

# wesleyan

MAY 2024 EDITION



## PENTECOST

Pastor's Column.....	2
Worship.....	3
UWinF Sunday/Circles.....	4&5
Fundraising/LandBack Mvmt.....	6
Easter Sunday.....	7

Discipleship.....	8&9
Church Calendar.....	10
Children & Families.....	11
Birthdays.....	12
Graduations.....	13

# Pastor's Column

Greetings Members and Friends of Wesley United Methodist Church,

As I write this letter, I am watching the opening days of The 2020 General Conference, yes the 2020 Conference that is finally happening in 2024. In the Opening Worship service, Bishop Thomas Bickerton of the New York Area preached a sermon that set the tone for the weeks ahead. See the excerpt below from UM News.

*Council of Bishops President Thomas J. Bickerton opened the postponed 2020 United Methodist General Conference on April 23 with a bold question: "Do you want to be in this room?" He was speaking to delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S. who are gathering to consider major proposals that could dramatically change the denomination. "Are you willing to move forward in a spirit of hope and embrace a season of reformation, commit to the revitalization of The United Methodist Church and work for a culture marked by compassion, courage and companionship?" Bickerton asked. If not, he said, "Maybe you are in the wrong place."*

On the second day, Bishop L. Jonathan Holston of the South Carolina Annual Conference cited wisdom from former United States ambassador and pastor Andrew Young, as he noted the paradox of humanity can be described in this way: "We live in the tension of who we are, who we say we are and who we want to be." And so I invite us into a season at Wesley UMC: Aurora to think about that tension...who we are, who we say we are, and who we want to be. What I have heard in my first 10 months of serving as your pastor is that Wesley is a welcoming community, a safe space for all persons to ask questions and grow in their faith. And I think we do a pretty good job of being who we say we are, but there is always more that can be done!

That work begins with asking the question "why"...why do we do what we do?

If we know why we do what we do, what we do will make a difference. So what is our "why"? On Sunday, April 7th, the Governing Board and staff gathered for a mini retreat to walk through a process of "Finding Our Why". We began by telling stories about what makes us most proud to be a part of Wesley UMC and thinking about what contributions Wesley has made in the lives of others. The stories that were shared and the contributions made over

the years led us to this Why Statement: To grow and provide a welcoming, all-inclusive community so that all feel empowered and loved as the children of God. WOW! This is why Wesley UMC exists...to make sure that there is a safe space that is inclusive and welcoming for all people to feel empowered and know they are loved by God! So what we do: worship, Wednesday Night Gathering, book studies, social gatherings, Art & Soul Camp, partnering with community organizations in our building (ECHO, Boy & Girl Scouts, Shine Within, etc) all comes out of that WHY. This is a church I am excited to be a part of...how about you?!



In the 16th century, Dutch Theologian, Desiderius Erasmus is quoted as having said, "There is no joy in possession without sharing." Friends, we have greater joy when we share that which brings us joy! I hope that you will consider sharing Wesley UMC with someone! Invite someone to worship! Share our Facebook posts! Forward an email from Wesley to a friend! Take a postcard about Art & Soul Camp to children in your neighborhood! Let like minded community organizations know that Wesley is a safe space for their meetings & events! If we work together to share the joy that comes from being a church that loves and welcomes all people...we will begin to live more fully into who we want to be!

Blessings,

Rw Tammy Scott

# Worship

## Resurrection Stories

**May 5**—This country is made up of so many who escaped to the “promised land” from oppressive regimes. Throughout history, people have had to flee situations of horror. Even within our country and in our own time, there are those who live with oppression and fear. We seek to widen our understanding of what we must do to continue to work for liberation on so many fronts.

**May 12—Mother’s Day**—Mental illness is one of the most common, devastating, and yet stigmatized maladies of our time. If this is an “Age of Anxiety,” we must be a church of healers and hope-givers. We will pray for those who deal with various forms of trauma and the consequences of mental illness, those who care for them, and open compassion for our own struggles.

**May 19—Pentecost/Graduation Sunday**—The Spirit is alive and moves among us as it did in the early church! The end of our series will offer us an opportunity to commit ourselves to some important and concrete goals for our mission in the world. We are a church called to mobilize to alleviate suffering and proclaim resurrection hope through power of the Holy Spirit!

## Pride Parade Sunday

This year’s Aurora Pride Parade will take place on Sunday, June 9th.

