



Dear Wesley,

Happy New Year! As we step into the fresh canvas of 2025, I'm reminded of the beautiful truth in Lamentations 3:22-23: *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness"* (NRSVue).

January marks a new beginning, not only in our calendars but in the spiritual rhythms of our lives. Each new year presents an opportunity for renewal—both in our faith and in our relationships with one another and with God. In this season of new beginnings, let us pause and reflect on the year that has passed and all that God has done. Through every challenge, blessing, joy, and sorrow, God's steadfast love has remained constant.

As we turn the page to 2025, we have the chance to embrace a new chapter with open hearts and renewed spirits. The past year may have brought its own set of challenges, but as we move forward, we know that God is always working in our lives and in the world, even in ways we might not immediately understand. Our church, our community, and our personal journeys are shaped by God's grace and mercy.

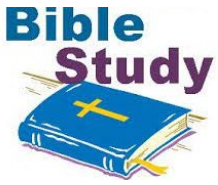
This January, I invite you to consider how you might embrace this new year with a renewed sense of hope and purpose. It's the perfect time to deepen our faith, share God's love, and live out our calling to serve others. Perhaps you feel God calling you to take a step of faith, to serve in a new way, or to commit to prayer or study as a means of growing closer to God's self. Whatever that looks like for you, I encourage you to take it to God in prayer and trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In our congregation, we'll be planning many opportunities for connection, growth, and service this year. From small groups and Bible studies to community dinners and volunteer opportunities, there is a place for you to get involved and live out your faith. I hope you'll join us on January 15th as we discern new ministry ideas together that support our Vision statement. Let's commit together to make 2025 a year of deeper community, greater impact, and a more faithful walk with Christ.

As we enter this new year, let us do so with a spirit of expectancy. God is always doing a new thing, and God desires to do something beautiful in our lives. Let's begin 2025 with renewed hearts, ready to follow where the Holy Spirit leads.

