

December 2025



Our Vision statement:

*Learn God's word, Teach
God's word and
Share God's love*

Our Mission Statement:

*Wesley United Methodist
Church is a community of*

*Christ's disciples who strive to know, love and serve God
more faithfully through Christ-centered worship, education,
fellowship and true compassion that show God's love for all people
in the name of Jesus Christ.*

**Notes from Pastor
Emery**

A little over three years ago, you and I took a deep breath and said "Ok God, we'll give it a chance." And thus began a saga that I never thought would last three years. I have been grateful ever since. So as this Christmas approaches, as your pastor I thought I would express to you my Christmas wish for Wesley.

Right from the beginning I experienced here a love, togetherness and compassion that is the ear mark of a congregation that understands the core message of Christmas. And so, my hope is that you will continue to reflect those characteristics and even

deepen them in the coming years.

I have observed over and over the ways you watch out for each other and make sure that everyone feels welcome and cared for. But what really impresses me is your concern for those beyond the bounds of our church. Your missional consciousness is truly exceptional in my experience. You have care for others in your very DNA. And so my wish includes the gift of generosity which embodies the spirit of the season.

As your pastor, I offer you the gifts of spiritual renewal and hope which are key themes of Christmas. We wait expectantly for the birth of

Continued on next page

Dates to Remember

Mon, December 8
Charge Conference 5:00 p.m.

Thurs, December 11
Happy Elders 11:00 a.m.

Sat, December 13
Cookie Drop Off
4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Sun, December 14
**Sunday School
Program/Cookie Walk**

Tues, December 16
Church Council 6:30 p.m.

Wed, December 24
Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m.

Online Services still available to view on
YouTube.

(Continued from page 1)

Jesus and the hope it brings. His coming among us again in this Christmastide is the opportunity for a deep spiritual renewal within the Wesley family and a fresh start for everyone.

It is my wish for families and individual of Wesley church to gather in faith, hope, and prayer, making Jesus the center of all our celebrations. May the true gift of the season will be the joy and satisfaction that comes from our life together in Christ.

Finally this Christmas I pray for peace, joy, and goodwill to all members of Wesley and the wider community which we are called to serve that we may reflect, to quote the Apostle Paul, “all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worth of praise.”

Newsletter Sponsorship

Greg & Sandy King are the sponsors for the December 2025 newsletter. Please consider signing up for a month in 2026! Your contribution helps defray part of the cost of the publication and is an extra gift of support to our expenses. Please contact the church office (235-3070) to ‘reserve’ your chosen month for 2026.



December

BIRTHDAYS

9	Cecily Flores	15	Tim Krueger
12	Cynthia Monroe	21	Morgan Thomas
13	Daniel Thomas	30	Bryan Fournier
	Dominic Flores		
	Sandy King		

ANNIVERSARIES

14	Erne & Margaret Mains
28	Jon & Barbara Uecker

The church office will be closed on December 24, 25 and 31.





UMC CORNER

The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church has completed canvassing the votes of annual conferences on the four constitutional amendments that were approved by the 2024 General Conference.

This marks “a defining moment in the continuing renewal and unity of The United Methodist Church. These amendments reflect the church’s rich diversity and deep commitment to live more fully into our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and strengthens our world-wide connection to serve faithfully and inclusively in every context,” said Bishop Tracy S.

Malone, President of the Council of Bishops.

Amendment 1: Regionalization

Amendment 2: Inclusiveness of the Church

Amendment 3: Racial Justice

Amendment 4: Education Requirements for Clergy

1. Regionalization

A set of amendments to create new regional conferences that will each have equal power to adapt portions of the BOD within their respective regions.

2. Inclusiveness of the Church

An amendment to add the words “gender” and “ability” to Paragraph 4, Article 4, of the UMC Constitution to categories that cannot be used to exclude membership of The United Methodist Church.

3. Racial Justice

An amendment to strengthen Article V of the UMC Constitution by explicitly recognizing the church’s role in combating racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy.

4. Education Requirements for Clergy

General Conference voted to amend Section VI, Article IV of The United Methodist Church Constitution, which establishes the educational requirements for clergy members of annual or provisional conferences who are eligible to vote for clergy delegates to the General Conference.



Quarry Park Neighborhood Updates

- **Quarry Park Gold:** This was the winning name for our Marigold Project. This was our first true neighborhood collaboration with 27 neighbors and friends coming together to plan Marigold on Knapp Street.
- **Neighborhood Night Out:** This was a huge success with over 45 neighbors coming together for food and connection.
- **Quarry Park Neighborhood Annual Meeting:** In October, we heard more about the development of our Quarry Park beautification project, viewed a year in review slideshow, elected Core Team Members and ate lots of yummy chili!
- **Trunk or Treat Event:** We had a wonderful turnout at Wesley United Methodist church annual event. Quarry Park neighbors were involved in decorating a car and handing out candy.

