

the spire

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

september 2015

ARE YOU READY?

Are you ready to think about racial relations in this country?

Are you ready to think about racial relations in this community?

Are you ready to acknowledge that we still have a major race relations problem 150 years after the Emancipation Proclamation and 50 years after the Civil Rights Act was passed?

What are your thoughts about the violence in this country's and in our community's African American neighborhoods?

What is the proper role of the police?

Is this issue a manifestation of a larger societal problem, which our country has not been willing to face?

Is there a need for a national conversation about this?

Are you ready to talk about these things?

Plan to come to the Wesley 2015 Fall Seminar

Black and White in America-A Look at Racial Relations and Violence

*Sunday, October 4th
1:30 p.m., Watseka Lounge*

Panel speakers will be:

- Champaign Police Chief Anthony Cobb
- Champaign Mayor Deb Frank Feinen
- U of I Communications Professor Travis Dixon
- U of I Sociology Professor Monica McDermott

Sam Banks, Boys and Girls Club Executive Director, will moderate the program and the subsequent discussion between the panelists and the audience.

Certainly it is no surprise to any of us who read the local paper that violence is currently prominent in this community as well as many other American cities. As one of the staff of the Champaign Police Department has recently noted, "these issues are the elephant in the room that few people are willing to openly talk about."

It is vital to talk about this with others. So be there and be ready!



Iroquois River District Seminar

A Christian Response to Violence

*Saturday, October 17th
9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m., Faith UMC*

Interested in exploring how to respond to the risk of violence in our communities? Please register to attend a free seminar on "A Christian Response to Violence" - Saturday, October 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Faith United Methodist Church, 1719 S. Prospect Avenue in Champaign. Participants will be able to return to their home churches with information and a curriculum created by a task group from the United Methodist Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC).

Signing in and continental breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. Lunch is provided and child care is available on request for this free seminar. Please register in advance online at <https://igrc-regbrtapp.com/violence> by October 12th, or by contacting

Pat Davis at pat@bnpdavis.com or 217-344-2075.

Sponsored by the Methodist Federation for Social Action IGRC Chapter, Social Action Ministry of Wesley United Methodist Church in

Urbana, Faith United Methodist Church in Champaign, and the IGRC Board of Church & Society.

Grow at Wesley

Small Group Opportunities Abound at Wesley This Fall!

Starting Now!

Fresh Venture & Next Venture

(small groups for students)

When: Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Student Lounge & Etc.
Coffeehouse

Hopes and Fears: Building Community With and For Our Children

(conversation groups for parents)

When: Tuesdays at noon Beginning September 22nd

or Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Beginning September 22nd

Leaders: Elizabeth & Brian Sullivan and Emily & Scott Lux

Free Childcare Available - email msnider@wesleyui.org

Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church

When: Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. Beginning September 10th

Books are available in the Center Office for \$10

Leader: Pastor Miriam Snider

Spiritual Defiance: Building a Beloved Community of Resistance

When: Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Beginning in Mid- September

Where: Spiritual Foundations Class in Room 210

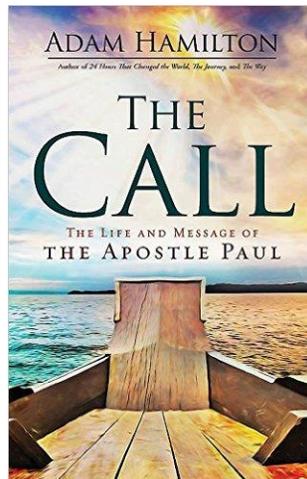
Belonging and Becoming: Called to Community Video Series

When: Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Beginning in Mid-September

Where: Animate Class in Student Lounge

Check out wesleyui.org for a listing of all the ongoing small groups happening at Wesley!



Stay Tuned - Later This Fall

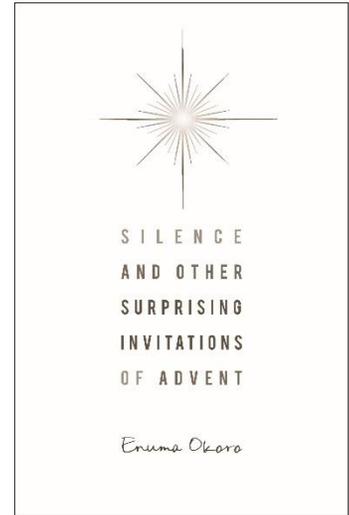
The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul

Thursdays at 10:15 a.m.

October 15th – November 19th

Cost: \$10

Follow the journeys of Paul, beginning with his dramatic conversion, as he spread the Gospel through modern-day Greece and Turkey. Travel to the early church sites and explore Paul's conversations with the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians. In this six-week study, you are invited to experience faith through Christ's greatest teacher and missionary.



