

the spire

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

June 2022

Mark Your Calendars for Rev. Dan King Crede's Retirement Celebration

Please join us in Worship and Celebration as we honor the retirement of Rev. Dan King Crede. Whether you attend in person or participate via the online live stream, mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 26**. We will begin with a 10:30 a.m. combined worship service when Dan will deliver his last sermon as Senior Pastor and Director of the Wesley Church and Foundation, a position he has held since 2004. Special music along with several presentations will be included. A reception will follow in Watseka Lounge. Although not required, please rsvp to Donna Giffen if you plan to attend the reception (donna@wesleyui.org; 217-729-7612).

Dan's retirement will also be recognized at the Illinois Great Rivers Conference Clergy Retirement Service on **Friday, June 10** at 11 a.m. The service will be livestreamed at igrc.org. Dan is one of 28 clergy who is retiring in the conference.

For more details including where to send cards, video messages, and gifts, go to www.wesleyui.org/dan-retirement/



Help Us Connect with High School Graduates and New Students

We look forward to welcoming new freshmen, grad students, and others to the Etc. Coffeehouse and our campus ministry this August. If you know someone who is planning to start school at the U of I or Parkland College, or transferring to either school, please share their name and email with our campus minister, Pastor Julie (jdowler@wesleyui.org), so we can connect with them and help them find their home at Wesley. Thank you for your help!

Pastor Julie's Renewal Leave

Spiritual renewal leave is a time for pastors to step away from their ministry setting in order to rest, renew, and re-charge. Taking renewal leave is a well-established clergy practice that is allowed by the *Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church. Our campus minister, Pastor Julie, will take a renewal leave for the months of June and July, and return to the office on Monday, August 1st. If there is an urgent situation you need to share with Pastor Julie, please contact Donna Giffen (217-377-8042) for assistance.

Mark Your Calendar for Pentecost Sunday!

We invite you to wear red, Illini Orange, or yellow and join us as we celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, June 5. This service will be available online for our 9:30am Traditional Service.



Discipleship and Family Ministries Team Looks Forward to More Fellowship Outings

The Discipleship and Family Ministries Team had a great time hosting the May fellowship outing - we loved seeing so many of you join us for coffee and conversation at Urbana's Market at the Square on May 14. We are looking forward to the rest of our summer outings and hope to see you there!

All are welcome - and invite a friend!

- Saturday, June 25 at 3:00pm we will join with the Education Committee for an ice cream social at Custard Cup in Champaign.
- 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.



Keep an eye on the Wesley Weekly for any updates or additions!

Lectio Divina

As part of her ordination work, Pastor Jess will be organizing Lectio Divina small groups to begin this month. To accommodate busy summer schedules, groups will meet in 3-week sessions. Everyone is welcome to join at any time and may attend more than one session. Groups will meet at Wesley at 6:30pm on the following Wednesdays:

June 8, 15, 22

June 29, July 6, 13

July 27, August 3, 10

On each of these Wednesdays, we will meet for up to an hour, listening to, reflecting on, and praying through scripture. Lectio Divina (Latin for "holy reading") is a way of using the Bible to deepen our connection with God. I hope you will take advantage of this special opportunity of time and space to slow down and listen for the still, small voice of God in your life. For more information, or if you would like to join in, please email me at jesslecrone@wesleyui.org.

Fresh Air Yoga to Resume on June 17

Fresh Air Yoga resumes on June 17 and will continue on Fridays throughout the summer - any schedule changes will be announced as soon as possible in the Wesley Weekly and on the Wesley Facebook pages. Class begins at noon in the West Lounge and is suitable for all abilities and levels of experience. You are welcome to bring your own yoga mat or borrow one of ours. Yoga is a great way to get some movement for your body, wind down at the end of the week, and find some time for quiet and peace.

Congratulations Graduates!

Wesley wants to congratulate all the college graduates connected to our congregation. We are so proud of you and pray that God's blessings accompany and uphold each of you wherever your journeys lead next!

Elizabeth "Betsy" Meyer

A Wesley Chancel Choir member is graduating with a degree in Choral Music Education and a minor in Art + Design. She will do her student teaching in the fall and audition for professional choral ensembles.



Several students connected with the Wesley Food Pantry are receiving degrees this academic year:

Bianca Savant

Bianca will graduate with a B.S. in Molecular and Cellular Biology and plans to become a physician. As the food pantry's Spring 2022 intern, Bianca was a fixture at the evening pantry and kept the pantry grab-and-go locations filled on campus.



Shivesh Pathak

Shivesh earned his Ph.D. in Physics in the fall of 2021 and is currently working as a postdoctoral fellow with Sandia National Lab. Shivesh began his service with the food pantry as a volunteer with the evening pantry before joining the Wesley Food Pantry board of directors in January 2018.

