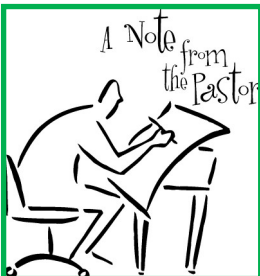




Dear Wesley,



Every Sunday in worship we end with the benediction—a fancy word for blessing—and we are sent forth. Week in and week out we are blessed and sent. Through those words, we are blessed with the awareness of God with us. We are blessed with the reminder of the Holy Spirit living in us. We are blessed with the mission to live that presence of God in the world. And then we are sent forth.

Yet, we are not often sent to the dramatic moments we may have pictured when we think of embodying the presence of God. Instead, we are sent back home where there are piles of laundry to be done, dishes in the sink to wash, and other chores to manage. Some of us are sent back to our jobs where there are emails to reply to, meetings to attend, and reports to create. We are sent back to our everyday lives and routines.

I believe that we can carry that blessing of God's presence back into the routines of our days. In *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, author Tish Harrison Warren writes, "I want to do the big work of the kingdom, but I have to learn to live it out in the small tasks before me—the work of God in the daily grind." Our identity as people who are blessed and sent into the world should transform how we live in the world, not just in the extraordinary moments but in our unremarkable days, too. Warren goes on to write that the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago was not just about a conflict in doctrine, but also about living one's vocation. "The idea that all good work is holy work was revolutionary. The Reformation toppled a vocational hierarchy that had placed monks, nuns, and priests at the top and everyone else below. The reformers taught that a farmer may worship God by being a good farmer and that a parent changing diapers could be as near Jesus as the pope. This was a scandal."

We can be tempted to look at some work as holier, and others less so. We certainly see some work as more glamorous. But God's Spirit lives inside us, and so all work and living that follows what John Wesley referred to as his "Three Simple Rules" is holy. Those rules are: "Do no harm, do all the good you can, and attend upon all the ordinances of God." (Sometimes people shorten the third rule to "Stay in Love with God", but I would argue all three of these "simple" rules taken together is how we stay in love with God.)

(Continued on Page 3)

Breaking News

Bible Study



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY—Join us for Bible Study every Tuesday from 11:30 – 12:30PM. We are studying the book of Joshua.



MEMORIAL
★ DAY ★

REMEMBER AND HONOR

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)



(Continued from Page 1)

Living our identity as those who are blessed and sent can seem strange when we are spending time on annoying little tasks that just need to get done, like checking email, doing laundry, or grocery shopping. Indeed, these do not seem particularly holy. However, even when we are taking out the trash or mowing the lawn, the Spirit of God is alive and at work in us. I wonder what it would look like to practice that awareness the next time you are doing a chore in your daily life. I wonder how it might change each of us to remember that we are blessed by God's presence and sent to live that presence every day. I wonder how doing so might change the world around us. Perhaps we should give it a try.

Grace and Peace,
Kolby

Jim Arnett

Carolyn Clarke

Helen Goddard

Barb Loehr

Jane Nelson

Sonny Robertson

Christie Tattersall

Carla, Robert, Steve, Molly & Buddy

Barbara Baldwin

Janis Bishop

Jim Harris

Beth Loehr-Moody

Clydia Reichert

Beth Senn

The Weseman Family

Linda Baldwin

Michael Gibbs

Rachelle Hines

Paula Mathis

Joe Reichert

Dale Smith

Clarence Witt

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE



Our May fellowship dinner will be on Wednesday, May 10th at 5:30PM. Join us for a yummy dinner of freshly-grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, coleslaw, chips, baked beans, and desserts. This will be our last meal together until the Fall! We need at least 25 people signed up to be able to have this dinner each month. Just call the church office by May 5th and let Terri know if you're coming.



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

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 	8	9 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	10  5:30PM WWS 6:00PM SPRC	11  11:30AM Card Club	12 11:30AM YAHs Piesanos RSVP by 5/7	13
14 	15	16 10AM Morning Stars 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	17 8:30AM Garden Workday	18  11:30AM Card Club	19	20 10:00AM Book Club 
21	22	23 1:30AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers 7:00PM Leadership	24 6:00PM Nominations	25  11:30AM Card Club	26 Office Closed	27
28 WEAR RED  Pentecost	29 Office Closed  MEMORIAL DAY Remember & Honor	30 No Pastor's Class	31			



Young at Heart
Fellowship

The YAHs won't meet again for the next few months, until September. So, have a good summer!

Donna



Another fun lunch at Cedar River Seafood. Left to right around the table: Cindy, Pastor Kolby, Helen, Donna, Becky, and Paula.

