

Wesley United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation

serving God by caring for all people

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Web Site: www.wesleyumcnaperville.org

Ministers, all members and Friends

Rev. Jason Reed, pastor

Rev. Duane Mevis, pastor emeritus

Rev. Elizabeth Bowes, minister of Christian education

Debbie Rogers, administrative assistant

Pam Whittles, director of music and choirs

Belinda Cheek, director of handbell choirs

Brian Cooke, director of youth fellowship

Barry Riskedal, organist

Children Ministries Calendar

January – May 2007



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Children's Ministries Mission Statement

God, as known to us in Jesus Christ, welcomes all. So do we. This includes all children. We desire that children experience the love of Jesus in Worship...Christian Education...Service...and Fellowship.

Wesley is dedicated to providing a warm and welcoming environment in which children can experience the full life of the faith community. Our charge is to support children and their families through nurturing and loving them on their spiritual journeys of discipleship. Rev. Elizabeth Bowes serves as our Minister of Christian Education and provides overall leadership and support for Children's Ministries.

Our hope is that you and your families will experience Wesley United Methodist Church as a place where all ages are nurtured in faith for daily life and have opportunities for discipleship that reach out into the community. Please let us know how we can be of help in supporting you.

Shalom,

Rev. Elizabeth Bowes	Pam Whittles	Belinda Cheek
Minister of Christian Education	Director of Music	Director of Bell Choirs

How to use this book

As you flip through the pages, you will notice a calendar of children, family and congregational events for each month. Please use these pages to help you take advantage of every opportunity offered here at Wesley United Methodist Church. We look forward to having you and your family join us in this year of worship, learning, serving and having fun.

Wesley United Methodist Church...
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March *continued*

25 Sixth Sunday of Lent
Lesson: Jesus Washes the Disciple's Feet (M/O) In the Garden (PEE)

April

Sunday School Theme: Alleluia!

- 1 **Palm Sunday; Children's Procession of the Palms both worship**
Children's Drama Ministry, following, no communion.
- 5 **Holy Thursday, Multi-Age Family Meal 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**
we will learn about Jesus' Last meal with his disciples.
7:00 p.m. Maundy-Thursday Service
- 6 **Good Friday**, Joint Service at First Congregational 7:30 p.m.
- 8 **Easter Sunday**; Lesson: Mary Discovers the Empty Tomb
- 15 No Sunday School; Festival of Hymns in worship
- 22 Lesson: Offering for Jerusalem, Lydia Becomes a Christian
- 29 Children's Drama Ministry, begin in Room 25 at 10:30.

May

Sunday School Theme: Living in Love

- 6 Children's Drama Ministry, begin in Room 25 at 10:30, Communion.
- 13 Children's Drama Ministry leads worship 10:30 a.m.
No Sunday School, Children in worship ~ *Mother's Day*
- 20 Lesson: Love One Another; God is Love
- 27 **Pentecost**, Last Day of Sunday School

June

Watch for Vacation Bible School and Summer Sunday School !!!

January

Sunday School Theme: Following Jesus

- 7 **Epiphany Party** – Welcome Back!
- 14 Lesson: Jesus Calls the Fishermen
Confirmation: Organizational meeting
- 21 **Acolyte commissioning 10:30 worship**
Lesson: Jesus Calls Levi
- 28 Lesson: Two by Two

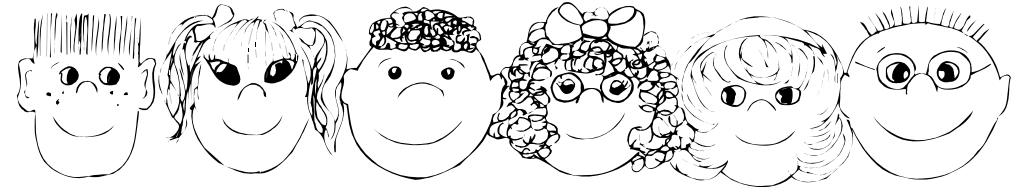
Children's Choirs

Celebration Ringers

Monday evenings
5:45-6:45 p.m.

Good News Singers

Wednesday evenings
5:15-6:00 p.m.



Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School

Worship – 9:00a.m. and 10:30a.m., Sanctuary
8:45–11:45 a.m. Infant & Toddler Childcare in nursery, room 10, 1st floor
Children's Sunday School – 10:30 a.m. (see below)

Please note: On the first and fifth Sunday of the month, children go directly to room 25 and practice for the Christmas Drama. They will return to worship for Communion. The rest of the month they begin in worship with their families at 10:30 a.m.

