



# ***VOICE OF WESLEY***

Wesley United Methodist Church  
Bradley, Illinois  
December 2015

**Growing in Faith, Transforming Lives, and Creating Disciples for Jesus Christ**

Don't let the hustle and bustle get you down. Don't let fear triumph. Remember what the Season is all about. LOVE. Love of GOD, Family and Church. Our Season begins with Advent. The four Sundays before Christmas—Advent—are a time of preparation of hearth and heart. Preparation is more than the Tree and Decorations, it's more than the baking of cookies and treats, it's more than the buying of presents. Preparation is the preparing of our hearts, souls and bodies for the coming of light into our world into our hearts.

For too long we have heard messages of darkness from political candidates and elected officials who forget the God they claim in their fear and desire for an evening news sound bite. For too long have we heard that the way to balance the budget is on the backs of the poor and the least of these while corporations continue to take advantage of tax loopholes and tax laws that allow mergers with companies in foreign countries to avoid taxes in the United States. For too long we have heard the message of darkness brought by radical fundamentalist of Islam or radical fundamentalist of Christianity or radical fundamentalist of any "...ISM." For too long we have allowed our streets, schools and homes to be governed by the fear of another senseless shooting of an individual or of a group of people. For too long have we been in darkness listening to those who have not heard or heard and forgotten or heard and don't care of the message of hope that the Season of Advent and Christmas bring.

***Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.***

Luke 2:10

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience. The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives."

(<http://www.appleseeds.org/christmas-quotes.htm> accessed Tuesday, November 24, 2015).

*Pastor Julie*



If you would like to be a Lay Liturgist, please contact Pat Farman or the Church Office, at 815-933-7932.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO READ GOD'S WORD**



**NEEDED: Servers** for 2016  
Please contact Jo Dubree if you are interested in this

**Sue Muhlstadt, Teresa Girot, Rita Bass Cathy Conrad, and- Pastor Tim**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Shut Ins — Mildred Grimes, Patty Overright, Frances Schlondorf, Eunice Kroll, Hayward Smith



**December Birthdays**

- 12/03 Leah Hurt
- 12/08 Brad Mann
- 12/10 Wayne Dubree
- 12/11 Diana Lustfeldt
- 12/16 Candy Frantz
- 12/21 Debbie Rich
- 12/22 Bonnie Conroy
- 12/25 Mary Eby
- 12/26 Joyce Raab
- 12/28 Austin Hamende
- 12/31 Earl Kelly

**DECEMBER**

**Lay Liturgist:**

- Dec. 6 Don McCabe
- Dec. 13 Pat Farman
- Dec. 20 Kay Fisher
- Dec. 27 Teresa Girot



*Worship Assistants*

**Greeters:**

- Dec 6 Pat Farman
- Dec 13 Hurt Family
- Dec. 20 Open
- Dec. 27 Open



**Acolytes:**

- Dec 6 Natalie Prendergast, Kayla Willett
- Dec 13 Abbi Prendergast, Nathan Willett
- Dec 20 Trevor Conroy, Connor Willett
- Dec 27 Andrew Mann, Kaitlin Palinski

**Ushers:**

**Ryan Grace, Steve (Mike) Skopik, Steve Willet, Doug Wilkins**



## Narthex Coffee Time

FOLLOWING Worship and  
BEFORE Sunday School



## Third Thursday

**Third Thursday Supper Club, 5:30 pm, December 17** at Oliver's (Inside Quality Inn) Reservations to Kay Fisher (815-932-9605 or [kay9605@yahoo.com](mailto:kay9605@yahoo.com)) by Tuesday, December 15.



**Mission of the Month** - Collecting items to make up hygiene kits for homeless in our community: White tube socks (NOTE: Dollar Tree socks are **too thin** for this project!), small combs, small bars of soap, small toothpaste, toothbrush, sample size shampoo, chapstick, wash cloths. All women of the church are invited to join the UMW at our January meeting to assemble the kits.

thank  
you!

Thank you Wesley Family for all your prayers, love, support and cards at the passing of my father. I believe that my faith, family and friends will help me get through this sadness and turmoil.

