

Wesley United Methodist Church,
www.wesleychurch-hampstead.org

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wesley@wesleychurch-hampstead.org 410-374-4027



*Our Vision is to be a community filled with the **hope and love of Jesus**. Our Mission is to make disciples by growing & learning, worshiping & praying, and serving & connecting.*

From the desk of the Pastor...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: A blessed Advent and Christmas season to all of you!

I don't know about you but, this year in particular, I find myself saying "Come, Lord Jesus!" more than I ever have before. After a year that has left many of us feeling frazzled to the core, the celebration of his birth in Bethlehem and the prospect of his imminent return is something I am holding onto like a life preserver. The hope, peace, joy and love that transcends all that the world dishes out is testimony that even the greatest darkness cannot extinguish the Light of the World.

Our Advent and Christmas celebrations this year are not quite so prolific as they usually are this year, but they are ever so much more important. As we look to the longest nights and shortest days of the year, I invite you to join with me every Sunday of Advent at 10 AM, whether in-person or

online. As we read the ancient words that look toward the coming of the Messiah and light each candle on the Advent wreath, I invite you to light your own Advent candle wreaths and read scripture in your homes. Rejoice in that Light that permeates every-

“Rejoice
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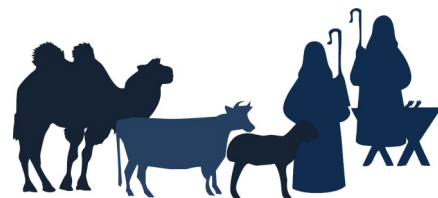
thing! Enjoy the forthcoming devotional our congregation and church secretary are putting together on the theme of joy. Be with us for our live nativity outdoors at 10 AM on December 13, 2020 (inclement weather date is 12/20/2020 at 10 AM.) Worship on Christmas Eve will be an online contemporary service (4 PM Christmas Eve) and an in-person (live-streamed) traditional candlelight and communion service in-person in the Wesley UM Church sanctuary at 7 PM.

***Note: Since our indoor in-person services are now limited to 25 or less (per Bishop Easterling), be sure to register ahead of time for in-person worship, if you plan to attend.** The Sunday after Christmas will be an online gift from the Bishop and Cabinet to the clergy and congregations of The Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference of

(Continued on Page 4)

Inside This Issue:

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Our Condolences, Address for Condolences, Updating your Contact Info, Family and Friends to Keep in Prayer	2
“Thank You”s	3
“From the Desk of the Pastor” Cont’d, Worship Sign-Up	4
December Lectionary, Advent & Christmas Service Details	5
Christmas Families for 2020, Calling All College Students, Board of Child Care Christmas Offerings	6
Collecting Items for the “Addiction Healing Center” at the WRM	7
A Note From and For the Community	8
Library Notes	9
Outreach Committee Minutes, “From the Editor”	10
Administrative Council Minutes	11-14
Worship Committee Minutes	14
December 2020 Calendar	15



Join Us for a Live Nativity!

Sunday, December 13, 2020, at 10 AM
(Rain/Snow Date: December 20 at 10 AM)

The Worship team is putting together a wonderful time of worship and celebration **outdoors** including live animals, the Holy Family, shepherds, wise men, an angel, and carolers! Come and see the pageantry as we host a special Sunday morning service to remember anew the miracle and wonderful gift of the birth of Christ.

Bundle up and join us!



- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Jarrett Peake | Randy Kurtz |
| 4 Zelda Wilhelm | Madison Smith |
| 5 Celee Montgomery | Charlie Weaver |
| H. Lee Smith | 16 Katherine Crochunis |
| 6 Cole Graf | Betsy Sennett |
| 8 Jaime (nee DeVilbiss) Green | 18 Jessica Sichel |
| Wesley Senseney | 20 Cheryl Gore |
| 10 Ricky Catron | 21 Cheyenne Graf |
| 11 Bonnie Catron | Wayne Rill |
| 14 Roxane Brewer | 23 Kyle Phillips |
| 15 Michael Eastwood | 26 Logan Rill |
| | 30 Jonathan Elmo |



- 16 Jason & Lana Montgomery
- 20 Eric & Laura Zilberman
- 26 Dan & Carol Pfoutz
- 29 Curtis & Cheryl Gore

Our Condolences...

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Robert Gunnarsson, Sr., who passed away on Monday, November 16th. Bob will be missed by his Wesley UMC family. May God hold you close as you mourn his passing and celebrate his life.



Updating Your Info.

Please contact Sandy Cole, Membership Secretary, by e-mail at baldor1@comcast.net or by phone at 410-876-5295 if your name, address, phone number or e-mail address has changed. Feel free to contact her with any other changes you require. Additionally, if you spot an error in the Directory, please let her know so she can correct it.

