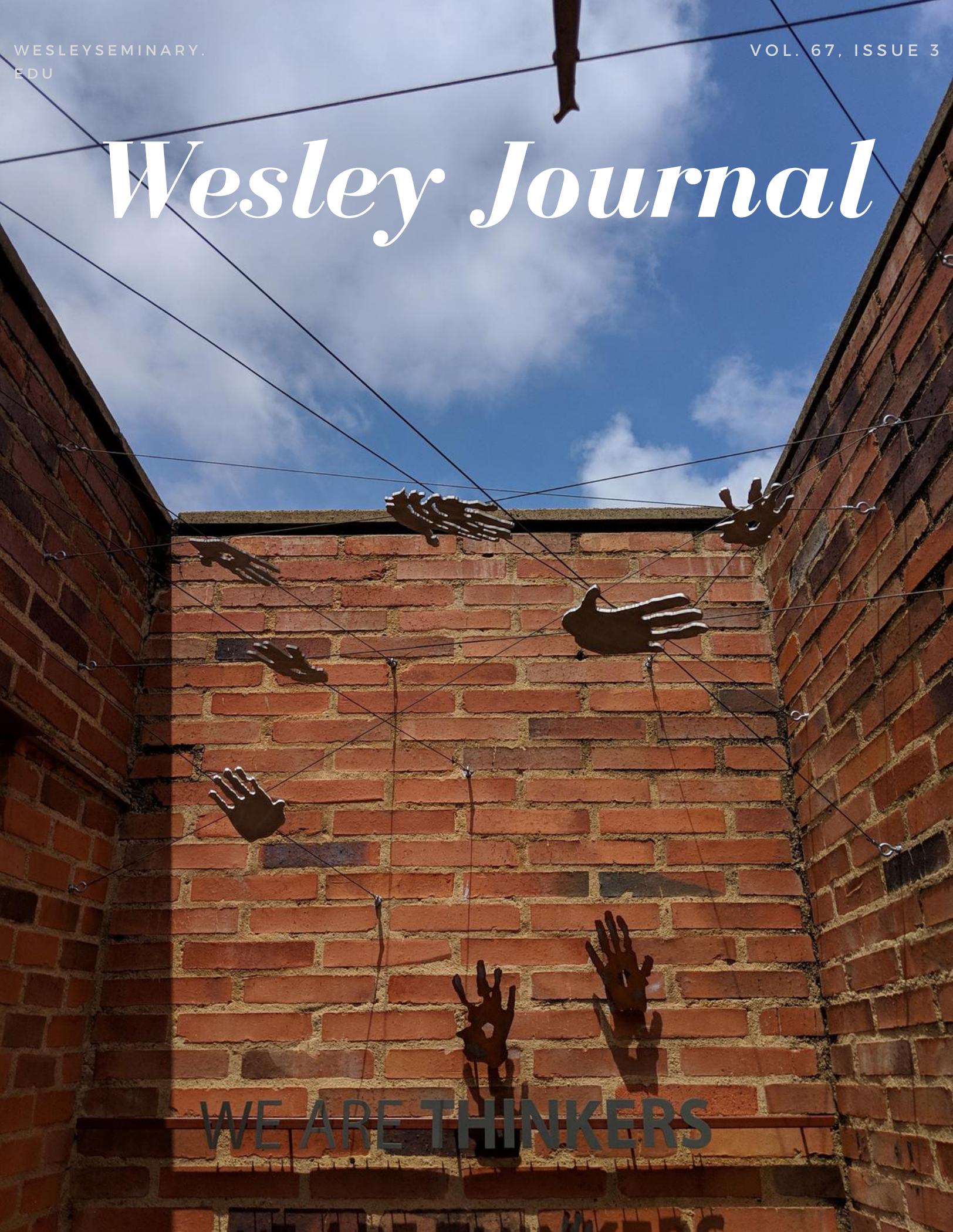
