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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

Community is of key importance in the United Methodist tradition. John Wesley talked about a concept we would call social holiness. John Wesley believed that you could not practice your Christian faith in isolation, you need to be a part of a community. This community of faith has developed many good missions and even several study groups where you might see this social holiness in action. From the food pantry to Sunday Bible study there are opportunities to practice the faith with the body of Christ.

Yet there remain open opportunities for those looking for something. We need more volunteers for our high school youth group. You don't need to teach the lesson, we need another person in the room. This program starts around 6PM and runs to roughly 7:30PM. There is a meal for the kids to start out and volunteers are welcome to eat with our students. This program is thriving but we have the opportunity to develop our youth in faith, that in itself is a blessing. It is a wonderful program to be a part of and I know there are people in our congregation with the gifts to volunteer. If you would like to volunteer you can talk to Erin Stueck.

The youth are the church of tomorrow yes, but they are also the church of today. The church is an intergenerational space where people of all ages are called to participate. The church is a space where people can be safe, where they can develop their voices, and where they can grow in faith. With just a push we can become the energetic church our congregational assessment said that we can be. Have faith that God will guide us when we struggle and work to guide each other in Christ as we have vowed to do.

John Wesley had a quote, "For, how few of you spend, from week to another, a single hour in private prayer!" I believe that our youth program from elementary to high school has the potential to change our church for the better if we put our energy into these programs. So, take some time this month to see where you can plug into our missions. Take some time this month to try something new. Take time to be holy and remember there is "No holiness but social holiness."

Pastor Darrian



INSIDE this issue

- *Record-Breaking Day at Wesley Food Pantry* pg. 2
- *Counting Blessings* pg. 2
- *Order Your Poinsettias* pg. 2
- *Thanksgiving Boxes* pg. 2
- *Change of Deadline* pg. 2
- *Christmas Rummage Sale* pg. 3
- *A New View* pg. 3
- *The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle* pg.4
- *Calendar of Events* pg. 5
- *Make This Blessings Mix* pg. 6



Record-Breaking Day at the Wesley Mobile Food Pantry!

Today, Saturday, October 17th, we held our October food distribution at Wesley United Methodist Church. Despite the cold weather, our hearts were completely warmed by the incredible community response. We were deeply blessed with many dedicated volunteers who showed up ready to work and serve our Neighbors who are food insecure.

God is moving through this mission! Today, we welcomed 17 new family units who signed up to receive food through the TEFAP program via HACAP and our local community donations.

In total, 84 individuals signed in to receive food, helping us provide groceries to a grand total of 226 individuals! This marks a record amount of people served on one day in all the years we have been running our food pantry. Thankfully, each and every person who came to us today was able to take home food for their family.

We are reminded of the scripture in Hebrews 13:16: *"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."* We simply could not provide this vital mission to feed our Neighbors without your ongoing prayers, your volunteer service, and your generous donations. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in Vinton today!

A Thanksgiving Prayer of Gratitude

Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer and eternal Companion, we come before you overwhelmed by the boundless goodness you bestow upon us.

On this special day, we remember how you blessed those who came to this land seeking the freedom to worship without restraint or hindrance.

We are immeasurably grateful for our heritage. We pray that our faith may be as fervent as the faith of those who left everything familiar to journey to a strange land, where they themselves were strangers.

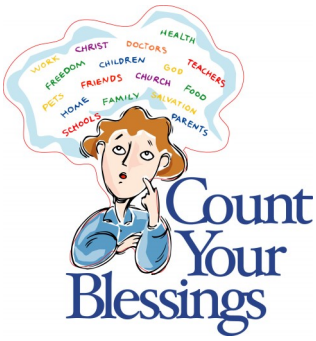
We gather as grateful beneficiaries of your faithful servants who paid a costly price to glorify you and serve you. Mindful of the first Thanksgiving meal shared by newcomers and Native peoples, we now gather around our own tables with family and friends.

We come before you with love and deep appreciation for your constant grace and abundant gifts. The beautiful food before us is a visible reminder of your generous provision.

Ever-giving and ever-loving God, we humbly thank you for all your blessings. We ask for one gift more: the honor of your presence. Be our Guest, so that we may enjoy fellowship with you and with one another.

We pray in the name of your greatest gift to us, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Counting Blessings



Numbered lists grab our attention. In the checkout aisle or on the internet, we gravitate toward headings such as “10 ways to lose weight by summer!” or “3 simple steps to acing that test!”