Yang Hu

Yang Hu is graduating with a Ph.D. in Kinesiology and will start as a tenure track assistant professor at San Jose State University this fall. Yang was a key part of the food pantry team in the early months of the COVID pandemic, Spring/Summer 2020.



We also want to recognize the following graduates connected to our Wesley family:

Kristin Godlin, daughter of Helen and Bruce Berndt, will receive her Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of Illinois. **Andrei Stefan Coman**, oldest grandson of Brenda and Morgan Lyng, will graduate in June from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Composition.

Ben Storsved, grandson of Ron and Sue Kiddoo, is graduating from Indiana University with a master's degree in Central Eurasian Studies. **Alyssa Rauschenberger**, granddaughter of Bob and Meg Rauschenberger, will graduate from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, with a Bachelor of Arts degrees in Physics with Honors, Japanese, and International Studies. She will pursue a Ph.D. in Physics at the Massachusetts Institute

of Technology. **Skyler Przygoda**, former campus ministry intern/assistant and interim director of communications, Skyler has graduated from Vanderbilt Divinity School with a Master of Divinity. She will be the Director of Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries at a church in North Carolina.

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.

Grad Student Cookout and Summer Plans!

The grad student/young adult group is planning a hot dog/veggie dog cookout May 30th at 6:00pm, and will plan additional gatherings throughout the summer months to meet new friends and stay connected. Join our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/480754098772077>) to get the latest info on our plans and check out the Wesley Weekly. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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!

Campus Ministry Calendar

Plans are subject to change depending on the current status of the pandemic. Unless noted otherwise, Zoom links can be found on our website (uiucwesley.org), our Facebook pages (Wesley Student Center and Etc. Coffeehouse), or by emailing our campus ministry assistant, Liz Martin, at lmartin@wesleyui.org, for more information.

Thursday, June 2, 5:00pm to 7:00pm, Wesley Parking Lot (and every Thursday)

Wesley Food Pantry – We all need assistance from time to time... Wesley is here to help you, or someone you know that is food insecure. Help us help others by sharing this information with friends who may be struggling.

Sunday, June 5, 9:30am & 11:15am, Wesley Sanctuary and Etc. Coffeehouse (and June 12 & 19)

Traditional (in-person and livestream on YouTube) and contemporary (in-person) progressive, inclusive, and affirming worship services.

**Tuesday, June 7, 9:00am to 10:00am
(and every Tuesday)**

International Reading Group (for Advanced ESL learners) on Zoom – International students and visiting scholars are invited to join us as we read and discuss newspaper articles, improve English pronunciation, and expand vocabulary. For questions or the Zoom link, email Dave Mies at dwmies@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 26, 10:30am, Wesley Sanctuary Join us for a very special combined worship service as we celebrate Pastor Dan's retirement after 18 years of serving at Wesley.

Education

Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God!

Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it – June 6th, 7th, & 8th from 9am-1pm! Children and Youth ages 3*-15 can come join the fun as we sing, play, learn, and explore how God feeds us and our beloved community through "Food Truck Party," where we'll be on a roll with God! Come join DJ Cupcake, Top Chef, Dawn Longfellow with the Wesley Food Pantry and Mobile Pantry, and other local food truck guests as we celebrate as only Wesley can! Youth 11+ are invited to join as "Junior Leaders" once again and will be trained to assist as volunteers with regular Food Pantry operations. Sign up here by Friday, June 3.



Contact Liz Martin (lmartin@wesleyui.org) if you have questions.

*All children must be able to use the restroom independently to attend VBS

"Fire Around the Fire" Summer Bible Study for Youth

Coming June 26-July 31, Sundays 6:30-8:00pm by the fire pit, 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 that week so we can plan for extra food!

Sunday School Continues Through June

Sunday School for children grades Pre-K through 5 will continue to meet through the month of June except for the first Sunday, June 5th, so that families may stay together in church for Communion Sunday. We will take a break from Sunday School for the month of July.



Congratulations, High School Graduates!

The Education Committee is excited to congratulate the following students on their high school graduation:

Audrey Heckel graduated from Champaign Centennial High School and will attend Purdue University this fall in the first-year engineering program. Savannah Smith graduated from Mahomet-Seymour High School and will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the fall where she will study political science. Scotlyn Bialeschki, granddaughter of Annette and Charles Lansford, graduated from Champaign Centennial High School and plans to attend Parkland College in the fall.

