

THE CORNERSTONE

2022 Fall Newsletter

Wesley Foundation at Purdue



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A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Me in Krakow Poland representing
Purdue
(and some delicious ice cream)

My dear Wesley alums, friends, and family

I hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones well this Christmas season.

Rev. Dr. Glen Robyne continues to lead Wesley Foundation in continuing its mission to transform the lives of all those it touches and cultivate a new generation of Christ-followers. Pastor Mack and new hire Jasmin, along with the student leadership team, continue to lead and grow the Bible studies, recreation events, retreats, small groups, meals, and many more ministries. In the pages of this newsletter you will find stories reflecting these many ministries, as well as a report on Winterization 2022 and a fun reflection on years past.

What a blessing to be able to see in vivid color the difference that Wesley Foundation at Purdue University continues to make!

The Board of Directors is also continuing to make improvements behind the scenes. One area of particular interest is conversation about the best strategic direction of Wesley Foundation in light of Purdue's announced expansion of the School of Management into a new School of Business. The Board has formed a special team of current Board members, legal counsel, staff, alumni, and real estate experts to determine the best next steps, and we will be able to share more information soon. Any decisions made will ensure the future of Wesley Foundation to continue as a thriving on-campus ministry.

As we wrap up another amazing semester of discipleship, fellowship, and service, you may rest assured that your ongoing support of Wesley Foundation at Purdue University continues to do vital, life-saving work. Thank you for continuing to lift up Wesley Foundation with your prayers, support, and love. We are so thankful for you!

With love in Christ,

Rob Kapaku

bpres@wesleyfoundation.org

President

Board of Directors

Wesley Foundation at Purdue University

WINTERIZATION



The 20th anniversary of Winterization was an immense success. We had over 320 houses served with the help of over 1500 registered volunteers. This year volunteers traveled to the homes of Greater Lafayette's elderly and disabled residents to help rake leaves, clean gutters, weed flower beds, and bring joy. The morning of Winterization started with snowfall and 20-degree weather, but all the wonderful volunteers persevered and were able to serve every single registered home.

None of this would have been possible without the help of all who came to help on the day-of. A special thanks to Launch Ministry for providing many needed extra sets of hands and hearts. And of course, thank you to the amazing CREW members we've had this year. Not only were the CREW members the first on the scene and last to go home, but they also spent all semester tirelessly preparing. A huge shoutout to this year's chairs: Megan Stohr, Ella Robyne, Kait Greer, Emma Shelton, Ethan Brady, Riley Schellingerhout, and Zach Burchyett!

Arden Shen

Third Year in Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering
Cardiovascular Imaging Laboratory / Purdue Admissions Ambassador

MIDNIGHT PANCAKES



The first time I got to see midnight pancakes in action was fall semester in 2020. I remember the long line of students and the smiling faces of the others as they served pancakes. Since I've moved here in August I've got to participate in two midnight pancakes events! Nothing compares to the manic feeling of getting everything ready for this special night. Tables are set, pancakes are being prepared, toppings are being gathered, then 10pm hits and we are ready to roll! Around 500 students show up and walk through our doors or cross our lawn to receive our delicious pancakes. One of my favorite things about this event is that everyone is welcome, it's a great place to meet new people or to get plugged into Wesley and what we have to offer as a campus ministry. I can't wait for the next one!

Peace,
Jasmin Mendoza

Fall Retreat

This is my first semester as service chair and so for the fall retreat service project this year we decided to work with Niches Land Trust, which is the local Conservancy organization. We chose to go and help build a trail at Fall Creek George Nature Preserve also known as the potholes, a local park which is currently being restored due to visitors coming and being reckless around the unstable ecosystem. We worked for about two hours to build a trail using rakes and shovels. It was really interesting to be able to go and see this nature property that has been closed to the public while it's being restored and so we got to see some really cool nature features, including the potholes themselves, which includes some cool waterfalls. We also got to have fun being out in nature for a while, which is a really cool atmosphere to be in. We had about 20 to 25 students at the service project and I think it was really fun that the service project actually brought a lot of people to the retreat. I would like other people to get the joy of just being together with other people, and to be able to do good works like this service project, but also just to spend time in community and build bonds and relationships.

