

# the spire

wesley student center & united methodist church at the university of illinois



## Meet Wesley's New IT Specialist

Hi, I'm Laura Licari, and I'm excited to join the Wesley family as the IT Specialist! I transferred into the Computer Science program from a community college in the suburbs of Chicago, and have loved every second I've spent at UIUC. You'll usually find me coding on my computer, talking about how much miss my cats and dog back home, or skateboarding down the sidewalk. If you need any help with anything, please feel free to contact me! My email is [laura@wesleyui.com](mailto:laura@wesleyui.com).



## Wesley Bell Ringers Perform at Krannert

The Wesley Bell Ringers performed with the UI Wind Orchestra at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts on April 30<sup>th</sup>! Pictured left to right: Susan Haney, Carolyn Sands,

Colin Weidinger, Morgan Boes, Ann Buchanan, and Skylar Lipman (not pictured: Madi Cardenas).



## Wesley Green Member of the Month: Miriam Snider



In Pastor Miriam's home, keeping the environment in mind each day comes down to a battle against wastefulness. "Our culture has become infatuated with convenience and disposability and the result has been a lot of waste," Miriam says.

She and her family only buy enough food for one week at a time and try to waste very little of it. They buy fresh fruits and vegetables and foods in as little packaging as possible. Not only are these foods good for the environment, they are also healthier! What packaging they do end up with, they recycle.

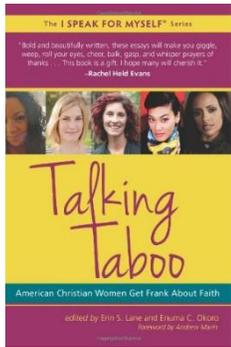
The front line of the battle doesn't stop in the kitchen; Miriam also

fight waste from clothing, electronics, and other household appliances. She fixes things (or has them fixed by a professional) when they are broken rather than tossing out and buying new. When something simply "can't go any further" she finds a recycling option. In particular, she enjoys taking some of her own old, outdated, or damaged clothes and re-sews them into tops or dresses for her daughter Katie. "It's been a fun way to reuse items from around the house and to use my creativity in the process," she says.

Miriam cares about the environment because she believes God cares about the environment. She shared that in the creation story, God created the land, skies, seas, and animals long before he made man. God gives the land and creatures the first blessing in the Hebrew Bible. "God blesses the created order and we were created to care for and bless the created world as well."

For anyone looking for some more information about the connection between Christianity and environmentalism, Miriam recommends a lecture by Dr. Ellen Davis of Duke Divinity School entitled ***The Covenant Triangle: Prophetic Perspectives on the Created Order***. To listen go to: <https://vimeo.com/64845680>.

## Grow at Wesley



### Book Club is Back for the Summer

All are invited to join a group that will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday night of the month throughout the summer at Radio Maria restaurant in downtown Champaign. The group will meet at 8:00 p.m. on

June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup> and Aug 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be reading and discussing essays from the book **Talking Taboo: American Christian Women Get Frank About Faith**. Participants will need to purchase their own copy of the book. If you don't buy books online, contact Pastor Miriam at [msnider@wesleyui.org](mailto:msnider@wesleyui.org) and she can make sure you get a copy of the book. Invite a friend and join us for fellowship and important conversation.

### Praying the Scriptures: Brown Bag Study

All are invited to a brown bag lunch time Scripture study each Thursday

at Noon this summer. This summer small-group opportunity will be a casual, more devotional approach to the Scriptures. We will examine, pray through, and reflect on a variety of Scriptures from throughout the Bible. Invite a friend, bring your lunch and a Bible, and join us beginning June 4<sup>th</sup> and continuing through August 13<sup>th</sup> as we **Pray the Scriptures** this summer. Contact Pastor Miriam at [msnider@wesleyui.org](mailto:msnider@wesleyui.org) with questions or for more information. There will be no book to purchase for this study.

## Take Action

### Report on February 22<sup>nd</sup> Conversation on Marriage Equality in the UMC

This spring Social Action Ministry has been focusing on contemporary issues facing The United Methodist Church (UMC). This included a potluck and conversation about Marriage Equality in the UMC on Sunday, February 22. At the next United Methodist General Conference in 2016, legislation regarding marriage equality is certain to be discussed and voted on. Several proposals of such legislation have already been made. The time for individual congregations to discuss these issues is now, so that our representatives at the 2015 Annual Conferences can be properly informed as they discuss and vote on proposals. A brief report on the variety of views expressed in that

conversation has been compiled here for all Wesley members and friends, and especially for our Annual Conference representatives.

