



7th Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2025

 WELCOME

 PRELUDE

It Is Well With My Soul

arr. L. Larson


 +CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 107:1-3

Stand in body. Stand in spirit. Please share in the words in bold.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

 +HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

UMH 140

 SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

 OPENING PRAYER

“For Holiness of Heart” by Howard Thurman

UMH 401

 HEBREW BIBLE READING

Psalm 107:35-43, Pew Bible NT. 560

 +GOSPEL READING

Luke 8:1-15 NRSVUE

Please stand in body, stand in spirit for the reading of the Gospel. Listen to your body.

Soon afterward he went on through one town and village after another, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod’s steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who ministered to them out of their own resources.

When a large crowd was gathering, as people were coming to him from town after town, he said in a parable: **“A sower went out to sow his seed, and as he sowed some fell on a path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and as it grew up it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew it produced a hundredfold.”** As he said this, he called out, **“If you have ears to hear, then hear!”**

Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but to others I speak in parables, so that

‘looking they may not perceive
and hearing they may not understand.’

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who,

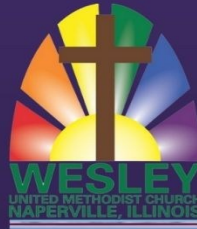


Imposition of the Ashes

Wesley UMC

21 E. Franklin Ave, Naperville IL 60540
630-355-1834

Drop-in during these times



🕒 8:45 - 9:15 am

🕒 11:15-11:45 am

🕒 1:45 - 2:15 pm

In the Sanctuary & Atrium

Evening Worship Service

First Congregational UCC

25 E Benton Ave, Naperville, IL 60540

🕒 7:30 pm

SAVE THESE DATES

Sun. 3/30 Worship Through Mission

@ 10 am

(More details soon)

Sun. 4/13 Palm Sunday

Worship at 10 am

Children and Youth are invited to join the Palm Processional

Thurs. 4/17 Maundy Thursday

Worship (TBD)

Fri. 4/18 Good Friday

Worship at Community UMC
(20 Center Street) at 7:00 p.m.

Sun. 4/20 Easter Sunday

Worship @ 10am

Upcoming Sunday Focus Scriptures

3/2	Psalm 46
TRANSFIGURATION	Luke 9:28-36
SUNDAY	
3/9	Ezekiel 37:1-14,
LENT I	John 3:1-8
3/16	Romans 8:18-25
LENT II	Luke 8:40-55
3/23	Exodus 16:2-18
LENT III	Psalm 65:5-13
	Luke 9:12-17
3/30	Psalm 56:1-13
LENT IV	Luke 10:38-42
	<i>Worship Through</i>
	<i>Mission</i>
4/6	1 Kings 10:1-10, 13
LENT V	Luke 11:27-32
4/13	Matthew 21:1-11
PALM SUNDAY	Psalm 118:19-29

when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart and bear fruit with endurance.

This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

 +DOXOLOGY

*Come, Thou Almighty King
To thee, great One in Three, / eternal praises be,
hence evermore. / Thy sovereign majesty / may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore!*

UMH 61 v. 4

 TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

Alexander Dungan

 HYMN OF PREPARATION

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

UMH 465

 SERMON and INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Megan Tobola

 MUSICAL WITNESS

 INVITATION to the PRACTICE of GIVING

As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Give by Text: (630) 528-0155, Online: wesleynaperville.org/giving

The offering basket is also available at the front of the sanctuary.



 PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and 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.

 +CLOSING HYMN

Hope of the World

UMH 178

 +BENEDICTION

 POSTLUDE

How Majestic Is Your Name

M. Smith, arr. M. Hayes

All are invited to a time of fellowship in the Atrium following the postlude.