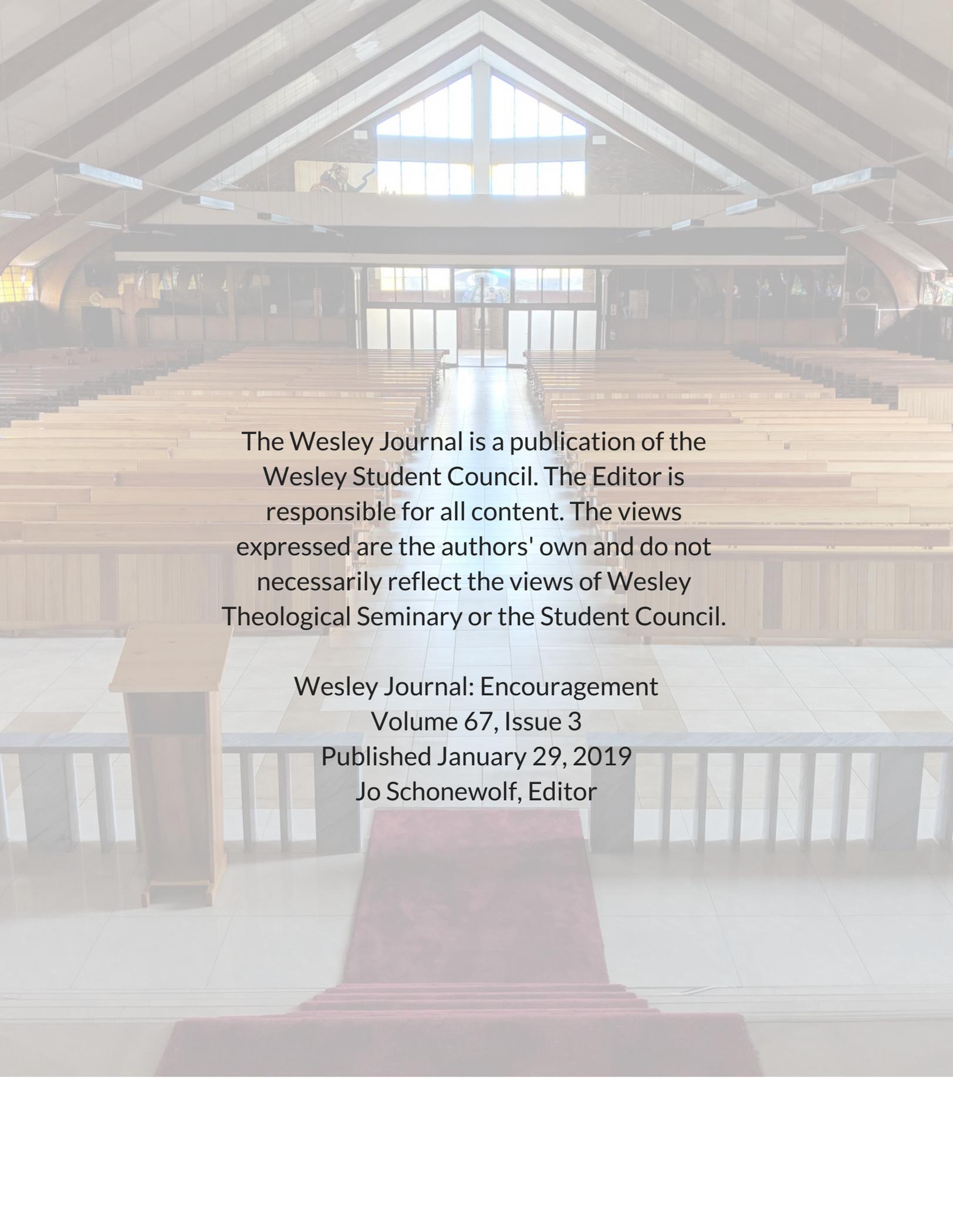