The Connectional Table, a UMC-wide body, met in Mozambique just a few days before the conversation at Wesley, resulting in an overwhelmingly affirmed proposal for "a third way" that could help the church end its impasse on human sexuality and focus more on mission. That proposal is to remove prohibitive language that makes it a chargeable offense under church law for clergy to be "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" or to officiate at same-sex weddings. The approach would leave the question of whether to perform a same-sex marriage up to individual clergy, just as the Book of Discipline (BOD) — the denomination's law book — now

allows clergy to decide which couples to wed. Clergy would not be required to bless same-sex unions. "We've tried to allow some exercise of conscience, to allow for varying beliefs, to allow for varying practices within different contexts," said one member, "and to open a space for grace where people can live together in unity with their different beliefs."

Those present at Wesley's conversation were made aware of this new proposal so that it could be included in discussion. Participants at several tables expressed hope in and support for the Connectional Table's "third way" proposal. The report below attempts to represent the full variety of anonymized responses to the prompt, "I'm concerned about The United Methodist Church's position on marriage equality because..."

Responses fell into the following categories: 1) legality and consequences, 2) the mission of the church and representing it, 3) discerning God's idea of fair treatment of individuals, and 4) allowance for differing views within the UMC.

### **1) Legality and Consequences**

Views were expressed about upholding both civil law and Christian law, as interpreted from the BOD and scripture, as well as the consequences of choosing to uphold or not uphold those laws. Several people expressed dissatisfaction with the punishment of UMC ministers for marrying same-sex couples, that it is excessive, or shouldn't happen at all. Clergy should be given the same autonomy they have in deciding whether to marry opposite-sex couples. Some consider adherence to Biblical tenets, as interpreted for our time, a higher calling than strict adherence to the BOD, while others maintain the long-standing authority of the BOD and scripture as written, banning homosexual unions. Some feel that civil unions and marriage are enough and the church shouldn't be compelled to perform them, while others are concerned that the denial of marriage to same-sex couples is a civil rights issue and don't want the church to be complicit in denying a particular group of people rights and benefits that should be granted to all. Finally, there is concern over consequences for the membership of the UMC whether a change is made or not. There was an overwhelming concern that the UMC is already losing out on the gifts and talents of potential clergy and lay-leaders who happen to be LGBTQ, but don't feel welcome in the UMC, or of members of any

orientation who have left and will continue to leave for churches that support same-sex marriage. Some emphasized the potential loss of young people from the millennial generation, who characteristically care about social justice, equality, open-mindedness and choose churches that reflect those values.

### **2) The Mission of the Church and Representing It**

A second theme revolved around the current BOD language and its enforcement, that it is contradictory to or hypocritical with respect to other teachings of The United Methodist Church and that this particular issue and arguing over the UMC's position on it draws attention away from the larger mission of the church, leading to a skewed representation of the UMC as irrelevant in today's world. Several expressed the opinion that the UMC's stance on marriage equality contradicts Jesus's teachings and ministry, specifically on unconditional love and inclusivity. Others keyed in on language of the UMC specifically, such as the BOD language contradicting "open hearts, open minds, open doors," and the "reason" part of the denomination's quadrilateral foundation. Another group of opinions has to do with the importance of marriages and committed relationships to the family and the quality of those relationships, not the sexual orientation of the couples. Many people suggested that the focus of the UMC should be on supporting healthy, spiritual, committed relationships in a world where that is so rare, especially because of the benefit stable homes have on children and families, which are blessings to a church whose average age is increasing. People should feel

that the UMC is a safe place for their opinions, marriages, and families. And, that message should be communicated in order to shift the impression of the church and its members to the outside world from unwelcoming and behind the curve, when in the past the UMC has led the way for the country on social issues. Several people expressed disappointment that the UMC is not leading the way on this issue, that the time to act is now, and that waiting would be a mistake.

