

wesleyan

APRIL 2024 EDITION



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Pastor's Column

Greetings Members and Friends of Wesley United Methodist Church,

As I write this letter, it is the start of Holy Week. A week filled with a roller coaster of emotions as we journey with Jesus and his followers with joy and excitement as he enters Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna!" Then our hearts are filled with sadness and despair when Jesus shares his last meal with his disciples, is arrested, beaten, and hung on a cross to die. And then we experience a joy like none other we have ever known when the stone is rolled away and the tomb is empty on Easter morning. The emotions we feel in this week are intense and changing rapidly.

Speaking of change...the seasons have changed! Spring has officially arrived! Spring is my favorite season! I love to see the world come alive again each spring. I wait with eager anticipation for the day when all of a sudden the grass seems to be green again. I long for the first signs of budding leaves beginning to sprout on the trees. When the daffodils begin to bloom and sprinkle the Earth with glimpses of color, I cannot help but smile. And of course...spring is also the signal that baseball is back! But mostly I love spring for the signs of new birth...those living things that have been dormant over the winter breaking into our world new and alive once again!

It seems fitting then that we celebrate Easter in spring! After all, we are celebrating new life, an empty tomb, forgiveness, resurrection, and more! What once was dead, is now alive! What once caused great heartache and sadness, now brings joy and hope! Easter is not a single day; Easter is a season!

The Easter Season is a time of celebrating all the ways in which resurrection is possible in our lives. We can be in need of rising out of the depth of imprisonment, addiction, poverty, illness, and oppression — not just physically and literally, but also spiritually. What keeps us locked up inside? What holds us back from the joy of life? What binds us, keeping us from the fullness of who God created us to be? Join us in worship starting April 7th for powerful testimonies of courage, kindness, strength, and overcoming — Resurrection Stories — from those who have found "resurrection" in their lives. It might just inspire you to unlock your own rising up!

Blessings,

Rev. Tammy Scott

You are welcome at Wesley UMC
for worship this Easter Season
April 7-May 19, 2024

Sunday Worship
9:30am Online
(<https://wesleyumcaurora.online.church/>)
10:30am In our Sanctuary

*Resurrection
Stories*
Unlock yours.

14 N. May St. Aurora, IL 60506
www.wesleyumcaurora.org/

Worship

Resurrection Stories

April 7—We may be imprisoned by many things. Jesus’ declaration that he had come to “set the prisoner free” can be interpreted for all of us, whether or not we’ve ever experienced being behind literal prison bars. This day, we will hear a Resurrection Story that moves from chains to freedom. We will reflect on how we can each step into freedom from whatever binds us.

April 14— *United Women in Faith Sunday*

April 21—What is it like to literally not have a home, a place to lay your head at night? “Homeless” can also mean a sense of not feeling “at home,” lacking a feeling of belonging, feeling alone even in the midst of others. So many in this world are isolated. How can we find, and offer each other, “home” with the assurance of the presence of God and a beloved community?

April 28—Illness of mind, body, or spirit can sap us of our life passion and energy. Sometimes illness can change the course of our lives forever, asking us to adapt in ways we never imagined. And while illness is not visited upon anyone by God’s design, sometimes limitations open our eyes to other possibilities. We will look for a different perspective on how we deal with any life-altering situation.

**Don't Miss Wesley's Spring Craft Fair on
Saturday April 6th from 9am-2pm!**



DiAnn Wiley



On Sunday, March 17th, we honored DiAnn Wiley for her five years of service on Wesley's Governing Board.

Palm Sunday

Our Holy Week began with Palm Sunday and the story of Jesus's procession into Jerusalem when cheering crowds laid palm branches and cloaks on Jesus' path.



Hymn Fest at New England

On Sunday, April 14, at 4 p.m. the New England Congregational Church along with the Fox Valley American Guild of Organists will present a free and open to the public Hymn Festival in the sanctuary of the New England Congregational Church, 406 West Galena Blvd., Aurora. Leading the congregation with each organist accompanying one hymn will be eight organists who are members of the Fox Valley AGO chapter. They are: Adam Gruber, Oak Park; Nicholas Hansen, Sycamore; Daniel Schroeder, Batavia; Marianne Kim, Oak Brook; Barbara Masters, Elmhurst; Andrew Maya, Aurora; Karl Bruhn, Lombard; and Jeff Neufeld, Elgin. Preceding each hymn will be a short, informative narrative given by Dr. Jane Holstein, former keyboard editor of Hope Publishing Co.

