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Wesley Word

A PUBLICATION OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Wesley UMC is "A Place for all God's Children"



From the Pastor

Hello again. It's been a busy month and we aren't slowing down any time soon. This month we've got Charge Conference and confirmation.

Confirmation will start Friday October 2nd at 5PM. This will be our kickoff event. All youth are invited even if you don't plan on joining confirmation. We will be creating a social contract and then watching Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark. After this kickoff event almost every session of our confirmation class will take place on a Wednesday from 4-5PM, it is likely our confirmation class will end at 4:45PM but I don't want to make any promises. There should be 15 sessions not including the kickoff event and the second movie night before we get into the curriculum on the New Testament. This second movie night will also be a Friday at 5PM to watch Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. The date will be determined at a later date. I look forward to our upcoming class.

Last month our youth decided on their mission trip for next year. We're working on an itinerary for the trip so that we can better figure out what the cost of the trip will be but keep an eye out for more information. The youth will be required to do some fundraising as we plan for this trip as well as participate in worship in certain ways. More information will be made available as we get it.

Finally, I'm currently in a class on contemplative prayer. If you would like to learn the practice I would love to help you try it out. As always if you have any questions comments or concerns feel free to reach out any time. Have a blessed month.

Pastor Darrian

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Charge Conference is Sunday, October 11 at 2 p.m. at Wesley Church. All committee chairpersons and members are encouraged to attend and be a part of this time of celebrating our 2026 ministries and looking toward 2027.

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*The church is planning to host a Christmas Rummage Sale on the day of the downtown Open Houses, **Sunday November 22nd**. We would love to have you donate the Christmas items you are no longer using or need. These items should be clean and in good condition and they can be brought to the church and put in the large middle room on the 2nd floor at any time.*

Dear Wesley Church,
Our VBS Team is truly blessed to have the connection to your generous and hardworking VBS Team. This group of working mothers can't express our appreciation enough ☺. This summer you helped brighten the day of and brought the Bible to life for the 50+ kids in our program.

"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world." ~Romans 1:8

VBS Team of
Wellsburg Reformed Church

What distinguishes the Christians is not the ills they suffer, but the way they suffer their ills.
—St. Augustine

What's New in the Church Family



The Wesley Church family extends their heartfelt sympathies to **Mary McNeal Barkdoll** on the unexpected passing of her brother **Darryl Lynn McNeal** on September 3, 2026. Wesley hosted a luncheon, combined with a Celebration of Life, for Darryl on September 11, 2026. Darryl was 65. Below is a note we received from his family:

Thank you for hosting a luncheon for our father, husband, brother, and grandfather, Darryl McNeal. You made this tough time a little easier.
~The Family of Darryl McNeal


Main Street Community's men believed in taking Pastor Appreciation Day to the streets.

Advice From a Pumpkin

Be well-rounded.
Get plenty of sunshine.
Give thanks for life's bounty.
Have a thick skin.
Keep growing.
Be outstanding in your field.
Think big!

—Ilan Shamir

When my sister was about 3, my mom overheard her talking with a neighborhood friend.

"My dad works for an insurance agency!" proclaimed the other girl.

Clearly pleased with her status as a pastor's kid, my sister responded haughtily, "Well, *my* dad works for *God!*"

—Heidi Mann

Halloween in Saturday, October 31. Wesley Church is making plans for Trunk-or-Treat and is contemplating doing something different this year. *Stay tuned for more details as they are available!*



Serving Our Neighbors in the Rain

September's Food Pantry Distribution, on September 19, 2026, proved that a little rain can't stop a community with a big heart! Despite the stormy weather and having fewer hands on deck than usual, our incredible team stepped up. Together, we were able to serve 120 individuals (60 families, including 8 new households). To our faithful volunteers and the new friends who jumped in to help: THANK YOU! Without YOUR dedication and hard work, we wouldn't be able to fulfill our mission to serve our food-insecure neighbors. Every day, we see the real toll of economic hardship. Neighbors continue to struggle to stretch their tight budgets to pay for the bare essentials—utility bills, gasoline, groceries, and life-sustaining medications. For so many in our community, the money simply doesn't go far enough. Jesus reminds us that we are called to look out for our brothers and sisters. As it says in Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." We are also reminded in Proverbs 22:9 that "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." We deeply appreciate every single one of you who helps us live out this message. Whether you give your time, your donations, or your prayers, you are making a tangible difference. Our Food Pantry distributions are the 3rd Saturday of every month from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM. Please share this information with others. You never know which one of your friends, family members, or neighbors mighty be struggling in silence. Sharing this helps ensure everyone in our community knows where to find a helping hand when they need it most.