Blessings to you,  
Gail Vogeler



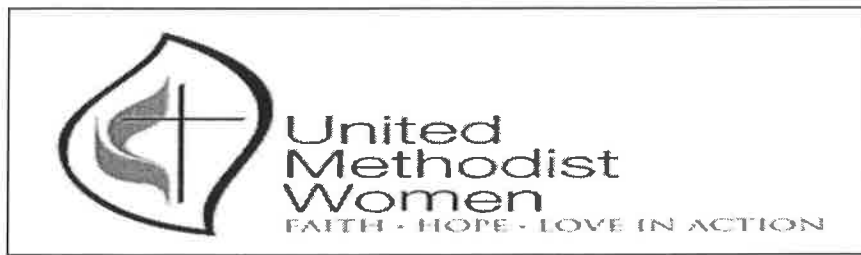
Thank you to our church family. It was so thoughtful of you to think of us during our time of sadness. Your prayers, sympathy cards and kind words of condolence are of great comfort to us as we grieve my brother's death.

Jo and Wayne Dubree.

**Offering  
Envelopes**



**2016 Envelopes** will be available in the Narthex on **Dec. 27th and January 3rd**. If you are going to be unavailable on these dates, please contact Don McCabe at 932-9577. Thank you.



## UMW Lasagna Dinner

The United Methodist Women would like to thank their family members and friends for their support of our 7th Annual Lasagna Dinner, Craft and Bake Sale. The Lasagna Dinner and the Sunday morning Bake and Craft Sale netted \$788.00. The Craft and Bake Sale held during the dinner made a profit of \$600.25. Because of your support and generosity, we will be able to donate to several of our favorite service organizations. Thank you again for your support.

## UMW Report

The UMW met on Saturday November 7th for a morning meeting. The Shower for Mary was presented. There were many outfits along with packages of diapers. The filling of the bags will take place December 2nd at Asbury. After the business meeting we went to the Sanctuary for a presentation by Sue Silverstein. Sue spoke about the experiences of the Mercy Ship at Madagascar. Sue, and her husband Mike, spent a year with the ship. After the presentation all adjourned for lunch served by the UMW. Hostesses for the day were Gerry Reed, with Karen Warburton assisting and Mae Morris. On Dec. 1st at 6:00 p.m. we will meet for our Christmas Party at the Village Diner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Clemens, Secretary

## Manna Cards

Christmas is around the corner and Manna cards will be available for your gift giving. Please pick up an order form at the Manna table to see what's available. Orders must be placed by December 13<sup>th</sup> in order to arrive by Christmas. Due to the volume of cards ordered, all orders must be paid for when ordered. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for all your purchases throughout the year ; they really add up and help Wesley Church. See you on Sunday.



Karen Warburton

## **The Advent Virus**

Anonymous via email

### WARNING.....WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.**

The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic

proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus:**

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.

An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.

*Pastor Julie*

Wesley UMC

Bradley IL

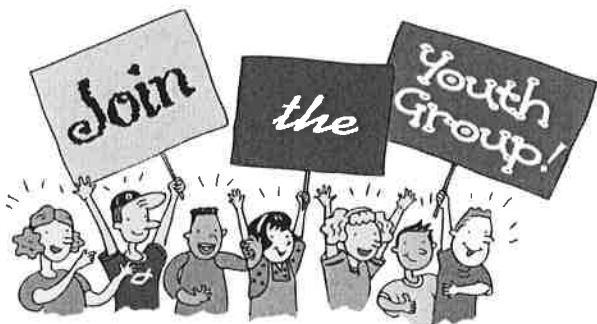


Please join Jacob and Candy Frantz as they reaffirm their wedding vows and Celebrate 21 years of marriage. Friday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church.

CONGRATULATIONS TREVOR!!

When you see Trevor Conroy give him a Congratulations!!

Trevor earned the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Award.



Middle School Disciples and Holy Hooligans—  
DON'T FORGET

Every Other Wednesday—from 6:00 to 7:30  
Next Meeting December 2nd-*Christmas Carol*

*(Bell Ringing to be Rescheduled)*

Parent's Night Out  
December 4

**DON'T FORGET PASTA SALE!!!!**

CHRISTMAS  EVE

Candle Light and Holy Communion

7:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m.

## ATTENTION ALL WESLEY COLLEGE STUDENTS

*DEADLINE TO APPLY—December 13, 2015*

Applications will be in the Scholarship Box outside the church office, or are available in the church office or from me. Don't miss that deadline. The requirements for the Scholarship are:

- a) The applicant must be full and active member of Wesley United Methodist Church.  
(Not a constituent, associate or an affiliate member).
- b) The applicant must attend an accredited college or school.
- c) The applicant must be a full time student according to the school they are enrolled in.
- d) The applicant must submit a completed application form.
- e) The applicant must apply each semester.
- f) The applicant will receive no more than \$250 *per year*.

