

“There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” ~Galatians 3:28 CEB

Dear Wesley,

The day after Christmas, stores started making way for the next holiday. The cards and heart-shaped boxes of Valentine’s Day replaced the tinsel and lights of Christmas. Valentine’s Day is a tricky day for a lot of people. It can intensify feelings of loneliness in folks who are un-coupled or just generally isolated. And, of course, like so many of our other holidays, it has been commercialized and exploited for companies – florists, candy makers, and Hallmark – to make money.

Maybe you have reasons to love and hate the holiday, but I can rarely spend a Valentine’s Day without thinking of a lesson I learned in elementary school. It was first grade, I think, and we were planning for our class Valentine’s Day party. There would be candy and punch and games. And there would be valentines for every student. We were required to get the small valentines for everybody in the class.

I remember vividly that I was uncomfortable with that. A big part of it was that I didn’t want to give a card to one particular boy. This was the kid in class that always acted out. Not only was he disruptive, he also did really gross things...like eat glue and Play-Doh. We probably all remember that kid. And maybe, some of us *were* that kid.

I was reluctant to give him a card. But I remember my mom telling me that I had to give everyone in the class one...that I couldn’t leave anyone out.

As I’ve grown and learned more about Jesus, I realize that was a lesson in discipleship. It obviously stuck with me through the years. I still remember the boy’s name. I still remember what he looked like. And even if I didn’t really like him, I couldn’t leave him out. Jesus didn’t leave anybody out.

As another Valentine’s Day approaches, I reflect on who is left out. No one is left out in God’s eyes, but our world doesn’t always look like the world as God intended. We fall short, and we leave lots of people out. I think about the ways that the church leaves people out. We do it in small and large ways. In small ways, we don’t always extend a warm welcome to guests who do come through our doors. In large ways, the church leaves whole groups of people out, because some lobbying group decided that the way God made them disqualified them from church service.

(Continued on page 3)

Breaking News

Bible Study



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY-TIME

Please join us in person every Tuesday from noon to 1PM for Bible Study as we continue our study of 1st Corinthians.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1st Corinthians 13:4-8

*Wesley United
Methodist Church*
Mission Statement
Celebrating God!
Growing in Faith!
Changing the World!

Pastor Kolby Gollisier

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)



(Continued from page 1)

Looking back at that kid from my first grade class, I now realize that he probably had some issues that I didn't have. I don't know what his family situation was, but now I think they probably didn't have a lot of money. His behavior made him the object of teasing and alienation. I have a feeling the kids were laughing at him, not with him. I can't imagine what life was like for him, but I think if there was anybody that needed to be included and get a Valentine, it was this kid.

What are you doing to make those that are left out feel included? What can the church do to make those that are left out feel included?

The scriptures teach us that God's love is for everyone; no one is left out. It's available to all of us. I pray that we are living into that love and making sure that no one is left out. And I ask you to pray as well: that we as a church, the Body of Christ, have open hearts to the movement of the Spirit and ensure that everyone – regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, or anything else – is included in our church. Pray that our church won't leave anyone out. Because God doesn't leave anyone out.

Blessings,
Pastor Kolby



Linda Baldwin

John Hodges

Becky Knight & Family

Beth Loehr-Moody

Joe Reichert

Dale Smith

Carla, Robert, Steve, Molly & especially Buddy

Scott, Judy, Anne & Arden

Michael Gibbs

John Hodges Jr

Rosie Leggett

Frank Nosko

Beth Senn

Christie Tattersall

Helen Goddard

Betty Holder

Barb Loehr

Clydia Reichert

Sonya Stack

Voyles Family

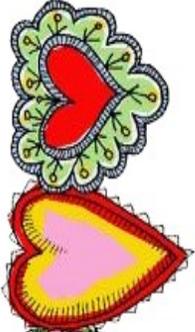
With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

February 2025

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
 Worship Service—10:45AM
WEDNESDAYS
 WW Supper 2nd Wed. 5:30PM

