

Dear Wesley,

Back in June as I sat in Lakeland during Annual Conference and surveyed the mass of people representing their various churches, I was reminded that in that packed room I was sitting with my brothers and sisters in Christ, with whom I'm connected. It didn't mean we necessarily agreed on all of the many issues we were discussing, but it did mean we were worshiping the same God. In the Florida Conference alone, we have more than 500 United Methodist churches and two or three hundred more Fresh Expressions, which represents roughly 200,000 United Methodist members.

One of the many joys of being a United Methodist is the knowledge that we are not on our own as a congregation. As United Methodists, we are connected to other congregations in ministry, and together we are able to do more in the areas of nurture, outreach, and witness than any one congregation could ever hope to do on its own.

But, in order to make that happen within the local church, there are committees, task forces, and opportunities to serve (there's a surprise!).

When we take our vows of membership, each of us pledges that we will support the church with our **Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness**. As members of Wesley United Methodist Church, we each vow that we will share some of our time and energy serving God and strengthening our church and community.

In addition to leading the local church, Methodist pastors generally serve on several committees and boards on the district and conference levels. Though it takes time and energy, our serving in various places strengthens the overall ministries throughout the world. For me, the vitality of the UMC moves downstream and thus strengthens Wesley UMC.

With that, this month the Nominations/Lay Leadership Committee will begin to meet to discuss the gifts, graces, and talents of the members of the laity within our congregation. We all have various gifts, graces, and talents we bring to the table.

Many of you will be asked to lend your time, gifts, and graces to areas of ministry. Your serving will strengthen not only WUMC, but churches across our entire connection,


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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.



A
Prayer for Students

Dear Jesus,
thank You for
the gift of summer
And now...
thank You for
the gift of school.
Be with me, please,
as I begin this new year
with feelings of excitement
and anticipation.
I know that if You
walk with me,
I'll be okay, and
with Your help,
I'll be able to do
my best each day.
Bless my classmates,
my teachers, and
all my lessons, too.
Bless me, dear Jesus,
and open my mind
and heart,
that I might always
learn from You. *Amen.*

+ WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

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)

for together we make one another stronger in living our mission of “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.”

When asked to serve next year, please say “YES”. Pray that God will use and strengthen you for the task and ministry for which you are called.

As we move toward the fall, when new and exciting ministries launch, I invite you to join me in contemplating what it means to be connectional. While the words “connected” and “connectional” are not common in scripture, another word is: *unity*. How does scripture call us to be unified? What does that look like from Gainesville to the rest of Florida, to somewhere like Rwanda? How can being unified and connectional help us accomplish the work of the kingdom in our community?

Jesus said, **20** *“I’m not praying only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their word. 21 I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. 22 I’ve given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. 23 I’m in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me.”*

Remember, we are connectional, so say “YES!” when asked to serve and let’s all live into our vows.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Kolby

Jim Arnett

Carolyn Clarke

Rachelle Hines

Barb Loehr

Joe Reichert

Dale Smith

*Carla, Robert,
Buddy*

Barbara Baldwin

Helen Goddard

Beth Loehr-Moody

Sonny Robertson

Christie Tattersall

Linda Baldwin

Hardee Family

Clydia Reichert

Beth Senn








Clarence Witt

Steve, Molly &

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

August 2023

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Worship Service—10:45AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 6 	7 	1 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	2 8:30AM Garden Workday  9 6:00PM SPRC	3  11:30AM Card Club 6:00PM Sisters in	4 5	12
13 Noon: UWF Executive Meeting	14 6:30PM Nightingales	15 10:00AM Morning Stars 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	16 8:30AM Garden Workday  6:00PM Worship	17  11:30AM Card Club	18 19	26
20 Noon: UWF Executive Meeting	21	22 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 7:00PM Leadership Board	23	24  11:30AM Card Club	25	26
27 Noon: Church-wide Nominations	28	29 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers	30	31  11:30AM Card Club		



MISSION OF THE MONTH

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

You've seen bits and pieces of these activities all year long, but this month we turn our focus to the ways that Wesley UMC contributes to the well-being of our local community. These are in no special order whatsoever...

- Blessing Bags: Personal care items, snacks, and clean t-shirt are packaged, ready to hand out to those in need
- BOGO food basket for Bread of the Mighty Food Bank
- Mentoring students and supporting teachers at Metcalfe Elementary School. See the article on page 8 for ways you can help
- Whitie Tights: collection of new underwear and socks for children and adults for Arbor House, St. Francis House, Grace Market Place, and the Stephen Foster Elementary School clinic
- Prayer Shawl ministry: Knitted or crocheted shawls are blessed and given to those in need of a "warm fuzzy"
- Random Acts of Kindness: Small cards can be handed out to let a person know that someone from Wesley UMC has performed an act of kindness for them
- Benevolence Fund: Help both church members and members of community with funds when an emergency occurs
- Girl Scouts of America: one troop has been meeting here for several years; we hope to add more this school year
- Veteran Support Committee—We help provide necessities for veterans transitioning from homelessness, Veteran Moms Support Group, Wesley Whittlers, Neighborhood Garden, with more plans every day
- Days for Girls—right here on our campus! Help make reusable monthly hygiene supplies for girls at risk all over the world, including those here in the USA.

