

WESLEY WITNESS

DECEMBER 2021



NO STRINGS

This year, on the Thursday before finals week, as on campus the tensions were rising and sleep cycles were falling apart, we decided to love our community by handing out 100 treat bags to students at the University Center. "Why only 100?" you may be asking. We made that choice partially because money is a little tight, partially because we had never done this before and we didn't know how it would go, but mostly because we've observed that students usually avoid the people in the UC manning tables. Headphones, cell phones, a constant stream of stimuli and the ability to tune out has made this a hard generation to connect with, and we weren't sure how much we'd have to do to flag down 100 students, or how long it would take.

It took one hour and 12 minutes. With very little waving and flagging, we got to see 100 smiles and tell 100 students about Wesley. But the part that will stick with me in the weeks to come was the question that almost all of them asked. They phrased it as either "What do I have to do to get it?" or "What's the catch?" It broke my heart. The idea that we just wanted to do something nice for our community, that we would give them something and expect nothing in return was unfathomable. In the days that followed I thought about how many of these students have experienced church and faith as a transactional relationship. How often is the message that the body of Christ is one in which people only love you for what you can do for them? We are trained through experience to look for the strings, the trap, the catch. Too often we find them. We are taught that nothing in this world is free.

Into that transactional world enters Jesus. When Word became flesh and dwelt among us, it was not because of what we could do for God. The gift of Christ that we wait for during Advent, celebrate during Christmas, and the Spirit that we receive at Pentecost are given freely to all of us. We do not need to earn them. We cannot repay them. The gifts of God come without bows or tinsel, but also without strings or fine print. This holiday season, it is my prayer that you experience the God's generous love, audacious hope, irresistible peace, and overwhelming joy, and that you receive them as they are given, freely.

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

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

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year!*

*May we remember with
gratitude all that is
behind, and wait with
anticipation all that
God will do in 2022!*

*Many blessings and all
our love,
The FSU Wesley House*



MEET THE 2021-2022 STUDENT INTERNS



Jenna Janke



Meghan Hartley



Year: It's complicated.

Major: Psychology

Serving at: FSU Student Food Pantry

Has a passion for: Making connections and meeting needs

Year: Junior

Major: Journalism

Serving at: FUMC Big Rapids

Has a passion for: Hospitality, administration, and helping people find their place in community

Mystery Mission Trip?

For Spring Break 2022, we're joining once again with our friends from CMU for a combined mission trip.*

We will be announcing our destination in January, but for now you can guess along with the Wesley students by following these clues!

1. We will only have one driving day
2. We're hoping to escape the snow
3. Mountains? Rivers? We will see some sweet topography on our way

If you know a young adult who might want to join us on this adventure 3/6-3/12 OR you know a church who may be able to lend us a van, shoot an email to fsuwesleyhouse@gmail.com



*If Covid allows. We're monitoring numbers and making plans

Small Group Spotlight:

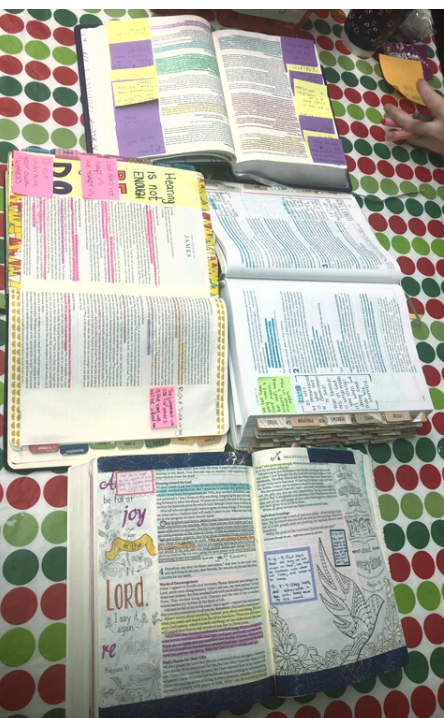
Bible Journaling

Bible Journaling is a way of studying scripture that invites the reader to engage creatively with, meditate on, pray through and apply scripture to their own life. These questions, connections, illustrations, and notes engage more parts of the brain than just traditional reading and help us to discern deeper meanings in the text. This fall, a group of students journaled their way through James. Here's what they had to say about it:

"Through this Bible study, I got to use the creativity that God gave me and grow in my relationship with Him."

"I love Bible Journaling, it gives me a creative way to grow closer to God, understand the Bible, and apply it to my life"

"Bible Journaling is the BEST start to my week! We go deep, ask hard questions, and Kim always makes it so relevant and applicable. I always feel like I learned something."



WE ARE HAVING A...

DESSERT AUCTION AND LUNCH!

To benefit the Wesley House Spring Break mission trip

Would you be willing to donate a cake or other auction item?



Email Kim at FSUWesleyHouse@gmail.com to sign up and arrange transport

Want to bid (and party)?

Join us after service, February 13th at First UMC

Bring your hunger, your checkbook, and your quick hands, we'll bring lunch!



WORRIED ABOUT INFECTION RATES? US TOO! WE WANT TO PARTY TOGETHER, BUT IF THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, WE'RE READY TO SWITCH TO A TO GO LUNCH AND SILENT AUCTION- EITHER WAY, IT WILL BE A DELICIOUS AFTERNOON.

What's coming up?

- 1/10 - Students return
- 1/15- Student Leadership Team Retreat and Planning
- 1/16 - Family Dinner Returns!
- 2/6 - Retreat with CMU
- 2/13 - Auction and Lunch
- 3/6-3/12 - Spring Break!
- 4/24 - Senior Sunday
- 5/6 - Graduation

A busy, but exciting spring!