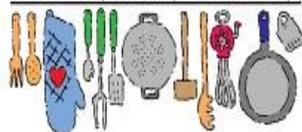
WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 826 Northwest 23rd Avenue
 Gainesville, Florida 32609
 352-372-2845

Rev. Kolby Golliver, Pastor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>9 Noon UWF Executive Meeting</p>	<p>10 6:30PM Nightingales</p>	<p>4 Noon Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittiers</p>	<p>5 6:00PM Worship Meeting</p>	<p>6 11:30AM Card Club 6:00PM Sisters in Faith</p>	<p>7 11:30AM Valentine's Lunch Weseman's RSVP 2/9</p>	<p>1 </p>
<p>16 Noon UWF Executive Meeting</p>	<p>17 24 Bring goods to FH for rummage sale</p>	<p>11 Noon Pastor's Class</p>	<p>12 DAR 5:30PM WWS</p>	<p>13 11:30AM Card Club</p>	<p>14 11:30AM Valentine's Lunch Weseman's RSVP 2/9</p>	<p>8 </p>
<p>23 Bring goods to FH for rummage sale</p>	<p>24 Bring goods to FH for rummage sale</p>	<p>18 10:00AM Morning Stars Noon Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittiers</p>	<p>19 6:00PM Nominations</p>	<p>20 11:30AM Card Club</p>	<p>21 9:00AM Coffee with the Pastor at Baloo's 7:00PM Young Adults</p>	<p>22 </p>
<p>29 Bring goods to FH for rummage sale</p>	<p>30 Bring goods to FH for rummage sale</p>	<p>25 Bring goods to FH for rummage sale Noon Pastor's Class 6:00PM Leadership Board</p>	<p>26 Last day to bring goods for rummage sale</p>	<p>27 11:30AM Card Club</p>	<p>28 11:30AM Card Club</p>	<p> </p>

WESLEY WEDNESDAY SUPPER

FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



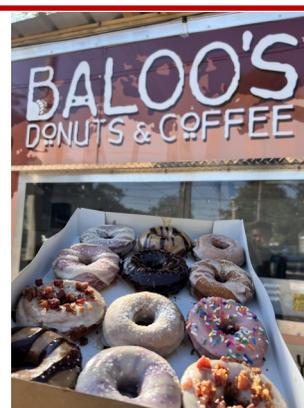
Our next regular Wesley Wednesday supper will be on February 12th at 5:30 PM. It's the one you've been waiting for—MEATLOAF! In addition to a salad bar and dessert, we will serve a plated dinner consisting of a said meatloaf, green beans, and a roll for only \$7.00 per meal. And for a family of three 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, and 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 February 10th.

Donna Weseman

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

Coffee & Conversation started back up again last 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 on February 21st at 9:00 AM at Balloo's Coffee and Donut Shot, just west of the church on NW 23rd AVENUE.

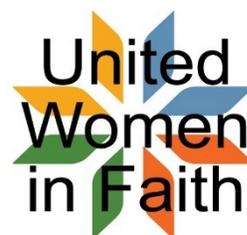


Caring for Your Soul Retreat and Workshops

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

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH INDUCT 2025 OFFICERS

During the Sunday morning Worship service on January 26th the following ladies were installed as UWF members for 2025:

President – Sherry Adams
Secretary – Sharren Gibbs
Treasurer – Joyce Welsh



Circle Leaders:

Morning Stars – Yvonne Hodges
Nightingales – Sherry Adams
Sisters in Faith – Donna Weseman

Committee on Nominations

Chairman, class of 2025, Morning Stars – Yvonne Hodges
Class of 2026, Nightingales – TBD
Class of 2027, Sisters of Faith - TBD

Gift to Mission Cards were given to welcome new members to Wesley United Women in Faith. The new members were: Kathy English (Sisters in Faith), Kathy Robinson (Nightingales) and Anne Sponholtz (Nightingales)