I'm sure I've forgotten something, but the deadline for publication is approaching so I must get this out! Money is *always* welcome. Please give generously!

DESIDERATA

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore, be at peace with God, and whatever your labors and aspirations may be, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Max Ehrmann

Back in the 60s during my college days, while I was an unchurched heathen, I 'discovered' the *Desiderata*. We didn't have Google back then so I never got around to looking up the author, Max Ehrmann, or finding any other information about this beautiful and spiritual prose poem. Max was of German descent—his parents emigrated from Bavaria to Terra Haute, Indiana, where Max was schooled in the public schools and the German Methodist Church. He earned a degree in English from DePau University, then studied law and philosophy at Harvard. At age 55, he wrote *Desiderata*, which achieved fame only after his death in 1945 at the age of 72.

All that said, his poem made a definite impression on me back then. Now, as I listen in church to the words of Jesus Christ, I feel the same quietude and 'rightness' of spirit found back then in this work. Of course, there is definitely secular content in the *Desiderata* (which is Latin for things desired) but it guided me until I got my head on straight and found Wesley UMC in 1990. Now, I can find all 'things desired' in my relationship with Jesus!

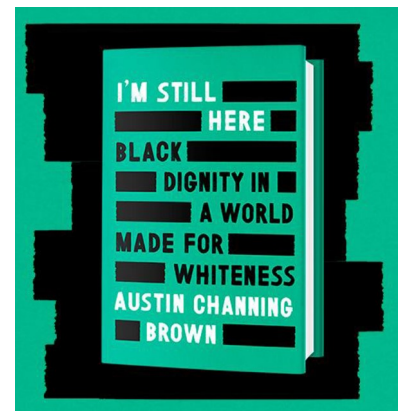
Sharren

THE BELOVED COMMUNITY BOOKCLUB

Dear Wesley,

The next book we will be discussing in our Beloved Community Book Club is NYT bestseller *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown. I'm penciling in September 14th for our next gathering. Please note that that's about six weeks away, so try to plan accordingly depending on whether you're a slow or speedy reader! It's a relatively short book, less than 200 pages.

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!



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR METCALFE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



There's a box in the Narthex for our Metcalfe collections. This year, we are looking for the following:

Pencils & red rubber erasers

Glue sticks

Bottles of school glue

Hand sanitizer

Dry erase markers & erasers

Notebook paper

Boxes of facial tissue





United
Women
in Faith

Florida Conference
of The United Methodist Church

**SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT
RETREAT**

September 8-10, 2023

**ANSWERING OUR CALL
TO ACTION TODAY**

Let us not love
with words or
speech but
with actions
and in truth.

1 JOHN 3:18



Facilitator:

Rev. Juana Jordan

Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center

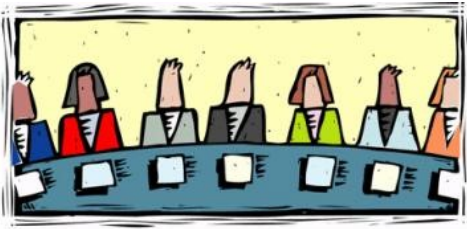
9034 County Road 452, Leesburg, FL 34788

Cost: 2 nights & 5 meals - \$169

2 nights & 4 meals - \$154

Commuters (2 meals) - \$65

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spiritual-enrichment-retreat-tickets-635510136927>



Committee Meetings

8/3	6:00PM	Sisters in Faith
8/9	6:00PM	SPRC
8/14	6:30PM	Nightingales & Nightingays
8/15	10:00AM	Morning Stars
8/16	6:00PM	Worship
8/20	Noon	UWF Leadership
8/22	7:00PM	Leadership Board
8/27	Noon	Church-wide Nominations

August Birthdays

- 1st Austin Holder
Bradley Omdahl
- 2nd Edgar Voyles
- 9th Nancy Slaydon
- 10th Debbie Taylor
- 16th Becky Knight
Linda Smith
- 20th Robbyn Perkins
- 24th Betty Brand
Jane Nelson
- 25th Dee Boyle
- 30th Dale Smith

August Anniversaries

- 6th Jim & Mary Harris
- 31st Nancy & Ron Case



Celebrate!



StayCOOL

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.