Ancient Jewish sages urged people to count out and speak at least 100 blessings, or statements of gratitude, each day. What would happen if we intentionally listed 100 blessings daily? Can you imagine?!

What if the first blessing we counted was simply the day itself? “Thank you, God, for this brand new day!” “Bless my use of this day, Lord, that I might glorify you.” Scripture encourages such awareness and promises an additional blessing in return: “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

The Altar Guild is selling poinsettias for Christmas. Choose from red, white, and jingle bell. Each plant is $16.00. The sign-up sheet is located in the dining room. Last Sunday to order is November 29th.



Thanksgiving Boxes

The Vinton Presbyterian Church is once again coordinating the efforts for putting together Thanksgiving Boxes for those in the community who are in need. Contents of the box will include ingredients for traditional sides, a pie, and a ham instead of turkey. Cost per box is estimated at $45. If you would like to contribute, please make checks to Wesley UMC with Thanksgiving on the memo line. ***If you are in need of a basket,*** *please contact Lori in the church office by November 10. Thank you for your generosity!*



Change of Deadline

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, office closings, and Lori being out of the office the week of November 23, she is moving the deadline for the December newsletter to ***Friday, November 13,*** *instead of the 20th. Thank you for taking note of this change and planning according,*

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: wesley@wesleyumcvintonia@gmail.com; Pastor Darrian Adkin’s 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.



*On **Sunday, November 1,** 2026, we will be celebrating All Saints Day during our 9 a.m. service, both in-person and on Facebook Live. All Saints Day is a time of remembering those loved ones who were a part of our congregation and have passed away since this time last year. Following the celebration of Holy Communion, the names will be read and a candle lit in their memory. This year we will be remembering:*

Marcia Ellen Hite,
Mildred M. "Milly" Hilmer,
Julia Ann "Judy" Travis,
John William "Bill" Travis,
Yvonne Fry Weideman,
Florence "Flossie" E. Rippel,
Katherine "Kathie" Arnold Ervin,
Keith Anderson Ervin,
Kathryn Ann Rammelsberg Knaack, and Darryl Lynn McNeal

We invite you to join us as we remember these Saints who have been such a meaningful part of our lives.

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*Wesley's Christmas Rummage Sale is scheduled for **Sunday, November 22 from 12noon-2 p.m.,** the same day as the downtown Open Houses. Please continue to bring in your donations of 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. The congregation will be able to shop that morning during Fellowship Time. Free-will donation. Thank you!*



What's New in the Church Family



"There's always a lot to be thankful for, if you take time to look for it. For example, I'm sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt." ☺

~Author unknown

Communing With Nature

In *More Than Words* (Westminster John Knox), Erin Wathen tells of serving as pastor at a church where, following communion, the children take the leftover bread outside for the birds. One day, Wathen's own youngsters were playing church when they summoned her to a "meeting" for a new church plant.

The kids had planned the building layout, an order of worship, a prayer garden, a grand-opening picnic — and something else, which Wathen didn't initially understand. Then her heart swelled with joy, recognizing that her daughter meant the post-Eucharist disposal of bread, which clearly, to the child, was a natural and assumed part of church. "[We need] a place," the girl stated casually, "for the animals to have communion."

A New View *by Sandy Kulhavy*

I've read Jeremiah 1:4-10 many times. I read this passage the other day as part of my devotions. I was totally dumbfounded! God told Jeremiah that God knew him before he was conceived. And that God had consecrated Jeremiah before he was born.

Once my head cleared, I wondered did God do the same for all creation? Did God have a plan for me even before any part of me existed. No wonder I can never get away from God. He's known me since before he created the universe. Such knowledge leaves me feeling utterly useless and yet I feel like I can take on the world because God will be with me no matter what.

I've learned over the years that whatever God asks will mean a lot of hard work and thoughts of quitting. But God comes along and nudges me along. A lot of people think writing is easy. You just fill up a blank page with words. Those words have to make sense. You have to rummage around in your mind and try to pick up fabulous ideas that write themselves. Doesn't work that way. That would be too easy. I don't have to think or to dig deep into my mind which doesn't really hold any great treasures. They're all deep, deep in my heart and digging them out is harder than digging gold or diamonds from the earth. But once I've done the work I've got a treasure that I can save up in heaven and share it with others at the same time. How amazing is that.

Some times I just get so tired I'd like to crawl into a nice dark cave with a bunch of soft, warm, fuzzy blankets and a cuddly dog and sleep for a week or three. God is gracious enough to give me time to rest. But all too soon it seems to me he's back to nudging, even pushing me to get me up and moving again. God tells us not to be afraid of anything or anyone because God is always with us. God put his words in Jeremiah's mouth and I can feel his words moving in my heart.

