

Wesley Word

A PUBLICATION OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

A new school season is here and that means some change is coming. Can you smell it in the air? All change comes with loss but we're making some pretty great changes and I hope to minimize that feeling of loss in the process.



From the Pastor

While I was talking to some of our youth, they explained that what they want to see, what would keep them coming to this church is a dedicated space. They also mentioned a soda bar but that's the easy part. Over the last few weeks we've been converting the previous youth room upstairs into a new storage room. At some point we'll put in shelving so we can develop a system where everyone who needs to store things will have a place. The corner room that used to be the garage sale space is being converted into the new youth room. This will be a place the high schoolers and middle schoolers can use for their Wednesday programming and whatever else we think up.

It's been a long process but the room is nearly ready! We have a few things to get moved in yet and we're still looking for a mini-fridge if you have one you'd like to donate,

but we're hopeful that the youth in our church will have a space where they can be comfortable. We're hopeful that this space will help the youth feel like they belong.

I look forward to another year of confirmation, though I'm not sure how many students we'll have. I'm planning a whole new curriculum that should come out to roughly 15 sessions; 5 on the First Testament, 5 on the New Testament, and 5 on Methodism. I'm making the theme of this confirmation class Indiana Jones because I want this to be a journey of self-discovery for the youth that take part.

I hope that you're as excited as I am. I believe that our church has the capacity to grow. I believe that we have the ability to share God's love with this community and I believe we have the facilities to do just that. We just have to work on the space so that we can use it for what we need it for. As always if you have questions, comments, or just want to chat my door is open. Have a blessed month.

Pastor Darrian



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Broken But Not Defeated *by Sandy Kulhavy*

It's discouraging and hard to keep believing that I can keep on writing books and that eventually they'll start to sell. I pray and ask God to help me find the people who can help me advertise the book.

Oh, boy, I've had some fast talkers call and want to 'help' me. One guy said he knew movie producers and they want to make a movie of *A Vampire's Tale*. It would only cost \$10,000 to produce a script. But I wouldn't have to pay that - somebody else would cover it. I thought, 'so pull the other one.' Even if it got produced there's no guarantee it'll be a hit and make any money. And they'd change so many parts of my story that it wouldn't be recognizable any more. So I said no. The more I said no the louder and faster he talked. I eventually got him convinced.

Later that day I happened to remember Jeremiah 29 where God told the Israelites to build houses and take husbands and wives. And to seek what was best for the whole community. That must have been hard to hear and harder to do. But God reminded them in verse 11 that he had good plans for them and they'd see better days.

On the days when I feel the most worthless and discouraged, I can hear God whispering in my ear, "Hold on, I've got you. I won't let you fail." And so I get up and get busy. I've got two other books started and am playing with ideas for a third.

Some days I don't know whether I'm just dumb, or delusional or just plain demented. But I keep hearing and feeling God nudging me along. That's got to be a hard, hard job. I'm not a good waiter. Or good at taking orders. I'll go so far and then I want to see some action.

Which I don't often get, but I know from experience that when the time for action comes God will throw me in at the deep end and expect me to sink or swim. Whichever I decide to do God always supports me and gets me through whatever I get into and I have an incredible, unbelievable experience.

Some days I feel as broken and ragged as the tree pictured here. Isaiah 40: 28-31 reminds me that God will never get tired of caring for me. He always has my best interests in mind even in the darkest times. I can find rest and peace in that knowledge.



Lessons That Last

Most of us can remember a Sunday school teacher who made a lasting difference in our lives. Sometimes the simplest lessons become the ones we carry with us the longest.

One man recalled his high school Sunday school teacher, a businessman named Mr. Homan, who shared this advice with the boys in his class: "Don't ever go anywhere you would not want your mother or sister to go. Don't ever do anything you would not want your mother or sister to do."

Years later, the man reflected on those words and said, "That advice has served me well. I have always remembered it."

God often uses faithful teachers to plant seeds of wisdom, character and integrity in young hearts. Their influence may not always be seen right away, but the lessons they share can guide lives for years to come.

Never underestimate the power of a few thoughtful words spoken with love and conviction.

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.

Sunday Adult Bible Study will start again on **September 13** at 10:30. Topic for the first 6 weeks will be "The Lord's Prayer." Hope to see you there!

Little Wonders Sunday school class will also begin again **Sunday, September 13** for children ages 2-5 years old. The class will be from **10 to 10:30** (during fellowship time) in the fireplace room. The 1/2 hour class will involve a Bible story, a snack and a craft.

Mark your calendars:

Our next town hall is going to be **Sunday, September 20th**. We would invite you to join us after service to hear from a few of our leaders about what their boards/committees have been doing and what they are working on.

The Church Council decided that to increase our online presence, that in addition to our Facebook page, we needed to have our website active. That has been completed and is published and ready for people to use. It can be accessed at wesleyumc-vinton.org. We are currently tweaking things and if you see a change or update that you think should be made, please send an email to Doug Martens at wesleychurch2020@gmail.com.

