

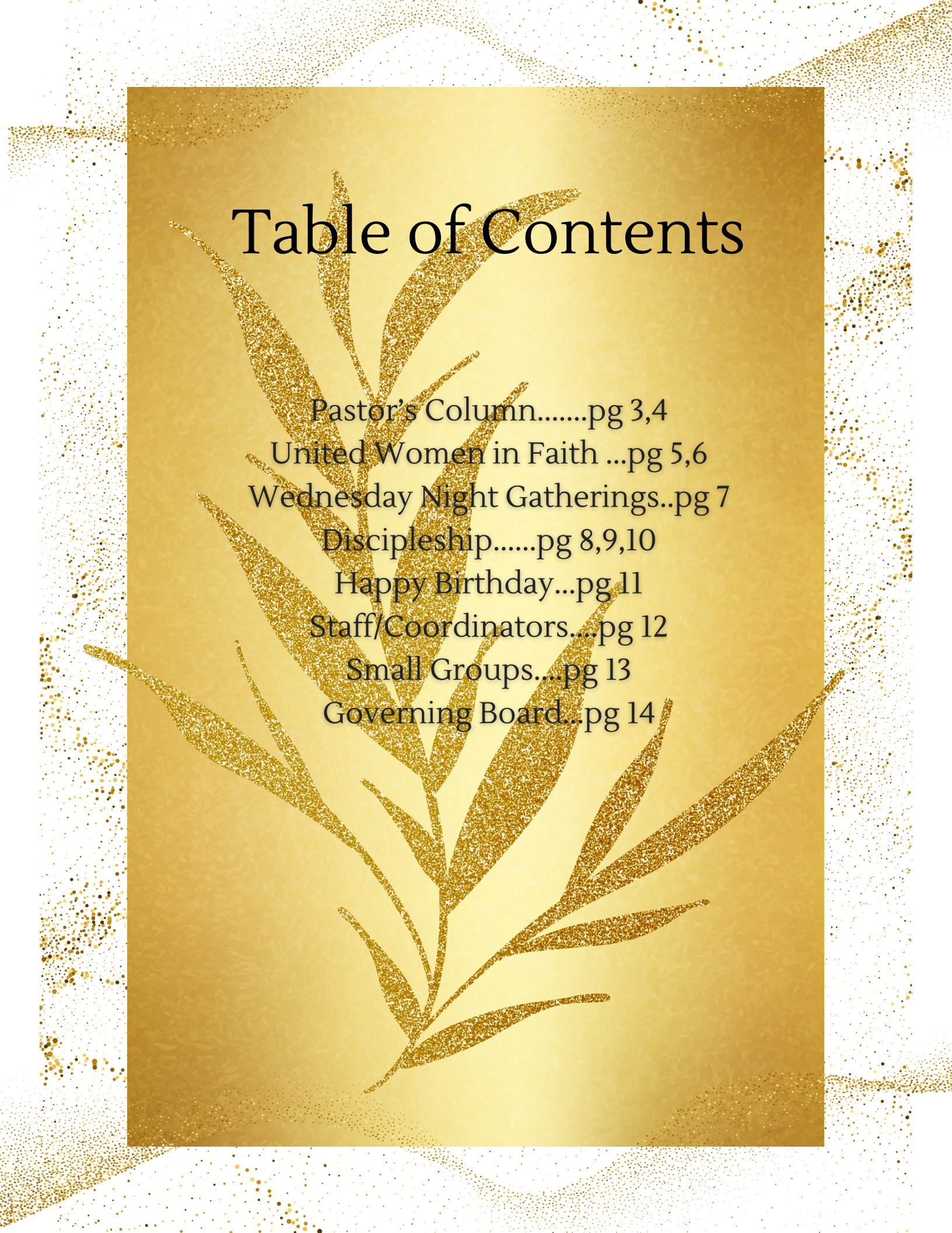
WESLEYAN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
WESLEY UMC

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2024



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PASTOR'S COLUMN

Greetings Members and Friends of Wesley United Methodist Church,

Happy New Year! Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th each year. This is the day we are reminded of the Magi traveling from far away lands to come and see the Christ Child and to bring him gifts. We know that the Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too should use all the resources we have available to us—including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year—to move us closer to Jesus. And, we trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us.

On Sunday, January 7th, you will receive a STAR WORD in worship. If you are unable to attend on January 7th, you can pick one up in the office during the week (M-F 9:30-1:30pm), ask for one to be mailed to you, or pick one up in worship throughout January. Star words are one such lens that might provide us with a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight. The most common prayer practice for many involves speaking to God as opposed to silence or contemplation. Star words provide us with a way to not only speak, but also to listen for God in the year ahead.

