

Wesley Witness

*Easter Message
From the Pastor*



“Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

~1 Corinthians 15:54b-57 NRSVUE

Dear Wesley,

In a similar fashion to how the Church celebrates the *twelve* days of Christmas, for millennia Christians have acknowledged that Easter is much too significant of a celebration to limit to only a single day. Thus, for the next FORTY days (or perhaps thirty-nine, maybe even thirty-eight, depending on when you’re reading this), we find ourselves immersed in the joyous time of Eastertide — a season of renewal, celebration, and profound spiritual growth. It’s a time when the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ fills our hearts with hope and our souls with gladness, inspiring us to embrace the abundant life that God offers.

During Eastertide, we’re invited to linger in the glow of Easter morning, allowing its radiant light to illuminate our path forward. Just as the disciples experienced the transformative power of encountering the risen Christ, so too are we called to open our hearts to Christ’s presence and allow God to breathe new life into our weary souls.

As we reflect upon the significance of Easter and the miracle of resurrection, let us consider the implications of this sacred event for our lives today. The resurrection is not merely a historical event to be commemorated; it’s a living reality that continues to shape our identity as followers of Christ. It reminds us that death has been conquered, sin has been defeated, and new life is available to us right here and now.

In the season of Eastertide, we’re invited to participate in the ongoing work of resurrection — to embrace the promise of new beginnings and to live as people of hope and joy. It’s a time for us to let go of the things that bind us, to release our fears and anxieties, and to step boldly into the abundant life that Christ offers.

Moreover, Eastertide is a season of celebration — a time to rejoice in the victory of our Lord over sin and death. It’s a time to gather with our faith community, to sing songs of praise, to share in the sacraments, and to proclaim the Good News of salvation to all who will hear. Let us use this season as an opportunity to deepen our sense of connection with one another and to celebrate the gift of God’s love poured out for us in Christ Jesus.

(Continued on page 3)

Breaking News

Bible Study



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY—TIME

Please join us every Tuesday from noon to 1PM for Bible Study as we continue our study of *Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross* by Magrey R. DeVega.



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:
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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)



(Continued from page 1)

As we journey through Eastertide together, may our hearts be filled with gratitude for the hope that we have in Christ. May we be inspired to live as people of resurrection — bearing witness to the transformative power of God's love in our lives and in the world around us.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Kolby



Jim Arnett

Diane Blucher

Cindy Holmes

Barb Loehr

Joe Reichert

Joan Siegel

Carla, Robert, Steve,

Molly & Buddy

Barbara Baldwin

Carolyn Clarke

Jim Harris

Beth Loehr-Moody

Sonny Robertson

Dale Smith

Linda Baldwin

Helen Goddard

Rachelle Hines

Clydia Reichert

Beth Senn

Clarence Witt

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE



Beautiful Easter music from our choir! More to come in the next issue...

Photo by Timothy Tattersal.

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH


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

Rev. Kolby Golliver, Pastor

April 2024

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Worship Service—10:45AM

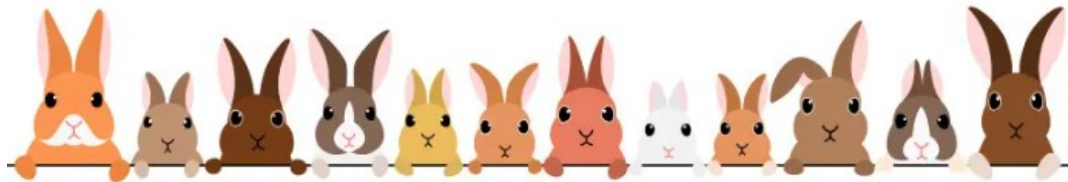
WEDNESDAYS
WW Supper 2nd Wed. 5:30PM

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| 1 Office Closed  | 2 12:00N Pastor's Class 1:30 Wesley Whittlers 6:00PM Sisters in Faith | 3 | 4 11:30AM Card Club  | 5 | 6 | |
| 7  COMMUNION DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE | 8 3:18PM Solar Eclipse 6:30 Nightingales | 9 12:00N Pastor's Class | 10 DAR 5:30AM WWWS | 11  11:30AM Card Club | 12 11:30AM YAHs Piesanos RSVP by 4/7 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 10:00AM Morning Stars 12:00N Pastor's Class 1:30 Wesley Whittlers | 17 | 18  11:30AM Card Club | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 12:00N Pastor's Class 6:00PM Leadership Board | 24 | 25  11:30AM Card Club | 26 | 27 11:00AM UWF Ladies Banquet  |
| 28 | 29 | 30 12:00N Pastor's Class |  | | | |