He will review and make changes as necessary. Please keep in mind that this is what is called an evergreen website and will only have a main page showing the activity our church offers. Our main mode of communication will still be our Facebook page.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
6 a.m.—In-Person and Facebook Live Services 10 a.m.-Fellowship Time	7  Office Closed 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting	8 6 p.m.-Ruth Circle salad Potluck at the church AN—Bryon & Kelly Geater BD—Dan Evans	9 9 a.m.-5 p.m.-WIC Clinic 9:30 a.m.-Yoga Class Noon-Wesley Ringers 5 p.m.-SPRC meeting 5:15 p.m.-Messenger reh. 6 p.m.-Youth Group 6 p.m.-Finance meeting 7 p.m.-Ad Council mtg. AN—Tom & Mary Spore	10 1:30 p.m.-Mary/Martha Circle mtg. at the church AN—Jay & Sue Herman John & Lynn Yundt BD—Cieta Fuller, Drew Wiley	11  BD—Gary Follmann, Susan Krakilo	12 AN—Autumn & Robert Conrad BD—Aaron Knaack, Natale Parmater
13 G'Parents Day a.m.—In-Person and Facebook Live Services 10 a.m.-Fellowship Time 10 a.m.-Little Wonders SS 10:30 -Adult Bible study	14 11:45.-PEP at Pizza Ranch 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting AN—Valerie & Eric Struve	15 AN—Emmett & Denise Stephenson BD—Angela Horak	16 9:30 a.m.-Yoga Class Noon-Wesley Ringers 5-7 p.m.-Kiwanis Park registration for Kids Club 5:15 p.m.-Messenger reh. 6 p.m.-Youth Group	17 AN-Brett & Dawn Richards BD—Kimberly Edwards, Jessi Zearley-Kettler, Margaret Mae Wiley	18 AN—David & Andrea Evans	19 9 a.m.-Wesley Food Pantry Distribution AN—Steve & Lexa Speidel (40 years)
20 a.m.—In-Person and Facebook Live Services 10 a.m.-Fellowship Time 10 a.m.-Little Wonders SS 10:15-Town Hall meeting in dining room	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting AN-Tom & Eunice Pingent David & Kim Edwards Joel & Melissa Haefner	22  9 a.m.-4 p.m.-WIC Clinic AN-Doug & Susan Martens BD—Clark Fry	23 9:30 a.m.-Yoga Class Noon-Wesley Ringers 3:30 p.m.-Kids Club begins 5:15 p.m.-Messenger reh. 6 p.m.-Youth Group	24 2 p.m.-Communion Service at Lutheran Home AN-Russ & Kristy Haefner BD—Kay Shepherd, Pat Neve	25 BD—Kayla Peterson	26
27 a.m.—In-Person and Facebook Live Services 10 a.m.-Fellowship Time 10 a.m.-Little Wonders SS 10:30-Adult Bible Study	28 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting	29 BD—Alicia Rollins	30 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			

What's New in the Church Family

To Wesley's Gardeners

Thank you for your donations of vegetables for our food pantry.

We always need fresh and canned produce. Our donations this summer have noticeably dropped, while we are in the midst of an increase in the number of needy families. In July, we served 348 households of 889 people. Since January 1, we've helped 2,563 households of 6,531 people! So we appreciate your support

~Sherry C.,
Vinton Food Pantry

To Wesley United Methodist,
Bethlehem Lutheran and Vinton
Presbyterian Churches,

Thank you for generously sharing your VBS decorations again this year! We truly felt like we had escaped into the Rainforest this week. Our children had a wonderful week exploring what it means to be rooted in a relationship with their creator. We saw new relationships form and their love for God continue to grow! We are beyond grateful for your time and dedication you put into these decorations to make VBS a fun and welcoming place for all the kids. Thank you for your generosity in this amazing ministry!

In Christian Service,
Wellsburg Community VBS

In a society that has you
counting money, calories,
pounds and steps,
be a rebel and count your
blessings.

"The only thing of importance,
when we depart, will be the
traces of love we have left
behind."

—Albert Schweitzer



The Wesley Church family extends their heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of ...

... **Kathryn Ann Rammelsberg Knaack**

who passed away on August 1, 2026, in Austin, Texas. She was 95 years old. Services were held on August 15 at Phillips Funeral Home, officiated by Pastor Darrian Adkins, followed by a lunch at Wesley Church. Kathryn was a 76-year member of Wesley.

Kids Club kicks off at Wesley Church on Wednesday, September 23! Kids Club is an after-school program for children ages K-5th grade and meets on Wednesdays from 3:30-5:15 p.m.

Why You'll Love It:

- + Bible Lessons
- + Games
- + Snacks
- + Object Lessons
- + Music

Sign-up and registration will be on Wednesday, September 16th at Kiwanis Park from 5-7 p.m. A small meal will be provided.



Looking Ahead: 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.

