

the spire

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

April 2024

Wesley to Recognize Avicenna Community Health Center with the Jean Cramer-Heuerman Peace with Justice Award

We are excited to announce this year's recipient of the Jean Cramer-Heuerman Peace with Justice Award: **Avicenna Community Health Center**. The award will be presented during our annual "Peace with Justice" service at 9:30 on April 14, 2024.



During the service, student leaders of Avicenna will share testimonials about the spiritual principles that inspire them to perform this important work. Immediately following the service, we will have a reception and Question and Answer session with Avicenna to learn more about their work.

Avicenna is a local non-profit that provides free healthcare to the uninsured and underinsured of Champaign-Urbana. Avicenna was initially launched at the Central Illinois Mosque. Since then, it has grown into an interfaith community clinic that serves clients throughout Champaign County. Avicenna brings together a strong team of volunteers including doctors, nurses, medical students, nutritionists, social workers, IT specialists, and undergraduates studying a wide variety of disciplines.

The organization provides free primary care clinics on Sunday afternoons. Avicenna also provides regular eye care clinics, where patients can receive a wide variety of services and checkups such as vision checks, glasses prescriptions, and screenings. In recent months they have expanded their services, by starting the Women's Health Clinic, which provides free obstetrics and gynecological care to patients who lack access to adequate care. The Women's Health Clinic is the first completely free clinic of its kind in Urbana-Champaign.

Avicenna is committed to preventive healthcare. A Lifestyle Medicine team enhances medical visits with individual counseling related to nutrition, exercise, mental health, and sleep. The Avicenna Outreach team organizes clinics and community health screenings at various locations, including the Wesley Evening food Pantry.

continued

Peace with Justice continued . . .

While researching Avicenna, the Social Action and Missions Team spoke with several community and church members who spoke highly of the physicians and board members who volunteer for Avicenna. We have also spoken with service providers who continue to send clients in need to Avicenna. It is clear to us that Avicenna is a positive force for good in our community, and we will be honored to present their organization with this award.

The Jean Cramer-Heuerman Peace with Justice Award was established in 1999 to honor the legacy of Pastor Jean Cramer-Heuerman. Pastor Jean was a former senior pastor at Wesley who was known as a passionate advocate for peace and justice. The award recognizes those in our community who incorporate social justice in their practice of faith. Previous recipients of this annual award have included the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County, the Education Justice Project, the University YMCA, and First Followers.



Wesley is one of the hosts sites of the 2024 National Faith + Climate Forum! The event will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 11am-4:15pm in the West Lounge. If you believe in the moral responsibility to care for creation for the sake of our faith, our congregations, our families, communities, and future generations, we invite you to participate.

This online forum features 23 speakers and musicians and offers a remarkable opportunity to engage in discussions and workshops fostering creation care and climate action.

Together, we will:

- Engage: Explore practical ways to involve houses of worship and communities in creation care.
- Expand: Network with local and national faith and climate leaders.
- Collaborate: Cultivate collaboration within our community and across the nation.
- Activate: Equip and support faith leaders with knowledge and resources to integrate creation care and climate justice into preaching, teaching, and pastoral work.

Registration is easy and free:

1. Visit <https://nationalfaithandclimateforum.org>
2. Select the "Attend in person at a designated host location" Ticket Type.
3. Choose Wesley United Methodist Church in Urbana IL as your specific location.
4. Submit your registration and look for confirmation email with your registration details!

For more information, please visit the forum's website: <https://nationalfaithandclimateforum.org/>
Let's come together and learn how Wesley can take action on climate change.



Braver Angels

Concerned About the Political Divide?

We're a very polarized country. And it feels like there's little we can do about it. The "other side" – pick your side – seems unreasonable. Talking is hopeless. Politics is dividing friends, families, churches.

Braver Angels doesn't believe it has to be this way. The national organization and its East-Central Illinois alliance, led by both "reds" and "blues," offers tools, workshops and gatherings designed to foster communication and even find common ground across the political divide.

The "Braver Angels way" encourages participants to face up to their own assumptions and stereotypes about others. It seeks discussion and even debate on the issues – not just "agreeing to disagree" – but only if done with civility and respect. It promotes real listening to understand how and why people came to believe what they believe. It's not about trying to change minds.

