

December 13, 2018

NEWS AND NOTES FROM GRACE & WESLEY



5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve at Grace
6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve at Wesley

This Year's Christmas Offerings

Here's one more reminder about the 2018 Grace and Wesley Christmas offerings.

WESLEY: Wesley has had a goal to raise \$21,000 for the EP Usamba Elementary School in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The money will be used for roof repairs and purchasing desks. We hope that new roofs and desks can be Wesley's Christmas gift to the children and staff of EP Usamba School! And you can help through your Christmas offering!

GRACE: The Grace Cares committee works throughout the year to support mission projects. The committee has chosen three projects to focus on in 2019 year: (1) Cleaning buckets, (2) Women at the Well (3) Heifer International - pigs.



EP Usamba School Project Continues!

Wesley has accepted the challenge of providing new desks and new roofs for the EP Usamba mission school in the Democratic Republic of Congo in central Africa. We're making great progress! Our goal is \$21,000 and so far (as of December 10) we've raised \$15,461. We have had two people pledge a total of \$4000 if the church can raise the first \$17,000. This means we only need to raise \$1539 to reach our goal!

This year's mission project is quite possibly the biggest ever taken on by Wesley. It has so much potential to make a difference in the lives of the children who study there. If you haven't done so already, prayerfully consider making a gift to the EP Usamba School project!

Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall Project

Grace Remodeling—DONE?!?

The walls have been painted. The carpet and vinyl flooring has been laid. And our new chairs are scheduled to be delivered the week of December 17th! It's looking good!

We need to express a special thanks to Jim and Nancy Sliger who donated our new chairs in memory of his parents, Lyle and Ila Sliger. There have also been a number of church members who have put in a lot of hours—clearing everything out of the sanctuary and fellowship hall, moving chairs out, cleaning, and more! Thank you to everyone who has helped make this project possible!

Remembering our shut in's

Advent Shut-in Visitation

Maybe you sit next to them in worship or served with them on a committee. But you haven't seen them for some time since they are no longer able to come to worship. Why not share the joy of Christmas by stopping by to visit with them?

There's a display with the names of some of our inactive members both at Grace and Wesley. Wesley's is taped to Steve's office window and Wesley's is in the library next to the church office. Just grab one of the names and stop in for a visit!



Christmas Dinner

Volunteers are needed for the Mason City Ecumenical Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 25, hosted this year by Our Savior's Lutheran Church (2502 S Jefferson). Volunteers are needed for a range of positions starting a few days before and for the dinner on Christmas Day. To sign up and find out about the various volunteer areas, call 641-420-6555. Monetary donations are also welcomed!

Wesley Movie Fellowship for Adults

Saturday, January 12, 6:00 P.M. potluck with movie following

Field of Dreams (2 hours) PG

"If you believe the impossible, the incredible can come true."

"If you build it, he will come."



Come for the 5:00 P.M. Saturday night worship service and stay for the 6:00 P.M. potluck (bring a dish to share, your own table service and beverage) with movie following. The movie will start by 7:00 P.M.

FYI: If you have a suggestion for movie night please contact Ann Butcher and she will see if it is covered under Wesley's Church Video License which enables us to show movies at no charge.

Thank you so much for the surprise birthday party in December 9th! You really did pull it off—I had no clue! Maybe turning 60 isn't so bad! A special thank you to Lisa Ebel, Linda Garcia, Judy Alman, Bev McGowan and my wonderful wife, Janet, for sneaking around behind my back and making plans. Another special thank you to the unnamed individuals (unnamed but I think I know who you are) who decorated our home for the special occasion. It was all very much appreciated! God bless you all!

Pastor Steve

We'd like to thank everyone who remembered your parsonage family with cards and gifts this holiday season—OUR TWELVTH ONE IN MASON CITY! God bless you all for your thoughtfulness!

The Hansen's

A special thank you to Don Kamps, Kathy Sautter and Shannon Chapman for helping lead this year's Wednesday night Advent services.

Praying our way forward!

The February Special General Conference

The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

Consider joining a prayer movement within the church called, "Praying Our Way Forward." To sign up for prayer emails between now and February, go to <https://umcprays.org>.

Don't forget the policy...



Winter Weather Cancellations

The decision to cancel church events because of weather is rarely an easy one. Sometimes it's so bad it's obvious to everybody. Other times you just have to look at the forecasts and the conditions and make the call. These decisions are usually made by the pastor and church council members.