*The amount (grant) received per year will be based upon the number of applicants and the monies available.*

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Donna Pangle



## HOW THE GRINCH STOLE WESLEY'S CHRISTMAS

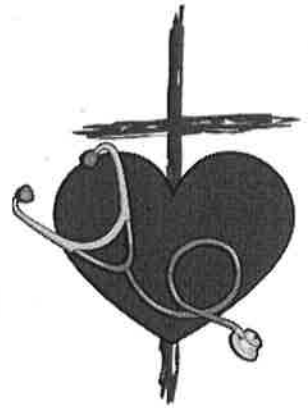
**BY FRANKIE SCHRIPSEMA**

On Sunday, December 13, 2015 during the 9:00 am worship service, the Youth and Children will present their Christmas Program. The program was written and directed by one of the Youth, Frankie Ann Schripsema. Don't miss it. It has a great message for all ages.

## Parish Nurse News

### NOW MEETING

The NOW team met November 12. Relda reported she attended the **US Health Forum** in Houston as a representative of the IGRC. This was a gathering sponsored by the UM Church and attended by 165 representatives from across the country. It was designed to introduce new health initiatives being developed within the Church. More information will be coming from these initiatives over the coming year. The idea of **Advent Prayer Partners** in the congregation as an alternative to the Blue Christmas Service was discussed. After discussion, this idea is being tabled until Lent. Relda and Becky Conroy continue to try to make **home visits**. They are currently reviewing the list of those in need of this ministry. The Food Pantry continues to grow as up to 50 families per week are being served. **Trunk or Treat** was very successful with approximately 120-150 families. Plans are being considered to add more activities and food next year. **WesleyT-shirts** have been sold to a number of members and new orders are being taken for a second order. **Emergency Gas Cards** will continue to be given. This ministry will be reviewed on a yearly basis by Pastor and NOW. **Congregational Development Outreach Ministry**-Kay Fisher, Relda Kelly, and Lucinda Hurt will be attending a training for outreach in February. If interested contact Kay Fisher or Relda. There is an ongoing need to update our Emergency Contact information. We will be asking for updated information after Christmas. *Our next meeting will be February 11, 2016 at 6:30PM.*