The Young at Heart fellowship met on Friday, March 22nd, at the Cedar River Seafood Restaurant. This has long been a favorite restaurant of several members at Wesley, and you will almost always find some of us there after church on Sundays. Wow! Here we are dining on fresh area seafood—but you can also get other things if you're not a fan of fish, shrimp, clams, and the like.



Around the table from left: Paula, Pastor Kolby, Nancy, Jim, Mary, Sonny, Donna, Joan, Irma, Helen, Kathy, Roy, Stan, and Sharren.



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! We will take off the months of June-August, returning in September.

| DATE | WHERE | RSVP BY: |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| April 12 | Piesano's Restaurant | April 7 |
| May 10 | Cedar River Seafood Restaurant | May 5 |



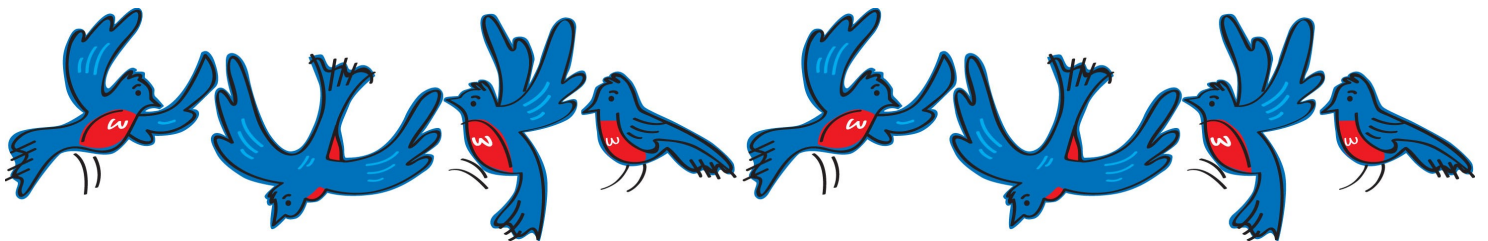
Hello,
I'm so grateful to everyone who helped us when we moved to our new rental home. We want to thank Pastor Kolby Golliver and his wife Hannah, who connected us with a beautiful couch and a mirror that fits well in our new place, and they went above and beyond to help us out in many ways; Pastor Nancy and Ron Case, who donated kitchen items, a dining table, and the time they spent to drive and drop them off; and Jane and Jim Nelson, who donated furniture (a full-set twin bed, mattress, sheets, towels, etc.). In addition, they went above and beyond to help us load the U-Haul truck. That's amazing!

We also thank Sherry and Chuck Adams, Joyce Welsh, Carmen and Jim Arnett, and generally everyone at Wesley United Methodist Church for the warmest welcome and prayers. Your help and support made our move-in go smoothly. We are just so grateful.

In the name of God, we love you all, and "nothing you can do about it."

Thanks a million,

Antoinette Jean-Pierre and Antoine Desome



Dear (former) Wesley Family,

I got a very sweet Valentine card from Sherry Adams, Nancy Case, Joyce Welch and other ladies. I sent Sherry a thank you text but I'm not sure if she still has the same cell number I have. They sent the card to my son's home. I did live with them the first year I was up here but Mama wants her own place.

Thank you, ladies for thinking of me this past Valentine's Day. I miss you all. One of these days, when I'm in town, I'll join you all in worship. Would love to see you all!

My current address is: Gates at Jubilee - 912 Van Avenue #317 - Daphne, AL 36526.

Blessings,
Dale McClellan





MISSION OF THE MONTH

Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

Dan West was a farmer from the American Midwest and member of the Church of the Brethren who went to the front lines of the Spanish Civil War as an aid worker. His mission was to provide relief, but he soon discovered the meager single cup of milk rationed to the weary refugees once a day was not enough.

And then he had a thought: What if they had not a cup, but a cow?

That "teach a man to fish" philosophy is what drove West to found Heifer International. And now, nearly 70 years later, that philosophy still inspires our work to end world hunger and poverty throughout the world once and for all.

