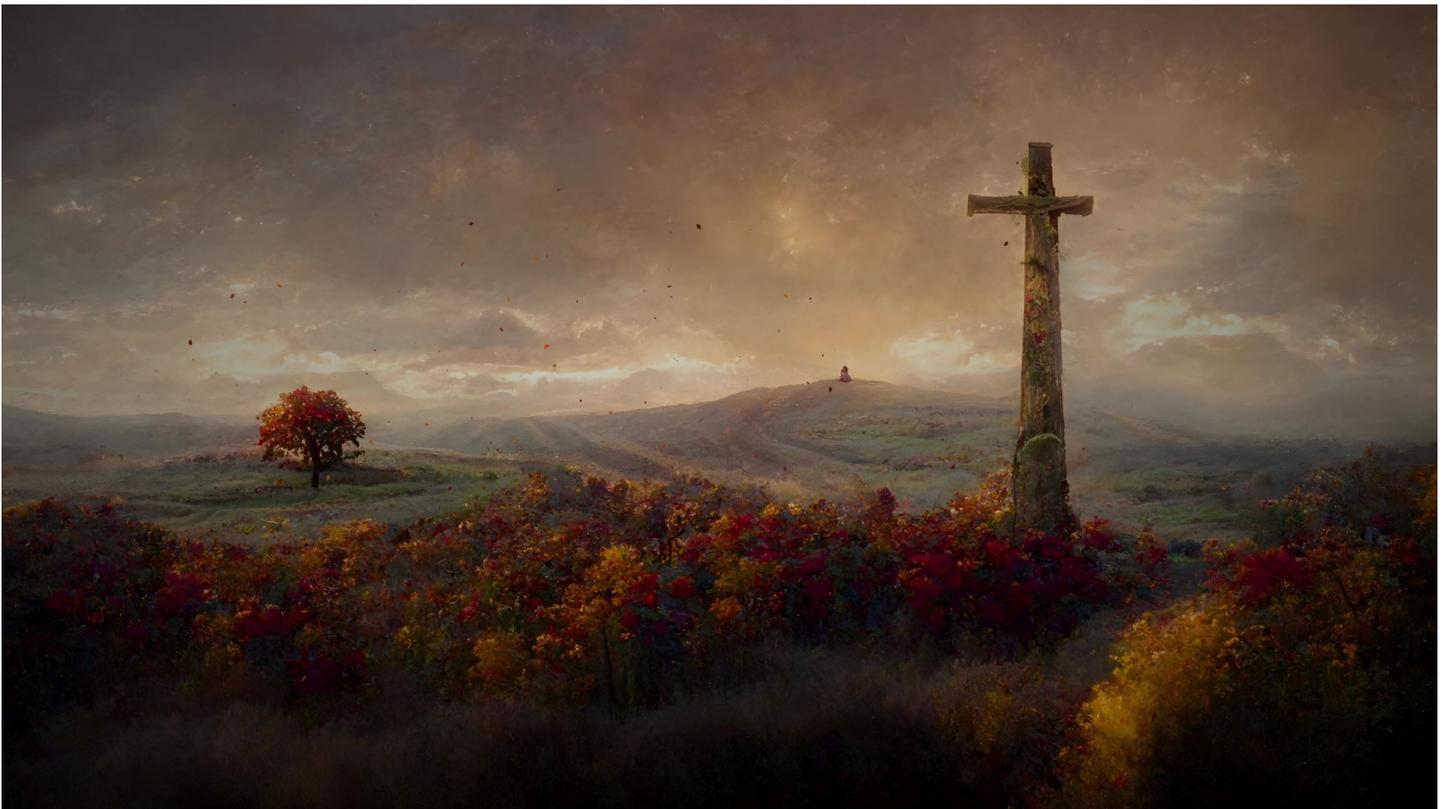


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OCTOBER 2022 EDITION



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Pastor's Column

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

When we smell something good coming from the kitchen, we have faith and hope that we are about to eat something tasty. When we see the leaves start to change color, we have faith that soon we will see snow. When we hold someone's hand, we have faith and hope that things are going to be okay.