### **3) Discerning God's Idea of Fair Treatment of Individuals**

The third theme centers on applying our knowledge of God, and the principals of radical hospitality and inclusion to our treatment of individuals in relation to this issue. One thing we know about God is that God loves us all and we all have sacred worth. From that knowledge several people expressed that we therefore must also love and accept one another equally. The same opportunities for marriage and sexual closeness should be available to all loving, committed couples. Many people expressed concern over how the UMC's stance on marriage equality makes individuals feel and that the church not be used to reinforce discrimination or implicitly endorse the oppression of vulnerable people. There is pain and fear associated with exclusion and rejection from the church you trust and love. Several people expressed concern in one form or another that all people should be offered full participation in the church, while some felt there was space for acceptance without performing same-sex marriages. Some felt that as the church of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Illinois we have a unique opportunity

to share God's love with students in a transformational way, which should include taking a leadership role by being vocally and aggressively inclusive on marriage equality. And, by treating all equally we set an example for children and youth, our future leaders, to also be accepting of all people.

#### 4) Allowance for differing views within the UMC

A final theme is that of working out our differences with respect for one another and remembering that we can do nothing without God and that many people of differing views call the UMC home. There are good people on all sides of the issue and none should be demonized. Although a few felt that

denominational unity was unimportant, more felt a denominational split would be detrimental and counter to God's vision. There should be room for differing views in the denomination, without one side imposing opinions on the other. More importantly there should be some middle ground that can be reached as opposed to a two-sided debate. Most expressed a general concern over how things would proceed should a change happen. How would the "losing side" feel? How would we deal with the loss of clergy? What about geographical dividing lines? Would a top-down decree be successful or would it be better to let discernment happen at the congregational level

and work its way up, allowing change to evolve unforced?

Overall Social Action Ministry was pleased with the response to the conversation on marriage equality in the UMC. About 60 people participated. The intention was to provide a safe place for all opinions to be expressed, and we feel that we accomplished that goal. We are proud of our members' abilities to think critically about an important issue facing The United Methodist Church and express themselves in an open and constructive way that brings us all closer together despite our differing opinions, because Wesley is a place we all call home.

*Alexandra Jones, SAM Chair*

## Children's & Youth Ministry

### SUNDAYS

**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  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday            Infant – 5 years

### Children's Ministry

Sunday School for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Youth Ministry

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

2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays: The youth will study the scripture, while also going to Starbucks to grab a favorite drink!

### Confirmation Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 Service

Please join us at the 9:30 a.m. service as Courtney Fouke and Naomi Maehr are confirmed. We are also asking Wesley members to write the girls a note congratulating them on their confirmation, as well as speaking about your faith, as an inspiration to the girls.

### Vacation Bible School June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

Calling all 3 year olds to 5<sup>th</sup> graders for VBS on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – noon.

Child visitors are welcome! We will have an awesome time experiencing God's Love in Action – The G FORCE! There will be games, crafts and singing to make this an amazing VBS.

Please see Ms. Rachel with any questions.

### Summer Camping Opportunities

Please see Ms. Rachel for a *Camping and Retreat Ministries* flyer. There are a lot of wonderful camping opportunities for children, youth and families.

The Education Committee will provide \$100 dollars per child/youth to attend camp. The family must be members or attend Wesley.



## United Methodist Women

### UMW May Birthday Luncheon

Please join us on **Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** for our May Birthday Celebration at **Milo's Restaurant at 11:30 a.m.** **Happy May Birthday to:** Helen Berndt, Rev. Ann Spurgeon, Peggy Welch, Adeline Dickey, Shirley Mahaffey, Carol Peterson, Emily Lux, Katie Thomas, Kazuko Sasamori, Jack Drive, Annette Lansford, Tracey Malkovich, and Christine Payne.

### UMW Executive Board Meeting

**Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.** in the Conference Room.

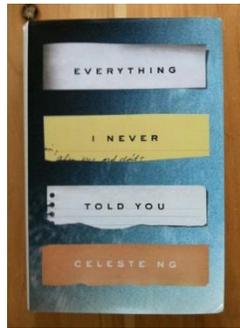


### Quilts for Cunningham Children's Home

On **Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** the Wesley Quilters will gather for the day in the West Lounge to put together quilts for Cunningham. **We'll begin at 10:00 a.m. and work until the afternoon.** You don't have to be an experienced quilter - we have lots of fabric and plans available for easy quilts. We'll have the tools and equipment needed so please join us in this informal work day. If you have any questions, please call Ruth Sattazahn at 351-5107.

### UMW Potluck and Book Discussion

Please join us **Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., at Sue Kiddoo's home** for a potluck and discussion of the book ***Everything I Never Told You*** by Celeste Ng. Melissa Applebee will be the facilitator for Ng's novel.



