

Fall 2019

Sharing the Story

Wesley Freedom: Generosity in Action Magazine



Photo by Thgustavo Santana

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things. - Psalm 107:8-9

Our Mission at Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church:
To make disciples of Jesus Christ who share the story of God's grace.
Our Vision:



Reflections From The Pastor Beyond, BEYOND!

Rev. Tony Love, Senior Pastor

As I pastor Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church, I continue to be amazed at how God is moving in and through this beloved community of believers. Every time I turn around, I see the places where God is showing up and providing such grace, peace, presence and provision. I really shouldn't be as surprised as I am because I have walked with God long enough to know that our God is simply AMAZING.

In a recent study of God's Word, I read a familiar portion of Scripture found in the 3rd Chapter of Ephesians at verse 20. The Scripture reads, "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power at work in us." I have for years celebrated God for being my ABLE God. For many years as I have ended worship celebrations, this was one of my favorite benedictions, final blessings, to offer. It gave me such a sense of assurance. Recently, when I looked at this same verse in the Living Bible, my understanding of, appreciation for and excitement about this particular verse grew exponentially. In the Living Bible, it is written this way, "Now glory be to the God who by His mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of - infinity beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes." WOW! God goes "beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes." When I read that, I was blown away and it was then that the Spirit impressed upon me that we serve a God who goes beyond, BEYOND. That is a powerful revelation of who our God really is.

As I did a study of this verse, I began to understand that the Apostle Paul, the writer of this verse, is inviting us to embrace the reality that God is able to do "super-abundantly above the greatest abundance we may ask or think." For me, I interpreted Paul as saying that our God is a God of no limits. There are no limitations in or on God. Of course, the Scripture reminds us that this awesomeness of God is directly related to the power that is at work within us. I understand that to mean that according to the Holy Spirit at work in us, God is then able to work beyond my wildest asking or widest thinking. The more we tap into the presence of the Holy Spirit that dwells within every believer, the more our God is able to do more than we can ask or think or even imagine. Our God will go beyond, BEYOND!

I'm so grateful that along this faith journey, I can name God as the God who goes beyond, BEYOND. I can only imagine Wesley Freedom what else is God wanting to do with us as we trust the Holy Spirit to release God to be our beyond, BEYOND God. What more could we be doing to advance the Kingdom of God?

I encourage us, Wesley Freedom, to think bigger, dream bigger, believe bigger and ask bigger of God as the Holy Spirit leads and guides us to do greater ministry and mission together that will lead to changed lives, new disciples, and the transformation of our communities and world.

Stay blessed. Your brother on this journey - PTL



Pastor Ian Collier

Associate Pastor

On Sunday, September 15th, Wesley Freedom Small Group ministries held its annual Expo featuring a total of nineteen small group displays. “The Small Group Expo was a fun and exciting opportunity to talk to and invite members of the congregation to connect with others,” said Amy Kulp, co-leader of the Parents of Youth life group. Wesley Freedom offers three main types of groups: Fellowship Groups, which focus on gathering around conversation and usually some food to foster community; Life Groups, which join people together in a stable covenant community; and Connect Groups, which join together around a topic or a particular study and welcome people throughout the year.

The groups that were represented covered a wide range of meeting times, from Sunday mornings during one of our services, to a weekday evening at a local pub, as well as an assortment of topics, including theology and science fiction, an introduction to The United Methodist Church, the Methodist vision of discipleship, and various books of the bible. One of the missions of Wesley Freedom small groups is to help people grow in their faith through groups and studies that are able to speak to where people are in their lives. “As parents of youth, we often set aside our own Christian learning and growth to focus on those of our teens,” said Kulp, “this small group offers a way to do both.”



If you want to join a small group but missed the expo, don't worry! Just contact Pastor Ian (icollier@wesleyfreedom.org) for help connecting with a group.

Welcome Taylor Boone

Director of Youth Ministries

I'm honored to be joining you as the new Director of Youth Ministries at Wesley Freedom. I have served as Youth Director at Hiss Church in Parkville for the last six years, but have lived in Eldersburg for the last three.

My husband, Steven, our son, August, and I are excited to begin this new season of ministry, and are beyond grateful for such a warm welcoming.

When I am not working with youth, you will find me cheering on the Orioles, reading books, and spending time with family and friends. One of my favorite places growing up was the sailing camp at West River UMC.

I can't wait to see how God's plan will unfold during my time here at Wesley Freedom. I look forward to serving and growing with you all.



