

wesleyan

SEPTEMBER 2023 EDITION



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Pastor's Column

Greetings Members and Friends of Wesley UMC,

This past month I have had the opportunity to meet more people from Wesley and I am continuing to get the feeling that Wesley is truly a family! I also met more people who share our building to serve the community. I have explored the city of Aurora a little bit, met with community members, tried a couple more restaurants (keep your suggestions coming!), and offered the invocation at the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 22nd.

At home we have done some schedule adjusting and are beginning to figure out our school year rhythm. Hannah & Haylee started 3rd grade at Southbury Elementary School in Oswego and cheered for their first Panthers football game at 8:30am on a Sunday and made it to church (still in their cheer uniforms!) The girls are making lots of new friends both in the neighborhood and at school. I am excited to watch them grow as students, as Christians, and as people who love and care for themselves and their friends/neighbors. This coming month, I am looking forward to meeting more Wesley people, more building use partners, more community members (especially at our Wednesday Night Gatherings—September 6 & 20), and trying more new restaurants! But I am also very excited about our new worship series “**Campfire Stories**” that starts Sunday September 10th (9:30am online and 10:30am in person)!

When was the last time you sat around a campfire telling stories? Have you ever thought about how the stories in the Bible were originally shared? I imagine many of them were shared person to person, family to family sitting around a table, campfire, or other common gathering place. So, let's hear some of those familiar and not-so familiar Old Testament stories as we begin our journey into God's Story. September through May we will hear God's Story told through the Narrative Lectionary (<https://www.workingpreacher.org/narrative-faq>). As we listen to God's Story unfold this year, it is my hope that we will also deepen our faith and our understanding of how we are a part of God's Story that continues to be written today!

The Bible stories we will hear include the major episodes in Scripture. They are arranged in a narrative sequence to help us see Scripture as a story that has coherence and a dynamic movement:

- From September to mid-December the preaching texts begin with the early chapters of Genesis, move through the stories of Israel's early history, the exodus, the kings, prophets, exile and return.
- From Christmas to Easter there is sustained reading of one of the four gospels
- From Easter to Pentecost the texts are chosen from Acts and Paul's letters.

Join us for worship as we begin our journey and step into God's Story at the beginning (the story of creation and the Garden of Eden as told in Genesis 2:4b-25) on Sunday September 10th.

Blessings,



Pastor Tammy



Worship

Sabbath (August 27-September 3)

As the summer winds down and our focus shifts to fall: back to school, harvest, time change, and more, let's take a couple of weeks and focus our thoughts on SABBATH! We will consider the commandment for Sabbath (Yes...it's one of the 10!) and the benefits to us individually and as a community!

September 3— *Rev. Gary Hougen preaches*

Sabbath for Community Leviticus 25:1-17—The Jubilee Year

Campfire Stories (September 10-October 29)

When was the last time you sat around a campfire telling stories? Have you ever thought about how the stories in the Bible were originally shared? I imagine many of them were shared person to person, family to family sitting around a table, campfire, or other common gathering place. So, let's hear some of those familiar and not-so familiar Old Testament stories to deepen our understanding of "Our Story" and how it impacts our faith today.

September 10 — **Working Together** Genesis 2:4b-25 – Garden of Eden

September 17 — **Children bring laughter** Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 – Isaac born to Sarah

September 24 — **Wrestling with God** Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30 – Jacob Wrestles God

Wednesday Night Gatherings Resume

Wednesday Night Gatherings will resume on September 6th, 6-8pm. Join us for a cookout on the New York Street lawn followed by outdoor games, crafts, and getting to know our neighbors. Bring a side to share if you are able! If there is rain, we will meet in the Gathering Place.



Outreach

Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry Kids Pop-Up Food Pantry

On Saturday, September 2nd, Wesley will host Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry's monthly Kids Pop-Up Food Pantry in the parking lot from 12-2pm. Volunteers from Wesley and the Pantry will help by loading groceries into cars. There is no registration required and the event is first-come, first-served. If you'd like to help out, you can sign up [here](#).

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith invite all women to a salad potluck on Sunday, September 10th at 11:30am in the Gathering Place. This will be a great opportunity to meet and get to know Rev. Tammy Scott. There will be a very short business meeting right after lunch.

Citizen Arts

Citizen Arts ran a page-to-stage theater camp the last week of July which was great fun! Lots of good things are happening in the Wesley building.



