

WESLEY MEMORIAL UMC
Weekly Update
Activities & Prayer Concerns
January 7, 2022

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PASTOR JOSHUA'S DEVOTIONAL CORNER

"Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9)!"

Possibly overlooked by many is the fact that on at least one occasion, Jesus cooked for his disciples. John 21:9 records that the disciples had been out fishing. When they came to shore, they found Jesus on the beach with a meal. "When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread."

Avery Gilbert, psychologist and fragrance scientist, writes that cooking is much more than just preparing a meal, it is an invitation. The savory scent of roasted meat and baked bread stimulate us enroute to a meal.

Food aroma is an invitation and a spur to action. Even before the first bite, it triggers an elaborate sequence of physiological events: salivation, insulin release by the pancreas, and the secretion of various digestive juices. The aroma of bacon, at a level so faint it can't be consciously identified, has been shown to trigger the flow of saliva.

Jesus offers all of humanity an aroma – an open invitation to eat and drink with him. We all can partake in God's meal of salvation. Thanks be to God, amen!

**Our Scripture Readings for Sunday, January 9th will
be
Luke 3:21-22 and Isaiah 43:1-7**

On a Personal Note...

I would like to take just a moment of your time to introduce myself. My name is April Itson, and I'm privileged to be the new administrative assistant for your church as of January 4 of this year. I am married to my husband, Michael. We have three wonderful daughters, Julia(19), Alayna(15), and Amelia(12) and two dogs, Zoe and Oreo. I am from Cleveland and reside in the northeast end of Bradley County. Our family is very musical. We sing, and play many instruments including flute, violin, piano, trombone, ukulele and harp. I look forward to meeting all of you. If I can help you in any way, my current office hours are from 9am – 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Feel free to email me at the church email as well.



We encourage you to join us for In-Person Worship at 10:30 AM each Sunday Morning.

We will continue to have an online presence with the service being seen on YouTube, the church website, and Facebook. We will no longer be on Zoom.

We will be live on  . Click on the link below!

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCyY8BWrAMBNpdWoM4Mh2PFg>



Sunday School Meets at 9:30 AM

Children Age 4 to 10 (Meet Upstairs)

Youth Class (Meets Upstairs)

The Jones Class (Meets in the Library)

The nursery is available for children age Infant to 4



It's that time of year again.

Let's welcome January with a clean slate.

Please join us at 10:00 am at the church this *Saturday, January 8*, to take down our Christmas decorations.



Church Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, **January 16** after service.



"Mark Your Calendar!"

Ensemble practice will begin on **February 2** at 5:30pm in the Heritage Room

The Sister's Bible study group will begin "God of Freedom", a ten week study of Exodus 19-40 by Jen Wilkins, on Monday, Jan. 17, at 7:00 p.m. Please let Pam Varnell know if you would like to join in this study. Books are available at Lifeway.com and Amazon.com.



Lifeway women

PRAYER CONCERNS

Alan Gracy, David Morgan, Dan Church, Rick Whitt, Dan Coleman, Brenda Fields, Nancy Broom, Janice Westmoreland, Kathy Mansfield, Rick Smith, Mal Humphreys and Jen Brinkley (friends of the Alexanders), Glenn Heinrich (Kathy Felton's father), Don Anderson, Jeff Ford (son of Clara Rheay), Tom Steffner, Anita Holland Pringle, Mary Rook, Margaret Ellington, Marsena Walker, Gail Hathaway (sister of Joy Billings), Christopher Hack and the Noble family (relatives of Diane Rasor), Marjorie Webb (Atria Weston Place, Apt. 410, Knoxville, TN), and Brenda Wynkoop.

Our nation – unity and justice for the country and all who are a part of it.





**Due to the increase of active Covid-19 cases in Hamilton County,
We are requiring face masks. Thank you for your understanding and
and patience as we navigate the safety and health of our congregation.**