

September 2023



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*

Office: 235-3070

Pastor Chuck Emery

Notes from the Pastor

Ted Lasso burst onto the pop culture scene on TV in 2020 and ran for a couple of seasons. Ted, an American football coach, takes a job as the manager of a Premier League soccer team in the U.K.. He knows nothing about the sport, a true fish out of water.

The image that I am drawn to is the sign above the team's locker room door BELIEVE!

That BELIEVE sign begs a question: What does it really mean to believe? Through all the team's tensions, surprising victories, and painful losses, the sign hangs in the locker room, ambiguously omnipresent:

Is "believe" merely a kind of happy-talk self-help mantra, a sweet midwestern optimism oddly out-of-place in a more cynical world? BELIEVE and your dreams of winning and fame will come true. So go out and buy those Mega or Powerball lottery tickets.

Or, is "believe" something else? A disposition that is truthful, a practice that is transformative, a challenge to embrace, a struggle to endure? BELIEVE how? BELIEVE

what? BELIEVE who? There are no predetermined answers, and finding a way to belief is messy.

From one perspective "BELIEVE" seems to taunt us. If you believe hard enough, you will be rewarded. But, from the other, there is less clarity and maybe even unexpected sadness; BELIEVE seems to draw us toward our doubts and fears as well.

Almost twenty years ago, a few sentences in *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg revolutionized how I understood "believe":

"Prior to the seventeenth century, the word, "believe", did not mean believing in the truth of statements or propositions, whether problematic or not. It was not the affirmation of a formal creed. Grammatically, the object of believing was not statements, but a person. Moreover, the contexts in which it is used in premodern English make it clear that it meant: to hold dear; to prize; to give one's loyalty to; to give one's self to; to commit oneself. It meant. . .

(Continued on page 2)



Wed, September 6
Missions 2 p.m.

Sunday, September 10
RALLY DAY
10:30 a.m.-noon

Monday, September 11
Trustees 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 19
Church Council
6:30 p.m.

Wed, September 20
Worship Committee
1:30 p.m.
Technology Committee
6:30 p.m.

Friday, September 22
Lifeline Screening

Online Services still available to view on Facebook and YouTube. See page 3 for instructions on how to subscribe to the Wesley YouTube channel.

(Continued from page 1)

faithfulness, allegiance, loyalty, commitment, and trust.”

Most simply, “to believe” meant “to love.” Indeed, the English words “believe” and “belove” are related. What we believe is what we belove. Faith is about believing God. . . To believe in God is to belove God. Faith is about believing God and all that God beloves. . .” Faith is the way of the heart.

If, the BELIEVE sign means “I believe that AFC Richmond will win the championship. I believe that. I believe,” well, then you’d be in trouble. That’s a statement about the truth of something.

But I’ve come to think that the BELIEVE sign means “I believe AFC Richmond. I believe this team,” and the point becomes clearer: I trust this team, I trust these people, I give my allegiance to you all. The BELIEVE sign doesn’t conjure our desires for a specific answer or outcome. Instead, it creates the possibility to become different players, a different team, and a different kind of community — one called forth in what we belove.

The story of Ted Lasso seemed to be exploring BELIEVE through questions of “faithfulness, allegiance, loyalty, commitment, and trust” through the relationships between the various characters — and how BELIEVE and BELOVE are of a piece.

So as we gather as a community of people who say we believe in Jesus, are we not really saying that we love Jesus and all that he commands us to love as well?

After all, how can we possibly believe without love.



BIRTHDAYS

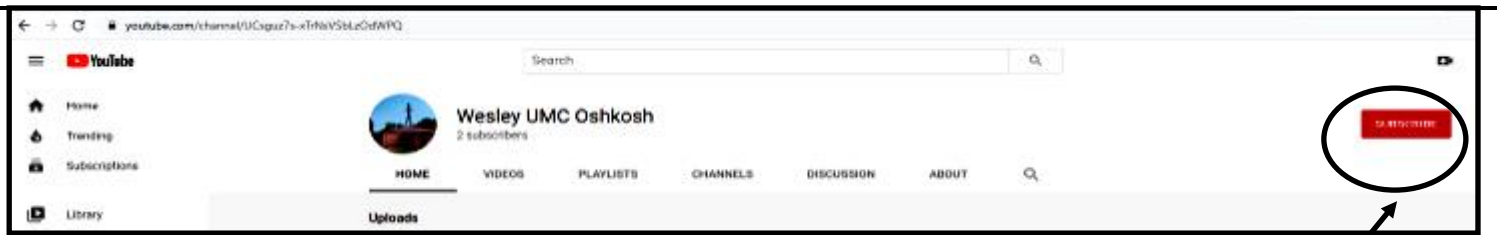
| | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 6 | Jennifer Fournier | 22 | Heather Eckstein |
| 7 | Roger Nitschke | 23 | Jim Fournier |
| 12 | Terri* West | 27 | Delores Berger |
| 14 | Austin Fournier | 28 | Marsha Bathke |
| | Janice Nitschke | | Steve LaPoint |
| 17 | Jon Uecker | 29 | Denise Strange |
| 21 | Jane Vienola | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Newsletter Sponsorship

The sponsor for the September newsletter is Sue and Rick Yell. Please consider being a sponsor for the October—December 2023 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 2023.



