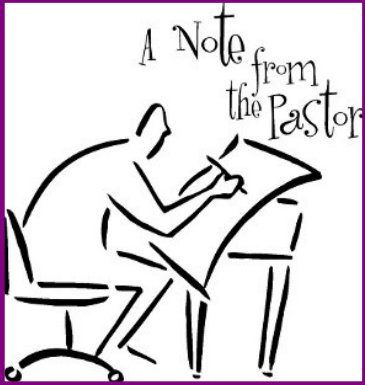


Wesley Witness



Dear Wesley,

Ah, February. For some of us, it's the month of love: Valentine's Day, cards, flowers, and chocolate. For others, it's all about the Super Bowl: the game, the commercials, and the snacks. And for many of us, February is just that moment when we say, "Okay... winter can be done now, I don't care what the groundhog says!"

Even though it's the shortest month of the year, February manages to pack a lot in. And in the middle of all of that –

between the hearts and the halftime shows – comes Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It can almost sneak up on us. While everything else around us is loud and busy, Lent shows up quietly, asking us to pause, and to listen.

Lent invites us to slow down and pay attention to the quiet nudges we often ignore. You know those nudges – the ones that come when you are really tired or planning to do something else. The ones that may make us uncomfortable. The ones that make us question what will happen if we act on them.

I'm always amazed at the things I can talk myself out of for one reason or another. Oftentimes, it's just fear. It's interesting how fear and faith really don't get along very well. Don't become buried in the "what ifs." You can spend a lot of time there and let many opportunities go by.

God doesn't nag. God nudges. And those nudges from God are often subtle and easy to miss if we're rushing or distracted. But we need to pay attention. God is working through us all the time and if we don't listen for those quiet whispers we may miss things that could become someone else's miracle. Proverbs 3:27 tells us, "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them."

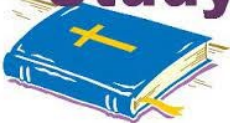
Don't be afraid to do good. We're called to love our neighbor. Jesus calls us to love one another and to bring that love to light in the way that we treat those around us. It's love in action. Love calls us to stand up for each other, to not be afraid to get involved when we see injustice, and to not look the other way when there's something we can do.

Sometimes a nudge is God drawing our attention to something we've learned to

(Continued on Page 3)

Breaking News

Bible Study



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY-TIME

Please join us in person every Tuesday beginning from noon to 1:00 PM for Bible Study as we continuing a study on the Gospel of Matthew.



Ash Wednesday

Season of Renewal

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)



(Note from the Pastor, Continued from Page 1)

live with but shouldn't – maybe an attitude we've normalized, a relationship that needs healing, or a hurt we've buried. Lent gives us space to listen for those holy whispers. Paying attention to these nudges isn't about guilt or striving; it's about trust – trusting that God is leading us, step by step, into deeper love and freedom. I've never regretted responding to one of these nudges, but I have regretted *not* responding.

As you listen this Lent, where do you sense that gentle nudge... and how might God be inviting you to respond?

Blessings,
Pastor Kolby

BOOT CAMP FOR THE SOUL

Lent is a season for spiritual training. Reflection and change take work, hard work. Lent can be like a boot camp for the soul, a restart in a focused area. We walk this season together, demanding the best of ourselves, ready to support one another, and prepared to be challenged and stretched by God's grace. Come ready to train your heart and be transformed!