Wesley Journal

WE ARE THINKERS





The Wesley Journal is a publication of the Wesley Student Council. The Editor is responsible for all content. The views expressed are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Wesley Theological Seminary or the Student Council.

Wesley Journal: Encouragement
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The Journal is seeking contributions on community for the March issue





EDITOR'S NOTE

For some of us, the beginning of a new semester is a familiar routine. We register for the classes we want or have to have, we struggle to remember where exactly the booklists are posted, we wait for the syllabi to be uploaded to blackboard, and then we pull out battered calendars and dig out highlighters that have been derelict for months to write down assignments and deadlines. Or, maybe we find ourselves getting that first email from that one on-top-of-things professor that begins, "In preparation for our class tonight..." and realize that we do, in fact, have class tonight. Still, regardless of how we start the semester, we make it to the end all the same.

But for some of us, the new semester really is new. If this is your first week on campus, welcome! The Course Reserves shelf is behind the front desk

in the library and has many of the books you've been assigned, in case you leave yours at home or want to save some money. Also, the gummies in the vending machine tend to get stuck, so keep an eye out for that. But, as our cover reminds us, we are thinkers, each one of us, and that will carry all of us through this time.

To begin the new semester, we've asked for contributions from leaders of student organizations to help encourage you, whether new or seasoned, and give you a sense of where you can find community here at Wesley. Check out the calendar of events in the Journal and keep an eye on weekly emails to see what all there is to do. Here's to a semester where we study and work and live together, supported through the challenges that are sure to come by those journeying with us.

Jo Schone
Editor, Wesley Journal
January 24, 2017

CALENDAR

a collection of events put on by
Wesley's Student Organizations

JANUARY

- 1/25 Wesley Fellowship: Welcome Back Game Night
- 1/28-2/5 Student Council: Implicit Bias (pt. I)- Online Training & Refresher
- 1/29 Student Council: Film Screening
"Our Roots: A Dialogue on Race + Religion" from 4:45-6:15pm
- 1/30 Wesley Fellowship: First Wednesday Prayer Service
12:05pm in Oxnam Chapel
- 1/31 Wesley Fellowship: Meeting at 12:15pm in the refectory

FEBRUARY

- 2/4 Plumblineline: Motivational Monday from 5-6pm
- 2/5 Student Council: Implicit Bias Workshop (pt. II)
4:30-6:15pm in Elderdice
- 2/5-2/7 Student Council: Community Book Swap and Donations
takes place during lunch and dinner
- 2/7 Plumblineline: Meeting at 5:15pm
- 2/19 Student Council: Meeting from 5:15-6:15pm
- 2/26 The 2019 King Lecture and Dean's Forum-
Lecture by Rev. Dr. Frank A. Thomas at 11am,
with Dean's Forum immediately following
- 2/26 Office of Campus Life: "There's No Immaculate Perception"
Implicit Bias Workshop from 4:30-6:15pm
- 2/28 Office of Campus Life: Bivocational Ministries Workshop
from 4:50-5:30pm in Elderdice

Events with dates and times to be determined:

Plumblineline: Book Club Meeting and Healthy Boundaries Training

CALENDAR

a collection of events put on by
Wesley's Student Organizations

MARCH

3/4-9: Reading Week

3/14 Plumblines: "What Justice Looks Like"-
Student Organization Panel Discussion

3/18 Plumblines: Motivational Monday from 5-6pm

3/19 Student Council: Meeting from 5:15-6:15pm

3/21 Plumblines: Meeting at 5:15pm

3/25-3/29: Advising Week

APRIL & MAY

4/1 Plumblines: Motivational Monday from 5-6pm

4/2 Gente Latinx Seminararians Association:

Romero Lecture and lunch. Lecture at 11am and lunch at 12pm.

4/4 Plumblines: Meeting at 5:15pm

4/16 Student Council: Meeting from 5:15-6:15pm

5/2 Plumblines: Meeting and Graduation Celebration 5:15pm

5/13: Commencement

Graduates, be sure to check your syllabi and note early submission dates
for final assignments!

Events with dates and times to be determined:
Sexual Assault Service

A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL

Jonathan Fuller, Parliamentarian

On a recent phone call with a friend, Wesley alum and current pastor, I asked them about how their life in a local congregation was treating them. They didn't take too long to say, "You know, they don't teach you what you really need to know in seminary! I learned a lot about leading worship services, but not about how to lead worship when you need to call 911 to take care of a parishioner who has just fainted in the service!" My friend hit on something important. The classes we take prepare us personally and professionally for the hard work of ministry in various settings...to a point. No matter how many biblical

PERSEVERANCE IS NOT A CALL TO ACCEPT SUFFERING IN ANY FORM FOR SOME HOLIER PURPOSE.

studies, theology, leadership or preaching courses we take, so many lessons evade our understanding until we experience them for ourselves.

This message has lingered with me since starting at Wesley in 2016. As I've gotten closer to graduation, I keep realizing how much I still have to learn and how much I've learned beyond the classroom through practical ministry experience. In my work, I've discovered the importance of creative organization and relationships rooted in trust and authenticity for fruitful ministry, as well as how to cover candle oil stains on your shirt collar before a service starts. But the main thing that often remains unspoken in seminary classrooms is just how hard ministry can become. We might make a passing reference to human brokenness in theology classes or talk about conflict management in a communication or leadership course, but we rarely talk about what happens when a trusted leader violates their community's trust, or when a beloved ministry partner says and does hurtful things. It's at these times we struggle to shine in our gifts and draw out the divine light in those with whom we serve, especially if our struggles cause us to question our very calling.