Pride Cakes Breakfast	8:30am-10am	New England Congregational Church
Worship	10am-10:30am	New England Congregational Church
Depart for Parade	10:40am	
Parade Begins	12pm	

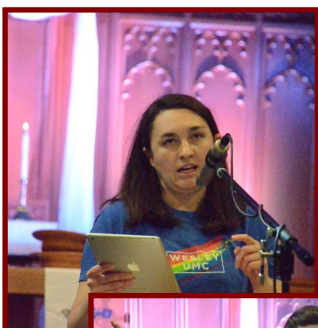
This year we are marching together with New England Congregational Church, The Orchard Community and other local welcoming and affirming congregations. We’ll be ordering t-shirts for the event which will be between \$20 and \$30 each.





# United Women in Faith Sunday

On April 14th, we celebrated United Women in Faith Sunday. Emmy Lou John presented three young women (a fourth could not attend) including Wesley member, Delia A., with certificates recognizing their work on creating the “It’s Vital, Don’t Idle” bumper stickers (pictured below). Mari Curless received a certificate for coming up with the bumper sticker idea.



In her sermon, Sarah Swanson lifted up the importance of turning off your car rather than idling, which not only saves fuel, but reduces harmful emissions. This is particularly important near schools where children are entering and exiting and breathing in the toxic fumes. Bumper stickers were handed out during the service as part of the National United Women in Faith grant to the Wesley Unit of United Women in Faith. Remember the bumper sticker says turn off your engines, protect our kids! Watch the online service [here](#).

Kari Nicholson-Rigaud developed the worship service using resources from National United Women in Faith. She is pictured here giving a blessing.

# United Women in Faith Sunday

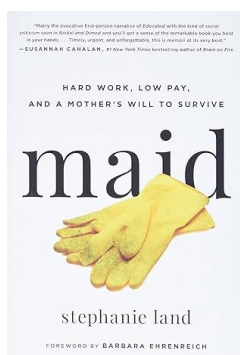
Al Benson was honored for his work capturing the mission of Wesley and United Women in Faith in his photographs and articles submitted to local newspapers.



Following worship, a luncheon was enjoyed in the parlor where participants learned about ways Wesley's congregation can reduce pollution and utility expenses. From L to R: Sandra Frazier, Kathy Breazeale, Emmy Lou John, Cindy Whitehall, Sarah Swanson (in background) and Lekha Cristanujaya.

## Upcoming Events

Hannah Circle meets next on Tuesday, May 21st at 1:30pm in the parlor. Susannah circle meets next on Tuesday, May 21st at 7pm in the parlor. Circle programs have been focusing on food, faith, and fellowship. Our May program will be on community and fellowship and we are remembering that food is a shared experience, a gift to give and to receive, and a way to bring people closer to one another. If you are able, look up the Turquoise Table Movement online at [theturquoisetable.com](http://theturquoisetable.com).



Our United Women in Faith Book Club meets on Wednesday, May 29th at 6:45pm in the parlor. We'll be discussing "Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay and a Mother's Will to Survive" by Stephanie Land.



# Craft/BBQ Show Recap

We were able to raise over \$800 at our Spring Craft Show and over \$1,000 at the 5B's BBQ! Here are some highlights from Craft Show. Looking forward to the next Show and BBQ in October!



# LandBack Movement

## Celebrate a Victory for the LandBack Movement

After stealing 1300 acres of Potawatomi homelands 175 years ago, the US Department of the Interior has finally placed some portions of the stolen land in a trust for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. You can read or listen to the story here:

<https://www.northernpublicradio.org/wnij-news/2024-04-19/illinois-is-now-home-to-a-federally-recognized-tribal-nation>

The LandBack movement seeks to address the historical and ongoing injustices experienced by Indigenous People as a result of settler colonialism.

This includes the return of Tribal Sovereignty, honoring treaties, and returning land management and environmental stewardship to Native Peoples. This enables Indigenous Peoples to reconnect with traditions, protect the land, and exercise autonomy. (from a piece by Nony Rose Salyer for "Red House," an initiative to Indigenize media)



Shabbona Lake State Park, named after Potawatomi Chief Shab-eh-nay who left Illinois for a visit to Kansas 175 years ago and returned to find that the US government had illegally sold 1280 acres of his homeland. (Photo by Yinan Chen)

As Christians, we can support the LandBack movement by raising awareness and looking for opportunities to contribute, as we acknowledge the harm done to Indigenous people over several generations.

