

# Winter Mission Trip



*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*  
*Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)*

With the excitement of a new year just beginning, Wesley students loaded onto buses on January 1st to leave for Memphis, TN, for a week of service to begin their 2018 year. Working with Service Over Self, or S.O.S., our team of 32 – students, staff, and volunteers – spent four days working on various project sites with other United Methodist students from across Arkansas. Our team's work for the week included roofing projects, a kitchen renovation, painting a school, and replacing carpet at a church, giving our students the opportunity to serve broadly in the Memphis community and share the love of Christ through their actions.

Mission trips offer students a unique experience to be away from distractions, focusing their energy outward in service and inward in spiritual reflection. Throughout the trip, students centered their hearts on the week's theme: selflessness. Meditating on the words in Philippians 2:3-11, they discussed how to have less fear and more faith, less apathy and more compassion, less hate and more love, less pride and more humility, and less of ourselves and more of God.

In addition to serving the community, this mission trip gave students the opportunity to be leaders by leading the worship services each night. On Thursday evening of the trip, U of A Wesley led worship. Sophomore and outgoing BEAR FRUIT student leader Annie Glover gave a heartfelt message on taking our negativity and turning towards the love God has for us. "I chose hate because it was the easy way out," she shared. "God is so much greater than any negativity in this world. We were created out of love and we were created to love."

We continue to be grateful for the opportunities Wesley gives our students to reach beyond themselves and serve those around them in response to God's great love. The depth brought to our ministry through acts of service is a true blessing, and we look forward to another semester filled with opportunities to serve and walk with students on their maturing faith journeys!