"LOVE OVER LAWS"

Proper 25
October 25, 2026

WESLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

WELCOME

INVITATION TO THE PRACTICE OF GIVING

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

PRELUDE

I Exalt Thee — Arr. M. Hayes

+CALL TO WORSHIP

We are children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.
We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.

When we feel tested by hard decisions, calls to advocate against injustice, competing narratives, and worrying misinformation, we remember:
We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.

When we struggle with damaged trust and the need to repair our relationships with God and one another, when we are called to go against the social current to build communities of mercy and justice, we remember:
We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.

Come, let us worship God whose grace surrounds us when we feel tested and tried, empowering us to remain faithful disciples of Jesus Christ when we face chaos, division, injustice, and hardship.
We come to worship God who chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as the Body of Christ in a broken and hurting world. Amen.

+OPENING HYMN

How Can You Name a Love — UMH 111

+GOSPEL READING

Stand in body. Stand in spirit. However you are led and able — Matthew 22:34-46

The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Alexander Dungan

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of all who wander in the wilderness,
you go before us as beacon and guide.
Lead us through all danger,
sustain us through all desolation,
and bring us home.

God invites us to hold the needs of our siblings
as dear to us as our own needs.
Loving our neighbors as ourselves,
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions
on behalf of the church and the world.

Hear our prayers, God of power,
and through the ministry of your Son
free us from the grip of mere obligation,
that we may desire you as the fullness of life
and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



PREPARATION HYMN *My Song is Love Unknown* TFWS 2083



SERMON LOVE OVER LAWS Rev. Alexander Dungan



+CLOSING HYMN *The Gift of Love* UMH 408



+BENEDICTION

May God bless you with the courage and the wisdom to respond to division, confusion, injustice, and hardship as imitators of Christ and agents of divine love as we work for the well-being and flourishing of all God's creation today and every day. **Amen.**



POSTLUDE *In the Garden* Arr. B. Erdstrom

Preparing the Disciples

A November Bible study through Mark 8-10
as Christ guides us into the next chapter of our faith journey.

Advent on Stage

Join us for a musical sermon series as we begin a new church year with song!

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

10:00 AM (Hybrid): **Worship in-person or online** wesleynaperville.org (Sanctuary—Level 1)

2nd - 4th Sundays: **Sunday School** immediately following the time for Young Disciples.

After Worship In-Person: **Fellowship in the Atrium** (Coffee and Nibbles—Level A)

CHILDREN and YOUTH

Time for Young Disciples in worship, immediately followed by Sunday School (2nd—4th Sundays). Talk to Pastor Alexander 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 our finance chair, Ron Sellberg, at rpsellberg@aol.com for more information.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

We are working on updating them.We will let you know when they are available.If you have any changes you would like made, contact the office or Lynn T 630-957-7612.

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 wesleynaperville@gmail.com

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 Pastor Alexander know.

IN THE NAME OF JESUS, WE PRAY…

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

(1-20-26) For protection for the immigrant community as they experience heartbreaking levels of violence.

(8-23-26) For Chelsea Guanzon as they enter into a new school year and face additional complications with their knee. May they continue to heal.

(9-6-26) For Rev. Duane Mevis as he recovers from medical testing. Prayers and cards are much appreciated.

If you have a prayer concern, email us at wesleynaperville@gmail.com, contact the church office, or Pastor Alexander.

WORSHIP RESOURCES USED TODAY Love Lets Go of Power, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/58807 [retrieved October 19, 2026]. Original source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/taniwha/7186930/, *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. Discipleship Ministries Worship Planner, https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning.

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

wesleynaperville.org

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Available by appointment

Svetlana Mars, *Accompanist*
Chelsea Guanzon,
Ministry Candidate

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

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."

Wesley has entered into a discernment process highlighted in Paragraph 213 of *The Book of Discipline.* This process allows us to partner with members of the community and the conference to evaluate Wesley's needs and passions to better serve the community. We invite everyone to ask questions and lend their voice to the ongoing discussion as we seek to further peace and justice in our world. Feel free to reach out to Pastor Alexander with any questions!

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