

the spire

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

June 2024

Congratulations, Class of 2024!

WESLEY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

Caden Chamness, peer minister

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering; The Grainger College of Engineering
Future plans: Working at a company manufacturing solid oxide fuel cells.

Garrett Forrest, peer minister

B.A. in Political Science; College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Future plans: Working as a court advocate for those needing assistance in navigating the legal system and beginning law school in Fall 2025.

Liz LeBeau, peer, minister

B.A. in Political Science and English with a minor in Legal Studies; College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Future plans: Moving to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to work as an Operations Specialist at a pharmaceutical company and attending law school sometime in the future.

Mindy Leek, peer minister

B.A. in Agriculture, Leadership, Education, & Communications; College of ACES
Future plans: To work in advertising and marketing.



Caden Chamness



Garrett Forrest



Liz LeBeau



Mindy Leek

WESLEY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (continued)

Shash Gunalan, volunteer peer minister

B.S. in Clinical Psychology; College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Future plans: Returning to Malaysia for one year, then attending grad school to pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with research focused on autism spectrum disorders.

Olivia Hanson, Wesley desk worker

B.S. in Communication with a minor in Public Relations

Future plans: Working this summer as an assistant manager at a pool in Quincy, IL, while looking for a long-term position.

CHANCEL CHOIR GRADUATES

Isaiah Calaranan

Bachelor of Music Education; U of I School of Music

Future plans: To live and work in the Chicago area.

Lauren Harper

Bachelor of Music Education; U of I School of Music

Future plans: To live and work in the Chicago area.

Nathan Tilton

Bachelor of Music/Vocal Performance; U of I School of Music

Future plans: To live and work in the Chicago area.



WESLEY FOOD PANTRY GRADUATES

Katrina Overfield

B.S. in Finance; Gies College of Business

Future plans: Working full-time in Chicago while growing the base of her own business.

Angelina Greico

B.S. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, concentration in Health and Aging; College of Applied Health Sciences. Future Plans: Attending UIC College of Dentistry beginning in Fall 2024

Lauren Hager

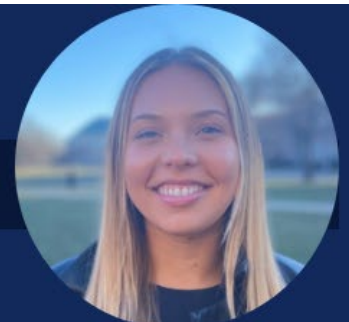
Community Health with a concentration in Health Education and Promotion; College of Applied Health Sciences. Future Plans: Becoming a Registered Behavior Technician for young children with developmental delays and disorders in the Chicago area.



Katrina Overfield



Angelina Greico



Lauren Hager

WESLEY FOOD PANTRY GRADUATES (continued)

Kate Karaman,

B.S. in Molecular and Cellular Biology; College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Future plans: applying for graduate programs.

Noah Flores Velasco

B.S. in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Future plans: starting a job as a manufacturing process engineer for Proctor and Gamble.

WESLEY GRADUATE STUDENTS

Asif Ali

Master of Bioinformatics: Crop Sciences; College of ACES

Future plans: Beginning Fall 2024, pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Maryland to develop vaccines.

Phani Datta

Master of Computer Science; Future plans: Continue working as a Research Assistant with a professor in the TIMAN Research Laboratory and volunteering at Wesley.

OTHER GRADUATES CONNECTED TO WESLEY

Kenny Smallhorn, former peer minister and seminary intern

Master of Divinity (MDiv); Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

To send a note of congratulations to Kenny: 1032 Lincoln Ct. Ave NE, Atlanta, GA, 30329

Rev. Dr. Jess LeCrone, former associate pastor

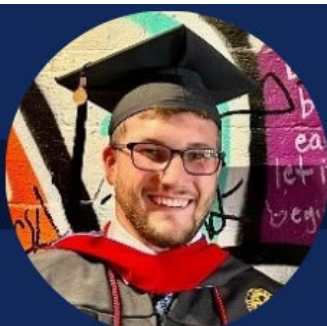
Doctor of Ministry; Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN

Future plans: Continue pastoring churches in NE while searching for opportunities in academia.