Sunday School News

Our Sunday School children will be ringing bells for Salvation Army in the Narthex of our church in cooperation with our mission committee. Parents/guardians of our Sunday School children, please sign-up for a Sunday with your Sunday School teacher and arrive at 9:15 a.m. on the Sunday morning for bell ringing. Everyone, please let our children know what a wonderful way they are supporting this mission project by stopping by the kettle and dropping off a donation.



Our Sunday School Christmas program is scheduled for Sunday, December 14 during children's time in our worship service. They will be sharing the Symbols of Christmas with us and singing a Christmas hymn.

On Sunday, December 28, no Sunday School is scheduled for this day. It is the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's while the children are off of school and everyone is enjoying the Holiday's.

There is no Education Committee meeting scheduled for December.

Our next education meeting will be Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

We are looking into a Lenten book study, watch for more information to come.

Donna LaPoint, Education Chair.

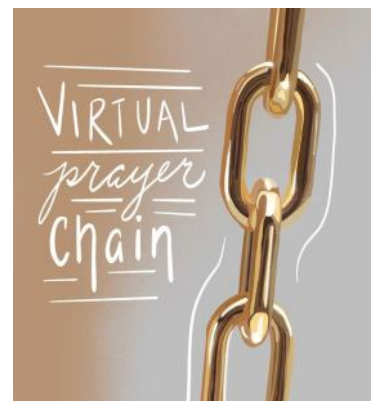


Prayer Chain

Wesley has a Prayer Chain that we have had for many, many years. It is a line of communication among believers who are willing to be "on call" to pray for a specific need. The set-up allows urgent requests to be relayed immediately without waiting for the pastor to announce them at the Sunday service. A phone call to the pastor or church office and/or to one of the anchor people activates the network.

Over the years our list of Prayer Chain participants has dwindled. We currently have two teams and would like to add some more participants.

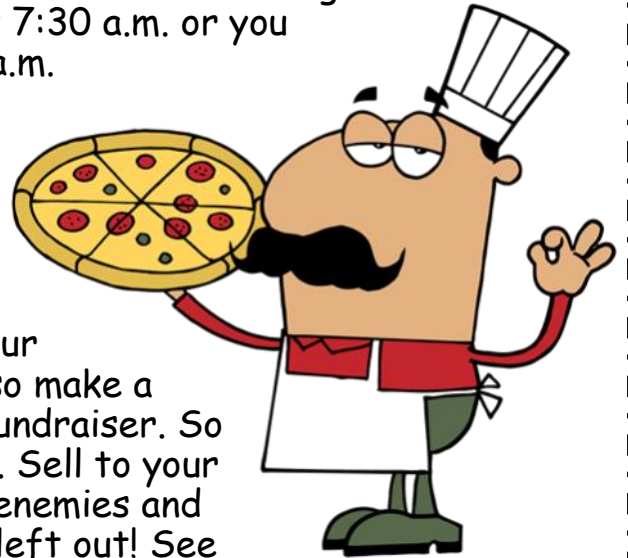
If this is something you would be interested in, call Sally Roe, 920-231-8729.



PIZZA 2026

Wesley is back to selling and making pizzas for 2026. Last year we sold 1360 pizzas. There are 3 production lines, each devoted to one particular kind of pizza. There are three choices of pizzas, cheese, sausage and pepperoni. Pizzas sold and made will be 12-inch crust only and there are no combination pizzas. Prices have increased to reflect the higher cost for ingredients. Please remember, this is a fundraiser, our largest fundraiser of the year and the pizzas quality is top notch.

Orders must be in by Sunday, January 4th, 2026. The date of making the pizzas is Saturday, January 17th. We start at 7:30 a.m. or you start when you get there. Pick up starts at 11:30 a.m. and ending at 12:30 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet for workers for that day in the Narthex along with the order forms. We encourage you to bring friends. We need the help. Like 2025, you can donate money to supply pizzas for the Oshkosh Community Food Pantry. The order form gives you that option. We donated 342 pizzas in 2025 and our goal is to donate 400 pizzas in 2026. You could also make a cash donation to help increase the profit in this fundraiser. So go forth and make your sales. Sell to your friends. Sell to your enemies. Buy and give to your friends, neighbors, enemies and relatives. Make this an all-church event. Don't be left out! See you on the 17th of January.