You might want to think about these questions as you start to live with your star word for this new year. Maybe you just ponder them, maybe you like to journal, or maybe you want to talk them out with someone. (You can always schedule a time to chat with Pastor Tammy if you would like. Email: revtammyscott@gmail.com or Call/Text 630-254-4127).

- What is your initial reaction or response to this word?
- What meaning comes to mind immediately?
- Spend some time with a dictionary and explore the various meanings of this word.
- Reflect on how you think - right now - this word might play out.
- What scares you about this word? What excites you about this word?
- What's unexpected about this word?

Keep your star word in a place where you can see it regularly--tape it to a mirror or door, place it in your car...someplace you will notice it everyday! Hold space for new thoughts about it to pop up as you live your daily life.

Finally, here is a prayer that you can use once, daily, weekly, or monthly.

Star Word Prayer

God, we acknowledge that we are not always ready to receive your best gifts for us. You have given us an epiphany word in order that our searching will bring us to you. It is often our habit to turn aside, stumble over, or even reject experiences and encounters that we later understand to have been precious gifts. Help us to be open to the gift that you offer us now through our star words. We acknowledge that we do not fully understand what this word might mean for our faith, but we receive it from you with gratitude and pray that your Spirit will enable us to live into our word with intention and faithfulness. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Tammy Scott

WHY
CHURCH

Worship @ Wesley January 7-February 11
as we read through the Gospel of Mark
and think about **Why Church?**

Sunday Worship: Online 9:30am and In Person 10:30am

Wesley United Methodist Church, 14 N. May St., Aurora, IL 60506

www.wesleyumcaurora.org/

The start of a new year often means trying new things! One of the NEW things we will be doing in 2024 is a new sermon series: WHY CHURCH? We will be reading our way through the Gospel of Mark and learning all about Jesus' life and ministry. And as we hear these stories of Jesus, we will challenge ourselves to answer the question WHY CHURCH? The answer is different for different people, but when we know clearly in our hearts and minds "Why Church?" we are more likely to place God, Jesus, and the Church as priorities in our lives. So, here's your first challenge of 2024...challenge yourself to come to church 1 time more than your average. If you typically come once a month, come twice. If you typically come twice a month, come 3 times. If you typically come 3 times a month, come every Sunday. If you attend every Sunday already, push yourself to volunteer in a new way or attend a class or small group that you haven't attended before. Let's work together to answer the question: WHY CHURCH?

Join us on Sundays in January and February
to begin to answer that question for yourself!

Sunday, January 7th
Sunday, January 14th
Sunday, January 21st
Sunday, January 28th
Sunday, February 4th
Sunday, February 11th

Re-Imagination
Re-Creation
Reconnection
Resurrection
Reorientation
Revelation

Mark 2:1-22
Mark 4:1-34
Mark 5:1-20
Mark 5:21-43
Mark 6:1-29
Mark 8:27-9:8



United Women in Faith

Thanks to our Bakers, Candy Makers, and donators the 2023 COOKIE WALK was a success! Below is a photo of the boxes given to our Homebound Wesley members.



We are excited that the last of the large Styrofoam clam shell boxes were used up and new paper boxes purchased with the help of our donors. United Women in Faith continually tries to be more sustainable in our practices.
This is one of the boxes of cookies that were sold.





Our Unit's Christmas Party on Dec. 3, was held at Lekha's home. During the meeting, the 2024 budget of \$4,450 (which includes our pledge to the UWinF Prairie Central District of \$3,500) was passed. The following officers were elected for 2024:

- President: Emmy Lou John
Vice-President: Kari Nicholson-Rigaud
Secretary: Sharon Livingston
Treasurer: Lekha Cristanujaya
Program Resources: Lynnette Singh
Membership Secretary: Cindy Whitehall
Remembrances: Wendy Evans
Social Action: Sarah Swanson
Nominations: Vicki Martin

Rev. Tammy Scott installed the officers with a service that included the members' willingness to support the organization by holding onto a ribbon that united us. Following tradition, **A CUP OF CHRISTMAS TEA** was read after which we enjoyed a White Elephant gift exchange.

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Circle meetings will be held the third Tuesday of January.
Mark your calendars for these proposed Prairie Central District events:

January is (of course) Mission U

February 24th will be a joint zoom meeting with the other Prairie Districts giving us a time to SHARE: Serving Humanity And Recharging Each other

April 27th will be a field trip to the Billy Graham Museum in Wheaton

June 22nd will be a time of service either at SCARCE or Feed My Starving Children

July again (of course) Mission U July 12-14th at Stronghold Retreat Center, or July 19-21st at Wesley Woods in Williams Bay, WI

August 10th will be a field trip to Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee, another National Mission Institution

September 14th will be the Prairie Central Annual Celebration - Celebrating the year of serving and learning.

