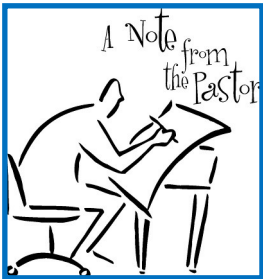


# Wesley Witness



Dear Wesley,

You may or may not have heard already that the United Methodist Church's General Conference is happening *right now* in Charlotte, NC. The General Conference is the highest legislative body in the United Methodist Church, and typically convenes once every four years with clergy and laity delegates from all across the world in order to determine the future direction of the denomination. The 2024 General Conference officially convened on April 23rd and will continue to meet through the end of this week, May 4th.

Whether this is the first you're hearing about General Conference or whether you have already been closely following along via the livestream on the flumc.org webpage, you can catch up on all the exciting updates from General Conference in Bishop Berlin's latest video summary below. From the vital work of Women in Faith to the growth of Africa University producing leaders in various fields across the continent, the worldwide impact of United Methodists is truly remarkable.

Bishop Berlin's 5/29 update: <https://vimeo.com/941019114/939ccaa4e1?share=copy>

Additionally, I've gathered together some other short articles concerning General Conference updates that I pray you might find both enlightening and encouraging. "This is our story, this is our song, praising our Savior all the day long." God sure continues to bless and do incredible work in the world through the United Methodist Church.

Delegates pray after Charlotte shootings:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/delegates-pray-after-charlotte-shootings>

New app will preserve United Methodist history:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/new-app-will-preserve-united-methodist-history>

(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 Gollisher*

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.cfoxmail.com

Witness Articles E-mail:  
Sharren Gibbs  
sharrenleegibbs2020@gmail.com  
Deadline for articles: 15th of each month

Website:  
[www.WesleyUMCon23.org](http://www.WesleyUMCon23.org)  
[www.facebook.com/WUMCGVL](http://www.facebook.com/WUMCGVL)

### *Weekly Sunday Activities*

Worship @ 10:45AM  
(Sanctuary)



(Continued from page 1)

UWF celebrates past, present, and future impact:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/womens-group-celebrates-past-present-future-impact>

Upbeat mood at General Conference's Halfway Point:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/upbeat-mood-at-general-conferences-halfway-point>

Apology OK'd for Church's Role in Hawaiian History:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/apology-okd-for-church-role-in-hawaiian-history>

Many blessings as we approach the Pentecost season!

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

## FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



## WESLEY WEDNESDAY SUPPER

Our "end-of-the-year" cookout is on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. Join us for freshly-grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, coleslaw, chips, baked beans, and desserts 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, but we hope you'll stay to eat with your faith family and enjoy the fellowship. After all, this *is* our FELLOWSHIP dinner!

Please RSVP to the office by May 5th.

*Donna Weseman*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
 Worship Service—10:45AM  
 WEDNESDAYS  
 WW Supper 2nd Wed. 5:30PM


# May 2024


WESLEY UNITED METHODIST  
 CHURCH  
 826 Northwest 23rd Avenue  
 Gainesville, Florida 32609  
 352-372-2845  
 Rev. Kolby Gollither, Pastor


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

5  
  
 COMMUNION  
 DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE

6  
  
 Pentecost Sunday

12  
  
 HAPPY  
 Mother's  
 Day

19  
  
 Pentecost Sunday

26  
  
 MEMORIAL DAY  
 REMEMBER AND HONOR

1  


8  
 DAR  
 5:30PM WWS

15  
 6:00PM Nominations

22  
 10:00AM Morning Stars  
 Noon Pastor's Class  
 1:30PM Wesley Whittlers

29  
 Noon Pastor's Class  
 6:00PM Leadership Board

2  
  
 11:30AM Card Club

9  
  
 11:30AM Card Club

16  
  
 11:30AM Card Club

23  
  
 11:30AM Card Club  
 6:30PM Book Club

30  
  
 11:30AM Card Club

4

11  
 11:30AM YAHs Cedar River RSV 5/5

18

25



## UWF RECOGNIZES PASTOR AND MRS. GOLLIHER



During the service on Sunday, April 28th, United Women of Faith honored Hannah and Pastor Kolby Golliher with Gift to Missions recognitions for their contributions to life at Wesley.

