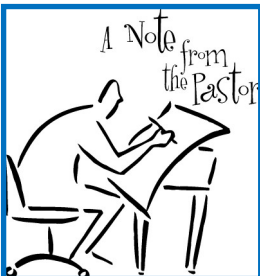


# Wesley Witness



*Don't you have a saying, 'Four more months and then it's time for harvest'? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. – John 4:35-36 CEB*

Dear Wesley,

Once, when Jesus was surrounded by crowds, the disciples tried to urge him to escape and take care of himself. “Go eat”, they said, seeing the crowd as a nuisance. Jesus, however, replies with the Scripture above. Instead of food, he sees a full harvest of people interested in the mission and hungry to discover what his ways are all about. Jesus tells them to open their eyes and look... these people are your harvest, a harvest you didn't plant and weren't expecting.

As we look ahead into fall, many of us worry over finances, building repairs, and struggles to keep ministries afloat. Where are all the people to do this work? How will we keep up as each of us continues to deal with our own needs? Who do I even know to bring to the church?

Instead of being caught up in the negatives, what if we too prayed to see the harvest? Who is the person God is putting in your path to bring to kingdom life? What family are you connecting with that needs the love of the Lord? Is there a group that God has in front of your eyes that you can't yet see as seekers? We pray together for our eyes to be opened, as we both sow and reap amongst people in our daily paths.

**God, show us the harvest, the people who are waiting. Open our eyes for the sake of your work in the world. Amen.**

Blessings,

*Pastor Kolby*

# Breaking News

## Bible Study



**PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY**—Join us for Bible Study every Tuesday from 11:30 – 12:30PM. We are studying *Delighting in the Trinity* by Michael Reeves.



*1 Corinthians 15:58*

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

KING JAMES VERSION

## Wesley United Methodist Church

*Mission Statement*  
**Celebrating God!**  
**Growing in Faith!**  
**Changing the World!**

*Pastor Kolby Gollisher*

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We are on Facebook!!!

Pastor's E-mail:  
Kolby@gainesvillewesley.org

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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  
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**

### **Upcoming Sermon Series: That's Not Fair!**

One of the first lessons we learn as children is that things don't always seem fair. Sometimes our brother gets a bigger scoop of ice cream, or a friend gets a longer turn on the swing. As adults, maybe we feel our boss passed us over for a promotion or raise. The gospel of Christ is not merely personal, but social. Followers of Christ are called to model the kind of selfless love that Jesus exemplifies, even when people seem utterly undeserving of it. The amazing grace we so joyfully sing about for ourselves is not so easy to swallow when we watch someone else receive it, but this is the heart of Christian community. As we grow in Christ, we learn to love like Christ, even when it's "not fair." This series focuses on three passages from Matthew's Gospel that challenge our notions about church life, forgiveness, and grace.

**Week 1** (9/10) - How to Fight Like a Christian

Focus Scripture: Matthew 19:15-20

Theme: Jesus gives a plan for settling conflict in the church.

**Week 2** (9/17) - The Math of Forgiveness

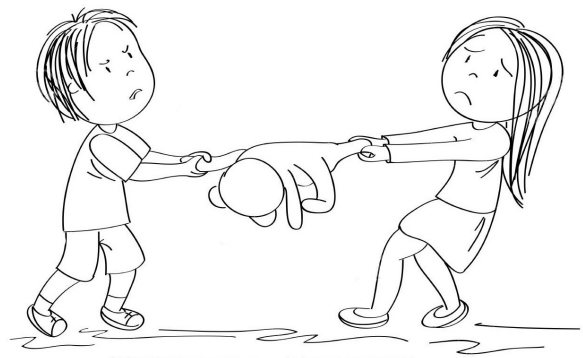
Focus Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

Theme: Real grace means losing count of wrongs.

**Week 3** (9/24) - A Fair Wage

Focus Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

Theme: We don't get what we deserve.