Grace and Peace,
Kolby



Linda Baldwin

Marilyn Browning

Beth Senn

Betty Holder

Scott, Judy, Anne & Aden

Diane Blucher

Pamela Christensen

John Hodges

Rosie Leggett

Carla, Robert, Steve & especially Buddy

Chris Robinson

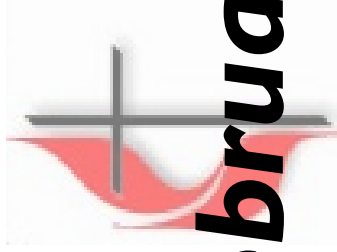
Dale Smith

Helen Goddard

Joyce Welsh

Beth Loehr-Moody

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE



February

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship Service—10:45AM

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE



Wesley Wednesday Supper—5:30PM

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

826 Northwest 23rd Avenue

Gainesville, Florida 32609

352-372-2845

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMUNION Noon UWF Executive Meeting	2	3 Noon Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	4 10:00AM Missions	5 Noon Card Club 	6	7 9-2PM District Training Event FH and Youth House
8	9 6:30PM Nightingales	10 Noon Pastor's Class	11 5:30PM Wesley Wednesday Supper 6:00PM Nominations Committee	12 Noon Card Club Noon Sisters in Faith 	13	14
15	16 President's Day Office Closed	17 10:00AM Morning Stars Noon Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	18 6:00PM Ash Wednesday service	19 11:30AM Valentine's Lunch Weseman's RSVP 2/15 Noon Card Club	20	21
22 Noon Leadership Board	23	24 Noon Pastor's Class	25	26 9AM Coffee w/Pastor Curia on the Drag Noon Card Club 	27	28

FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



WESLEY WEDNESDAY SUPPERS

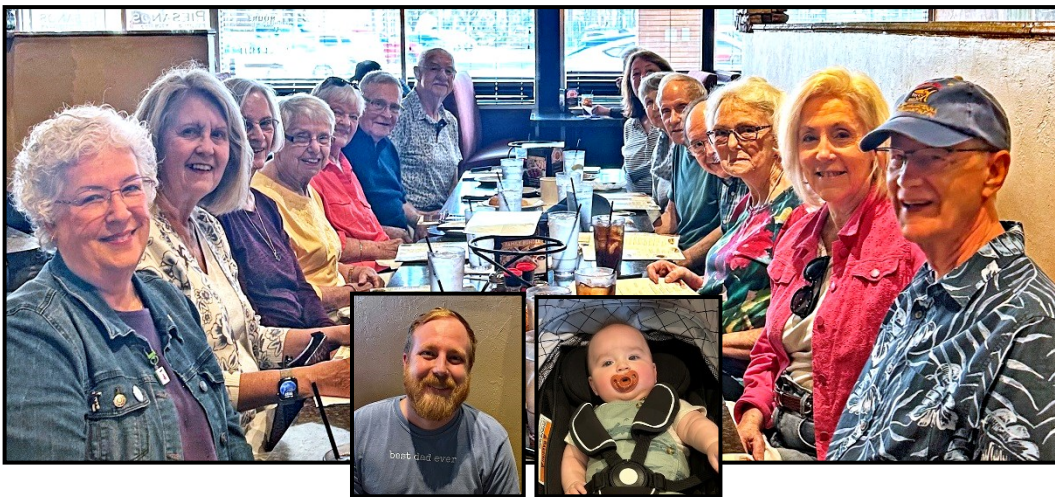
Our February supper will be on **Wednesday, February 11th**. We are serving meatloaf and all the usual things that go with it, including rolls and a salad and dessert bar. Please RSVP to Terri in the office by **Sunday, February 8th** so we can plan our shopping list accordingly. We still charge \$7 for each meal, and \$20 for families of 3 persons and above. 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.

We start up the serving line at 5:30, but try to get there a little before that to stake out your table and visit with your church family.

Hope to see you ALL there!

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

Join Pastor Kolby this month at Curia on the Drag at 2029 NW 6th Street for some spirited conversation, good coffee (or other libations are available) and good company. We will gather at 9:00 AM on February 26th. See you there!



YOUNG AT HEART

YAH met at Piesano's on January 9th. From left around the table are: Sharren, Sharon (Kathy's friend), Barbara, Joan, Mary, Sonny, Jim, Donna, Helen, Stan, Kerry, Paula, Kathy, and Roy, plus Pastor Kolby and Riley.

