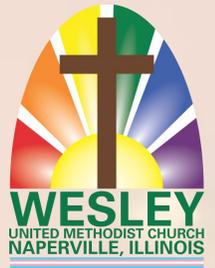




# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“PRACTICING HOPE”  
DECEMBER 7, 2025



WELCOME



THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**



PRELUDE

*On To Bethlehem Town*

Arr. T. McKibben



CALL TO WORSHIP

In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

**We come to be inspired by stories of a messiah who will change the world—and change us.**

We come to listen for words of hope and joy, promise and challenge.

**We come with open ears, open minds, and open hearts.**

**to receive the blessings God has in store for us in this season of waiting.**

Come! Let us worship our God, the One who brings all things to fulfillment.



OPENING PRAYER

**In you alone we put our hope, God the Father, Creator, and Sustainer, who gives all good things seen and unseen. In you alone we put our hope, God the Son, Savior, and Redeemer, who died for our sins and rose again. In you alone we put our hope, God the Spirit, Teacher, and Comforter, who moves us to sing “Our God reigns!” In you alone we put our hope. Amen.**



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Music: *Light of Hope* by Joel Raney

*Please share in the words in bold, and in singing following the lighting of the candle. First, the choir sings, then the reading. After the candle is lit, we all join our voices in song.*

*Responsive Litany*

On this Advent journey, we are mindful of the brokenness of the world that surrounds us.

**We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

As we look around us, we see the hostility that exists between neighbor and nation.

**We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

As we look beside us, we see fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

**We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

As we look within ourselves, we confess the reconciling words we have yet to speak and restoring deeds we have yet to do.

**We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

This morning, we light two candles. The first candle reminds us of a starry night in a quiet stable where God changed the course of human history. Our hope is firm, for in our Savior’s birth, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The second candle symbolizes God’s perfect peace in an imperfect world. The season of Advent calls us to turn our eyes to the Prince of Peace who has come and will come again.

*The second candle of the Advent wreath is lit.*

Light of life, Mak - er of day, gath - er our  
 sha - dows and cast them a - way. Bea - con of  
 truth, gleam - ing and bright, shine in our  
 hearts, shat - ter our night.

+OPENING HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

UMH 206

INVITATION TO THE PRACTICE OF GIVING

Give by Text: (630) 528-0155, Online: [wesleynaperville.org/giving](http://wesleynaperville.org/giving)  
 The offering basket is also available at the front of the sanctuary.



OFFERING PRAYER

**Persistent God of new paths, we have been called to prepare the way—not with platitudes, but with changed hearts and lives. In this season of turning and anticipation, we offer these gifts as signs that we long to live by your story. Use them and use us to bear fruit worthy of repentance: fruit of justice, compassion, hospitality, and peace. Let our generosity reflect the nearness of your kingdom and the urgency of your call. In the wilderness of fear and want, may this offering clear a path for hope to be seen, known, and shared. In the name of the one who is coming and is already among us—Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

+GOSPEL READING

*Stand in body. Stand in spirit. However you are led and able*  
 The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Matthew 3: 1-12

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Alexander Dungan

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, on this second Sunday of Advent,  
 we have heard your servant crying out to us in the wilderness.  
 We have heard the call to repentance and restoration,  
 and we want to respond.

**We have heard that you are offering forgiveness of sins,  
 and we want to hear your mercy spoken over us.  
 We have heard that you are baptizing with water,  
 and with the Holy Spirit and with fire:  
 cleanse us and make us new.  
 We have heard that you are ushering in a reign of peace,  
 and we want to see your kingdom when it comes.**

God, our sins are many, but your mercy is great.  
Our vision is dim, but your coming is at hand.  
Our hope is feeble, but your promises stand forever.

**God, your world stands in need of you.  
Everywhere we look we see need of you:  
for your coming, your restoration,  
your peace, your transformation.**

We pray for the nations to know your truth and your light.  
We pray for the poor, the hungry, and the needy.  
We pray for those who are spiritually hungry and poor in spirit:  
may they come to know the living water,  
and to drink deeply from your well.

**God, the hour of your coming again draws near.  
Make us ready: in our hearts, in our minds, in our souls.  
Lord Jesus Christ, come to us again this Advent.  
Come and do not tarry.  
Even so, come Lord Jesus! Amen.**



### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive. Sealed gluten-free wafers are available, and all cups are non-alcoholic.*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**



### LORD'S PRAYER

p. 5



### ANTHEM

*People Look East*

Traditional French carol, Text by Eleanor Ferjeon, Arr. John Leavitt



### SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 130

The Word of God, for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!**



### SERMON AND INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

### PRACTICING HOPE

Rev. Wendy Hardin Hermann

As we leave this place and scatter back out into the world,  
may the God of hope who loves us and gave himself for us—  
fill us with all joy and peace  
as we trust in Him,  
today and throughout the coming week,  
so that in believing,  
we may abound in hope,  
through the love of Jesus Christ,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit.



