

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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January 17, 2018

THIS WEEK AT **WESLEY**

Sunday, January 20

8:00am	Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
9:00am	Contemporary Worship (Praise Center) Sunday School
10:30am	Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) Sunday School
2:00pm	Hearts to Hands Knitting Group (Room 106)
6:00pm	ONE SM Sunday Night Live (Youth Bldg.)

Monday, January 21

NO Wesley Day School
Office closed for the holiday

Tuesday, January 22

8:00am	Seeds for Needs Workday
9:00am-1:45pm	Wesley Methodist Day School

Wednesday, January 23

9:00am-1:45pm	Wesley Methodist Day School
11:00am	Prayer Card Ministry (Conference Room)
12:00pm	Communion Service (Sanctuary)
5:30pm	Wednesday Night Dinner (Dining Hall)
6:00pm	ONE Students Mid-Week Worship (Youth Bldg.)
6:30pm	Spring Bible Studies Open Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, January 24

9:00am-1:45pm	Wesley Methodist Day School
12:00pm	Heart Sisters Bible Study (Bride's Room) Senior Games Day (Parlor)

For a complete listing of times, locations and additional events such as recovery meetings and scouts, visit <http://www.wesleyumc.com/calendar/>

“He told them another parable:
“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”
Matthew 13: 31-32

Jesus taught that just because something is small or unimpressive, at first, does not mean it cannot grow into something greater. Many of the New Year's resolutions of my past never happened because I got started too late or tried to change things too quickly. Maybe this year you and I need to find small ways to step out in faith, early on, so that we can see great things happen later this year. Seth Godin once shared,

“Start small, start now
This is much better than, “start big, start later.”
One advantage is that you don't have to start perfect.
You can merely start.”

Starting to trust more of our life to Jesus, starting to better understand the Bible, starting to grow in our prayer life, starting to help people in need, and so many other worthwhile habits all begin with one step in the right direction. Why not plant a small seed today, nurture it, and see how God helps it grow into something amazing later this year?

Places to start:

1. Wednesday night studies start this week
2. Start helping with Meals on Wheels
3. Start going to a Sunday school class
4. Start volunteering in the church office
5. Start singing in the Choir
6. Start whatever it is God is calling you to do.

Grace and Peace,

Rick Jue

Seeds for Needs GARDEN

A Ministry of Wesley United Methodist Church



How DID Our Garden Grow?

The year was 2014, and a half dozen of Wesley's "Methodist Men" were having a second cup of coffee and dreaming big dreams. A church garden was the topic, and the vision was to donate all the harvest to needy people in our community. We knew an incredible number of decisions had to be made and many resources gathered before this dream could become a reality. We did have a name, though: "Seeds for Needs"!

The first challenge was a location for our mini-farm. We found a good sized area just north of the church and baseball fields, which luckily was already owned by the church. With the Trustees' blessing and approval we were in business.

What next? Well, in Southeast Texas, the first order of business is to make sure the crops wouldn't end up under water after a hard rain. It took truckloads of dirt to raise the area to a level that would safely drain, all of which was supplied by Drainage District 6, which happened to be building a walking path across the road from the church. Sand was also brought in to level the area where the gardening beds would be located. Then Mason Construction brought over a tractor to level off the plot.

Are you beginning to notice a trend...when we asked for something, God answered with generous and talented people and businesses. It wasn't an easy process, though. We knew we could not have a garden without water, and the nearest source was 50 yards away—that called for equipment we didn't have. Between weather issues and locating a backhoe to dig the trench, it took a while.

Finally, we were ready to lay out the first garden. Everyone agreed that raised beds would be best, and cinder block construction would last longer. That meant buying 760 cinder blocks to build 20 beds, 4' X 20'. You can imagine our faces when we saw all those cinder blocks delivered. Not only did we need to pay for them, but we needed some strong backs to move them into place. Again, God provided great help from goodhearted people, and enough cash to pay the bills.

While the beds were constructed, we returned to the question of water. We did have water at the site, but an irrigation system called for a power source to pump it. We found a battery powered irrigation system that would

let us water four separate zones, dug trenches to each bed, and irrigation was in place quickly. It was time to order the gardening soil and begin filling the bed forms. The vision was taking shape!

Next, we needed storage for all the equipment and supplies we had acquired. Creative members of our team found a long, free-standing building behind the Praise and Worship Center that was EMPTY! Again, in stepped skilled volunteers to cut the building in half, making not one but two garden sheds. Moved onsite and raised on blocks to keep them dry, we had a perfect solution.

Ready for plants? Nope, not yet! Before we started the vegetable planting we needed some type of fence to keep out the critters. Wesley members to the rescue! A fence appears. And more...the road entering the garden needed a surface more durable than dirt, so a church member donated gravel for a driveway and parking area. The final touch was a new gate to the garden, compliments, again, of Drainage District 6.

