



# Wesley Park Weekly

September 2, 2018

## Pastor's Page

*You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land. Deuteronomy 24:14*

Many people celebrate Labor Day as the end of summer. They enjoy a day off at picnics and barbecues. Labor Day is also a time to consider the broad issues of labor in our country, workers' rights like fair wages, decent working conditions and a safe work environment.

While many have off for the holiday, Labor Day is a day of work for some of the most marginalized American workers. Laborers like farm workers, domestic workers, restaurant and hotel workers, and others will spend the day at their jobs. Labor Day is like any other day for these workers. This day brings the same long hours, hard work and little pay. We know this, but today might be one of the few days that we pause to consider what to do about it.

Human hands picked most of the fresh fruits and vegetables we eat. Some of this comes from small farms near the communities where it is sold. Most of it, however, is harvested by farm workers on large farms and shipped across the country.

Most farm workers are immigrants, both documented and undocumented. Those with documents are increasingly part of the H2-A guest-worker program. They are recruited to work from three to nine months in the U.S. and then return to their countries of origin.

Many of the people who harvest our food, however, do not have documents. Many have been in this country 10 years or more. Many have families. The National Farm Worker Ministry's website has a lot more information about these workers. [www.nfwm.org](http://www.nfwm.org)

United Methodists have been a part of NFWM since the early days. United Methodists – in coalition with other denominations, religious orders and other groups – have been side by side in solidarity with farm worker issues. Besides the very basic admonition to "Love your neighbor as yourself," United Methodists share the same basic scriptural and theological basis for this work that other Christian denominations do.

- From the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society

*Roxanne R. B. Smith*

Date	Event	Birthdays	Anniversaries
Monday, September 3	Labor Day, Office Closed		
Tuesday, September 4			
Wednesday, September 5	Womens Prayer Group 10:00 AM Square Dancing 6:30 PM Scottish Society, 7 PM	Kristen Brink	
Thursday, September 6	Knitting Group, 10 AM Food Truck, 5 PM Praise Team! 5:00 PM	Kendall Heyboer	Terry & Jen Losinger
Friday, September 7			
Saturday, September 8	Square Dance, 6 PM		Max & Gail Gibbard
Sunday, September 9	Foundations Service, 9:15 AM Youth Group, 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Check, 10:30 AM Fellowship, 10:30 AM IMPACT, 11 AM Staff Meeting, Noon Bus Trip Meeting, 2 PM		

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# *The Prayers of Our Hearts*

**Ray Williams** - I want to thank Wesley Park softball team for helping me with my rent. May God bless this church.

**Nancy Chambers** - Prayers for Betty. May she be happy in her new home.

**Barb DeCan** - Great job, Rich! Thank you!

**Andrew Hughes** - Jess is feeling better and healing. She has to make her outings short and sitting up hurts still. Thanks for the prayers and meals.

**Gary and Deb Hodges** - Please join us in prayers for Deb's brothers, Duane and Wally. They are both going through treatments for cancer. Prayers also for Gary's niece who passed away.

**Chuck Johnson** - Prayers for good results Monday from the neurosurgeon.

**Ron & Dolores Sanford** - Thanks to Sara for the wonderful many jobs she does for our church.

**Jackie Matson** - God bless our Christian Education Teachers, Youth Group Leaders, and Public School Teachers. Thank you Dean for a great sermon!

**Pat Beadle** - Thank you Rich for sharing your gift of music.

**Paulette Meyers** - Prayers for healing from hand surgery for Lois Bowyer.

**Linda Conklin** - Please pray for Pat Terry, Eric's dad, as he walks the journey of grieving the loss of his wife.

**Julie Reimersma** - Prayers for people going through hard times. Please pray for peace and hope for them.

**Liz Montcastle** - Thank you Rich and Sara. Your music was beautiful.

**Val Rienks** - Prayers for the first appointment for cognitive testing on Tuesday at 10 am.

**Shirley Diederiks** - So good to be here! Thank you Dean for the lovely message. I felt the love of the church today!!! God is good all the time.

**Marilyn Knapp** - Thanks for the beautiful Wesley Prayer in our bulletin!

**Freddi Angus** - Well done Mr. Rich Austin!

**Dorie DeCommer** - Prayers for Kim, the nurse, at Metron.

**Sallie McLean** - Pray for my friend at Metron. Thank you Lord. I walked with a walker this week.

**Ron Thompson** - Prayers for my sister-in-law as she goes through treatment.

**Susan Kaminski** - Pray for my leg. It is causing a lot of pain making it difficult to walk.

## **Blue Bags Ministry Share Offering**

### **100% Ministry Shares Challenge**

Received To Date:

**\$18,600**

**(35 Weeks Completed)**

Remaining Balance Needed:

**\$32,736**

**(17 Weeks Remaining)**

Offered last week: **\$290**

## **Family Promise Host Week**

Our next opportunity to serve guests from Family Promise will be the week of September 23, 2018. Our guests will be moving in on Sunday, September 23rd. It takes much prayer and many hands to make each Family Promise week successful and give our guests a loving, safe, and welcoming place to stay. Please check your calendars and prayerfully consider when or how you might be able to assist our guests. The Signup Genius site is up and running. Please use the following link: <https://bit.ly/2ohClxs>. Mary Anne Keyes and Kelly Olsen will be in the Welcome Center between services each Sunday if you need assistance.

## **Mobile Food Pantry**

The mobile food truck will be here this Thursday beginning at 6 PM. We will be handing diapers out starting this month. You can still drop off diapers during regular office hours. If you are able to help in any way on Thursday, please come up to the church anytime after 5 PM.

## **Information Desk**

We are looking for a few more people that would like to help at the Information Desk once a month. If you would like more information on how you can get involved. Please contact the church office (616-988-6738, [tabi@wesleypark.org](mailto:tabi@wesleypark.org))