Addresses for Condolences

If you would like to send a card or note of condolence to Bob Gunnarsson's family, please feel free to do so at the following addresses:

Robert, Terry, and RJ Gunnarsson
48 Cardinal Drive
Hanover PA 17331

Dawn and Dale Hunt and Family
1460 Baer Avenue
Hanover, PA 17331



Family and Friends to Keep in Prayer (Cards and Calls Welcome!)

Anna Faye Jenkins
Golden Crest Asst. Living
4110 St. Paul Rd.
Hampstead, MD 21074

Peggy Dovell
2322 Susanann Drive
Hampstead, MD 21074
(410) 374-0199

Betty Horner
Golden Crest Asst. Living
4110 St. Paul Rd.
Hampstead, MD 21074
(410) 374-6219

Elsie Zumbrun
Sunflower Hill Asst. Living
416 Uniontown Rd.
Westminster, MD 21158

Patsy "Tootie" Harris
500 S. Houcksville Rd.
Hampstead, MD 21074

Zelda Wilhelm
Sunflower Hill Asst. Living
416 Uniontown Rd.
Westminster, MD 21158
(410) 236-8813

Stewart Graf
Longview Nursing Home
3332 Main St.
Manchester, MD 21102



Have a New Neighbor? We can help welcome them home! Contact Reenie Harris at (410) 848-1121.



Thank you to Laura Waltrup! Lots of behind the scenes tabulating, recording, and projecting for Wesley's financial future. We appreciate all you efforts!

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We want to thank everyone who helped in any way this past week for the HUGE success of our Fried Chicken Take out Supper!!! We had such an incredible group who worked diligently behind the scenes, people who worked outside (greeters, money takers, runners, etc.) and inside (safely) yesterday, and people who sold and purchased dinners. To the fryers who worked efficiently and made delicious chicken. At least 318 dinners were sold...A TEAM effort!!! A shout out to Jeff and Jan Graf who brought the great Antique machine that washed and peeled the Taters!! What an awesome machine! Thank you to everyone who answered the CALL!!! Stay safe!

Note: Our total profit was 2474.00!!

God's Blessings, Pam

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Dear Friends in Christ,

...Many of you have invested in us and prayed for us and we want you to know how grateful we are for your support! We cannot do what we do **WITHOUT YOU!**

There has been a great deal of activity at the Mission since I joined as the Executive Director at the beginning of the year. Here are a few highlights that stand out this year in our ministry:

- In May, our new long-term Women's Recovery Program opened, with 22 beds now available to meet the needs of these under-served members of our community.
- This summer we also opened transitional houses on campus for men continuing their recovery journey.
- Our food pantry, the Sparrow's Nest, served an increased number of families since the onset of the pandemic (from 550 to 600, an increase of nearly 10%).
- We are about to open The Mission Marketplace – a new retail shopping experience on campus that is focused on the specific needs of our community.

We are truly blessed to have the dedicated, passionate staff members that are called here to do the Lord's work. And we are fortunate to have a beautiful, pastoral campus at which to do it. But it is the prayerful love and support of our friends and supporters that make all of this possible. Additional ways you and your congregations can support the Mission's ministry include:

- Prayers for those suffering from addiction or food insecurity to find the resources they greatly need!
- Continued prayers for protection of the health and safety of our clients and staff as we navigate this unprecedented pandemic.

The power of prayer has never been more evident than it has been these past few months. We COULD NOT be more grateful!

If you have any questions, if our team can provide additional information, or if you would like to talk further about ways to be in ministry together, please do reach out to us. We look forward to our future together in ministry.

Thank you! *Yours in Christ, Stephanie M. Halley, Executive Director*

"From the Desk of the Pastor" Continued...

the United Methodist Church. Stay tuned, also, for an online appearance from your pastor over the Christmas holiday! I close this note with some beautiful words. In this hymn, Charles Wesley connects the Incarnation with the primary purpose--the atonement of all and reconciliation with God. Jesus comes to save!

"Desiring to Love"

*What shall I do my God to love,
My Savior and the world's to praise?
Whose kindness and compassion move
To me and all the fallen race;
Whose mercy is divinely free
For all the fallen race and me.*

*I long to know and to make known
The height and depth of love divine,
The kindness thou to me hast shown,
Who every sin was counted thine;
My God for me resigned his breath,
He died to save my soul from death.*

*All souls are thine; and thou for all
The ransom for thy life hast given,
To raise all sinners from the fall,
And bring them back to God and heaven,
Thou all the world has died to save,
And may all thy salvation have.*

[Charles Wesley, Hymns and Sacred Poems. Bristol: Farley, 1742, 24-25, Stanzas 1-3.]

Come, Lord Jesus!
Love, Rev. Amy



Sign Up for Worship Today!



