



## 2021 Wesley Year in Review

Here's our year-end review, and opportunity to support Wesley. Thanks so much y'all. It's been a heckuva year!

It is such a joy to partner with so many awesome folks like you to ensure that students are loved and supported. I want to make sure that you receive our latest update on all the students are doing to care for the entire W&M community. Because of your support Wesley continues to be a beacon of love, community, and faith.

When I look back over this second year amid the double pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism and violence, I am so proud of our students, our board, and our community. During another unprecedented year, Wesley's ministry continues to grow and evolve with the needs of the students, and the whole William & Mary community. Because of the amazing support and commitment of so many, we lived out God's call just as powerfully as any previous year. All of this is possible because we are clear on who God has called us to be, and we continue to follow God's vision for us.

The leadership team provided amazing leadership. I cannot say enough about the amazing ministry carried out by Margaret, Mazie, Grace, and Italia! This fall, our large groups and dinners returned to in-person, but also outside while the weather was good, and it was wonderful. We wondered why we had not done this more before on beautiful fall days! We even went old school several times, using the chalkboard to facilitate discussion, rather than the computer and projector. Our theme this fall was "Double Take," and we discussed the many ways we have been engaging our faith, understanding ourselves, and our communities in light of all that has changed due to the pandemic.

We read and discussed *Native: Identity, Belonging, & Discovering God* by Kaitlin B. Curtice this fall, and *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown in the spring. Both discussions were lively, challenging, and invigorating, empowering us to better live out our faith.

We had fellowship events ranging from Zoom events to outdoor movie nights, ice cream socials, and even an outdoor coffee house. Additionally, this fall we even had a couple of inside events when the weather got colder, and of course, the students were wonderful following COVID guidelines.

Mazie continued to do an amazing job with our communications, resulting in the many new people that we have reached this year.

This year, there were also over five hundred visits to the Campus Food Pantry and 19 weeks of housing for students in need. The Campus Food Pantry brings together folks from Williamsburg United Methodist, the W&M community (including the Student Assembly, Office of Community Engagement, W&M Bookstore, W&M Dining Service, Office of Sustainability, W&M Staff Assembly, Hillel, Muslim Student Association, & more), the Williamsburg community, neighborhood groups, community churches, and the synagogue, to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff. Monetary donations, food drives, and donations of supplies, made it possible for the Campus Food Pantry to meet the needs of everyone who needed it this year. A huge shout out the Burns Lake Neighborhood Association for their strong, on-going support!

This year, the Wesley House continued to be a place of safety and community for students in need. We provided 19 weeks of housing, food, and community for students with no safe home to go to when the campus shut down. From winter break in January, summer break, to winter break now, we provide a safe, supportive community for students who very much need it. In addition to providing the housing at no cost, the students also utilize the Campus Food Pantry, as well as weekly grocery orders, for them to have fresh food to prepare and cook.

We celebrated five fantastic seniors! These amazing people were key to the Campus Food Pantry, the Wesley House Community, Small Groups, the Leadership Team, and so much more being the strong, meaningful experiences they are!

Thanks so much for all that you do to make Wesley the dynamic community that we are! We cannot do it without your generous support. Thank you for continuing to support us through your prayers, and through showing up in so many ways for Wesley. If you would like to make a financial contribution, you can donate online here: <http://wmwesley.org/donate/>

If you prefer to send a check, simply make it out to “Wesley Foundation” and mail it to:

The Wesley Foundation  
526 Jamestown Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23185-4044

Do not hesitate to call, text, email, or message me with any questions or ways that we can better partner together!

Peace,  
Max Blalock  
Campus Minister  
William and Mary Wesley Foundation  
757-634-7406

“The moment we choose to love, we begin to move against domination, against oppression. The moment we choose to love we begin to move towards freedom, to act in ways that liberate ourselves and others. That action is the testimony of love as the practice of freedom.”--bell hooks