Wed. April 2, 2025

9am—1pm

ADVENTURE WITH GOD

CAMP FIRELIGHT

Spring Break One-Day
Vacation Bible School

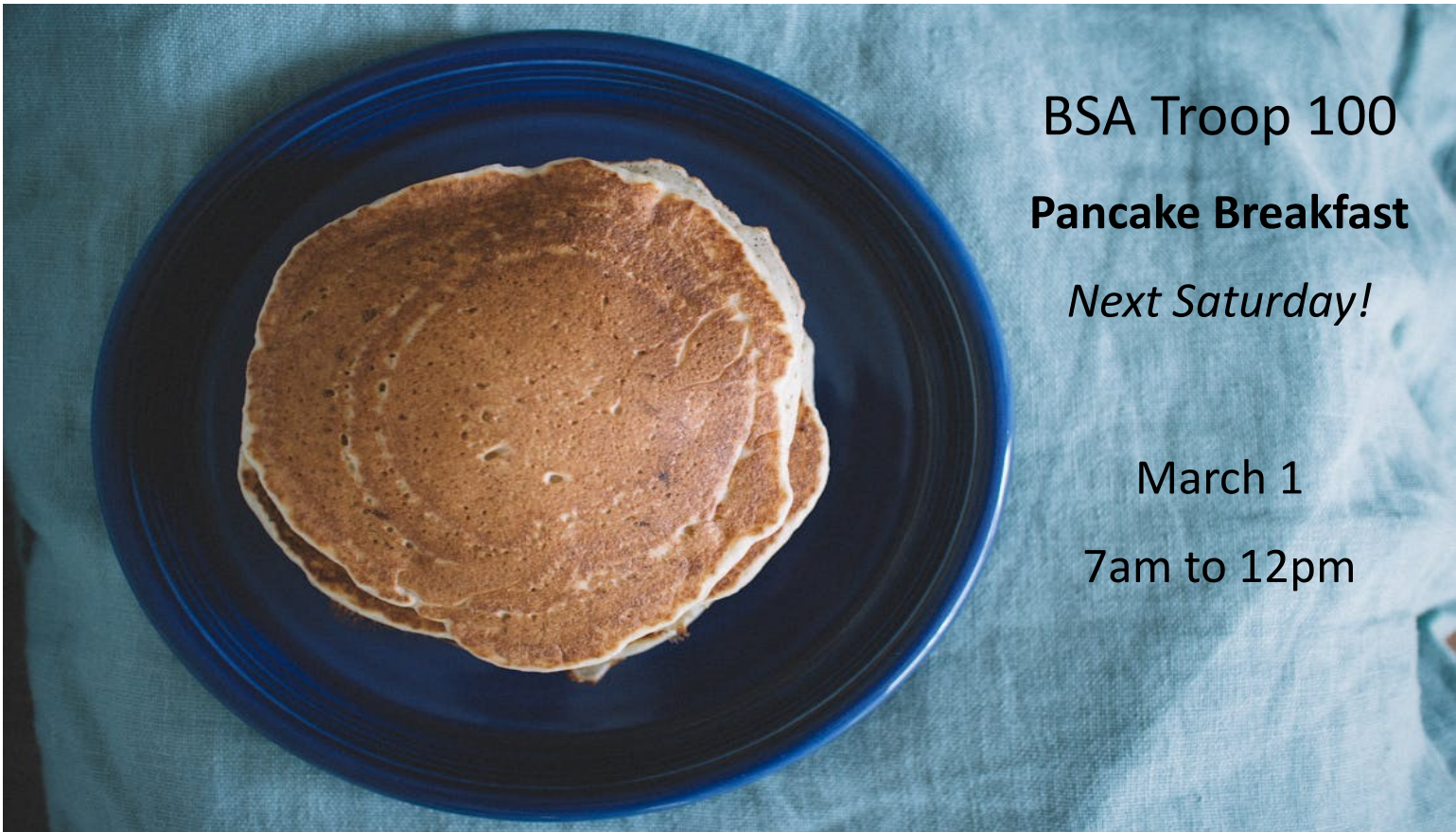
for ages 3-12
9am to 1pm

*Whenever I'm afraid,
I put my trust in you.*

Psalm 56:3

Registration: \$10 per child
Includes snacks and supplies

**Registration begins
February 28!**

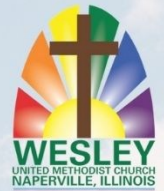


BSA Troop 100
Pancake Breakfast
Next Saturday!

March 1
7am to 12pm

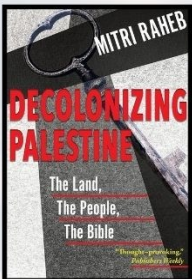
LENT BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITY

with Pastor Emeritus, Duane Mevis



“Decolonizing Palestine” by Mitri Raheb

I’ve been privileged to tour Israel/Palestine 7 times. I visited the holy sites but also tried to meet the people of the land. One of my favorites was Mitri Raheb, who was born near Bethlehem. He went on to become a Lutheran minister and serve the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. I enjoyed worshipping with him and learning his story.