As COVID-19 numbers increase, causing the sanctuary attendance limit to reduce, signing up for worship services has become essential. Our goals are to make sure we have enough space for all who attend and to be able to contact all who attend a worship service in the event that there is a concern we need to pass along.

Please visit our website at www.wesleychurch-hampstead.org and click on the "Sign Up Genius" box to sign up for the upcoming worship service (**click on the Sign-Up Genius link to sign up for the upcoming Christmas Eve Service.**) You can also respond to the Sign-Up Genius emails sent out to the congregation every week or give Jess Sichel a call at 410-374-4027.

If we should exceed the maximum occupancy of the sanctuary or if you would be more comfortable elsewhere, the service is being livestreamed in the Fellowship Hall and on our YouTube Channel. We hope you can join us!

December Lectionary... GET INTO THE WORD!

November 29 (1st Sunday of Advent): Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9;
Mark 13:24-37

December 6 (2nd Sunday of Advent): Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a;
Mark 1:1-8

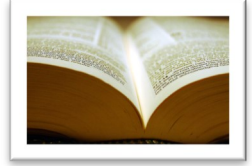
December 13 (3rd Sunday of Advent): Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20 (4th Sunday of Advent): 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 24 (Christmas Eve): Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 27 (1st Sun. after Christmas): Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

December 31/January 1, 2021 (Watch Night/New Year's Day): Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46



Advent and Christmas Services

Join us for our Advent and Christmas Services!

★ **November 29th:** 1st Sunday in Advent (Hope)

★ **December 6th:** 2nd Sunday in Advent (Peace)

★ **December 13th:** 3rd Sunday in Advent (Joy) and the **Live Nativity!**

Bundle up and join the animals, carolers, shepherds, angel, and the Holy Family during our normal 10 AM worship time.

★ **December 20th:** 4th Sunday in Advent (Love)
(Rain/snow date for the Live Nativity)

★ **December 24th:** Christmas Eve Services
4 PM Online Contemporary Worship Service (YouTube)
7 PM In-Person Candlelight Service with Communion

(Sign-up on our website through Sign-Up Genius or call Jess at 410-374-4027)

★ **December 27th:** Virtual Service by the Baltimore-Washington Conference
No In-Person Worship



Christmas Families for 2020



Every year Wesley Church has sponsored families through NESAP Holiday Program. Like everything else in 2020, things have changed. Instead of taking a tag off of the Christmas tree, it was suggested to purchase gift cards from Target, Walmart, Marshall's, and Weis in any denomination you would like. (Make sure to indicate the dollar amount on the gift card.) Please place the gift card(s) in the Christmas box that is in the back of the church or drop it off on Vicky Wilmer's back porch by Sunday, December 13th. If you have any questions, call me at (410) 596-5391.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity to help those who need that extra help at this joyous time of year.

Cindy Myatt, Outreach Committee

Calling All College Students!



If you have a student in college, whether it be far from home or attending a community college, please contact Vicky Wilmer at wilmervicky@gmail.com with their mailing address.

We would like to keep in contact with them throughout the year. Also if your student was on our list before, please contact Vicky to make sure that we have all of their updated information.

Board of Child Care Christmas Offerings

For many United Methodists, the small, red cardboard Christmas stockings that held our coins and our hopes instantly reminds us of the Baltimore-Washington Conference Board of Child Care. And, with those thoughts comes a smile and a prayer for children in need. These red stockings are no longer as ubiquitous as they once were, but the spirit of giving and that prayer for the area's most vulnerable children and their families remains stronger than ever. The Board of Child Care does unparalleled work in mental health, education, and therapeutic residential services. Our historic partnership with the Board, which dates back to 1874, compels us to consider the Christ child and to give generously.



One family at a time, the Board of Child Care is making a difference in the lives of children and communities. You can explore the extensive breadth of their innovative outreach and care at <https://www.boardofchildcare.org/>

In a recent newsletter, the Board's president and CEO, Laurie Anne Spagnola, quoted Henri Nouwen: "Compassion asks for us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion means the full immersion of being human."

This Christmas, I invite every United Methodist to enter into the hearts of our children, many of whom are facing unimaginable challenges, and contribute with compassion to the Board of Child Care of The United Methodist Church. The need is great; may our generous giving be greater. Learn more at www.boardofchildcare.org/donate/christmas/

The above words are excerpts of a letter from Bishop LaTrelle M. Easterling dated October 28, 2020.

Collecting Items for the "Addiction Healing Center" at the WRM

Please consider helping Wesley Outreach collect items needed for the
"Addiction Healing Center at Westminster Rescue Mission"



If you would like to contribute, review the list below. Purchase your choice of items and place them in the box in the Social Hall entranceway. Some items can be "gently" used. If you have questions, please contact Pam Phillips at 410-596-0777.

