

September 2024



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.*

Office: 235-3070

Pastor Chuck Emery

Notes from the Pastor

As we approach the "Election Season", it is important that we, as Christians, consider how our faith relates to the decisions we must make, remembering always the Christ is in the voting booth with us.

One topic that should concern us all is the rise of Christian nationalism as an influential political voice. I thought a brief discussion of this aspect of our political life was vital for us to have in this moment. So I am excerpting comments by Paul Miller, a Professor at Georgetown University, in the most recent issue of Christianity Today.

Christianity is a religion focused on the person and work of Jesus Christ as defined by the Christian Bible and the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. It is the gathering of people "from every nation and tribe and people and language," who worship God and Jesus as God's Son, a faith that unites Jews and Greeks, Americans and non-Americans together. Christianity is political, in the sense that its adherents have always understood their faith to challenge, affect, and transcend their worldly loyalties—but there is no single view on what political implications flow from Christian faith other than that we

should "fear God, honor the king" (1 Pet. 2:17), pay our taxes, love our neighbors, and seek justice.

What is Christian nationalism, and how is it different from Christianity? How is it different from patriotism? How should Christians think about nations, especially about the United States? If nationalism is bad, does that mean we should reject nationality and national loyalty altogether?

Christian nationalism a political ideology focused on the national identity of the United States. It includes a specific understanding of American history and American government that are, obviously, extrabiblical—an understanding that is contested by many historians and political scientists. Most importantly, Christian nationalism includes specific policy prescriptions that it claims are biblical but are, at best, extrapolations from biblical principles and, at worst, contradictory to them.

Patriotism is the love of country. It is different from nationalism, which is an argument about *how to define* our country. Christians should recognize that patriotism is good because all of God's creation is good and patriotism helps us appreciate our

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Dates to Remember

Sunday, September 8

Rally Day

9:30 a.m.

Monday, September 9

Finance Meeting

10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 11

Missions Meeting

1:30 p.m.

Membership Care Meeting

2:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 12

Happy Elders Outing

11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 17

Church Council

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18

Worship Meeting

1:30 p.m.

Education Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Friday, September 27

Dennis Monroe Funeral

12:00 p.m.

(Continued from page 1)

particular place in it. Our affection and loyalty to a specific part of God’s creation helps us do the good work of cultivating and improving the part we happen to live in. As Christians, we can and should love the United States—which also means working to improve our country by holding it up for critique and working for justice when it errs.

Christian nationalism is the belief that the American nation is defined by Christianity, and that the government should take active steps to keep it that way. Popularly, Christian nationalists assert that America is and must remain a “Christian nation”—not merely as an observation about American history, but as a prescriptive program for what America must continue to be in the future. It is the belief that America is defined by its “Anglo-Protestant” past and that we will lose our identity and our freedom if we do not preserve our cultural inheritance.

Christian nationalism takes the name of Christ for a worldly political agenda, proclaiming that its program is *the* political program for every true believer. That is wrong in principle, no matter what the agenda is, because only the church is authorized to proclaim the name of Jesus and carry his standard into the world. It is even worse with a political movement that champions some causes that are unjust.

American Christians in the past were exemplary in helping establish the American experiment, and many American Christians worked to end slavery and segregation and other evils. They did so because they believed Christianity required them to work for justice. But they worked to advance Christian principles, not Christian power or Christian culture, which is the key distinction between normal Christian political engagement and Christian nationalism. Normal Christian political engagement is humble, loving, and sacrificial; it rejects the idea that Christians are entitled to primacy of place in the public square or that Christians have a presumptive right to continue their historical predominance in American culture. Today, Christians should seek to love their neighbors by pursuing justice in the public square, including by promoting religious liberty, fostering racial justice, protecting the rule of law, and honoring constitutional processes. That agenda is different from promoting Christian culture, Western heritage, or Anglo-Protestant values.