NIGHTINGALES

Nightingales met at Perkins on January 12th. From left around the table are: Hannah and Riley, Joyce, Mary, Kathy, Nancy, and Joan.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH INDUCT 2026 OFFICERS

During the Worship Service on Sunday, January 25, the following individuals were installed as leaders for the United Women in Faith at Wesley:

President – Sherry Adams

Secretary – Kathy English

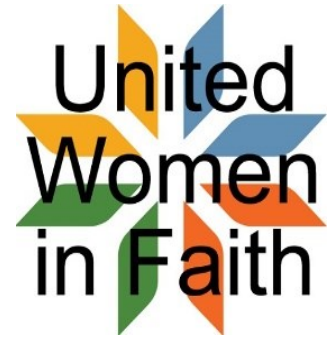
Treasurer – Joyce Welsh

Circle Leaders:

Morning Stars – Yvonne Hodges

Nightingales (Co-leaders) – Nancy Case, Terri Faunce,
Kathy Robinson

Sisters of Faith – Donna Weseman



Gift to Mission Cards: Wesley's United Women in Faith Unit took a few minutes during Sunday worship to recognize and thank these individuals for their service with a card and a \$5.00 gift to Mission in their honor:

- **Terri Faunce** – For joining United Women in Faith and the Nightingales circle in 2025.
- **Sharren Gibbs** – For serving as Secretary for both UWF and the Church's Leadership Board for so many years, helping to organize the Christmas Musical, leading the Worship Committee, organizing covered dish dinners, doing the Witness and helping to cover the church office while Terri Manche was on medical leave.
- **Kathy English** – Agreeing to serve as Secretary for UWF and Leadership Board for 2026 and helping to cover the church office while Terri Manche was on medical leave.
- **Sherry Adams** – Helping to cover the church office while Terri Manche was on medical leave.
- **Paula Mathis** – Helping with the covered dish dinners.
- **Nancy Case** – Preaching and helping to provide pastoral support while Pastor Kolby was on paternity leave.
- **Jan Sims** – For serving as Chairman of Trustees for several years and her tireless efforts to maintain the church gardens.
- **Preston Jarvis** – Thank you for being our new accompanist.
- **Sarah Nussel** – Organized special music for Choir at Easter, organized the Creation Care & Pet Blessing event, and special Christmas music.
- **Elaine Brevoort** – Helped organize Riley's shower and did the fantastic decorations for Riley's shower. Also did the superb Grinch mascot display for our Christmas series.
- **Linda Smith** – Helped set up the fantastic decorations for Riley's shower and the superb Grinch mascot display for our Christmas series.

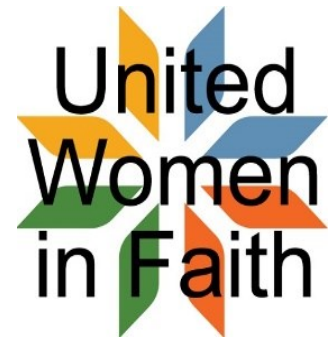
Special Mission Recognition Pins: The following individuals were recognized and thanked for their work during 2025 with a Special Mission Recognition Pin and a \$40 gift to Mission in their honor:

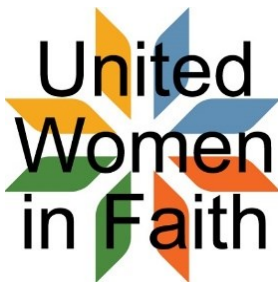
- **Roy English** – For installing new computer in church office and many, many repairs and updates done to church facilities; Finance Committee chairman and member of the Leadership Board.
- **Kerry Faunce** – For doing the Church Directory, agreeing to serve on Staff/Leadership committee; also for assisting with church repairs and taking on the responsibility of doing the Wesley Witness.
- **Terri Faunce** – For working on the Church Directory and agreeing to serve on Nominations Committee.



