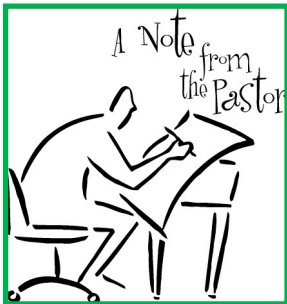


Wesley Witness

© JoAnn Kramer

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES LENT MAKE?

(Excerpts from UMC.ORG)



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning “lengthen,” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something, take a new spiritual practice on, or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

What is the point of giving things up for Lent? Of soul searching? Of taking more time to pray or meditate? Lent may be a time for introspection, but why does it really matter? Can one person really make a difference in this world? You may be thinking, “Sure, if you are Mother Teresa or a world leader, or very rich, or someone really important, but just the average person? Nah.” Well, I disagree.

There have been a number of people in my life who’ve had a tremendously positive influence. I’m sure you can think of a few in your own life. Sometimes I think about how my life might have gone if I had not had those people in my life, or if they had not been the positive and loving influences they’ve been, and I think I can say with confidence that the world would have been a very different place if those people had not interacted with me the way they did.

It’s like a ripple effect in a still pond. If you toss a pebble in the middle of the pond, no matter how small the pebble, you’ll see rings ripple out all across the surface of the pond. Fish and other little creatures dart away when the pebble hits the pond. Maybe one of those fish that darts away from the disturbance of the ripple sees an insect on the surface of the pond and eats it. (The insect’s life is forever changed!) Maybe the insect is a mosquito. Since it was eaten, maybe it never bites the man standing by the pond. Maybe the mosquito carries Malaria. Since it never bites the man, he doesn’t get sick.

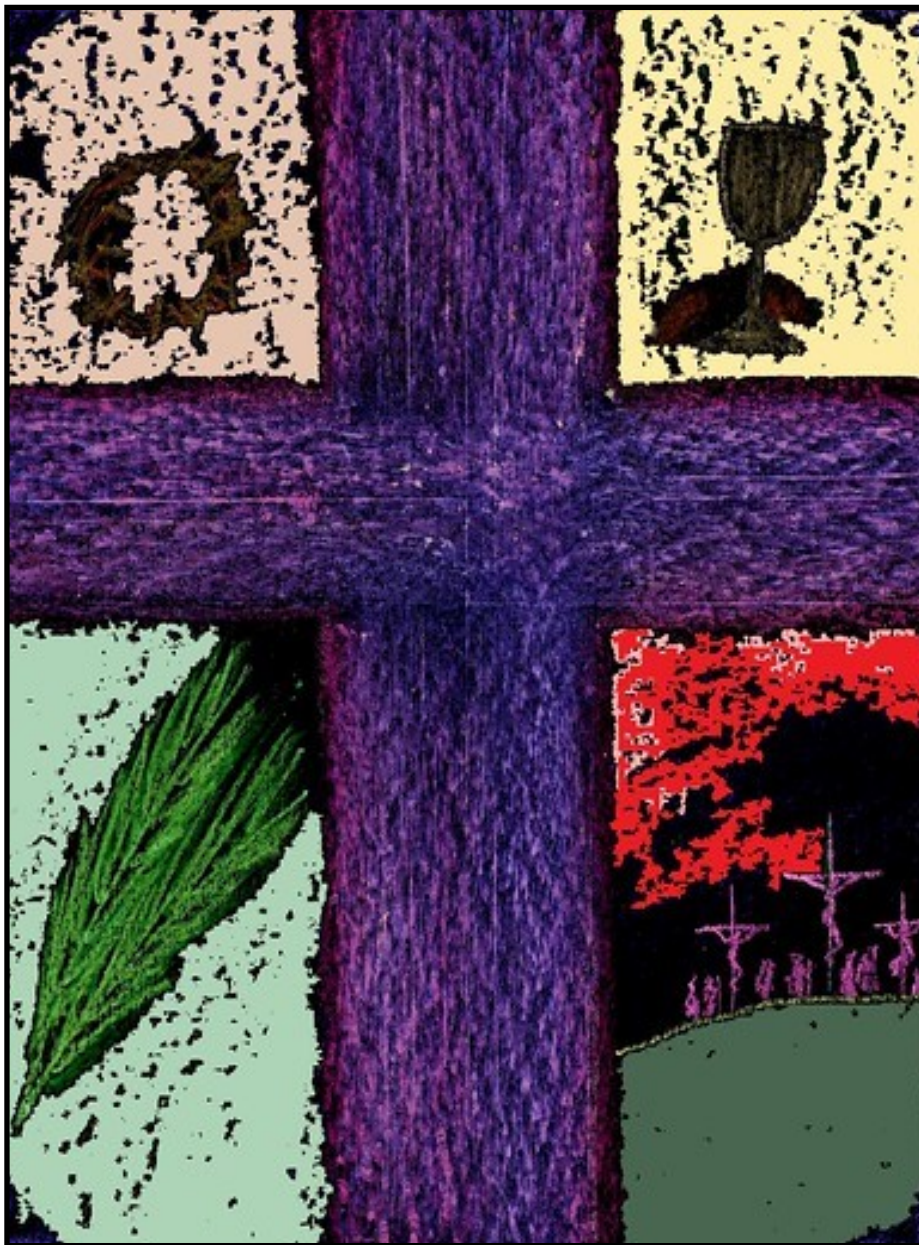
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Breaking News