Children & Family Ministries

Sherry Perrine, Director of Children and Family Ministries



On Sunday, September 1, teachers and leaders gathered for leadership and Safe Sanctuary training.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Students were gifted with a “God’s Got Your Back” tag for their school backpacks on October 1st.



Photos by Brenda Bowman



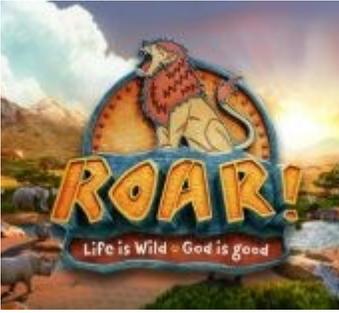
Photos by Kelly Broske



Photos by Kelly Broske



Our 3rd grade children were presented with Bibles that had their name inscribed on September 29.



Vacation Bible School 2019

Life is Wild, God is Good!

This year we had over 756 people involved in the VBS ministry. Hours and hours of planning, creating and hard work culminated in a fast and fun packed week of FUN exploring God's Goodness. Campers and leaders discovered and learned through multi-sensory activities and began and ended each day with worship and music. We gathered donations for Shepherd's Staff and the South Carroll Food Pantry. The VBX program youth participated in service opportunities at Freedom Youth Center and in the gardens in front of the church. We received very generous donations from our families to support Mission Trips in 2020 and the Family Resource Center.



Photos by Brenda Bowman



Our Adult Helpers Said They enjoyed...Working with new people, acting out the stories, having chills each day when presenting a key God/Jesus moment, the youth that helped us, feeling a part of something bigger and holding a sort of key role, seeing all of the kids in the sanctuary, the dances and music. They liked the color coding of shirts and the brightness of them, building friendships with other adult helpers, and watching all the kids during song time.

From Our Youth Helpers

A lot of the campers I was around would bring up how God loved them without being prompted. In that way, I think they really embodied the lessons of VBS. For myself, just being able to be involved in something so positive is a great reminder about how God gifts us the little things. The past year has been tough for me personally, so having a week dedicated to serving the church and God is always refreshing.



One of the kids in my crew was sad and another little girl came up to him and said when you're sad, God is good!

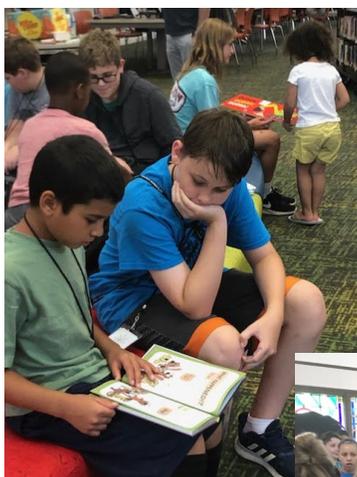
HELPING
OUR
YOUTH
TO

SERVE

LIKE JESUS

On September 8, the Youth Department kicked off a new year. In the Youth department, we have several places where students can plug in and get involved. We have High School Ministry (HSM) Youth Group, we have Middle School Ministry (MSM) Youth Group, Confirmation for 8th Grade students and Mission Trips for both HSM and MSM students to participate in all year long. None of these areas could get supported for our youth if it was not for the adults who assist in our program. Wesley Freedom is extremely lucky to have such giving adults who give of their time, gifts and talents to our over 100 plus students weekly. These adult volunteers are dedicated and SERVE LIKE JESUS.

"I volunteer for youth group because I feel it is my duty to help the kids understand and grow their relationship with God. Kids at this age and in this world really need to know that they are loved just as they are." - Brad Evans.



I love so much working with the youth, listening & watching them learn & evolve in their faith, being a team & sharing as adults & youth together. I also feel such comfort in giving back to the church & congregation which has given so much to my son & me in past, present & into the future.

-Tina Fioreilli

Our High School Ministry served in Ireland, WV and our Middle School Ministry served in Philadelphia, PA this summer.