Share some laughs — or groans — with these autumn-themed jokes:

- What did the tree say to autumn? "Leaf me alone!"
- What did one autumn leaf say to another? "I'm falling for you."
- How do you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch.
- Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the fall they "let it go" and in the spring they "turn over a new leaf."
- How do leaves get from place to place? With autumn-mobiles.
- What's the ratio of a pumpkin's circumference to its diameter? Pumpkin pi.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

We are incredibly grateful for the amazing volunteers who dedicated their time this week and today (August 15) at the Wesley Mobile Food Pantry. Your deep commitment to our neighbors is truly inspiring and a beautiful testament to what it means to serve others. We could not do this vital work without you!

Because of your hard work, we were able to provide essential nourishment to many local families.

Distribution Impact (August 15):

- 55 Households Welcomed
- 130 Neighbors Served
- 15 TEFAP Forms Completed

Every July we have to have our neighbors complete new TEFAP forms for the year. Since July we have had 77 households signed up.

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to pack boxes, organize tables, and greet our community with a smile.

You are the heart of this mission!



With Gratitude

Some Thoughts on Prayer

Prayer is a sincere, open conversation, where in the stillness we speak to God and He speaks to us. God is nearer than you think, closer than the very wind that brushes your cheek.

Praying for others is a gift that I give again and again. Praying for others blesses me, too, and I am uplifted.

Prayer Facts:

- If you talk to God, He hears you.
- Prayer is mentioned in the Bible 650 times.
- The word 'prayer' appears 279 times in the New Testament.
- The Bible records 25 prayers of Jesus.
- The Bible is filled with prayers and instructions on prayer, demonstrating it as a vital, constant conversation with God, exhibited by countless individuals throughout Scripture.
- The Bible describes people praying while sitting, standing, kneeling, lying down, in private and in public.

Prayer gives meaning and purpose to our lives. May you be encouraged to grow deeper in your prayer life.

~Wesley's Prayer Team

Wesley United Methodist Church

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Bloopers that gnash the teeth.

A newly appointed pastor arrived at his new church in Florida at the same time that the church's bulletin was appealing for funds to help victims of a hurricane.

By accident, on the pastor's first Sunday in church, the printer left out the center page of the church bulletin, so that the bottom of page two read:

"Welcome to our new pastor, Rev. Jonathan Schmidt and his family ..."

And the top of page three read:

"... the worst catastrophe to hit the area in this century." ☺

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

Prayer of Remembrance for Patriots Day

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter through every storm, and our eternal home:

We come before You remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Though many years have passed, the sorrow of that day still lingers in the hearts of families, friends and a grieving nation.

Lord, comfort those who continue to carry loss. Grant peace to the brokenhearted, strength to the weary and light to those walking through seasons of grief. Let Your presence bring hope where memories still ache.

Teach us to care for one another with compassion and courage. Help us to be a people who offer kindness to the hurting, encouragement to the discouraged and justice to those who suffer. Stir our hearts to live with mercy, humility and love for our neighbors.

Forgive us when our words are greater than our actions. May we strive each day to reflect the values of faith, unity and grace that honor You and strengthen our communities.

Thank You, Lord, for Your constant care and unfailing mercy. Even in tragedy, You remain our refuge and our hope.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Mind's Storehouse

Benjamin Weir, a missionary in the Middle East, was taken captive by terrorists and held in solitary confinement. Blindfolded and cut off from the outside world, he endured deep isolation with no one to speak to and no sense of where he was.

What could he do? In many ways, all he had was a beating heart and a mind still free to think. To endure the long days, he began drawing from what was stored within him. After his release, he reflected, "I called up my memory bank, things that were stored in my mind."

He recalled Scripture passages he had learned years before. He remembered lines from William Shakespeare, the words of hymns and songs, and the faces of those he loved. He reflected on his work, his family and the steady grace of God throughout his life.

Looking back, he said, "Whatever is in your mind is what you have to draw on."

That truth lingers. What we place in our minds today shapes what we will lean on tomorrow. It invites a simple but important question: What are we storing away? May we fill our thoughts with what is true, pure and life-giving, with the story of Christ and the hope of His saving grace.



When the Road Gets Rough



It had been a long trip home, and the weary traveler still had miles to go. So when a sign appeared reading, "Rough Road Ahead — 4 miles," he braced himself.

Rough was an understatement. The lanes narrowed, the shoulder disappeared, and traffic slowed to a crawl. Drivers carefully weaved around potholes and construction equipment, inching forward one stretch at a time. But just as the sign promised, after four difficult miles, the road opened up and smoothed out again.

Jesus offers a similar kind of clarity about life. In John 16:33 (NIV), He says, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Notice He doesn't say we might face trouble. It is part of the journey. There will be stretches that feel slow, uncertain and hard.

Notice that Jesus didn't say we "might" have trouble. Sooner or later, problems will come. The road will get rough. But Jesus has already defeated everything the world can throw our way. We just have to keep moving, fueled by hope.

The promise is just as certain as the warning sign. The rough road does not last forever, and it does not have the final say. Christ has already gone before us, and smoother ground is ahead.