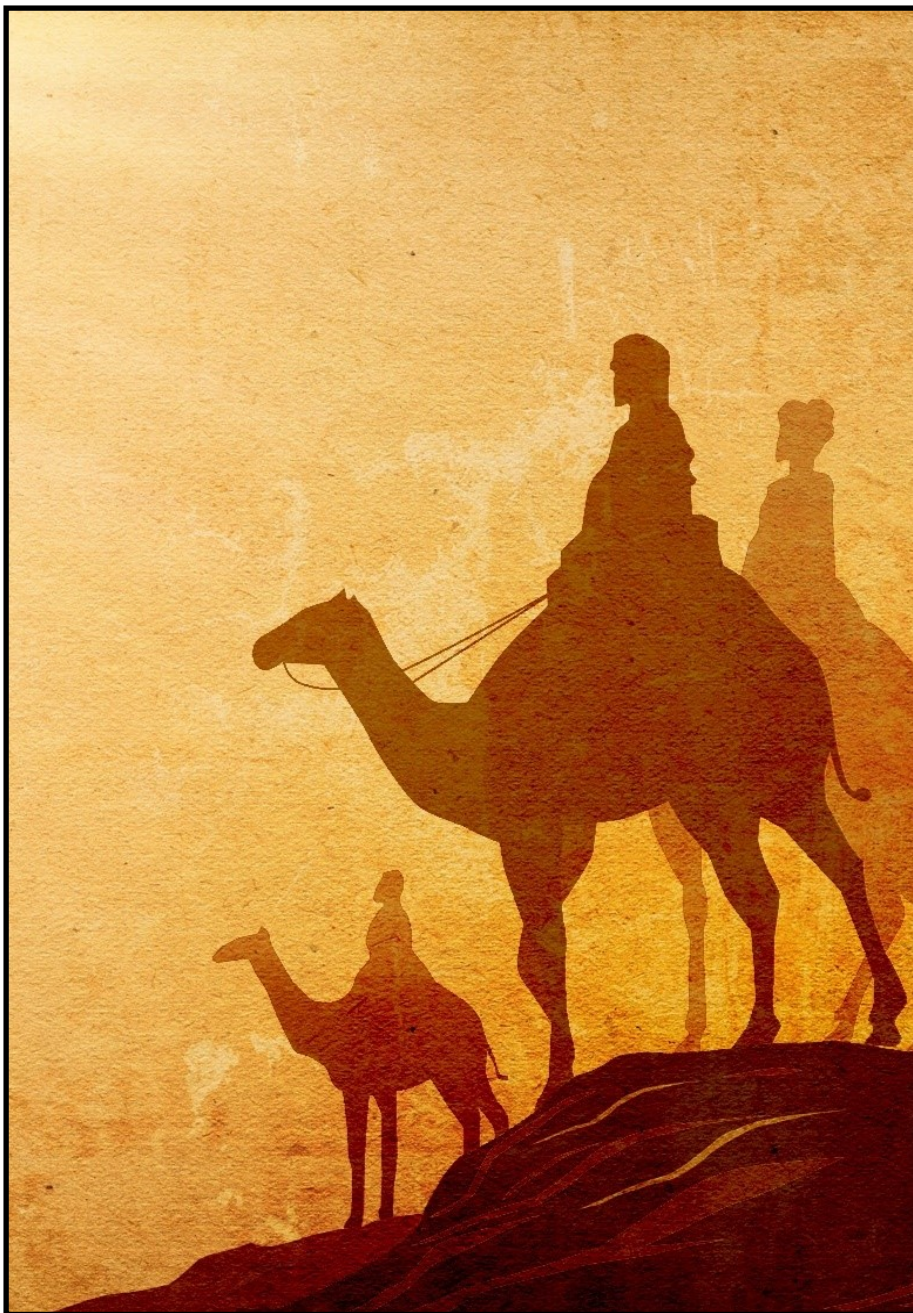
Blessings,

Pastor Kolby



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY-TIME

Please join us in person every Tuesday beginning January 21st from noon to 1PM for Bible Study as we begin our study of 1st Corinthians



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!!!

Pastor's E-mail:
Kolby@gainesvillewesley.org

Secretary's E-mail:
Terri Manche
secretary@wumc.cfcoxmail.com

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 & especially Buddy



The Clarke Family
John Hodges Jr
Rosie Leggett
Frank Nosko
Beth Senn
Christie Tattersall



With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE



COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

Coffee & Conversation will be starting back up again this month! We're going to experiment with gathering monthly instead of weekly for the next couple of months, and I expect we'll probably end up landing somewhere in the middle like bi-monthly. Our next meeting will be Friday, January 17th at 9:00AM at Curia (2029 NW 6th Street).



Dear Wesley,

Thank you so much for your generous and thoughtful Christmas gifts, goodies and cards! Your appreciation means a lot to me. I love working in the church office and look forward to a great 2025! Happy New Year!

Terri



Dear Wesley,

Thank you for the beautiful gifts that you have given me. I so appreciate all the love and encouragement you have shown me over the years. Much love and blessings to you! Happy New Year!

William

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship Service—10:45AM

WEDNESDAYS

WW Supper 2nd Wed. 5:30PM

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

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

Rev. Kolby Golliver, Pastor

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 	6 	7 Noon Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	1 Office Closed 	2  11:30AM Card Club	3  11:30AM Card Club	4 
12 9:30 AM Choir Practice	13 6:30PM Nightin- gales	14 No Pastor's Class	8 5:30PM WWS 6:00PM SPRC	9  11:30AM Card Club	10 11:30AM YAHs Piesano's RSVP 1/5	11
19 9:30AM Choir Prac- tice	20 6:30PM Nightin- gales	21 10:00AM Morning Stars Noon Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	15 6:00PM Visioning Meeting	16  11:30AM Card Club	17 9:00AM Coffee with the Pastor @ Curia	18
26 9:30AM Choir Prac- tice 10:45 UWF installa- tion of officers	27	28 Noon Pastor's Class 6:00PM Leadership Board	22 10:00AM Morning Stars Noon Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	23  11:30AM Card Club	24	25
			29	30  11:30AM Card Club	31	

WESLEY WEDNESDAY SUPPER



Our next regular Wesley Wednesday supper will be our on January 8th at 5:30 PM. In addition to a salad bar and dessert, we will serve a plated dinner consisting of a meat, green beans, 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!

Please RSVP to the office by January 5th.

Donna Weseman

CHOIR NEWS

I'm sure by now you've seen Pastor Kolby's note about the resignation of Bill Bush, our choir director during November and December. We were sad to see him go, and hope he continues to heal from his previous injuries and sequellae following a car accident.

