

This season of Lent has been so very rich for me, and I hope it has been for you too, as we journeyed together through some of the key heart-to-heart conversations in Matthew's and John's Gospels. I may have even heard a rumor or two that we'll be hearing once more from the many "guests" of Jesus that we've encountered on our way toward Jerusalem. I hope you can join us in-person or tune in online as we kick off Holy Week with our Palm Sunday celebration. Then, I hope you will continue to pray, read scripture, and worship throughout the

week as we turn our gaze to the cross and eventually the empty tomb. See our Holy Week schedule for a full list of services and experiences we've crafted to help you find space to engage in worship this Easter season.

Another thing I'm really excited to share with you is our next worship series: **Half-Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things The Bible Doesn't Say**, based on Pastor Adam Hamilton's book of the same name. One of the things I love about being United Methodist is that we're not asked to leave our brains at the door! Over the next five weeks following Easter Sunday, we'll examine five religious clichés—simple phrases you might expect to find on a magnet or bumper sticker. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. (I know I've said some of them!) They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways and may lead people to conclusions about God that not only are untrue, but that may push some people away from God. The half-truths include:

- Everything happens for a reason.
- God helps those who help themselves.
- God won't give you more than you can handle.
- God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
- Love the sinner, hate the sin.

Invite a friend to join us as we search for the *whole* truth by comparing these common Christian clichés with the wisdom found in Scripture.

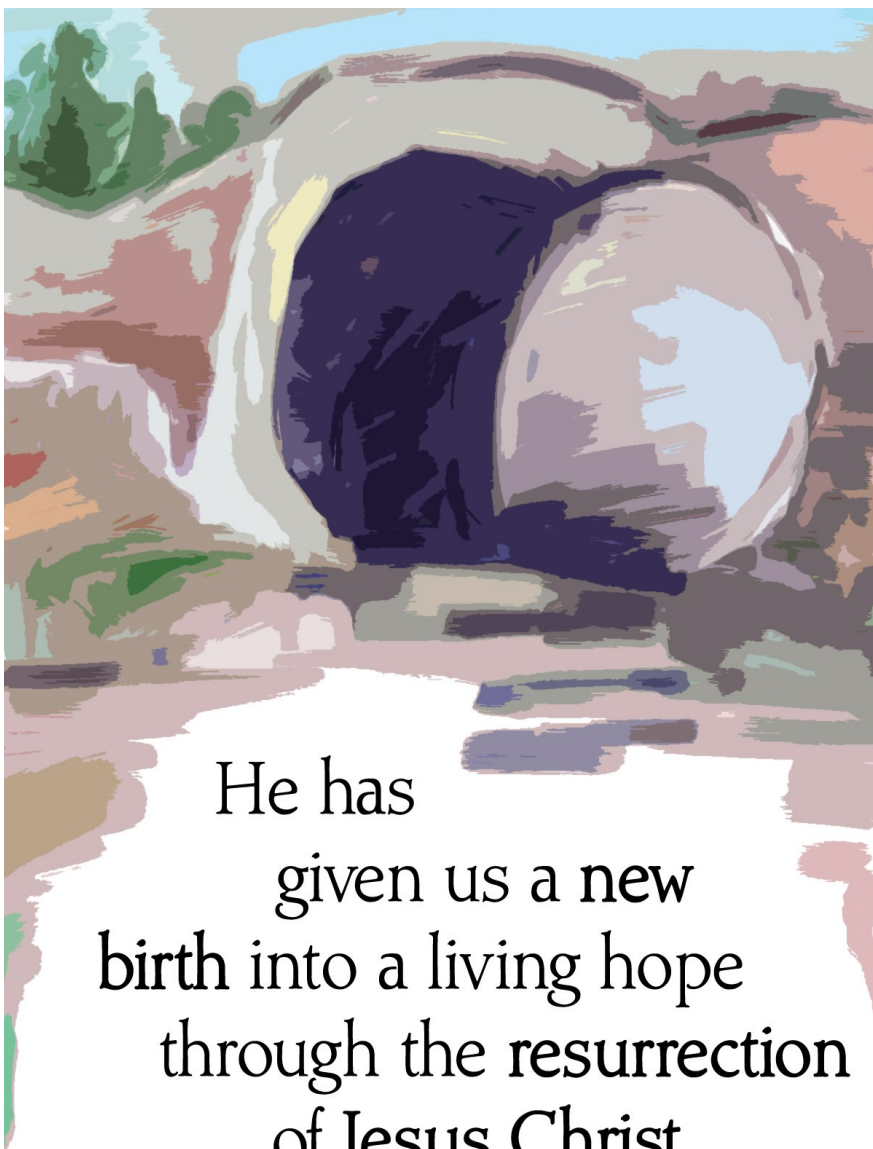
Grace and Peace,
Kolby

Breaking News

Bible Study



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY—After a field trip to a popular lunch spot on March 28th, Bible Study continues on April 4th as we begin the study of Joshua. Hope you have a beautiful and spiritual Easter!



