

march 2015

the spire

wesley student center & united methodist

church at the university of illinois

Holy Week at Wesley

Holy Week

Monday – Friday

March 30th – April 3rd

Noon Day Prayer, Sanctuary

All are invited for a special 15 minute prayer service at 12:00 noon each day during Holy Week in the Sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal April 2nd at 6:00 p.m., Great Hall

Join us for this special dinner as we experience some of the foods and customs Jesus and his disciples would have shared as first century Jews during the Last Supper meal. Reservations are requested, and can be made by calling [217-344-1120](tel:217-344-1120) by March 31st.



Good Friday Service of Worship April 3rd at 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

All are invited to a special service marking the events of the final hours of Jesus' life and death by crucifixion on the cross. Join us for this stark yet meaningful service of

hope on Good Friday. The Good Friday Service will also feature special music by choir and community members.



Looking Ahead to Easter at Wesley

**You are invited to celebrate
Easter at Wesley Church**

There will be special events for the whole family on....

Sunday, April 5th Sonrise Service at 8:00 a.m.

Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead by gathering at a special Sonrise Service of Worship in Watseka Lounge. The short service will include Easter hymns, a short message and special music provided by the children and youth of Wesley! Come and celebrate the resurrection with us!

Easter Egg Hunt for Children at 8:30 a.m.

All children are invited to

participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunts in the Watseka and West Lounges, depending upon their age.

Easter Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

Bring a breakfast dish to share and join us in the Great Hall for a lovely breakfast before the Easter Service begins. The fellowship is wonderful and we have a great reason to gather and celebrate. The Family Ministries committee provides egg casseroles. Invite a friend!

Easter Worship Service (Combined) at 10:30 a.m.

On Easter Sunday morning both our Traditional and Contemporary Services combine for a celebratory service with brass, organ, choir, and praise band music leading the congregation in celebrating Christ's resurrection from the dead. Join us on Easter Sunday and invite a friend to join you!

Easter Egg Hunt for College Students at 12:00 noon

All college students are invited to a special Easter Egg Hunt just for students. We'll gather in the Lamb Courtyard immediately after the 10:30 service. There will be candy and prizes!

Grow at Wesley



PLANNING AHEAD: EXPLORING YOUR FIVE WISHES WORKSHOP, MARCH 15th

**@ 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
West Lounge**

Back by popular demand! If you missed the first Planning Ahead workshop last year about how to make plans for your personal and health care wishes to be carried out, or if you would like to revisit that discussion, join us on March 15th.

How would you answer these five questions?

1. Who do you want to make decisions for you if you are unable?
2. What kind of medical treatment do you want?
3. How comfortable do you want to be if you are ill?
4. How do you want people to treat you?
5. What do you want your loved ones to know?

Wesley will again offer a workshop to explore these questions, based on the “Five Wishes” program, developed by attorney Jim Towey, founder of Aging with Dignity. The program will feature a video explaining the Five Wishes, followed by a discussion session. A copy of

the Five Wishes document will be provided at no cost to take home and discuss with your family.

The free workshop will be held on **Sunday, March 15th**, in the West Lounge during the Sunday School hour from 11:00-12:15. Adults and family members of all ages are encouraged to attend. We hope you and your family members can join us. For more information, contact Meg Rauschenberger, Judith Unger, or Dan King Crede.



Lenten Offering Recipients

In keeping with the spring focus on contemporary issues facing the United Methodist Church, the Social Action Ministry team has selected “C-U Immigration Forum” and the “The Carter Center” as the recipients of this year’s Lenten Offering.

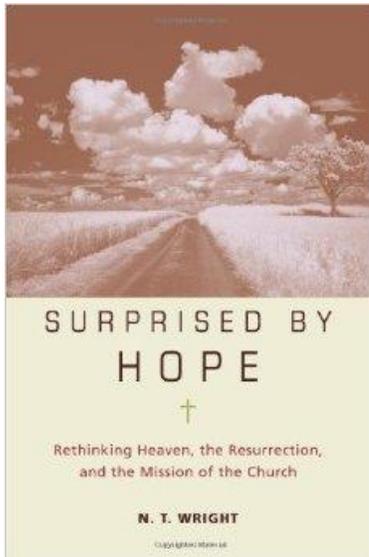
The Social Action Ministry team asks you to prayerfully consider making a special offering this Lenten Season in support of these worthwhile organizations.