Hannah was described as the epitome of a pastor's wife—so active in all the facets of the life of Wesley, despite her studying at UF for her PhD in bioscience. What a woman! She was specifically cited as a moving force behind the Beloved Community Book Club, as well as leading the hymn singing every Sunday.



Pastor Kolby was recognized for

everything. I forget the wording, but his calling to the ministry is evident, and his love of the Lord and the people of Wesley is a constant presence. The Book Club was also mentioned as his project, and he then lauded Hannah's contributions.

Continued blessings on the Gollihers!



Young at Heart  
Senior Fellowship

### YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Our last fellowship luncheon is approaching. We will meet on May 10th at 11:30 AM for this fun and purely social event, this month at Cedar River Seafood. Also, as always, you need to RSVP to me by May 5th so I know how many tables and chairs to reserve. Join us!

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



The annual Ladies Luncheon (formerly the Mother-Daughter Banquet) was a big success this year. Our theme, “Beach Party!” was well-carried out by all UWF members, but especially our Executive Committee, pictured above. (L-R: Jan, Nancy, Joyce, Sherry, and Sharren) The Exec Committee did the planning and assigned UWF members what to make and bring, and we were off!

There was a delicious assortment of salads, chicken, egg, tuna, pasta, broccoli slaw, and pimiento cheese, as well as breads and condiments. And desserts! As a special treat, Linda Smith and Elaine Brevoort made some tropical goodies (Key lime cookies and lemon bars) and Sharren and Joyce made Pineapple Upside Down Cakes. Believe me, there was plenty of food!

Games included guessing the number of shells in a jar (Mary Harris came within two shells!) Name That Shell (Google won that one...) and an ocean trivia game, as well as Go Fish, sand art, and a fishing game.

Sharren had her photo booth again and took lovely portraits of most of the attendees. The individual pics were then inserted into a beachy background like the one above behind our Executive Committee, and will be given out in a couple of weeks.

Sharren combed through her music collection and came up with a beachy sound track for the day—lots of Beach Boys, Jimmy Buffett, old Motown groups, and such. Attendees requested another Beach Party where they can sing some karaoke to those old songs. Hmmm...

## HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

Did you even know there was such a thing? Neither did I. But we here at Wesley UMC celebrate everything and anything. Funny glasses were handed out in the narthex as people arrived, so we were ready for something. But what? Then Pastor Kolby appeared. And the fun began. Jim Harris, Jan Sims, and Ron and Nancy Case each told a couple of jokes, and Pastor Kolby explained the thinking behind this silly service.



Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity-"Holy Humor Sunday" celebrations of Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after Easter.

The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh," as the early theologians called it.

In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it "Holy Humor Sunday," with the theme: "Jesus is the LIFE of the party."

## 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. Sara 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! Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue. 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





# 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.

UMCOR is active wherever needed, whether overseas or here at home. One hundred percent of your donation goes to programs, not to administration of the organization, so give like your life depends upon it! Because it does.







## Committee Meetings

5/15	6:00PM	Nominations
5/28	6:00PM	Leadership Board

## May Birthdays

3<sup>rd</sup> Kaitlyn Omdahl  
 11<sup>th</sup> Rachelle Hines  
 26<sup>th</sup> Alex Sanders

## May Anniversaries

2<sup>nd</sup> Dale & Linda Smith  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Lee & Steve Holder  
 25<sup>th</sup> Pastor Kolby & Hannah  
 Golliher

Our speaker, Chief Inspirational Entity Dr. Chuck Adams, was entertaining and very interesting. He spoke about Red Tide, which periodically invades our warm coastal waters. We learned the main nutrient for this menace is the fertilizer used in keeping out yards green!. Hmmm. Food for thought, no?



There were around 40 people at the event, and everyone enjoyed it immensely. We collected over \$200 in donations, which will be given to the Food4Kids backpack program, where chronically hungry children are given a non-perishable food-filled backpack to tide them over weekends and holidays, until they return to school. More on this program in another issue!



## 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.