Meals on the Move Recap

Our Meals on the Move program in partnership with the Northern IL Food Banks, came to an end on August 10th. Thank you to all who donated materials, supplies, and your time to make this program happen. We had lots of fun getting to know our neighbors and providing arts, crafts and outdoor activities to the community families while they picked up their lunches. We're looking forward to participating next summer in creating community and partnering with the Northern Illinois Food Bank.



Dream All Star Cheer

Through Simply Destinee, we were introduced to Melanie Campos, director of Dream All Star Cheer who was looking for a place for her cheerleading program to practice. Wesley's gym was available, and they now hold their practices here on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.



Member Visits



Ruth Ann was visited by Ella and Amy Karl and Lynn Burnett at Tillers in Oswego.



Carol Stoffel and Pastor Tammy met with Ruth Ann outside. Tammy and Ruth Ann discussed their mutual love of the Cubs!

Ruth Ann moved to Sunnymere near Phillips Park at the end of August. Her new address is: 925 6th Ave., Room 102, Aurora, IL 60505



Carol and Tammy shared a lunch and toured the gardens with Martha Griffith and her son Jim at Sunrise-Brighton Gardens in St. Charles.



They also visited Bev Benson at Bickford in St. Charles. Bev recently celebrated her 93rd birthday with her family at her home in Batavia.

September Birthdays

Amy Karl 9/3

Sam Ely-Erickson 9/12

Mari Curless 9/14

Kari Nicholson-Rigaud 9/17

Ella Karl 9/18

Pat Price 9/20

Jewel Sapnu 9/21

Ed Skaggs 9/22

Sean Moore 9/24

Laurel Gilbert 9/25

Wesley Garden Club

Calling all gardeners! Our Wesley gardens are still in need of some TLC during the fall months. Please consider helping out with weeding and watering. You can call Courtney, our new administrative coordinator, 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. Courtney 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

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

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, September 13, at the home of Carol Stoffel. We meet at 6 pm for dinner, usually a potluck or soup dinner. Discussion of our book begins at 7 pm. We haven't picked our next book yet, but we are taking suggestions! As always, we will enjoy food, fellowship and conversation, as well as a discussion of the book we will choose. If you have any good books you are reading or have read, you can share those with the group. If you are interested in joining us, 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 first event has been planned! We will have a Fall Into Fall party at the home of Jim and Ann Merk on Saturday, September 9. Join us for some Fall fun! Participants should bring a savory or sweet dish to share and their favorite beverages. Bring a lawn chair if you like, for enjoying the outdoors! The party starts at 6:30 pm. RSVP to Ann at asm52@yahoo.com. 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.

Financial Update

	1/1– 8/15/23	Annual Budget for 2023
Pledge and Non-Pledge Giving	182,342.96	280,899.96
Other Income	114,151.55	188,979.12
	Expenses	
Worship	5,883.88	8,049.96
Discipleship	1,821.83	4,350.00
Outreach	3,935.41	3,500.00
Operating Costs	110,123.52	127,009.12
Salaries & Benefits	188,345.93	288,244.80
Apportionments	1,000.00	37,000.00

Questions? Please contact Courtney Kimble, Financial Secretary, at courtney.wumc@gmail.com.

Staff



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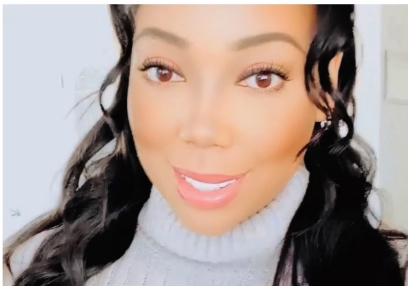


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TBD

Hesed House
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NDY Group
Lynn Burnett
le.burnett@yahoo.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry
TBD

Special Events Coordinator
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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
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United Women In Faith
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Governing Board

Bob McKnight

Wally Loague

Mary Terrell

Roger Curless

Jonathan Akyea

Kathy Breazeale

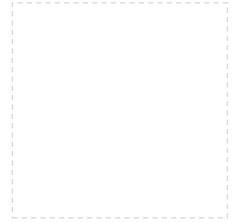
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Instagram Page at Wesley UMC Aurora
to stay up to date on everything that is happening at Wesley!

