

WESLEY WITNESS



NO SUCH THING AS "RUINED PLANS"

I had heard the words of Proverbs 16:9 before. They had popped up in an occasional daily devotion. Every so often I might see them embroidered on a pillow or engraved on a refrigerator magnet. But I never could have guessed how much those words would become the mantra and continual prayer of this semester. Leading a ministry or a life these last few months has brought with it special challenges. We still have a pandemic raging on around us, one that asks that we be constantly vigilant in assessing our risks and loving our neighbors. We had a presidential election. We've had socially distant weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and funerals. Now we're staring down socially distant Advent, and it's been challenging to say the least. Over the summer I had vented to a mentor that I didn't know how we were going to make it through this wild semester. It felt like there was no way to plan for it, no way to prepare for it, and no way to be ready for it. "You're right, there isn't," she said. Then she quoted to me Proverbs 16:9, "in their hearts, people set their paths, but it is the Lord who orders their steps." So we spent a lot of our normal preparation time this summer in deep prayer, asking for exactly that. We asked that we would set a course, but we invited God to order our steps.

When we met up with the student leadership team this summer, I shared this intent with them. "We will make a plan, and then, we will be ready for the plan to change." So together, the nine of us decided that it was our intention to reach into the Ferris State community in the midst of crisis, separation, anxiety, and loneliness- any way that we could. We were going to reach out, connect, invite, and celebrate those students, so that they might experience the love of God that is transformative. And then we once again asked God to order our steps, to bless that path, and to walk with us on the journey.

And then God did. From long lines at lunch on the lawn to students who had walked past our building a million times stopping in to have a coffee and chat, from zoom calls to say that you are lonely to kitchen dance parties, from loud and goofy game nights to quiet listening for the still small voice, this semester that we couldn't plan for ended up being so much more, deeper, and better than we could have imagined. It has not been easy, but it has been a blessing every step of the way. So however your heart has been troubled these last few months, have hope. The Creator of the universe has not left us or forsaken us, and is still doing new things, is still breaking into this world to redeem it, is still finding ways to bless us. So take heart and set your plans, but do not cling to them. Allow the Lord to order your steps, even if it is just the steps around your house.

In this time of Advent and holy waiting, know that you do not wait alone. God is with you, and so are we.

Blessings,
Rev. Kimberly Bos
FSU Wesley House Director



JENNA JANKE

Major: Psychology

Serving at: The FSU Student Food Pantry

Focusing on: Feeding ministries, community engagement, and public relations

"I can already see the difference the food pantry makes in the lives of FSU students and I am so grateful to be part of that ministry."

JORDAN BRINKER

Major: Communications

Serving at: Trinity UMC in Grand Rapids

Focusing on: Advocacy work and non-profit development



"My internship this year has been such a blessing already. I get to see every week how my major and expertise can be used to serve the kingdom of God."

Meet the 2020-2021 Interns!

DEREK DOUBLESTEIN



Major: Computer Information Technology

Serving at: First UMC Big Rapids

Focusing on: Youth Ministry and Technology Integration

"I'm happy to be back at First for another year. My internship has shown me how my technology skills can help connect the church to the world in new ways."

JEANETTE WOOLDRIDGE



Major: Facilities Management

Serving at: First UMC Big Rapids

Focusing on: Children's Ministry and Administration

"My internship has already helped me to see how much of ministry happens behind the scenes, and I'm really enjoying being part of the team that serves our community."

What we studied this fall:

We started our semester with 6 weeks of outdoor, campfire style worship and devotions. We needed a study that could be done "story teller style" so we did a whole series on hearing classic Sunday School stories in new ways, and practicing finding ways apply them to our lives.



Then we spent 5 weeks talking about what we can learn from the parties Jesus threw, attended, and kept raging. It turns out, Jesus was a party person who celebrated the lives of the people around him- and we are too.

START THE PARTY

A 6 week study about Jesus, parties, and experiencing a life of joy and community



Lunch on the Lawn & CAMPFIRE WORSHIP

We spent a lot of time hanging out on our lawn last fall, and got to do excellent ministry out there and meet a ton of our neighbors.



FALL RETREAT

This October we took 11 students to Pentwater Camp and Retreat Center. After months of staying home, staying in our dorms and apartments, and maintaining social distance- the chance to be away, to breathe fresh air, explore, and decompress was a soul-filling retreat we all needed.



"HOW CAN I HELP?"

We get this question often and we could not do the ministry we do without the help, prayers, and support of people like you who believe in the importance of ministry to young adults. Know that we are so grateful for you! Here are a few ideas of ways you might be able to help keep this ministry going!

-  **Pray for Us** - This is a strange time to be in ministry and a strange time to be in college. Morale is low, frustration and fear are high. Pray for our students and our adult leaders.

Sponsor a Meal - Usually we have churches and groups bring in meals for Thursday night worship. Due to the pandemic, we've been making all our own meals. You can sponsor a basic meal for ~\$50.



 **Invite us to speak**- invite us to share at your worship service or guest preach (even an online worship service), and consider taking up a special offering.

Give a Monetary Gift- make checks out to "FSU Wesley House" and as of November 26th, we're set up for paypal! Check out the "Donate" tab on our website at fsuwesleyhouse.org





The FSU Wesley House
628 S. Warren Dr
Big Rapids, MI 49307

WE MAY BE APART, BUT WE'RE
TOGETHER IN HEART!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

WITH LOVE,

The Wesley House Crew