BIRTHDAYS

6	Jenny Fournier	22	Heather Eckstein
7	Roger Nitschke	23	Jim Fournier
14	Janice Nitschke	27	Delores Berger
	Austin Fournier	28	Marsha Bathke
17	Jon Uecker		Steve LaPoint*
	Nancy Wright	29	Denise Strange
21	Jane Vienola		

ANNIVERSARIES

5	Robert* & Janet Stein
17	Randy & Tracey Lovell
18	Gerald & Jane Vienola
24	Craig & Meghan LaPoint

Volunteers Needed!



Volunteers are needed each week for ushers, liturgist, greeters, acolyte and MediaShout. Please consider signing up to assist on a Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We appreciate all who have served previously in these roles.

Online Services still available to view on Facebook at the site below:
<https://www.facebook.com/wesleyumcoshkosh/>

Newsletter Sponsorship

Randy & Tracey Lovell are the sponsors for the September 2024 newsletter. Please consider being a sponsor for the November & December 2024 newsletters. 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 2024.

The Mission of the Month for September is Red Bird Mission. Red Bird Mission was founded in 1921 in the southeastern corner of Kentucky to provide education and Christian Evangelism ministries to residents of the area. The Mission

was started by the Evangelical Church on a small piece of property at the confluence of Cow Fork and the Red Bird River. The story of Red Bird is one of deep faith in God. Red Bird Mission was born in answer to prayer. It is a story of gracious outpouring of prayer and means by the Church. As early as 1913 the women of the Evangelical Church became aware of the needs of the the people of the Southern Highlands. In 1919 the Illinois Branch Women's Missionary Society was the first of three branches to request that the church begin work here. After much prayer and study the Women's Board established the Faith Fund, named it this because they said "in the faith that money would flow into it and that God will show us where to invest it".

Through the years the Red Bird ministries have grown until now there is not only a school; but a clinic, store, craft market, community outreach ministries for children and elderly, community garden and farmer's market. There are work camps year-round to repair and update the homes of people in the area. We will be learning more about these ministries through the month of September.

Red Bird Mission reflects "the light that shines in the darkness, Jesus Christ, since the establishment of the school in 1921. Darkness has come to the people of the Red Bird Valley many times over the decades in many ways, but Red Bird Mission reflects the light of Jesus that overcomes physical, emotional and spiritual darkness as supporters of Red Bird Mission, we join in this great mission of creating light and hope for literally thousands.

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS

Red Bird Mission



Save the Date

Sunday, November 10th, Wesley is serving a meal at the Day by Day Warming Shelter. Please consider helping with the evening meal. More details in the October and November newsletters.



POTLUCK LUNCH TO KICK OFF RALLY DAY

Our kickoff for the Sunday School year is Sunday, September 8, 2024!!!! Registration forms have been sent out to our Sunday School families. If you have not received one, a form can be filled out on your first day of Sunday School. We will have storytime and crafts during Sunday School. A potluck is planned to be served in Koeller Hall following the church service and there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. **Everyone is invited to the potluck.**

Exciting news, due to an increase in Sunday School enrollment, we will be having possibly 3 children's classes (3-5yr olds, 1st grade-5th grade & middle school students) on Sunday mornings. **This means we need more teachers! A meeting is scheduled for all Sunday School parents/guardians and any interested parties on Sunday, September 15 following worship service in Koeller Hall to help resolve our teacher shortage.**

Sunday School will be every Sunday and children will be dismissed from worship service after children's time. Sunday School will be wrapped up about 10:30-10:45 a.m. Teachers currently are Tracey Lovell, Jenny Fournier & Lindsay Lovell with many helpers throughout the year. Due to an increase in enrollment, we are looking for additional teachers. Doris Thomas has a music moment with the children every other week which will meet in the sanctuary after service starting on Sunday, September 15. After learning a song, the children will sing during children's time about once a quarter.

Adult Studies

There will be three different adult studies available each week for you to attend.

