

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



HE ANSWERED, 'LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND'; AND, 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' LUKE 10:27

Wesley UMC's Mission Statement

Wesley UMC seeks to be a safe and inclusive home where all are invited to walk with Jesus Christ in the world.

Save the Date:

- **August 10th** @ 8:30am & 11am: Backpack Blessing Sunday
- **August 17th**: Blood Pressure Checks

A Note for Summer: Church Summer Office Hours begin May 30th and continue through Labor Day weekend. The office will be open from 9am-12pm on Fridays and closed in the afternoons. Monday through Thursday office hours will remain 9am-4pm with a lunch break between 12-1pm. Please have all bulletin submissions to the office by Thursdays at 12pm. Thank you in advance! If you have questions, feel free to contact the church office at 217-345-3917.

Happy Birthday!

Betty Durham	Tina Held
Brahm Vanderwerf	Sue Harvey
Megan Mattson	Heather Socarras
Judy Brown	Sue Leathers
Jeffery Baker	Terri Farley
Karen Karch	Bill Lair
Deanna Smith	Lauren Wahls
Nancy Swinford	Alex Carr
Don McKee	Jeff Schuette
Lauren Mellott	Sylvia Barry

Happy Anniversary!

Jim & Sandy Ernst
 Tom & Ruth Ann Finley
 Max & Joy Winkler
 Trevor & Lisa Doughty
 Stan & Jan McMorris
 Don & Jean Mapes
 Jack & Donna Helton
 Rick & Rosalie Addison
 Don & Jayne Bardsley
 Chad & Lisa Braden
 Steve & Jody Johnson
 Rich & Maria Wandling

Our Ongoing Dialogue... by Pastor Brad

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31)

Now I will admit that I find the 4th of July the saddest day of the summer. Now this has nothing to do with the meaning of the holiday, because I celebrate freedom as much as you. It has nothing to do with the fireworks and picnics, because I will be there if you invite me (and I may even be the life of the party). I can fill the day with long rides in my Ford Bronco with the top off and be one of the happiest people on the planet. AND YET, despite the historical, cultural, vacational nature of the holiday, I can't get over the idea that the 4th of July makes me feel like summer is over.

WHAT?!?! Are you serious, Pastor Brad? The 4th of July sits in the first half of a kid's summer break, it is early in the warmest season of the year, and many interpret 4th of July as the beginning of Summer! Come on, Pastor Brad, don't be a half-glass-empty-kind-of-person!

Perhaps it has to do with the vocational reality of my job. As soon as the 4th of July drew to a close, I already started setting my sights on the fall season. Look through this newsletter and you will see we are gearing up for what lies ahead as school starts. Disciple Bible Study will return, Sunday School for all ages will begin again, students will head back to their respective schools, Charge Conference forms loom which means our committees will reignite and follow through with our goals. Wow...we have a lot ahead....but wait: IT'S STILL SUMMER!!

It's been a remarkable summer so far. We started summer here at Charleston Wesley UMC with a burst of life with Vacation Bible School. We welcomed, nurtured, challenged, and sent forth as children experienced the love of God to start their summer. Over 60 children flooded our building for a week as our community came together as people of all ages joined together in an intergenerational ministry of love for all children. A remarkable team of volunteers created an unforgettable experience that has come to represent who we are at Wesley UMC. The signs of life were everywhere!

Then as VBS came to a close, we sent our high school youth on a mission trip through the Appalachian Service Project for a week in Kentucky making homes warmer, safer, and drier. The actual work on the homes is only half of the story. The other half of the story is the community that is being built among our youth learning how to live together and how to love together. That is a model for any church, anywhere.

There is a beauty at work that is well beyond us. One of my favorite authors, Rob Bell, writes, “When I think of God, I hear a song. It's a song that moves me, and it has a melody and it has a groove. It has a certain rhythm. And people have heard this song for thousands and thousands of years across continents and cultures and time periods. This song is playing all around us all the time.



This song is playing everywhere. It's written on our hearts. And everybody is playing the song. See the question isn't whether or not you're playing a song. The question is: are you in tune?"

When Jesus was pressed by those wanting to be in rhythm with his teaching...wanting to know what they needed to do or what commandment was the most important, Jesus gave them a tune to dance their lives around: Love the Lord your God with all that you are and love your neighbor as yourself. There is a rhythm to our faith found in how we live out our love for God and one another. One needs the other...one requires the other. There is a beauty at work beyond us...but we have to show up and get in rhythm with our living, with our believing, with our loving.

As fall approaches, we will try to find a rhythm to our lives in order to cope (running kids, demands of work, volunteering, classes, etc.).