If you'd like to learn more about either Braver Angels or its strategies, join us during the Sunday School hour (11-12) on Sunday, April 21, in the West Lounge. Both "reds" and "blues" welcome. Two Wesley members involved with the local affiliate, Sara Kelley and Craig Chamberlain, will present more information about the organization (braverangels.org) and its resources, and discuss possible future programs within the church.



Serve with Wesley at the Habitat ReStore Saturday, April 13

Join Wesley Social Action Mission's Committee in a service opportunity with Habitat for Humanity in Champaign. We will support Habitat's mission by volunteering at their store in town (1914 Glenn Park Dr, Champaign, IL 61821)

Date: Saturday, April 13th

Time: Three shifts available: 10am-12pm, 12pm-2pm, 2pm-4pm (you may pick one).

Prerequisite: Please attend a 30-minute orientation before volunteering.

The orientation session is offered weekly on Wednesday at 3:30pm and Saturday at 9:30am.

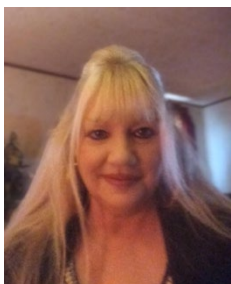
Tasks: We can assist in various tasks such as helping customers shop, organizing inventory, cleaning, moving, and shelving items. If you'd like to participate, please email yiwen@wesleyui.org. All are welcome. Thank you for your support and willingness to serve in our community.



Graduates will be recognized at both services on **Sunday, May 5**. Students, family members, and friends are invited to share the names of graduating undergraduate and graduate students connected to Wesley so we can acknowledge and celebrate their accomplishments. If you know someone who has completed, or will be completing, a degree during the 2023-2024 academic year (including winter graduates), please send their information (name, school, degree to be received, future plans, optional pic for social media post) to Pastor Julie (julie@wesleyui.org) by **Sunday, April 21**.

Dawn Longfellow becomes full-time Food Pantry Director

Congratulations to Dawn Longfellow as she leaves the position of Office Secretary and becomes Wesley's full-time Food Pantry Director effective April 1. Please direct all office matters to Donna Giffen.



Administrative Professionals Day

Administrative Professionals Day this year is April 24th. During April is an excellent opportunity for Wesley family members to express our appreciation to Donna Giffen, Dawn Longfellow, and Chanda Davidson for their commitment to the Wesley Church and Foundation. Notes and cards with your personal expressions of "thanks" are welcome.

Office Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to volunteer occasionally in the office during the week, helping with projects such as folding of the church newsletters, folding and stuffing the Sunday bulletins, and miscellaneous projects, contact Donna Giffen at donna@wesleyui.org. Thank you!

Caregiver Support Group - Friday, April 12 at 1:00 p.m. join fellow caregivers as we share tips, encouragement, and a safe place to talk. Contact Donna Camp if you have questions. Look for the event on our Facebook page and share this opportunity with others. facebook.com/uiwesley/events

Grief Support Group - Friday, April 26 at 6:15 p.m. Come and be a part of a community of grace, love, support, and healing. Health snacks provided.

Jesus Love UMC thrives as they continue to share our Wesley building.

By Tae Kim, Communications Intern

“With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and stay alert in this, with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. (Ephesian 6:18)”



Entering the website of Jesus Love Church, that Bible verse is the slogan that greets anyone who is curious and willing to learn about the church. According to the Pastor in charge, Dae-wook Kim, Jesus Love Church is a United Methodist church established in 1995 as a campus ministry mainly for Korean international students and second-generation Korean American students. Up until this day, Jesus Love Church has been serving as a supportive Christian community in Urbana-Champaign where Korean students from UIUC and Parkland College gather to worship, connect with each other, and strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ.

Interviewing Pastor Kim via email was an engaging experience, both spiritually and personally as an intern. Pastor Kim gladly allowed me to interview him about Jesus Love Church, and never hesitated to give detailed information about the church for this article. “Jesus Love Church and Wesley UMC belong to the same religious order, and both churches fall into the same district under the IGRC (Illinois Great Rivers Conference). Wesley UMC has been not only providing us with its main hall in the basement to worship every Friday and Sunday, but also supporting our church whenever we need a quality space to arrange events.”