The flowers on the altar are presented by Fay Wilson in joyful celebration of her mother's heavenly 102nd birthday and for all mothers everywhere.

As we near Advent, I would love to invite any families to be part of our Christmas pageant in church this year! Any child can join and all ages are welcome! We have speaking roles, nonspeaking roles, and behind-the-scenes puppetry and prop roles for any comfort level. The pageant will be on Sunday, December 21st during our 10am worship. If you're interested in participating, please let Pastor Alexander know as well as what your child/children's comfort level is for participating. We hope to see you there! You can reach out to Pastor Alexander at [alexander@wesleynaperville.org](mailto:alexander@wesleynaperville.org). Thank you!



**UWF Candy and Nut Sale!**

The United Women in Faith will be selling candy and nuts after church on Sundays in December. The Dark Chocolate Pecans, the Mammoth Pecans, and the Pecan Clusters are each \$10. Look for Ellen Sellberg in the atrium. Thank you for your support!

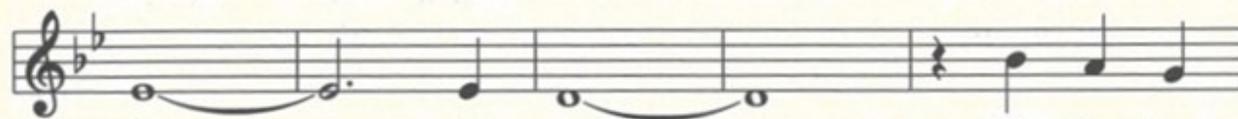
-Wesley United Women in Faith.

# The Lord's Prayer

3068



Our Fa - ther, — which art in heav - en, — hal-low-ed



be — thy name. — Thy king-dom



come, thy will be done on earth as it is in



heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread, and for-



give us our debts as we for-give our debt - ors. And



lead us not in-to temp-ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from



e - vil, for thine is the king-dom, and the pow - er, and the



glo - ry for - ev - er. — A -



men. — A - men. —

WORDS: Based on Matt. 6:9-13  
MUSIC: Albert Malotte

MALOTTE  
Irr.

# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

The deadline for ordering poinsettias is

December 7, 2025

If you wish to order poinsettias to be placed in our church sanctuary during the Christmas season, please complete the form below. After completion, it can be placed in the offering basket on Sunday morning or brought to the church office.

**COST PER PLANT: \$20.00**

# of red: \_\_\_\_\_ # of white: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

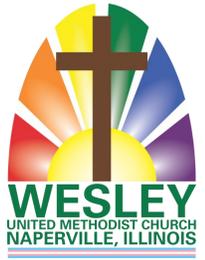
In celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

Other dedication: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST- 10 AM  
SERVICE OF CAROLS AND HYMNS  
AND CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH- 3 PM  
CHRISTMAS EVE AND CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE**

## ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES



**SUNDAYS** Additional parking is allowed in the Old National Bank (formerly, Midwest Bank) lot

10:00 AM (Hybrid):

2nd - 4th Sundays:  
After Worship In Person

**Worship in-person or online** wesleynaperville.org (Sanctuary–Level 1)

**Sunday School** immediately following the time for Young Disciples.

**Fellowship in the Atrium** (Coffee and Nibbles–Level A)

**5th SUNDAYS ARE WORSHIP THROUGH MISSION**

**Foxhall AA** (Enter through Franklin Street Entrance–Fellowship Hall)

6:45 PM

### CHILDREN and YOUTH

Time for Young Disciples in worship, immediately followed by Sunday School (2nd–4th Sundays). On 5th Sundays we worship through hands on mission at 10am. Talk to Pastor Alexander for more info.

### WESLEY KIDS DAY OUT

Flexible part-time daycare ministry during the school year Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9am to 2pm, June & July Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9am to 1pm for children 6 months to 5 years of age. Contact Christine and Sherice for more information and tours (630) 355-1758 wesleykidsdayout@gmail.com.

If you have a love for children ages 6 months to 5 years and are interested in working with them part-time, the Staff Parish Relations Committee would love to hear from you. We are presently considering applications for Substitute Teachers.

Please visit wesleynaperville.org/kdo for more info.

### GIVING TO OUR ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund invests donations to provide for outreach programs and to supplement the church budget. You can donate directly, dedicate a leaf on our Wesley Family Tree or put Wesley in your will. I am happy to help answer your questions. Please contact Barbara Burke, 239-405-5898, or email [barbaraburke123@att.net](mailto:barbaraburke123@att.net) for more information.

### JOIN THE CHOIR!

Lend your voice at our weekly choir rehearsals at 6:30pm on Wednesday! Contact Nicole Melody (Director of Music) [info@wesleynaperville.org](mailto:info@wesleynaperville.org) with questions.

### IN THE NAME OF JESUS, WE PRAY...

(6-14-25) For continued courage to fulfill our baptismal vows to *accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.*

(8-11-25) For Russetta Rauch and her son, Doug, as he transitions to a new medication. Prayers of strength and healing in the midst of change.