I often feel like God is busy getting me ready for the next step in my life. I know what I'd like to happen, but I don't expect it will. God knows what's best for me and he'll bring it to me. Even if at first I look at God and say, "You ARE kidding, right?" (I have said worse.) God gives me time to think about it. If I don't get moving soon enough God will throw me in the deep end and let me struggle. And struggle I do, but I know that God will be right there with me. And he'll carry me through.

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle - World Council of Churches (WCC)



The United Methodist Church organization is a member of the World Council of Churches and supports its efforts to encourage individuals and congregations to engage in prayer for different countries, fostering a sense of unity and solidarity among Christians globally.

The WCC brings together churches, denominations and church fellowships in more than 120 countries and territories throughout the world, representing 356 member churches and 580 million Christians. The WCC is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Savior according to the scriptures. It seeks to fulfill together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Prayer is at the very heart of the WCC movement. In Jesus' final prayer before His arrest, He prayed that we 'His followers' may all be one. John 17:21 "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." To encourage this message, the WCC established an Ecumenical Prayer Cycle including prayers for every nation, ensuring that all regions are represented at least once a year. Each week is dedicated to specific countries reflecting on the unique challenges and gifts of those nations. The WCC website provides a page of information and prayer resources developed by people who live in one or more of the nations covered that week. Wesley UMC compiles and emails the weekly prayer cycles to our congregation.

Consider how you might make praying for all the world a part of the practice of your devotional life. The Prayer Cycle provides one way for you to do so in concert with millions of Christians around the world who have already taken up this practice.

Special Ecumenical Worship Service

On November 15, 2026, Wesley UMC will participate in WCC's annual ecumenical Worship Service. It is an honor for the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church to be highlighted as this year's Week of Prayer Service for Christian Unity. The title of the service, ***"Light from Light for Light***", is inspired by the attribute of Christ as the Light ***from*** Light; who was sent to shine God's Light into this troubled world. Thus "Light ***from*** Light ***for*** Light.

On November 15, Wesley's Prayer Team plans to incorporate some of the prayers, hymns and scripture readings of the service. We will draw on centuries old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches, some of which date as far back as the fourth century. Wesley's Prayer Team welcomes the opportunity to experience the rich culture of the sacred traditions of the Armenian Apostolic Church which offers us a profound reflection on the unity within the universal Body of Christ. This reflection invites us to recognize and cherish the transformative power of unity, both within our own faith communities and in the wider global Church.