Gift to Mission Cards were also presented to the following individuals to thank them for their service during the year:

- **Barbara Cleveland** – willingness to join the rotating team that regularly counts the collection after church each Sunday.
- **Linda Crenshaw** – faithful and longtime service as a Greeter for Worship.
- **Pastor Kolby** - support for UWF and faithful leadership at Wesley.
- **Mary Harris** – serving as treasurer for Nightingales, and a counter of Sunday's offerings.
- **Lori Hales** – service on the Nominating Committee.
- Becky Knight in honor of **Cindy Holmes'** faithful service to local mission work.
- **Yvonne Le** – welcome and thank you for being our new accompanist.
- **Linda Yaxley-Nosko** – faithful and longtime service at Wesley doing the audio visuals for worship.
- **Stan Salisbury** – faithful service video recording the service each Sunday.
- **Jan Sims** – serving Wesley as the chairman of Trustees.
- **Nancy Slaydon** – serving on Wesley's UWF Nominating Committee for the last three years and chairing the committee in 2024.
- **Joyce Welsh** – filling in for Wesley's UWF President for four months.

Special Mission Recognition Pins with a gift to mission were presented to the following:

- **Mary Harris** - serving as Wesley's UWF Treasurer for the last two years.
- **Leonard Giddeon** – faithfully serving Wesley on Sundays by lighting the candles for our worship service.
- **Sharren Gibbs** – for your many acts of Christian service. To name a few – the *Wesley Witness*, secretary for the Leadership Board and UWF, Chairman of the Worship Committee, substitute pianist, helping out in the church office, and doing anything else that needs doing.

(Continued on page 7)

(continued from page 7)

This year's pins reflect the new symbol for United Women in Faith. The symbol refers to our Christian roots. The multicolored pieces of the cross coming together represent the diversity we aim for and the inward and outward reflection we engage in as women of faith. See page 6 for a photo of the new pin!



MISSION OF THE MONTH

BREAD OF THE MIGHTY FOOD BANK

Bread of the Mighty Food Bank has been helping to feed Gainesville and surrounding areas for 36 years.

They collect, sort, store and distribute donated food and basic essentials to over 200 nonprofit agency partners such as food pantries and feeding programs. Their dedicated team hits the road five days a week to collect donated food from generous retailers and wholesalers, which is then redistributed back into the community, addressing hunger and supporting those in need throughout Alachua, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union counties.

In May 2023, the organization proudly joined Feeding Northeast Florida as a branch, expanding their reach to collectively serve 12 counties in Northeast and North Central Florida. The collaborative strength and efficiency inherent in this network ensure not only immediate impact but also long-term, enduring success. Together, they strive to make a significant difference in the lives of those they serve, fostering a resilient and nourished community for years to come.

Volunteers are an essential support network to their warehouse staff. They welcome both individual and group volunteers including churches, corporations, students, families, and more. The warehouse is open Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm. Please visit breadofthemighty@galaxydigital.com for more information.

*Bread of The Mighty
Food Bank*

Food & Non-Food items that our families need:

- Soup
- Coffee/Tea
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Paper Products
- Toiletries
- Canned Fruits
- Condiments
- Rice
- Jelly
- Grits
- Potatoes (instant or canned)
- Juice (bottled or canned)
- Pasta/Macaroni & Cheese
- Granola/Breakfast Bars
- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Snack Crackers
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Vegetables

Critical Items List:

- Shelf stable milk,
- Canned proteins (tuna, chicken),
- Canned vegetables,
- Canned fruits



www.breadofthemighty.org

YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON

Our January 10th outing was at a group favorite—Piesano’s Pizza! Dining with us today were (around the table from front left: Donna (taking the photo), Kathy, Mary, Nancy, Ron, Barbara, Joan, Sonny, Jim, Roy, and Stan. A good time was had by all!



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 Donna the Tuesday before the meeting on Friday so I know how many tables and chairs to reserve. Join us!

