

Wesley Witness

Advent Message



From the

Pastor

“She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21 NRSV)

Dear Wesley,

If you have children, you remember the decision to name them. Perhaps it was a family name. (My middle name, Jayke, and my siblings' middle names, Jayde and Jayce, are named after my grandpa, whose name is Jay.) Perhaps you named your child after a close friend, an author, or someone else important to you. Perhaps it was simply the only name that you and your partner both liked and could agree on!

I have seen other people make different choices. We see baby names today that no one had thought of twenty years ago. Not saying they're bad choices at all, just different. But at the end of the day, if there are parents who love the child and chose the name, the child is blessed.

For all the parents who have struggled to come up with the perfect name, one story tops all others. It was a night two thousand years ago, in a manger in Bethlehem. His parents didn't choose the name, it was chosen for them. “You are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

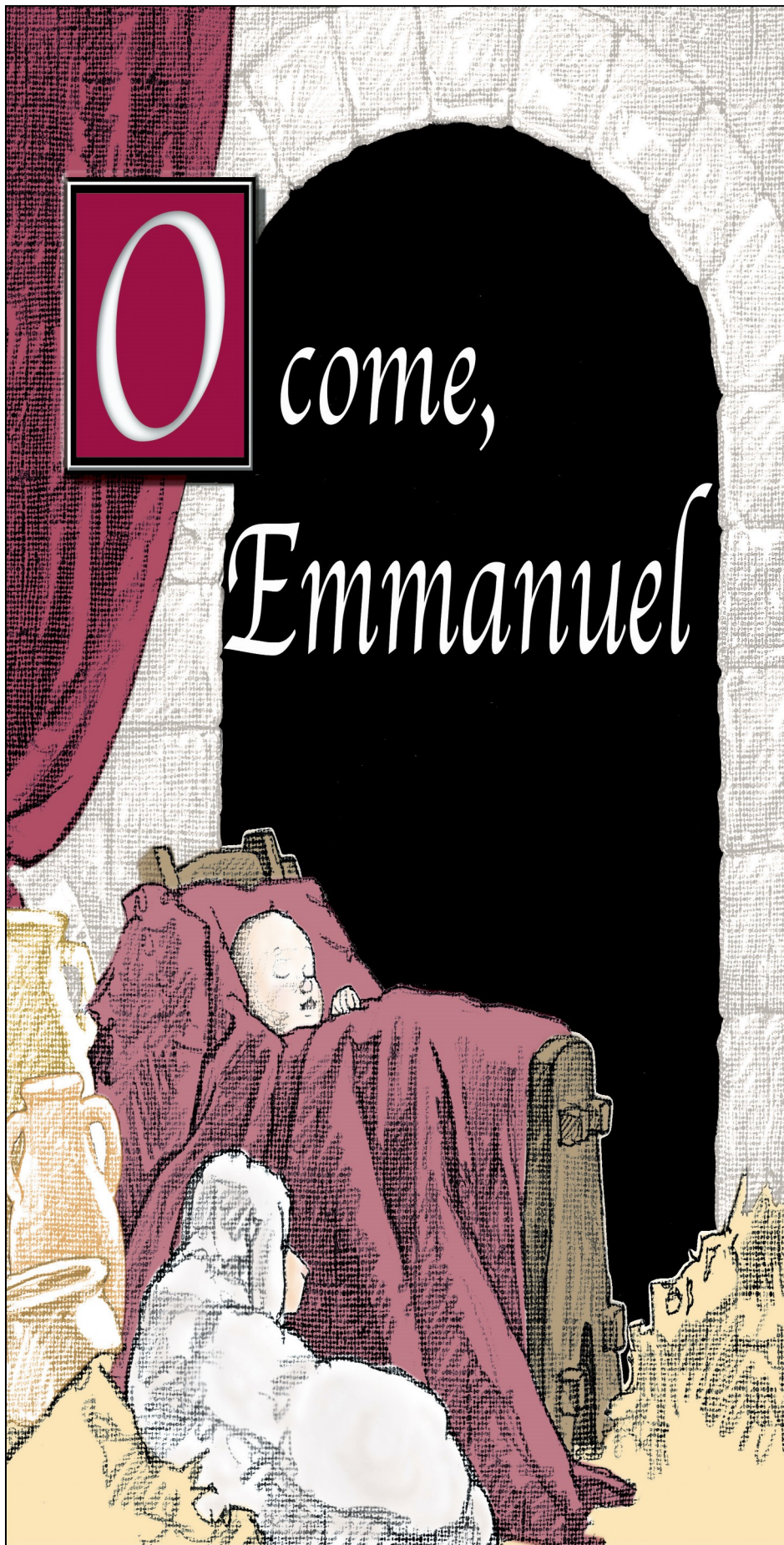
But as you know, that's not his only name. He's also called Alpha and Omega, Bright and Morning Star, Son of David, Good Shepherd, Bread of Life, Great I Am, Good News, King of Kings, Lord of Lords. And there are many, many others.