When bad weather strikes, how do you find out if a church event has been cancelled? Here's some guidelines. As a general rule, whenever school is cancelled or let out early, any other church activities will also be cancelled. Exceptions will be announced. Whenever law enforcement is urging people to stay off the roads, church activities will be cancelled.

For weekend services, it may be the case that we can have some of the services but not all of them. For example, a storm may be moving in late Saturday night so we could have the Saturday service at Wesley but cancel the Sunday morning services. Or, a forecast for ice on Sunday morning may result in Wesley cancelling the 9:00 a.m. service but if the ice never develops or clears Grace may choose to go ahead with the 10:30 a.m. service. The same could happen if the streets and parking isn't cleared for the 9:00 a.m. service but things improve a couple hours later.

Rather than contacting all of the possible media outlets with cancellations, all cancellations will be communicated through KIMT. Be sure to check their cancellations both on the channel 3 and through their web site. If in doubt, call the church first.

When a storm hits with heavy snow, the church office will not open until the roads become passable. If you have plans to stop by the church and the roads are questionable, be sure to call before you leave home.

Healthy Living Clinic

The Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health offers Healthy Living Clinics to county residents age 55 and older. There is no charge. However, contributions are encouraged in order to keep the clinic running. The clinic is an annual health screening and does not replace a physician's care. To make an appointment, call the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health Senior Health Clinic: (641) 421-9316.

HEALTHY LIVING CLINICS

Dec. 19 Senior Activity Center, 326 4th St. NE

Jan. 9 St. John's Episcopal (120 1st St NE)

Jan. 28 IOOF Home (1037 19th St SW)

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS

Jan. 10 (10:30-11:30) Senior Activity Center, 326 4th St. NE

January programs released!

Lifetree Café at Wesley

The January schedule for Lifetree Café has been released and we have some great themes coming up.

Week of December 16: "Come Together: The healing power of family and friends"

Week of December 23: NO LIFETREE/CHRISTMAS WEEK!

Week of December 30 (Wednesday and Friday sessions only): "Living a Lie: The perils of a double life"

Week of January 6: "Second Chances: From down and out to up and at 'em"

Week of January 13: "Does God Play Favorites?: Why would a caring God bless some and not others?"

Week of January 20: "Kids Without a Country: An illegal immigrant's story"

Week of January 27: "Hard to be Healthy: TV's 'biggest loser' weighs in"

Lifetree Café is offered three times each week. The first is an 8:00 a.m. Tuesday morning session at Pies & More. We have a 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening group that meets at Hardee's. On Friday afternoons a group meets at Kentucky Ridge on South Kentucky Avenue at 4:00 p.m.

March 3-8, 2019

Mission Trip to Chatham Pawnee!

Wesley and Grace are signed up to travel to Pawnee, Illinois for a mission trip March 3-8, 2019. This will be our third trip to this suburb of Springfield, the location of the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. The center is an UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) affiliated mission depot.

In past years members of our group have worked on cleaning buckets, sewn school bags, built and finished school desks, and sorted sewing machines. There's something for every skill level and interest.

The cost of the trip will most likely be around \$250 which will include staying in the dorm, most meals on site, gas and fees. We need to send in our first payment by January 9 so half of the cost will be due to the church office on January 6th. Talk to Pastor Steve if you are considering joining us for our 2019 trip.

In the hospital?



Please be sure to let the church office know if you or a loved one is in the hospital. Pastors and churches don't have the access to the patient lists that they used to and for some reason there are times when patients don't show up on the list.

Bottom line: If you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital, call the church. If you've been in the hospital a couple of days and a pastor hasn't stopped in to see you, call the church. Thanks!



Coming in February for Grace & Wesley:

Congregational Assessment Tool

In January we will be preparing to undertake a church survey called "Congregational Assessment Tool." The Congregational Assessment Tool provides churches a way to evaluate their present situation and find focus for the future. The tool calls for congregation members to complete a questionnaire covering a number of areas of church life. Results are compiled and presented to the church.

We will be recruiting a logistics team of 4-6 people, including two council members from each congregation and someone to help with communications (letter preparation, etc.) from each congregation. If you'd like to help, let us know. Otherwise, watch for more information in January!

Next Newsletter Deadline


Have something to put in the next newsletter? Write up an article and get it to the church office! The deadline for the next newsletter is Monday, January 21. (Newsletter will be mailed January 24.)