He has
given us a new
birth into a living hope
through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ
from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV

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

Pastor Kolby Gollhofer

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Gainesville, FL
32609
Office: 352-372-2845

We are on Facebook!!!

Pastor's E-mail:
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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

Hannah Golliver's Family

Bonniesue Humphlett LaRue Lansberry

Beth Loehr-Moody Paula Mathis

Joe Reichert Beth Senn

Linda Smith Janice Smith

The Weseman Family Carla, Robert, Steve, Molly & Buddy

Barbara Baldwin

Michael Gibbs

Linda Baldwin

Helen Goddard

Rachelle Hines

Barb Loehr

Clydia Reichert

Dale Smith

Clarence Witt

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE



United
Women
in Faith

You're Invited to Brunch at Wesley UMC



Saturday, April 22, 2023

10:30 AM

Fellowship Hall

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 Gollher, Pastor

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Communion 	3 7:00PM Nightingales	4 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	5 8:30AM Garden Work Day 6:00PM Worship	6 11:30AM Card Club 6:00PM Maundy Thursday Service TF Sisters in Faith	7 Good Friday 9-1:00PM Stations of the Cross 5-7:00PM 11:30AM YAHs Cedar River RSVP 4/2	8
16 	10 Office Closed	11 11:30AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	12 11:30AM DAR 5:30PM WWS	13  11:30AM Card Club	14	15
23	17	18 10:00AM Morning Stars 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	19 8:30AM Garden Work Day	20  11:30AM Card Club	21	22 10:30AM UWF Brunch FH
30	24	25 11:30AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers 7:00PM Leadership Board	26	27  11:30AM Card Club	28	29

FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



Our April fellowship dinner will be on Wednesday, April 12th 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 April 7th if you plan to attend.

Donna Weseman



Young at Heart Fellowship

The YAHs will meet for our fellowship luncheon on April 7th we will meet at Cedar River Seafood (RSVP by April 2nd). Our last meeting will be at Piesano's on Friday, May 12th (RSVP by May 7th. We won't meet again through the summer, until September. So, have a good summer!

Donna



We met at Pomodoro's in March—it was such a windy day, the plastic surrounding the outdoor seating had come loose and looked like it would blow in and hurt someone. Sharren just happened to have a bungi cord in her car, so she fixed it and left it for the staff. Now, who else carries bungi cords in their cars???

Around the table from left: Barbara, Becky, Sonny, Pastor Kolby, Donna, Paula, Sharren, Joan, Nancy, Irma, and Helen



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

Dan West was a farmer from the American Midwest and member of the Church of the Brethren who went to the front lines of the Spanish Civil War as an aid worker. His mission was to provide relief, but he soon discovered the meager single cup of milk rationed to the weary refugees once a day was not enough.

And then he had a thought: What if they had not a cup, but a cow?

That "teach a man to fish" philosophy is what drove West to found Heifer International. And now, nearly 70 years later, that philosophy still inspires our work to end world hunger and poverty throughout the world once and for all.

How it Works

We empower families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity – but our approach is more than just giving them a handout. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. Our animals provide partners with both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs, and honey can be traded or sold at market.

When many families gain this new sustainable income, it brings new opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural cooperatives, forming community savings, and funding small businesses.

Passing on the Gift

The core of our model is passing on the gift. This means families share the training they receive, and pass on the first female offspring of their livestock to another family. This extends the impact of the original gift, allowing a once impoverished family to become donors and full participants in improving their communities.

The goal of every Heifer project is to help families achieve self-reliance. We do this by providing them the tools they need to sustain themselves, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

You have the power to give a hungry family the training it takes to feed themselves and their children; to give a young girl a chance at an education; to empower a woman to have a voice in her community. Together, we can change the world, one family, and one community at a time. And it all starts with a gift.



ONE BOARD LEADERSHIP MODEL

Dear friends,

Many of you are already familiar with the One Board Leadership Model due to on-going conversations amongst the administrative committees (Finance, Trustees, Staff-Parish Relations, and Church Council) that have preceded my time here at Wesley. After at least two years of discussion, this past month, our Nominations Committee and Church Council finalized and approved a transition to the One Board Leadership Model.