DATE	WHERE	RSVP BY:
February 14	Valentine’s luncheon at Weseman’s	February 9
March 14	Cedar River Seafood	March 9
April 25	Piesano’s Italian Restaurant	April 20
May 30	Northwest Seafood Restaurant	May 26

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, March 1

7:30AM - 1:00 PM

Bring in donations February 23-26 between 9AM—1PM
Please, no books or clothes!



THREE big rooms of great stuff for sale!

Free coffee

Hot dogs, drinks, and baked goods for sale, too



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are having a rummage sale on Saturday March 1st (see the poster on the previous page). We can't do this alone—it requires lots of manpower. And womanpower! We will have goods in three different rooms, so we will need people there to supervise and help the shoppers. We need people to help sort and place the goods in the right place in each room, and we need things to be priced. If you're handy with electronics, it would be nice to check over any donated electronic items to see if they actually work! And of course we need bakers and people to serve hotdogs during the sale. Call Donna or Sharren with your volunteer information!



Please print copies of the poster page and pass it around to your friends, neighbors, and stores you patronize.

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. 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! We even discussed what color bench we wanted at the January Leadership Council meeting!

*The planet thanks you,
too.*



Sharren hauled these over to our collection point on January 27th—about 84 pounds in this load alone! This puts us within about 24 pounds of our goal of 1000 pounds, and altogether as a community we are approaching 2,000 pounds 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! There are several other churches pitching in, so we need to keep the donations coming to help them get their benches.

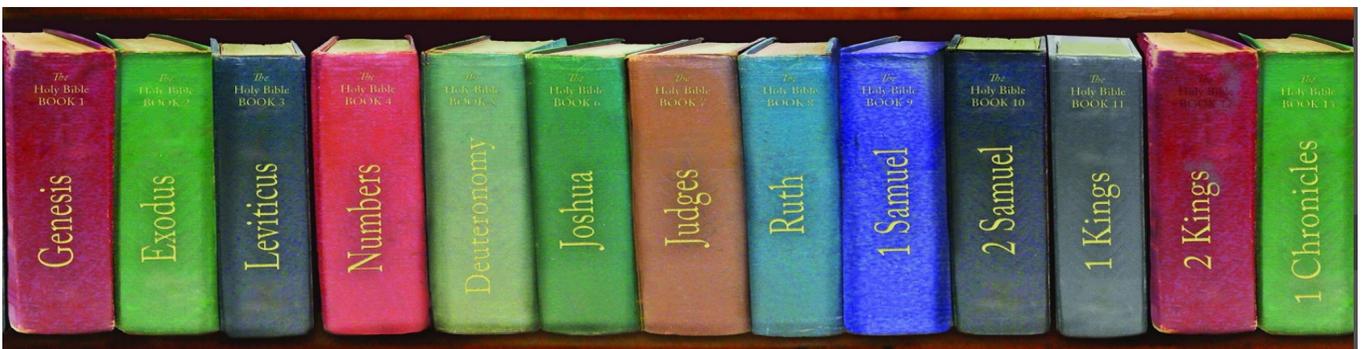


Pastor Kolby had a great turn-out for his Bible Study class on January 28th. We are studying 1st Corinthians, and one of the first questions we discussed was “if you knew the end of the world was next year, what would you do differently?”



That’s a pretty heady question to consider...

Is your life in order?
Are you “right with God”?



THANK YOU, DONNA WESEMAN!

Many thanks for stepping up to manage our missions work. It is truly in God’s hands again!





COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2/5	6:00PM	Worship Comm
2/9	Noon	UWF Exec Com
2/19	6:00PM	Nominations
2/25	6:00PM	Leadership Board

February Birthdays

- 1st Jan Ripley
- Ashley Weseman
- 4th Clydia Reichert
- 24th Sandy Miller
- 25th Darryl Davis-Schulz
- 26th Rebecca Weseman
- 27th Donna Weseman

February Anniversaries

None



Celebrate!



Happy Valentine's Day!

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.