

the spire

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

July 2022



Rev. Vaughn Hoffman Chosen as Interim Senior Pastor and Director

Bishop Beard appointed Rev. Vaughn Hoffman as the Interim Senior Pastor of Urbana Wesley UMC and Director of The Wesley Foundation at the University of Illinois beginning July 1, 2022. The appointment is a $\frac{3}{4}$ -time appointment. Pastor Vaughn, a lifelong United Methodist, was raised in Hoopston, Illinois, and has degrees from Illinois State University, and the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado.

Ordained in 1982, Vaughn served United Methodist congregations for 36 years before retiring in July of 2018, after a fourteen-year tenure as Senior Minister at Wesley United Methodist Church in Bloomington, Illinois. In partnership with committed lay leadership and staff there, he helped lead the church to be a growing, vital congregation in its downtown setting. In 2011, the Iliff School of Theology recognized him as a “Distinguished Alumnus” for creative and outstanding contributions to parish ministry.

In addition to parish ministry, Hoffman has served as adjunct faculty in Ministry and Society at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. He has also been a presenter in clergy forums for the Church of South India at Madras Christian College (Chennai, India) and Bangalore Theological Seminary (Bangalore, India) on issues of Global AIDS and the Church, with a goal of promoting caring, non-stigmatizing pastoral responses to persons and families living with HIV/AIDS.

Vaughn has been active on numerous conference committees and boards over the years, including a term as chairperson of the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and as a member on the Area Committee on Pastoral Care and Counseling, the Vermillion River District Committee on District Superintendency, and the Board of Trustees for Illinois Wesleyan University.

Vaughn has been married for 39 years to his wife Lori, who works as the Associate Director for Developmental Mathematics at Heartland Community College in Normal, Illinois. A long-time distance runner, cyclist and mediocre fly fisherman, Hoffman loves being outside in his retirement. On a side note, he has completed the Champaign half marathon on five separate occasions, but has pretty well

hung up his racing shoes, and now prefers a slower pace with an espresso and scone after the run is over!

Special Combined Worship Services for July

During the month of July, Wesley will once again celebrate music and the gifts of our congregation through our worship services! We'll meet together for one combined service at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary each Sunday. As usual, services will be livestreamed and recorded so that those who wish to may join us for online worship.

- On July 3, Wesley's praise band will help lead our worship, complete with favorite music from the contemporary service, as we welcome interim pastor, Rev. Vaughn Hoffman.
- On July 10, we look forward to an annual favorite – our Jazz Worship Service – led by Dr. Barrington Coleman, with special guests from the university and community.
- On July 17, we will enjoy a hymn sing as we welcome guest preacher, Rev. Dr. James Fielder. If you would like to request your favorite hymn, please contact Pastor Jess (jesslecrone@wesleyui.org) by July 12.
- On July 24, we will celebrate all the gifts of our congregation with Wesley's Got Talent, including those of our guest preacher, Rev. Ann Spurgeon. If you have a talent you'd like to share (singing, playing an instrument, reading your own or someone else's poetry, etc.) as an individual, duo, or family, please contact Pastor Jess by July 19 to share what you would like to contribute.
- On July 31, we will conclude our month of music with a Celtic worship service, featuring Celtic harpist Julia Kay Jamieson.

We are looking forward to these special services and hope that you will join us in person or online and invite someone you know to share in these times of celebrating our gifts and making a joyful noise!

Discipleship and Family Ministries Fellowship Outings Coming Soon

The Discipleship and Family Ministries Team is having a great time hosting our monthly fellowship outings! If you haven't had a chance to join us, we have opportunities planned for the rest of the summer and into the fall. All are welcome – and feel free to invite a friend!

- Friday, July 29, we will gather at Hessel Park for their Friday Night Flix – Viva Las Vegas! The movie begins at dusk and food trucks will be available on-site for snacks.
- Saturday, August 13, we will be back at Urbana's Market at the Square for coffee and conversation. We will gather at 9:00–look for us at one of the tables near the food trucks!
- In September, we will gather around the fire pit at Wesley for s'mores! Date and time TBA – keep an eye on the Wesley Weekly and the Spire for updates.

Parting Words from Rev. Dan King Crede

Dear Friends,

As I leave Wesley I want to remind you of a few things.

First, it is United Methodist protocol that when pastors leave the church, they are not allowed back for at least one year. I cannot perform weddings, funerals or memorial services, or do hospital calls for anyone in the Wesley family. This allows the new Senior Pastor/Director to develop relationships with you.

Second, Rev. Vaughn Hoffman will begin as interim Senior Pastor/Director on July 1. Vaughn is an excellent pastor, administrator, and preacher. He has agreed to bridge the gap between my leaving and the appointment of a new permanent Senior Pastor/Director. You will be in good hands with Vaughn, Jess, and Julie.

