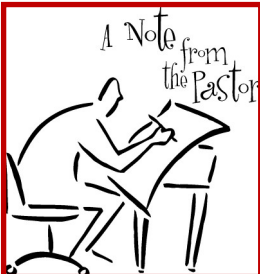


Wesley Witness



Dear Wesley,

Hannah and I love to hike in the summer. We made our way over to the mountains as often as we could during the three years that we lived in North Carolina. And when we couldn't, we explored one of Durham's many local trails with Karl (the puppy) instead. Most recently, when Hannah and I went on our cruise last month, we went with a tour guide on a rainforest hike in St. Kitts – it was a major highlight of our adventure!

Because July is the month for traveling, whether it's simply a local day hike or an extended out of town vacation, I hope you'll find the following story worthy to ponder:

Two monks were on a journey, traveling by foot. As they approached a river, they saw a woman struggling to cross. After accepting his offer to help, the elder of the two monks lifted her in his arms and carried her safely across. She bowed in gratitude and headed off one way as the monks continued on their path.

Later that afternoon, the younger of the two monks could no longer contain his emotions: 'Master, our vows forbid our interaction with women, yet you actually carried one across the river! How could you have done such a thing?' To which the Master replied, 'But my son. I put her down hours ago. Why are you still carrying her around?'

As the old African-American spiritual affirms: 'Gonna lay down my burdens, down by the riverside... ain't gonna study war no more.'

What is it that you're still carrying around that has become burdensome to your spiritual progress and to the general peace? Is there anything you might need to "let go" and "let God"? Well, what are you waiting for???

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kolby

Breaking News

Bible Study



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY—Join us for Bible Study every Tuesday from 11:30 – 12:30PM. We have just finished a study of the book of Joshua. The next topic will be announced soon.

In lieu of our regular Bible Study on July 4th, Pastor Kolby and Hannah would like to invite anyone who's staying in town for the holiday to join them for lunch at Pomodoro Cafe at 11:30. Please let Pastor Kolby (kolby@gainesvillemethodist.org) know ASAP if you plan to come so he can make a reservation. Everyone is welcome!



Wesley United Methodist Church

Mission Statement

Celebrating God!

Growing in Faith!

Changing the World!

Pastor Kolby Gollisher

826 NW 23rd Avenue
Gainesville, FL
32609

Office: 352-372-2845

We are on Facebook!!!

Pastor's E-mail:
Kolby@gainesvillemethodist.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
Clydia Reichert
Beth Senn
Clarence Witt

Barbara Baldwin
Helen Goddard
Barb Loehr
Joe Reichert
Dale Smith
Carla, Robert, Steve, Molly & Buddy

Linda Baldwin
Hardee Family
Beth Loehr-Moody
Sonny Robertson
Christie Tattersall

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE



GAME NIGHT

Come join us in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, July 19th at 6:30PM to play board games. Bring a favorite game to share and prepare to have fun!

A NEW SENIOR RESOURCE!



Did you know there is a website that will help you make decisions about State of Florida Resources for Seniors in our community? I have looked at the website and find it very interesting as I look at making arrangements for my own long-term care when I can't care for myself any more. (Some days it seems closer that others!) Any way, take a look and see for yourself. It's a lovely site and well worth a browse or two. There are calculators for figuring what different types of care will cost, and a showcase of the ten best facilities in our area. We shouldn't have any trouble finding a place!

<https://www.payingforseniorcare.com/florida>

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Worship Service—10:45AM

July 2023

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

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

Rev. Kolby Golliver, Pastor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2						
3		4 Office Closed Independence Day	5 8:30AM Garden Workday 	6 11:30AM Card Club	7	8
9 	10 6:30PM Nightingales	11 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	12	13 11:30AM Card Club	14	15
16	17	18 10:00AM Morning Stars 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	19 8:30AM Garden Workday 6:30PM Game Night	20 11:30AM Card Club	21	22
23 Christmas in July (More details forth- coming)	24	25 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 7:00PM Leadership Board	26	27 1:30AM Card Club 7:00PM Book Club	28	29
30	31					

WESLEY UMC COMMENDED FOR MEETING 100% OF OUR APPORTIONMENTS FOR 2022!



Our unit of the United Women in Faith received a thank-you card from Rev. Catherine Price on behalf of the Conference Committee on Finance and Administration. She personally thanked us and our congregation for giving 100% of our apportionments in 2022. She said that she knows, during these difficult times, that is not accomplished without sacrifice. Our faithful support has made a real difference in the life and ministry of the UWF.