# September 2023

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri                                   | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 3<br>  | 4<br><br><b>Office Closed</b> | 5<br><br>11:30 AM Pastor's Class<br>1:30PM Wesley Whittlers | 6<br><br>8:30AM Garden Workday | 7<br><br>11:30AM Card Club                      | 8<br><b>Office Closed</b>             | 9   |
| 10<br> | 11<br><b>Office Closed</b>   | 12<br>11:30 AM Pastor's Class  | 13  | 14<br><br>11:30AM Card Club<br>7:00PM Book Club | 15                                    | 16  |
| 17  | 18<br>6:30PM Nightingales  | 19<br>10:00AM Morning Stars<br>11:30 AM Pastor's Class<br>1:30PM Wesley Whittlers<br>7:00PM Leadership Board                                   | 20<br>8:30AM Garden Workday<br>9:30AM Kitchen Cleaning<br>6:30PM Game Night                                       | 21<br><br>11:30AM Card Club                   | 22                                    | 23  |
| 24  | 25   | 26<br>No Pastor's Class  | 27  | 28<br><br>11:30AM Card Club                   | 29<br>11:00AM Applebee's<br>RSVP 9/24 | 30  |

## YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Yes, it's almost time to get back to our monthly lunches out around town—are you ready? I surely am. Here are the upcoming dates and places through the end of the year. As always, we meet at 11:30 AM for this fun and purely social event. Also, as always, you need to RSVP to me before the meeting so I know how many tables and chairs to reserve. Join us!

| DATE                | WHERE                          | RSVP BY:     |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| September 29        | Applebee's on NW 13th Street   | September 24 |
| October 13, 10:00AM | Picnic at Weseman's lake place | October 8    |
| November 17         | Covered dish at Weseman's home | November 12  |
| December 1          | Covered dish at Weseman's home | November 26  |

### FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



This is the month, before our “cooking and eating season” begins, that we give our wonderful kitchen a deep-cleaning. We pull everything out of the cabinets and drawers and give each one a wipe-down. Then we assess if we really need those things in the kitchen. Or if we need MORE of something we use a lot. It seems different every year.

This year we will clean on September 20th at 9:30 AM. Join us!

### HELP NEEDED:

We have read your responses on the worship Questionnaire that was distributed in March and we want you to know **we hear you!** Two answers showed up in almost every question: 1) You want more music in the form of a choir and/or more familiar hymn choices and 2) you want more opportunities for fellowship.

You will remember a couple of weeks ago Ms. Hannah passed out little notes asking for your three favorite hymns. So now we know. Look for them each Sunday. We are also in the planning stages of a “hymn sing” too!

The second thing needs a little more planning. We are thinking one Sunday a month we can have a gathering in the Fellowship Hall with coffee and cookies (or something) from 9:30 to 10:30. But here's where we need help—can you commit to this once-a-month activity, whether serving or eating? And we need help getting these monthly refreshments—are you willing to stop by Publix on your way in and pick up enough goodies for the expected crowd? Preferably something that will freeze well in case we have leftovers...

Please contact Sharren Gibbs to volunteer your time, talents, and gifts to this cause!



# 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.

In the aftermath of the terrible and deadly fires in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii, UMCOR has “boots on the ground” in any troubled area anywhere. And 100% of your donations is used for relief work—not administrative costs. Please help our fellow Americans on this beautiful island!



## THE BELOVED COMMUNITY BOOKCLUB

Dear Wesley,

Our book club will meet on Thursday evening, September 14th at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room. We've been reading the NY *Times* bestseller *I'm Still Here—Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown. I hope you've been enjoying the book, as well as learning from its powerful story.