October 26th will be the United Women in Faith Northern Illinois Conference Annual Celebration

WEDNESDAY NIGHT GATHERING



The past month in December, we had a game night, crafted Christmas cards, and celebrated Christmas. Join us in January for Wednesday Night Gathering, a community dinner with intergenerational activities provided afterward for connection and fun!

**1ST, 3RD AND 5TH WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 6-8 PM
JANUARY 3RD, JANUARY 17TH, AND JANUARY 31ST.**



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 Annual Christmas Party/White Elephant Gift Exchange! We had delicious Christmas-inspired appetizers and sweets. We sang Christmas carols and exchanged silly white elephant gifts. And we enjoyed the fellowship of friends!

Our next Let's Go event will be a Game Night at the home of Susan and Del Clark, at the Holmstad, on Saturday January 12, 2024. More information will be forthcoming as details are sorted out.

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. She 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, January 10, 2024, at the home of Laurel Gilbert. We will meet at 6 pm for a delicious soup 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 5 and possibly 6, and the discussion promises to be lively! If you are interested in joining us, contact Meredith Lindgren, 630-788-6911 or psalmmom418@gmail.com.



WANTED: Readers & 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. Or talk with her at church on Sundays!

LET'S GO PICTURES



BAD GIRLS BOOK STUDY



MUG CLUB



CHILDREN LEAD THE WAY



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



**1/1 Karen Covalt
1/7 Ralph Breazeale
1/14 Isabel Ely Errickson
1/14 Wally Loague 111**

STAFF



Rev. Tammy Scott
Senior Pastor

revtammyscott@gmail.com



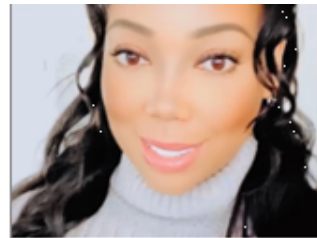
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Sean Moore
Audio-Visual Editor and
Technician

sean.wumc@gmail.com



Claire Agoro
Custodian errail

COORDINATORS



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

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

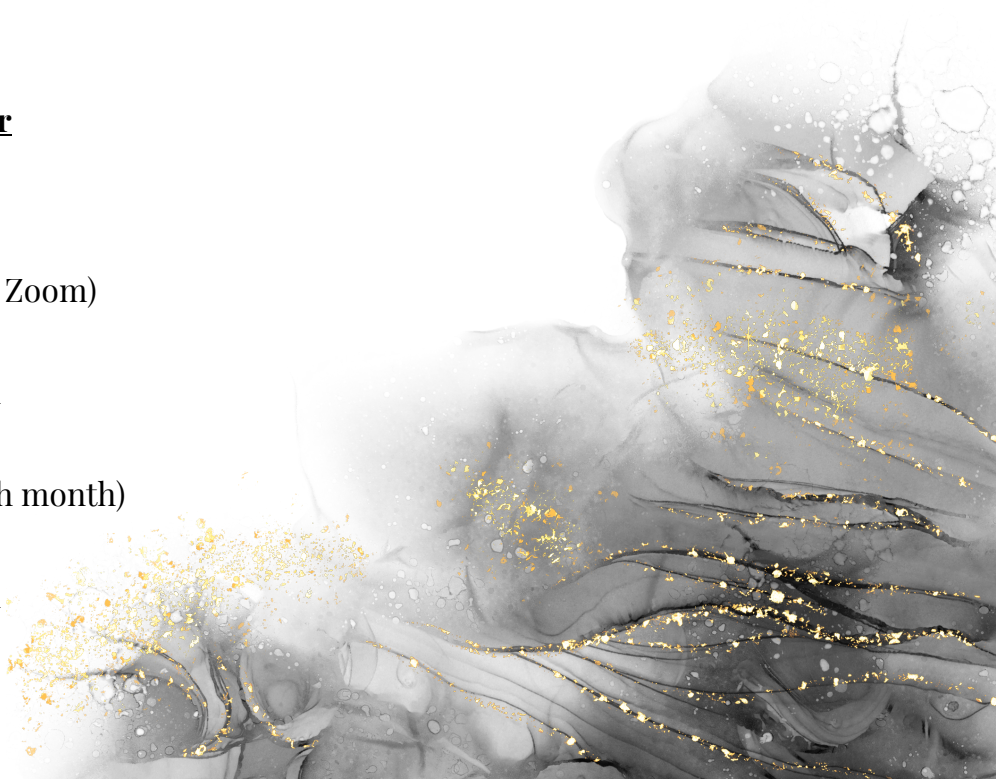
Meredith Lindgren
630-788-6911 psalmmom418@gmail.com

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



Happy New Year





Wesley

UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

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630.896.1033 | wesleyumcaurora.org
Office Hours: 9:30-1:30pm

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!

