

# Wesley Witness

Dear Wesley,

I write these words as I overlook the beautiful scenery of mountains and trees from my AirBnB in Helen, GA. I'm here this week for a retreat with clergy friends who are part of my covenant group.

As we drove up yesterday, we stopped at Cookout for lunch. Hannah and I spent many evenings going to Cookout while I was at Duke. If you've been before, you'll know they're famous for their 40+ flavors of milkshakes. This time I got a watermelon milkshake, the summertime limited special. I know it sounds weird, but it was really refreshing!



One of the neat things about Cookout (besides the plethora of milkshake flavors) is that their cups have Bible verses on them. My cup had Psalm 118:24 on it, a verse that centers us each Sunday with its promise of renewal and joy: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (NIV) What a great way to start this retreat, with a reminder of the divine gift each new day holds and an invitation to embrace it with a spirit of gratitude and celebration.

Every day is a fresh canvas, a new opportunity to experience God's grace and to live out God's purpose for us. When we wake up each morning, we are greeted by the potential to start anew, to face the day's challenges with hope, and to savor the blessings that come our way. Psalm 118:24 calls us to recognize that each day is a creation of the Lord—carefully crafted, filled with possibilities, and deserving of our joyful acknowledgment.

However, it's not always easy to approach each day with such a positive mindset. Life can often present us with trials, difficulties, and moments of discouragement. Yet, this verse encourages us to look beyond the immediate struggles and to see each day as an opportunity for growth and grace. Even on the hardest days, there is something to be thankful for, and in that gratitude, we find strength and solace.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Breaking News

## Bible Study



### PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY—TIME

Please join us every Tuesday from noon to 1PM for Bible Study as we continue our study of the book of Samuel 2.

**BACK TO SCHOOL** Alachua County Schools start back on Monday, August 12th. Watch out for the little ones at bus stops and other gathering spots as they come and go.



*“And He said,  
The Lord is my rock,  
and my fortress,  
and my deliverer;”*

*2 Samuel 22:2 KJV*

## *Wesley United Methodist Church*

*Mission Statement  
Celebrating God!  
Growing in Faith!  
Changing the World!*

*Pastor Kolby Gollhofer*

826 NW 23rd Avenue  
Gainesville, FL  
32609  
Office: 352-372-2845

We are on Facebook!!!

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Deadline for articles: 15th of each month

Website:  
[www.WesleyUMCon23.org](http://www.WesleyUMCon23.org)  
[www.facebook.com/WUMCGVL](http://www.facebook.com/WUMCGVL)

### *Weekly Sunday Activities*

Worship @ 10:45AM  
(Sanctuary)



*(continued from page 1)*

In the spirit of this verse, I encourage you to start each day with a prayer of thanks. Acknowledge the blessings you might take for granted, and ask God to help you see God's hand at work in every moment. Embrace the day with an open heart, ready to encounter God's love and to share that love with others. Remember that every moment is a chance to bring light into the world and to rejoice in the life God has given us.

Let this month be a time of living out Psalm 118:24. Celebrate the small victories and the big milestones. Encourage one another to find joy in the everyday moments. Together, let us make it our mission to rejoice in the gift of each day, trusting that God's plans for us are good and filled with hope.

May we all find reasons to be glad in every day the Lord has made, knowing that our rejoicing reflects our faith in God's ongoing work in our lives.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Kolby*

*Jim Arnett*

*Diane Blucher*

*David Hodges*

*Rachelle Hines*

*Beth Loehr-Moody*

*Sonny Robertson*

*Dale Smith*

*Carla, Robert, Steve,  
Molly & Buddy*

*Barbara Baldwin*

*Carolyn Clarke*

*Cindy Holmes*

*Rosie Leggett*

*Clydia Reichert*

*Beth Senn*

*Christie Tattersall*

*Linda Baldwin*

*Helen Goddard*

*Jim Harris*

*Barb Loehr*

*Joe Reichert*

*Joan Siegel*

*With God*  
**ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**

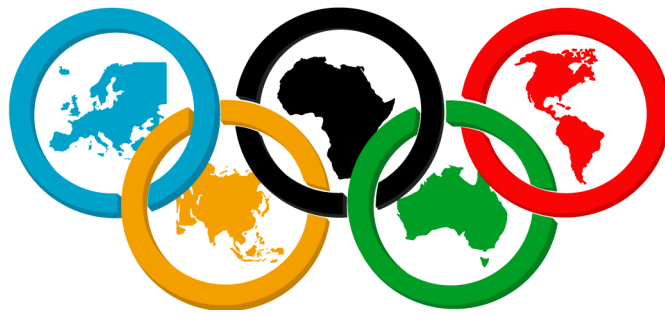


# August 2024

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**  
Worship Service—10:45AM