I started being involved with the youth through Confirmation because my kids were going through it and I like helping out when I can. I realized pretty quickly though how rewarding it is to help others find their way on this journey. Guiding others has also deepened and strengthened my faith. It is great too because it seems like at this age the kids are starting to ask some deeper questions and you can see the impact the answers have. - Mike Stebner

When I was growing up, I was involved in my youth group. It was a place where I felt included, cared for, and could grow in my faith with others. I want to create that same safe place that I had for the youth of our church and let them know that there are adults who love them and want to support them. -Kate Ritchie



"I'm excited to serve with youth because the excitement they show in faith. We as adults sometimes forget how blessed we are to be saved by Christ and to see youth inspired by the Lord is always inspiring for me. I believe youth teach us as much as we teach them." - Steve Ritchie



I like getting to know the youth of our church. They continue to amaze me with their talents and gifts! Plus, I really love just being with them. My youth leaders had such a positive impact on my high school years; I hope in serving with our youth I can give back and help positively influence others. - Julie DeShong

I feel blessed to be allowed to serve the youth at Wesley Freedom. I love seeing our youth grow in their faith and in relationship with God, to become disciples of Jesus Christ..— Kathy Kaufman



Open for Business
Sharon Feldman, Director

Shepherd's Staff Satellite Office

On Monday, Sept. 16th the Grand Opening of Shepherd's Staff's Satellite Office took place here at the Family

Resource Center. Over 50 people from our community helped celebrate this momentous event.

Special Guests included Mike McMullin, President of Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, Larry Bohn, President of The



Shepherd's Staff Board of Directors, Delegate Susan Krebs and Senator Katie Fry Hester. Shepherd's Staff and Wesley Freedom Resource Center was awarded a citation

from the Maryland General Assembly in recognition of the partnership and for providing Christian outreach and support to those in need.

So, what does this mean for the community and for the Family Resource Center? We want to make a positive South Carroll Community impact, one family, one life at a time and we feel with the addition of Shepherd's Staff programs we will be able to do that. We offer families a place to request financial assistance for a variety of household expenses and with the Blessings Closet we allow people to stop by and receive either household goods or personal items.

You can support the Family Resource Center with financial help or if you are out shopping you can buy items to help stock the Blessings Closet. If you are curious about the facilities and



want to peek at the Blessing Closet or hear more about the Family Resource Center – stop by and see me. I love talking about all the possibilities.

SHOPPING LIST

Help Fill Our Blessings Closet

- Paper Towels
- Pinesol
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Toilet Paper
- Deodorant
- Diapers – all sizes
- Laundry Detergent
- Shampoo
- Adult Diapers – men's and women's
- Dish Soap
- Soap
- Trash Bags (Kitchen)
- Toothpaste



Your Love and Support Makes It Happen

Sharon Feldman, Wesley Freedom Family Resource Center Director

Bob Goff said, "In the end, love doesn't just keep thinking about it or keep planning for it. Simply put; love does. Here at the Family Resource Center, while some planning goes into making things happen, I have found that most things happen because of relationships we have already formed with other resources in our community. Here is what the Family Resource Center is up to:

Counseling Services continue to be available through Suburban Crossroads Counseling Service by contacting Cecil Cunigan directly at 301-679-0078 to set up an appointment.

The Maryland Food Bank will be here on October 26th to register people for the SNAP program, which is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The Village continues to grow on Social Media with its baby clothing/items collection when there is a family in need. To learn more, visit *The Village* on Facebook and request to join the group.

A two-day workshop, *Mental Health First-Aid for Youth*, will be presented by the Carroll County Health Department at WFUMC on January 27 and 28 from 5:30-9:30 pm. If you are a parent, if you work with youth, or if you would just like to be able to identify someone in crisis and learn how to engage them in a conversation, please consider taking this class. It is open to the public, so if you know of others who would benefit from the workshop please invite them. You can register by contacting Sharon Feldman (sfeldman@wesleyfreedom.org).

Redirect One80

Changing Lives Through Community

One of the greatest values of mentors is the ability to see ahead what others cannot see and to help them navigate a course to their destination.
-John C. Maxwell

If you have ever thought about helping someone "navigate a course to their destination" then I want to talk to you. We have an amazing opportunity to make a difference in someone's life working with them one-on-one as they work through their recovery. We are looking to develop a program that will care for an individual once they have been released from the detention center and help them get their life on the right track. The program will be called Redirect One80; hoping that when we surround a person with community and help, they will find their purpose and destination. To learn more about this developing program and what the commitment would be, please contact Sharon Feldman, Director of Family Resource Center at sfeldman@wesleyfreedom.org.

MISSIONS

Rise Against Hunger

Sharon Feldman, Mission Ministry

Our team of 96 volunteers spent the morning of Saturday, September 28 at WFUMC packing over 17,000 box meals to be sent to a village in Madagascar. Meals include soy, rice dry vegetables, seasonings and vitamin packs.