We also received a letter from Craig Smelser, treasurer of the Florida Conference, on the same subject. He also stated that lives are changed because of our stewardship. He listed a few specifics:

- Children are fed at feeding programs around the world
- Young men and women receive financial assistance towards their calling to become ordained clergy serving the church
- Retreat and camp settings help grow and make disciples of Jesus by offering invitations to go further in the understanding of being a Christian
- New churches are planted
- Existing churches are transformed to better meet the needs of the communities where they are planted

Florida Conference churches met and rose above these challenges and were able to contribute \$13,992,894 in apportionments. Mr. Smelser believes that a sign of a healthy congregation is full support of the rest of the connection. We are the ones who have joy in God's gifts, given in abundance, and who are practicing a spirit of generosity that points to a larger vision of the Church in common mission and ministry to the world.

This is truly a sign of the living God at work in our midst. He offers his wish that the Spirit of God continue to illumine, guide, and empower us to be God's own people.

Thank you, Wesley, for fulfilling one of our many sacred duties as members of this particular church, and as members in the worldwide United Methodist Church.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
AMERICA!**



MISSION OF THE MONTH

We all know they build houses, but that's not all! They also build people! To qualify for home ownership a person must be interviewed by a volunteer Family Selection Committee who looks at issues like a family's financial situation and stability. Prospects must demonstrate a need for safe, affordable housing, have a steady job, and have bills which are less than 40% of their income.

People who qualify for the program then must put in at least 400 hours of sweat equity (200 hours building homes for others and 200 hours building their own homes), must attend classes on home ownership, and must pay an affordable mortgage for 30 to 40 years. Habitat is not a free "give away" program by a long shot!

Habitat was established in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller. He was an attorney who gave up his fortune so others could have decent housing, and the initiative has since spread around the world. The Gainesville Chapter started in 1989 and has built more than 100 homes, with more to be finished very soon! Habitat has a ReStore Thrift Shop at 2301 Northwest 6th Street and welcomes volunteers in many capacities, not the least of which is financial! The phone number is 352-378-4663 and their website is www.alachuahabitat.org.



"Habitat provides a simple but powerful avenue for people of different backgrounds to come together to achieve those most meaningful things in life. A decent home, yes, but also a genuine bond with our fellow human beings. A bond that comes with the building up of walls and the breaking down of barriers."

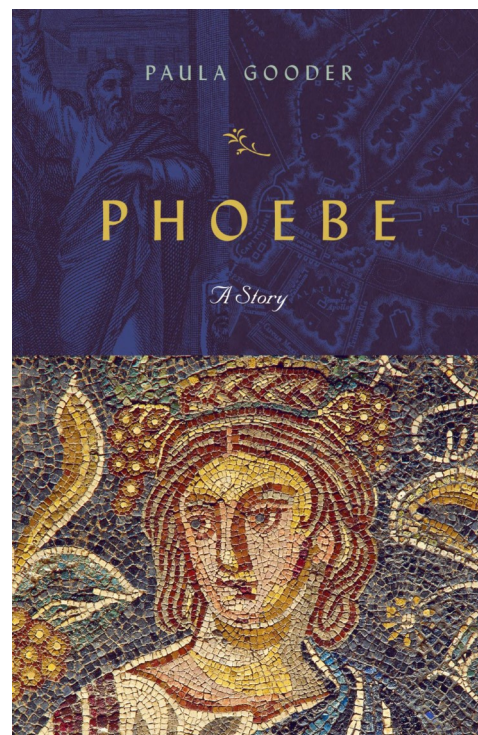
THE BELOVED COMMUNITY BOOKCLUB

Dear Wesley,

The next book we'll be discussing in our Beloved Community Book Club is *Phoebe: A Story* by Paula Gooder. You can purchase the book on Amazon or wherever books are sold. Alternatively, I got notified yesterday that the public library has acquired a couple copies if you've been waiting to go that route. We will meet to discuss the book, July 27th at 7PM.

Sometime around 56 AD, the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome. He entrusted this letter to Phoebe, whom he describes as the deacon of the church at Cenchreae and a patron of many. But who was this remarkable woman? Biblical scholar and popular author and speaker Paula Gooder imagines Phoebe's story—who she was, the life she lived, and her first-century faith—and in doing so opens up Paul's world, giving a sense of the cultural and historical pressures that shaped his thinking and the faith of the early church. After the narrative, Gooder includes an extensive notes section with comments on the historical context, biographical details, cultural practices, and more. Rigorously researched, this is a book for anyone who wants to engage more deeply and imaginatively with Paul's theology.

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 gloves to protect your hands and a water bottle as it can get hot once the sun comes up!





Committee Meetings

6/25 7:00PM Leadership Board

July Birthdays

- 6th Jim Arnett
- 15th Cindy Holmes
Gary Weseman
- 16th Nancy Case
- 17th Frank Nosko
- 23rd Lindsey Adams
- 30th Derek Mallard

July Anniversaries

- 3rd Karen & Chris Teele
- 14th Misty & Thad Martin
- 31st Yvonne & John Hodges



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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.