LAY LEADER

So, you knew we have a lay leader, recommended by the Nominating Committee each year, and approved by the Church Council. Right? But what does this Lay Leader do? Basically, he or she attends all the big meetings to get a feel for

Lay Leader Report – 25 April 2023

Not much of anything to report since the last meeting. Sherry and I have been traveling a fair bit.

But I continue to contribute to the sanctuary ceiling renovation issue ... and have written an article for the Witness ... that is currently being edited by Pastor Kolby.

I also continue to volunteer once-st or twice-st a week for Days For Girls. I encourage ALL OF YOU to come by at least an hour a week to help. Gopi will give you an assignment!!!

Sorry I am missing tonite ... a cold has crept up this afternoon and you don't want me there ...

Sincerely ...

Chuck Adams

Lay Leader and Chief Inspirational Entity

what's going on, looks around the church for ways to improve, and reports to the Church Council what's up behind the scenes. He or she can also drop in on activities going on at the church property. Actually, now that I think about it, the Lay Leader can pretty much crop up anywhere!

This year's Lay Leader is Chuck Adams. Chuck has been a very active Leader, and I thought you might want to read his last report to the Administrative Council. We missed him at that meeting but his presence was definitely felt.

Thank you, Chuck! We missed you!



MISSION OF THE MONTH

UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF

VISION

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR transforms and strengthens people and communities.

MISSION

Compelled by Christ to be a voice of conscience on behalf of the people called Methodist, UMCOR works globally to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.

UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. Their efforts are targeted in places where natural disasters, war, or conflict have done so much damage that communities are unable to recover on their own. While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, they stand ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery, until they are well on their way to establishing a “new normal” after a crisis.

In addition, UMCOR helps communities in the United States and abroad prepare for emergencies and reduce the risk of disasters through a roster of training programs.

They also are involved in global development work. Specific programs address issues of health, sanitation, poverty, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food security. Many development problems are interrelated, so UMCOR uses integrated solutions to address their root causes. UMCOR seeks to empower local hospitals, schools, churches, and other stakeholders by enhancing their capacity to address these issues.

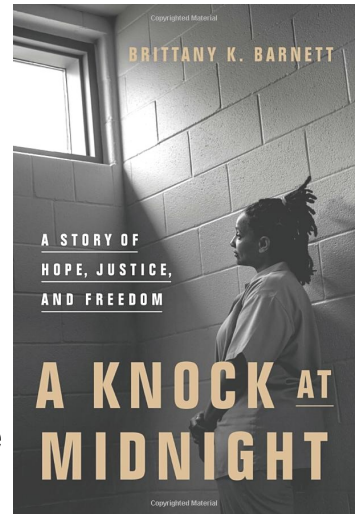
UMCOR is active wherever needed, whether overseas or here at home. One hundred percent of your donation goes to programs, not to administration of the organization, so give like your life depends upon it! Because it does.



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

GARDEN WORKDAYS

We meet every first and third Wednesday of the month at 8:30AM for about one hour. Feel free to come earlier or later -- whatever works best for your schedule. We would love your help pulling weeds and helping us make the *outside* of our church as welcoming and hospitable as the people *inside*! It's not difficult work, but you'll want to bring a water bottle as it can get hot once the sun comes up!



Dear Wesley Family ...

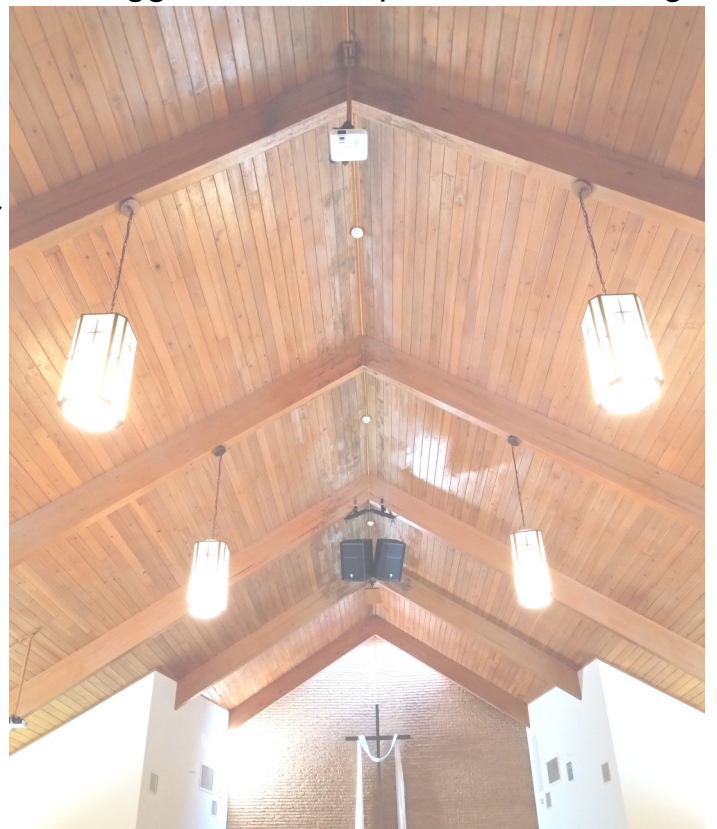
The initial Sanctuary for Wesley United Methodist Church in Gainesville was the Fellowship Hall, with construction beginning in 1941. Our “new” Sanctuary where we attend Sunday services now was built in 1968 and has served our church well and good over the following decades. However, some of you have likely noticed the discoloration that is occurring near the peak of the ceiling and virtually the full length of the Sanctuary. If not, next Sunday look up at the tongue-and-groove paneling near the peak of the ceiling and notice the slightly graying and dark streaks. Similar discoloration was removed in 2017 but has slowly been returning.