The Champaign-Urbana Immigration Forum is a group of immigrants, students, clergy, service providers, labor union representatives, residents, and community organizations concerned about the progress and plight of immigrants in Central Illinois. It works for progress in several areas including comprehensive immigration reform;

fostering safe and immigrant-friendly communities; insuring access to resources for naturalization, legal assistance, and deferred action on deportation; and improving relations between local law enforcement and immigrants. For more information visit: <http://immigration-forum.blogspot.com>

The second recipient, The Carter Center, is committed to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering. It seeks to prevent and resolve conflicts; enhance freedom and democracy; and improve health. President Carter’s recent book, **A CALL TO ACTION: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power**, asserts it is not possible to address the rights of women, the human and civil rights struggle of our time, without looking at factors that create an acceptance of violence in our society – violence that inevitably affects women disproportionately. The suffering of women and girls can be alleviated when individuals take forceful actions, which can impact larger society.

Through partnerships with activists, leaders, and scholars, The Carter Center’s Human Rights Defenders initiative helps to advance recognition and respect for the equal rights of girls and women worldwide. Human Rights Defenders defend the victims of violations and tell the world whether internationally recognized human rights are being respected by governments or those with control over the lives of populations in cases of conflict or breakdown of the state. For more information visit: http://www.cartercenter.org/peace/human_rights/defenders/index.html.



New Small Group Opportunity This Spring

Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church

Thursdays April 9th – May 14th at 10:15 a.m.

Cost: \$12 (cost of book) or you can purchase your own copy.

Join us this spring as we spend 6 weeks with premier biblical scholar N.T. Wright as he opens our eyes to the amazing full scope of what the Bible has to say about the world to come and the world that is. Christians normally think of the future in terms of “heaven”, but the promised reality is far greater: a new heaven and a new earth, a whole new creation. Wright will challenge us to not only grasp a biblical vision of God’s future, but a transformed understanding of life in the present.

In addition, we will explore questions like:

- What is heaven really like?
- Is our main duty as Christians simply to help non-Christians get into heaven?
- What hope does the gospel hold for this present life?

- In what ways does God intend for us to experience that hope personally and spread its healing power to the world around us?

Join us for this transformative new study!

To sign up: Contact Pastor Miriam at msnider@wesleyui.org.

Books will be available by March 30th in the Center Office or from Pastor Miriam.

Book Purchase Info for Individuals:

The last time Pastor Miriam checked amazon.com for the book, the kindle version was \$3.99 while the hardcopy version was \$16.



CROP Walk April 19th Funds Local & Global Efforts to Alleviate Poverty

CROP Walk, an approximate six-mile walk, raises money to fund the ecumenical Church World Service's (CWS) efforts to alleviate poverty worldwide. Wesley's team (Wesley Walkers) needs your support. There are four ways you can make a difference:

1. join the team to raise money and walk on April 19;
2. donate to sponsor a member of our team (donations are welcome online at <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/wesley2015>);

3. volunteer to be a crossing guard or host at one of the rest stops; and
4. pray for Wesley Walkers; those working locally and globally to alleviate poverty; and those living in poverty.

Look for the CROP Walk table at Wesley on Sunday morning or contact Anthony Stauder (aestauder@gmail.com) to sign up to walk, donate, or get more information.

Three quarters of all funds raised go to CWS work worldwide. A quarter of all the funds raised are split between four local organizations: Wesley Food Pantry, Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Eastern Illinois Food Bank, and TIMES Center.

Wesley Mission Trip

The annual spring break mission trip to Jonestown, MS, (Wesley's national mission focus) will take place March 22-28, 2015. Join Wesley members, U of I students, and other folks from the community as we work with Habitat for Humanity to provide housing in an area ravaged by systemic unemployment and poverty. John Spurgeon will lead the group as we repair old homes and help construct new ones, but no previous construction experience is required! The group will also enjoy time in Memphis, TN, including a visit to the Civil Rights Museum. For more information or to sign up, contact John at jaspurgeon@aol.com, or 217-344-6981. If you are unable to physically participate in the trip, you are invited to support the mission team's work with a donation, and serve as a financial partner in this life-changing ministry!

University of Illinois Announces 2014 International Achievement Awards Honorees – Wesley Student Greg Damhorst Honored

March 9, 2015 Champaign, Ill.—The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Illinois International have chosen a list of esteemed winners for its annual International Achievement Awards, they announced today.

The winners—who range from alumni, to faculty and students—will be celebrated for their work at the annual International Achievement Awards banquet, being held on April 9th, 2015 at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center. Dr. Byung-Ho Chung, recipient of the Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth International Alumni Award for Exceptional Achievement, will give the annual International Alumni Lecture at Alice Campbell Alumni Center on April 9 at 9:30 a.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The full list of 2014 International Achievement Award recipients are:

Dr. Byung-Ho Chung: Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth International Alumni Award for Exceptional Achievement.