**WEDNESDAYS**  
WW Supper 2nd Wed. 5:30PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11:30AM Card Club 6:00PM Sisters in Faith	2	3
4 Communion Sunday	5	6 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	7	8  11:30AM Card Club	9	10
5:30 Covered Dish Dinner and Game Night						
11	12 <b>BACK TO SCHOOL</b> 6:30 Nightingales	13 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	14 6:00PM SPRC	15  11:30AM Card Club	16	17
18	19	20 Voting Day 10:00AM Morning Stars 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	21 6:00PM Nominations	22  11:30AM Card Club	23	24
25 Church wide nominations after service	26	27 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 6:00PM Leadership Board	28	29  11:30AM Card Club	30	31



## COME CELEBRATE SUMMER AND THE 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

Come join us for the first annual Summer Covered Dish Dinner and Game Night on **SUNDAY, August 4th at 5:30 PM**. Paula and I just thought the whole summer was too long to go without the opportunity to get together and visit. Oh, yeah, and eat. I'm planning fried chicken, and you bring your favorite side dish or dessert to round out the meal. A couple of people have volunteered to churn some home-made ice cream—Yum!

And we also plan to play some fun games in honor of our Olympic athletes. Since we'll be in the Fellowship Hall, we won't be swimming or running cross-country, but I'm sure there are some games we can do indoors in air conditioned comfort.

Since I'm late getting this issue out, I hope you saw the notices and have already called Terri to let her know you're coming and what you are bringing. Please be sure your dish will feed about 12 people—that will ensure we have enough for everyone.

*Sharren*

PS I hope you've been watching the Olympics coverage and training for those games we will play!



Pastor Kolby and Hannah went to the Gainesville Community Playhouse to see "*In the Heights*" where our favorite cast member, Kristopher Robinson, is in the ensemble.

Kristopher and his parents are also newly returned members to our congregation.

Congratulations, Kris!

PS: It's a great show—I highly recommend it and hope you get a chance to see it!



Early Voting for the Primary Election begins next week!

Between August 5 and August 17, early voting will take place from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at all 8 of the locations on the flyer to the right.

Remember, you can vote at any early voting location during the early voting period.

You should receive a sample ballot in the mail so you can go over the choices and plan your voting strategy before you go into the location. It really does save time!

If you haven't registered to vote, or you wish to change your voter affiliation, NOW is the time to get that done. The deadline to register is October 7, 2024.

Our General Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th.

Early Voting: October 21 - November 2



# 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

## EARLY VOTING

August 5-August 17

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Tower Road Branch Library**  
3020 SW 75th Street  
Gainesville, FL 32608

**J. Wayne Reitz Union**  
655 Reitz Union Drive  
Gainesville, FL 32611

**Supervisor of Elections Office**  
515 North Main Street  
Gainesville, FL 32601

**Santa Fe College NW Campus**  
Room S-029, 3000 NW 83rd St  
Gainesville, FL 32606  
*\*New*

**Hawthorne Community Center**  
6700 SE 221st St  
Hawthorne, FL 32640

**QUESTIONS?**  
CALL 352-374-5252 OR VISIT  
[VOTEALACHUA.GOV](http://VOTEALACHUA.GOV)

**Millhopper Branch Library**  
3145 NW 43rd Street  
Gainesville, FL 32606

**Legacy Park**  
15400 Peggy Road  
Alachua, FL 32615

**Alachua County Agriculture and Equestrian Center**  
23100 W Newberry Rd  
Newberry, FL 32669

**Your Vote.  
Your Voice.**

REGISTER TO VOTE OR UPDATE  
YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION

[REGISTERTOVOTEFLORIDA.GOV](http://REGISTERTOVOTEFLORIDA.GOV)



## TWENTY-EIGHT POUNDS

That's not that much, is it? Some days, I think my purse weights that much! But 28 pounds of plastic film? That's a LOT! Sara Nussell from SWUMC came and picked up our collection a couple of weeks ago and was amazed at how much we had. I told her over the phone that our bags were taking over the narthex, and would she please tell me what to do with them. When she saw the pile, she looked at me and said "I guess they really *are* taking over the narthex." Duh!

