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At EKU WF we desire for students to gather in community to experience God, grow in their faith, and serve people. With everything we do we work towards a reality where every student is loved, happy, and whole in Christ.



Eastern Kentucky University
Wesley Foundation

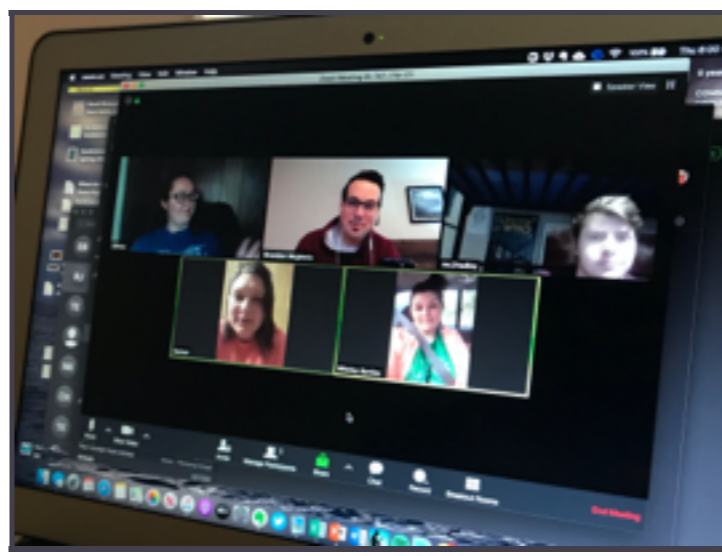
April 2020

Things are very different but we continue

The Eastern Kentucky University Wesley Foundation exists to gather students in community to experience life in Jesus Christ, grow in their faith, and love others. We began the 2019-2020 school year with a clear focus—to be a campus ministry at EKU where every student in our ministry and eventually the entirety of our campus will feel loved, happy, and whole in Christ.

Then life changed. In our current COVID-19 pandemic we are all being pushed to the limits; none of us could have foreseen what we now know as the new reality of social distancing. At Eastern Kentucky University, like every other public and private higher education institute, our semester has been upended and our students are now home engaging in online learning. What at first was believed to be a few weeks away quickly escalated to “the foreseeable future”. Amid this new reality our values, vision, and mission have not changed. We are continuing to create a culture and an environment where all students are welcome to be part of our community regardless of where they are in their faith journey, and regardless of how they feel they “fit in” socially. Life as a college student can be isolating and lonely. College students are overwhelmed with trying to figure out life as well as setting a course for their futures. These realities for students feel even more true now.

Amid these rocky waters, EKU WF wants to create a place for them to belong and have meaning right now in their lives. We want to see every student loved, happy, and whole in Christ. We try our best to create safe, welcoming, no-frills, simple gathering times around meals, worshiping together, and sharing life and faith through conversations. We desire to be honest and vulnerable with how hard life can be, but believe with faith and hope God is carrying us through. Our focus has moved entirely to deep pastoral care for our students. We have received some curious concerns from people as to why the ministry has not been posting on Facebook and there is a simple answer; over half of our students don't use Facebook. We have been fortunate to do the work this year to get students' contact information when they join us. This has allowed us to send emails, personal text, create groups, and zoom worship calls to keep in touch with each student. Many of them are taking advantage of these different forms of communication, and for that, I am grateful.



The heartbeat of our ministry is and will continue to be to meet the students of EKU wherever they are in their journey and invite them into community. Our discipleship structure is built around the philosophy that students will belong and connect to our ministry at the level in which they first feel most comfortable. We then want to build intentional steps of invitation to see everyone move to a deeper understanding of God and more intimate levels of following Jesus. This school year we have continued to spend the majority of our time creating healthy environments within our ministry; creating safe spaces where the students who are already connected within our ministry are nurtured and grow. As the health and strength of our space have increased, we have seen both our current students grow and have seen new people find us through invitations and relationships.

An increasing number of college students are becoming overwhelmed with feelings of loneliness, isolation, and anxiety, this current pandemic will surely test the limits of our students. In the coming years, we believe the EKU Wesley Foundation can be a place where students can experience a life-giving community that will surround them with love and encouragement, as well as prepare them to step into the life God has dreamed of for each of them. We will continue to reach up to God and reach out to others, but we will always strive to meet together in groups where God is our focus, Jesus is our example, and the community of fellowship is a blessing to our lives.



We would like to personally thank all the churches both near and far, alumni, individuals, students, parents, and everyone else who financially supported our ministry in the last year. Now more than ever it is true that without your generous support, we would not be able to do what we do. And what we do as a ministry is continuing to happen; we have just needed to adjust. Thank you, not just for your words of continued belief in the ministry, but for your faithful giving to us. Join us in believing that God will continue the good work He has been doing in the lives of the students here as they grow and are sent out as light into the world.

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Giving and Support

We are always in need of and dependent on other's financial giving. Thank you to the many who support us already for your generosity. If you are able to give, please do. We could not do it without you.

- Mail-in check to EKU Wesley Foundation 401 University Drive Richmond KY 40475
- www.venmo.com/EKU-WesleyFoundation
- Facebook donation www.facebook.com/ekuwf click on the blue donate button
- www.ekuwf.org/support via PayPal



A big thank you to all the individuals and groups that signed up this school year to provide a meal for our Tuesday night dinners. As the time gets closer to the fall semester our Tuesday night dates will posted on our meal train. Here is the link if you are interested in helping with all the details you will need.

<https://mealtrain.com/rnw447>

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