Thanks!,
Kathryn Ault





ZIMBABWE REFLECTIONS

Prior to the trip, I had formed some expectations of what Zimbabwe would be like. However, I was still blown away. From the packed city scapes littered with the effects of economic challenges to the majestic and ethereal view from the Vumba mountains, my expectations could never have matched the reality of my experiences in Zimbabwe. I could go on for hours about the wonders of Zimbabwe like the immense Victoria Falls, a fascinating appointment ceremony of a new village leader, or the illustrious Great Zimbabwe to name a few. However, the true Zimbabwe experience goes way beyond tourist destinations. Despite its infamous economic struggles, Zimbabwe has a rich and deep sense of community that is second to none in my opinion. I am incredibly grateful that I got to experience such a great sense of community. Everyone is so friendly and joyful even though the economic conditions are lamentable and they lack many of the amenities that western society takes for granted. We were welcomed so warmly into their homes and with such generous hospitality despite being complete strangers that I can only call it the grace of God. Naturally, we made so many new friends during our journey. To this day, a great joy of mine is sending and receiving messages with these new friends. I really miss our friends so I hope to return to Zimbabwe a few more times. To conclude, I will never forget my time in Zimbabwe as it was life changing. With so many new perspectives and experiences, I grew a lot spiritually. I am very thankful for our African siblings, our African church experiences, our wonderful devotional times, and the wonderful group that we were blessed to take with us on our journey. It was by no means an easy journey with the long flights and drives, but I had so much fun and I wouldn't trade it for the world.



Peace,
David Czerwonky

I did not expect to feel changed after returning from Zimbabwe. I knew I would grow as a person but I did not know the extent to which my heart would expand and my mind would be challenged. I made life-long friends from both America and Zimbabwe and I can wholeheartedly say I have never felt a stronger sense of community than in Zimbabwe. We ate meals, contributed and listened to devotions, and explored the country together. I was also able to immerse myself in a new culture. I danced to African music, ate new food, and had the opportunity to witness a Kraalhead installation, where a new leader was appointed. In addition, we attended many different worship services filled with lively music, clapping, and dancing. The services were very interactive and a celebration of God's love. I most definitely grew spiritually in my time in Zimbabwe. I felt so very loved by everyone I met and my heart could barely handle it. I remember I cried as the plane landed in Chicago. I was not ready for the sense of family and community to slip away, but I know that it is not gone. I am able to do my part to build community through the Wesley Foundation, in my academic program, and with my friends. I hope to return to Zimbabwe in the future to learn even more and hug my friends.



Thank you!
Megan Sthor

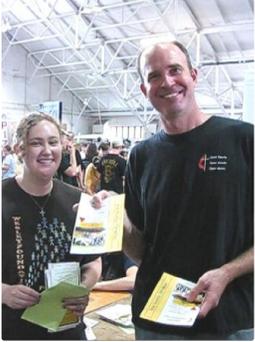




REWIND ◀

Remember When...

Wesley Foundation at Purdue has been around for 105 years, that's a lot of years of ministry, memories, laughter, friends, and so much more! This is indeed something to celebrate. Thank you for letting us be part of your journey! Here's to many more!



2009
Activity Fair
at Purdue



2013
Midnight
Pancakes



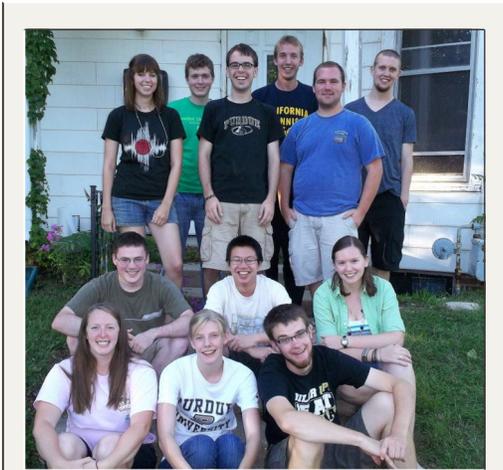
2015
Bikers for
Jesus



2012
Summer at
Wesley



2010
Thanksgiving
Dinner



2011

Students out on the front porch at Aldersgate

2016
Christmas
Party at
First UMC



2017
Wesley Church
Service



2014
Colorado Trip



2008

Students hanging on a hammock outside of Wesley

Ways to Support Wesley



Donate

Monetary support from individuals and churches has always been important to Wesley since we began our ministry in 1917. This is even more true since 2011, the year the Indiana Annual Conference ended their monetary support of all affiliated ministries in the state. Thanks to all of you we have continued our vital campus ministry here at Purdue. The end of the year is a time when many make their investments in the important non-profits they support. Please consider a generous gift to Wesley in this season of Christmas.

Ways to Donate

Via PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/WesleyFoundation>

Via Venmo: Wesley-Foundation

or on our home website: www.wesleyfoundation.org/give

Volunteer

Volunteers are always welcome! Wesley thrives from the help of others. Whether it's making dinner, coming to help on a big event, or helping with service projects we would love to have you! A huge thank you to West Point UMC for treating us to dinner the last Sunday of each semester, and thank you to Stidham UMC for partnering with us on the Baked Steak fundraiser. We are so grateful for you!

If you feel called to come and volunteer please fill out the form below!

www.wesleyfoundation.org/service-projects



Prayer

Prayer is always needed. Prayer for our students, our staff, our building, board members, and so much more. We encourage you to keep this ministry in your prayers. College ministry is always changing, prayer for discernment and for wisdom are a constant need. Please partner with us through prayer, we believe it is powerful.

Thank you!

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