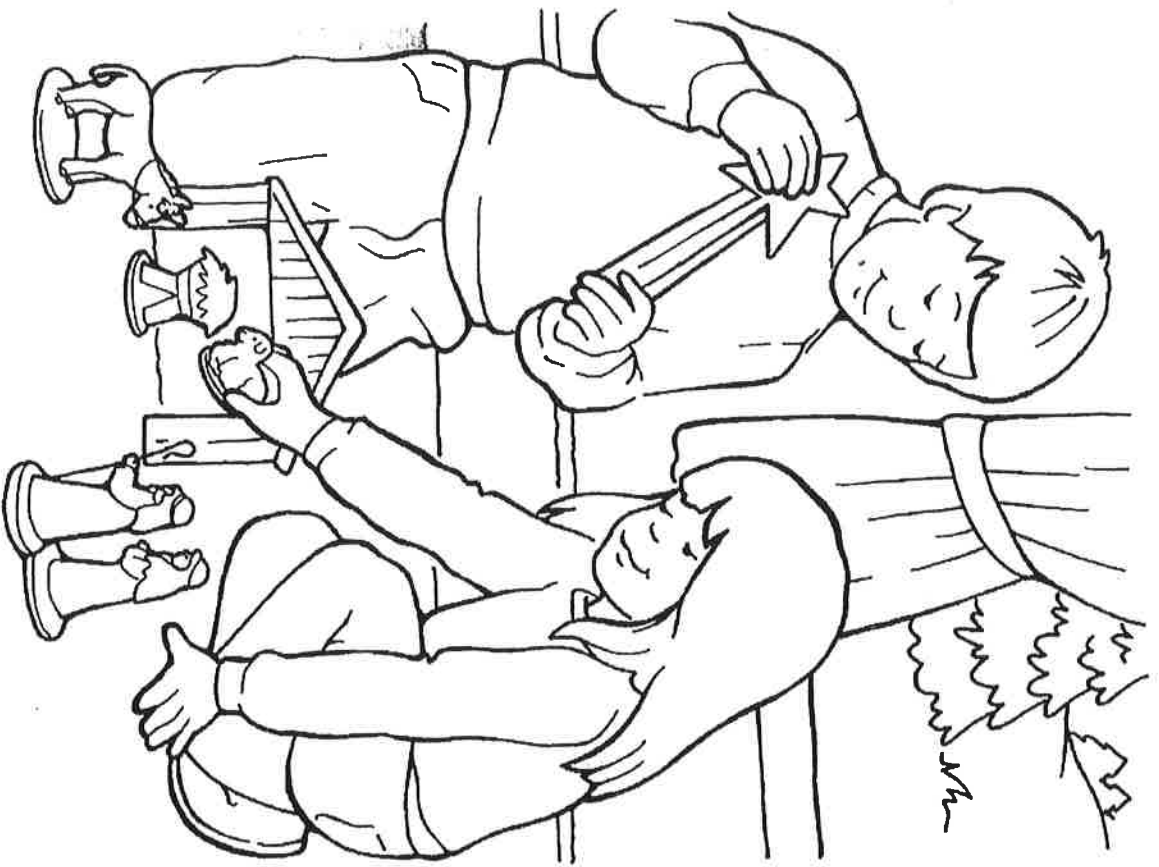
### THANK YOU

The Parish Nurse Network of the Kankakee River Valley wants to thank Pastor Julie and Wesley UM Church for the hospitality given to our group. We truly appreciated the recognition of our organization that was given during the worship service on November 8. The continued use of the church facilities has been a blessing to this group as we work to support Parish Nurses in this area.

### ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

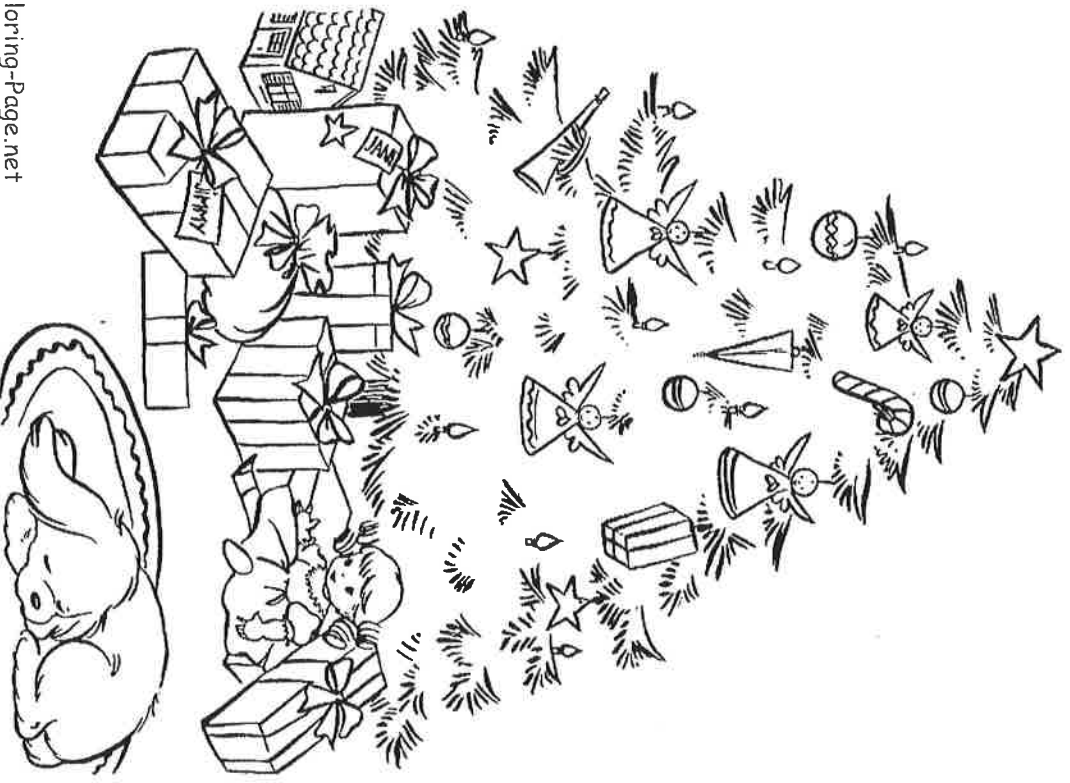
On Sunday afternoon, November 22, Rev. Ted Frost, United Methodist Foundation presented materials to help in estate planning, including ways to include bequests to Wesley. Even if you do not think you have an "estate", he explained that you need a will to make sure your wishes are carried out after you are gone. Of particular concern is making plans for minor children. If you were unable to attend this meeting, there are packets of useful information available in the church office. It contains explanations, checklists and guidance for writing wills. For your own peace of mind, plan to write a new will (or your first will) as part of your New Year's resolutions. As you are doing this, prayerfully consider including a bequest to Wesley.