The beautiful thing about a seminary education is that the educational journey can prove just as formative, if not more, as the content we encounter to our ministry practice. Seminary, like any

ministry setting, is full of people in need of healing, and despite our unrealistic expectations for a perfect educational experience, we still have to fight our way through tough classes, overwhelming to-do lists and relational challenges to make it through. Seminary requires us to develop the perseverance necessary to thrive in a ministry setting to get to that ministry setting in the first place.



Whether you're taking your first or final Wesley class, remember that God's vision for the world includes the flourishing of all human life, and this call for perseverance is not a call to accept suffering in any form for some holier purpose. Yet, even amidst the challenges we face as we lead and serve, God is present with us and offers us the gifts of the Spirit's power and our community. That way, we can take seriously Paul's exhortation to the Galatians: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Lean on one another as we labor for good, and let's see what God can do in and through us!



contributions

encouraging and emboldening
words from Wesley's student
organizations

JUSTICE CORNER: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS WITH YOUR WHOLE SELF

Teaira Parker, Plumblin President

More and more as I scroll through news articles, listen to the news and watch the responses on social media, I feel helpless and unsure how to help mend this broken system. As I listen to classmates and friends I hear more about who said what to whom and how this system is bringing the worse out of people. I hear about the terrible atrocities that are happening to what seems like everybody. Children are dying in preventable and senseless killings and gun violence took center stage last year. People are losing their jobs because of an unstable political administration and Lady Justice has her eyes wide open as this country continues to watch unfair housing, policing, education and wages. Racism is an unending issue for people of color. I seem to be in a continuous state of uproar because there is nothing good or positive to be seen on our TV and timelines.

As a student of justice and as a Christian, the only thing I knew to do was to turn to my bible. In Mark 12:28-34, we find Jesus explaining to a scribe what the two greatest commandments are. Mark records Jesus saying “you shall love the

Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

When I think about the second great commandment, I don’t believe everyone knows how to love themselves. As a result they may not know how to love others. However, if we can love others with the same love and reverence we show God, maybe we can start to make

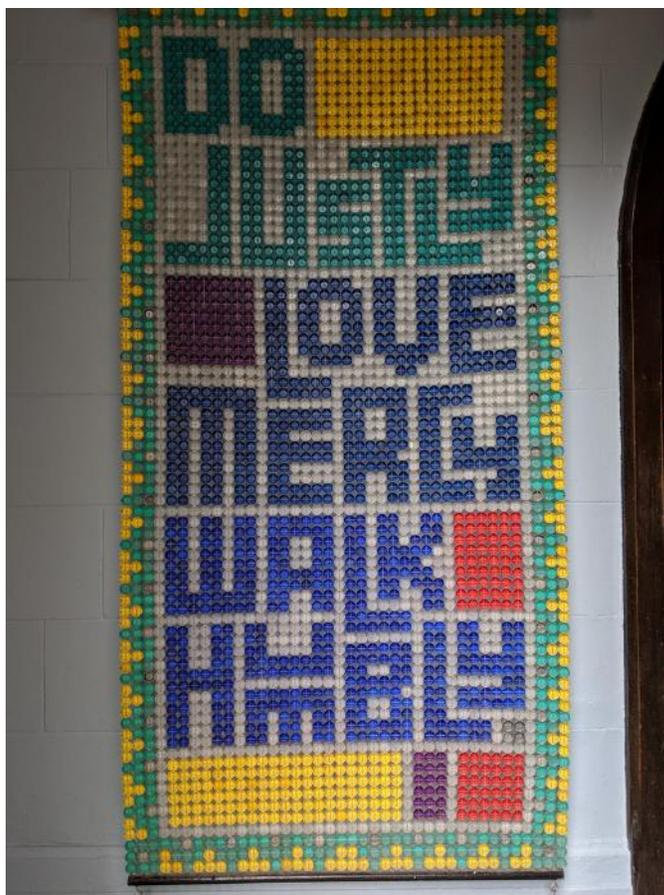
WHAT DOES RADICAL LOVE LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

a difference, a difference that begins with our neighbors, community members, city officials, and hopefully our country at large.

Jesus refers to loving God and neighbor with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. It's clear, then, that one is to love God with one’s whole being, then love self with your whole being, and move to loving those around you with your whole being.