Wesley



2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  Office Closed	2 Lifetree Café, 6:30 PM at Hardees	3 Girl Scouts, 4:30	4 Lifetree Café at Kentucky Ridge, 4 PM	5 Worship. 5 Communion
6 Worship, 9:00 UMW Installation of Officers Communion School, 9:30	7 Boy Scouts Girl Scouts, 6:30	8 Study Breakfast at Pies & More, 8 AM Staff, 10:15 Lunch with Pastor Steve at Pasta Bella, 11:30 AM  Church Council, 6 PM Girl Scouts, 4; Cub Scouts, 6:30	9 Choir, 5 PM (at Grace) Lifetree Café, 6:30 PM at Hardees	10 Girl Scouts, 4:30	11 Lifetree Café at Kentucky Ridge, 4 PM	12 Golden Age Breakfast @ Village Court, 8:30 Worship. 5 Movie & Potluck, 6:00 PM
13 Worship, 9:00 Choir sings School, 9:30	14 Boy Scouts Girl Scouts, 6:30	15 Study Breakfast at Pies & More, 8 AM Staff 10:15	16 Lifetree Café, 6:30 PM at Hardees	17 Sarah Leah, 9:30 Girl Scouts, 4:30 Men's Club, 6 PM Priscilla, 6 :30 PM	18 Lifetree Café at Kentucky Ridge, 4 PM	19 Middlers Breakfast, 9 AM Worship. 5 500 Club, 6 PM
20 Worship, 9:00 SS, 9:30 Human Relations Day Offering	21 Turn in newsletter items by noon! Community Kitchen, 4 Boy Scouts Girl Scouts, 6:30	22 Study Breakfast at Pies & More, 8 AM Staff, 10:15 Girl Scouts, 4-6 Cub Scouts, 6:30	23 Lifetree Café, 6:30 PM at Hardees	24 Newsletter folded, 8:30 AM Girl Scouts, 4:30	25 Office Closed— Patty Vacation Lifetree Café at Kentucky Ridge, 4 PM	26 Worship. 5
27 Worship, 9:00 SS, 9:30	28 Boy Scouts Girl Scouts, 6:30	29 Study Breakfast at Pies & More, 8 AM Staff, 10:15	30 Lifetree Café, 6:30 PM at Hardees	31 Girl Scouts, 4:30	Patty Vacation	

2019 Bulletin & Altar Flower Dedication Sign-Up is Ready!

Sign-up sheet is in the library – sign up early to get your favorite dates! \$20 for bulletins and \$30 for flowers.

You help is needed!

Wesley's Apportionment Update

Wesley has still only been able to pay one third of 2018 apportionments. Although in all likelihood we won't be able to pay them all in full, anything will help! If you can help us catch up it would be greatly appreciated! Just mark your gift "Apportionments."



Wesley's Year of Giving Back

And here we are, in the last month of our Year of Giving Back. The gifts you as a church have given to our community is amazing. Thank

you.

December is going to be somewhat of a twofer. You will be helping our community AND help show our church youth how generosity feels.

In celebration of Christ's Birth, the Sunday School class is collecting diapers. There will be a bin at the entrance in the library. There will also be one outside the Sunday Scholl classroom that you can drop your diapers off at. The Sunday School children will pick up the diapers every Sunday and store them in the classroom.

Wesley: Servants Needed

"If everybody does something, nobody has to do everything!"—so true. As we begin a new year we have several positions we need to be filled. Can anyone help us out?

COMMUNION STEWARD(S): Donna Rafferty has faithfully been preparing the communion elements for Wesley for several years—buying bread, filling cups—and cleaning up afterwards. As of January we'll need someone to take over for Donna. She's willing to train an individual or a team to take over. Call the church office if you might be interested.

MISSIONS: Would anybody be interested in being a missions representative on the Wesley church council. The position includes attendance at council meetings (2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.) and working with a mission team to promote mission giving. Call the church office if you might be interested.

CHURCH HISTORIAN: Interested in history? It's been a while since we've had a church historian at Wesley. We need to update our church history as it's been a while. This position would include updating our church history, and preserving historical items. Call the church office if you might be interested.

Hey, Fellas!

The next Wesley Men's Club meeting will be on Thurs., December 20 at 6 PM.



