

**W CLEMSON WESLEY**  
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 WITH CLEMSON WESLEY

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This 2020-2021 academic year has certainly been a different but great year for Clemson Wesley. Another group of freshmen and new graduate students have connected in meaningful ways. Returning students continue to make this community a welcoming place where students grow in their faith and seek to serve others. We've had to change the ways we do ministry with COVID-19 but we are still engaging students in vital ministry every week. Clemson Wesley is grateful to partner in ministry with all of the individuals, churches and small groups that have given generously to CW over the years so that we can reach out to these college students.

For the 2021 calendar year, Clemson Wesley needs to raise \$75,000 to meet our ministry needs. As of April 30th, 71 people have donated a total of \$24,140. Individual gifts have ranged from \$10 to over \$7,000. Every contribution helps and is greatly appreciated!

We hope that you will consider making a one time donation to CW and/or becoming a monthly supporter of CW. You can GIVE ONLINE at [clemsonwesley.org/give](http://clemsonwesley.org/give) or through Venmo @ClemsonWesley. We look forward to hearing from you soon. We could not do much of anything without your help. Thank you for your generosity and all of the ways you support CW! **W**

## WELCOME ABOARD MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT CAMPUS MINISTER



Hey friends, I'm Andrew Wetzel and I will have the pleasure of serving Clemson Wesley as the Assistant Campus Minister this next school year.

A little about me: I'm originally from Greenville, South Carolina. This May I am graduating from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in Physics

and Computer Engineering. I had planned for most of my life to get a doctorate and then go on to teach Physics but then, while serving at Asbury Hills, God called me into ministry. I was a camper for three years and have served on staff at Asbury Hills for four years. I am excited to continue my call to ministry and to serve Clemson Wesley and the students at Clemson in the coming years.

What excites me most for next year is being able to meet with students and to see how best I can serve them. We are coming out of a tough year where we all had a hard time finding and being in community. In the coming semesters there will be plenty of students looking to connect. I know Clemson Wesley can be a place to serve those students. I'm excited to see what's to come!



## THE GIFT OF US

*A Reflection from Pastor Steve Simoneaux*

What a year! This has been the strangest, most difficult year in ministry that I have ever experienced. To be honest, I'm grateful we had a school year because at this time last year everything was in doubt. Overall this was a fruitful year for our campus ministry, even while we navigated our first global pandemic.

The year started out with great outdoor worship but something was missing. The year started out with virtual small groups but something was missing. The year started out with a few physically distanced events but something was missing. The year started out and Clemson Wesley was still a place where all were welcomed, treated like family, challenged to grow and sent out to love God and neighbor but something was missing. By the end of the fall semester it was clear that something was missing. What was it? Community! We were worshipping together, learning together, and even serving together, but we still felt isolated from one another.

We have always been known as a tight knit community and something had to be done to get us back there. Thankfully, due to advancements in testing



Steve and Julie pictured with their children, Coleman (10) and Finley (8), on Easter Sunday.

and lower positivity rates we were able to do a weekend retreat to Camp Asbury Hills at the beginning of February. The retreat proved to be sweet nourishment for a weary soul. The time away together brought the isolated into community and finally forged the connections between students that we had been missing all year. Alana LeSuer, rising senior from Lexington said, "Winter retreat this year pushed me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to meet new people I had been scared to approach before. It helped me realize how important a community in Wesley is and how loving everyone is once you take time to know them." Ava Bohn, freshman from Virginia, echoed this sentiment, "Winter retreat was meaningful to me because it was reassurance that I belonged here at Wesley. After talking to so many people and connecting with them, I knew that this was the place that I wanted to be!"

I share these student experiences with you as a reminder of the importance of community and belonging. We can have the most inspirational worship, solid teaching, and plan the best events, but without community there will always be something missing. Every week at the end of our worship time we gather in a large circle to share prayer requests and close our time together. Every week I remind students that we gather together like this to remember that we don't have to do life alone. I am a firm believer that one of the greatest gifts God gave to you and me is the gift of us! We strive to build community here at CW because that is who we are and who we are meant to be.

I hope that whether you are a parent, alumni, student, family, or friend that you too will find a place where you belong and cultivate a true sense of community. As we've all learned this past year life can be difficult but we don't have to do it alone. I pray that you will persevere and not give up as you seek to belong and live into your community.

I'm thankful for each of you and the way you've been a part of this community we call Clemson Wesley.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE  
**WWW.CLEMSONWESLEY.ORG**  
 TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MINISTRIES

Peace and Grace,

*Steve*

# WESLEYREWIND



Students posing at Winter Retreat at Asbury Hills in February 2021.

Clemson Wesley is wrapping up another incredible year filled with great ministry and community building. Despite the many uncertainties of ministry in COVID-19, our students persevered with creativity and purpose to provide meaningful worship, small group and fellowship opportunities. At the beginning of our spring semester, 64 students were able to travel to Asbury Hills for necessary and impactful community building. In February, we shifted gears to provide a COVID-19 safe Jazz 'n Jambalaya event by offering a drive thru service selling seafood bisque and jambalaya. Amazingly our community showed up with great support, and we raised over \$4,000! Our Local Missions Team provided several opportunities for students to serve with Rebuild Upstate and Habitat For Humanity in the Clemson area. In March, we gathered for our first Golf Tournament in two years at Boscobel Golf and Country Club raising close to \$6,000. Our semester continued its momentum as we participated in a campus ministry kickball tournament, worshiped on Bowman field and announced a new group of student leadership for next year! As the 2020-2021 academic year comes to a close, we give thanks for a safe and meaningful year with our students. **W**



May 2021 graduates after sharing at Senior Night.