# Easter Sunday



The beautiful flowers decorating our sanctuary on Easter Sunday were provided by:

**Lore Baker**, *in memory of Jim Walters*

**Joan Biltgen**, *in honor of April, Renee and Tammy*

**Carolyn Jones**, *in memory of Dennis Jones and Benny and Adean Clay*

**Meredith Lindgren**, *in memory of Bruce Lindgren, my husband, Phyllis Nickels, my mother and in celebration of my children and grandchildren*

**Ruth Ann Little**, *in memory of her parents, Margaret & Myron Little, her brother and sister-in-law, Dick & Kathy Little, her cousin, Margaret Penfold and her friend, Carolyn Linder*

**Bob and Shirley McKnight**, *in celebration of Addy, Natalie and Grace Taylor*

**Fred & Brigitta Neumann**, *in honor of our grandchildren, Lake, Gracen, Zoe & Sydney and in memory of our loved ones*

**Bill & Sandy Roberts**, *in memory of our daughter, Diana Onatolu*

**Camille Sapnu**, *in honor of her parents*

**Jewel Sapnu**, *in memory of her parents*

**Hannah & Haylee Scott**, *in honor of our grandparents, Joan & Tom Biltgen*

**The Scott & Biltgen Families**, *in memory of Jon "Choohc" Biltgen*

**Cheryl Thompson**, *in memory of my son Craig Camper, my husband Dan Thompson and The Hamper Family and in honor of my son Brett Camper who is recovering from a heart attack*

**Linda Voelker**, *in memory of my mother, Hazel Davis*

# 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](mailto: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 April Post Easter Egg-citing, Eggs-quisite Egg-stravaganza was eggs-quisitely fun! We enjoyed many egg-based foods and eggs-ceptional fellowship. Our next event will be Saturday, May 11 at the home of Dave and Laurie Studdard. Did you know that May 11 is Eat What You Want Day? With that in mind, attendees are asked to bring your favorite indulgence to share. The party will start at 6:00 pm.

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](mailto:psalmmom418@gmail.com). I will gladly add you to the list!



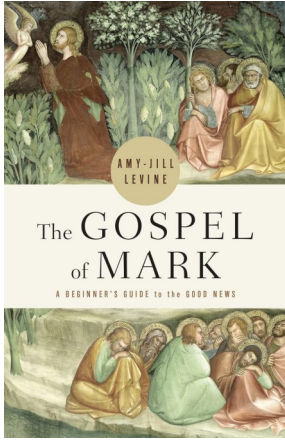
## Wesley Gardens

Maintaining a garden is hard work, but thanks to an anonymous donation, the gardens by our church entrance have been weeded, trimmed, and mulched. We still need people to periodically weed and water the gardens throughout the growing season. Please consider helping out with this important ministry. You will need to bring your own garden tools and craft bags for any garden waste. Check with Jenny for the key to the outside water faucet. A hose and sprinkler are available. Thank you for your help!



# 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, May 8, 2024, at the home Laurel Gilbert. We will meet at 6 pm for a delicious meal. 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 6. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 22, details TBD. If you are interested in joining us, contact Meredith Lindgren, 630 -788-6911 or [psalmmom418@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:le.burnett@yahoo.com) for details on our next meeting.

## Tuesday Crafters

The Tuesday Crafters met to work on items to put into the Willow, Alaska Parcel Post Auction Box. Several greeting cards were made. Our next meeting will be the second Tuesday in May. We meet in the Parlor at 7 pm. Hope you can join us on May 14. You can bring a craft project that you are working on or join us in trying out something new.

Need more information? Please email Emmy Lou at [emmyloujohn@yahoo.com](mailto:emmyloujohn@yahoo.com).



Pictured from L to R are: Lynn Burnett, Meredith Lindgren, Vicki Martin and Mari Curless. *Photo Credit: Emmy Lou John.*



## Bell Choir

Sue Clark lifted up the congregation with her solo bell piece during worship on Sunday, April 7th.