*Pastor Kolby*



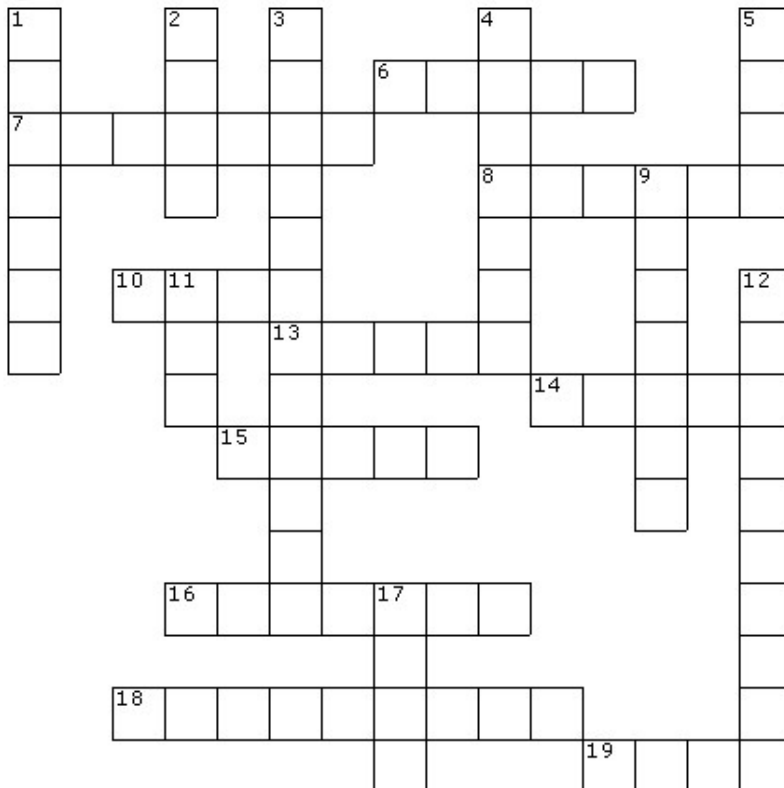
Dear Wesley Family,

Thank you so much for the thoughtfulness and kind words sent in cards of sympathy on the passing of my mother. I felt your love and appreciated the tremendous outpouring of concern and caring; it meant so much to me. Also, thank you to the United Women of Faith for the donations made to the mission work of The United Methodist Church in memory of my mother.



Blessings, *Terri Manche*

## Crossword Puzzle: Genesis



### ACROSS

- 6 Tower site
- 7 Wife of Isaac
- 8 Where Noah's ark landed
- 10 He killed Abel
- 13 City destroyed by fire
- 14 Biblical unit of length
- 15 He dreamed of a stairway to heaven
- 16 Abraham's firstborn son
- 18 Adam's and Eve's garments (2 words)
- 19 Son of Adam and Eve

### DOWN

- 1 Eden tempter
- 2 First murder victim
- 3 In the beginning God created the \_\_\_ and the \_\_\_.
- 4 First patriarch
- 5 Lot's wife became a pillar of \_\_\_
- 9 God's sign in the sky
- 11 Noah's \_\_\_
- 12 Oldest man in Bible
- 17 Father of Seth

See answer sheet on page 9



Congratulations to Debbie Taylor, our long-time and lately only acolyte for many years. Debbie has been responsible for bringing the Light of Christ into the sanctuary for our Sunday morning service, and taking it back out when the service is over. She has done this joyfully and faithfully, but has recently decided to retire from her duties due to stability issues when stepping up to the altar.

Thank you, Debbie, for your service to Wesley UMC!

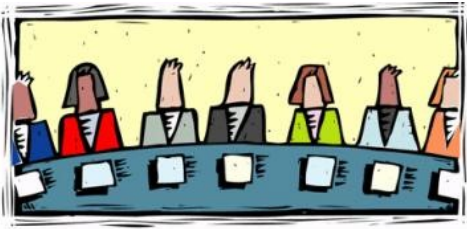


## GARDEN WORKDAYS

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!







### Committee Meetings

9/19 7:00PM Leadership Board

**WHATEVER  
YOU DO, WORK  
HEARTILY,  
AS FOR THE LORD  
AND NOT FOR  
MEN.**  
COLOSSIANS 3:23

### September Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sharren Gibbs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Crenshaw
- 8<sup>th</sup> Barb Loehr
- 11<sup>th</sup> Jade Marie Martin
- 14<sup>th</sup> Sonny Robertson
- 17<sup>th</sup> David Dishong  
Michael Weseman
- 21<sup>st</sup> Debra Johnson
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Richard Yaxley, Jr.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Dee Holder
- 27<sup>th</sup> Sean Boyle

### September Anniversaries

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Linda & Frank Nosko
- 27<sup>th</sup> Bonnie & Jim Carlin



# Celebrate!

## GAME NIGHT

Wednesday, 9/20 at 6:30PM

### 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.

