

January 2024

Wesley Witness



Dear Faithful Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year! As we bid farewell to the past and step into the promise of a new beginning, I am filled with gratitude for the journey we continue to share here at Wesley. January unfolds before us as a blank canvas, inviting us to paint a portrait of hope, purpose, and spiritual renewal.

In Isaiah 43:19 (NIV), God speaks words of assurance to his people: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." What a beautiful promise to hold onto as we embark on the uncharted waters of 2024. Our God is a God of new beginnings, and in this season of fresh starts, let us open our hearts to perceive the new things God is doing in our midst.

As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of the past year, let us acknowledge the faithfulness of God that has sustained us through it all. The past may be filled with memories, but the future is an open book waiting to be written. Together, as a church family, let us seek God's guidance and purpose for the chapters ahead.

Our Methodist tradition teaches us the importance of connection, and as we journey together, we find strength, support, and encouragement in each other. I love the wisdom found in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV), "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

In the weeks to come, we have planned a series of events and activities aimed at fostering fellowship, spiritual growth, and community engagement. From Sunday sermons and prayer gatherings to small group studies, there are numerous opportunities for you to participate and strengthen your connection with both God and your fellow believers. Keep an eye on our church bulletin and announcements for details.

As we set our hearts on the journey ahead, let us do so with faith, hope, and love—the hallmarks of our Methodist heritage. Together, let's make this year a testament to God's transformative power, both individually and as a congregation.

May God's grace be abundant in your lives in 2024, and may our Wesley family continue to be a beacon of hope and love in our community.

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. This month we'll be studying FLUMC Bishop Tom

Berlin's *Reckless Love: Jesus' Call to Love Our Neighbors*.



Wesley United Methodist Church

Mission Statement

Celebrating God!

Growing in Faith!

Changing the World!

Pastor Kolby Gollhofer

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32609

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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

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Deadline for articles: 15th of each month

Website:

www.WesleyUMCon23.org

www.facebook.com/WUMCGVL

Weekly Sunday Activities

Worship @ 10:45AM
(Sanctuary)



Jim Arnett
Diane Blucher
Rachelle Hines
Clydia Reichert
Beth Senn
Clarence Witt

Barbara Baldwin
Carolyn Clarke
Barb Loehr
Joe Reichert
Joan Siegel
Carla, Robert, Steve, Molly & Buddy

Linda Baldwin
Helen Goddard
Beth Loehr-Moody
Sonny Robertson
Dale Smith

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE



Some of our Young Adults of Wesley (not to be confused with our Young at Hearts... name pending!) gathered last month for a fun evening of Christmas cookie decorating and games. We won't say whose cookies looked the best! Around the table from left: Hannah, Pastor Kolby, Maggie, Rachel, and her husband Codi. We hope to expand this group as more young people discover a welcoming church family at Wesley!

January 2024

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Worship Service—10:45AM

WEDNESDAYS
www Supper 2nd Wed. 5:30PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 	8 6:30 Nightingales	9 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	10 5:30PM WWS 6:00PM SPRC	11 11:30AM Card Club 	12 11:30AM Card Club	13
14	15 Office closed 	16 10:00AM Morning Stars 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30 Wesley Whittlers	17	18 11:30AM Card Club 	19 11:30AM YAHS Plesanos RSVP 1/14	20
21	22	23 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 6:00PM Leadership Board	24	25 11:30AM Card Club 	26	27
28	29	30 11:30 AM Pastor's Class	31			
1	2 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30 Wesley Whittlers	3 11:30 AM Pastor's Class 1:30 Wesley Whittlers	4 11:30AM Card Club 	5 9:30AM undecorate sanctuary	6	



The Kitchen Team: Donna, Barbara, Elaine, Nancy, Sharren, and Linda.

FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



WESLEY WEDNESDAY SUPPER

We return to our regular Wesley Wednesday suppers this month with our next meal on January 10th at 5:30 PM. In addition to a salad bar and dessert selection, we will serve baked chicken with yellow rice, green beans, and a roll for only \$7.00 per meal. And for a family of three or more, you get a special price of \$20 max. We need at least 25 people to sign up for this to happen, so come and get a meal, either take-home or dine-in.

Please RSVP to the office by January 5th.