How it Works

We empower families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity – but our approach is more than just giving them a handout. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. Our animals provide partners with both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs, and honey can be traded or sold at market.

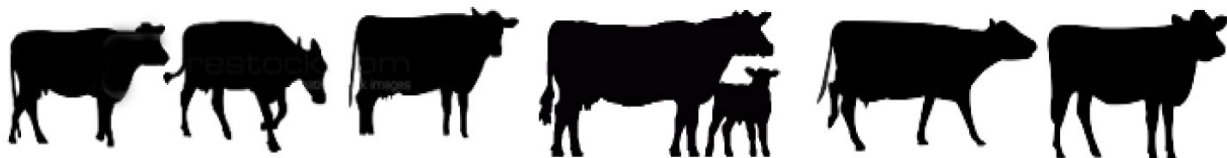
When many families gain this new sustainable income, it brings new opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural cooperatives, forming community savings, and funding small businesses.

Passing on the Gift

The core of our model is passing on the gift. This means families share the training they receive, and pass on the first female offspring of their livestock to another family. This extends the impact of the original gift, allowing a once impoverished family to become donors and full participants in improving their communities.

The goal of every Heifer project is to help families achieve self-reliance. We do this by providing them the tools they need to sustain themselves, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

You have the power to give a hungry family the training it takes to feed themselves and their children; to give a young girl a chance at an education; to empower a woman to have a voice in her community. Together, we can change the world,





FEBRUARY MISSION REPORT

Oops—I overlooked putting this in the March Witness. Sorry!

Once again, Wesley UMC has come forth and filled our baskets with food for the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank. Donna toted a whopping 128 pounds of food to them!

Thanks, Wesley!

HELLO
Spring



DON'T THROW AWAY THOSE PLASTIC BAGS OR PLASTIC FILM!

Instead, help us take them out of the waste stream as we partner with Southwest UMC to recycle these films and turn them into pretty, long-lasting park benches. Sarah Nussel, who spoke to us about Creation Care last year, is heading this Nex-Trex project. It *only* takes 1000 pounds of plastic film to make a park bench! So bring your CLEAN bags of CLEAN plastic film and place them in the container. The planet thanks you, too.



RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!



FROM THE STORE

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags



FROM YOUR PANTRY

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags



FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

Ladies' Luncheon

Beach Party

Saturday, 4/27/24

11:00AM-1:00PM

Fellowship Hall



Summery luncheon prepared by UWF members



All women and their friends are welcome. Girls, too!



Wear beach clothes and flip-flops



Play some fun summer games and win a prize



Have your portrait taken and printed on a beautiful beach background

Invite your female friends—all are welcome.

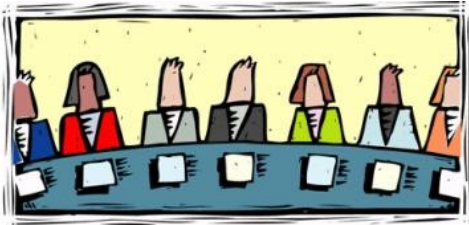
Call the office (352-372-2845) by Tuesday, April 23rd to let us know how many in your party. We don't want to run out of food!

United Women
in Faith

BEACH PARTY

WESLEY
UMC.

27 Apr 2024



Committee Meetings

4/23 6:00PM Leadership Board

The eclipse is on 4/8 with totality at 3:18 PM in the Midwest. We will only see about 50% coverage of the sun here. You still need to wear protective glasses!



Sharren and Ruth demonstrate the proper eyewear for watching the solar eclipse. You should not look at the eclipsed sun without this special eye protection!

OR—punch a hole in a piece of cardboard and hold it over a sunny place, like your driveway. You'll see the shadow of the eclipse projected on your driveway.

April Birthdays

- 5th Emily Neustadt
- 6th Yvonne Hodges
- 8th Tom Adams
- 10th Shaina Boyle
- 11th William Weseman
- 12th Mary Harris
- 15th Jessica Alday
- 17th Joan Siegel
- 18th Barbara Baldwin

April Anniversaries

- 4th Jim and Carmen Arnett
- 16th Linda & Richard Crenshaw
- 28th Diana & Keith Holder



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

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.