When we entered the pandemic, we really had no idea how things were going to go. We saw the mounting case numbers and the staggering number of deaths. Some of us buried family members. We watched businesses, schools and church close. But then we started to hear about the effectiveness of masks and the possibility of a revolutionary vaccine technology. And we had faith. We hoped that one day this too would pass.

As the number of people vaccinated went up and the number of cases and deaths went down, we hoped we would be able to gather in church. While still highly contagious, for many the symptoms of COVID were like the flu. And so, with faith in our hearts we started to gather again for church.

Now that we are back, attendance has been down as well as giving. We are by no means alone in this. Every pastor I talk with says their worship attendance is half of what it was prior to COVID. As a result, we've shifted from two services to one. However, since we started back we've had about a dozen new worshipers join us every Sunday. And we raised over \$20,000 last month to help offset unbudgeted building expenses. Through faith, what we hope for is becoming a reality.

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for. I'm hopeful. I hope you are, too. While these are challenging times, we do the best we can with them. Wesley continues to show itself as a resilient congregation, up for any challenge we face. God is not finished with us yet. Jeremiah declares: ***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.***

May it be so.



Thew's Think Piece

Club or Community?

Thew Elliott, Traditional Worship and Music Director

As I continue to reflect on our upcoming centenary (In 2029 we will celebrate 100 years in our current building), one question keeps coming up for me. As we engage in private inquiry and in the necessary work of evaluating and critiquing the institutional church, this is the question that helps me focus on how to move forward: Does this decision / action / plan reflect the values of a club, or the values of a beloved community?

In my role at Wesley, I am sometimes expected to be a guardian of tradition. But that's not my own commitment. I am committed to looking at our traditions with a spirit of evaluation and interrogation, to find what is best and hold on to it, but also to find what has held us back and hold that to the light so that we can make adjustments and move on.

We're still not truly post-pandemic (will we ever be?) but we have definitely found our way back into live community with each other. As we look around we sometimes are like the denizens of a small town community in a post-apocalyptic movie, emerging from our underground shelters and surveying all the ways our world has changed forever (and in some cases, huddling in place as we wait for an "all-clear" that never comes).

Recently we've determined that a useful plan for economic sustainability will be to make more of our currently unused church spaces available to share with organizations needing affordable space. I'm all for this. I have even begun an organization of my own in the building, called Citizen Arts, with a goal to empower community through theater, story, and song events. I hope that one day every church all over the world will function throughout the week as a space for true community.

And I hope that as we consider what organizations we may begin to share space with, we will hold in mind the question: Does this work build beloved community? Let's make the whole space a shining beacon every day of the week for anyone in our city who seeks care and welcome—with no requirements of membership or dues.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday Night Gatherings

Wednesday night gatherings will continue on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6 pm. Dinner is available until 6:45 followed by multi-generation activities until 8 pm.

October 5th @ 6 pm: Tacos and Bonfire

Join us for tacos for dinner! We'll have a fall arts and crafts option for all ages followed by music, cider, and s'more making outside at the bonfire. The weather is expected to be a perfect night for a fire.

October 19th @ 6 pm: Chili and Halloween Activities

Join us for chili and cornbread for dinner followed by a viewing of Hocus Pocus and Halloween crafts for all ages!

Youth Group Pumpkin Patch Outing

Wesley's Youth Group will be going out to Abbey Farms for some quality time and fun on Sunday, October 16th after service around 12 pm until 4 pm. Lunch will be provided after service then we will head to Abbey Farms. Drivers are needed to help transport youth to and from Abbey Farms. Reach out to Michelle if you are willing to help drive.

Youth Group families, email Michelle to RSVP at michellecuriel.wumc@gmail.com.



Wesley friends & family enjoying Pasta & Paint night in September!

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.



Upcoming Events

Fox Valley Brass Band

"Songs from the North Sea"

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 online.