To send a note of congratulations to Jess: 36 Dorrance St., Danielson, CT, 06239.



Phani Datta



Kenny Smallhorn



Jess LeCrone

We are so proud of your accomplishments and send our heartiest congratulations to each of you. May God bless you richly along your life's journey as you take your next steps, find new adventures, and continue to become who God is calling you to be.

Barrington Coleman to step down as Director of Choral Music on June 23



Dr. Barrington Coleman, long-time Director of Choral Music here at Wesley UMC has decided to step down from his role effective Sunday, June 23. With a planned sabbatical from the University of Illinois in 2025 and retirement on the horizon, Dr. Coleman wanted the timing of his departure to best serve the interests of our congregation. With the summer months before us, he felt we would have the time to move forward with new leadership prior to the 2024-2025 academic year.

We will celebrate Dr. Coleman’s long tenure with us on Sunday, June 23. More information on how you can participate in that celebration will be shared in the Wesley Weekly and Sunday bulletins. He will offer special music during worship on that day.

On behalf of his wife of 36 years, Cynthia, and his two young adult sons, Crofton and Camden, Dr. Coleman has expressed his deep love and appreciation for our congregation.

He writes, “We were blessed to raise our family around a loving circle of support and exemplary examples of kindness, constant support, and prayers around our challenges and triumphs, with inspired leadership among clergy and members which continues to hold us up! This expression of my spiritual joy and love has been the mission, purpose, and inspiration for my music-making and sharing over my years of Wesley affiliation since approx. 2008.

“Although my affiliation would indeed be associated with our musical profile, our family soon discovered that the core of our connection to Wesley was soul-based. The numerous opportunities for us to grow as a family with the intervention, introspection, and direct involvement from countless Wesley brothers and sisters, provided a Christian home for our family to thrive outside of our professions, and offer our authentic selves to an environment of true kindness, acceptance, inclusion, and unselfish love.

“Over the years of personal and societal challenges, the models of friendship, prayer, sacrifice, and scriptural truth have been effectively shared from our ministerial team – currently led by Pastor David Fuquay, formerly under the leadership of Pastor Daniel King Crede, associate ministers and past clergy, coordinators of Wesley’s many missions and outreach programs, volunteers, student community, and our beloved music ministry contributors.

“Your ministry with God at the center literally held us up and gave us hope in all circumstances. Through our celebrations, sorrows, and many transitions, our Wesley family embraced our nuclear family, whether recognizing worship service reunions with my mother, our occasional out-of-town family visitors, to sharing the impact of countless special moments for our household. It always made an incredible difference and lasting impression on us as parents, to know that kind, giving, voices of wisdom throughout Wesley would take time when my wife and I were unaware, to encourage, witness, and hold our sons to a high standard of expectation in their development as maturing young men in Christ.”



MEET JOSH HALL

Josh has been employed at Wesley for the last month as our live-in weekend custodian. He is from Decatur, Illinois. Josh has two daughters, Tessica and Ariana. He likes to spend his spare time coaching his daughter's softball team. He is employed full time during the week at Chemical Maintenance Inc.

You will see Josh working around the building on Sunday mornings. Give him a nice hello and welcome.



TECH TEAM

Volunteers Needed

You can help make Sunday worship the best experience possible for those in the sanctuary and online.

Volunteer with our Tech Team to run our sound and livestream once or twice a month. Training is provided.

Contact Pastor David
david@wesleyui.org

Summer Support: We're Here to Help



Need a hand this summer? Whether it's moving, yard work, or other tasks, we're ready to assist!

Our dedicated team of volunteers is eager to help, ensuring no one feels alone in their struggles. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

We're here to support you!