Silence and Other Surprising Invitations of Advent

Thursdays at 10:15 a.m.

December 3 – December 17th

Cost: \$10

Usually when we think of the Advent story, Mary, Joseph, and the angel Gabriel come to mind. The author Enuma Okoro approaches Advent a little differently, inviting us to sit for a while with Zechariah and Elizabeth and the story of how they came to bear their only son, John. The Advent story we so often associate with the joy of Christmas actually begins with deep sorrow and longing. But thankfully, in the kingdom of God, there is always more to the story than meets the eye.

Join us on this short three-week journey through Advent.

New to Wesley?

Join a Pastor for Coffee

This is your opportunity to learn more about Wesley's unique ministry and mission while getting to know one of Wesley's pastors.

Sundays @ 10:45 a.m.
 (after 9:30 worship in Etc. Coffeeshouse)
 October 11th
 November 8th
 December 6th

Sundays @ 6:00 p.m.
 (in Etc. Coffeeshouse)
 September 27th
 November 8th

Sundays @ 12:30 p.m.
 (after 11:15 worship in Etc. Coffeeshouse)
 October 11th
 November 8th
 December 6th

Young Adult/Young Family Cookout

Friday, October 2nd at 5:30 p.m.

Join us at Ashlynn and Andrew Stillwell's home for a potluck/cookout.

Invite a friend, bring a dish to share and come enjoy fellowship with other young adults and families.

Children are encouraged to attend.

The Stillwells live at 1508 Waverly Drive in Champaign.

Take Action

The Monday Book Group

We will start a new book on September 14th. The book chosen is ***Between the World and Me*** by Ta-Nehisi Coates. We will follow that book with ***A Nun on the Bus: How All of Us Can Create Hope, Change, and Community*** by Sister Simone Campbell.

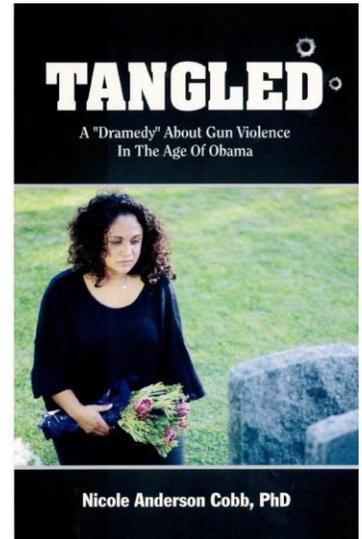
room 210 at 11 a.m. on Sundays. Everyone is welcome.



Film Series on Race in America

In anticipation of Wesley's upcoming fall seminar, "Black and White in America: A Look at Racial Relations and Violence," the Wesley Student Center is hosting a film series on Monday nights, beginning September 14th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wesley Theater. The series will include films that address race in America through a variety of lenses. A guided group discussion will follow each viewing. Due to the nature of these films and the intensity of the subject matter, attendees must be at least 16 years of age. Movies may contain

violence and strong language. Invite a friend or two to come with you as Wesley explores this topic!



Combined Service & Potluck September 27th, 10:30 a.m.

On **Sunday, September 27th**, after a 10:30 a.m. **combined service** and an all-church **potluck**, a dramatic reading of the play ***Tangled***, by local playwright Dr. Nicole Anderson-Cobb, will be held in the Great Hall. ***Tangled*** is about gun violence in Chicago. This will be followed by a

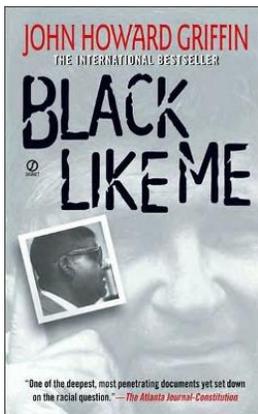
discussion between the audience, Dr. Anderson-Cobb, and the readers. Dr. Rev. Miley Palmer, former Senior Minister at Wesley, will moderate. This special event is part of our fall focus on race relations in America.

Please plan to come to several of these events. All are open to the community.

Suggested Good Reads

We hope that a thoughtful look at ongoing race and violence issues will help us to gain a better understanding why we, as a country and a community, have not made more progress in this area. Our hope is that efforts such as these will lead us forward to better racial relations and less violence.

