

*“This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins. Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other” (1 John 4:10-11 CEB).*

Hannah and I were at Walmart the other day getting groceries. I don't normally pay any attention to the magazines by the cash registers. (I feel like most of the time they're filled with celebrity gossip and rumors which I don't have the slightest interest in.) However, I noticed a special issue on the story of the RMS Titanic – probably in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the hit film – which caught my eye and had me flipping through in the middle of the checkout line!

Where does the movie *The Titanic* rank in top romantic films of all time? I'll let you be the judge. The story of the Titanic has an important detail that reminded me about love this week. Loving someone means you are listening for an opportunity to love.

Back in 1912, tragedy struck in the Atlantic. The RMS Titanic hit an iceberg and sank three hours later. Thankfully, about 700 people were rescued and pulled to safety on the decks of the RMS Carpathia.

Many wondered how many more lives might have been saved had the SS Californian also come to help. The Carpathia was about 60 miles away when the Titanic called for help. The Californian was only about 6-10 miles away. Why didn't the Californian come to help? Being a quiet night, the radio operator turned off his radio long before the Titanic signaled distress. When the Californian's crew saw flares rising on the horizon, they had no knowledge of the Titanic's turmoil and assumed passengers were having a party.

Loving someone means we are actively listening and actively present. It means waiting and watching for an opportunity to love. Far too often, I'm distracted from loving my wife and my “fur babies.” Sports, TV, my iPhone (!), and work can all distract me from being present...actively present. Am I truly present listening to the successes and challenges of my wife's day? Am I noticing when Karl brings me a toy, or the kitties are vying for my attention? If the answer is that I'm at best distracted as I listen to my wife or play with my pets, then I'm missing opportunities to love. I'm not learning how to love.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

# Breaking News

## Bible Study



**PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY**—Join us for Bible Study every Tuesday from 11:30 – 12:30PM. On February 7<sup>th</sup> we'll be starting Adam Hamilton's *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*.

Let us  
**LOVE**  
One another  
for love  
is from  
**GOD**

1 John 4:7

(Lynnie Pinnis)

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

*Pastor Kolby Gollhofer*

826 NW 23rd Avenue  
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We are on Facebook!!!

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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)

Our Maker loves us – actively and presently – so much. God knew the desperate situation we were in, and he knew exactly what, or should I say *who*, we needed. Jesus Christ, God’s Son, lived a perfect life as a gift to us. And then he took on himself our sinfulness, delivered sin over to death itself, triumphed over evil and death, and established himself as the rightful king of the cosmos, rescuing us and forming with us a new covenant. God did all that in grace because God knew what we needed. God knew and God acted to love us.

Because we know what God did for us through his Son Jesus, we love God. We actively listen to God through prayer in order to love our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. John Wesley understood a life of prayer as consisting of what’s called works of piety and works of mercy. Works of piety include things like reading the Bible, going to church, and receiving communion. Works of mercy are things like offering comfort to others, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and working to change systems that hurt and victimize people.

This month, I hope you will join me in trying to actively listen to and love God. I encourage you to carve out time to set aside the distractions of work and play, devices and news. Sit down with God’s Word and invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Set aside an extra hour or so on Sunday mornings to actively listen to your Creator. You will find out how much God loved you, loves you and will always love you. You will discover ways to love God that result in blessings for you and your loved ones for generations.

Also this February – and not just February but every month – take your spouse, a friend, or a neighbor on a “date night.” One thing Hannah and I are doing is seeing *Romeo and Juliet* at the Gainesville Community Playhouse. Another good idea is to find a quiet restaurant with an out of the way table, turn off the cell phones for an hour, and actively listen to learn how to love her, to love him. ☺

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Kolby*

May the healing leaves of the Tree of Life fall on every member of Wesley and may Jesus have an extended hand to each member who has shown love and affection to me, my mother, and my family.

With love and thanks, *William*.





**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Worship Service—10:45AM

**WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**

2nd Wednesdays—WWS at 5:30 PM









Most meetings are Wednesdays at 6:00 unless otherwise noted

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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

**Rev. Kolby Golliver, Pastor**

# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 	6 7:00PM Nightingales	7 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	8 11:30 DAR 5:30PM WWS 6:00PM Care Team	9  11:30AM Card Club	10  11:30AM Card Club	11 11:30AM YAHs Valentine Luncheon Wesemans RSVP 1/29
12	13	14 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	15 6:00PM Worship	16  11:30AM Card Club	17  11:30AM Card Club	18
19	20 <b>Office Closed</b> 	21 10:00AM Morning Stars 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	22 6:00PM Nominations Meeting	23  11:30AM Card Club	24	25
26	27	28 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers				