Prayerfully Yours, The Prayer Team

Prayer Moments

- Prayer is a way to remain mindful of our connection to God.
- Prayer keeps me grounded in spiritual truths.
- Prayer keeps me rooted in the knowledge that my problems and challenges are temporary and no match for the awesome goodness of God.
- Prayer has no limits and knows no geographic or cultural boundaries. Prayer reaches hearts and minds everywhere.
- Prayer is the world's greatest wireless connection.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends / All Saints Day 9 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—Alen Hilliard, Augustus Kraklio	**2** 11:45 p.m.-PEP at Pizza Ranch 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting 7 p.m.-Ruth Circle mtg. AN— Richard & Anna May Tharp BD—Matt Marovec, Julie Ham, Jason Yessak, Maren Abernathy, Lincoln Davis	**3**  BD—Richard Woodson, Sydney Bartling, Max Griffith	**4** No Yoga 11 a.m.-Wesley Ringers 3:30 p.m.-Kids Club 5:15 p.m.-Messenger reh. 6 p.m.-Youth Group NO Trustees mtg. BD—Grant Wittmer, Jordan Pattee, Ryan Schoettmer	**5** 6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts mtg. BD—Laurie Werning	**6** BD—Kipp Schoettmer, Nicholas Stout, Mason Haefner	**7**
8 9 a.m.—In-Person and Facebook Live Services 10 a.m.-Fellowship Time 10 a.m.-Little Wonders SS 10:30-Adult Bible Study TBD-4-H meeting BD—Casey Stark, Eden Haefner	**9** 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting  BD—Brett Richards, Ada Pennington, Quinn Monaghan	**10** BD—Denise Joyal, James Primmer, Brady Smith	**11** *Veterans Day* 9 a.m.-5 p.m.-WIC Clinic 9:30 a.m.-Yoga Noon-Wesley Ringers 3:30 p.m.-Kids Club 5 p.m.-SPRC meeting 5:15 p.m.-Messenger reh. 6 p.m.-Youth Group 6 p.m.-Finance meeting 7 p.m.-Church Council mtg	**12** 1:30 p.m.-Mary/Martha Circle meeting at church	**13** *NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (please note change) BD—Joel Haefner	**14** BD—Tammi Griffith
15 9 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—Grayson Yessak, Chloe Rommann	**16** 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting BD—Bob Wittmer, Bob Fischer, Kody Vogt, Cole Klinzing, Hayden Phippen	**17** BD—Samuel Ahrenholz, Ellen Abernathy	**18** 9:30 a.m.-Yoga Noon-Wesley Ringers 3:30 p.m.-Kids Club 5:15 p.m.-Messenger reh. 6 p.m.-Youth Group BD—Kinze Wittmer	**19** 2 p.m.-Communion at the Lutheran Home 6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts mtg. BD—Wren Ahrenholz	**20** 	**21** 9 a.m.-Wesley Food Pantry Distribution BD—Micah Butterfield
22 9 a.m.—In-Person and Facebook Live Services 10 a.m.-Fellowship Time Shop rummage sale 10 a.m.-Little Wonders SS 10:30-Adult Bible Study Noon-2 p.m.-Christmas Rummage Sale AN-Melissa & Cody Smith BD—Karen Popelka, Nicole Allen	**23** 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting BD—Julie Haefner	**24**  AN—Bob & Angie Wittmer	**25** No Activities BD—Ann Gordon	**26**  OFFICE CLOSED BD—Waylon Struve	**27** OFFICE CLOSED BD—LeRoy Katcher	**28** BD—Libby Greenlee, Hunter Vogt
29 9 a.m.—In-Person and Facebook Live Services 10 a.m.-Fellowship Time No classes BD—Marvel Netser, Leon Schwenker	**30** 6:30 p.m.-AA meeting					

Wesley United Methodist Church
516 2nd Avenue
Vinton, Iowa
52349
(319) 472-2581

Present Tense

After "turkey day" came and went last year, a pastor challenged church members to ask one another not "How *was* your Thanksgiving?" but "How *is* your Thanksgiving?" After all, giving thanks should be an ongoing act.

That doesn't always need to be profoundly deep, either. A.J. Jacobs, author of *Thanks a Thousand,* once asked a philosophy-professor friend what he was grateful for. The shockingly simple reply? "Sometimes I'm just grateful I have arms." That odd but spot-on answer shows the importance, Jacobs says, of being "thankful for things so omnipresent that they can escape our notice."

So … how *is* your Thanksgiving?

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

Gestures of Gratitude

In 2005, a female humpback whale became entangled in a web of crab traps and lines just east of the Farallon Islands, off the San Francisco coast. Hundreds of yards of line rope were wrapped around her body, tail, torso and mouth, weighing her down so much that she struggled to stay afloat.

A fisherman spotted the whale and radioed for help. When rescuers arrived, they determined that the only way to save the creature was to dive in and untangle her. This was a dangerous proposition, as one slap of the tail could be deadly.

Rescuers worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed the whale. What she did next surprised the divers: She swam in what seemed like joyous circles, coming back to each person, one at a time, nudging them gently, in what rescuers assumed was a beautiful gesture of thanks.

May you and those you love be surrounded by people who help you get untangled from whatever is binding you and may you always know the joy of giving and receiving gratitude.

Sunday, November 1, 2026



Remember to turn your clocks BACK one hour before you go to bed Saturday night. ☺

Editor's Note: I know you've seen this before but it is a favorite at my house. Combine the following ingredients for a special treat and give to your family and friends as a reminder of how much God has blessed us! Don't forget to attach a tag to explain what each item means. Happy Thanksgiving!

Blessings Mix

Bugles: *Shaped like a cornucopia or horn of plenty, a symbol of our nations abundance*

Pretzels: *Arms folded in prayer, a freedom sought by those who founded our country.*

Candy Corn: *The sacrifices of the Pilgrims first winter. Food was so scarce that settlers survived on just a few corn kernels a day.*

Nuts/Seeds: *Promise of a future harvest, one we will reap only if seeds are planted and tended to with diligence.*

Dried Fruits: *Harvest Gifts from our bountiful land.*



M &M's: *Memories of those who came before us to lead us into a blessed future.*

Hershey Kisses: *The love of family and friends that sweetens our lives.*