UWF Installation and Recognition

New UWF officers and recipients of service awards recognized during the Sunday, January 26th, Worship Service included, above: Joyce Welsh, Paula Mathis, Kathy English, Kerry Faunce, Terri Faunce, Sharren Gibbs, Nancy Case, Jan Sims, Roy English, and Sherry Adams. New officers and leaders, below, included: Terri Faunce, Nightingales Co-leader; Joyce Welsh, Treasurer; Donna Weseman, Sisters of Faith Leader; Kathy English, Secretary; Sherry Adams, President; Nancy Case, Nightingales Co-leader; and Yvonne Hodges, Morning Stars Leader. Pastor Kolby anointed each of the new officers with oil to confirm the appointees.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

The 2026 UWF Yearbook will be ready for distribution the first week in February. Please see your Circle leader to get your yearbook. Go ahead and mark your calendar with these dates for 2026.

February 1, Noon – Executive Committee meeting

February 7, 10:00 – District training event at Wesley, 10:00 AM

March 14, 10:00 – General Meeting, Sisters in Faith, Call to Prayer & Self Denial

April 11, 10:30 – Ladies Banquet

August 23, Noon – Executive Committee

November 1, Noon – Executive Committee

November 14, 10:00 – General Meeting, Morning Stars, World Thank Offering & Pledge Service

On March 20-21, 2026, the NW District UWF will hold a Spiritual Growth Retreat on the Suwannee River. Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Catherine Fluck-Price.

A SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT



United Women in Faith

A TIME SUCH AS THIS: STRONG WOMEN IN FAITH

Advent Christian Village
Dowling Park, FL

March 20-21, 2026

Rev. Catherine Fluck Price
NW District Superintendent
Guest Speaker

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

FEBRUARY 7, 2026
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
826 NW 23RD AVENUE
GAINESVILLE, FL 32609

Registration Opens February 1 & Closes February 28.
Cost is \$150 (Registration, Lodging & Meals)

Don't Miss This Retreat!

Select Two Workshops
—Susanna Wesley
—Movement
—Kingdom Wealth
—Hand Massage

People Scavenger Hunt

Silent Auction

Easter Extravaganza

Theme

UW Faith 101—providing training on who we are and how we govern.

*Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.
Though it cost all you have, get understanding.*
Proverbs 4: 7 NIV





Young at Heart
Senior Fellowship

YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Here are the dates and places for the upcoming Young at Heart luncheons. We meet at 11:30 AM for this fun and purely social event. Also, you need to RSVP to Donna before the meeting so we know how much food to buy and tables to set. Join us!

DATE	WHERE	RSVP BY:
February 19	Valentine's Luncheon Weseman Home	February 15
March 13	Northwest Grille	March 8
April 10	Cedar River	April 5
May 8	Piesano's	May 3

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

We've been enjoying our bench out in the Memorial Garden, but it still looks kind of plain. It needs flowers, or some gnomes, or mushrooms, or SOMETHING around it.

Now that we have met our goal, we are working to help other churches in the group meet theirs. First UMC has met their goal and other churches are set to go. Help this interfaith endeavor keep going! Don't stop bringing in that plastic! Do you realize that all together we have rescued over 5,000 pounds of plastic from the landfill! Can we keep this going? Yes, WE CAN!

Plastic films must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue. Please note that we still **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... You've been doing a great job bringing in your plastic film waste. Thanks!

The planet thanks you, too!





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





Our January Wesley Wednesday Supper drew a big crowd to partake of a rare entrée – spaghetti and meatballs. Thanks to the Kitchen Crew for cooking and serving this yummy dinner, and to those of you who helped clean up after we were finished. And thanks to Roy for taking these nice photos.





COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2/1	Noon	UWF Exec Comm
2/4	10:00AM	Missions
TBA		Worship
2/22	Noon	Leadership

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 at Noon (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.