February

Sunday School Theme: Teachings of Jesus

- 4 Children's Drama Ministry, begin in Room 25 at 10:30, Communion.
- 11 Lesson: The Widow's Mite, Scouting Ministries Sunday
- 18 **Mardi Gras Sunday**, Chocolate fountain, 11:45 a.m.
Lesson: The Beatitudes
- 21 **Ash Wednesday**, Joint Service of Ashes, 7:30 p.m. at Wesley
- 25 *First Sunday of Lent*
Lesson: The Lord's Prayer
Acolyte Outing - TBA

March

Sunday School Theme: Hosanna!

- 4 *Second Sunday of Lent*
Children's Drama Ministry, begin in Room 25 at 10:30, Communion.
- 11 *Third Sunday of Lent*; Lesson: Palm Sunday (Middle/Older); Jesus and the Children (Pre-Early Elementary)
- 18 *Fourth Sunday of Lent*; Lesson: Jesus and the Moneychangers (M/O); Jesus Washes the Disciple's Feet (PEE)

Grade

Nursery/Toddler
Pre-K – 5th

Location

Room(s) 10/11
Room 25, 26, 27

Worship

Children are always welcome and encouraged to attend worship at either 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Worship Bags are available in the Atrium, Narthex or by asking an usher. At the 10:30 a.m. service Rev. Elizabeth Bowes invites the children forward to the front of the sanctuary for a "A Time for Children." Here they hear a message just for them. Then they are escorted to Sunday School or may return to sit with their parents for the rest of the service.

Children and Holy Communion

In the United Methodist Church we practice an open Table. This means that children of all ages are welcome to receive the bread and cup at services of Holy Communion. Learning opportunities are offered periodically for children and adults on Holy Communion.

Children Ministries Opportunities



Children's Sunday School

Sunday school meets the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday's of the month at 10:30 a.m. Children are dismissed from worship and are escorted to room 25. Preschool through 5th grade uses the *Exploring Faith One Room Sunday School* United Methodist curriculum, a comprehensive Bible study employing multiple learning styles. Infant and Toddler childcare is provided in the Nursery on the 1st floor in room(s) 10/11.

Parent/Adult Involvement

Parents will be asked to complete a combined registration form for Sunday school and Music/Choir/Bells. Parents are encouraged to help teach and/or assist in Children's Sunday School or the Nursery at least two Sunday's every three months. Parents can help with special room cleaning dates that are posted in the bulletin, newsletter and website. We are looking for parents to help coordinate bringing healthy snacks each Sunday and putting together Worship Bags.

Offering

Offering is but one expression of service in our lives. Offering is collected in Sunday School and the children decide the recipient of the offering. In the past it has gone to the United Voices for Children fund and St. Andrews Society.

Sunday Children's Drama Ministry, Preschool – 5th Grade

On the first and fifth Sunday of each month, children begin at 10:30 a.m. in room 25. Here they learn and practice drama and music for a Children's Sabbath service on Sunday, May 13th at the 10:30 a.m. service. Children will then return to the sanctuary to sit with parents at the Doxology so they may participate in Holy Communion.

Acolyte Ministry, 3rd Grade and up may serve

As leaders in worship, acolytes learn about the worship service, take seriously their responsibilities of service during worship and have fun together. We have one acolyte at the 9:00 a.m. service and two at the 10:30a.m. service. Look for training dates in bulletin announcements. The group is lead by Rev. Elizabeth Bowes and two adult volunteers who coordinate scheduling.

Wesley Children's Choirs

One way children participate in worship is by sharing their gifts of music. All of the children's choirs rehearse every week beginning October 18, 2006 and ending in April, 2007. However, children are welcome to join at any time.

Children who commit to a choir learn scripture, hymns, musicianship, musical elements, movement, vocal training, bell ringing technique, and the joy of singing and ringing quality children's literature with a group that becomes part of their church friends.

All choir opportunities are offered based on enrollment numbers.

Good News Singers – K – 6th Grade

Rehearsal is every Wednesday, 5:00 - 5:40 p.m. They share their music in worship approximately once a month at the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. services. Choir Director is Pam Whittles.

Susanna Chimes –K – 6th Grade

Rehearse seasonally as part of the Good News Singers. They participate from time to time in worship at the 10:30 a.m. service. Chimes Director is Belinda Cheek.

Celebration Ringers – 6th Grade – adult learner

This choir for grades 6th-adult and is an intergenerational beginning bell choir. Rehearsals are every Monday from 5:45-6:45 p.m. They will participate in worship approximately once a month at the 10:30 a.m. service. Bell Choir Director is Belinda Cheek

Confirmation

This course is taught by Rev. Jason Reed and is for children in 7th and 8th grade. It meets at the discretion of Pastor Reed, usually once a week for 10-12 weeks. Interested participants need to contact Rev. Jason Reed. Confirmands join on Pentecost Sunday.