Donna Weseman

YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Here are the upcoming dates and places through the next few months. As always, we meet at 11:30 AM for this fun and purely social event. Also, as always, you need to RSVP to me the Tuesday before the meeting on Friday so I know how many tables and chairs to reserve. Join us! **Note change in date of March meeting.**

DATE	WHERE	RSVP BY:
January 19	Piesano's in Hunters Crossing	January 14
February 9	Valentines luncheon at the Weseman's	February 4
March 22	Cedar River Seafood Restaurant	March 17



Thanksgiving: Back Row: *Barbara, Paula, Roy, and Pastor Kolby*
Front Row: *Becky, Susan, Nancy, Kathy, and Sharren*

Each year, our Young at Heart (YAH) group has covered dish dinners at the Weseman home on both Thanksgiving and Christmas. And they are so much fun! Donna is an excellent hostess, and each person brings a favorite dish to share, so the food is really good, too. And the fellowship is excellent!

Throughout the school year, we meet monthly at a local restaurant to enjoy each other's company—why don't you join us? Watch for announcements in the *Witness* and the Sunday bulletin.



Christmas: Back Row: *Irma, Barbara, Paula, Roy, Joan, Sonny, and Pastor Kolby*
Front Row: *Kathy, Jan, Helen, and Becky*

2024 TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN

For telephone prayer requests, please contact:

Yvonne Hodges 352-472-2039 (home)

 352-262-7398 (cell)

Irma Hales (Back-up contact person) 352-376-7222



When called, take down the information accurately. IMMEDIATELY call the next person BELOW you on the list and repeat the prayer request. If you do not reach the next person on the list, leave a message (if possible) and continue calling down the list until you do reach someone. PLEASE KEEP THE CHAIN GOING!

For EMAIL chain, contact:

Terri at the church office (Monday through Friday) 352-372-2845

Donna Weseman (Saturday-Sunday) 352-538-0559

PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED FOR TELEPHONE PRAYER CHAIN! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE AS A CALLER, PLEASE CALL YVONNE HODGES AT (352) 472-2039 or (352) 262-7398 TO HAVE YOUR INFORMATION ADDED. LIKEWISE, IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO BE REMOVED, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL. THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO IN THE NAME OF JESUS TO FURTHER THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

JESUS IS

Alpha and Omega	Revelation 1:8	Lamb of God	John 1:29
Branch	Isaiah 4:2	Light of the World	John 8:12
Bread of Life	John 6:35	Lord of Hosts	Isaiah 6:16
Cornerstone	Ephesians 2:20	Mediator	I Timothy 2:5
Deliverer	Romans 11:26	Messiah	John 4:25
Glory of the Lord	Isaiah 40:5	Root of David	Revelation 22:16
Good Shepherd	John 10:11	Savior	Luke 2:11
Holy One	Mark 1:24	Servant	Matthew 12:18
I AM	John 8:58	Son of God	Luke 1:35
Immanuel	Matthew 1:23	The Word	John 1:14
Jesus	Matthew 11:21	The Way, Truth & Life	John 14:6
King of Kings	Revelation 19:16	Wonderful Counselor	Isaiah 9:6

MISSION OF THE MONTH

ST. FRANCIS HOUSE



Mission Statement: The overall mission of St. Francis House is to provide emergency food, temporary shelter, transitional housing, and related support services in a safe, secure environment for people in the Alachua County region who, for whatever reason, find themselves confronted with homelessness and hunger.

This ministry was established in 1980 by Father Baker, with a goal to provide the basic necessities to help the impoverished and hungry in the community.

Contributions may be marked on your check or envelope and placed in the collection plate or on the altar. You may also mail your checks for St. Francis House to the church office during the entire month of January. Please see their Donation Guide on the next page.

WESLEY CHOIR

It was SO nice to have a choir back in the choir loft this Christmas! Special thanks for Jim Arnett, who found a lovely, simple, musical program for us to sing, and got us together. He is a wonderful teacher, having honed his chops by teaching music to middle schoolers—that made teaching us easy-peasy! Or did it? We hope to be able to present more musical selections for you in the coming year. If you like to sing, please join us!