*"Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet..."*

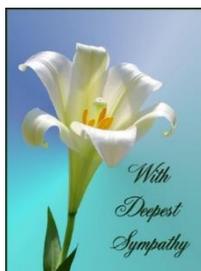
So begins the story of this exquisite debut novel, about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee; their middle daughter, a girl who inherited her mother's bright blue eyes and her father's jet-black hair. Her parents are determined that Lydia will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue—in Marilyn's case that her daughter become a doctor rather than a homemaker, in James's case that Lydia be popular at school, a girl with a busy social life and the center of every party.

A profoundly moving story of family, history, and the meaning of home, ***Everything I Never Told You*** is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait, exploring the divisions between cultures and the rifts within a family, and uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives, to understand one another.

## Announcements

### Sympathy

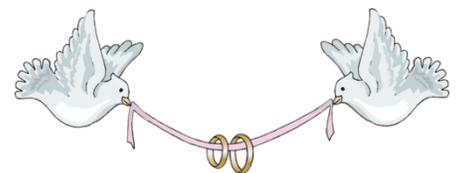
To the family of long-time Wesley Member, Hermia Soo, who died on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the age of 92. She lived in Urbana.



### Sympathy

To the family of Roberta Lindstrand at the death of her daughter-in-law's mother, Rita Roese who died on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. She lived in Crystal Lake, Illinois.

### Marriage Celebration



Come celebrate the marriage of **Megan Scott and Adam Faust on**

**June 20<sup>th</sup> 2015.** The ceremony is at 3:00 p.m. in the Wesley sanctuary with snacks and a chance to greet the families of the bride and groom afterwards in Watseka Lounge.



### **Welcome Cassie!**

On Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> Wesley welcomed Cassie Rutherford as a new member. We're so glad that she has found a home here at Wesley! The following is a little bit about Cassie. We hope you'll get to know Cassie and welcome her to our community of faith.

Cassandra "Cassie" Rutherford was born in Oklahoma and moved to Texas in high school. She completed a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. all in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University. She married Josh Peschel in 2002 and welcomed a daughter, Alessandra "Aless" Rutherford Peschel, born July 28, 2013. Cassie is an assistant professor in Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois. Her research interests are in foundations for offshore renewable energy and

dynamic testing of soils. She enjoys playing handbells, reading, rock climbing, skydiving, and watching Jeopardy everyday. Cassie is very excited to join a family of faith and she looks forward to spiritual growth and fellowship at Wesley.

### **Calling All Cooks and Bakers!**

Some of you may have been surprised to receive an email soliciting meals for a church member recently. In order not to discriminate by only asking the women to provide care to members in need of meals or to fulfill other requests for food that may arise, we will now be asking everyone! We know that some of you men are excellent cooks and bakers, and we want you to be able to use those talents. Thank you in advance!

-Wesley United Methodist Women

### **Coffee Hour Hosts Needed**

HELP! The email list of coffee hour hosts is becoming so short that we are in danger, at times, of having no beverages at coffee hour! Folks on our list are getting older and some have had to quit participating in this activity. We need some new names on the list to keep this important activity going.

This is not a difficult task and takes only a couple of hours on a Sunday morning. All the supplies needed are provided and an "old timer" would be willing to be there the first Sunday to "show you the ropes". If you are a "single" you could be paired with someone.

Please consider volunteering for this job occasionally. You can email Vicki in the Center Office at [vicki@wesleyui.org](mailto:vicki@wesleyui.org) to have your name added to the list. Thank you.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:donna@wesleyui.org).

## **Food Pantry News**

### **New Pantry Logo!**



Parkland's Applied Media Promotions (AMP) has been working hard to update the pantry's image and we are excited to unveil our something old, something new and something blue logo!

In addition, they have generated a radio spot, brochure, table tents, and fundraising ideas. It's been wonderful working with AMP, and thanks to them, we have new materials. This fall a Parkland class will design a new website for us.

## April Pantry Food News

In an effort to go green while saving green, the Wesley Food Pantry has posted our April newsletter online. Please take a moment to check our volunteer spotlight, quotes from clients about their experiences and much more.

You can find it on at:  
<http://www.wesleypantry.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/April-Newsletter-FINAL.pdf>

## Adult Books Needed!



The Wesley Food Pantry is looking to feed our neighbors' minds this summer with literary sustenance! Adult books are rarely donated and so greatly treasured when received. If you have a book that you loved, share the story by dropping it off at the Center Office. We will make sure it finds a good home.