Anyway, we consolidated the bags, jammed them into her car, and off they went to the recycling plant.

We did notice, however, as we were consolidating, that there were a few items that don't belong in the collection. No water bottles, cracker trays, plastic utensils, or berry-box type plastics. Those should go in your recycle bin. You can pretty much tell it's the wrong plastic if they crackle a lot when you squeeze the bag.

I'm also modeling a hand-crocheted shopping bag made entirely of gray, white and red plastic bags. Sarah says it's a great conversation-starter about plastic recycling!

There are several churches collecting plastic film in our little group, our Wesley is definitely collecting the most. Sarah said we will be the next church after SWUMC to receive a bench!



## DON'T THROW AWAY THOSE PLASTIC BAGS OR PLASTIC FILM!

Instead, help us take them out of the waste stream as we partner with Southwest UMC to recycle these films and turn them into pretty, long-lasting park benches. Sarah Nussell, who spoke to us about Creation Care last year, is heading this Nex-Trex project. It *only* takes 1000 pounds of plastic film to make a park bench! Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue.

The planet thanks you, too.





# MISSION OF THE MONTH

We all know they build houses, but that's not all! They also build people! To qualify for home ownership a person must be interviewed by a volunteer Family Selection Committee who looks at issues like a family's financial situation and stability. Prospects must demonstrate a need for safe, affordable housing, have a steady job, and have bills which are less than 40% of their income.

People who qualify for the program then must put in at least 400 hours of sweat equity (200 hours building homes for others and 200 hours building their own homes), must attend classes on home ownership, and must pay an affordable mortgage for 30 to 40 years. Habitat is not a free "give away" program by a long shot!

Habitat was established in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller. He was an attorney who gave up his fortune so others could have decent housing, and the initiative has since spread around the world. The Gainesville Chapter started in 1989 and has built more than 100 homes, with more to be finished very soon! Habitat has a Thrift Shop at 2301 Northwest 6th-Street and welcomes volunteers in many capacities, not the least of which is financial! The phone number is 352-378-4663 and their website is [www.alachuahabitat.org](http://www.alachuahabitat.org).



Alachua  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity

**#180**

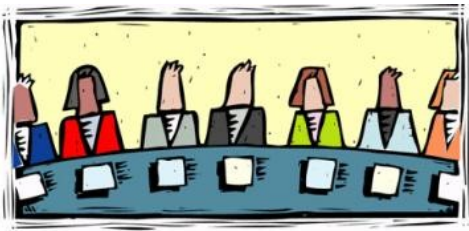
PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
**THE CORRELL FAMILY'S**  
HOME DEDICATION

THURSDAY • MAY 23RD • 10:00 AM  
1705 NE 9TH AVENUE, GAINESVILLE 32641

Sponsored by  Trinity  SisterHazel

*Note: This may or may not be the Correll family's home—it's just a sample picture*





## Committee Meetings

8/14	6:00PM	SPRC
8/21	6:00PM	Nominations Sub-committee
8/25	Noon	Nominations
8/27	6:00PM	Leadership Board

## August Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Austin Holder  
Bradley Omdahl
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edgar Voyles
- 9<sup>th</sup> Nancy Slaydon
- 10<sup>th</sup> Debbie Taylor
- 16<sup>th</sup> Becky Knight  
Linda Smith
- 20<sup>th</sup> Robbyn Perkins  
Suzanne Posselt
- 24<sup>th</sup> Betty Brand  
Jane Nelson
- 25<sup>th</sup> Dee Boyle
- 29 Kathy Robinson
- 30<sup>th</sup> Dale Smith

## August Anniversaries

- 6<sup>th</sup> Jim & Mary Harris
- 31<sup>st</sup> Nancy & Ron Case



August 12 for Alachua County Schools  
August 19 for Santa Fe College  
August 22 for University of Florida



## FUN AND GAMES

Join the Canasta card club at Wesley United Methodist Church! Have fun and meet great people! Invite family and friends, the more the merrier!

When: Thursdays, 11:30 AM (except holidays)

Where: Wesley United Methodist Church  
826 Northwest 23rd Avenue  
Fellowship Hall

We have wonderful members waiting to teach you Hand and Foot Canasta!



### Card Club Guidelines

- Bring a sack lunch and beverage if you wish.
- Please arrive on time if possible.
- Please help clean up after the games end.
- Please give us your email address and phone number in case of scheduling changes.