Pastor Kim considers Wesley UMC to have been one of the biggest reasons that allowed Jesus Love Church to grow and maintain itself as a solid faith community in Urbana-Champaign. While both churches are similar in that they both play a major role in helping the students develop their faith and socialize within the community, Jesus Love Church is more focused on helping the young adults and students settle in an unfamiliar country and environment as foreigners.

Twice a year, Jesus Love Church serves the U of I students by hosting the 'mentoring party' and 'settlement aid ministry', which provide a valuable opportunity for the new coming students to get practical advice from older students about the information needed for their college life and settlement.

Although most of the students and young adults don't stay long within the community as well as the church, Pastor Kim thinks the role of Jesus Love Church is neither small nor trivial for them. This is because sending the students to places where they could serve as sincere disciples of Jesus Christ by growing their faith through the words of God and prayer, is what Jesus Love Church really aims and hopes for.

“I would like to express my deepest gratitude to every member of Wesley UMC for this opportunity. I am sincerely grateful for your understanding and cooperation with our church on the ministry for Korean students and young adults. I hope the relationship between the two churches could last long and well, and we promise we will do our best to help Wesley UMC whenever you are in need.”

campus ministry

60 Wanted for the 60th!

The Etc. Coffeehouse celebrates its 60th year in 2024, and you're invited to help with the celebration! The coffeehouse was started in 1964 by the Rev. Joe Peacock when the atmosphere on campus was tumultuous with the fight for civil rights, women's rights, and the continuation of the Vietnam War. Wesley wanted to provide a place where students could connect and discuss politics, the war, religion, **etc.** – in a

civil manner, and so the coffeehouse was born! The coffeehouse became home for many students, a favorite study place for some and a comfortable hang-out spot for others. A few students even met their life-long partners here. Students today continue to find a warm welcome, make new friends, engage in fun and fellowship, and be nourished physically, mentally, and spiritually through the programs and ministries of the coffeehouse and Wesley Student Center. For many, it is their first point of contact with the Wesley community, and they go on to connect with us in worship and small groups, as peer ministers, and through special events and opportunities.

Wesley now hosts hundreds of students each week in the Etc. Coffeehouse, student lounge, and Watseka Lounge as they enjoy free coffee, tea, snacks, and meals. **To celebrate, we're looking for 60 monthly contributors to the Etc. Coffeehouse as we celebrate 60 years and look to the future.** Set up your monthly donation at <https://bit.ly/etc-monthly> and we'll send you a really cool Etc. Coffeehouse coffee mug (your coffee will taste so much better!), along with our deep gratitude and appreciation. It's a great reminder of the good you'll be doing with students who visit the coffeehouse every day! Thank you for your consideration and for all the ways you lift up and support our campus ministry and students. Your partnership helps make what we do possible!

Midweek Campfire

Life is hard, but s'mores are easy! We invite students to join us each Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Etc. Coffeehouse for a midweek mental health break. Bring your friends and come enjoy gourmet s'mores, great conversation, a brief devotion, and more. We look forward to seeing you there!

Midweek Worship

Need a midweek pick-me-up for your spirit? Join us after Midweek Campfire in the Student Lounge for a time of sharing, prayer, music, and communion. We'll share joys and concerns and hear a hopeful message as we find inspiration and encouragement to get through the rest of the week. Every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.!



Campus Ministry Calendar

The **Etc. Coffeehouse** is open weekly (M-F) from 12:00-8:00 p.m. Enjoy free coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and snacks to keep you nourished as you study. The coffeehouse has multiple study spaces with tables, couches, and chairs. Everyone is welcome here, so bring your friends and come study in the coziest, comfiest place on campus! **The coffeehouse will be closed during the U of I Spring Break.**

Learning Arabic for Fun! Mondays, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., Conference Room

Everyone is welcome to join this class to learn basic words and phrases. We meet every week on Mondays in the Conference Room. Join us!

Game Night, Mondays, 6:00 p.m.

Etc. Coffeehouse – Come take a break from the study grind and discover a new favorite game! We meet each Monday to explore a different game or plan an old favorite. Bring your friends and join us!