*Jim Arnett  
Carolyn Clarke  
Rachelle Hines  
Barb Loehr-Fox  
Clydia Reichert  
Dale Smith  
David Tattersall  
Clarence Witt*

*Barbara Baldwin  
Michael Gibbs  
Bonniesue Humphlett  
Beth Loehr-Moody  
Joe Reichert  
Linda Smith  
Nick Tattersall  
Carla, Robert, Steve, Molly & Buddy*

*Linda Baldwin  
Helen Goddard  
LaRue Landsberry  
Paula Mathis  
Beth Senn  
Janice Smith  
The Welsh Family*

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

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The 2023 officers were installed and anointed in a wonderful worship service on Sunday, January 22. The 2023 officers are:

- President - Sherry Adams
- Secretary - Sharren Gibbs
- Treasurer - Mary Harris

### Circle Leaders

- Morning Stars - Irma Hales
- Nightingales - Joyce Welsh
- Sisters in Faith - Donna Weseman

### Committee on Nominations

- Joyce Welsh
- Sandy Miller
- Nancy Slaydon
- Yvonne Hodges



United  
Women  
in Faith

Normally, Gifts to Mission pins and cards honoring church members are presented in January. Unfortunately, this year the pins and cards have not yet been received. As soon as they are available, we will schedule a Sunday to make the presentations. The 2023 Yearbook should be out by the middle of February.

### Upcoming events through March

- February 12th at 12:00noon – Executive Committee meeting - We will start making plans for the Ladies' Banquet to be held in May. If you have any ideas or suggestions for a theme or program, please mention this to your circle leader prior to February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- March 11th at 10:00 – General Meeting. Program: Sisters in Faith, "Call to Prayer and Self Denial"





**Young at Heart  
Fellowship**

The YAHs will meet for our Valentine fellowship luncheon at at the home of Gary and Donna Weseman on February 3rd at 11:30AM. And yes, here's another photo of us from last month at Piesano's! Upcoming luncheons are March 3rd at Pomodoro's (RSVP by February 26th) and April 7th at Cedar River Seafood (RSVP by April 2nd).

*Donna*



*Around the table from left: Jim, Mary, Becky, Sharren, Paula, Donna, Sonny, Joan, Jan, and Pastor Kolby.*

Our February fellowship dinner will be on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM. The main course will be MEATLOAF — our favorite! Remember, we need at least 25 people signed up to be able to have this dinner each month. Please RSVP to the church office by February 5th if you plan to attend. .

**FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE**



*Donna Weseman*



"I deeply appreciate the continued support and generosity of the Wesley Family. Thank you for all the gifts, cards, and joy you all have given me.

Warmest regards,

*Maggie.*



# MISSION OF THE MONTH

**Bread of the Mighty Food Bank**, celebrating 35 years of serving the community, is a private non-profit organization. They collect, sort, store and distribute donated food and basic essentials to 170+ non-profit agency partners such as food pantries, churches, homeless shelters, and other organizations who then distribute food in their communities to directly feed the hungry.

They have a five-county service area - Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette, and Levy. They're a Partner Distribution Organization under Feeding America and part of the 12 food-bank networks of Feeding Florida.

Their 25,000 square foot warehouse has 2,600 square feet of cooler and freezer capacity. Thanks to their generous donors, they now have a fleet of ten trucks and vans and five drivers. They're on the road five days a week picking up donated food from generous retailers and wholesalers that in turn gets distributed back to the community.

In an effort to keep perishable and fresh items from sitting in their warehouse, their "Food on the Move" program was established, ensuring fresh and perishable items don't sit in the warehouse and quickly get into the hands of those in need.

For every \$1 donated, Bread of the Mighty Food Bank can provide up to 8 meals.

Please donate shelf-stable items. They LOVE to combine your donations to make a complete meal for a family. Pop Tops are wonderful for our families with young children and those families that do not have can openers.

Here are the most-needed food items:

Canned vegetables

Canned meats

Oatmeal and cereal

Canned beans

Canned soup and stews

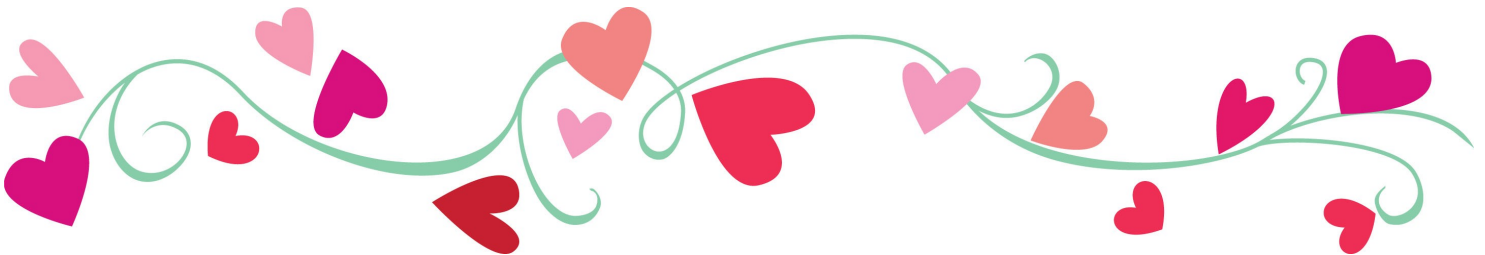
Peanut butter

Canned/bottled juices

Canned fruit

Granola/breakfast bars

For more information, call (352) 336-0839. Monetary donations can be made online at [www.breadofthemighty.org](http://www.breadofthemighty.org)



## ***The Sanctuary Ceiling***

You may have noticed some discoloration in the boards at the peak of the Sanctuary ceiling. Trustees are working with various experts to determine the cause of the discoloration and what will need to be done to fix it and keep it from returning. More information will be shared when available.





## THE BELOVED COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

Thank you, everyone who attended our Visioning Day the other week! There were so many wonderful and creative ideas we brainstormed together for how we can “celebrate God, grow in faith, and change the world” together. You can expect many fresh, unique discipleship and ministry opportunities to come as we fine-tune details and keep praying. If you were unable to attend the Visioning Day for whatever reason but you think God might be calling you to start or engage a new ministry – please send me an email, call, text, carrier pigeon, etc. and I’d love to meet with you!

One new opportunity I want to share with you is something we’re calling the Beloved Community Book Club. Reading is a passion of mine, so when I found out that the United Women of Faith publishes an annual recommended reading list, I knew I wanted to engage this untapped resource and invite all of you to do so with me.

The plan is for us to read and discuss five books, roughly one every other month, in 2023. Coincidentally, there are five categories in the reading list: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. Anyone who participates and reads all five books will receive a certificate at the end of the year recognizing your achievement.

The first book we’ll discuss is *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. This novel immediately hit #1 on the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and Indie bookstore’s bestseller lists when it was released last year. (Kristin Hannah also happens to be one of my wife’s favorite authors, so if you read this one too quickly and want more while you wait for our first gathering, I’ve been told that *The Great Alone* is her “best” novel.) I recommend utilizing the public library as they have quite a few copies, plus audiobook versions if (like me) that’s more your speed. You can also find cheap used copies online.

We are going to try both a morning and evening option for discussing the book, so mark your calendar for whichever date and time works best for you. The first meeting dates will be March 16th at 6 p.m. and March 18th at 10 a.m. Weather permitting, I think it might be nice to meet outside at a local park for the morning group, so stay tuned for location and any other details!

Blessings,  
*Pastor Kolby*







### Committee Meetings

2/8	6:00PM	Care Team
2/15	6:00PM	Worship Comm
2/22	6:00PM	Nominations Meeting



### February Birthdays

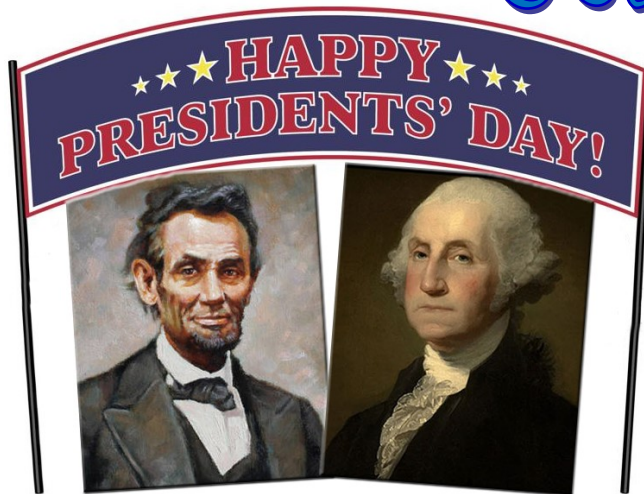
- 1<sup>st</sup> Jan Ripley
- Ashley Weseman
- 4<sup>th</sup> Clydia Reichert
- 20<sup>th</sup> Leslie Alday
- 24<sup>th</sup> Sandy Miller
- 25<sup>th</sup> Darryl Davis-Schulz
- 26<sup>th</sup> Rebecca Weseman
- 27<sup>th</sup> Donna Weseman

### February 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

Call Cindy Holmes at 352-256-9485 for information.

We have wonderful members waiting to teach you Hand and Foot Canasta! **Please have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccination, as well as the boosters!**

### 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.

