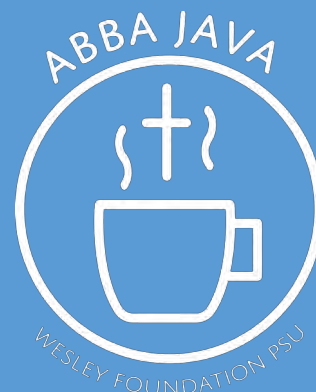


# Wesley Foundation at Penn State

be fed. be known. be loved. welcome home!

May 2022



This semester I was reminded, again, of a vital truth: tables shape us. It is around the table that we remember what it means to be human together. In the middle of Abba Java Coffeehouse you will find a large table, big enough to seat 8 people. It is a gathering place for many students, friends meeting for a coffee or to work on a project. It's the table that Wesley students gather around on Wednesday evenings for a communal meal. This table is a focal place in our space. And so, as an act of love, for and with our community, the Wesley students and I painted our center table **rainbow**. Our hope is that as each and every student comes into our space they would notice, visually reminded of a foundational aspect of our mission statement:

### **You are Loved.**

Painting a table seems like such a small thing, and yet, what if these small acts of love might be the seeds that would lead to God, who is Love? What if Love can be found in a few coats of paint, a hot cup of coffee, or a home cooked



meal? What if we might be willing to live and be and do "small things with great Love." As St. Thérèse of Lisieux said, "The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love."

May our "faith be expressed in love" (Gal. 5:6), even in the smallest of seeds, that they may flower, in ways we see and may never see. Amen.

*Sarah*



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### **What is the Wesley Foundation?**

The Wesley Foundation is a Campus Ministry sponsored by the United Methodist Church, but you don't have to be United Methodist to participate. No matter where you are on your faith

journey you are welcome to join us for worship and to explore, wrestle, pray, serve, play, study, and live in community with us. We are a ministry grounded in love, grace, and in the teachings of Jesus. All are welcome here.

### **What is Abba Java Coffeehouse?**

Abba Java Coffeehouse is a ministry of Wesley at Penn State, the campus ministry of St. Paul's United Methodist Church & Wesley Foundation. The mission of Abba Java is to be a "home away from home" for Penn State Students. We welcome people from all faiths and backgrounds while offering Christ's love through a free cup of coffee (or tea), snacks, and a place to study!

# ABBA JAVA

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE COFFEEHOUSE?



Prior to the pandemic, Abba Java partnered with Lion's Pantry, the official on-campus student pantry at Penn State University Park. Each week Lion's Pantry delivered bags of food to Abba Java for students to collect. However, during the pandemic, the Lion's Pantry building underwent a renovation, after which, the bag program was discontinued, due to insufficient volunteers.

**At Abba Java, we saw a need for our students and their ability to access food.** We received a generous donation to add a refrigerator to our hallway pantry, which allowed us to expand what we are able to provide. On a weekly basis, we provide: dozens of eggs, quarts of milk, fresh produce, and frozen chicken, as well as an assortment of canned and shelf stable items such as pasta, sauce, cereal, soup, canned beans, tuna, canned chicken, rice, and snack foods.

**This has been made possible in large part due to the generosity of the St Paul's United Methodist & Wesley Foundation congregation. Since April, we have received over 560 lbs. of food donations from our congregation, thank you!** We also are able to order food at a very low price (approximately 7 cents/pound) from the Central PA Food Bank. We will continue to provide this service over the summer months, but expect to go through much less food, with the reduced student population.

**Thank you for your support of this ministry to assist students experiencing food insecurity.**

## THERE'S A NEW MEETING ROOM IN THE WESLEY BUILDING!

We have finally finished Rm. 205 in the Wesley building! During the pandemic, we used this room as storage space; however, during this past year we cleaned out all the storage and re-made this room into a gathering space for small groups/student organizations.

**Thank you for your donations, which made it possible to paint, add furniture, and re-imagine this space for our students.**



We look forward to this coming year, when students will be able to use this room more fully!





# SPRING BREAK 2022

*a service and learning pilgrimage to Washington D.C.*

Two years ago, during spring break, we were in Tuskegee, Alabama when we received the email from Penn State saying we would be immediately sent home upon our return. Two long years later, I had the opportunity to join the Wesley Foundation and other campus ministries once more on a spring break pilgrimage, this time to Washington DC.

Over the course of four days, we visited several museums and spent a morning serving free meals in the community. At the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of the American Indian, we saw the pained history of our nation and its foundation. The National Portrait Gallery allowed us to come face to face with the people who make up our heritage. Meanwhile, volunteering at So Others May Eat allowed us to meet some of the people who call this city their home but need a hand from their neighbors.