1. Open **YouTube.com**
2. Click the Search button
3. Key **Wesley UMC Oshkosh**



4. Press **Enter**
5. Click the **SUBSCRIBE** button when you first view this YouTube site.

Help Needed



Members needed for the Technology Committee and in the Sound Room. If you are interested in working and/or learning computer technology, making decisions about learning what we need at Wesley, to include audio and streaming technology, please call the office at **920-235-3070 T-F from 10 a.m.—2 p.m.**

24th Annual Senior Living EXPO®

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

at Players Choice of the Fox Cities

County Rd JJ (Edgewood Drive) 1.5 miles east of Appleton North HS or 1.5 miles west of Hwy N

FREE ADMISSION

**Informative Exhibit Booths for Seniors and their Families*

**Free Health Screenings *Speakers*

PRIZES* *RAFFLE

For more information google Appleton Noon Lions

Contact: Bob Simon at 920-809-7884 or rsimon001@new.rr.com



Celebrating Life after 50

**All Proceeds
go to charities**

RALLY DAY!!!RALLY DAY!!!RALLY DAY!!!



Our kickoff for the Sunday School year is Sunday, September 10, 2023!!!! 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. There will be balloons!!! We will have story time & games,. Refreshments will be served in Koeller Hall following the church service and everyone is invited to celebrate the start of the new school year.

Classes available:

- **Sunday School** - every Sunday starting on Rally Day, September 10, 2023, and running until about the end of May. Children will be dismissed from worship service after children's time. The weekly class wraps up about 10:30-10:45 a.m. Teachers are Tracey Lovell & Jenny Fournier with many helpers throughout the year. Doris Thomas has a music moment with the children every other week which will meet in the sanctuary after worship service starting Sunday, September 17. After learning a song, the children will share it during children's time in the worship service with everyone. This will be about once a quarter
- **Adult Studies** :
- **Sunday Bible Study** meets after church service This group has been faithfully meeting all summer and will transition to the 2024 "Walking in Grace" book. New attendees are welcome to drop in any Sunday.
- **There is a Thursday morning class** meets Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. This summer, this group finished "Christian Believer..." and will start a new book & workbook. "A Disciple's Path -A Guide for United Methodists" will explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus as an United Methodist . Now's a great time to join us!
- **Wayne Zimmerman** will be leading a Bible study starting Thursday September 14 at 2:30 p.m.
- **Trunk or Treat:** The date is set for Trunk or Treat to happen on Saturday, October 28, from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. 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 3.

Respectfully submitted by your education committee

Red Bird Mission

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.

Lifeline Screening

Friday, September 22

Koeller Hall

Appointments Still Available

Call 800-679-8191 or LLSA.Social/HC

Wesley members all get a \$10 discount.

We have 1 free screening left to give away!

Contact office asap to request a free screening coupon



UMC Wesley CORNER

For the thousands of U.S. residents who have experienced an extreme storm the most comforting words they could hear are probably "We'll help". These are two hope-filled words you send when you give to UMCOR.

And fortunately, because of people like you who believe in UMCOR's mission of alleviating suffering, our partners are equipped to bring help and hope. Your gift to UMCOR today will help us continue to build on the longstanding partnerships and infrastructure that enable UMCOR responders to be able to say to their neighbors "We'll help".



Hugs

It is wondrous what a hug can do.

A hug can cheer you when you're blue.

A hug can say "I love you so!" or "Gee I hate to see you go."

A hug is, "Welcome back again," and, "Great to see you! Where have you been?"

A hug can soothe a small child's pain and bring a rainbow after rain.

The hug! There's just no doubt about it. We scarcely could survive without it

A hug delights and warms and charms. It must be why God gave us arms,

Hugs are great for fathers and mother's, sweet for sisters, swell for brothers.

And chances are your favorite aunts love them more than potted plants.

Kittens crave them. Puppies love them. Heads of state are not above them.

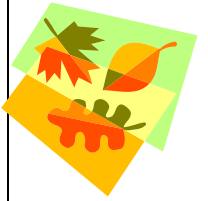
A hug can break the language barrier and make your travels so much merrier.

No need to fret about your store of them, the more you give the more there is of them.

So stretch those arms without delay and give someone a hug today.



Everyone hug!



September 2023



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023 | 5:30 p.m. MA | | 2 p.m.m. Missions 5:30 p.m. MA | 10:30 a.m. Disciple Series-Christian Beliefs 5:30 p.m. MA 6 p.m. Morning Glories 7 p.m. Chancel Choir | | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 9:30 a.m. Worship RALLY DAY Celebration in Koeller Hall after church 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023 | 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Trustees | 10 a.m. TOPS | 5:30 p.m. MA | 10:30 a.m. Disciple Series-Christian Beliefs 5:30 p.m. MA 6 p.m. Morning Glories 7 p.m. Chancel Choir | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| Women of Faith Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023 | 5:30 p.m. MA | 10 a.m. TOPS 6:30 Council | 1:30 p.m. Worship Com. 5:30 p.m. MA 6:30 p.m. Tech. Com. | 10:30 a.m. Disciple Series-Christian Beliefs 5:30 p.m. MA 6 p.m. Morning Glories 7 p.m. Chancel Choir | Lifeline Screening | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45-a.m.—noon Walking in Grace 2023 | 5:30 p.m. MA | 10 a.m. TOPS | 5:30 p.m. MA | 10:30 a.m. Disciple Series-Christian Beliefs 5:30 p.m. MA 6 p.m. Morning Glories 7 p.m. Chancel Choir | | MA= Martial Arts TOPS = Take Off Pounds Sensibly |

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Change Service Requested



*The Wesleyan Connection is
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