

# WESLEY WITNESS

DECEMBER 2022



## HOW WE WAIT..

Each year of Wesley students has a different vibe, a different energy, and a different definition of what "on time" means. This year's students show up very early for everything, and that means that they spend a significant amount of time waiting for things to happen- waiting for dinner to be ready, for Bible study to start, for worship. During the first few weeks of the semester, students would show up and wait mostly in silence. Sometimes they'd work on homework, scroll on their phones, or pace the ministry space. Their waiting felt heavy, full of anxiety, and restless. Then one day, one of our upperclassmen walked into a room full of uneasy anticipation, and loudly said, "Who wants to play a game?" Everyone did. They got loud, got rowdy, started to bond. The tenor of the room was permanently changed. Now when there are students waiting, there are students chattering- sharing stories, sharing struggles, scheming and dreaming together. Now they use the space fully, they mess it up, and clean it up. Now they burst into the kitchen yelling "Kim, I have an idea!" We laugh a ton.

And this change is what I was thinking about as we enter into the season of Advent, a season about waiting- waiting for the Messiah, for the world to be different, waiting for the in-breaking of the kingdom of God. We do not get to choose whether or not we will spend time in this life waiting, but these students have reminded me that we do get to choose how we spend that waiting time. We can choose isolation and anxiety. We can spend our energy fretting about the state of the world. Or we can choose something different. We can choose connection and community. We can spend our energy on creation, on healing, on ordering disorder, on dreaming new things, and on showing up for others.

Not only can we choose to wait differently, we are called to be like the game-starting student and invite others to change how they wait too. We are called to step boldly into uncomfortable, tense, and restless spaces and bear peace and hope into them. We are called to seek out those who are alone and afraid, and invite them into communities of love and connection. In this coming year, as we wait for the kingdom to come, may we remember that we must also build God's kingdom here, everyday. May the coming year find us with new hope, new joy, and new opportunities to be the Beloved Community as we celebrate God with us.

Blessings for the New Year,  
Rev. Kimberly Bos  
FSU Wesley House Director

The FSU Wesley House  
628 S. Warren Dr  
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MERRY  
*Christmas*

WITH LOVE,  
The FSU  
Wesley House

— 2022 —

# We're Back FULL-FORCE, IN PERSON



After years of changing rules and restrictions on college campuses across the country, it was so great to be back fully and securely in person this fall. But we also had our work cut out for us when it came to recruiting and name recognition, as our graduation rate had out-paced our incoming student rate.

So we manned tables, met students at every possible opportunity, and created some events of our own, including a first day of school photo booth, a move-in welcome wagon, and a one-night summer camp experience. All of which helped us to meet and connect with students searching for their place on campus.



## WHAT'D WE STUDY THIS SEMESTER?

We started with **House Rules**, a series based on the book of Acts with references to many of the Epistles, asking the question, "What does it take to be a healthy and holy community centered on Christ?"



Then we spent 6 weeks in a series called **Jesus Loves Gen Z**. In it we looked at what makes Gen Z unique and how the life and gospel of Christ aligns with and challenges their values and views.

## IN TO THE Woods



This fall, we were lucky enough to be invited to join our friends from the CMU and Motor City Wesleys for a weekend retreat lovingly called "Wilderness School." While on the banks of Lake Louise, and away from it all, we spent time learning about creation care and environmental justice, and talking about the world as we know it and the future we want to build for it. This weekend was such a blessing to be part of and we loved meeting, connecting with, and learning from each other.



# 2023 Leadership

One of the unique things about the FSU Wesley Student Leadership Team is that they serve for a calendar year, instead of a school year. This means the new applicants apply around Thanksgiving and the team for the next year is announced at the Christmas party. This allows our Seniors to roll off of Leadership as they face their grueling last semester, and allows new students to come into a leadership position earlier, which capitalizes on their time, energy, and enthusiasm. While they are looking pretty holly jolly in this photo, we know our 2023 leadership team is going to do incredible work and we can't wait to see them grow!



## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

This semester, because of donors, friends, and partner churches the FSU Student Food Pantry has served its community well. Here are just a few of the things that happened:

This summer we opened a fully stocked hygiene pantry. No longer an after-thought or "extras" it's full, consistently refilled, and students have been so grateful.

This fall we opened our first extension pantry on the far side of campus in the apartments, now even if transportation is dicey all of our on-campus students are within a walkable distance of a pantry.

We have had 6 successful food or hygiene drives, and have given out more than 1,400 lbs of food.

We have met the needs of over 100 students including a couple students who had greater need due to extenuating circumstances.

Our Student Coordinator of the last two years has completed her degree and helped us find an incredible next coordinator, who we're excited to on-board this January.

## Where is this year's Mission Trip?

Mississippi OR Memphis

We are excited to be heading out with our friends from CMU and NMU on another great Spring Break Adventure. Will it be the Gulf Coast or the Birthplace of the Blues? Watch our social media in the New Year to find out! But if you know of a young adult, or young-ish adult who may want to come on this trip have them contact us!

Here's what we do know:

- Dates: March 3rd- 12th
- Cost: \$150 for students
- Focus: Service and Learning
- Drivers over 25yo: Needed
- Experience: Life changing
- Questions? Contact FSUWesleyHouse@gmail.com and we will get ya squared away.

WE ARE HAVING A...  
**Craft Food Auction & Lunch!**

TO BENEFIT THE WESLEY HOUSE SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DONATE A DESSERT, OR OTHER HOMEMADE AUCTION ITEM?



In the past we've had beautiful cakes, jams and jellies, homemade frozen lasagnas, world-famous chili, gift certificates for baked goods at a later date, and all of them sell! If you're willing to donate an item, e-mail Kim at FSUWesleyHouse@gmail.com to sign up and arrange transport

## WANT TO BID (AND PARTY)?

Join us after service, February 12th at Big Rapids First UMC



Bring your checkbook, your friends, and your quickest bidding hands.

## You can help!

None of what Wesley does would be possible without all of the people like you who support and pray for this ministry. We are so grateful for every gift, every meal, and every prayer. If you'd like to help this ministry continue to change lives and disciple young adults, here are some specific needs we have.

Make a one time contribution or become a monthly giver

Serve or sponsor a Thursday Night Dinner.  
(email us for dates and details!)

Give your time and elbow grease on our clean up day - May 13th

Pray for our students as they make big choices and discoveries about who they are and who they want to be

Invite us to your church to guest preach, or just to share about what's happening on campus.