



The Good Things We Have in Christ

"I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ" (Philemon 6).

The Apostle Paul is writing to his friend, Philemon, telling him that he is sending Philemon's escaped bondservant, Onesimus, back to him. Paul has led Onesimus to Christ since he escaped, so Onesimus is returning to Philemon both as his bondservant and his brother in Christ. Philemon must receive him differently. Paul is generously offering to pay Philemon whatever Onesimus owes him. In this epistle, Paul is offering Philemon a blank check to help Onesimus. This takes courage. Paul is expressing his faith through a life of grace and generosity. He expects Philemon to follow his example.

Paul and our Christian faith expect the same of all who "understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ" (Philemon 6). We have been blessed beyond comprehension by the heart and hand of our great God. Friends, I invite you to join me in living a life of extravagant generosity. Paul knew that this was Philemon's path to joy. It is our path to joy also.

With Confidence in Christ,
Pastor Jeff

MISSION IMPACT

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| A Simple Gesture | Helping Hands of High Point | Open Door Ministries |
| Angel Tree Christmas | High Point Jail Ministry | Rise Against Hunger |
| Boys & Girls Club of High Point | Hinton Resource Center | UMAR – Ervin Home |
| Commander Peace Academy | HorsePower Therapeutic Learning Center | UMCOR |
| Cover the City Initiative | Imago Dei | Victory Junction |
| Crossnore Home | Macedonia Family Resource Center | Wheels 4 Hope |
| Compassion International | Math/Reading Partners | Wesley Memorial School Rainbow Scholarship Fund |
| Fairview Elementary School | Matthew 25:35 Foundation | West End Ministries/Leslie's House |
| Feeding Lisa's Kids | Mobile Meals | World Relief Triad |
| Greater High Point Food Alliance | | YWCA of High Point |

PARTNER WITH

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alcoholics Anonymous | Sanctuary Counseling Center | Boy Scouts |
| Al-Anon | Red Cross | Emmaus |
| Alzheimer's Association | Girl Scouts | Global Harvest Fellowship Church |

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future with hope."

Jeremiah 29:11





The pictures here remind us that we are a part of the ongoing story of Wesley Memorial. Those who came before us generously gave of themselves and their resources to make our campus and the many ministries that faithfully bless and nurture possible. Those men and women before us believed in the eternal mission Christ gave in Matthew 28:19-20. That life-giving mission continues through us.



Every number has a story. Each number represents a person or family God has given us to love and to serve. For 167 years the generations of your Wesley Memorial family have been faithful to proclaim the faith, care deeply for others, share resources with the under-resourced and raise up new generations of faithful disciples.



In our Wesley Memorial family we claim that ancient promise for our time and our future as we seek God's faithful path. Certainly that path requires every one of us to make a decision and then to take a step of faith and commitment. How will I truly honor God and the mission Christ has given me through my growing, serving and giving? Those three responses are measures of our heart for God and for one another in our Wesley Memorial family.

- 2183** Members
- 100** New members this year
- 2000** Caring connections by care ambassadors
- 485** Average attendance at weekly worship service
- 4870** Number of persons who worship online
- 825** Christian formation group participants
- 35** Community ministries for serving the under-resourced
- 600** Congregation engaged in mission & community ministries

We are not the first or only generation that has face challenge, uncertainty and disruption. Every faithful generation has had to navigate unsettling times.

God spoke assurance to God's covenant people in exile as they faced what could have been a bleak future. Instead God offered them a sustaining promise that gave them courage through Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, plans not to harm you but to prosper you and give you a future with hope."



As we look toward 2024 we enter a season of affirmation about how we will honor God and make Jesus known through Wesley Memorial and the larger community with our "growing, giving and serving".



Please prayerfully reflect on how God calls you to be faithful in your serving, giving and growing as you review the enclosed response forms. You may return the completed forms via US mail or bring them to the church office. You may also complete the forms online at the Wesley Memorial website wesleymemorial.org/wearewesley

Thank you for being part of what God is doing in and through Wesley Memorial as we stand together and move toward a future worthy of our past.



We Are Wesley.