Hat and Mitten Tree

We once again have the tree of warmth- or the hat and mitten tree. As you are out and shopping for yourself or loved ones, please think to the youth and adults in our community that may not have mittens or hats this winter. We all know it has started out very cold- so lets share our church warmth!



In addition to collecting items for the children at Roosevelt Elementary school, we're also collecting women's hats and mittens for residents at Beje Clark and the local women's shelter.

"If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" John 2:16

Beanie Babies Needed!



UMW Circles help with Bingo at Good Shepherd four (4) times a year. The Circles enjoy this time with the residents. Prizes for the Bingo Winners include items such as Beanie Babies, along with snack bags, jewelry, bananas etc.

Beanie Babies are the resident's favorite prize. The Beanie Babies are in short supply and we are looking for donations of the Beanie Babies. Please consider a donation of these favorite Bingo Prizes

You can leave them at the church or if you wish to send a donation please mail it to the church with a note saying it is a donation for Beanie Babies. Thank you.

Prayer Requests



Hospital Ins & Outs since 11-14-2018:

Joyce Hopp, Ruth Rick, Larry Carver, Sue Hesley, Gen Lepird

Thank You

Thank you to my Wesley Family for helping prepare, serve, and clean up communion every month for the years I have been Communion Steward. It is time for me to pass this responsibility on to someone new. Thank you so much for all you have done.

Donna Rafferty.

"Thank you for the lovely flowers. They made my day so special".

Mavis Deardeuff

We received your organization's contribution of \$\$520.00 to Women at the Well UMC. We are humbled by the generous support of organizations like yours who give to keep this ministry going.

We are a mission congregation. The women inside the prison will never be able to fund the costs of this ministry. With less than 35% of our annual budget being supported by various grants, many of which are diminishing during these difficult economic times, we depend on organizations like yours to make this ministry possible. Thank you so very much!

We are always hopeful that we can deepen and expand our relationship with those who are supportive of our ministry.

Sincerely, *Lee A. Schott, Pastor, Women at the Well UMC*

A big thank you to all who sent cards, telephoned, delivered flowers and meals while I have been laid up with surgery. It was greatly appreciated.

Paula Bartunek



United Methodist Women Notes

"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you."
1 Peter 5:7

Executive Board Meeting No Meeting in January

Unit Meeting No Meeting in January

Circle Meetings:

Sarah Leah Circle Thursday, January 17, 9:30 AM
Priscilla Circle Thursday, January 17, 6:30 PM

January Work Month: Priscilla Circle

Wesley General Fund Update

Financial giving for the last four weeks:



11/18: \$2877

11/25: \$3015

12/2 (snow) & 12/9: \$7656



January

- 1 Ed Beenken, Orville Alverson, *Larry & Norma Carver*
- 4 Carlynn Grupp, Teresa Kittleson, Jeffrey Skogen
- 5 Jared Trainer
- 6 Bruce Bailey
- 9 Brian Lockwood
- 12 Larry Carver, Eric Gogerty, David Brownmiller, Sam Skogen
- 13 *John & JoAnn McCallum*
- 15 Susan Dixon
- 16 Devvy Waslick, Dorothy Brady
- 17 DeAnn Halligan, Robert Redfern
- 19 Harriet Kenney, Ken Gerbig, Jason Dannen
- 20 Helen Root, Iona Nuehring, Charlotte Ring
- 21 Audrey Olson
- 24 Pam Erickson
- 25 *Les & Sue Hesley*
- 27 Janet Trezona
- 29 Phyllis Preftakes, Dennis Phillips
- 30 *Ken & JoAnn Gerbig*
- 31 John Halligan, Patty Strottman

Laundry Soap Jugs?



Several people have asked me recently when I'm going to make more

soap. The answer is easy: WHEN I GET ENOUGH EMPTY JUGS! I'm more than willing to make soap but the empty jugs have only been trickling in. Please support this ministry by bringing in your laundry soap jugs. Your empty laundry jugs need to be rinsed out and rinsed off (otherwise they can be a mess!), the lids tightly closed (otherwise they can be a mess), and should be 96 ounces or larger. The receptacles for empty jugs are still available at both Wesley and Grace.