During the season of Advent, as we move toward the celebration of Christmas, we will talk about some of the names by which our Savior is called. We'll talk about why the Christmas stories in the Bible call him Messiah, “God Saves”, Emmanuel, the Word, and the Light of the World.

I know December is a busy time, and there's a lot going on. There's a lot going on around Wesley. I hope you'll take advantage of all of our special services and celebrations. But I especially hope you will join us on Sunday mornings for worship as we worship the one who is called Jesus!

Blessings,

Pastor Kolby



*Wesley United
Methodist Church*

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

Pastor Kolby Golliher

826 NW 23rd Avenue
Gainesville, FL
32609
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We are on Facebook!!!

Pastor's E-mail:
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Witness Articles E-mail:
Sharren Gibbs
sharrenleegibbs2020@gmail.com
Deadline for articles: 15th of each
month

Website:
www.WesleyUMCon23.org
www.facebook.com/WUMCGVL

Weekly Sunday Activities

Worship @ 10:45AM
(Sanctuary)



Teresa Alfieri

Helen Goddard

Betty Holder

Barb Loehr

Clydia Reichert

Joan Siegel

Donna Weseman

Linda Baldwin

John Hodges

Becky Holmes Family

Beth Loehr-Moody

Joe Reichert

Dale Smith

Carla, Robert, Steve, Molly & Buddy

Carolyn Clarke

John Hodges Jr

Rosie Leggett

Frank Nosko

Beth Senn

Christie Tattersall

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Learn the meaning behind the names of Christ and the difference He makes in our lives this Christmas. Be Transformed this Advent Season!

His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh.

In *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth.

This Advent season, we'll come together to remember what's important. The four-week study will under-gird our focus in worship each week of December. Two meeting times will be offered so please pick the one that works best for you: Tuesday afternoons 12-1pm (in-person) or Thursday evenings 6:30pm-7:30pm (both in-person and on Zoom). The book can be purchased anywhere books are sold, or call the office to sign up **as soon as possible** and we can order a copy for you.













WW Supper 2nd Wed. 5:30PM

December 2024

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

826 Northwest 23rd Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32609
352-372-2845

Rev. Kolby Golliver, Pastor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens	2	3 Noon Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	4	5  11:30AM Card Club 6:00PM Sisters in Faith 6:30PM Advent Book Study	6 11:30AM YAH's Covered dish at Weseman's Home RSVP 12/1	7 11AM Memorial ser- vice for Cindy Holmes
8 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday	9 6:30 Nightingales	10 Noon Pastor's Class	11 DAR 5:30PM WWS	12  11:30AM Card Club 6:30PM Advent Book Study	13 7PM Young Adult Meeting	14
15 3rd Sunday of Advent	16	17 10:00AM Morning Stars Noon Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	18	19  11:30AM Card Club 6:30PM Advent Book Study	20	21
22 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Cantata 	23	24 No Pastor's Class 5PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed 	26 Office Closed  11:30AM Card Club	27	28
29 Fifth Sunday collection for Residing Hope	30	31 Noon Pastor's Class				

WESLEY WEDNESDAY SUPPER



Our next regular Wesley Wednesday supper will be our annual Christmas Dinner on December 11th at 5:30 PM. In addition to a salad bar and dessert, we will serve a plated dinner consisting of a ham, dressing, green beans, cranberry sauce, and a roll for only \$7.00 per meal. And for a family of three or more, you get a special price of \$20 max. We need at least 25 people to sign up for this to happen, so come and get a meal, either take-home or dine-in, but we hope you'll stay to eat with your faith family and enjoy the fellowship. After all, this *is* our FELLOWSHIP dinner!