He is now retired from the church but founded a college near Bethlehem with the mission of helping Palestinian youth. He recently wrote a book entitled “Decolonizing Palestine: The Land, The People, The Bible”. It’s an interesting book telling his story and the story of the conflict from a different perspective.




Sundays 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, and 3/30
immediately after worship

Books are available for \$17.50

You can also join via Zoom!
Contact the church office for the link ->

 INFO@WESLEYNAPERVILLE.ORG

 630-355-1834

this is the **DEI** *that the LORD has made*

- What is DEI?
- Why is the current U.S. regime threatened by it?
- Does the Bible tell us what to do about DEI?

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

7-8PM ET | 4-5PM PT

ZOOM

<https://hubs.ly/Q036LnRk0>



ADULT ONE-TIME DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES with PASTOR MEGAN

If you have interest in being a part of any of these one time gathering and discussion opportunities, reach out to Pastor Megan at 630-355-1834 ext. 102 or pastor@wesleynaperville.org.

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.

WESLEY KIDS DAY OUT

Part-time daycare ministry Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9am to 2pm for children 6 months to 5 years of age. Contact Ken 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 Teacher, Substitute Teacher, and Director. 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 for information on contributing to the Endowment Fund.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Choir rehearses on most Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. All voices are welcome. Instrumentalists are also welcome to share their gifts. Contact Nicole Melody (Director of Music) info@wesleynaperville.org

STYROFOAM RECYCLING

You are welcome to 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.

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

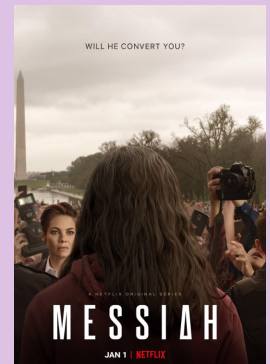
HELPING ONE ANOTHER

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—MOST NEEDED, Menstrual Hygiene Products, Shampoo & Conditioner (Travel Size Preferred), Soap, Socks, Toothbrushes—MOST NEEDED, Toothpaste, Wash Cloths (New or Gently Used but WASHED and ready for use)

LOAVES & FISHES COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

Messiah
Netflix series
viewing and discussion
(selected episode)
Wednesday, Feb 26.
12pm
In person





DAYCARE ENROLLMENT

AGES 6 MONTHS - 5 YEARS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Full days: 9am-2pm
Half days: 9-11:30 or 11:30-2

SUMMER PROGRAM
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Full days: 9am-1pm

630-355-1758

wesleykidsdayout@gmail.com

If you enjoy working with children of this age, job opportunities are available!
Visit wesleynaperville.org/kdo

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)

5th SUNDAYS ARE WORSHIP THROUGH MISSION

IN PERSON HOURS

CHURCH OFFICE

(630) 355-1834

Emily Torres, Administrative Assistant

Sundays: 9am—1pm

M- 8am--3pm

T, TH: Closed

W, F: 8:30 am—3:30 pm

ext. 110

Building Events

events@wesleynaperville.org

WESLEY KIDS DAY OUT

Ken Tobola, Transitional Administrator

Sherice Horton, Assistant Director

M, W, F 9am—2pm

(630) 355-1758

wesleykidsdayout@gmail.com

Rev. Megan Tobola, ext. 102

Lead Pastor

Tuesdays are sabbath

pastor@wesleynaperville.org

Alexander Dungan, ext. 104

Minister 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

5:00 PM **Center Street Table Dinner Dialogues**
(Across the Street @ Community UMC).

A community meal. All are invited. All can serve.

Cover Image: Hochhalter, Cara B.. A Parable - The Sower, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58962> [retrieved February 19, 2025]. Original source: Cara B. Hochhalter. *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Year C* by Wilda C. Gafney, *The United Methodist Hymnal, The United Methodist Book of Worship*, UM Discipleship Ministries: "21st Century Worship Resources for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C." Scripture translations: NRSV and NRSVUE. Bible clipart: <https://www.freeiconspng.com/img/35043>">Use These Bible Vector Clipart

CVLI #505421815 CCLI #11444135

Keeping In Touch

Our weekly e-news helps us stay connected.

We can also send it in the regular post per



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

So do we.

wesleynaperville.org