Back Row: Carmen, Marilyn, Antoinette, Hannah, Jim, and Ron

Front Row: Darryl, Jan, Christie, Nancy C, Nancy S, Paula, and Sharren

Front: Jim Arnett



St. Francis House

DONATION GUIDE

CLOTHING

NEW:

- bras
- socks
- underwear

No clothing right now they are full

NEW & GENTLY USED:

- gloves & hats
- jackets
- kids' clothes
- men's clothes
- shoes & boots
- women's clothes

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- brooms
- dustpans
- disinfecting spray
- disinfecting wipes
- floor cleaner
- glass cleaner
- hangers
- laundry baskets
- laundry detergent
- mops & buckets
- paper towels
- plungers
- rags
- storage bins
- toilet paper
- trash bags

HYGIENE ITEMS

NEW / UNOPENED:

- band-aids
- bars of soap
- body spray
- body wash
- brushes & combs
- conditioner
- deodorant
- first-aid kits
- hand sanitizer
- lotion
- pads & tampons
- personal wipes
- razors
- shampoo
- shaving cream
- sunscreen
- toothbrushes
- toothpaste

BABY & CHILDREN

NEW:

- baby bottles
- baby formula
- baby wipes
- diaper cream
- diapers (all sizes)
- pacifiers
- sippy cups

LINENS

NEW & GENTLY USED:

- bed sheets (T/F)
- blankets
- mattress pads (T/F)
- pillowcases
- pillows
- towels
- washcloths

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- backpacks
- crayons
- folders
- glue
- notebooks
- paper
- pencils
- pens
- tape

FOOD

NEW / UNOPENED:

- bottled water
- canned vegetables
- cereal, grits
- juices, drink mixes
- pasta, sauces
- proteins (eggs/meat)
- snacks (kid-friendly)

DONATIONS WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT:

FOOD: expired items, leftover items, open items, items with packaging concerns, items that are not FDA/USDA certified, and home-baked goods

OTHER: stuffed animals, used toys, used/open hygiene items, used/open baby items, and mattresses

QUESTIONS? info@stfrancishousegnv.com

NOVEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH THE SALVATION ARMY



Thank you, Pastor Kolby, for hauling yet another load of food, sundries, and gift cards for meat down to the Salvation Army. The congregation really went all out to make sure their customers had what they needed to celebrate Christmas!

Dear Wesley family,

Thank you so much for your generosity and thoughtfulness during this Christmas season. I am looking forward to another wonderful year serving you in the office. Best wishes for 2024.

Terri



Dear Church Family,

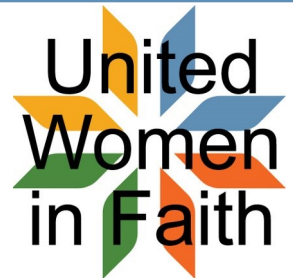
I thank you for your financial support over the last year with the passing of my mom and this Christmas season. Down over the years, the support and sincere affection you have shown my family has been so appreciated.

With sincere love and affection,

William



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



Pledge service: Just like our congregation, UWF members will receive pledge cards for the coming year and a very short Litany. UWF Pledge cards should be completed and returned to your circle treasurer by January 31.

Charter for Racial Justice: The Conference is also making racial justice a priority. What items would we like to do in 2024 to work for racial justice?

Communications: Are the communications you receive meeting members' needs? Are they helping us to connect to the connectional organization? Is there a desire to learn more or participate more at the district level?

Future Plans: Anything you'd like to see the unit do differently going forward?

Learning Opportunities from the Conference:

- This year's theme, "Let Us Break Bread Together," calls to mind that we are created to be in community and welcome all to God's table. The *Daily Prayer Guide* connects us to our larger family, uplifting the work and impact of the worldwide outreach of United Women in Faith and Global Ministries. Daily prayers and devotionals are reminders of the steadfast love of God and invite us to the table, encouraging a deeper connection with God and one another in community. (You can find a digital-only version of the *Daily Prayer Guide* on our digital platform.)
- *Welcome Home* is an adult curriculum that explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes all — encouraging us to open our hearts to embrace God's power and presence. The explorations lead participants outward, expanding to welcome others to join us in our work as co-creators establishing God's kin-dom on earth. The sessions include Scripture explorations, discussions, activities to apply what is being learned, and two intergenerational sessions. By author Neomi Fletcher.

Reading List: There are 319 titles on the UWF reading spreadsheet so I won't list them here. I downloaded a copy of the list from the website (it's free!) and have it if you also want a copy, or you, too can go to the website and download it. Your choice!

Sharren





Committee Meetings

1/10	6:00PM	SPRC
1/23	6:00PM	Leadership Board



January Birthdays

- 1st Irma Hales
- 2nd Joyce Welsh
- 5th Joe Reichert
- 8th Paula Mathis
- Carmen Arnett
- 10th Ron Case
- 11th Jan Sims
- 14th Linda Yaxley-Nosko
- 20th Grayson Nosko
(Linda Yaxley-Nosko's grandson)
- 28th Jim Nelson



January Anniversaries

19th Lisa & Matt Alday



Celebrate!

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.