A special organ solo, "Wachet auf" by J.S. Bach will be played by 13 year old Anthony Adduci, student of Daniel Pollack.

As well as the organ, congregational hymn singing will be accompanied by the Stonegate Brass Ensemble directed by Paul Semanic. Paul Laprade will conduct the brass/organ segments. Marsha Foxgrover, New England organist, and Dr. Steven Wentz of Concordia University are the Co-Chairs for the event. There will be a gala reception provided by NECC following the Hymn Festival.

Free parking is available directly west of the church, the law offices parking on Galena, on-street parking, parking at Our Savior Lutheran Church on Downer Place, and the strip mall parking on the corner of Chestnut and Galena.

Spring 5B's BBQ

TUESDAY APRIL 16TH

4:30 - 6:30 PM

Presale \$15

Day of \$16

Hot Dogs \$7

Don't forget to order your pork chop, chicken or hot dog meal for dinner on

Tuesday, April 16th!

Pick up in Wesley parking lot.

Click [here](#) to order!

United Women in Faith

Circles

Both Hannah & Susanna Circles met in person at church on March 19th. Our program was centered on Matthew 5:13: "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?" We sampled various salts and did an art project that helped us understand the impact that salt has on watercolors (See bookmark picture). This led to our discussing how we are to be the salt of the earth (followers of Jesus) and consider ways that we can keep our saltiness while involved in mission projects for women, children & youth around the world through United Women in Faith.



Hannah Circle members enjoying treats.

L to R:
Sharon Livingston, Kathy Breazeale, Laurel Gilbert,
Lynn Burnett, Shirley McKnight. Photo by Emmy Lou
John



Pictured are L to R: Emmy Lou John,
Meredith Lindgren, Mari Curless,
Lynnette Singh & Paula Loague



United Women in Faith Sunday

All are invited to worship with United Women in Faith on Sunday, April 14th online or in person. During the service we will be sharing the results of our No Idling Project and making the bumper sticker available for those who wish to attach them on their vehicles. Then all women are invited to stay after church for the UWF Unit meeting. Please bring a salad to share for us to enjoy together.

United Women in Faith



Women's Study Day

On March 9th, Claudia Smith, Betty Aquize, Mari Curless, Becky John and Emmy Lou John attended the Annual World Federation of Methodist and United Church Women's Study Day at Wesley UMC, 95th Street near the Dan Ryan in Chicago. They were joined by women from the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal & United Methodist's United Women in Faith. Experiencing worship, fellowship, food and learning about what each of the different Women's Missionary Units are doing filled the morning.

Pictured in the front are Claudia and Betty with Mari and Emmy Lou a few rows behind.

Willow UMC Parcel Post Auction Box Project: We are all invited to take part in an auction in Alaska without even traveling there!

For several years United Women in Faith have encouraged Wesley friends & members to participate in the Willow UMC's Parcel Post Auction Box project. It is a yearly fundraiser for their food pantry. Here we collect items that are unique to our area--crafts, food, souvenirs, sports memorabilia, etc. and fill a flat rate postal box and send it on its way by April 10th. The box is auctioned off unopened by the postmark on April 27th. Boxes usually go for \$50 to \$150.

Look for the Alaska display on Sunday, April 7th and share some items or cash and we will purchase local items for the box. What would you suggest to go into the box?

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. Our annual St. Patrick's Day party at the Breazeale's was a great success! There was plenty of Irish inspired food and wearin' of the green! Our next event is a Post Easter Egg-citing, Eggs-quisite party! Bring your favorite egg dishes and beverages to the home of Shirley and Bob McKnight for a fun evening of egg-inspired food and fellowship! Perhaps you have a family recipe for quiche, salad, or a casserole you'd love to share? Or perhaps a favorite dessert? Cakes have eggs in them! The party starts at 6 pm. It will be an egg-stravaganza!