Advanced ESL class, Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Online (Zoom) - International students and visiting scholars are invited to join us as we read and discuss newspaper articles, improve English pronunciation, and expand vocabulary. Questions? Contact Dave at dwmies@gmail.com, or join us on Zoom (bit.ly/3TJMtvK)

Craft Night, Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.

Etc. Coffeehouse – Join us each week for various arts and crafts. Learn to knit, crochet, cross-stitch, etc., or bring your own project to work on as we take time to express ourselves creatively and artistically!

Learning Korean for Fun! Wednesdays, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Conference Room - Everyone is welcome to join this class, led by Minsoon Choi, a native Korean language teacher. We'll gather to learn basic phrases and words so you can better communicate with your Korean friends!

Midweek Campfire, Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Etc. Coffeehouse - Join your Wesley friends as we enjoy “gourmet” s’mores, catch up with one another, and spend time reflecting on questions of life and faith.

Midweek Worship, Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m.

Student Lounge - Join us after s’mores and our weekly devotion for a time of worship where we share songs, prayers, and Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome!

Wesley Food Pantry, Thursdays, 5-7 p.m.

We all need help from time to time... Wesley is here for you, or someone you know who needs food assistance. It's also a great place to volunteer if you need service hours. Share this information and help us help others! (wesleypantry.org).

Friday w/ Friends Lunch, Etc. Coffeehouse, 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Students are invited to stop by for a hot dog or veggie dog, tasty treats, and more. Enjoy grab & go goodies, or hang out with friends, and celebrate making it through another week!

Free ESL Class, Fridays, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Conference room - We welcome beginners through advanced students as we practice English, build conversation skills, and learn about American culture. The class welcomes international students, visiting scholars, family members, and community folks. Contact Julie (jdowler@wesleyui.org) for more information.

**International Coffeehouse, Fridays,
4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Etc. Coffeehouse**

Gather for coffee, snacks, games, conversation, and more! American and international students, visiting scholars, spouses, and friends are welcome to join us where the world gathers around your table.

Traditional Worship, Sundays, 9:30 am, Sanctuary - All are welcome to worship in-person or online. For our online congregation, you can worship through our livestream webpage: wesleyui.org/livestream. In addition to the livestream video, you will find the worship bulletin, a form to register your attendance, and links to online giving.

Eleven20 Worship, Sundays, Etc. Coffeehouse

The Eleven20 Service takes place in the Etc. Coffeehouse at the corner of Goodwin and Green at 11:20 am on Sundays. Eleven20 is a "brunch church" shared around the table with food, music, prayers, scripture, and message. Holy Communion is celebrated weekly.

Soul Purpose Small Group, Sundays, 6:00 pm, Etc. Coffeehouse - Join us as we gather for conversation, learn new spiritual practices together, discover more about ourselves, others, and God, and explore how we can make a meaningful difference in the world through our Soul Purpose! Dinner provided.



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, April 21
Earth Day Sunday

April 23 to May 3
United Methodist General Conference

Sunday, April 28
Corporation Sunday
(Combined Service at 10:30 am)

Sunday, May 5
Graduation Sunday



WESLEY FOOD PANTRY

Heavy Lifting Required!