Bible Study



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



*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.cfoxmail.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)



Jim Arnett

Carolyn Clarke

Rachelle Hines

Barb Loehr-Fox

Clydia Reichert

Dale Smith

The Tattersall Family

Carla, Robert, Steve, Molly & Buddy

Barbara Baldwin

Michael Gibbs

Bonniesue Humphlett

Beth Loehr-Moody

Joe Reichert

Linda Smith

The Welsh Family

Linda Baldwin

Helen Goddard

LaRue Lansberry

Paula Mathis

Beth Senn

Janice Smith

Clarence Witt

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Greetings!

It's time to register to attend the North Central District's UWF Spiritual Enrichment Day.

When: Saturday, March 18, 2023, check-in opens at 9:30 a.m. Gather to Sing at 10 a.m.

Where: The Family Life Center at First UMC Ocala (1126 Silver Springs Blvd)

Lunch: \$10 per person (choice of salads, drinks, dessert)

Registration Deadline is March 11.

Mission project: We are collecting sanitary napkins as our part of the Mission u project to build 75 feminine hygiene kits for UMCOR. Please bring **unscented, super long ultra-thin sanitary napkins** to our Spiritual Enrichment Day. We need ten sanitary napkins per kit, so donations towards our goal of 750 sanitary napkins will be greatly appreciated.

Please include a check made out to United Women in Faith (or United Methodist Women) for the number of lunches your group needs. Send your registration form and check to:

Sandra Kramer
2705 NW 62nd Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32606

We hope to see you on March 18!
Blessings,
Jane Darling
President, North Central District
Florida Conference United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

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 Gollhofer, Pastor

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 	6 7:00PM Nightingales	7 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	8 11:30AM DAR 5:30PM WWS 6PM SPRC	9  11:30AM Card Club	10 11:30AM YAHs Pomodoro's RSVP 2/26	11 Conference Room UWF General Meeting Nick Tattersall Memorial IPM
12	13	14 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 7PM Finance	15 8:30AM Garden Workday	16 11:30AM Card Club 6:00PM Book Club— Conference Room	17 	18 10:00AM Book Club—TBA
19	20 10:00AM Morning Stars 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley	21 10:00AM Morning Stars 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley	22 7PM Admin Council	23  11:30AM Card Club	24 11:30AM YAHs Pomodoro's RSVP 2/26	25
26	27 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	28 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	29	30  11:30AM Card Club	31 Office Closed	

(Continued from Page 1)

One person can and does make a difference in the life of others. We don't always know how or what we do, but what we do matters. That's why it's so important to take an inventory of who we are and how we act with others, and to strive to be the best we can be all the time.

That's why it's so important to keep a "Holy Lent" where you give sincere and conscious effort to becoming the loving member of this world that God would have you be. It begins with what I once heard another preacher call the 3 R's of Lent – Repentance, Redemption, and Renewal. I hope you will join us on the journey throughout these 40 days.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Kolby



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Gator Wesley is the United Methodist Campus Ministry serving the college campuses of the University of Florida and Santa Fe College. It is their mission to offer God's radical love to every student in Gainesville and to form a community of disciples grounded in Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It is their vision to see students boldly committed to following Jesus and characterized by their living out the Gospel in every aspect of their lives, passionate worship, holiness of heart and life, and courageous witness in the world through evangelism and mission bringing God's kingdom to earth. District churches are encouraged to invite a student to attend a Sunday worship in March and make a brief presentation about Gator Wesley either as an announcement, mission moments, or any other way that is helpful. We here at Wesley UMC are eager to participate in this mission.



Young at Heart Fellowship

The YAHs will meet for our fellowship luncheon on March 3rd at Pomodoro's. Please RSVP by February 26th). On April 7th we will meet at Cedar River Seafood (RSVP by April 2nd).

Donna



Standing L-R: Sharren, Barbara, Paula, Pastor Kolby, Jim, Sonny, Joan, Cindy
Seated: Nancy, Helen, Becky, and Mary

Sharren once again dove into her mother's recipe box and came up with a new orange-pineapple Jello salad. She also cooked the green beans.