We plan to sing some well-known Christmas carols, so don't miss out on this blessed opportunity!

Please RSVP to the office by December 8th.

Donna Weseman



WESLEY'S NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed eight new members on May 17th, following completion of their New Members Class. Left to right: Antoinette Jean-Pierre, Jan Sims, Chris & Kathy Robinson, Kristopher Robinson, Bill Woods, and Diane & DR Sapp.

(I'm so sorry I overlooked this photographic milestone! We're so happy to have you!!!)

PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED FOR TELEPHONE

PRAYER CHAIN: Some might ask, "What is the telephone prayer chain and how does it work?" When someone has a prayer need and they need it right now, just pick up the telephone and call Yvonne Hodges (352-262-7398). She will pray a short prayer and then put the chain in action. If you don't get an answer, call Irma Hales (352-376-7222) and she will also pray a short prayer and then put the chain in action.

Responsibilities of Prayer Warriors: when called: take down the information accurately, pray a short prayer, and then immediately pass it on to the next person on the list. If you don't get an answer, you must pass it on to the next person on the list. We want to keep the chain going and every prayer request is important.

If you want to have your name added, or have it removed, please give me a call or text at (352-262-7398).

In His Name,

Yvonne Hodges

Hello Worshipers!

We are starting a full Handbell Choir. We need 11 committed ringers to form the choir. We will start in January and learn from scratch. I will be teaching the program "Teaching Handbells to the Beginning Handbell Choir, a One-Year Plan," a program I wrote years ago in college as a research project. It just needs to be rehearsed and edited so I can publish it, so I would like your help! Our congregation and the body of Christ here can benefit in the process. This will give us an opportunity to give back to our Lord in a meaningful way and it's a lot of fun!! More details to come but keep it in mind. You do not need to read music, just how to count. I will teach everything you need to know and there will be a few experienced bell-ringers in the choir to lean on. Please consider joining us in this opportunity. We would love for you join us in offering this joyful noise unto the Lord.

In His Love,

Bill Bush

386-315-4293 cell



UWF

Nominations for 2025

We know that it is early to be thinking about this, but somebody has to. 2025 will be here before we know it, and we need to be ready. We would like to hear from anyone interested in being PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, or TREASURER of the Local Unit. Remember that GOD DOES NOT CALL THE EQUIPPED, HE EQUIPS THE CALLED. District will also offer training in January. Please pray about this and if interested in any area, please give one of us a call or text. Thank you for any consideration that you give this request.

Sincerely,
Yvonne Hodges (352-262-7398)
Nancy Slaydon (352-317-6858)



Caring for Your Soul Retreat and Workshops

CONNECTING IN SISTERHOOD: ABOUNDING IN HOPE

Rev. Dr. Mary Mitchell, Guest Speaker

Epworth By The Sea, St. Simons Island, GA - March 7-9, 2025

Rev. Mary L Mitchell has been a guiding light as the Senior Pastor of the Bartley Temple United Methodist Church in Gainesville, FL., for the past twelve years. Rev. Mitchell's unwavering commitment to her primary goal in life and ministry, to make disciples for Christ, is truly inspiring. She passionately teaches others how to apply the Word of God in their everyday lives, a testament to her dedication.

Rev. Mitchell's extensive educational background is a testament to her knowledge and expertise. She graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity Degree and received a Doctor of Ministry at Emory University. Her ordination as a provisional Elder in the United Methodist Church in June 2011 and as an Elder in Full Connection in the United Methodist Church in 2016, further solidifies her position as a respected leader.

Workshops include: How Is It with Your Soul?; Pampering for Your Soul; Gardening for Your Soul; and Movement for Your Soul.

Deadline for registration: February 3, 2025

Watch your email for more information and registration forms

We won't be having Coffee with the Pastor this month
-- I hope folks enjoy taking the Advent and Christmas
season off! However, I'm still available to meet for
coffee or office hours upon request.
Just shoot me an email.