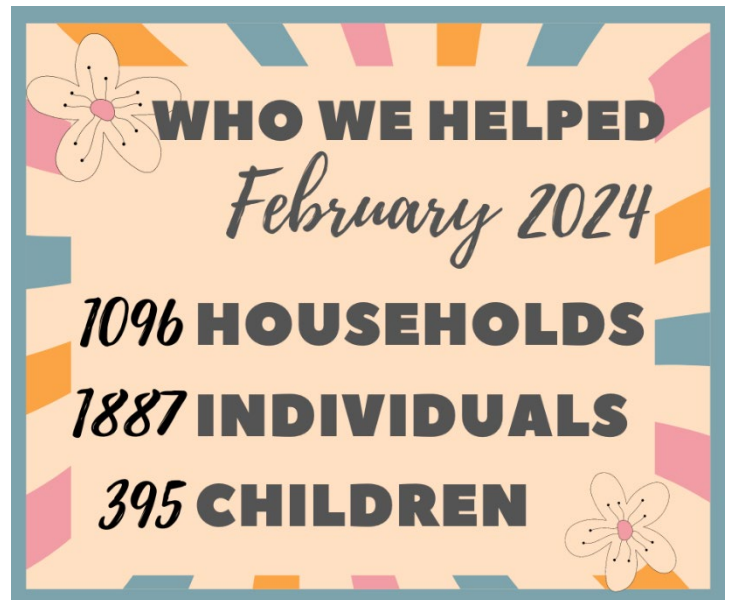
An Update on our Grab-and-Go program

Wesley Food Pantry's Grab-and-Go program stocks twenty-four locations on the UIUC and Parkland College campuses with snacks, fruit, and microwavable meals. The goal is to have a presence in "third places" where students who may be struggling feel safe - tutoring and counseling offices, cultural houses, and libraries for example. The effort aims to break through the stigma surrounding using traditional food pantries. Students using these snack shelves will find additional information about where to find our weekly food distributions on campus if they need further help.

Wesley pantry interns, students from Volunteer Illini Projects, and staff from Parkland's Student Life Office take the lead in keeping these stations filled throughout the week. In 2024, we've distributed an average of **1,000 pounds** of items each month. While the spaces are anonymous to use, we estimate that we've given out over 4,000 snacks so far this year just through the grab-and-go stations. We've all experience being irritable or less able to concentrate when skipping a meal or pushing through a project before stopping for dinner. The little bursts of fuel we provide with a quick snack from one of these spots might be just enough to a student be more productive for the day. And, it's noticed! A student recently left a note for us at the bottom of one of the baskets, "Thank you to everyone who has put food in here – a good snack can make your day!"

Parkland SWFT Program Bundled Recipes

This semester, Wesley Food Pantry began providing weekly bundled meals for participants in Parkland College's SWFT program. SWFT, or Support for Workforce Training, is a scholarship program that aims to provide career training and certification in the areas of Transportation & Distribution, Construction & Manufacturing, Healthcare, and Information Technology. Participants are often working and taking classes at night – making using the pantry more difficult. The bundled recipes allow for students to have an easy meal on hand with easy to follow cooking instructions and highlight nutrient dense items found in the pantry like beans and legumes. The trial run consists of 25 participants. Try an easy Three Bean Salad recipe on your next Meatless Monday!



THREE BEAN SALAD

Adapted from: [Love & Lemons blog](#)

COOK TIME
20 Minutes

SERVES
4-6

SUITABLE FOR
Vegetarian Friendly

INGREDIENTS

- One can of green beans, drained
- One can of chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- One can of kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1/2 red onion, sliced thin
- One packet of Italian dressing
- 2 celery ribs, thinly sliced (optional)

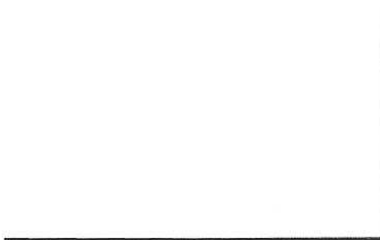
METHOD

1. Add green beans, chickpeas, kidney beans, red onion, and celery (optional) to a bowl.
2. Pour packet of Italian dressing into the bowl.
3. Mix!
4. Chill for one hour, or serve immediately.
5. Enjoy!

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

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Wesley Staff

Senior Pastor/Director **Rev. David Fuquay** | Campus Minister **Rev. Julie Dowler**
Associate Pastor **Rev. Yiwen Bi** | Director of Children and Youth Ministries **Rev. Kim Woods**
Director of Choral Music **Dr. Barrington Coleman** | WesCare Coordinator **Dr. Emily Lux**
Director of Advancement and Engagement **Donna Camp** | Business Manager **Chanda Davidson**
Administrative Assistant **Donna Giffen** | Director of Communications **Blake Warman-Neal**
Childcare Coordinator **Christina Holderly** | Food Pantry Director **Dawn Longfellow**
Food Pantry Assistant **Brian McDermott** | Maintenance Specialist **Rick Sansone**
Full-Time Custodian **Samantha McIntosh** | Part-Time Custodian **Christopher Livesay**

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.