If you would like to gain some new perspectives, you still have a bit of time left to do some reading before all the special fall events begin, so here are some suggestions:



Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin

Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander

Please Stop Helping Us: How Liberals Make It Harder for Blacks to Succeed by Jason L. Riley

Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America by Michael O. Emerson and Christian Smith

Shame: How America's Past Sins Have Polarized Our Country by Shelby Steele

I'm Not a Racist, But...: The Moral Quandary of Race by Lawrence Blum

Privilege, Power, and Difference by Allan G. Johnson

The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism by Edward E. Baptist

High Rise Stories: Voices from Chicago Public Housing (Voice of Witness) by Audrey Petty (Editor)

The Sellout: A Novel by Paul Beatty

New Recommended Books

Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America by Jill Leovy

Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving

Rosa Lee: A Generational Tale of Poverty and Survival in Urban America by Leon Dash

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America by Alex Kotlowitz

The Other Side of the River: A Story of Two Towns, a Death, and America's Dilemma by Alex Kotlowitz

Good White People: The Problem with Middle Class White Anti-Racism by Shannon Sullivan

Caucasia: A Novel by Danzy Senna

Working-Class White: The Making and Unmaking of Race Relations by Monica McDermott

Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor's Reflections on Race and Medicine by Damon Tweedy



Green Team Member of the Month

An important thing learned in this interview is that Sue Kiddoo is a "green warrior"! Many years ago Sue became inspired to protect the environment. This has led her to subscribe to The National Wildlife Federation, The Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy and other publications. To keep informed, she continues to read news articles and listens to news on radio and

television about environmental issues, including climate change.

In 1993, when visiting relatives in Mississippi, Sue saw what flooding had done to homes, businesses, crops, and the floodplain. She was happy that the government made the decision to no longer allow building on the floodplain. Shortly thereafter, the government reversed the decision and once again allowed building. Sue thought this was a bad decision and wrote the local congressman stating that they had made a bad decision. She quoted the Bible verses that warned about "building houses on sand" to illustrate her point.

The government's decision to support insurance protection for storm-ravaged Padre Island, Texas also drew Sue's attention. She wrote a letter pointing out why this government action was also wrong.

Sue is very much the environmentalist inside the home too. She and Ron have installed energy efficient windows; their appliances are all Energy Star; the furnace and lighting are energy efficient; and the water heater is insulated. She also reuses items as much as possible, such as plastic bags for cat doo and garbage and glass jars from markets for storing

homemade jams. She does traditional recycling too including composting which she hopes to resume as soon as some landscape problems are resolved.

Her environmentalism continues outside the home as well. Overhangs have been built on the roof to reduce the sun's heat which thereby reduces the amount of energy used. Many trees also shade the house. Sue only waters the lawn if they are experiencing a bad drought. She grows native plants which use less water and pesticides and tries not to use chemicals in the yard or gardens. She also works on ridding the yard and garden of invasive species by replacing them with berry plants, cat mint and plants that are good for feeding birds and hummingbirds. She has milkweed planted to sustain the monarch butterflies.

Always looking to help the earth and all its inhabitants, Sue started the Fair Trade Coffee and chocolate sales at Wesley. A percentage of what we buy goes to UMCOR (our Methodist relief agency). Fair Trade Coffee is organic and shade grown which preserves habitats for birds and native species versus "clear grown" where trees are removed to grow coffee.

As a person of faith, Sue feels she is one of God's stewards of the earth. She and husband Ron want to leave a sustainable earth for her children, grandchildren and all future generations. She wants a healthy earth for the remainder of their lives also.

To see what other things the Green Team is up to, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/WesleyUMCGreenTeam>



Illini Fighting Hunger Given Award!

Our student group, Illini Fighting Hunger, was recently presented with the Eastern Illinois Foodbank's **Community Partner Award** for 2015. Pictured from left to right: IFH board member, Ryan Larsen; IFH Director, Max Colon; Eastern IL Foodbank Director, Jim Hires; IFH board member & Wesley Food Pantry Director, Katie Thomas.

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
1st Sunday Infant – 5 years

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.

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!

New Kingdom Singers

Director

Samantha Barra is the newly hired Kingdom Singers Director. Look for more info about her in our next Spire!



United Methodist Women

Fall Meeting of IRD

United Methodist Women, September 19th

Women, plan to attend the Fall Meeting of the Iroquois River District United Methodist Women! The newly revised bylaws for Iroquois River District UMW will be presented and voted on at this meeting.

When:

Saturday, September 19, 2015
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where:

Rossville United Methodist Church
116 Maple Street, Rossville

Guest speaker Senator Jason Barickman (53rd Dist.) will talk about Illinois legislation regarding children, youth, and women. Talk to Kristen Dean-Grossmann before September 6 if you want to attend. Reservations are required and cost for lunch is \$10. Childcare provided. Carpooling can be arranged. A tour of Cunningham Children's Home's Circle Academy-Vermilion is also planned!