Meanwhile... Sharren offered her services as—as she put it—a “pretend” director, so that the choir could go ahead and sing for you on the 22nd as planned. After a couple of rehearsals to assess the readiness of the choir and our accompanist, Yvonne, we got a resounding YES! to go ahead and sing.

I'm SO glad we did. It was a testimony to our hard work, Yvonne's innate talent and extra practice time, and Bill's weeks of preparing us as we worked on the four songs.

We will try to keep our musical momentum going under Sharren's direction over the next weeks until we can find a new director. Please keep us all in your prayers.



Left to right: Elizabeth, Hannah, Carol, Ron, Nancy, Paula (just barely visible behind Nancy) and Kathy, with Yvonne at the piano. And Sharren in the middle from the back.



Front row, L-R: Nancy S, Jim, Stan, Roy, and Sonny.

Back row: Janice, Pastor Kolby, Nancy C, Mary, Paula, Barbara, Sharren, Kathy, and Joan. Photographer: Donna



Any gathering at the Weseman home is a lovely time. Donna is a gracious hostess and wonderful holiday decorator, and her life as a Christian is always in evidence, as she prays over our food before lunch. The Kitchen Fund provided ham and fried chicken, and everyone brought something to share.

We are already looking forward to our Valentine luncheon in February!



Young at Heart Fellowship



Thanks
for the
photos,
Roy!

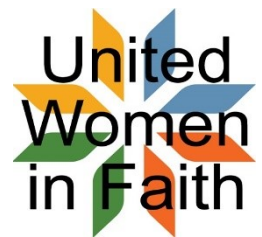


Caring for Your Soul Retreat and Workshops

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



Thank you, Bill and Ron, for the Christmas carol sing-along. It was lovely.



Our annual Christmas Fellowship Dinner brought in a big crowd this year. Thanks to the Kitchen Crew for cooking and serving this yummy dinner, and thanks to those of you who helped clean up after we were finished..

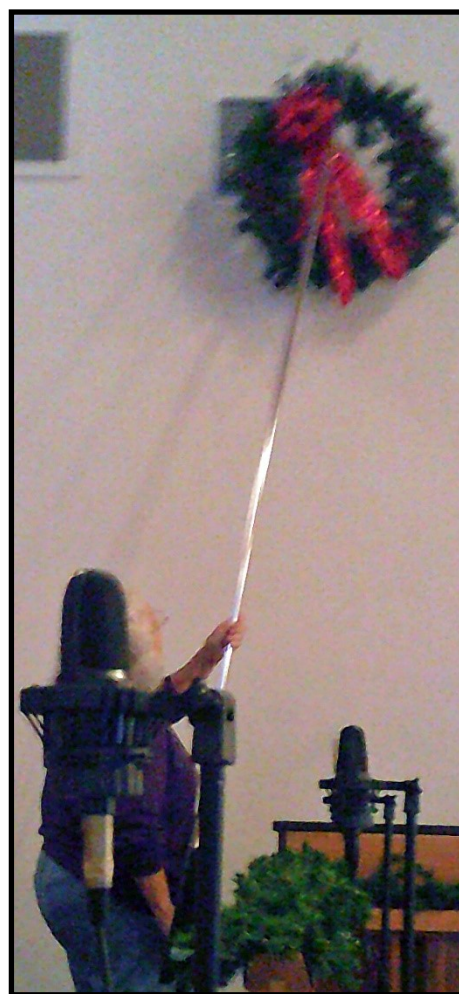
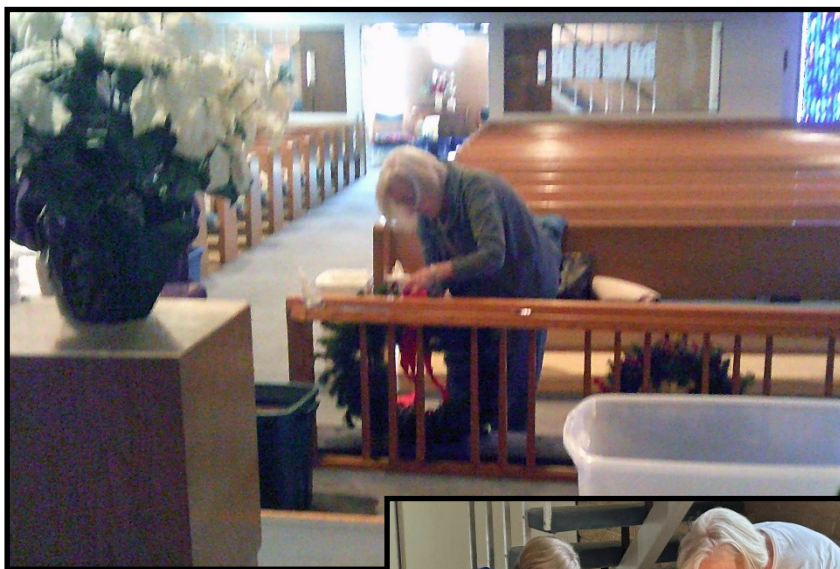
Thanks to Roy for taking these nice photos.