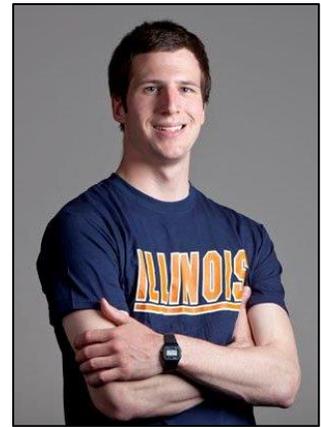
Dr. Mohammad Babadoost and Dr. Prasanta Kalita: co-recipients of the Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement.

T. Patrick Walsh: Charles C. Stewart International Young Humanitarian Award.

Gregory Damhorst: Illinois International Graduate Achievement Award.

Nora Onstad: Illinois International Undergraduate Achievement Award.

Gregory Damhorst is a bioengineering and medical graduate student at Illinois. The Illinois International Graduate Achievement Award recognizes a graduate student whose innovative and sustained international



research or public service abroad has had the greatest impact (or has the greatest potential impact) on the university, larger community or internationally. He is being honored for his research focused on HIV/AIDS, and his global health initiatives, humanitarian work, and interfaith efforts that have impacted communities in Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Haiti. Damhorst received a B.S. in physics in 2009 and an M.S. in bioengineering in 2013, both from Illinois.

Children's & Youth Ministry

Children's Ministry at Wesley

Sunday School for Pre-K through 5th grade students meets the 2nd-5th Sundays from 9:45-10:30 a.m. in Room 127 A and B, after the children attend the Children's Moment in Church with their parents from 9:30-9:45 a.m.

In March the students will be studying about Jesus' life and his teachings.

Youth Ministry at Wesley

Sunday School for Middle and High School meets the 2nd – 5th Sundays from 9:45-10:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

2nd – 5th Sundays: Fellowship, scripture study and doughnuts are always included! 😊

Trivia Night was a Huge Success!!!

Trivia Night was held on February 7th in the Great Hall. We had outstanding attendance, delicious food and a lot of laughs! Thank you to all who attended, and a huge thank you to Barb Hughes, Melody Neumann, Steve and Diana Herriot and Ann Buchanan for running the event!

Rachel Maehr

Children and Youth Easter Activities

Sonrise Service at 8:00 a.m.

The children and youth will be singing and playing the handbells during the Sonrise Service in the Watseka Lounge.



Easter Egg Hunt at 8:30 a.m.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will be outside on the playground! If it is too cold or wet, the egg hunt will be in the West Lounge for preschool ages and the Watseka Lounge for elementary age children.

No Sunday School

Children ages 5 and above will be in worship with their families. Nursery care will be provided for children nursery ages to 4 years old.

Nursery Care

Nursery Care is available from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

9:30 a.m. Service:
Infant - 3 years

11:15 a.m. Service:
Infant - 5 years

1st Sunday:
Infant - 5 years



United Methodist Women

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN –
Where All Your Donations Went in 2014**

**UNDESIGNATED GIVING
THROUGH NATIONAL DIVISION**

Pledge to Mission	3135.00
Special Mission Recognition	40.00
Gifts in Memory	110.00
World Thank Offering	200.00
Gift to Mission Card	50.00

DESIGNATED GIVING

Local:

Courage Connection	275.00
Wesley Food Pantry	150.00
empty tomb, inc.	150.00
Salvation Army	150.00
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen	150.00
Church Women United	250.00
Smile Healthy Dental Clinic	150.00
T.I.M.E.S Center	150.00
Cunningham Children’s Home	1130.00

Lessie Bates Davis Center	300.00
Parkland Project Read	165.00
Don Moyer Boys/Girls Club	150.00
Moms/Babies Program Decatur CC	125.00

International:

FOSA Orphan Zimbabwe	400.00
Well-Liberia	460.00
Scholarships Liberian Children	100.00
Africa University	285.00
Panama Mission	145.00
UMCOR Ebola	218.00
Imagine Mission Orphanage-Haiti	150.00
Roma People	155.00
San Jose la Vega-Honduras	225.00
Ghanta Methodist Hospital	200.00
V. Taylor-Ghanta Hospital	200.00

Program/Miscellaneous 17.00

Thanks to all who made this possible!

Announcements

Sympathy

to Pastors Gay and Dan King Crede at the death of Gay's Aunt, Opal Garnet Ranch on Tuesday, February 24th at the age of 100. She lived in Urbana.

Sympathy

to Susan and Mike Haney at the death of Susan's brother, Joe Torrance on Thursday, February 26th at the age of 52. He passed away while vacationing in Germany. He lived in Oquawka, Illinois.