1. Sunday morning adult bible study class meets after church each week studying "Walking in Grace" discussion.
2. Thursday morning class meets each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. They are discussing lectionary each week, but are looking into a possible book study. Stay tuned for more information.
3. A new class will be starting on Thursday, September 12 from 2:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m. each week. This class will be a Bible study on the book of John. This study will offer more details than just causal reading.

Trunk or Treat—Save the Date

The date is set for Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 26 from 2 pm-4 pm. In addition to the trunk or treating outside, the Oshkosh United Marshal Arts have offered to do a haunted hallway in our Sunday School wing. We are asking that everyone bring a canned food item to be donated to the Oshkosh Food Pantry. Let's start thinking about decorating your car trunks! Also, another way to support this Sunday School event would be to donate candy for the trunk or treaters to give out. A table will be set up in the narthex starting Sunday, October 6.



Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will be here at Wesley United Methodist Church on Thursday, September 26, 2024 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. Please refer to the attached flyer to get more info about how you can sign up. There is no time like the present to take action!

Three ways to register:

Call toll-free: 1-888-814-0466 promo code HSCA001

Online: <https://www.llsa.social/hzca>

Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607



The United Methodist Circuit Rider Quiz

****Look for the answers in next month's Newsletter****

1. Who were the original Methodist circuit riders?
Men who promised never to marry so they could travel a lot.
Electricians who drove trucks and fixed computer circuit boards
Itinerant preachers who traveled a specific route preaching the gospel
Horseback riders who performed in a traveling circus
2. The first female Methodist circuit rider was:
Rose Dawson, Betsy Ross Helenor, Alter Davisson, Annie Oakley
3. True or false: John Wesley believed that preachers who moved often were more effective.
True False
4. What does it mean to be an itinerant preacher?
You are a preacher-in-training
You are a substitute preacher
You are temporary preacher interviewing for a job
You are willing to accept whatever assignment your bishop gives you
5. What is the definition of a preaching circuit?
A meandering trip through the wild frontier without regular stops
A specific geographic route to new or established congregations
A 5-mile circular path between 2-3 churches
An electrical path through which electrons flow
6. On a typical ride once around the circuit, the rider traveled...
10-20 miles, 50-100 miles, 100-200 miles, 200-500 miles
7. What were the most treasured items in a circuit rider's saddle bag?
Food for the journey
Water to brush teeth
Books to read and sell
An iPad for daily news
8. The circuit rider Peter Cartwright was known as...
A charismatic preacher who inspired hundreds at camp meetings
A baptizer of more than 8,000 people and 10,000 new members
An Illinois legislator who was once elected over Abraham Lincoln
All of the above
9. Pastors in Zimbabwe in the 1970s didn't have horses, so they rode circuits on...
Wagons pulled by burros
Zebra
Elephants
Bicycles
10. The preacher who rode 265,000 miles on horseback and helped grow Methodism in America was:
Francis Asbury
Charles Wesley
Thomas Coke
Thomas Jefferson

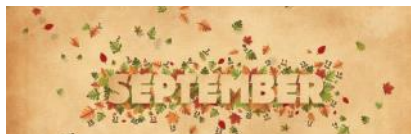


September 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024.	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 –7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study””” 5:30 p.m. MA		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Rally Day Potluck Luncheon	10:00 a.m. Finance 5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 –7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making	1:30 p.m. Missions 2:00 p.m. Membership Care 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study”” 11:00 Happy Elders 2:00 p.m. Adult Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 –7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making 6:30 p.m. Church Council	1:30 p.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Education 6:30 p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study””” 2:00 p.m. Adult Study 5:30 p.m. MA		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 –7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 a.m. TOPS 1-3 p.m. Mat Making	5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. MG 7:15 p.m. CC	8:00 a.m. Lifeline 10:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study””” 2:00 p.m. Adult Study 5:30 p.m. MA	10-11 a.m. Quarry Park Book Club 12:00 p.m. Dennis Monroe Funeral	
29	30					
9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2024	5:30 p.m. MA 6:00 –7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts			MA= Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly	MG= Morning Glory CC= Chancel Choir	

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