Barbara cooked the sweet potatoes, and several contributed deserts. It was a lovely day to celebrate this Season of Love! As they say, "A good time was had by all!"

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hi friends!

It's bizarre to me that it's already the beginning of Lent. Where has the time gone?!

We have some exciting plans in the works to help make this Lenten journey a holy and meaningful one, but I need your help! I am looking for eight volunteers to be readers during the course of the season, 3-5 men and 3-5 women. You won't need to be here every week, so don't worry if you have travel plans coming up. The majority of volunteers will only need to be present on Palm Sunday (which is April 2nd this year) plus one additional Sunday (which, again, we can work together on scheduling, especially if you know in advance when you'll be away). Please take a couple minutes to pray about this fun opportunity and let me know which dates you're available to participate!

Additionally, the Worship Committee believes we are ready to finally bring back "passing the plate." So, we are looking for at least 2-4 people who are interested in serving as ushers on Sunday mornings. The more folks willing to serve, the better, because that means we'd be able to set up a rotation for volunteers. In addition to facilitating the offering plates, ushers are also critical for helping make everything run smoothly on days when we celebrate Holy Communion. You can still serve as an usher even if you would like to also participate in the other volunteer opportunity above.

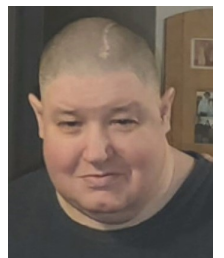
Finally, we are also looking for folks interested in helping to record services. This is an important ministry that serves many of our homebound members while also giving us some free outreach on social media. I promise it's not as intimidatingly difficult as you may think! It's actually very simple. Hannah and/or I can provide as much or as little training as you need. My hope is for us to have a few people trained in this area of ministry as well, so that we can rotate and share the "load" here too.

Thank you all for prayerfully considering all of these service opportunities! I plan to send out a short survey asking for feedback on what you perceive as our strengths and growing edges for our Sunday morning worship services. I hope you'll take a few minutes to fill that out when it shows up in your inbox; it will really help us as we seek to improve our services.

Grace and Peace
Pastor Kolby

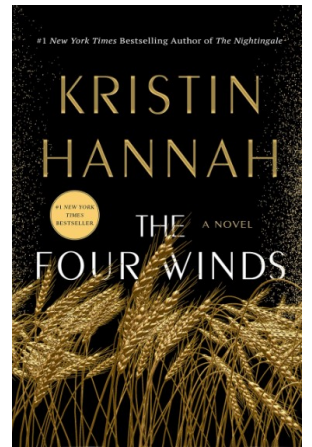
Here is a link to a site with Nick Tattersall's obituary and many lovely pictures of him and his family. His memorial service will be here at Wesley on Saturday, March 11th at 1:00PM with a reception following in the Fellowship Hall with light refreshments.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/jacksonville-fl/nick-tattersall-11162315>



THE BELOVED COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

We will discuss our first book, *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah, starting this month. 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 will have 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

PS—I have about 10 more copies of the book from the county library that I can lend you.



Thank you everyone for the cards, love, prayers and time spent helping my family. We will miss Mom as she was full of life and "shenanigans" as long as she could be here with us. Now she is in the arms of our Lord. We are forever grateful for my church family!

Joyce Welsh



FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



Our March fellowship dinner will be on Wednesday, March 8th at 5:30PM. The main course will be fried chicken.

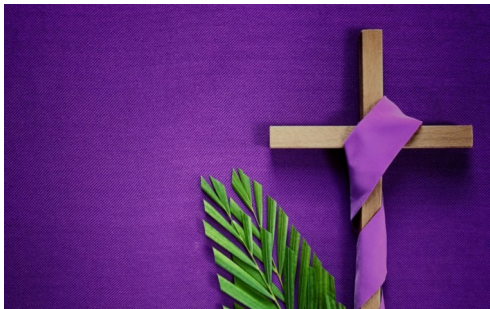
Remember, we need at least 25 people signed up to be able to have this dinner each month. Please RSVP to the church office by February 26th if you plan to attend.

Donna Weseman



Committee Meetings

3/1	6:00PM	Trustees
3/8	6:00PM	SPRC
3/14	7:00PM	Finance
3/22	7:00PM	Admin Council



March Birthdays

- 2nd William Strawder
- 4th Madison Holder
- 6th Lori Hales
- 7th Keith Holder
- 8th Michael Trimm
- 9th Thad Martin
- 14th TJ Martin Jr. (Linda Nosko's grandson)
- 15th Steven Robert Holder
- 16th Donna Dotts
Beth Loehr-Moody
- 19th Diane Blucher
- 23rd Allan Holder
- 25th John Hodges

March 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.