Please contact:

Jane McCulley: janekmcculley@gmail.com

Libby Johnston: ljohnston326@gmail.com

Celebrate Juneteenth: A Day of Freedom, Unity, and Joy

Saturday, June 15, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

The Wesley Discipleship and Family Ministries Team warmly invites you to the Juneteenth Day Celebration at the *Douglass Branch Library (504 E. Grove St., Champaign)*. Enjoy a day of fun and learning with live music, food vendors, and lots of kids' activities like arts and crafts, a bounce house, an obstacle course, and the Splash Pad. Bring your family and friends for a memorable day of celebration, education, and community spirit. We can't wait to see you there!

Wesley Summer ESL Classes and International Coffee Hour

Wesley's Summer ESL Classes and International Coffee House are back! We are excited to have our ESL classes and International Coffee House starting on Friday, June 7th. The ESL classes will meet every Friday from 3 PM to 4 PM, in the Wesley Conference Room. The classes are fun and engaging, suitable for learners at various levels. All international students, families, and scholars are welcome.

The International Coffee House will meet every Friday from 4 PM to 6 PM in the Etc. Coffeehouse. This is a wonderful opportunity to chat, make new friends, play table games, and enjoy snacks and drinks in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. We look forward to seeing you!

FREE ESL CLASS

Fridays at 3 p.m. Beginning June 7

Wesley United Methodist Church and
The Wesley Foundation Student Center
1203 West Green Street, Urbana
(corner of Green and Goodwin)



**All levels are welcome
from beginner to advanced!**

217.344.1120

INTERNATIONAL COFFEEHOUSE

Fridays, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Friends ~ Coffee ~ Conversation

Everyone welcome!



Lend A Hand at Sola Gratia Farm!

Saturday, June 22 | 9 am – 11 am

The Social Action Missions Team invites you to join us for a morning of service together at Sola Gratia Farm in Urbana.

Spend the morning engaging in meaningful farm projects such as onion planting, mulching, and area clean-up. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the needs of the community while connecting with like-minded individuals.

How to Participate: For more information or to sign up, please send an email to yiwen@wesleyui.org.

We look forward to working together to support Sola Gratia and our community!



Sympathies

To Elaine Bearden and Craig Chamberlain and family at the death of Elaine's father, David Bearden, who passed away on Tuesday, May 14th at the age of 84. He lived with his wife, Carolyn, in Findlay, Ohio. He was a retired minister and counselor.

To Keich Sasamori and family at the death of his sister, Keiko (Sasamori) Hanson, who passed away on Saturday, May 18 at her home in Colorado. Their parents, Takashi & Kazuko, were long-time Wesley members. There will be a celebration of life for Keiko at Renner Wikoff Chapel on Sat, June 1, 1-4pm.

To Ron and Sue Kiddoo at the passing of Ron's brother, Roger, on Tuesday, May 22. He lived in Joy, IL.

To Jean and Richard Flood at the death of Jean's brother, Jim Kircher, on Tuesday, May 28 at the age of 77. He lived in Bradenton, Florida.

EXTENDING OUR CONDOLENCES.

Our Heartfelt Sympathies

We want you to know that we are thinking of you. You are in our prayers.





Wesley Summer Picnic

Celebrate with your church family at our Wesley Summer Picnic on **Sunday, July 14** following our morning worship service. Experience a delightful afternoon featuring delicious burgers, hotdogs, and refreshing drinks. We kindly ask that you bring a side dish to share and don't forget your lawn chair for comfortable seating.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to bring your friends and family, as everyone is welcome. To keep the little ones entertained, we will have some children's games available.

For more information, please contact Jane McCulley janekmcculley@gmail.com or Libby Johnston at ljohnston326@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there for a day of food, fun, and fellowship!

Welcome to a New Realm of Possibilities

Our congregation moved to a new church management system in January called **Realm**. More than just a database and financial software, **Realm** is a comprehensive system for our congregation. Through **Realm's** interface called **Connect** you have access to a church directory, a calendar of events, and interactive groups for committees, teams, and small groups all in one place.