Volunteer Opportunity

We have received information about opportunities to volunteer at the Lutheran Home's Memory Care Unit. They are looking for people to interact with the residents with activities such as playing simple card games, putting together simple jigsaw puzzles (20-25 pieces), coloring, simple crafts, reading short stories, reminiscing or providing music. They would have to do a background check, and attend a short orientation. This is a great opportunity to be a blessing to these Memory Care residents. Please respond to the Lutheran Home at 319-472-4751 and ask for Heather.

When Troubles Come

Have you noticed that things often seem to fall apart all at once? It could be a string of financial setbacks. First the refrigerator goes out, then the car won't start and then the roof starts leaking. Or maybe our relationships break down or our career unravels.

What can we do when hardships threaten to overwhelm us? Peanuts character Charlie Brown said, "I only dread one day at a time." But we can do better than that.

We can take a deep breath, cling to God's hand and keep walking, knowing that our heavenly Father is always with us.

"Autumn … the year's last, loveliest smile."
—William Cullen Bryant



Appreciate — and Act

October is Pastor (or Clergy) Appreciation Month, reminding church members to thank their hardworking ministry leaders. But the people in the pews — though they might lack official church titles — also play important roles in doing God's work.

In *User Friendly Churches* (Regal Books), researcher George Barna compares the behavior of people in growing vs. stagnant or declining churches. Members of growing churches actively participate in the church's ministry. "They did not divorce their faith from their lifestyle; their faith was their lifestyle," Barna writes. "They took seriously the classical Reformation doctrine of the priesthood of all believers."

By contrast, laypeople in stagnant churches tend to observe rather than participate. "They perceived their role as being in the audience in the stands," Barna notes, "nodding approvingly in efforts to demonstrate religious behavior as the clergy went through their paces."

Appreciate your pastors, but then follow their example by living out your beliefs!

On that note, **we encourage you to take some time this month to offer a gesture of thanks and appreciation to Pastor Darrian.** Send him a special card or note, a gift card to a coffee shop, invite him out to dinner or meet for a cup of coffee, be in Sunday worship, invite a friend to come with you, offer to lead a Bible study, or cheerfully volunteer your services in some other capacity.

Let's show Pastor Darrian some love as we celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month together!

God of Lost People and Things *by Sandy Kulhavy*

This has been a mixed up year. Crazy weather, people running amok, everybody feeling lost. In the middle of all the chaos I've started a new habit—losing things. Not big things, just small ones but they're ones I use every day.

The first thing I lost was the stapler. I usually keep it in my office on the computer table or the desk. Apparently one day I carried it off and put it somewhere else. I haven't seen it since. It's just gone. I could blame Fred, the dog, but I know he didn't move it. He can't reach up on the desk and it's not food so he could care less about it. I figure one of these days it'll appear on the desk, lie there demurely, and refuse to tell me where it's been. Such is life.

The next thing I lost was the magnifier headband I wear so I can see the computer screen. It's not the greatest help in the world but at least it helps enough that I can work. I remember carrying it from the office to another room, setting it on the head of one of my stuffed animals and saying, "Hold on to this." Yes, I talk to them. So I'm crazy. I've looked everywhere in the house. High and low and in the middle. I can't find the magnifier either. I ordered a new headband magnifier and it's wonderful. I can actually see the computer screen and read what I'm writing. Thanks be to God and his out of this world gifts.

I figure I'll find what I lost one of these days and wonder how they got where they're at and if they enjoyed they're trip.

I sometimes feel just as lost as the stapler and the magnifier. But I know Jesus and He never loses me. No matter how bad or good things get, Jesus always holds me close. I can rest and heal while He carries me. Jeremiah 29:11 reminds me that God has good plans for all of us. Even when we feel buried under a mountain of trouble.

Psalm 139 reminds me that I have the ultimate security plan and nobody can take that away from me. God offers all of us that same security.

Maybe when we're the most scared we should have a party to celebrate God's astounding love.

The *Wesley Word* newsletter is a monthly publication of the Wesley United Methodist Church, 516 Second Avenue, Vinton, Iowa 52349; phone 319 472-2581; Administrative Assistant Lori Ferguson's e-mail: wesleyumcvintonia@gmail.com; Pastor Darrian Adkins' email: darrian.adkins@iaumc.net; Editor: Lori Ferguson. Deadline for submission of articles and other items of interest for the newsletter is the 20th of each month, unless otherwise noted.