## Do you have...

a stack of rarely used reusable grocery bags? If so the Parkland pantry would love to use them



in our effort to Go Green. Parkland pantry clients have been asked to bring reusable bags for their shopping, replacing plastic bags previously on site. Your recycled bags will help this effort take root.

## \$6.95 buys...



How far does a dollar stretch at the pantry? Great question! We are able to feed over 1,000 people each month by purchasing lots of food from the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, food items that often cost 10 times more at the grocery store. So what can we do with your \$?

- 1 lunch @Chipotle = **\$6.95**
- \$6.95** at the pantry =
  - can of corn (\$0.50)
  - can of green beans (\$0.46)
  - can of chili beef with beans (\$0.94)
  - can of chicken noodle soup (\$0.42)
  - can of applesauce (\$0.61)
  - 12 packets oatmeal (\$0.24)
  - 2 boxes Kraft Mac n' Cheese (\$0.38)
  - bottle of grape jelly (\$0.99)
  - jar of peanut butter (\$1.30)
  - whole wheat pasta (\$0.55)
  - can of spaghetti sauce (\$0.44)
  - 5 fiber oat bars (\$0.10)



## Fundraising with GoodShop

[www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) makes your online shopping easy by featuring the best deals of the day, and DONATES a percentage of your purchase to the Wesley Food Pantry. NO credit card or personal info is needed, just a click on the goodshop site and shop as normal.

**You shop. You save. They give.**  
 So far the pantry has raised \$40.49 on Goodshop.com. That is about 6 1/2 bags of food—feeding a large family for 2 months. That's huge!

## Summer Volunteers Needed

As spring warms into summer the Wesley Food Pantry has to part with many of our college volunteers. This temporary migration means that we rely more heavily on our C-U area residents to keep the pantry up and running. If you are able to spare some time this summer and want to meet some other amazing pantry friends, check out our volunteer sign up page at [wesleypantry.org](http://wesleypantry.org). We look forward to seeing you!



## Facebook Friends?

Have you "Liked" the Wesley Evening Food Pantry on Facebook yet? If you do we will keep you updated on pantry activities, volunteer needs, hunger issues and solutions worldwide. Plus you can let us know what you think. ☺

## 2015, so far...

@Wesley	@Parkland
687 Households	378 Households
3188 Individuals	1293 Individuals
1354 Children	536 Children

## 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 Pantry Director

**Katie Thomas**

Food Pantry Assistant to the Director

**Shelsea McCarthy**

Food Pantry Volunteer Coordinator

**Brittany Coleman**

Director of Communications

**Derek Attig**

IT Computer Specialist

**Laura Licari**

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!

**May 15<sup>th</sup> - Last ESL Class and International Coffeehouse gathering for the Spring Semester.** There will be a three-week hiatus before beginning our summer programs and sessions.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 3-4 p.m., Conference Room (& every Friday)**

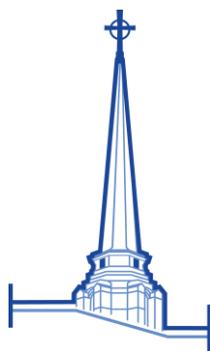
Summer Session ESL class for beginners through advanced students. No registration necessary.

**4-6 p.m., Etc. Coffeehouse (& every Friday)**

Our International Coffeehouse welcomes international and domestic students, visiting scholars, and friends for coffee, refreshments and great conversation! Join us as we meet new people, learn about different cultures, and practice English.

**June 9<sup>th</sup> - 7-9 p.m. Etc. Coffeehouse/Movie Theater (& every Tuesday through July)**

American Classic Movie Night - each Tuesday evening we gather to watch a classic American film, enjoy refreshments and be with friends. Everyone is invited to join us for this evening of free summer entertainment!



## Annual Conference

**June 12<sup>th</sup> – BOGO Luncheon at Annual Conference**

Wesley's student group, Illini Fighting Hunger, will facilitate a packaging event as part of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry's annual conference lunch on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00-1:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to join us at Peoria First for a pizza buffet and a packaging project. We'll package rice to help feed others after we enjoy a meal and conversation about our campus ministries. The rice will be given to local food pantries to be used in the Peoria community. Cost is \$10 per person, and will cover the pizza and the packaging – buy one, give one!

Please make reservations with Pastor Julie by **June 1<sup>st</sup>** if you plan to attend.

## 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**