And yet, God offers a rhythm by which we can thrive now and everyday and it is found in how we live out truth, love, grace, mercy, justice, compassion... the way that Jesus lived...and it is found in ministries with the young and old, and in so many other areas of our church as well. We really need volunteers. Our faith is so deeply connected to how we live in relationship with others whether it be through teaching or mentoring, cooking or serving, ushering or decision-making, liturgizing or sharing your gifts from the world with the church. We need you. And that rhythm will bring a beauty to who we are as a church and will grow in the joy of loving connection with each other. Can you help us this year?

May we live that rhythm...I mean really live this year. May we find ways to get involved in our faith and may we be in tune with the greatest song ever written.



STAY IN THE KNOW



The family of Emma Daum place a special rock in Emma's Garden when they visited Wesley on July 6, 2025. Emma Garden, as the Daum Family calls the flower garden on the right side of the Tree of Remembrance, is located just outside the front door of our church. The rock is engraved with "Emma's Garden, 1932-2025" below a pair of engraved angel wings. Emma was an active member of Wesley UMC, loved flowers and cared for this flower garden area for a long time.



Substitute Custodians Needed

SPR is looking for a few good men or women interested in serving as substitute custodians here at Wesley. If you have some spare time and are willing to work on an "as needed" basis, we are interested in adding you to our list. If interested, please send a note of interest and your contact information to: Sharon Brinkmeyer, sbrinkme@mchsi.com.

MINISTRY UPDATES



Baby Fold



Fueled



Baby Fold



Fueled

Summer Church Camp

A big thank you to all who have made camping possible for our kids and youth! 7 kids and youth members went this summer. Camps attended were East Bay's Baby Fold, Little Grassy's Fueled, and Little Grassy's Trailblazers Camp. Kids enjoyed serving others at camp as well as traditional summer activities like rock climbing, camp fires, and crafts. If you are interested in supporting camping ministry or know a child who would like to go to church camp next summer, reach out to the church office to get connected!

VBS Recap

It's hard to believe it's already been a month since Camp Wesley! With the help of over 30 volunteers, Wesley UMC served 57 kids throughout the week. We are so thankful for everyone who dedicates their time and love towards teaching these kids how to Love Like Jesus! The group was able to raise \$1,134.50 towards the Charleston Area Summer Meal Program. Thank you to all of our kids and volunteers who made this possible!



MINISTRY UPDATES



Appalachia Service Project Recap

On the morning of June 8th 6 Youth and 4 adults climbed into the church vans and set out for Perry County, KY for a week of service with Appalachia Service Project. Our project this year was to remove the siding from our homeowner's home and then put on house wrap and begin J Channeling to put on new siding. All 10 of our volunteers worked together and got a great deal accomplished on day one.

After the siding was removed some holes were discovered under the siding that needed repair, so our team split up to tackle multiple parts of the project. Some worked on removing siding, some on repairing the sheathing, and some on house wrap. It was great to see everyone finding a task and helping. After the holes were repaired, we were able to focus on finishing the house wrap and get a great deal of J channeling done by the end of the week.

Each morning began with our daily devotional and helped us focus our attention to God and serving the people of Appalachia each day. Our meals provided times to connect and speak with one another about our shared interests and our lives. The culture night allowed us to experience the Perry County Fair, which was a welcome night to relax and enjoy an evening together outside of the school we were staying at.

ASP gives us the opportunity to give people a home that is warmer, safer, and drier. We are happy and blessed that we can do that. The share circle on Friday showed that not only did we change the lives of our homeowners we were changing the lives of everyone on the trip. Thank you again for your continued support for this trip Wesley UMC. Your love and support were felt throughout the week, and we could not have done it without you.

KIDS & YOUTH NEWSLETTER



AUGUST
2025

Upcoming Dates and Important Info

SOAKED - August 10th @ 4-6pm
Popsicles in the Park - August 24th @ 3pm

Ask Sarah to join the Wesley Kids and Family Private Facebook Group to stay in the know about upcoming Kids events!



Our Annual SOAKED event is here! Sunday August 10th from 4-6pm Kids and Youth will enjoy water games and ice cream on the front lawn at Wesley UMC. Don't forget your sunscreen, towel, and to wear modest swimwear. We can't wait to see you and your family! Parents are invited to bring a lawn chair to join us!



Popsicles in the Park

Families are invited to the Lake Charleston Playground and Pavilion to have Popsicles in the Park on August 24th @ 3pm.

Questions? Contact the church office at charlestonwesleyumc@gmail.com to get connected!

Give Thanks

YOUR FINANCIAL GIVING

God's people have been giving since before there were buildings or budgets. Generous and sacrificial giving is a hallmark of the church. The church's mission to love and serve in the name of Jesus Christ continues through the ministry of Wesley United Methodist Church. Your offering can be mailed to the office - 2206 4th Street, Charleston - or you can give online through our website www.charlestonwesley.org Thank you!