Third, keep this perspective in mind. Very few of Wesley's previous pastors knew how to handle everything with the Church and Foundation before they came. Paul Unger in his sermon at Wesley last Fall, shared how difficult it sometimes was for him to know what to do while he was pastor here.

Miley Palmer once shared that he hoped he had not made mistakes that had done damage for subsequent pastors. Paul Burt had no idea how to handle a Church and Foundation when the Depression hit a few months after he arrived in 1929. Along with dozens of Wesley people they figured it out.

I worked alongside Howard White for seven years so I was at least familiar with some of the intricacies when I became Senior Pastor/Director. We've grown close to each other and accustomed to doing things a certain way. But there are other ways to do the work of God at Wesley. It will take a little while for the new Senior Pastor/Director to get their bearings. But with your support and patience, they will become a leader you can trust.

Finally, I could not have done this without you. Everything that has been a success at Wesley has been because there has been a team of people sharing ideas and believing that there is hope for the future.

Thank you for allowing me to grow and serve among you. These have been exciting years with all kinds of new endeavors to bring God's love to the campus, community, and world. It has been a blessing to be your pastor and I am excited to see how Wesley's ministries continue to flourish into the future.

Yours in Christ's service,

Dan



SAM Team Supports Champaign-Urbana's Immigration Emergency Assistance Fund

Wesley's SAM team encourages the congregation to join in supporting Immigration Services of Champaign-Urbana's (ISCU's) Immigrant Emergency

Assistance Fund, an account set up to meet emergent needs faced by immigrant families new to the community. The fund is supported by ISCU, Bend the Arc of CU, the Immigrant Justice Task Force of the UUUC Church, and the CU Immigration Forum, and ISCU explains that the organizations "come together to provide financial assistance for immigrants facing an urgent need not related to the pandemic, and usually in excess of each individual organization's quick financial response capacity."

The SAM team is contributing \$1000 to this fund and encourages you to join us in supporting this cause on Sundays in July. ISCU's VP, Mike Folk, will join Wesley during Coffee Hour on July 10 to answer questions and provide further information to those interested. More information about ISCU, this fund, and other ways to support ISCU can be found at <https://www.isc-u.org/>.

campus ministry

Queer Space Summer Book Club

We invite students and young adults who identify as LGBTQIA2S+ to join us for a monthly book club this summer! Dates, plans, and books are still being decided, but we'll post information in the Wesley Weekly and on our social media soon. For questions, or to get the Zoom link for our gatherings, please contact our Queer Space leader, Liz Martin, at lmartin@wesleyui.org.

Connect with Campus Ministry

The Wesley Student Center will take a break from most programming this summer to focus on preparing for the fall semester and refreshing our spaces. To find out what we're planning for the beginning of the academic year, and to stay updated on all things Wesley, check our Facebook pages (Wesley Student Center, Etc. Coffeehouse, Wesley Grad Students) or sign up for the student e-newsletter at uiucwesley.org. We look forward to seeing you when we gather back together in August!

Education

No Sunday School for Children in July

There will be no Sunday School for children beginning July 3rd. Enjoy your Summer Break! The nursery will continue to offer childcare for children ages 0-3 years old during our single 9:30 worship service, beginning at 9:15 on Sunday mornings until the conclusion of the service. Masks are required for all adults when in the nursery, and children's temperatures will be checked upon arrival.

"Fire Around the Fire" Summer Bible Study for Youth

Every Sunday June 26-July 31 from 6:30-8:00pm by the fire pit in the Food Pantry Garden, Youth ages 11 and up will enjoy an informal meal together, some s'mores, and fellowship outdoors, weather permitting, followed by an original Bible Study around our "fire" theme, written and led by Pastor Jess LeCrone. Each session will stand alone, so you do not need to stress about summer commitments – come join us when you can! E-mail Pastor Jess (jesslecrone@wesleyui.org) or Ms. Liz (lmartin@wesleyui.org) if you have questions, or to let us know that you're bringing friends by THURSDAY NIGHT that week so we can plan for extra food!

VBS Survey

Check your e-mail for a survey about your participation in Vacation Bible School this year – your feedback helps us make our programs better serve your family!

Want to play with the Praise Team?

If you're interested in singing or playing an instrument with the Praise Team during the 11:15 Contemporary Worship Service on Sunday mornings starting in August, reach out to Liz Martin (LMartin@wesleyui.org).



Thank you VBS Volunteers!

Extra special thank-you to everyone who pitched in to make our Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School possible last month! Our fifteen young chefs were all promoted to top chef by the end of the three days, and we all learned so much about how God provides for our needs while we work as God's hands and feet to serve the needs of others.

Thank you to the entire Education Committee, including Liz Martin, Barb Hughes, Melody Neumann, Steve Herriott, and Emily Lux.





Plus hands-on help from Pastor Jess LeCrone, Dawn Longfellow, Diana Herriott, Sharron Mies, Faith Young, Marilyn DeJong, Brad Neumann, Kristen Dean-Grossman, Jeff Decker, Ed Friedl, Tevin West, and Tom from Dave's Dogs.