Jazz 'N Jambalaya Drive Thru



Service Saturday with Rebuild Upstate



End of the Year celebration



Golf Tournament Volunteers

# LEAVING HOME

By **GRACEANNE DUKES**,  
Assistant Director

Another year has come and gone in the wonderful world of Clemson Wesley, but this year holds a special place in my heart. This May I wrap up my sixth and final year at Clemson Wesley, three years as a student and three on staff. Goodbyes have always been hard for me, but the ending of my time in Clemson and especially my time with Wesley is incredibly bittersweet.

As I am packing my room into boxes and removing my CW tape name-tags from my dresser, I'm reminded of the full six years I've had with this community and all the memories I'm taking with me. I am thankful for the long van rides travelling to mission trips in places like Tampa and Nashville. I am thankful for the conversations over coffee about who God is and how to love our neighbors. I am thankful I witnessed passionate students advocate for change to bring God's Kingdom here on earth. I am thankful for the beauty of retreats and watching meaningful connections blossom. I am thankful for our family at Clemson UMC who serves us dinner on Sunday nights and mentors our students. Ultimately, I could never put into words the full extent of my gratitude and the impact of this ministry and its students on my life.

It's hard to say goodbye to a place that is home and a community that is my family. Clemson Wesley has taught me what it means to love God and to love my neighbor. The students and the CW community inspire me daily, and I'm so humbled by the opportunity to witness such transformation on our campus. I will forever treasure these memories and seek to take the mission of CW everywhere I go. Clemson Wesley will always be a huge part of my heart, and I'm so excited to see how CW continues to serve the campus and spread God's love to all!

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." -Winnie the Pooh



GraceAnne at her first Winter Retreat at Asbury Hills in 2016.



GraceAnne at her last Winter Retreat in 2021.

# PERSPECTIVES

## SENIORS LOOKING BACK



**KENDRA GORDILLO**  
RIDGEFIELD, CT

Clemson Wesley will forever be my family. I've met some of my best friends here, and had so many laughs, late night chats during retreats, and so many God filled moments here. I was born and raised in the United Methodist Church, so it felt right for me to come to Clemson Wesley. I was welcomed with open arms and I've felt at home ever since my freshman year. The biggest lesson I've learned from being a part of Clemson Wesley is something I also shared in my perspectives talk: church is everywhere. We share God's love with us wherever we go. One of my favorite memories from my time at Clemson Wesley has been serving as one of the co-coordinators of our Sunday night worship (formally Evensong). I have loved hearing all of the sermons and enjoying fellowship over dinner with my friends. Although much of the work is more behind the scenes, I love being a part of the service and helping others connect with God through worship. More recently I joined the worship band playing viola and it was such a moving experience for me. The music at church has always been one of my favorite parts of worship, but playing in the band was a new perspective that I'm very grateful for.



**EMILY MILLER**  
NORTH AUGUSTA, SC

To me, my Clemson family is Clemson Wesley. Over the past four years, Clemson Wesley has provided me with a welcoming and loving community that has challenged me to grow in my faith. Through Clemson Wesley I have found 'my people' - from forming an intramural basketball team (even though our calling is most definitely not to be professional basketball players) to taking a deep dive into apologetics, I am so grateful for this group of incredible people. As I look back, my most impactful experience at Clemson has been leading small groups. Despite my initial hesitations (so much that I declined the offer to lead one my sophomore year), Steve and GraceAnne continued to encourage me to lead a small group. Not only has this experience taught me a lot about trusting God despite my doubts, it has taught me to be more comfortable in talking about my faith. Also, being a small-group leader has unveiled a passion for mentorship that I hope to carry with me after graduation! Despite the impending doom of 'adulthood', I find joy in knowing that I have found lifelong friends and grown tremendously in my faith thanks to Clemson Wesley.

# WHY WESLEY?

Every student has a unique story on "why Wesley?" for them. Read these stories from students of all ages on the impact of CW.



"Starting Wesley beginning of my Freshman year, I instantly fell in love with the community and the love for God every person here shows. These people have worshipped with me in all of my highs and lows, and are absolutely silly, kind, crazy, and passionate. They remind me that the Church is the people."

- **KATELYN FRANCK**, SOPHOMORE



"Getting connected with Wesley has added so much to my Clemson experience. After not really attending church early in college, I was looking for a welcoming ministry to get involved in and CW was just that. The community of people is the best you are going to find and the free food on Sunday nights doesn't hurt."

- **DAVID CAMPBELL**, JUNIOR

"Clemson Wesley is a place that I've found a real sense of community. Even across different majors everyone is able to truly embody the phrase all are welcome. I love the fact that no matter what is going on with school or life in general, you can walk in on a Sunday night and feel loved and at peace."

- **WESLEY NICHOLS**, SOPHOMORE



"Even in these isolating times, Wesley has given me a community to go to that I know I can count on. I have always felt seen at Wesley and I know if I ever need anything, I have a big family of people around me I can go to."

- **BRAUER DOWD**, FRESHMAN



## KNOW STUDENTS COMING THIS FALL? CONNECT US.

Do you know any students coming to Clemson University, Tri-County Tech or Southern Wesleyan University? Connect us! Go to [www.clemsonwesley.org/connect](http://www.clemsonwesley.org/connect) to share their information or email Steve at [steve@clemsonwesley.org](mailto:steve@clemsonwesley.org). We would love to reach out to them and give them a big Wesley welcome. Freshley is Clemson Wesley's freshmen ministry and we have three leaders eager to walk with students through their transition to college by offering weekly small group and community events. For more information, lead incoming students to **@ClemsonWesley** on Instagram and Facebook as well as our website [www.clemsonwesley.org](http://www.clemsonwesley.org)