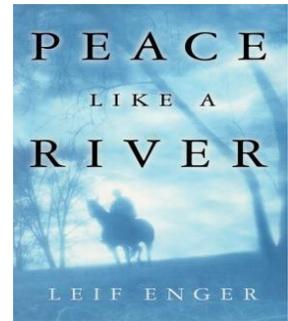
Attendees may bring a "love gift" for Cunningham and/or Lessie Bates David Neighborhood Center.

- **Cunningham-Urbana** is asking for zippered binders, black pens, and gift cards.
- **Cunningham-Vermilion** is asking for AA and AAA batteries, #2 pencils, black ball point pens, plain 2-pocket folders (with or without prongs), individual hand sanitizers, and 2-in. zipper binders.
- **Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood Center** is seeking diapers, wipes, and baby oil.

If you don't plan to attend, you may give your love gifts to Kristen, and she will deliver them for you.



**LESSIE BATES DAVIS
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE**



UMW Fall Book Discussion and Dessert Potluck October 5th

Mark your calendars for this fun night!

Libby Johnston will lead our discussion of Leif Enger's novel *Peace Like A River*.

"Set in the early 1960s, Enger's debut novel is narrated by eleven-year-old Reuben Land, an asthmatic boy whose close-knit family is broken apart after the oldest son, Davy, commits a crime of passion and becomes a fugitive. Reuben, his father and younger sister become immersed in a series of mystical events as they follow Davy's trail across the northern United States. Enger's book is filled with biblical allusions and miracles crowd its pages like proverbial angels on the

head of a pin; one curious scene features a pot of soup that replenishes itself in loaves-and-fishes fashion. The highlight of the book is its engaging narrator, Reuben Land: He's funny, endearing and committed to his family, no matter how wrong their actions." — David Abrams

All Wesley women are invited!
Bring a dessert to share.

Date and Time: Monday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Place: Marilyn Whittaker's home, 2102 Sugarbrush Ln., Champaign

Save these dates!

Saturday, October 3rd
IGRC UMW Annual Meeting
 First UMC, Normal
 8:30 a.m. Fellowship
 9:30 a.m. Meeting

Saturday, November 7th
Iroquois River District UMW

Personal Growth Retreat & Officer Update
 Watseka UMC
 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7th
UMW General Program
 9:30 a.m. in the West Lounge

Reverend Miriam Snider will present a spiritual growth program. All are welcome. Join us for fellowship at 9:00 a.m. If childcare is needed, please contact Virginia Dickey at vdickey88@gmail.com.

Announcements



To my Dear Wesley family:

I want to thank my Wesley family for the love and support during these past weeks since my surgery. Pastor Dan was with my son, Mitch, the morning of my surgery along with prayers throughout the day for successful surgery and recovery. I appreciated the many visitors while I was at Carle as well as flowers and cards. I have truly enjoyed all your cards and dear notes which have strengthened me to do all I can with help of therapists and your nourishing, tasty meals to walk and climb stairs.

My big goal was to be able to return to church as soon as possible...and that is tomorrow (August 30th). My daughter Amy in Florida and son in Colorado send their appreciation for your prayers, delicious meals, cards, transportation to Carle appointments and cheerful visits.

Lovingly,
 Jeanette Forrest



Sympathy to

Mary Gosline and family at the death of her father, long time Wesley Member, Dr. Thomas Newell Ewing Jr., who died on Tuesday, August 18th at the age of 101. He was a resident of Meadowbrook at Clark-Lindsey Village, Urbana. He was also the uncle of Margaret Rauschenberger. Graveside services will be at the Toledo Memorial Park Cemetery in Sylvania, Ohio, at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Wesley United Methodist Church, Urbana.

Sympathy to

Margaret Dyson's family. Margaret died on Wednesday, August 19th, at St. Joseph's home in Springfield, Illinois. She and her husband, John, were members of Wesley since 1953. John preceded her in death in 2006.

Attention all aspiring musicians!

The Handbell Choir is always looking for new members. We rehearse on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. We play once a month in the

9:30 a.m. worship service. There is no experience required, so please feel free to come and play with us. If you are interested or have any questions please contact me, Morgan Boes at handbells@wesleyui.org





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.



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 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 at (217) 356-3498 or mdornhof@comcast.net. Thank you!

Food Pantry News



Program which supports non-profit agencies that service low-income residents.

This is the third year the Pantry has received this grant, and each year it increases, indicating we are good stewards. Thank you Cunningham! Your continued support reminds us that there is strength in community building.