Chandler Lee Swygart was baptized on November 3rd. He is the son of Emily and Dean Swygart, and grandson of Joyce Welsh. Princess Blakely also attended the ceremony, adding her own special touch of class.





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary Sunday, December 22nd. If you would like to purchase 1 or more poinsettias for Christmas, please fill out the information below and place along with your check in the collection box, or bring it by the church office on or before Sunday, December 15th. The cost is \$15 per poinsettia.

NAME _____ PHONE# _____

Number of Poinsettias _____

IN MEMORY

OF _____

IN HONOR

OF _____

Please make check out to Wesley UMC and indicate for Poinsettias on your check in the memo section, then attach to order form

Gainesville Pops
Presents: *Holiday with the Pops*

Featuring:
Sleigh Ride
Feliz Navidad
Mambo Christmas
A Rhapsody on Christmas Carols
R. Gary Langford, Conductor

With a Guest Appearance from:
The Hogtowne Bronze Handbell Choir
First United Methodist Church
419 NE 1st Street
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Concert is FREE Saturday, December 7th, 3pm
Find us on online at facebook.com/gvillepops or gainesvillepops.com

The YAHs celebrated Thanksgiving with a covered dish lunch at the Weseman home. Thanks to Roy English for taking these fun photos of the group!





Left to right: Pastor Kolby, Barbara, Janice, Nancy C, Stan, Paula, Kathy, Nancy S, Roy, Mary, Sonny, Joan, Jim, and Helen

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

Hurray! Southwest UMC's bench is ON ORDER—we have collected over 1,000 pounds of plastic films through our multicenter recycling group. Next to be ordered when we reach our second 1,000 pound goal will be Wesley UMC! So keep these items coming. Plastic films must



be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue. Please note that we **cannot** take water bottles, cracker trays, plastic utensils, or berry-box type plastics. If it crackles when you squeeze it, it's not the Right Stuff.

Thank you so much for your tremendous response to this project. I think the spot where the gazebo used to be would be a good place for the bench. And some flowers, too!

The planet thanks you.



Sharren hauled these over to our collection point in November—about 75 pounds!



A good sized group of people hung around on a Saturday afternoon and stuffed Blessing Bags—now we're ready to spread those blessings around, as soon as we get some more Gainesville "Street Cards." Look for the cart in the Narthex.



Thank you, Donna Weseman, for hauling our accumulation of foodstuffs for Thanksgiving to the Gainesville Community Ministry collection point in time for Thanksgiving. And thanks to our Wesley family for your generosity to this worthy cause.

We will collect food for Christmas dinners in early December, too! So we're not done yet...

YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR FELLOWSHIP



Young at Heart
Senior Fellowship

Here are the upcoming dates and places through the next few months. As always, we meet at 11:30 AM for this fun and purely social event. Also, as always, you need to RSVP to me the Tuesday before the meeting on Friday so I know how many tables and chairs to reserve. Join us!

DATE	WHERE	RSVP BY:
December 6	Christmas Covered Dish at Weseman's	December 1
January 10	Piesano's	January 5
February 14	Valentine's luncheon at Weseman's	February 9



Committee Meetings

None!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

- 12/1 1st Week of Advent
Hanging of the Greens
- 12/8 2nd week of Advent
Communion
- 12/11 5:30PM Christmas Dinner
- 12/15 3rd Week of Advent
- 12/22 4th Week of Advent
Choir Christmas Musical
- 12/24 5:00PM Christmas Eve Service
- 12/31 5th Sunday

December Birthdays

- 1st Cathy Clarke
- 2nd Jason Dotts
- 3rd Leisa Baldwin
- 6th Kevin Hales
- 9th Pamela Christensen
- 10th Marilyn Browning
- 12th Kay Frazier
- 13th Jason Yaxley
- 17th Hannah Golliher
- 18th Harley Christensen
- 19th Sherry Adams
- 27th Carolyn Clarke
- 28th Betty Holder
- 29th Leonard Gideon

December Anniversaries

- 11th Pamela & Harley Christensen
- 20th Susie & Danny Aguila



For unto us a child is born...

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.