I hope this article can help clear up any questions or confusion you may have about the One Board Model. Transparency is always an ideal for me. So, in that spirit, I will hold a couple church-wide information sessions to further explain the what, why, who, how, etc. and do my best to answer your questions. The first opportunity will be right after church around 12pm on Palm Sunday (April 2nd). The second opportunity will be the evening of our April Wesley Wednesday Supper once folks have finished eating. I will hold more Q&A information sessions if needed. I believe I was able to meet with every committee already that is being affected by this change except for Trustees. Sorry Trustees! Please come to one of the information sessions, otherwise Ron and/or I will be in touch with you.

So, what is this new thing we're doing? The 2016 Book of Discipline (§247.2) gives local churches the ability to adapt their leadership structure to fit their context. For smaller membership churches like ours, the traditional structure can be rather cumbersome because, in order to fill all the committees, many of the same people serve on multiple committees, thus contributing to extra and unneeded meetings as well as volunteer burnout. The unneeded meetings stifle the visioning process and churches will often become stuck and overwhelmed.

The One Board Model streamlines the bulk of a church's committees into a single Leadership Board which encapsulates all responsibilities and authority of the previous separate committees. So, for example, if a Trustees matter arises that we deem we're able to fix ourselves – rather than the issue taking months to make its way through Finance to secure that we have the funds, then Church Council to approve the decision, and finally back to Trustees – all of that will be done in a single Board meeting, then the Trustees Chair will gather a team of folks (most likely from those who were on the Trustees committee before) to complete the project.

This Leadership Board meets once a month, freeing up people from endless Tuesday and Wednesday meetings. Significantly, the administrative committees still have chairs, but the administrative work is done by just two committees (SPRC still meets separately as they handle confidential matters like the annual pastoral evaluation), so that no one person has power over every aspect of the church.

(Continued on page 8)

The structure is designed so that roughly a third of the Leadership Board is required to rotate off each year (kind of like the U.S. Senate – I find that to be a helpful analogy). There's also checks and balances for families of the same household: in any voting matters, these persons together can only have one vote, unless they would vote on opposite sides of an issue, in which case they cancel each other out.

Our Leadership Board for the rest of 2023, per the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, is as follows:

- ◆ **Board Chair (Church Council Chair):** Nancy Slaydon
- ◆ **Finance Chair:** Sherry Adams
- ◆ **SPRC Chair:** Paula Mathis
- ◆ **Trustees Chair:** Ron Case
- ◆ **Church Worship Chair/Secretary:** Sharren Gibbs
- ◆ **Lay Leader:** Chuck Adams
- ◆ **Missions Coordinator:** Cindy Holmes
- ◆ **Care Coordinator:** Nancy Case
- ◆ **Kitchen Coordinator:** Donna Weseman
- ◆ **Pastor:** Kolby Golliher

Most of the Board's meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and the committee schedule will continue to be posted in the bulletin every week. Everyone is welcome to attend any of the Board's meetings whether you're a member of Wesley or not. My hope is for us to share a brief paragraph summary of agenda items at least a day in advance before each meeting so you can decide if you'd like to attend and join the conversation or not. Once per quarter we'll dedicate our monthly meeting to reviewing our budget and other financials.

With the streamlining of our committees, all the committees we have now are: the Leadership Board, Staff-Parish Relations, Nominations, Worship, and the Kitchen. If you were previously on a committee and no longer are because it's been subsumed into the Leadership Board, I can say with certainty that you can expect to be approached to join one of these other committees in the coming months. :-)

I think that should be enough information to process for now. Jot down any questions you may have and I look forward to answering them at one of the upcoming information sessions!