This grayish color is being caused by mold and mildew that occurs when heat collects and stays in the highest reaches of the ceiling and encounters cooler air on the outside of those panels. Moisture occurs and provides a great place for mold and mildew to grow. But don't worry!! Trustees Committee hired a professional Structural Hygienist to assess that growth and no black mold can be found in the sanctuary! Our mold problem can be removed via cleaning and the ceiling refinished such that the panels and beams will look brand new. Trustees has also been advised that placing some large floor fans in the church, pointed upward, will help move the air around much better and prevent the hot, moist air from collecting in the peak of the ceiling. Other measures are also being contemplated.

And ... as you can imagine ... this has and will cost money. We are not absolutely sure of the total cost to have the ceiling cleaned and refinished but we believe the cost will exceed \$20,000. Finance Committee acknowledges there are funds in our Capital Account but other anticipated expenses suggest we attempt this refurbishing through a capital fund campaign.

Thus, the Trustees and Finance Committees are asking that Wesley members and family to contribute what they can to the newly created CEILING FUND. Checks or cash contributions can be given during Sunday service, mailed, or dropped off at the church office. Please indicate that the funds are to be dedicated to the CEILING FUND. We are hoping Wesley can raise the necessary funding without utilizing the existing scarce funds we have for other capital needs.

If you have any questions, please contact Terri in the church office, Pastor Kolby, Ron Case (Trustees Chair), or Chuck Adams (Lay Leader). Your generosity toward the well-being and proper upkeep of the Wesley Sanctuary is appreciated.





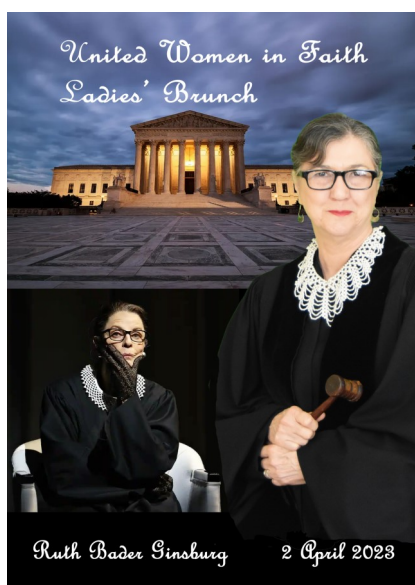
United Women in Faith

The UWF held their traditional women’s recognition program last month, featuring a visit from one of our favorite female role models, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, AKA Notorious RBG. Nancy Case channeled RBG as she talked, even gesturing with her gavel at several opportunities.



We had a good turnout for our Saturday morning Disney Princess-themed brunch, featuring dishes provided by our members. You might think Disney princesses a little odd as a theme, but if you really look at those “princesses” you will see strong female figures who revealed the ills of their times and overcame the odds to succeed, sometimes in a man’s world, but all with a distinctive feminine touch. Check out the stories featured in “Brave,” “Mulan,” “Pocahontas,” and others.

There were “biographies” of each princess, games with a princess theme, and Sharren set up a photo booth to take photos of our own princesses.





Committee Meetings

5/10	6:00PM	SPRC
5/17	6:00PM	Nominations
5/23	7:00PM	Leadership

May Birthdays

- 3rd Kaitlyn Omdahl
- 11th Rachelle Hines
- 26th Alex Sanders

May Anniversaries

- 2nd Dale & Linda Smith
- 23rd Lee & Steve Holder
- 25th Pastor Kolby & Hannah Gollither

MEMORIAL 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

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

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.