Wesley United Methodist Church
Admin Council Meeting
September 9, 2026

Present: Pastor Darrian, Pam Miller, Kathie Adams, Eric Allen, Ann Harrison, Harold Knaack, Doug Martens, Cheryl Knaack, John Yundt, Scott Hyde, Jerry Adams, Connie Zobac, Cathie Beatty

Motion to approve July minutes by Doug M, 2nd by Cathy B

Opening Prayer: Pam offered opening prayer

Treasurer's report: Harold reports there is money in all accounts

Pastor's Report: a) Next Town Hall meeting is set for September 20th, 2026

1) Eric Allen and Cathie Beatty to report on their committee---hoping for two other people to report

b) Church Conference--October 11, 2026 at 2pm at Wesley UMC

c) Changes to the third floor----Youth room in the big corner room

d) LSI is moving out of the room they have on the third floor---by December

e) talk of moving the Puppet room to the purple room in the basement

f) Confirmation class will begin October 2, 2026 with movie night---before Youth group---Indiana Jones theme

g) will be writing a funeral policy

h) Co Leader for the circuit group

i) Taking a continuing education class through the conference called Catalyst Discipleship Coaching.

OLD BUSINESS

Eric Allen (finance committee) updated the council on the electronic giving—almost ready to begin using---it was decided that there would be a separate account established at FSB. Motion was made by Eric Allen and seconded by Doug Martens to establish that account at the bank with Eric Allen, Lori Ferguson and Teddi Newton as authorized signatures. Motion passed.

Still working on the Upcoming Church anniversary in 2028

NEW BUSINESS

Ministry Minute as celebration for September 20th---Will celebrate the Narthex update.
Thanks to Bill and Mary Hawk---will ask them to be the greeters in that area on 9/20. October 18th Ministry Minute will be World Council of Churches by Connie Zobac.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Altar Guild---will decorate the sanctuary tomorrow for Fall

Befrienders---no problems, still visiting

Finance-- money flow is tight

FLOW---sent out 4 boxes to young adults, discussed "Block Party" for Halloween. Will include other churches and DX station if they want. Approval by council.

Food Pantry--- OK. Distribution this month on the 19th.

Foundation---nothing new

Historian--- no report

Learning---Kids Club kick off and registration is set for September 16, 2026 at Kiwanis Park with a picnic. First week will be September 23, 2026. Curriculum this year entitled Bible Detective—will focus this year on mission work, less craft.

Nominations/Leadership Development--- will begin looking at nominations for 2027 committee assignments in the near future

Prayer team--- reported about hopes for the future and focus on education for the congregation

Trustees—on going projects update

Worship--- Will be arranging for everyone to wear a name tag during service. Updated council on the new website ---big changes to it. Looking into some technical changes for the recording of the worship service.