There were two girl scout troops with their leaders and parents. They were amazing. - Betty Evans, Mission Team

Kids Creating Kindness

Sharon Feldman, Mission Ministry



Our children's mission ministry continues to be a light for Christ in our community. This summer they raised \$291.96 at the downtown Sykesville Junior Market with products they designed and created. The money went to support Shepherd's Staff. Additionally, they seek to make more disciples who serve by sharing the story of God's grace at our Small Group Expo.



Financials

Ways to Give

FINANCIAL STATEMENT	YTD
	1/1/19-9/30/19
Weekly Contributions	\$701,296
EYLC Contribution	\$67,500
Other Building Usage	1,991
Interest	125
Fundraising activities	50
Total Income	\$770,963
EXPENSES	
Salaries & related costs	\$372,926
Mortgage interest payments	73,343
Building expenses (1)	109,172
Ministry area costs (2)	44,053
Administrative costs (4)	36,613
Conference payments	89,010
Total Expenses	\$725,118
Net Income	\$45,845
Mortgage principal payments	\$29,828
Net Income for Cash Flow	\$16,017
(1) Includes electricity, water, oil & natural gas, insurance, phone, custodial services, & maintenance (2) Includes education, worship, youth council, care of members (4) Includes Stewardship - mailing and other costs	
DETAILED REPORTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST	

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have."

- 2 Corinthians 8:12

God has given us so many good gifts! We return a portion of these gifts back to God through our tithes and offerings. Pray about what you are able to give and then find the ways that work best for you. You can give through our Sunday morning offering, online through our website, www.wesleyfreedom.org, or you can set up an Electronic Fund Transfer with our treasurer. You can also text to give by texting WFUMC to 206-859-9405 and clicking the link in the return text. Wherever God leads, let us always be ready to share.

AmazonSmile is a way to support WFUMC while shopping online at no extra cost to you. Go to smile.amazon.com, select *Wesley-Freedom Methodist Church* as your charitable organization and every eligible purchase will result in a donation. All proceeds will go toward our Christmas Eve Offering.

Worshiping God Through GIVING

A Stewardship Moment of HUMOR

There's a wonderful story about an elderly man who won \$50,000 in a lottery. The family was worried about him because he had a bad heart. They were afraid that when they told him he'd won \$50,000 he might drop dead of shock. So they went to their minister hoping that he would find the best way to break the news. The minister called on his old friend and they talked for a while as old friends do until, finally, the minister said. "What would you do if I told you you'd won \$50,000 in the lottery?" The man said immediately, "Why I'd give half to the church." And the minister dropped dead.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

- October, 27 Annual Fall Harvest Festival sponsored by the United Methodist Women will be from 3- 4:30 pm. Children come in costume for a time of games and crafts. At 4:00 pm the children will enjoy the Trunk and Treat. All parents are welcome to decorate their cars and participate handing out candy.
- November 2 An inspiring time of worship. Our own saxophonist Bill Bjorkgren and vocalist Karen Stebner lead the group RESILIENCE in their kickoff concert in the Wesley Freedom Sanctuary at 7:00 PM. Admission is free!
- November 3 All Saints Sunday. Remember our loved ones at all three worship services.
- November 23 Christmas In The Country Bazaar. 9am-3pm.
- November 24 Canned Food Sunday to support Thanksgiving Meal Boxes. Advent Service of Prayer and Healing, 7 pm.
- December 7 Big Band Merry Christmas 7:30pm at Westminster High School. Sponsored by Wesley Freedom Family Resource Center to benefit Access Carroll.
- December 8 Drive-Thru Nativity 6-8 pm.
- December 8 Christmas Cantata. Change in worship times - 9am and 11am
- December 24 Christmas Eve Worship - see Worship times below.
- December 29 Sunday Worship. Change in Worship times. One service, 10 am.

There are many ways to serve at Wesley Freedom. If you are searching for where God might be calling you, contact our church office. We would love to sit down with you to help you find your fit.

Christmas Eve Worship Times

9 am - Candlelight Worship with Communion

11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 5pm - Family Services - The Christmas Story will be told by our children and youth

7 pm, 9 pm - Candlelight Worship

11 pm - Candlelight Worship with Communion

Join our cast for our Christmas Eve Family Worship!
Ages 5 through adults are needed.

Rehearsals begin on

11/25 @ 6 pm for our Christmas Eve 1 pm service

11/26 @ 6 pm for our Christmas Eve 3 pm service

11/26 @ 7 pm for our Christmas Eve 5 pm service

12/1 @ noon for our Christmas Eve 11 am service

If you can participate, contact Sherry Perrine
(sperrine@wesleyfreedom.org)