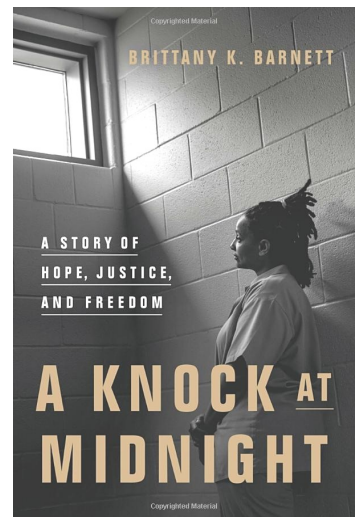
Blessings,
Pastor Kolby



THE BELOVED COMMUNITY BOOKCLUB

Dear Wesley,

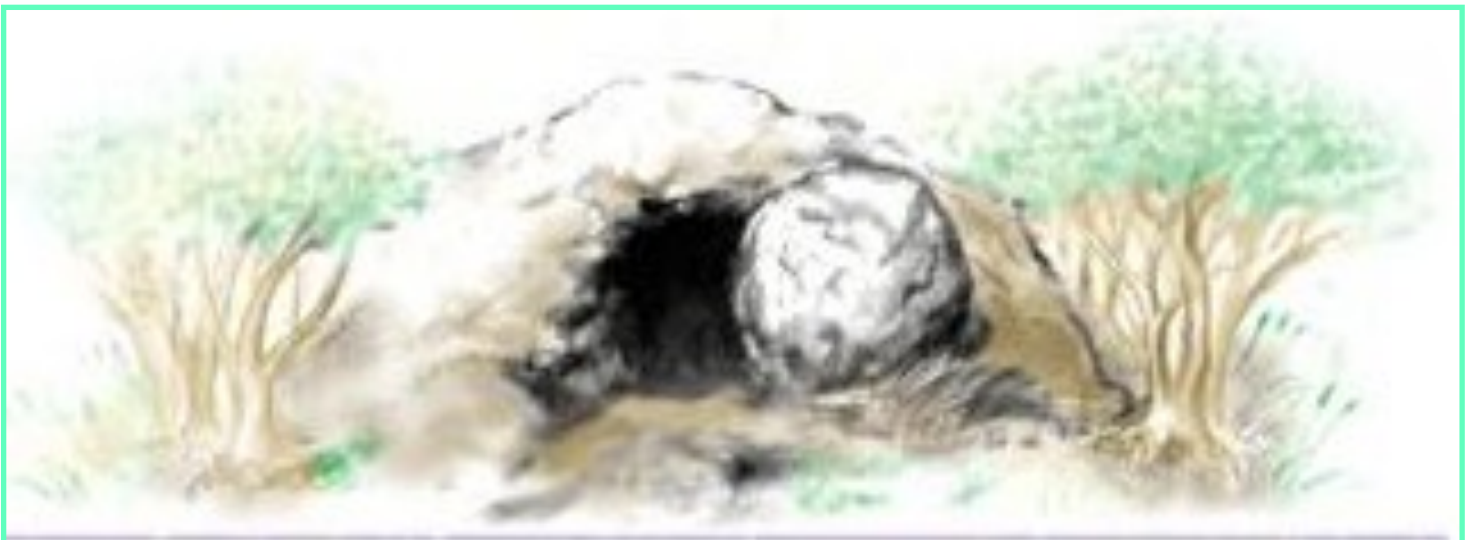
The next book you voted for us to read together for our Beloved Community Book Club ministry is *A Knock at Midnight: A Story of Hope, Justice, and Freedom* by Brittany K. Barnett. Please note that there is another book with the same title (although a different subtitle) about the sermons of MLK Jr. I'm sure it's also an excellent read, but you'll want to make sure you're reading the one by Barnett because that's what we'll discuss together! The library has a couple copies available, or you can purchase it anywhere books are sold (Amazon, Cokesbury, etc.)



We'll have two group meeting times just like we had for the first book: **May 18th at 6pm** and **May 20th at 10am**. The evening group will meet in the church conference room again (tentative) with a Zoom option available. The morning group will meet under the pavilion at Northside Park if the weather cooperates with us this time around.

A Knock at Midnight (Barnett) and *The Land is Not Empty* (Augustine) both won rather decisively amongst all the votes I received. *I'm Still Here* (Brown) is the book we'll be reading later on in the year from the Spiritual Growth category. The two novels, *Pachinko* (Lee) and *Phoebe: A Story* (Gooder), were neck-and-neck in the race with *Pachinko* emerging victorious by a single vote. Because that vote was particularly split, I am wondering if perhaps we should offer both options when the time comes for us to read that category (i.e., the evening group reads one and the morning group reads the other, or something else creative along those lines).

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Kolby





Committee Meetings

4/6	6:00PM	Worship
4/25	7:00PM	Leadership Brd



He is risen!

Celebrate!

April Birthdays

- 5th Emily Newstadt
- 6th Yvonne Hodges
- 8th Tom Adams
- 10th Shaina Boyle
- 11th William Weseman
- 12th Mary Harris
- 15th Jessica Alday
- 17th Joan Siegel
- 18th Barbara Baldwin

April Anniversaries

- 4th Jim and Carmen Arnett
- 16th Linda & Richard Crenshaw
- 28th Diana & Keith Holder



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.

