

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COLLEGE PASTOR



As you read this letter, a new semester of ministry at Wesley is underway! We started 2020 by extending Christ's love in very practical ways to help Arkansas neighbors. January 2nd-8th, eleven students and staff members from our ministry joined an additional thirty students and volunteers from United Methodist college ministries across the state to serve in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. This annual mission trip is sponsored by Ozark Mission Project. Our focus was building wheelchair ramps, completing interior and exterior painting projects and doing other minor home repair. It was a great week serving in an area of much need in our state, and we worked for some amazing neighbors.

Martin Luther King weekend, our new leadership team of six students retreated with our Wesley staff to plan for the spring semester. Our Wesley band also held a music retreat that same weekend to prepare to lead us in worship this spring. Students are already back in classes, and we are excited for what the coming months will hold!

The rhythms of our life together in Christian community have begun again in earnest. Weekly touch points include Worship & Dessert on Tuesday nights at 7:30 pm (with an added snack supper at 7 pm), Midweek Prayer & Communion for students and faculty at noon on Wednesdays, and Dinner & Small Groups on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm. This past semester, we launched a new student-led small group emphasis and are grateful for the ten students and alumni who have helped lead this discipleship experience for our undergraduate students.

In addition to our evening programming, on Thursdays at noon we offer a Lunch & Devotional for graduate-level students. While few campus ministries focus on this population, we have been blessed to build a strong group of older and non-traditional students at the Master's and Doctoral level. Current active attendees include not just Americans but also international students from South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. We truly are a part of the global church and love supporting these graduate students during their time at the U of A.

All this and more, you make possible. Many are the stories I could tell you of the difference your support has made in individual students' lives just this past year.

You, responding to God's calling, are bringing Christ close to our campus and making Christ real to a new generation of young people, whom Christ is calling into relationship and discipleship with himself.

On behalf of all the lives you touch, thank you for your partnership in this ministry. Thank you for believing in God's great goodness at work through us. We covet your prayers for a faithful and fruitful 2020!

With gratitude,
Emily Burch
College Pastor and Director

