



## Getting Oriented with Sam Harper

U of A Wesley student Sam Harper knows how it feels to be a new student on campus without a compass, seeking to find your way. Selected to serve as a University of Arkansas orientation mentor this past summer, Sam has great compassion for those wanting to find resources such as supportive friends and mentors who will help guide them through their college years and early adulthood. According to Sam, “Wesley is the best way to find those people.”

As a U of A orientation mentor, Sam helped staff the New Student Orientation sessions that greet all incoming freshmen. One of his primary tasks was to give campus tours and help academic advisors get freshmen signed up for first semester classes.

“I would advise any incoming student to interact with as many people as possible in their first semester, especially at Wesley. I had no idea who I would get to know and count among my friends, and if I would have guessed, I would have been wrong. The students I have met at Wesley are incredible and they offer me the social and spiritual network I need to stay grounded in the midst of many challenges and stresses.”

Sam was introduced to Wesley through a prior Welcome Weeks event and has since become an integral part of the social fabric of Wesley as well as an important

part of the student leadership team. “Margo Leavitt and I head up the GROW area of the student leadership team and coordinate events such as Tuesday night worship and Thursday night Bible study. It is a great privilege to be a part of the team helping foster spiritual growth in U of A students. Wesley allows students to grow in their understanding of Christ through the first years of our adulthood. Wesley has let me shape what my faith will look like as an adult Christian.”

Sam reflects on what it means to have come from the small town of Hazen, AR, to the geographically and demographically diverse University of Arkansas campus. “A prime example of Wesley’s shaping my faith is how it has taught me to empathize and connect with people of different backgrounds. Before college, everyone I knew was similar to me. Wesley helped me appreciate all that I love about my childhood home in Prairie County, AR, while also learning about differences that exist according to one’s home city, state or country.”

Sam plans to apply his Political Science and History major to a career in either secondary or higher education, where he will continue to inspire and support young people in the midst of tumultuous and important times in their lives. Wesley will be with you in spirit and prayer all the way, Sam!