Randy Lovell - Pizza Ministry



We are in need of bakers and buyers for the Cookie Walk. Our Cookie Walk will be on Sunday, December 14th following the 9:30 a.m. service. Cookies will be sold by weight. This is a great opportunity to stock up for the Holidays. Crafts and holiday decorations will also be available. We will be taking donations of holiday cookies and crafts for our Cookie Walk on December 14. Items may be dropped off at church on Saturday, December 13 from 4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, call Betty Croninger at 920-410-5796.

Rooted & Rising—Washington Park believes in the dignity, potential and worth of all people and is dedicated to helping individuals and families meet their basic needs, establish stable foundation, and pursue their dreams. We had meaningful interaction with 2,067 individuals from the community, including 1,366 individuals for whom it was their first engagement with Rooted & Rising.

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS

Rooted & Rising Washington Park

Dream realized in 2024

Housing built: Back in 2008, the agency had the bold vision to develop a beautiful new building that would include twenty-four (24) 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom apartments and space for its offices, community food pantry, and community space. That development was facilitated by low-income housing tax credits (LITHC) and investments from other public and private sources. In 2024 Rooted & Rising acquired the ownership stake of our tax credit investor, BMO Bank, and is now the sole owner of this incredible building. The building has become central to our agency's work and mission.

Rooted & Rising initiated the development of four new single-family homes that will be sold exclusively to teachers and administrators in the field of early childhood education. We want to ensure that those who care for and nurture our youngest learners have access to affordable, quality housing in the community they serve.

Food for Sustenance and for the Soul: Food insecurity steadily increased throughout 2024 and Rooted & Rising's Community Food Center continued to meet the growing demand with unwavering commitment. Rooted & Rising made a tremendous difference by serving 3,630 households, a 605 increase from the previous year—support a total of 10,675 individuals.

We provide families with access to healthy, nutritious food, hygiene essentials, and other in demand necessities such as winter outerwear and diapers. The rapid growth of this program not only highlights the increasing need in our city, but also reflect the power of community in responding to that need.

Volunteers and Partnerships make more possible: More than 3,000 hours of volunteer service to our Community Food Center included pickups and deliveries, sorting and stocking, shopping with residents and cooking demonstrations. Volunteers prepared and cooked 24 meal demonstrations in our kitchen for Food Center customers providing a range of healthy meals using produce, meats and ingredients from our inventory.

Along with volunteerism, partnership is the key to the successful functioning of our Community Food Center. A few of those partners included Hunger Task Force, Emmanuel Community UMC in Menomonee Falls and our many other UMC church partners, the Milwaukee Diaper Mission, Trader Joe's, Festival Foods, and the West Allis Farmer Market, among many others!

Supportive Housing: The U.S. Bank—sponsored Access Home Program, hosted at Rooted & Rising in partnership with Acts Housing and other partners, empowered 32 aspiring first-time homeowners through a 12-month certified homebuyer counseling and savings program. In 2024 five families achieved their dream of purchasing their home, marking a milestone in building generational wealth and neighborhood stability.



Our Supportive Housing Program continues to set the standard, achieving sustained 100% occupancy in 2024 and ensuring that our 72 resident families have access to safe, quality and affordable housing and supportive services throughout the year. Nearly half of our households (48%) have lived here for three or more years, reflecting both the appeal and the lasting impact of our programs.

Growing Tree for early education: Our newly completed nature-based playscape has become a vital part of our nature-focused learning curriculum. It offers children hands-on experiences that ignite their curiosity and promote exploration in an environment that truly embodies the essence of the great outdoors. Additionally, development and credentialing are highly prioritized for the Growing Tree teachers. We are proud that 805 of staff hold a Career Level 10.



December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6:15 p.m. MG 7:30 p.m. CC	2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. –12:00 p.m. Lectionary Study	5:00 p.m. Charge Conference 5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6:15 p.m. MG 7:30 p.m. CC	11:00 a.m. Happy Elders 2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Cookie Drop Off
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 a.m. Worship Children's Service & Cookie Walk 10:45 a.m. –12:00 p.m. Lectionary Study	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 p.m. Church Council	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA 6:15 p.m. MG 7:30 p.m. CC	2:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. –12:00 p.m. Lectionary Study	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making	4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service Office Closed	Christmas Day Office Closed 		
28	29	30	31			
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. –12:00 p.m. Lectionary Study	5:30 p.m. MA	10 a.m. TOPS 1:00 p.m. Mat Making	Office Closed 	MA—Martial Arts TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly MG—Morning Glory Singers CC—Chancel Choir		

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Change Service Requested



*The Wesleyan Connection is
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