Taking Action – Against Hunger

September is **Hunger Action Month** and we want you to join us in fighting hunger in our community! There are a number of different ways you could get involved. You could volunteer at a food distribution or rice repackaging event, make a donation, host a fundraiser, or even advocate on behalf of the Pantry by speaking to a club or organization about the important work we do. Together, we can solve hunger!

New Grant

The food pantry has recently been awarded a grant from Cunningham Township in the amount of \$5,600 to be used towards pantry expenses. The grant was made possible by the Cunningham Township/City of Urbana Consolidated Social Service Grants



We are challenging everyone to make a pledge to combat hunger by finding one thing you can do to help our neighbors in need. Share your pledge with us on Facebook or email us at volunteer@wesleypantry.org



Welcome Back Students!

The Wesley Food Pantry welcomes back to campus all new and returning students.

Pantry staff distributed cookies, candies, and pops to University of Illinois students during Quad Day and mingled in front of the U Building for Parkland College’s Welcome Convocation Festivities. This school year, remember to look out for us at the upcoming volunteer fairs as well.

Whether you’re a U of I or Parkland student, we have volunteer opportunities on your campus!



Updates from the Resource Area

Express Employment Professionals is an international staffing company that connects jobseekers with prospective employers in the US and Canada. During last month’s Evening Food Pantry distribution, a representative from Express Employment Professionals networked with our employment-seeking clients to discuss services and opportunities.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has been donating books to the Wesley Evening Food Pantry. It’s working! At the August distribution, 230 children’s books were given away from the Children’s Activity Center and 40 adult books were given away from the Adult Resource Center.



Book donations have made a really positive impact in helping our clients meet all of their summer reading goals!

Like Us on Facebook

Take a quick moment to like the Wesley Evening Food Pantry on Facebook. It’s a great way to keep up with Food Pantry current events. Also, the Pantry is excited to start joining in on Photo-Op Fridays! Visit Our Facebook Page to share your favorite Pantry images and your photo could be featured on our website and/or newsletter!

2015, so far...

@Wesley	@Parkland
1571 Households	878 Households
7391 Individuals	3085 Individuals
3260 Children	1286 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

Samantha Barra

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 Operations Manager

Dawn Longfellow

Food Pantry Volunteer Coordinator

Brittany Coleman

Director of Communications

Derek Attig

IT Computer Specialist

Laura Licari

Property Manager

open

Full-time Custodian

Jack Driver

Part-time Custodians

Chris Livesay, TJ Jackson

Weekend Custodians

Justin & Megan Farkas



Campus Ministry

We have many ways for undergrad, graduate, and international students to get involved. Check out our calendar and join us!

September 14th, 7:30 p.m.
(& every Monday in September)

Wesley Theater

Film Series on *Black and White in America*. Join us as we view and discuss movies around the theme of race in anticipation of Wesley's Fall Seminar.

September 15th, 7:00 p.m.
(& every Tuesday)

Etc. Coffeehouse

Venture (small) groups for undergraduates meet to chat about school, life, and faith. Join us as enjoy food, friends, faith, and fellowship!

8:30-10:00 p.m. (& every Tuesday)

Etc. Coffeehouse

Grad Student Book Study – Graduate students from all disciplines are invited to participate in this fall's study group. We're reading and discussing *Let Your Life Speak*, by Parker J. Palmer, and *Life Together*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Questions? E-mail Michael Drummond at gradstudy@wesleyui.org.

Wednesday, Sept. 16th, 9:00 p.m.
(& every Wednesday)

Etc. Coffeehouse

Midweek Student Worship. Our student-led worship service meets to share snacks, conversation, music, & a brief message to renew our spirits & help us get through the week!

September 18th, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
(& every Friday)

125 Conference Room

ESL Class – We welcome beginners through advanced students as we practice English and learn about the language.

4:00-6:00 p.m. (& every Friday)

Etc. Coffeehouse

International Coffeehouse – International & domestic students, along with visiting scholars and community members are invited to join us for coffee, snacks & conversation as we practice English, learn about each other's cultures and make new friends!

September 20th, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
(& every Sunday)

Sanctuary & Great Hall

Sunday Worship

September 27th, 10:30 a.m.

Sanctuary & Great Hall

Join us for a special combined worship service, followed by a potluck and dramatic reading of the play, *Tangled*, which addresses the issues of race and violence.

October 4th, 1:30 p.m.

Watseka Lounge

Wesley's Fall Seminar, *Black and White in America: A Look at Racial Relations and Violence*, will feature a panel of U of I professors, community leaders, and government officials who will present on this topic.

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**