What does this radical love look like in practice, you might ask. It begins with committing oneself fully and wholly to God. Then, love one's self enough to work on self through counseling or behavior modification and embrace the new and improved self by being honest and open with self and others. Set boundaries. Be true to God, true to self, and true to others. What's more, when one can get to this place, treating others with the same radical love is a little easier. You find yourself donating your excess to people in need, speaking life to and over people, giving to others what they need instead of what you want them to have. This radical love changes your whole outlook and your expectation of others.

Moving in the direction the Bible speaks of is not easy. However, if each person committed to loving God and self with their whole being, treating others with love will not just transform them, it will transform the community. Maybe then we will start to see the change in our timelines and newscasts.



WESLEY FELLOWSHIP

Angela Lovegrove, President

Wesley Fellowship is a student-run organization that works together to come up with, plan, and carry out events designed to gather the Wesley community together in fellowship. This community includes both on-campus and off-campus students, commuter students, and faculty and staff. Previous events that Wesley Fellowship has organized include game nights for prospective students, apple picking, a group outing to Zoolights, a scavenger hunt for a gift card, and a short, weekly prayer service. We also partner with other student organizations in order to put on events like cookouts, snack events, and stress relief events.



Currently, Wesley Fellowship is planning a Welcome Back Game Night on January 25th. Our first meeting will be held on January 31st at 12:15 pm in the refectory - please feel free to join us! We are always looking for new ideas for events, help planning, or even just help to spread the word about events. Wesley Fellowship plans to continue the Weekly Prayer Service which is held on Wednesdays at 12:05 pm in Oxnam Chapel. The Prayer service will start back up on January 30th.

We hope to see you at some of our events, or even at a meeting! Everyone is welcome. Potential Spring events could include a bake-off, a trivia night, a Jeopardy event, or a craft night - none of these events are decided on or planned yet. For the most up to date information on events and Wesley Fellowship happenings, like the Wesley Fellowship Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wtsfellowship/>. Any questions or comments can be directed to myself, Angela Lovegrove, or you can email Wesley Fellowship at wesleyfellowshipwts@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events:

- Welcome Back Game Night - January 25th
- Wednesday Prayer Service Start - January 30th
- First Wesley Fellowship Meeting - January 31st



PLUMBLINE

Teaira Parker, President

Congratulations on making it to the Spring Semester. Some of you are journeying into the second half of the academic year, while others are new to our Wesley family. In either event, welcome and welcome back.

This graduate program is not easy. It is probably harder than most other graduate degrees because the real person you are studying is yourself. These classes are designed to teach you about the history, foundation, fundamentals, and even the extremes Christianity can take. What ends up happening is your beliefs and spiritual foundation gets attacked and you are suddenly on defense. You end up gaining/losing weight, losing sleep, speaking in worldly tongues to the theologians, and even thinking about quitting. This struggle is not for nothing. If you persevere through this very difficult terrain, you will come out knowing yourself better, learn how to discern a real word of God, make new friends, and best of all you cultivate a deeper relationship with a God that is bigger than you thought. Again welcome. Welcome to the new year, welcome to the Wesley family, and welcome to the new you.



GENTE LATINX SEMINARIANS ASSOCIATION

GLSA is one of Wesley's newest student organizations, working to promote cultural awareness and provide a community within the larger Wesley community for Latinx students. As we look forward to the semester ahead, our prayer is that you find your community here at Wesley and let it fill your time with the vibrancy of life lived together.



WHERE DO YOU SEE COMMUNITY?

THE JOURNAL WANTS TO HEAR FROM
YOU!

WESLEY IS A COMPLICATED PLACE.

We all have a different experience of life on campus. Where do you find support and care? What stops you from feeling in community, supported, and cared for?

REACH OUT!

Email Jo Schonewolf at wesleyjournaleditor@gmail.com with your ideas before March 1. We'll include as many contributions as we have space for in the March edition of the Journal.

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The background image shows the interior of a church. It features rows of wooden pews in the foreground and middle ground. The ceiling is high with exposed wooden beams and several ceiling fans. In the background, there is a stage area with a large screen displaying the word "vivitek". The walls are a mix of wood paneling and brickwork. The lighting is soft and even.

A Prayer of Saint Thomas Aquinas

Give us, O Lord,
steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought
can drag downward,
unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can
wear out,
upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose
may tempt aside.

Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God,
understanding to know you, diligence to seek
you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness
that may finally embrace you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.