In mid-June, all active church members with email addresses in our database will receive an invitation to join **Realm Connect**. You may also request a login by signing up at <https://onrealm.org/wesleyui/>.

We suggest adding notifications@onrealmmail.org to your email address book so the emails will not get caught by your spam filter. Once you create a login with your own password, you can start using **Connect** either through your internet browser or by downloading the **Connect** app for your Apple and Android devices. Contact Donna Camp (engage@wesleyui.org) for assistance.



What's Your Rainbow Score?

Did you know that the color of a fruit or vegetable has a lot to do with the nutrients it contains? Eating a variety of different colors can boost your health by making sure you're getting vitamins, nutrients, and plenty of fiber. Over the summer, Wesley Food Pantry will be giving itself a weekly **RAINBOW SCORE** a scale from 1-5 representing how many of five colors we had available for our guests each week.

- **Red** – reds contain lycopene and are found in tomatoes, beets, radishes, strawberries, and red onions or peppers
- **Orange/yellow** – contain carotenoids. Good sources are carrots, sweet potato, mango, peaches, oranges, and (Dawn's favorite) pumpkin.
- **Green** – you'll find vitamin K, potassium, antioxidants and folic acid in greens like spinach, broccoli, avocado, asparagus, fresh herbs, and kale
- **Blue/Purple** – High in antioxidants! Try blueberries, eggplant, figs, grapes and plums to get your blue/purple.
- **White/Brown** – onions, mushrooms, cauliflower, and garlic contain flavonoids called allicin as well as vitamins C & K. Mushrooms contain vitamin D which is not common in other plants.

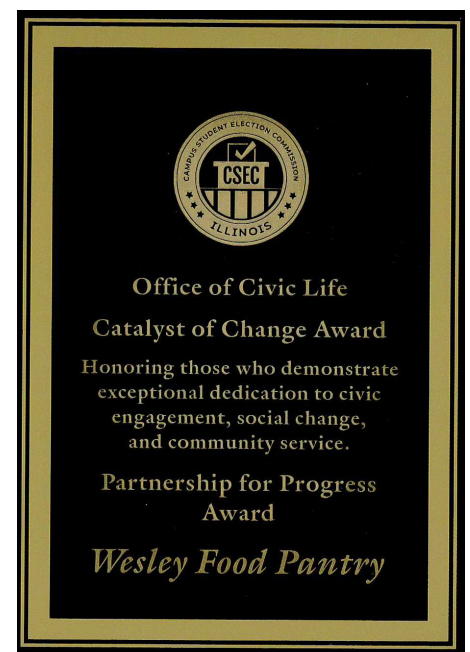
Be sure to follow us on Facebook (@wesleyfoodpantry) or Instagram (@wesleypantry) to see a weekly update on our Rainbow Score. If you're playing along, comment with your own score!

Partnership for Progress Award

Wesley Food Pantry is honored to receive recognition from the University of Illinois' Office of Civic Life with a Catalyst of Change award in the category of Partnership for Progress:

The Partnership for Progress Award recognizes a community organization or partner who has demonstrated outstanding collaboration and support in advancing the goals of the Office of Civic Life while enhancing community engagement opportunities for university students. This award celebrates a partner who has made significant contributions to the success of community-based initiatives and programs.

Illini Fighting Hunger facilitates rice and meal packaging events as part of the Wesley Foundation Student Center. IFH was also recognized with a Community Impact award: The Community Impact Award recognizes a Registered Student Organization (RSO) that has significantly contributed to the local community through their engagement initiatives. This recognition celebrates individuals or groups who have shown commitment to addressing community needs and fostering positive change.