Finally, after two years of planning and working and raising money, it was time to plant. Two beds were planted with blueberry bushes, one with blackberries, and another for herbs. We also planted a satsuma, a grapefruit and a fig tree.

We found the perfect partner to distribute our crops in Nutrition Services for Seniors. Their "Meals On Wheels" program has distributed our fresh produce to more than 500 home bound seniors. We have supplied about 1,500 servings in 2017 our first year to harvest our vegetables.

We have felt God's blessings in every step of this project, as have the almost 50 volunteers who have participated in this mission, and we don't want to leave YOU out! We need more cinder blocks, more soil, more hands, more dollars, more supplies and, of course, ongoing daily prayer for the people we serve and the people who work in this ministry.

There's a place for you to make a difference! Contact the church office 409-892-7733 and give them your information.

2018 garden summary -- for Wesley UMC

Some of the food we grow:

Spring & Summer: tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, peas, melons, corn, okra and peppers.

Fall & Winter: broccoli, carrots, cabbage, mustard, turnips, lettuce, beets, spinach and strawberries.

Growing all year: Blackberries, Blueberries, Satsumas and Grapefruit and Figs

Since January 1, 2018, Wesley has shared with NSS the following:

Broccoli - 76	Carrots - 61	Turnips - 21
Strawberries - 35	Tomatoes - 555	Green Beans - 55
Corn - 41	Cucumber - 325	Berries - 21
Melon - 35	Okra - 154	Peas - 46

Total through December 14, 2018 - 1425 bags/ 2850 servings
These numbers represent bags of at least two generous servings

We are *very grateful* for your support of our Grow to Share garden. We thank you, and our homebound do as well!

WALK TO EMMAUS

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers. The Golden Triangle Emmaus Community (GTEC) is an ecumenical group of Christians joined in ministry to present the Walk to Emmaus to Southeast Texas. "While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them." -Luke 24:15 The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip the local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

Women's Walk #170

Feb 21-24

Men's Walk #171

April 25 -28

OUR | SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to and our prayers for...

The Family of **Jerry Tullier**. Funeral services will be held at Broussard's on Major Dr, Saturday January 19 at 10:00am.

HAPPY | BIRTHDAY

January 20

Brad Holts
Aiden Jones
Ronnie Nobles
Carl Rush

January 21

Arianna Gibbs
Mark Hazlip
Angie Neil
Matthew Parker
Jolie Saindon

January 22

Jake Galle
Karah Kuecker

January 23

Shane Chambers
Donna Hightower
Caroln Hudler
Mae Isbell
Don Kozlowski

January 24

Dot Sharpless
Brandon Thomas

January 25

Shirley Chapman
J.C. Hill

January 26

Dan Soto
Taylor Trahan
Shelby Tullos
Regina Winger

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- 22 Marion's Bible Study (1:30pm)
- 31 **Wesley Day School 2019-2020 Registration opens for current families**

FEBRUARY

- 3 **Missions Sunday**
- 4 Methodist Men's Breakfast (6:30am)
- 7 Bunco (6:30pm)
- 10 Friendly Beasts at Pelican Bay (1:00pm)
- 12 Wesley Serves at Some Other Place (8:00am)
Marion's Bible Study (1:30pm)
- 16 **Wesley Landscaping Day (8:00am)**
- 19 Wesley Bookworms (12:00pm)
- 21-24 **Women's Emmaus Walk**
- 26 Marion's Bible Study (1:30pm)

MARCH

- 4 Methodist Men's Breakfast (6:30am)
- 5 **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (5:30pm)**
- 6 **Ash Wednesday Communion Service (12:00pm)**
Ash Wednesday Evening Service (6:00pm)
- 7 Bunco (6:30pm)
- 10 Friendly Beasts at Pelican Bay (1:00pm)
- 12 Wesley Serves at Some Other Place (8:00am)
Marion's Bible Study (1:30pm)
- 19 Wesley Bookworms (12:00pm)
- 26 Marion's Bible Study (1:30pm)

APRIL

- 1 Methodist Men's Breakfast (6:30am)
- 4 Bunco (6:30pm)
- 13 **Glow in the Dark Egg-stravaganza (7:00pm)**
- 14 Friendly Beasts at Pelican Bay (1:00pm)
- 14 **Palm Sunday**
- 18 **Maundy Thursday**
- 19 **Good Friday**
- 21 **Easter Sunday**
- 25-28 **Men's Emmaus Walk**
- 28 **Combined worship Service (10:00am)***
Feast of Wesley (11:00am)

*we will still have 8:00am worship