



# WESLEY HOUSE



Fairmont State University & Pierpont Community and Technical College

A Campus Ministry of The United Methodist Church & The Presbyterian Church (USA)

## Spiritual Growth

## Worship

## Mission

## Outreach

## Fellowship

## Social Justice

### Providing a Home Away from Home

Do you remember the day you left home for the first time? Do you remember the day your child left home for school?

For many of us the first time to leave home was to begin college. The transition to college creates both anxiety and excitement.

The Wesley House is a place where The United Methodist Church and The Presbyterian (USA) Church offer students a home away from home in Fairmont. Here students find a sense of community and are given opportunities to grow in their faith and develop their leadership skills.

Students are welcome to participate in a range of ministry activities: spiritual growth, worship, mission, outreach, fellowship and social justice.

### Programs

- Free weekday lunches
- Free Food Pantry
- Student Orientation
- Crisis Intervention
- Emergency assistance
- Counseling
- Discussion Groups
- Study Groups
- Worship and Eucharist
- Hospitality
- Retreats
- Community Service Learning
- Spiritual Formation
- Spiritual Discernment
- Evening/Morning Prayer
- Finals Care Packages
- Assistance with United Methodist Student loans
- International Student Ministry
- Faculty & Staff Development
- WV United Methodist Student Movement
- Student Forum
- Exploration
- Mission Projects and Trips
- Summer Activities

### About us:

The Wesley House is a campus ministry to the university and college community. Both the United Methodist and Presbyterian (USA) Churches sponsor our program.

Participation in Wesley House programs and the benefits of our campus ministry services are **not** limited to any Christian or religious affiliation. We are **OPEN** to everyone in the community of Fairmont State: students, faculty, administrators and staff!

### For More Info:

**The Wesley House**  
1224 Locust Avenue  
Fairmont, WV 26554  
(304) 363-8210

CAMPUS PASTOR  
The Rev. Michael Paul Waide  
mwaide@fairmontstate.edu

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:  
[www.WesleyHouseFSU.org](http://www.WesleyHouseFSU.org)

[www.fairmontstate.edu/SO/WesleyHouse](http://www.fairmontstate.edu/SO/WesleyHouse)

The Purpose of the Wesley House: To serve the Living God through a ministry of active listening. To support the students, staff and faculty through friendship, guidance, and fellowship. To nourish the personal and spiritual growth of all we encounter.





# WESLEY HOUSE

## Wesley House Receives Grant for International Student Outreach

The Wesley House celebrates great news! This semester we received from the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church a grant in the amount of \$2,500.00 to fund our international outreach program. Using the funds to expand our programs, we now offer our international community the opportunity to gather on the first and third Fridays at the Wesley House for *International Dinner and a Movie Night!* Students from around the globe share their favorite cuisines and traditions around one common table and then spend the evening playing games, watching movies, and enjoying each other's stories and company.

The grant also funds excursions for international students around the greater Fairmont area. *Oh! The Places We Will Go...* provides the students opportunities to experience the community in which they live as college students. Students will participate in bowling, movies, and trips to the mall, as we seek to develop and foster a sense of community for our international students.

We also welcome Joyce Ruwona from Zimbabwe who will be working with Sarah Grumblatt in organizing and planning our *International Dinner and a Movie Night* and *Oh! The Places We Will Go...*

**Look for more information about these programs in this newsletter!**

### Giving away money...

#### United Methodist Loans & Scholarships

The United Methodist Loan and Scholarship programs are a church wide educational service providing scholarships and loans to help supplement the financial needs of today's students. Funding for these scholarships and loans are provided through offerings, wills, annuities, and other designated gifts. Through the Loan Program, students may borrow up to \$5,000 per year at 5 percent interest (Five for Five program). The 135-year-old United Methodist Student Loan Fund is the oldest student loan fund in the United States.

Scholarships are awarded on an academic year basis. A student is eligible to receive only one United Methodist scholarship during any one academic year from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) funds. For more information visit [www.gbhem.org](http://www.gbhem.org).

### Internships

Internships help students develop their gifts and discern their possible call to the ministry. At the Wesley House we are proud to provide internship opportunities to the following students:

Jason A. Young, *Program & Worship*

Sarah Grumblatt, *International Student Outreach*

Joyce Ruwona, *International Student Outreach*

Jennifer Rinker, *Communication, Webmaster*

Leigh Anne Bolyard, *Music & The Arts*

Erin Cassidy, *Missions and Service*



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OUTREACH

### International Dinner and a Movie

As part of the Wesley Council's effort to revitalize and reinvigorate the House's international student outreach ministry, one new and exciting on-going program seems to be making quite the impact.