# Church Calendar

## Wednesday, May 1st

Office Hours: 9am-12pm  
Wed. Night Gathering: 6pm

## Thursday, May 2nd

Office Hours: 9am-2pm  
Mug Club (Sugar Grove Café): 9am  
Bell Choir Practice: 12:30pm

## Saturday, May 4th

Echo Center (chapel): 10am-12pm

## Sunday, May 5th (Confirmation)

9:30am online  
10:30am in-person

## Monday, May 6th

Yoga (Gathering Place): 4:30pm  
BSA (Gathering Place, Gym): 7pm  
Monday Book Study (Zoom): 7pm

## Tuesday, May 7th

Office Hours: 9am-2pm

## Wednesday, May 8th

Office Hours: 9am-12pm  
Bad Girls Book Study: 6pm

## Thursday, May 9th

Office Hours: 9am-12pm  
Mug Club (Sugar Grove Café): 9am  
Bell Choir Practice: 12:30pm  
Lion & Tigers Meeting (GP): 6pm

## Saturday, May 11th

Echo Center (chapel): 10am-12pm  
Shine Within (parlor): 11am-3pm  
Echo Center (GP/kitchen): 1-8pm  
Creators League (LL): 1-4pm

## Sunday, May 12th (Mother's Day)

9:30am online  
10:30am in-person

## Monday, May 13th

Yoga (Gathering Place): 4:30pm  
Girl Scout Unit Mtg: 6:30pm  
BSA (Gathering Place, Gym): 7pm  
Fox Valley Garden (Chapel): 7pm  
Monday Book Study (Zoom): 7pm

## Tuesday, May 14th

Office Hours: 9am-2pm  
Wolf Den (youth room): 5:15pm  
Girl Scout 1426: 6:30pm  
Tuesday Crafters (parlor): 6:45pm

## Wednesday, May 15th

Office Hours: 9am-12pm  
Wed. Night Gathering: 6pm

## Thursday, May 16th

Office Hours: 9am-2pm  
Mug Club (Sugar Grove Café): 9am  
Bell Choir Practice: 12:30pm

## Saturday, May 18th

Anti-Racism Task Force 9am-12pm  
(Gathering Place)  
Echo Center (chapel): 10am-12pm

## Sunday, May 19th (New Members)

9:30am online  
10:30am in-person  
Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony  
(GP, Kitchen) : 12:30-5pm

## Monday, May 20th

Yoga (Gathering Place): 4:30pm  
Shine Within (Kitchen): 6-7:30pm  
BSA (Gathering Place, Gym): 7pm  
Monday Book Study (Zoom): 7pm

## Tuesday, May 21st

Office Hours: 9am-2pm  
Hannah Circle: 1:30pm (parlor)  
Susannah Circle: 7pm (parlor)

## Wednesday, May 22nd

Office Hours: 9am-12pm  
Bad Girls Book Study: 6pm

## Thursday, May 23rd

Office Hours: 9am-12pm  
Mug Club (Sugar Grove Café): 9am

## Saturday, May 25th

COFI Community Forum (Gathering Place,  
Parlor, Chapel) 9am-12pm  
Echo Center (chapel): 10am-12pm

## Sunday, May 26th

9:30am online  
10:30am in-person

## Monday, May 27th

Memorial Day

## Tuesday, May 28th

Office Hours: 9am-2pm  
Girl Scout 1426: 6:30pm

## Wednesday, May 29th

UWiF Book Club (chapel): 6:45pm

## Thursday, May 30th

Office Hours: 9am-2pm  
Mug Club (Sugar Grove Café): 9am

## Friday, May 31st

Not Dead Yet (Mother's): 12pm

# Children & Families

## Wednesday Night Gatherings

Join us for our last two Wednesday Night Gatherings for the year! May 1 is tacos and planting activities, and May 15 is a cookout (bring a side to share if you're able) and outdoor games! Thank you to all who have made it such a fun year of gathering!

## Art & Soul Camp

Save the Date for Art & Soul Camp 2024 on June 24 - June 27 from 5:30-8pm. Volunteers are needed from 5 - 8:30pm. This year we are partnering with local organizations to have the children explore how they can be a part of our community through expressive arts. Please reach out to Michelle if you are interested in volunteering. We will need help in the kitchen to provide dinner and to be team leaders for the kids.

Register your child [here](#) by June 23rd.



## Wednesday Night Fun!



On April 3rd, we enjoyed a pasta dinner and a fun family game night



We celebrated Earth Day on April 17th

# May Birthdays



Sandra Frazier 5/3

Iris Pawlowski 5/4

Laurie Studdard 5/6

Martha Griffith 5/11

Rob Burnett 5/15

Charlie Winfree 5/15

Wesley Akyea 5/21

Mary Terrell 5/24

Michelle Curiel 5/26

## Thank You!

Bev Benson would like to thank Wesley members for the wonderful birthday cards she received and also the delivery of the Easter flower. It is beautiful!