(11-19-25) For Chelsea Guanzon as they recover from surgery.

(11-20-25) For Fay Wilson as she recovers from surgery.

### STYROFOAM RECYCLING

Bring your Styrofoam recycling to the special recycling bins on the lower level. Stained and soiled items are not accepted. Please rinse ahead of time. Help our earth!

### COFFEE HOUR

Join us after Worship in the Atrium for a cup of coffee or tea, and a little nibble. If you would like to bring a treat or help with set-up, contact our church office at 630-355-1834 or [info@wesleynaperville.org](mailto:info@wesleynaperville.org)

### HELPING ONE ANOTHER

The bins on the Lower Level (B) are available for donations and use of whomever may have need of these items that comes to our door: Deodorant, Menstrual Hygiene Products, Shampoo & Conditioner (Travel Size Preferred), Soap, Socks, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Wash Cloths.

### LOAVES & FISHES COMMUNITY SERVICES

The needs in our community outpace supply. You are welcome to drop off items to the donation baskets.

### KEEPING IN TOUCH

To subscribe to our weekly e-news scan the qr code, or contact Pastor Alexander. If you would like KIT mailed to your door every two to three weeks, please let Alexander know.



### FIFTH SUNDAY WORSHIP THROUGH MISSION

On 5th Sundays we Worship Through Mission by doing some hands-on act of service that helps children and youth. We also have a special collection for United Voices for Children. If you have an idea for a Worship Through Mission opportunity, please reach out to Alexander or Pastor Doh. Next: Mar. 29, May 31, Aug. 30.

*If you have a prayer concern, email us at [prayers@wesleynaperville.org](mailto:prayers@wesleynaperville.org), contact the church office, Pastor Doh, Pastor Duane, or Pastor Alexander.*

## CHURCH OFFICE

Sundays: 9am–1pm  
M- 8am–3pm  
T, TH: Closed  
W, F: 8:30 am–3:30 pm  
(630) 355-1834 ext. 101  
info@wesleynaperville.org

*Building Events* ext. 110  
events@wesleynaperville.org  
Available by appointment

## WESLEY KIDS DAY OUT

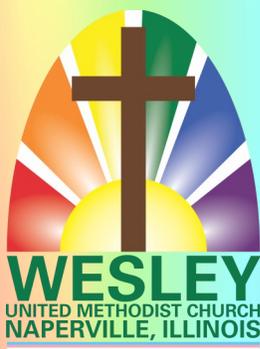
Christine Singer, *Director*  
Sherice Horton, *Assistant Director*  
Summer: T,W,TH 9am–1pm  
(630) 355-1758  
wesleykidsdayout@gmail.com



Rev. Eunbae Doh, ext. 102  
*Lead Pastor*  
M, W, TH  
pastor@wesleynaperville.org

Rev. Alexander Dungan, ext. 104  
*Pastor of Family & Justice*  
W, TH 9am–2pm  
alexander@wesleynaperville.org

Rev. Duane Mevis, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Nicole Melody, *Director of Music*  
Svetlana Mars, *Accompanist*  
Chelsea Guanzon, *Ministry Candidate*



**God, as known to us  
in Christ Jesus  
welcomes ALL people.  
So do we.**

**wesleynaperville.org**  
21 E. Franklin Ave  
Naperville, IL. 60540

## About Wesley UMC

Founded in 1832

### Mission Statement

To proclaim God's grace through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to nurture spiritual growth throughout life, and to serve God by caring for all people.

### Welcome Statement

God, as known to us in Jesus Christ, welcomes all. So do we. All people of any race, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, economic status, or life situation are welcome here. Wesley is also proud to be a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network, which is "Mobilizing United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform our Church and world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love." [www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org)

### What We Believe In

*Proclaiming* God's grace through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
*Nurturing* spiritual growth throughout life.  
*Serving* God by caring for all people.

We try to live into the challenge of John Wesley, who said:

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. For as long as ever you can."

**As much as we love our time together on Sunday morning, we believe that our highest ministry is out in the world. This is why we have moved from the "traditional" model of church, to being a Center for Peace and Justice in accordance with our United Methodist Social Principles.**



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Wesley Kids Day Out was established in 1973 as a Christian outreach to parents and children of our community. Our mission is to offer children a constructive, fun environment, as well as an opportunity to socialize with

children their own age while developing skills to aid them in preschool and kindergarten.

Summer: June & July T,W, TH 9am–1pm  
Fall, Winter, Spring: Late August–May M, W, F 9am–1pm

**WORSHIP RESOURCES USED TODAY** "John the Baptist", from the Altar of St. Catherine (1465), from Vanderbilt Divinity Library, <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib-fulldisplay.pl?SID=20251203912452922&code=ACT&RC=56284&Row=8>, [retrieved December 3, 2025]. United Methodist Discipleship Ministries, *The United Methodist Book of Worship. The United Methodist Hymnal*. New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. " Images by Alexander Grey and Unchalee Srirugsar via Pexels.