		-----2025-----			-----2024-----		
INCOME		Actual	Annual Budget	% of actual to budget	Actual	Annual Budget	
4100	Giving Units	\$ 265,405.88	-		\$ 258,090.71	-	
4110	Loose Collections	4,877.70	-		6,087.15	-	
4120	Sunday School	-	-		-	-	
4150	Day Care	17,502.00	-		16,002.00	-	
4175	Rental Income	(150.00)	-		315.00	-	
4200	Interest Income	2,687.37	-		2,440.91	-	
		290,322.95			282,935.77		
EXPENSES							
5100,140,180's	Education and Youth	3,112.52	\$ 9,000.00	34.58%	4,344.21	\$ 9,000.00	48.27%
5120	Evangelism	1,031.55	3,150.00	32.75%	1,193.22	3,800.00	31.40%
5130	Worship	891.77	5,500.00	16.21%	3,208.57	7,200.00	44.56%
5159	Caring Ministries	1,347.46	2,100.00	64.16%	629.46	2,000.00	31.47%
5150	Church and Society	5,000.00	11,950.00	41.84%	6,436.78	11,965.00	53.80%
5169.4	Green Team	60.00	500.00	12.00%	200.00	500.00	0.00%
5170	Missions	6,000.00	13,775.00	43.56%	6,000.00	13,775.00	43.56%
5200	Staff Support	206,220.14	414,791.00	49.72%	202,443.02	397,861.00	50.88%
5300	Comm. On Finance	2,604.65	5,750.00	45.30%	2,435.62	5,400.00	45.10%
5400	Board of Trustees	71,287.71	192,350.00	37.06%	74,825.12	192,350.00	38.90%
5500	Church Office	12,655.97	26,000.00	48.68%	13,171.09	27,400.00	48.07%
5600	IL Great River Conference	29,895.64	59,760.00	50.03%	30,983.70	62,868.00	49.28%
5700	Administrative Council	-	300.00	0.00%	-	300.00	0.00%
		340,107.41	\$ 744,926.00	45.66%	345,870.79	\$ 734,419.00	47.09%
Net Income (Loss) before other income (expenses)		(49,784.46)			(62,935.02)		
Other Income (expenses):							
Stock donation		6,995.40			-		
Realized gain - investment liquidation		8,794.51			-		
Net Income (Loss)		\$ (33,994.55)			\$ (62,935.02)		

NOTE: For each line item, year to date expenses would be expected to average 50% of the 2025 and 2024 budget, respectively.

MONTHLY MISSION



August 2025 Mission Project: UMCOR U.S. Disaster Relief - Texas Floods

The Missions Ministry Team has designated UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response to the Texas floods as our August mission.

On July 4, 2025, historic rains led to catastrophic flash flooding along the Guadalupe River in Central Texas. As of mid-July, 134 people were known to have died, including 27 campers and counselors from Camp Mystic, a private, all-girls summer camp in Hunt, Texas. The fast moving waters smashed through buildings, and carried away vehicles and uprooted trees downstream. All this resulted in twisted debris piles which have hampered recovery efforts. Furthermore, new rounds of heavy rains in the ensuing days destroyed another hundred homes and forced temporary halts in search and rescue efforts.

Immediately following this disaster, UMCOR awarded a solidarity grant to the Rio Texas Annual Conference to support their relief efforts. This grant will help provide immediate relief to those impacted through Early Response Team deployments and debris removal. UMCOR-trained ERT teams provide survivors with needed relief supplies such as food, water, flood buckets, and shelter. They also help with mucking out and cleaning up, and tarping roofs. Long after other organizations have left, UMCOR will continue to be on site, committed to supporting sustained recovery efforts.

Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care and practical support to people across the United States, offering hope and healing in times of great need. As with all UMCOR disaster response projects, 100% of donations go directly to the mission. If you would like to donate, please make your check to Wesley UMC with Texas Floods on the memo line, or visit our website at <https://www.charlestonwesley.org/give>. Thank you very much for your support.

Your Missions Ministry Team

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

Wesley UNITED METHODIST Church

open HEARTS . open MINDS . open DOORS

July 28, 2025

Dear Friends and Family of Wesley UMC,

Every week in the worship bulletin, there is a list of our church's staff. At the top of the list is you. "Every Baptized Member" we consider to be the most vital part of our ministry team. You are the integral part of what makes Wesley United Methodist Church move forward with the Holy Spirit. That will always be the truth of who we are as people of faith.