Trunk or Treat

We're hosting a Trunk or Treat at Wesley on Sunday, October 30th from 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to display trunks! Lunch will be provided for volunteers after service and set up will be from 12-12:30. We then ask that you stick around until the end of the event for the prize of "Best Trunk" as well as to help clean up whatever is left until 3 pm. If you are interested in being a part of this fun event, we ask that you sign up with your name and your trunk theme either on the sign up form in the narthex or online [here](#).

This event is open to the community and we are excited to provide a fun option for our neighbors this Halloween season!

Charge Conference

The annual charge conference will be held on Wednesday, October 19th at 7:00pm. in the sanctuary. The charge conference is the annual meeting of the congregation. The District Superintendent, Rev. Jeffry Bross, will be chairing the meeting. There will be time for conversation with the superintendent. Nominations, membership updates and the pastor's salary will be approved at the meeting. If you have questions, please contact Chairperson Kathy Breazeale or Pastor John.

Events Recap

World Card Making Day

United Women in Faith (UWF) members and guests gathered on Saturday, October 1st to craft greeting cards for friends and family in recognition of World Card Making Day.



Shrek Movie Night

About 20 kids joined us for our last outdoor movie night of the year on September 23rd.

Outreach

Donations Needed

Please review the list below and consider donating to help immigrants arriving from Texas. There is a collection box in Wesley's narthex.

- Small size clothing (especially socks and underwear/sports bras)
- First Aid kits (Band-aids, Bandages, etc.)
- Medications for adults and children (e.g. Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, etc.)
- Personal Hygiene items (toiletries, feminine products, etc.)
- Duffle Bags/Small Suitcases

Please drop off by October 16th and items will be delivered to collection point at Sugar Grove UMC.

West Aurora SD129 Diaper Drive

We are helping West Aurora SD129 collect diapers during the week of October 24th-28th. They are greatly in need of:

- Diapers—sized 4, 5 & 6
- Baby Wipes

Please drop off by October 30th at Trunk or Treat (12:30-2:30pm) as items will be picked up by SD129 on 10/31.

United Women in Faith

Tips for October 2022

A revered spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama reminds us, “Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of individuals can have far-reaching effects.” **Individual action matters, especially if you talk about it.** Your example, your words are rippling out and inspiring others to act for creation justice.

Compost food waste and more (leaves, paper, pet fur, coffee filters). Twenty to 45% of landfill is organic and creates methane gas, which contributes to global warming. Instead, you can compost, which is nature’s way to nourish the soil. Browse for easy and effective options: backyard bin, indoor machine, commercial pick up, sharing a service with a neighbor.

Go after those sneaky leaky windows and doors. Rather than add a space heater or crank up the whole HVAC system, get a caulking gun and hunt for gaps to fill. A little effort will keep you warmer in winter and cooler in summer and save emissions and dollars.

When you shop for clothes online, **shop for companies that are kind to Mother Earth.** Check their website for the “About Us” story of their commitment to sustainability, to fair practices for their workers, and to giving back (planting trees, for example). If the cost is higher than you would pay for “fast fashion,” recognize that your purchase is supporting a sea change in an industry that has been abusive to earth. Check out [Arrayed](#), [TenTree](#) [United by Blue](#), [Pact](#).

As election season heats up, remember that the planet is also heating up! **Scrutinize candidates for their stand** on dealing with climate change and the injustices done to so many people. Do your homework at all levels of government—federal, state, and local. Vote your values.

Does that sweet potato really need a plastic wrap? When you only want 1 squash, are you stuck with 3 because they are packaged that way (using plastic and Styrofoam, of course)? **Go for loose produce or browse “mesh bags for produce.”** With a one-time purchase of the bags, you’ll keep lots of plastic out of landfills.