We couldn't have made it happen without extra support from Wesley staff members Richard and Elizabeth Young, Jermel Hutchison, Qutey Sayles, Meg Cole, Morgan Steinman, Sally Mundy, Rev. Dan King Crede, Rev. Julie Dowler, & Donna Giffen. It truly takes a village, and we're so blessed to have you all!

Announcements:

Sympathy to Edith & John Terwilliger at the death of their son, John Richard Terwilliger, who passed away Friday, May 13th at the age of 64. He lived in Danville. IL. A Celebration of life was held for John Richard, on Thursday, May 26th, in the Watseka Lounge with Rev. Dan King Crede officiating. Cards may be sent to Edie & John at 2008 Arthur Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920.

Sympathy to the children and families of long-time Wesley Member, Robert (Bob) Bender, who passed away on Wednesday, May 25th. He lived in Urbana. A Celebration of Life service was held for Bob on Monday, May 30th in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dan King Crede officiating. Cards may be sent Karen Bender, 3801 Farhills Drive, Champaign, IL 61822

Sympathy to Elissa and Chad Harrison and family at the death of their daughter, Lydia Josephine Davidsmeier on Thursday, May 19th at the age of 21. Lydia was a UI Sophomore and one of our students here at Wesley. Cards may be sent to Lydia's family at 17424 Chandlerville Road, Virginia IL 62691

Sympathy to the family of Leah Pogemiller who passed away on Tuesday, May 31st at the age of 62. A Memorial Service was held on Wednesday, June 15th in Wesley Sanctuary with Revs. Dan & Gay King Crede officiating. You may send cards to Leah's sister, Gail & husband, Bob Stewart, at 26220 W Leslie Drive, Channahon, IL 60410





Food Truck Party!

Thank you to Liz Martin and Barbara Hughes for including the food pantry in this year's VBS fun. Pantry director, Dawn Longfellow, helped bring the Wesley Mobile Pantry to life as part of the food truck themed lessons. The children attending camp collected spare coins to donate to the pantry because we learned that God can make even the smallest donations feed thousands. THANK YOU!

WHO WE HELPED IN MAY 2022

474 HOUSEHOLDS

743 INDIVIDUALS

150 CHILDREN



Welcoming Our Guests Back Inside

As COVID restrictions began to ease and everyone hesitantly returns to their old patterns, the food pantry welcomed guests back inside at our June evening and Parkland distributions. After over two years in drive-thru mode, we are excited to return to the shopping experience that defines our pantry: lots of smiling, helpful volunteers to interact with our guests and make them feel welcome while they shop in a welcoming, dignified manner from a wide variety of choices. While we tried our best to bring that atmosphere to our drive-thru, it just hasn't been quite the same. We heard guests that have never been in our Rm. 50 pantry express things like "this is really nice" and "there are so many things to choose from." Some of the best compliments we receive are when guests feel welcome enough to refer a friend in need or return to volunteer in future weeks because they had such a warm experience when they visited. We're very grateful that both of these have happened repetitively this past month.



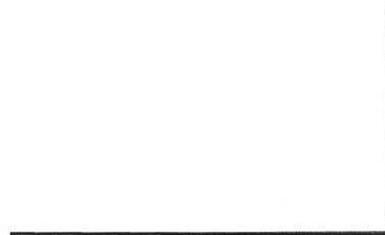
Support the Pantry with Amazon Smile

Are you a frequent Amazon shopper? Start your shopping trips at smile.amazon.com and you can generate donations to your favorite charities. If you'd like to support the pantry, be sure to choose "Wesley Urbana United Methodist Church" when prompted to choose a charitable organization to receive your donations. Once you're set up, 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases will come back to the pantry. You can also send items we need directly to the pantry when you purchase items from our charity list at smile.amazon.com.

Wesley United Methodist Church
1203 W. Green St.
Urbana, IL 61801

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Wesley Staff

Senior Pastor/Director **Rev. Dan King Crede**

Starting July 1, 2022 – Interim Senior Pastor/ Director Rev. Vaughn Hoffman

Campus Minister **Rev. Julie Dowler** | Associate Pastor **Rev. Jessica LeCrone**

Director of Contemporary Worship and Music **Liz Martin**

Director of Christian Education and Youth **Liz Martin** | Childcare Coordinator **Qutey Sayles**

Director of Choral Music **Dr. Barrington Coleman**

WesCare Coordinator **Meg Rauschenberger** | Administrative Assistant **Donna Giffen**

Office Secretary **Dawn Longfellow** | Director of Communications **Blake Warman-Neal** | Food Pantry Director

Dawn Longfellow | Food Pantry Assistant **Brian McDermott** | Full Time Custodian **Jermel Hutchison**

Sunday Services

Traditional Service 9:30am

Contemporary Service 11:15am

Wesley Building Hours:

Sundays 9:00am to 12:30pm