On the first Friday of every month, the Wesley House now proudly offers a time of fellowship, fun, and cultural exchange that we call "International Dinner & a Movie."

Each month a different country is represented by a student delegation who prepares food for over fifty of their fellow international classmates. Cultural exchange is clearly apparent as we not only eat food representing the delegation's country, but students help students, and students learn from students. The kitchen (and the house itself) is always full of students and faculty from six countries laughing, eating, and sharing.

In September, students from Japan were the first to try cooking for the night, and in October, the Nepali students. November will host Chinese cuisine, and December will showcase food from Zimbabwe. Each month experiences all six countries sharing in not only the eating, but also the cooking, providing a true cultural exchange.

*This fall semester alone, over 275 International Students have come through the doors of the Wesley House!!!*

### Oh The Places We'll Go

As part of our growing outreach to international students, the Wesley House provides a program we like to call, "Oh, the Places We'll Go."

The goal is to provide international students who have limited travel access the opportunity to view the beauty of West Virginia outside the Fairmont State campus on which they live.

The most recent trip taken was to an apple butter festival held at First Presbyterian Church of Fairmont. Members of First Presbyterian shared with international students the making, canning, and eating of apple butter, a tradition they had never been exposed to. The students experienced a day of stirring the butter, helping to put the butter into jars, and of course, eating, and even getting to take home apple butter they had helped to make.

Our next trip is scheduled for December 12. We will be taking students to the "Festival of Lessons and Carols" at Gateway Church in Fairmont.

### International Foods Pantry

With funds from the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church grant that we received this January, the Wesley House is seeking to expand our food pantry to accommodate the dietary needs of international students. With these funds, we hope to provide custom staples and supplies for our international student community so that students will not have to make the journey to Morgantown or other areas to purchase groceries richly unique to their customary diets!



## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

### How Can Your Church or Group Bring Light to Campus of Fairmont State ?

College life is a time for many students when their world seems dark and confusing. The Wesley Foundation is committed to bring light to the “university on the hill.” Your church can make a big difference in the life of a college student. Here are some ways that your church and can help bring light to the campus of Fairmont State.

#### **Prayers**

Pray for our campus pastor, students, faculty, and staff.

#### **Monetary Donations to Support Programs**

\$3.00 a week will feed a student on Wednesday nights at the Intersection.

Sponsor a student on one of our mission trips.

Donations are accepted toward student emergency assistance.

#### **Care Packages**

Care packages are sent to students at the end of each semester. Items include: Candy, popcorn, apples, breakfast bars, gum, tea bags, hot chocolate etc...be creative. We prepare approximately 200 packages!

#### **Food Pantry**

The food pantry is many students' favorite! Keep in mind that some students don't have can openers and microwaves are the mode of cooking! Foods in cups/cans and with pull tabs are ideal.

Great donations to the food pantry include: popcorn, soups, pasta, Easy Mac, cup of noodles, snack pack puddings and fruit, cereal bars, single drink mix packages, snack crackers, candy and snack cakes.

#### **Chili Tuesdays & Lunch for a Buck**

These free lunch programs feed 75 students plus per week.

Donations of food, soup, and paper products are always welcome! Call us for more information!!!

## **HELP !!!**

### Wesley House Wish List

Here at the Wesley House we can always use help in reaching out to and providing for the students on our campus. This year's wish list includes the following:

- Cans of Coffee
- Cornbread Mix in Box
- Crackers for Soup
- Cups
- Garbage Bags (Various Sizes)
- Large Ziplock Bags for Storage
- Medium and Large Food Storage Containers (Used to freeze soup)
- Napkins
- Non-Perishable Food Items for Food Pantry
- Paper Products (Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, etc.)
- Pepper
- Pre-Sweetened Lemonade
- Salt
- Plasticware
- Towels and Dishcloths
- Brown, paper grocery bags
- Food storage containers and to-go boxes

*Over 3,000 Free Lunches are served every year to the Fairmont State Campus.*



## From the Campus Pastor...

### Lifting our Eyes and Catching a Glimpse of God in the Hills

We assuredly are living in uncertain times. Experts say the economy is dwindling and spiraling toward a recession (that is unless we are already there). Employers are scaling back. Individuals are losing their jobs—the magnitude of which we are yet able to fathom. For many, the times ahead are disturbing, if not bleak! For many, the daunting challenge is to see beyond the present and look toward that which lies ahead.