Last month, you received a letter from our Finance and Staff-Parish Relations Committees sharing the challenge of our faithful stewardship and the likely step of staff re-organization. With the need to reduce budget and position ourselves for the future, we have eliminated seven staff positions and created two full-time positions: Director of Children and Youth Discipleship and Office Manager. Along with Pastor Brad, these two positions will assume the responsibilities of the eliminated positions and offer a more cohesive and stream-lined approach to our ministry offerings.

After an internal process, we are announcing the following changes to our staff. Effective August 1, Kait Jackson will serve as our Office Manager. Our Office Manager will be your weekday contact at Wesley responsible for communication, hospitality and questions regarding your giving. Kait joined our staff in April 2023, serving as the Director of Communications. Kait has also been working towards achieving her MBA and continues to grow in her skills. Kait takes on this new full time position and will be available Monday through Friday (8:30AM – 4:30PM).

Also effective August 1, Sarah Gatton will serve as our Director of Children and Youth Discipleship. Combining these two vital roles in the lives of our young people, Sarah will be responsible for shepherding our children and youth from the cradle through their college years making sure we are offering opportunities to learn, grow, and serve in the love of Jesus Christ. Sarah has been a part of our Wesley Ministry to children and youth for ten years, serving on staff as the Director of Children and Adult Discipleship since April 2022. In her new full-time role, Sarah will be gaining valuable experience as she is also working toward her calling as an Ordained Deacon connecting the church and the world.

Both Kait and Sarah will need you, "Every Baptized Member" of Wesley. As ministers, we are counting on your support for them as they transition into these new roles. We are asking that you walk alongside of them as they learn new skills, volunteer with them as they will need extra hands to complete challenging tasks, and to love them with the kind of compassionate love you have come to know at Wesley UMC.

(over)

We also want to offer our gratitude to those who are leaving the Wesley Staff. Brock Warren, Elizabeth Halbe, and Kris Hall have been an important part of our daily Wesley staff. Elizabeth will continue as the Bell Choir Director. Combined, they have given over 20 years of faithful discipleship.

Our new staff listing is below. May we continue to work toward God's call to us to be a home for all people to walk with Jesus Christ in the world.

Peace,

Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Wesley United Methodist Church

Our Church Community

Every Baptized Member	Ministers
Bradley Shumaker	Directing Pastor
Sarah Gatton	Director of Children and Youth Discipleship
Janice Kahl	Pastor of Congregational Care
Kaitlin Jackson	Office Manager
Ethan Hayward	Organist/Pianist
Michael Mellott	Choir and Children's Music Director
Elizabeth Halbe	Bell Choir Director
Kaylie Hutton	Nursery Coordinator
Meredithe Morrissey	Nursery Care
Mary Larson	Financial Secretary
Cleve Karch	Treasurer
Cole Dearnbarger	Custodian



August



SUNDAY

MONDAY







TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Sunday Morning Schedule Worship: 8:30 am & 11 am Fellowship: Between Services Kids/Youth Sunday School: 9:45am Adult Sunday School: 9:45am		Youth Schedule Stay up to date in Team Reach!			1 Summer Church Office Hours 9am-12pm	2
3 Sunday Morning Schedule *	4 Prayer Group 1pm Young @ Heart 2:30pm	5 Men's Bible Study (L) 7:30 am Staff Meeting 10am Knit & Nibble 10:30am Missions 4pm	6 Women's Study 8am	7 Worship at Arbor Rose 11am Green Team (zoom) 6pm	8 Summer Church Office Hours 9am-12pm	9 Youth Group Holiday World Trip 7AM
10 Backpack Sunday Sunday Morning Schedule * SOAKED 4-6pm	11 Prayer Group 1pm Stephen Ministry 1pm	12 Men's Bible Study (L) 7:30 am Staff Meeting 10am 	13 Women's Study 8am	14 Worship at The Villas 10:30am Church & Society (P) 5:30pm	15 Summer Church Office Hours 9am-12pm	16
17 Sunday Morning Schedule * Combined Youth Group 5:30pm	18 Prayer Group 1pm SPR 7pm	19 Men's Bible Study (L) 7:30 am Staff Meeting 10am Knit and Nibble 10:30am	20 Women's Study 8am	21 Young @ Heart Trip 2pm Trustees 6pm	22 Summer Church Office Hours 9am-12pm	23
24 Sunday Morning Schedule * Popsicles in the Park 3pm	25 Prayer Group 1pm Stephen Ministry 1pm	26 Men's Bible Study (L) 7:30 am Staff Meeting 10am Bell Choir 4:30pm	27 Women's Study 8am Choir 7pm	28	29 Summer Church Office Hours 9am-12pm	30
31 Sunday Morning Schedule *						Wesley United Methodist Church 2206 4 th St Charleston IL 61920 217-345-3917

*Denotes Nursery is available for event