Let's celebrate!

Coloring-Page.net



## **Important Notice –NOTICE IMPORTANT!!!**

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coffee Mug –IS NOT DISHWASHER SAFE! If you have a mug that has had the imprint damaged, bring it to Earl Kelly or the church office by December 31, 2015 and it will be replaced.

### **125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COFFEE MUG SALE**

As we wind down 2015 the Quasqui-centennial celebrations at Wesley, we are having a sale on the price of the coffee mugs! These mugs would make great Christmas gifts for friends and family that have moved away from the area but have a connection to Wesley. The original price of \$5.00 has been reduced to \$4.00 for one mug or \$10.00 for 3 mugs!

### **125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PAPERWEIGHTS, UNITED METHODIST KEYRING/ ORNAMENT, WINDOW CLINGS**

We also have beautiful glass paperweights and unique United Methodist symbol keyring/ornaments for sale. The paperweights are a great way to remember the long history of Wesley and the keyring is a visible reminder of your connection to the UM Church. The keyring can also be converted to hang as an ornament on your tree.

Glass paperweights with an engraving of the church - \$10.00

United Methodist symbol keyring/ornament - \$6.00

Window Clings for car and home - \$1.00

The supply of these items is limited and they will not be reordered. Look for Earl Kelly in the Narthex before or after church to purchase any one of the above items.

-Earl Kelly

## **Wesley's Table Food Pantry**



It is unbelievable to us how much this ministry has grown in the last month. Last week we served 13 new families and two weeks ago we served 19! When asking people how they hear about the pantry, the majority tell us it is by word of mouth. Word of mouth is truly the best advertisement that we could do. We are blessed to be able to serve people each week.

*Thank you* to all the people who continue to support this ministry with food donations, financial donations, and of course your time. New servant volunteers have started to get involved and are learning the ropes. If the sign up sheets are full, please consider assisting another day or time. Servant Volunteers are needed for multiple shifts and functions such as food pick up, pantry set up, distribution, and clean up. We can always use clean up volunteers! It is so helpful to getting us on our way for the day. The servant volunteer sign up sheets are located in the Narthex.

**Bradley Wesley United Methodist Church, 500 N Cleveland Ave, Bradley IL 60915 December 2015**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:00 AM Communication Team 9:00 AM Choir Christmas Special 9:00 AM Worship (no communion) 10:10 AM Children/Youth Choir Practice Christian Education: 10:15 AM Adult 10:30 AM Children/Youth 4:30 PM Advent Bible Study	30 10:30 AM Staff 12:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	1 6:00 PM UMW Christmas Party (Village Diner)	2 6:00 PM Bell Practice 6:00 PM Youth 7:15 PM Choir practice	3 1:00 PM Prayer/Patchwork Angels 6:30 PM Food Pantry	4	5 10:00 AM Choir Practice
13 9:00 AM Children's Christmas Program Christian Education 10:15 AM Adult Children/Youth 4:30 PM Advent Bible Study	14 7:30 PM Trustees & Finance	15	16 6:00 PM Youth	17 5:30 PM 3rd Thursday Supper @ Olivers Rt 50 (Quality Inn)	18	19
20 9:00 AM Worship Children/Youth Sing Christian Education: 10:15 AM Adult Children/Youth 4:30 PM Advent Bible Study	21 12:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 PM Women's Book Club	22	23	24 7:00pm and 10:00pm Worship Service Office Closed Christmas Holiday	25 Office Closed Christmas Holiday	26
27 Bell Sunday 9:00 AM Worship 10:10 AM Children/Youth Choir Practice Christian Education: 10:15 AM Adult 10:30 AM Children/Youth 4:30 PM Advent Bible Study	28 Newsletter Articles due	29	30 10:00 AM Newsletter Meeting 6:00 PM Youth	31 Office Closed New Year's Holiday	Jan. 1 Office Closed New Year's Holiday	2

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**500 N. Cleveland Ave.**

**Bradley IL 60915**

**815-933-7932**

**Sunday Worship at 9:00 a.m.**

**Children & Youth Choir at 10:10**

**Adult Christian Education at 10:15**

**Children & Youth Sunday School at 10:30**

**E-mail – [www.bradleywesley.org](http://www.bradleywesley.org)**

**Website—[www.bradleywesley.com](http://www.bradleywesley.com)**

**Pastor Julie Smith**

**December 2015**

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