Faith Young, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Young, graduated from Urbana High School and will attend Eastern Illinois University this fall as a secondary education major and highly honorable Golden Apple Scholarship recipient. We also join Richard and Elizabeth Young in celebrating that their older daughter, Hope, graduated last May from Urbana High School, and she is now enrolled in cybersecurity classes online with financial assistance from her employer, WalMart.

Bruce and Helen Berndt are celebrating the graduation of their granddaughter, Anne Godlin, from Champaign Central High School. Ron and Sue Kiddoo celebrate the graduation of their grandson, Luke Storsved, from Champaign Central High School. He will attend the School of Fine and Applied Arts to study studio art at the University of Illinois in the fall. John and Virgie Young are celebrating the graduation of their grandsons, Ryan Shaw from Springfield High School, and Ty Jones from Paris High School. Pastor Julie's nephew, Parker Solum, is graduating from Willard High School, Willard, MO. He is a National Merit Finalist and will be a Presidential Scholar at the University of Tulsa, studying engineering.

Announcement:

Sympathy

To the family of Rev. James Cloyd Elder (80) and his wife, Diana Mae Elder (81). We recently learned that former Wesley Minister, Rev. Elder died on Monday, July 13, 2020 and Diana died on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. He was the Minister at Wesley from 1985 to 1987. They lived in Champaign.



Sympathy

To the family of long-time Wesley Member, Lila (Jean) Wicklund, who passed away on Thursday, April 28 at the age of 92. She lived in Urbana, IL. A family graveside service was held for Jean on Monday, May 16th, officiated by Pastor Jessica LeCrone.



Summer Volunteers Needed

Our pantry shelves are full, but our volunteer slots are a little bare. During the time between UIUC Spring and Summer sessions, we see a drop-off in helping hands at our weekly food distributions. If you are available for a few hours on Wednesday afternoons or Thursday evenings, you can find the available volunteer sign-ups at wesleypantry.org/volunteer.html. We are also looking for a few dedicated volunteers who would be willing to help us with some driving tasks that are often harder to fill with student help.

Email Dawn (operations@wesleypantry.org) to fill one of these roles:

Bread Picker-Upper: We could use someone to stop by Central Illinois Bakehouse (north First St.) each Wednesday around noon to pick up a bread donation for our Wednesday and Thursday distributions. Donations would then be transported to Parkland College for our 1pm distribution.

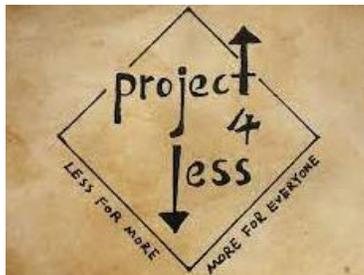
Delivery Driver: We frequently receive calls from folks with either an emergency need for food or who lack transportation/mobility to attend one of our distributions. We would like to have a pool of possible drivers that would be on-call to pick up food from Wesley to deliver to these guests.

Mobile Pantry help: We will take advantage of the summer and fall weather to do some mobile pantries and outreach in the C-U community. Our van drivers must be 23 yrs. old. If you fit that description and would be willing to help drive and supervise food distributions on location, we need you!

Groups Supporting our Neighbors

As the semester has drawn to a close, the pantry received a generous outpouring of in-kind donations! Epsilon Delta is pictured to the left delivering the results of their "Spring Cleaning" drive which included paper towels, cleaning wipes and dish soap. Thrivent Financial (bottom middle) held a confidential shredding event where they collected food donations. Beta Psi Omega and UIUC National Student Speech Language Hearing Assoc. also provided over 100 lbs. of groceries from their food drives. We appreciate all their efforts!

Finally, we couldn't close the semester without thanking Project for Less. This student group packages pre-cooked meals at the University dining hall to be delivered for our Thursday distribution. In the Spring semester, Project for Less provided over 250 well-received packaged meals for our guests.



Who we helped in
APRIL

603 HOUSEHOLDS
972 INDIVIDUALS
162 CHILDREN

The infographic has a blue background with a floral border at the top. The text is in white and pink. The numbers are in a large, bold, pink font.

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

TEMP-RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit 299
Champaign, IL 61821



Wesley Staff

Senior Pastor/Director **Rev. Dan King Crede** | 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** | Financial Operations Manager **Sally Mundy** | Director of Communications
Blake Warman-Neal | Food Pantry Director **Dawn Longfellow** | Food Pantry Assistant **Brian McDermott**

Property Manager **Richard Young** | Full Time Custodian **Jermel Hutchison**
Part-time Custodian **Elizabeth Young** | Weekend Custodians Richard and Elizabeth Young

Sunday Services

Traditional Service 9:30am
Contemporary Service 11:15am

Wesley Building Hours: Open Sundays 9:15am to 12:30pm