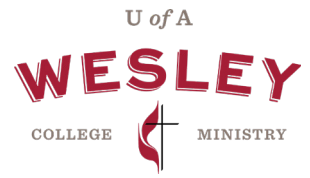


# A MESSAGE FROM OUR COLLEGE PASTOR



"You want the role, don't you?!" As often happens, my wife could tell what I was thinking as I walked through the door. In the midst of discerning what God wanted for our family, I found myself seriously considering the U of A Wesley's need for a new director. This was a ministry opportunity so unexpected, initially I wondered if it could even be the Lord's will. But, five minutes after first hearing about it, I knew God was up to something major. Within a week, Kayla and I were both confident that God was leading us to serve Him at the Wesley.

What I didn't know, was just how much I would adore this ministry. One of my concerns was how open the students would be with someone new. Would they give me a chance? Would they be willing to let me in? Would they open up to me? While I love to preach and teach, what I love most is relating with students in a way that changes their lives and mine. I worried those kinds of connections might take years to form.

What I found was quite different. From the first moment of our student leadership retreat in August, the students at Wesley seemed as eager to connect as I was. As we worshipped, opened God's word, and ate meals together, I can only hope they've had as much fun as I have. Of all my favorite things, students have asked me to do weekly mentoring, pre-marital counseling, and marriage counseling. They've come to me with their hopes, their worries, and their questions – an honor and a privilege I do not take lightly.

We've got big plans for the spring semester of 2021. Along with continuing to worship and getting into God's word every week, we're going camping! We're going to give out an absurd amount of free food! We're going to reboot our small groups so that students can have a place to engage contemporary issues in the light of God's word. And most of all, we're expecting Christ to continue to show up, expanding His kingdom both in our hearts and on this campus.

If you don't already know it, none of this could happen without your prayers and faithful support. Loving the Lord and loving students at the U of A is our joy. I hope that you'll be able to share in that joy as you look at this carefully compiled report.

Much love!  
Daniel Rupp  
College Pastor and Director