The psalmist knew very well this challenge when she or he wrote, “I lift my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 121). The lifting of one’s eyes to the mountains implied a yearning look toward the City of God and even a fearful glance at the hostile mountains along the way.

The psalmist continues, offering a blessing and the assurance that God provides help and does not abandon us in our despair.

These are uncertain times. Increasingly, students pass through the Wesley House in great despair, struggling to make ends meet financially, desiring community and a place to which they can belong, and hoping for something that transforms their current situations.

Daily, I give thanks to God for this place, this home and haven near another hill—the hill of our campus. Daily, I give thanks for the countless students, who on their journeys encounter the grace and peace of God through our hospitality. Daily, I give thanks to God that in their despair we are able to respond with financial assistance for their rent and utilities, a pantry of food and warm meals to feed their hungry bodies, and the Word to nurture and sustain their hungry souls.

These times are troubling for many of us. But may the words of the psalmist remind us that God is present through the works, prayers, presence, and service of others, reminding us that most assuredly with and through the grace of God that something better lies ahead. We are not alone! Thanks be to God.



## OUTREACH

### The Wesley House Singers

The Wesley House's female singing group, The Wesley House Singers, under the direction and nurture of Leigh Anne Bolyard is growing!

With several performances at nursing homes, local churches and community groups, the Singers are sharing their gifts for music with the community!

On Sunday, February 1st, the singers performed at the MonValley District gathering with our Episcopal leader, Bishop Ernest S. Lyght.

Are you looking for a way to bring campus ministry to your church?

Invite the Wesley House Singers, our female a cappella vocal ensemble, to sing!

Contact Jason Young at 304-203-3945 or our office at 304-363-8210 for more information.

### DID YOU KNOW?

This year:

- 11,749 members of the campus community passed through the Wesley House and participated in our ministry.
- 6,155 persons worshipped at and through The Wesley House.
- 4 students have expressed and experience a call to ministry
- 3,000 students have been fed with our Thursday lunch program.
- 60 volunteers provided service at The Wesley House.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

### The Wesley House's **(BARE)** Food Pantry

The food pantry at The Wesley House is depleting! Someone this week commented, "Looks like we should help you [The Wesley House] get some food, since you help others receive food." What a joy (and a concern) it is to be running low on non-perishable food items. The joy is that we have had food to give to students. The concern is that there are more and more students making use of our food pantry.

We need your help! Our food reserves are running low! Help us kick off a new semester, ready to meet students' increasing needs for food. We invite you or your group to donate nonperishable food items: **cans of food, sealed and/or boxed containers of pasta, Mac 'n Cheese, Ramen Noodles, Cup 'o Noodles, or other non-perishable items!** If you would like to make a financial contribution, please mark your contribution "Food Pantry". You may send a check to The Wesley House or make a secure, online contribution with any major credit card at [www.wesleyhousefsu.org](http://www.wesleyhousefsu.org).





# WESLEY HOUSE

## Healthy and Unhealthy Groups on Campuses

Among the many clubs and organizations available to college students are many religious groups. Some are well-organized and some are very informal. There are some organized and informal campus religious groups that use high-pressure recruiting tactics. It is easy for students to recognize these groups by what they do, and know that wherever the student attends, there are unhealthy groups on any campus.

These groups are harmful because they isolate students from family, friends, and other groups. They ask students to give up control of their lives, thoughts, and decisions. They fill students with a sense of guilt and shame, and may promote crises with school, careers, and love lives. These groups also frighten students to the point that they stop asking questions and start doubting their own good sense.

The Wesley House acknowledges the existence of these dangerous religious groups on campus, and because of which, places the highest importance on being a healthy religious presence on the campus of Fairmont State. We achieve this by always telling students who we are, what we stand for, and what we expect from them. We have open, responsible groups that offer students an easy entrance, and more importantly an easy exit to and from our groups. Our groups also exhibit an appreciation of diversity, openness to criticism and doubt, and an affirmation of other religious traditions. We are constantly striving to encourage student's individual comfort and growth, and support their college experience.

## Food for the Body and Soul

It is our belief at the Wesley House, and we share this belief with many other churches and extension ministries, that lives can be formed and transformed in small groups when people come together to pray, to study, to engage in fellowship, or to work on a specific task.

This belief is the driving force behind our small group gathering called "The Intersection: Where Faith Meets Real Life."