While much has changed since we visited the sites of the Civil Rights movement and helped repair homes damaged by tornados in Alabama, some things remained constant. We still played card games late into the night, shared meals with strangers, and explored the city we were in. We also had time to reflect on our identities as Americans and people of faith. With a small group of just six people, these quieter moments brought us together in shared experiences.

The spring break service and learning pilgrimage is a challenging yet joyous experience. It is unique from other spring break trips, religious or not, in that it recognizes the impact of our lives on others, both good and bad. I am always reminded of how much there is to learn about ourselves, and how many gifts we have to share with one another. I loved being able to serve and learn alongside everyone, and I can't wait to see what next year brings!

Andrew Chung, 3rd Year PSU Student

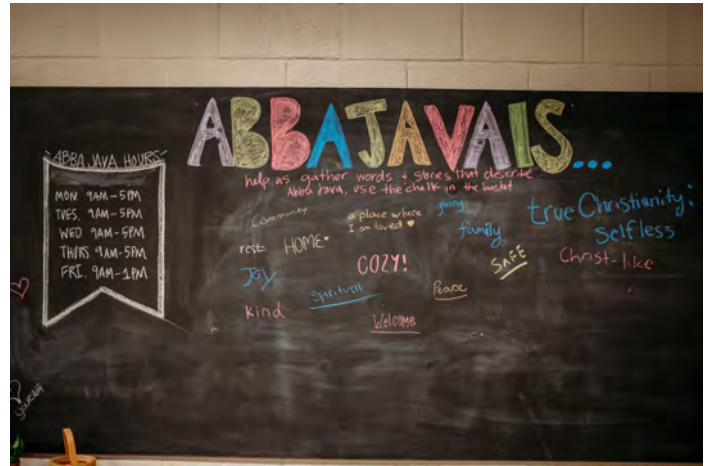
## From a student:

I can't pinpoint exactly when Abba Java became so very important. There was no confetti, no fanfare, no Hallmark moment.

But there was free food—the first reason I came to Abba Java. There were Scott and Rich and Jack, who are decades my elder but who were as invested in my job search as any of my college-age friends. There was Andrew's eloquent ode to "the Boss" Bruce Springsteen, and there were Kelly's overalls and fun hats. There was drawing birds on the wall with my friends, and there was stopping in for a bagel between interviews. There were family dinners and open mic nights and inside jokes and wiping tables and conversations and laughter. There was Sarah, asking "How are you?" and really caring about the answer.

In the end, I think that's all a home is: a few little memories and a few good people that come together to make something very big, very important, and very beautiful.

Abba Java is and forever will be a home for me. I'm not typically given to hyperbole, so you can trust me when I say that it is perhaps the warmest and safest place that I've ever known. And of course, it's also just a coffee-house. So come for the coffee, and I promise: if you stick around, you'll find so, so much more.



Wesley Fellows 2021-22 Interns: (from left to right)  
Simon Hebert, Kelly Hooper, Andrew Chung



# ABBA JAVA COMMUNITY GARDEN

Thanks to the planning of our student intern, Simon Hebert, and the work of ALL of our interns, we now have an Abba Java Community Garden! After a long and cold winter, the raised garden beds were built along the side of the Wesley building, close to the entrance for Abba Java. We are now in the process of planting and cultivating seeds and seedlings for our little garden to grow. The goal of these beds is to be a FREE vegetable garden for anyone, students or community members! We plan to grow a variety of herbs, vegetables, and flowers. We look forward to spending time amidst the soil and watching our little plant babies produce gifts for our community. Stay tuned to our social media, Instagram & Facebook @abbajavapsu, for updates on the garden throughout the summer.





# Thank you!!

Thank you to ALL of our Abba Java Volunteers, congregation members AND students! We could not do this work without you and we are incredibly grateful for your partnership in feeding, knowing, and loving our Penn State student

## 2022 NUMBERS

**2500 lbs.** food in reclamation from Wegmans, Gemelli Bakers, Sheetz, Weis Market, & Starbucks

**11,300 lbs.** of food from Central PA Food Bank, average of \$.07/lb.

**575 hours** Abba Java was open

**25, 495 students** served  
Fall 2021–Spring 2022

**59 volunteers** (congregation members & students)



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Karen Morgan, Abba Java Coffeehouse Manager  
Rebecca Robison, Abba Java Coordinator of Volunteers



**@wesleypennstate**

**@abbajavapsu**