Happy 100th Birthday!

Wesley member Virginia Guthrie is celebrating her 100th Birthday on March 21st! If you wish you may send her at card at: 2025 E. Lincoln St., Apt. 3226, Bloomington, IL 61701.

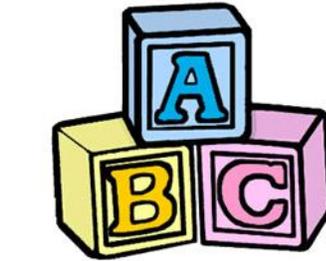
Spring Yard Clean-Up Day, Saturday, April 4th

Please join us for Wesley's Spring Yard Clean-up on **Saturday, April 4th from 9:00 a.m. – Noon**. Please bring rakes and work gloves if you have them. R.S.V.P. to Donna Giffen at donna@wesleyui.org.

Food Pantry News

empty tomb Repackaging Event a Success!

Thank you to all who volunteered on Tuesday, February 24th. We had over 30 volunteers repackage almost 2000 pounds of rice in a little



Baby Shower for the Wallon's, March 29th

Join us on Sunday, March 29th at 2:00 p.m. in the West Lounge.

We will be doing a few craft projects that Rob and Becky Wallon will be able to take home. All are welcome. Light snacks provided. Co-hosted by Morgan Boes and Lacie Damhorst. Contact Morgan at mboes2@gmail.com or 918-808-3743 if you have any questions.

Money Counters Needed

If you would like to help count the offering on Monday mornings about 9:15 a.m., please contact Meridee Dornhoff - mdornhof@comcast.net. Thank you!

Wesley Sound System Volunteers Needed

Can you help? Some training is available, but volunteers will ideally have some familiarity with audio equipment and processing digital audio. The time commitment is several hours per week, including the 9:30 worship service and flexible work at home.

Interested? Have questions? Contact Donna Giffen at 344-1120 or donna@wesleyui.org.

Million Meal Celebration

You are invited to join us in celebrating the milestone of packaging one million meals, led by our student organization, Illini Fighting Hunger, at a banquet on Tuesday, April 14th, 5:30 p.m. at the 77 Club at Memorial Stadium. Tickets for this event are available to the public and can be purchased at www.illinifightinghunger.org.

over 2 hours. The IFH student leaders were amazed at how fast we were repackaging the rice. They were having trouble keeping up with us! The rice was delivered on March 4th for empty tomb's Mega Work-A-Thon event on March 7th.

We would also like to thank everyone who donated funds to purchase the rice. We did raise enough to pay for the rice. Any leftover funds will go to empty tomb to help with other aspects of this event.



Clients Served in February

While this winter season has been somewhat challenging, the food pantry has been there to help the food-insecure in our area. On 2/19/15 the Evening Pantry served 159 households, comprised of 795 individuals which included 350 children. And throughout the month, our Parkland Pantry served 93 households, comprised of 284 individuals which included 108 children.

Thank you to all for helping out your neighbors in need!



New Parkland Pantry Hours & New Opportunities for Volunteering

The new Parkland Pantry hours are:

1st and 3rd Saturday
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

2nd and 4th Wednesday
11 a.m.-1 p.m. &
4 p.m.-6 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering, we have 90 minute shifts!

If you are a **take charge kind of person**, or would like to be, please consider becoming a Volunteer Shift Coordinator at Parkland. As

Volunteer Shift Coordinator you would open the pantry, provide basic on-site training to the volunteer team, ensure that all of the supplies are in place and manage the distribution.

This is a fun and relaxed opportunity to become a regular at the pantry. If this interests you, please contact volunteer@wesleypantry.org, or call the pantry at 217-344-1120 (Center Office).



IMSS Contributions to Evening Pantry

In February the Wesley Evening Food Pantry hosted the Illini Medical Screening Society, a *registered student organization at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign devoted to preventing disease through the process of medical screening and health care education.*

This group of student nurses along with their supervising Nurse Practitioner saw approximately 20 individuals who benefited from one on one consultations including taking their vitals (blood pressure and heart rate) and having their labs performed (blood sugar and cholesterol). Regular screenings like that provided by Illini Medical Screening Society are crucial to early detection of diseases such as diabetes and hypertension and can prevent long term illness and financial burden.

We are pleased to announce that the Illini Medical Screening Society intends to become a regular contributor to the Wesley Evening Food Pantry and predicts that each distribution will encourage more pantry clients to seek medical screening and regular medical care!

EIF ½ Price Food!