Jesus has told us that we are to care for the “least of these who are members of [Christ’s] family” (Matthew 25:40). Working to ameliorate climate change recognizes that people like Jesus described, those with few resources or connections, will suffer the most from the ravages that are more and more evident. **Jesus calls us to care for humanity and to work for climate justice.**

Hillcrest UMC (Nashville, TN) fired up 75 volunteers from the church and community and planted 400 trees along the banks of the stream that runs through the church property. In short order, the church saw improved water clarity, healthier vegetation, more fish, less flooding downstream, and continued flow during the driest summer. **Look at your church property for planting potential.**

United Women in Faith

October, before the first frost, is good for planting perennials. Perennials are good for pollinators, for withstanding drought, and for saving money. **Plant some power flowers for the environment.**

Manufacturing just 1 Styrofoam cup demands 10 times the amount of water used to wash just 1 reusable cup. **Switch to washable cups at home, at work, and at church.** Use your own cup if you regularly purchase coffee. Tell the barista no thanks to single-use foam.

The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement is providing these Tips as a tool to equip church members, families, and individuals to respond to God's call to care for creation and do justice with our neighbors.

For more about the UM Creation Justice Movement, go to umcreationjustice.org.



United
Women
in Faith

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

Tuesday Crafters

Tuesday Night Crafters are currently holding virtual gatherings via Zoom. At this time, we are sharing projects we have been working on. Please contact Vicki Martin at 630-859-2320 or vickimartin2@comcast.net if you are interested in joining the Crafters on one of these meetings.



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, October 25th at 1:30pm at Sharon Livingston's home.



Discipleship

Bad Girls Book Study

Bad Girls finished Kristen Ziman's book, 'Reimagining Blue: Thoughts on Life, Leadership, and a New Way Forward in Policing' at our potluck on September 20 at Carol Stoffel's home. We chose our next book, "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett. 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. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 12, again 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 hope to discuss the first half of the book, but we ramble a lot in our discussions, so we'll see!! If you are interested in joining us for fun, fellowship, and great book discussions, contact Meredith Lindgren, 630-788-6911 or psalmmom418@gmail.com.

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 planning committee recently met and have made plans for two get-togethers for fall. We will have a Let's Go Leaf All Your Troubles Behind Party on Friday, October 28, at 7 pm at the home of Wally and Paula Loague. Guests are invited to bring an appetizer or sweet to share and your favorite beverage. We will have an Ugly Sweater/White Elephant Christmas Party on Saturday, December 17. More details will be provided closer to the event. 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!

Congregational Care

Birthdays

Dave Studdard 10/1

Nadjate Yacoubou 10/1

Dorita Godfrey 10/2

Bruce Covalt 10/12

Ruth Ann Little 10/16

Lisa DeKing 10/17

Wendy Evans 10/20

Amy Waid 10/25

Isabella Rigaud 10/25

Joe Rigaud 10/26

Marion Dodd taught Carol Stoffel a new card game during their visit at the Greenfields in Geneva in September.



Carol Stoffel visited with Bev Benson and her dog Augie at her home in Batavia.

Financial Update

	1/1 – 9/15/22	Annual Budget for 2022
Pledge and Non-Pledge Giving	249,979.93	280,899.96
Other Income	39,923.68	188,979.12
	Expenses	
Worship	4,618.65	8,049.96
Discipleship	3,080.67	4,350.00
Outreach	2,030.35	3,500.00
Operating Costs	122,564.23	127,009.12
Salaries	204,560.02	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



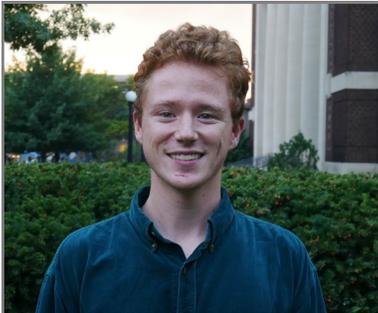
Thew Elliott
Director of
Traditional Worship



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

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le.burnett@yahoo.com

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630-264-2892
emmyloujohn@yahoo.com

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Wesley Gardeners

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Wesley Golfers

Ralph Breazeale
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jrbreeze47@comcast.net

Yoga Classes

Ann Merk
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asm52@yahoo.com

Governing Board

Bob McKnight

Kathy Breazeale

Wally Loague

Jim Merk

Mary Terrell

DiAnn Wiley

Roger Curless

Rev. John Bell

Jonathan Akyea



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to stay up to date on everything that is happening at Wesley!