Respectfully Submitted
Pam Miller 9/10/2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 AN—Edee & Jason Kahle	2 5 p.m.-Confirmation Kick-Off AN-Tysus & Amber Pattee	3 BD—Elizabeth McBride
4 a.m.—In-Person and Facebook Live Services 10 a.m.-Fellowship Time 10 a.m.-Little Wonders SS 10:30-Adult Bible Study BD—Carol Grimm	5 11:45 p.m.-PEP at Pizza Ranch 5:30 p.m.-Ruth Circle Soup Supper: guest speaker Rus Debonis 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting AN—Chad & Kim Newton BD—Rondalyn Albright, Darrian Adkins	6	7 9:30 a.m.-Yoga Class Noon-Wesley Ringers 3:30 p.m.-Kids Club 5:15 p.m.-Messenger reh. 6 p.m.-Youth Group 6:30 p.m.-Trustees mtg. AN—Pat & Janet Ferguson Verlyn & Karrie Bartling BD—Megan Christianson, Brock Butterfield	8 1:30 p.m.-Mary/Martha Circle meeting at church 6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts mtg.	9 AN- LeRoy & Marilyn Katcher BD—Kelly Tilson, Kris Stephenson	10 BD—Jason Hicok, Andrew Scott
11 a.m.—In-Person and Facebook Live Services 10 a.m.-Fellowship Time 10 a.m.-Little Wonders SS 10:30-Adult Bible Study 2 p.m.-Charge Conference at Wesley BD—Steven Wichtendahl	12 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting AN—Kipp & Melinda Schoettmer (30 years)	13  BD—Estell Torgerson (92)	14 9 a.m.-5 p.m.-WIC Clinic 9:30 a.m.-Yoga Class Noon-Wesley Ringers 3:30 p.m.-Kids Club 4 p.m.-Confirmation Class 5 p.m.-SPRC meeting 5:15 p.m.-Messenger reh. 6 p.m.-Youth Group 6 p.m.-Finance meeting AN—Kyle & Angela Horak	15 AN-Kris & Amy Stephenson BD—Angie Wittmer, Chloe Tharp	16 AN—Rick & Pam Primmer (55 years) BD—Aaron Patterson	17 9 a.m.-Wesley Food Pantry Distribution AN—Mark & Lori Christy BD—Shannon Rittgers
18 a.m.—In-Person and Facebook Live Services 10 a.m.-Fellowship Time 10 a.m.-Little Wonders SS 10:30-Adult Bible Study	19 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting AN-Ray & Barb Bookmeier	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE AN-Kevin & April Ahrenholz BD—Perry Ewins	21 9:30 a.m.-Yoga Class Noon-Wesley Ringers 3:30 p.m.-Kids Club 4 p.m.-Confirmation class 5:15 p.m.-Messenger reh. 6 p.m.-Youth Group AN— Laurie & Darrell Werning BD—Cheryl Knaack	22 2 p.m.-Communion at the Lutheran Home BD—Tammy Hicok	23	24
25 a.m.—In-Person and Facebook Live Services 10 a.m.-Fellowship Time 10 a.m.-Little Wonders SS 10:30-Adult Bible Study BD—Eileen Ficek, Devon Tilson	26 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting 	27 9 a.m.-4 p.m.-WIC Clinic BD—Tom Spore	28 9:30 a.m.-Yoga Class Noon-Wesley Ringers 3:30 p.m.-Kids Club 4 p.m.-Confirmation Class 5:15 p.m.-Messenger reh. 6 p.m.-Youth Group	29 6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts mtg. BD—Wes Haefner	30 BD—Dustin Martens, Perry Martens, Russell Evans, Jon Evans	31 TBA—Trunk-or-Treat at Wesley  BD—Caiden Gahring

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A Letter From Christ

Paul the Apostle gave a beautiful compliment to the believers in Corinth. He wrote: "And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, ESV).

What a meaningful picture. A letter carries a message, and Paul reminded the church that their lives were sharing the message of Christ with others.

The same is true for us today. Through our words, actions and faith, people can see evidence of God at work in our hearts. None of us is perfect, but living faithfully can point others toward Him.

What a wonderful goal for every Christian: to be known as "a letter from Christ."

Pastor …….Darrian Adkins
Administrative Assistant…….Lori Ferguson

Words of Encouragement from John Wesley

John Wesley was a pivotal figure in the establishment of the Methodist movement. Born on June 17, 1703, in Epworth, England, he was an Anglican clergyman who, alongside his brother Charles, initiated a revival within the Church of England that led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

Here are a few of John Wesley's Quotes:

Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down.

I have so much to do that I spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it.

Proceed with much prayer, and your way will be made plain.

God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it.

Prayer continues in the desire of the heart, though the understanding be employed on outward things.

With all prayer (Eph. 6:18) All sorts of prayer- public, private, mental, vocal. Do not be diligent in one kind of prayer and negligent in others... let us use all.

In souls filled with love, the desire to please God is continual prayer. The neglect of prayer is a grand hindrance to holiness.

At the beginning of the new year congregations of the Wesleyan/Methodist family renew their covenant with God using the traditional Covenant Service. You will find it in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. A piece of this important part of our tradition is the Covenant Prayer *(see sidebar below)*.

Covenant Prayer by John Wesley

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven.
Amen.

Prayerfully Yours,
The Prayer Team

At the Table With our Lord

World Communion Sunday, October 4, is a very special day. Christians around the world will join together at the Lord's table to partake of the sacrament. What a great day that will be!

Consider what an amazing table the Lord's table is! In a sense it stretches around the whole earth. Catholic Christians, Coptic Christians, Orthodox Christians, Reformed Christians, Lutheran Christians, Baptist Christians, Anglican Christians, Methodist Christians, Evangelical Christians, Christians who worship in churches bearing names we may never have heard of, will gather in their place of worship and do what Christ asked his friends to do: Remember him!

"This do," he said, "in remembrance of me." Then he broke bread as a reminder of his sacrificed body and lifted up the cup holding the wine representing his blood. The sacrament is a vivid symbol of Christ's sacrifice and loving concern for each of us.

How could we ever forget him?

Remember, also, as we gather as Christ's family around that table of grace that we are brothers and sisters in Christ with Christians around the whole world.

"In Christ there is no east or west; In him no south or north; But one great fellowship of love, Throughout the whole wide earth." Thank you, Lord.