EIF is still offering everyone ½ price food since their grant has not yet run out. So it is still stock up time! If you could fulfill your pledge a little sooner or make a donation now, please do so we can afford to buy extra food!



Wesley Food Pantry CWS CROP Walk Team

On **Saturday April 19th**, the Wesley Food Pantry will also be sponsoring a walking team for the CWS CROP Walk.

You can help us reach our goal of \$1500. To make an online donation please visit: <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/wesleyfoodpantry>.

Food Pantry Needs Seeds

For the April pantry we are hoping to be able to distribute some vegetable plants and/or seeds (tomatoes, peppers, etc. – the usual suspects). If you would like to buy some seeds and donate them, please do so ASAP. And a big thanks to John Scott who will start tomato plants one more time for us! 😊

Wesley Staff

Senior Pastor/Director

Rev. Dan King Crede

Campus Minister

Rev. Julie Dowler

Associate Minister

Rev. Miriam Snider

Dir. of Contemporary Worship & Music

Brian Sullivan

Dir. of Christian Education & Youth

Rachel Maehr

Director of Chinese Ministry

Jie Wu

Organist

Adam Gruber

Dir. of Choral Music

Dr. Barrington Coleman

Bell Choir Director

Morgan Boes

Kingdom Singers Director

Andrea Buchanan

Parish Nurse/Spiritual Caregiver

Meg Rauschenberger

Administrative Assistant

Donna Giffen

Office Secretary

Vicki Johnson

Accountant

Bonnie Taylor

Aide for Development

Wayne Wilson

Food Pantries Director

Katie Thomas

Food Pantries Assistant to the Director

Shelsea McCarthy

Food Pantries Operations Manager

Food Pantries Volunteer Coordinator

Brittany Coleman

Director of Communications

Derek Attig

IT Computer Specialist

Marrissa Helleesen

Property Manager

Timothy Wright

Full-time Custodian

Jack Driver

Part-time Custodians

Chris Livesay, TJ Jackson,

William Tadekawa

Weekend Custodians

Justin & Megan Farkas

Campus Ministry

We have lots of ways for undergraduate, graduate and international students to get involved. Check out the calendar and join us!

March 15th, 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. (and every Sunday morning), Sunday worship – traditional and contemporary.

March 17th, 8:30 – 10:00 p.m., Student Lounge (and every Tuesday evening), our Graduate Student Study is reading and discussing *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis – join us!

March 18th, 8:30 p.m., Etc. Coffeehouse, students are invited to join us for a special Midweek event, our **Spring Doubt Night!** NO questions are off-limits! Bring your friends, bring your questions, and let's explore the hard stuff together!

March 19th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Etc. Coffeehouse (and every Thursday evening), our student-led Bible study looks at the tales of the boy wonder, Harry Potter, and the Christian themes that are found in Rowling's contemporary literary works. A study book is available, but you're welcome to join us just for the great conversation!

March 20th, 3 – 4 p.m., Conference Room (and every Friday afternoon), ESL class for beginner through advanced students.

4 – 6 p.m., Etc. Coffeehouse International and domestic students, friends and community members are invited to join us for our International Coffeehouse to meet new friends, learn about American culture, and practice English.

March 22-29, U of I Spring Break (no student events scheduled), Mission trip to Jonestown, MS, to work with Habitat for Humanity.

April 1st, 9:00 p.m., Etc. Coffeehouse (and every Wednesday evening), Midweek Worship Service – our student-led service gathers each week for coffee, snacks, fellowship, worship and communion.

April 3rd, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary, Good Friday worship service - a special time to reflect on the life and sacrifice of Jesus as we near the end of our Lenten journey.

April 5th, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary, Combined Easter Sunday Worship Service in the Sanctuary. Special music will help us celebrate the resurrection and new life we experience in Christ!

12:00 – 1:00 p.m., Watseka Lounge, Annual Easter Egg Hunt – just for college students! Lots of eggs, lots of prizes, lots of fun, so be sure to join us!

April 11th, various shifts, Memorial Stadium, Campus Community Day of Service. Our student organization, Illini Fighting Hunger, will lead us in packaging 148,000 meals to address local hunger. Sign up at: <https://cuvolunteer.org/dayofservice>.

April 14th, 5:30 p.m., 77 Club, the Millionth Meal Celebration, hosted by Illini Fighting Hunger, will be held at the 77 Club in Memorial Stadium, as we celebrate the packaging of over one million meals in just 3 years since being organized. Tickets available at: <http://www.illinifightinghunger.org/millionthmeal/>.

Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m. Children's Church School

10:30 a.m. Coffee/Punch Hour

11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship

11:00 a.m. Children & Adult

Education Classes