## Wanted! Readers and 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](mailto:psalmmom418@gmail.com). Or see me at church on Sundays!



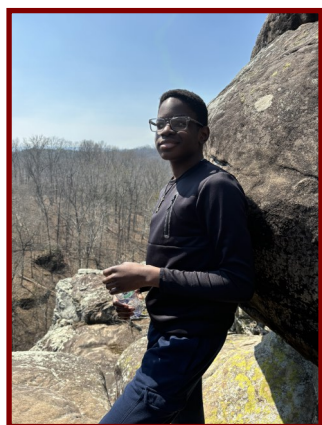
# Graduations!



Caden Carnes, grandson of Al & Jean Benson, will be graduating from Lisle High School on Friday, May 17th. He plans to study psychology at the University of Louisville.

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Joshua Beebe, grandson of Ralph & Kathy Breazeale, will be graduating from Aurora Christian High School. He is still determining where he wants to go to college and is considering Grand Canyon University in Arizona or Lipscomb College near Memphis.



Wesley A., will be graduating from Oswego East High School. A firstborn in his family, with one younger sibling, he enjoys playing basketball and tennis, as well as making music and reading books. In high school, he has been part of the Key Club, the Black Student Association, the Oswego East Band, and the Oswego East Tennis Team. His plans after high school are to study Health Information Management at Illinois State University. He hopes to obtain a Master's Degree after his undergraduate work is complete.

# Staff



**Rev. Tammy Scott**  
Senior Pastor  
[revtammyscott@gmail.com](mailto:revtammyscott@gmail.com)



**Thew Elliott**  
Director of  
Liturgy & Music  
[thew.wumc@gmail.com](mailto:thew.wumc@gmail.com)



**Michelle Curiel**  
Dir. of Children & Family/  
Asst. Dir. Liturgy & Music  
[michellecuriel.wumc@gmail.com](mailto:michellecuriel.wumc@gmail.com)



**Jenny Pawlowski**  
Office Manager  
[jennifer.wumc@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.wumc@gmail.com)



**Sean Moore**  
Audio-Visual Editor  
and Technician  
[sean.wumc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:psalmmom418@gmail.com)

**Hesed House**  
Bob McKnight  
630-896-5287  
[redwoodcats@sbcglobal.net](mailto:redwoodcats@sbcglobal.net)

**Let's Go Fellowship**  
Meredith Lindgren  
630-788-6911  
[psalmmom418@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:rwb7247@gmail.com)

**NDY Group**  
Lynn Burnett  
[le.burnett@yahoo.com](mailto:le.burnett@yahoo.com)

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
TBD

**Special Events Coordinator**  
Lynn Burnett  
[le.burnett@yahoo.com](mailto:le.burnett@yahoo.com)

**Faithlinkers (held on Mondays at 7pm CST via Zoom)**  
Emmy Lou John  
630-264-2892  
[emmyloujohn@yahoo.com](mailto:emmyloujohn@yahoo.com)

**Tuesday Crafters (held on the second Tuesday of each month)**  
Emmy Lou John  
630-264-2892  
[emmyloujohn@yahoo.com](mailto:emmyloujohn@yahoo.com)

**United Methodist Men**  
Herb John  
630-264-2892  
[herbjohn@ymail.com](mailto:herbjohn@ymail.com)

**United Women In Faith**  
Emmy Lou John  
630-264-2892  
[emmyloujohn@yahoo.com](mailto:emmyloujohn@yahoo.com)

**Wesley Gardeners**  
Meredith Lindgren  
630-788-6911  
[psalmmom418@gmail.com](mailto:psalmmom418@gmail.com)

**Yoga Classes**  
Ann Merk  
630-643-3115  
[asm52@yahoo.com](mailto:asm52@yahoo.com)

# Governing Board

Bob McKnight

Wally Loague

Mary Terrell

Roger Curless

Jonathan Akyea

Kathy Breazeale

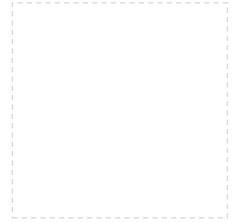
Jim Merk

Dave Studdard

Rev. Tammy Scott



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