Thank you, Donna Weseman, for hauling our accumulation of foodstuffs for Christmas to the Salvation Army collection point in time for Christmas. And thanks to our Wesley family for your generosity to this worthy cause.





No, this doesn't happen by magic. Every year a group of volunteers gathers to decorate our beautiful sanctuary.



Fledgling photographer Blakely took several photos, and also put candles in drip cups for the Christmas Eve service.



There's a LOT of fluffing to do! Thank you, Kathy, Joyce, Blakeley, Bill, Barbara, Pastor Kolby, and Sharren!



MISSION OF THE MONTH

ST. FRANCIS HOUSE

Mission Statement: The overall mission of St. Francis House is to provide emergency food, temporary shelter, transitional housing, and related support services in a safe, secure environment for people in the Alachua County region who, for whatever reason, find themselves confronted with homelessness and hunger.

This ministry was established in 1980 by Father Baker, with a goal to provide the basic necessities to help the impoverished and hungry in the community.

Contributions may be marked on your check or envelope and placed in the collection plate or on the altar. You may also mail your checks for St. Francis House to the church office during the entire month of January.



Since our loss of our former missions coordinator, Cindy Holmes, we are in need of someone to take over that duty. If you are so inclined and moved, please let Pastor Kolby know. Training is available through the District.



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:
January 10	Piesano's	January 5
February 14	Valentine's luncheon at Weseman's	February 9

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

Hurray! We are well on our way to collecting the 1,000 pounds needed to get a beautiful bench made of recycled plastic film. 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, too.



Sharren hauled these over to our collection point On December 10th and 29th—about 87.5 pounds for the month, putting us at 1,778 pounds altogether as a community since we first started this project with Southwest UMC. The first 1000 went towards Southwest's free bench. Ours should be coming very soon at the rate we're going! Keep up the good work!



Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was well-attended this year. Pastor Kolby's message was spot-on, and Hannah's solo was absolutely beautiful. And there's just "something" about candlelight!



BIBLE STUDY



After we complete our current study on January 7th, our next Bible Study will begin on January 21st and run every Tuesday from 12-1pm for six weeks. Pastor Kolby is planning an in-depth overview of the book of 1st Corinthians, using a commentary by New Testament professor Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles as our study guide. Please let him know ASAP if you'd like him to order you a copy of the guide for \$14.

We would like to have a yard sale on April 5, 2025. Donations will be accepted **only** on Sunday, March 30th or Monday, March 31st in the Fellowship Hall. **No books or clothes please.** Baked goods would be most welcome.



**Rummage
Sale**



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1/8	6:00PM	SPRC
1/15	6:00PM	Visioning Meeting
1/28	6:00PM	Leadership Board

A little bird told me that we need a new church directory. Well, all righty, then!

I will set up shop in the conference room to take your photos over the coming weeks on Sundays, so you won't have to make a special effort to dress up and come.

Family groups and special requests are welcome. I'll provide you with a digital copy of your photo(s) to do with as you please, and the best ones will be used in the directory.

Watch the bulletins and *Witness* for more information.

Sharren



January Birthdays

- 1st Irma Hales
- 2nd Joyce Welsh
- 5th Joe Reichert
- 8th Paula Mathis
- 10th Ron Case
- 11th Jan Sims
- 14th Linda Yaxley-Nosko
- 20th Grayson Nosko (Linda Yaxley-Nosko's grand son)
- 28th Jim Nelson

January Anniversaries

None



Celebrate!

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.