Stewardship Updates

Income and Expenses through April 30, 2024

Foundation

Income:	
Gifts to Operating Fund	15,575
IGRC Support	43,914
Building Use	3,430
From Reserves	212,019

Total Income 274,939

Expense:	
Staff	174,086
Administrative Expense	8,559
Program Expense	28,499
Building Expense	61,901
Building Improvements	9,745

Total Expense: 282,790

Surplus/(Deficit) (7,851)

Church

Income:	
Tithes & Offerings	149,026
Loose Plate Offering	914
From Reserves	51,344

Total Income 201,283

Expense:	
Staff	145,114
Administrative Expense	9,177
Program Expense	4,334
Building Expense	20,073
Apportionments	18,012

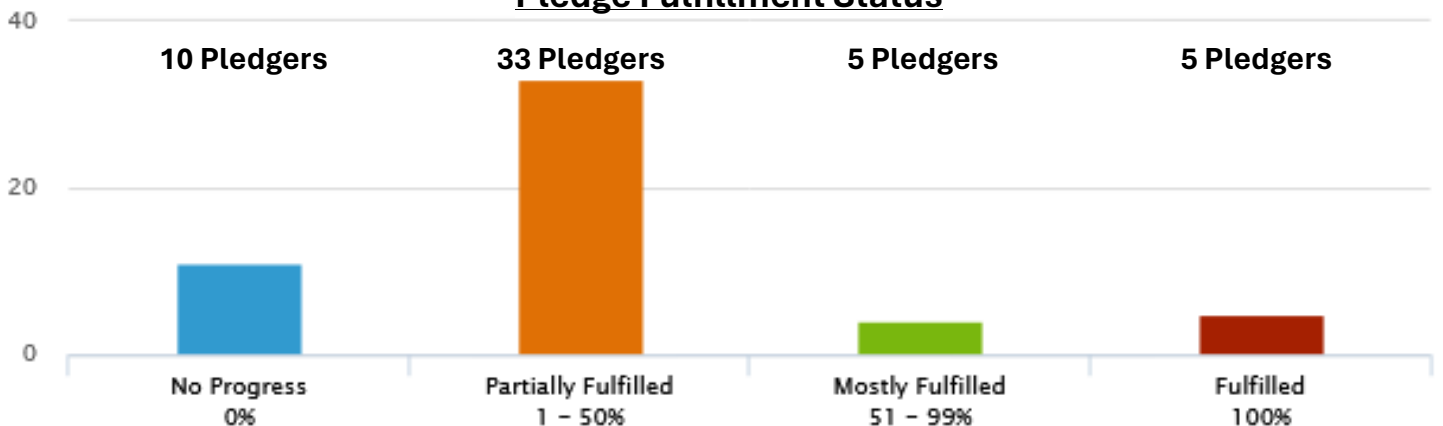
Total Expense 196,710

Surplus/(Deficit) 4,574

Church Pledge Report through May 31

2024 Pledged and Non-Pledged Giving Goal:	\$330,000.00
Total amount pledged in 2024:	\$293,932.00
Non-Pledged Giving Goal:	\$ 36,068.00
Pledged amount received:	\$120,923.36
Non-Pledged amount received:	\$ 38,647.04
Amounted Needed to Reach Goal	\$170,429.60 (\$173,008.64 in remaining pledges)

Pledge Fulfillment Status



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

TEMP-RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Champaign, IL 61821



Wesley Staff

Senior Pastor/Director **Rev. David Fuquay** | Campus Minister **Rev. Julie Dowler**
Associate Pastor **Rev. Yiwen Bi** | Director of Choral Music **Dr. Barrington Coleman**
WesCare Coordinator **Dr. Emily Lux** | Director of Advancement and Engagement **Donna Camp**
Business Manager **Chanda Davidson** | Office Manager **Donna Giffen**
Childcare Coordinator **Christina Holderly** | Food Pantry Director **Dawn Longfellow**
Food Pantry Assistant **Brian McDermott** | Maintenance Specialist **Rick Sansone**
Part-Time Custodian **Christopher Livesay** | Residential Custodian: **Josh Hall**

Main Office: 217.344.1120

Emergency Contact: Donna Giffen – 217.377.8042

Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Traditional Service

Eleven20 Coffeehouse Worship (11:20 a.m.)

Wesley Building Hours:

Open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sundays 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.