Grace

JANUARY



2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  Office Closed	2 Steve vacation	3	4 Lifetree Café at Kentucky Ridge, 4 PM	5 Community Kitchen, 9:00 AM
6 Worship, 10:30 SS, 9:15	7	8 Study Breakfast at Pies & More, 8 AM Staff, 10:15 Lunch with Pastor Steve at Pasta Bella, 11:30 AM  Girl Scouts, 6-7:30	9 Choir, (at Grace) 5 PM Lifetree Café, 6:30 PM at Hardees	10 Church Council, 7:00 PM	11 Lifetree Café at Kentucky Ridge, 4 PM	12 Community Kitchen, 9:00 AM Movie & Potluck (at Wesley), 6 PM
13 Worship, 10:30 Choir Sings SS, 9:15 Holy Pail	14	15 Study Breakfast at Pies & More, 8 AM Staff, 10:15	16 Fellowship Hall reserved, 11-3:30 Lifetree Café, 6:30 PM at Hardees	17	18 Lifetree Café at Kentucky Ridge, 4 PM	19
20 Worship, 10:30 SS, 9:15 Human Relations Day Offering	21 Turn in newsletter items by noon!	22 Study Breakfast at Pies & More, 8 AM Staff, 10:15 Girl Scouts, 6-7:30	23 Lifetree Café, 6:30 PM at Hardees	24 NEWSLETTER	25 Office Closed—Patty Vacation Lifetree Café at Kentucky Ridge, 4 PM	26
27 Men's Club, 8 AM Worship, 10:30 SS, 9:15	28	29 Study Breakfast at Pies & More, 8 AM Staff, 10:15	30 Lifetree Café, 6:30 PM at Hardees	31		
Patty Vacation						

Prayer Requests

**Hospital Ins & Outs since 11-14-2018:****GRACE POTLUCK****SUNDAY DECEMBER 30TH AFTER CHURCH.****BRING YOUR FAVORITE NEW YEAR'S EVE DISH,
SNACK OR DESSERT.****January**

3	Brent Hamilton
6	Cindy Sanders
7	Brent & Katrina Hamilton
10	Sally Tripp
11	Paul Garcia
13	Thomas (David) Gobeli
20	Arlo Hanson
23	Brandi Gobeli, Cree Gobeli
31	Patty Strottman



Grace Cares Committee wants to report to you our giving for 2018. None of this is possible without your help. Your generosity to Holy Pail offerings, Christmas and Easter special offerings is how it is accomplished. We thank you so much for how you show your care through your giving.

In 2018 we gave:

58 cleaning buckets to Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity home owners (cost of each bucket approximately \$12-\$15)

57 flocks of chicks or \$1140 to Heifer International

\$420 to two families in need

\$1270 to Women at the Well (Included monies from Wesley/Grace Advent offerings in 2017)

10 Thanksgiving baskets (approximate cost \$350)

10 Christmas baskets are expected to be given at a similar cost.

Thank you and Merry Christmas from Grace Cares.

GRACE & WESLEY

Coming in January—PART 3

“Leading Generously”

Remember the Donovan family—Ray, Cassie, their kids—whatever-their-names-are—and Ray, their old gardener? We'll be visiting them again in January as we begin the third and final installment of the “Reimagine Generosity” series, “Leading Generously.” This 5 week series completes the story of the Donovan family as they learn about sacrificial giving and the true meaning of discipleship as they spiritually invest into others.

January 6: Living and Loving Generously/review

January 13: “Leading Generously: Promises”

January 20: “Leading Generously: Legacy”

January 27: “Leading Generously: Ambition”

February 3: “Leading Generously: Capacity”

February 10: “Leading Generously: Essence”

**“Pasta with the Pasta”**

(pronounced “paw-stuh with the past-uh”)

Thanks to those of you who tried our evening “Pasta with the Pasta” in November! For January we'll be having a noon lunch on Tuesday, January 8 at 11:30 a.m. There's no agenda other than getting to know each other and enjoying some great food. No need to call—no reservations—just show up for lunch!

Wesley United Methodist Church
1405 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401
641-423-6549 patty@mcwesley.org
Office Hours: M-F 7:30-4:30 (closed noon hour)
Worship Times: Saturday, 5:00 PM
Sunday, 9:00 AM
Sunday School (during the school year): 9:30

Next newsletter mailed
 on
 January 24, 2019.

Grace United Methodist Church
200 14th St. NW
Mason City, IA 50401
641-423-5727
Worship Time: Sunday, 10:30 AM
Sunday School (during the school year): 9:15