Every Wednesday at 4:45pm students meet together for Bible study and discussion. At 5:30pm, the students share in fellowship over food. We conclude our evening together with Evensong, a service of worship and prayer.

The name given to the evening may be the best analogy for what students have experienced and gleaned from our small group ministry. An intersection is any place where two or more paths meet. Jesus said "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20 NRSV). When student's paths intersect at the Wesley House, joys & concerns are shared, bread is broken, opinions are expressed and formed, and Christ is praised, thanked and petitioned. And afterwards, for many students, the path looks a little different on the other side of "The Intersection."

## Chili Tuesdays

The Wesley House began a new program this semester. Expanding our lunch program, we now provide warm, homemade soups and salads or sandwiches for the Fairmont State and Pierpont communities. Local churches, groups, and individuals have graciously volunteered to provide lunch for our students. Stop by on Tuesdays from 11:30 to 1pm for a warm bowl of soup and some great fellowship.



## RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

### **Vocations in Ministry: *Three Students Discerning Calls to Ministry***

Many students come to college knowing exactly what their life goals are. They know exactly what they want to be when they grow up, both professionally and personally. And it is simple for them to answer that sterile, predictable job interview question; "Where do you see yourself in ten years?"

Still for others college is a time of discernment. The time when many of the questions about life and the future have to get worked out. For three Wesley House students their time of discernment has opened their mind to God's calling to a life of ministry.

Leigh Anne Bolyard is a native of Fairmont and a recent Fairmont State University graduate. Her degree is in Music Education and currently she is serving as a substitute teacher in Marion County and pursuing her Master's in Education at Fairmont State. Recently, her life dream of a career in music has begun to shift from the classroom to the sanctuary. Leigh Anne has been considering pursuing advanced training in Sacred Music in hopes of serving as a Minister of Music or Director of Worship Arts one day. As a means of further discernment Leigh Anne serves as the Director of The Wesley House Singers, our female vocal ensemble.

The second student who is pursuing ministry as a career path is Erin Nicole Cassidy. Erin is a current Elementary Education Major at Fairmont State University, but she doesn't see herself leaving school and going immediately into the classroom, at least not a classroom around here. Erin has begun to explore life as a missionary. Specifically as an English teacher to international children. Erin is beginning her missionary exploration this winter. This winter break, Erin headed to Moscow as a part of the West Virginia Volunteers in Mission Russian Orphanage trip. Returning with excitement and passion, Erin is ready to assume leadership in mission projects and to pursue a vocation on mission work!

Finally, Wesley House Program and Worship Intern Jason A. Young has already begun the candidacy process toward Ordination as an Elder in Full Connection with the West Virginia Annual Conference. He is a Fairmont State Theatre Major scheduled to graduate in the spring. Last summer, he participated in the Annual Conference's Summer Intern Program, serving for three months at Gateway United Methodist Church in Fairmont. Currently, he is serving as the Pastor in Assigned Supply of the Arnettsville Charge of the United Methodist Church in Monongalia County.

This is a very important time in the lives of these three students as they continue to explore and work through some very important decisions that they have to make. Please keep them in your prayers!

### **Online Donations**

This summer, The Wesley House unveiled a new, interactive website, [www.wesleyhousefsu.org](http://www.wesleyhousefsu.org).

Under the direction of our communications intern, Jennifer Rinker, we have made it easier for you to interact with The Wesley House. Loaded with information about our programs, services, calendars, and forms, at the tip of your fingers, you can access The Wesley House. View photos; read our newsletter; send a confidential note to the campus pastor; make a secure donation with any major debit or credit card.

Check us out on the web at [WWW.WESLEYHOUSEFSU.ORG](http://WWW.WESLEYHOUSEFSU.ORG)

TO:

The Wesley house  
1224 locust avenue  
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### With Grateful Hearts

College life can be such a hectic time that many students rely on, cling to, and deeply appreciate moments of consistency. For more than one hundred students on campus their moment of consistency is the Wesley House's "Free Lunch" program on Thursday afternoons. Every week during the semester local churches provide delicious free lunches to hungry and thankful college students in an atmosphere that cannot be described, only experienced. These local churches proved an invaluable service to the campus community and are the corner stones of the Wesley House's most successful outreach program. We say thank you to the churches listed below:



- \*St. Paul's United Methodist
- \*Faith United Methodist
- \*Boothsville United Methodist
- \*Eldora United Methodist
- \*Janes Memorial United Methodist
- \*Valley Chapel United Methodist
- \*Benton's Ferry United Methodist
- \*First Presbyterian Church