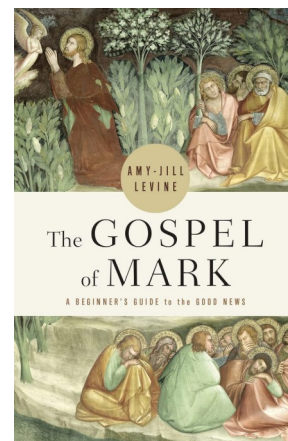
If anyone would like to host a get-together, or if you have any ideas for get-togethers, please contact me. If you are interested in attending future Let's Go functions and aren't on the list, please contact Meredith Lindgren, 630-788-6911 or psalmmom418@gmail.com. I will gladly add you to the list!



Discipleship

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, April 10, 2024, at the home of Paula Loague. We will meet at 6 pm for a delicious soup dinner. Discussion of our book begins at 7 pm. We are reading “The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner’s Guide to the Good News” by Amy-Jill Levine and will be discussing Chapter 4. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 24, details TBD. If you are interested in joining us, contact Meredith Lindgren, 630-788-6911 or psalmmom418@gmail.com.



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 at noon at Mother’s Pancake House on Galena Blvd. All are welcome! Contact Lynn Burnett at le.burnett@yahoo.com for details on our next meeting.

Tuesday Crafters

The Tuesday Crafters met to learn how to turn a napkin into a Easter card. We made two different versions using only one half of the napkin. If you are interested in expanding your crafting horizons; the group will be meeting again on April 10th at 7pm at Wesley. Please let Emmy Lou John know so there will be enough supplies for you. You can contact her at emmyloujohn@yahoo.com or 630-264-7982.



Readers and Greeters Needed!

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. Or see me at church on Sundays!

Girl Scout Sunday

Pastor Tammy led a prayer honoring the dedication and contributions of Girl Scouting, emphasizing the organization's role in nurturing leadership and positive values among young women.



Wednesday Night Gatherings

Coming up in April!

April 3rd—Pasta and Family Game Night

April 17th—Dinner and Activity TBD



On March 6th, Jim Merk led an enjoyable and educational Science Night!

On March 20th, we celebrated Easter with a brunch and a glow-in-the-dark egg hunt!



April Birthdays



Bev Benson 4/1
Paula Loague 4/6
Bob McKnight 4/7
Ann Merk 4/7
Cindy Whitehall 4/7
Donna Doubek 4/8
Ziyad Yacoubou 4/9
Lora Swanson 4/14
Meredith Lindgren 4/18
Henry Clarke 4/26
Billie Sears 4/27
J.T. Connell 4/28
Delia Akyea 4/28

2024 General Conference

The Postponed 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church will take place April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina. General Conference, comprising 862 clergy and lay delegates from many parts of the globe, is the sole authoritative voice of The United Methodist Church. Please consider praying for the delegates and The UMC in the days leading up to GC. The Upper Room prayer guide for April 7-23 can be found [here](#). Or you can use this [prayer calendar](#) from the Northern Illinois Conference to guide your prayers.

Quarterly Financial Update

	1st Quarter	Annual Budget for 2024
Pledge and Non-Pledge Giving	61,705.60	280,899.96
Other Income	41,740.54	188,979.12
	Expenses	
Worship	455.00	8,049.96
Discipleship	236.10	4,350.00
Outreach	0	3,500.00
Operating Costs	36,092.00	127,009.12
Salaries & Benefits	62,604.93	288,244.80
Apportionments	0	37,000.00

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

Staff



Rev. Tammy Scott
Senior Pastor
revtammyscott@gmail.com



Thew Elliott
Director of
Traditional Worship
thew.wumc@gmail.com



Michelle Curiel
Director of Praise &
Worship /Children & Family
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jennifer.wumc@gmail.com



Sean Moore
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and Technician
sean.wumc@gmail.com



Claire Agoro
Custodian

Coordinators



Jenny Pawlowski
Administration



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
rwb7247@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)
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

Dave Studdard

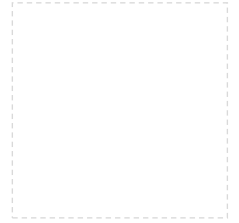
Rev. Tammy Scott



Wesley
UNITED
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CHURCH

14 N May St, Aurora IL 60506-3867

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9am-2pm and Wednesday 9am-12pm

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

