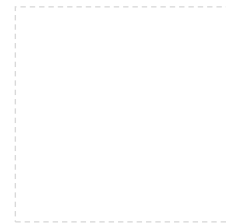
Rev. John Bell

Jonathan Akyea



Wesley
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14 N May St, Aurora IL 60506-3867
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630.896.1033 | wesleyumcaurora.org

Office Hours: 8am-12pm

Scan QR code
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Instagram Page at Wesley UMC Aurora
to stay up to date on everything that is happening at Wesley!