Men's Items:

Size 10.5 - 13 men's sneakers
Work Boots sizes 9.5, 11 & 11.5
Winter coats (Large +) (*Can be "gently" used*)
XL and XXL boxers & briefs (*must be new in package*)
Long sleeve shirts sizes XL and XXL
Deodorant

Casual dress shoes - sizes 10.5 – 13
Large, XL, XXL, hoodies & jackets
Shower shoes (flip / flops) all sizes
Jeans size 44 and up
Disposable razors

We also always have a need for the following recovery literature:

- **AA Big Book 4th Ed. (hardcover)**

Link: https://www.amazon.com/Alcoholics-Big-Book-ALCOHOLICS-BIG/dp/Boo1TKoWo8/ref=sr_1_5?crd=1STJIZGNZ9J6F&dchild=1&keywords=aa+big+book&qid=1602698536&sprefix=aa+big+book%2Caps%2C146&sr=8-5

- **NA Big Book (hardcover)**

Link: https://www.amazon.com/Narcotics-World-Service-Office/dp/1557767343/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=NA+big+book&qid=1602698710&sr=8-1

- **Life Recovery Bible (paperback)**

Link: https://www.amazon.com/Life-Recovery-Bible-Personal-Size/dp/1496427580/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=life+recovery+bible&qid=1602698735&sr=8-3

- **12 Steps and 12 Traditions (paperback)**

Link: https://www.amazon.com/Twelve-Steps-Traditions-Alcoholics-dp-0916856291/dp/0916856291/ref=mt_other?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=



A Note From and For the Community...

Governor Hogan has issued a number of new orders in the last few days- it is hard to keep up with everything. Below is a synopsis of each order.

Governor Hogan's NEW ACTIONS in effect as of November 20, 2020:

- ↪ **10 PM CLOSURE FOR BARS AND RESTAURANTS STATEWIDE:** All bars, restaurants, and venues serving food and alcohol must close between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., except for the purposes of carryout and delivery.
- ↪ **LIMITED CAPACITY FOR RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS AND RELIGIOUS FACILITIES:** Capacity at retail establishments and religious facilities will be reduced to 50% [the Baltimore-Washington Conference has limited church attendance to 25%], bringing them into line with indoor dining and personal services businesses, as well as bingo halls, bowling alleys, pool halls, roller- and ice-skating rinks, fitness centers, and social and fraternal clubs. The 6 foot social distancing and mask rules are still in effect.
- ↪ **NO FANS FOR RACETRACKS AND STADIUMS:** No fans will be permitted at racetracks or professional and collegiate stadiums across the state.

ACTIONS ON HOSPITAL SURGE MANAGEMENT AND VISITATION:

- ↪ **HOSPITAL VISITATION PROHIBITED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** State health officials have issued an emergency order to prohibit all hospital visitation until further notice with some exceptions—including end-of-life care, obstetrics, parents or guardians of minors, and support for people with disabilities. [Read the order.](#)
- ↪ **NEW HOSPITAL SURGE MANAGEMENT ORDER.** State health officials have issued an emergency order allowing hospitals that are either full or nearing capacity limits to transfer patients to hospitals that are equipped to provide them with the care they need. This will help alleviate the overcrowded hospitals in some areas of the state, and place patients in hospitals where beds are available.
- ↪ **GUIDANCE ON ELECTIVE PROCEDURES.** State health officials have issued guidance warning hospitals and other medical facilities to avoid any elective procedure admissions that are not urgent or life-saving—especially if they are likely to require prolonged artificial ventilation, ICU admissions, or may have a high probability of requiring post-hospital care in a skilled nursing facility. [Read the guidance.](#)

ACTIONS ON HOTSPOTS AND NURSING HOMES:

- ↪ **NEW LIMITATIONS ON NURSING HOME VISITATION.** Until further notice, indoor visitation at Maryland nursing homes will generally be limited to compassionate care, and all visitors must have proof of a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours prior to their visit. [Read the order.](#)
- ↪ **NURSING HOME TESTING SURGE.** State health officials have issued an order instituting mandatory twice-weekly testing for all staff at Maryland nursing homes, as well as mandatory weekly testing for all nursing home residents—effective no later than Friday, November 20. [Read the order.](#)
- ↪ **MORE RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS FOR HOTSPOTS AND OUTBREAKS.** To tackle acute outbreaks, Governor Hogan is doubling the number of rapid response teams deployed to provide an extra level of triage and supplement local staffing needs.

Please note: Most of the above information came from Del. Susan Krebs, but is not intended to support any particular political party. It is meant to provide information on current standards set in place by the state government.

Library Notes



******Important to remember!! We have CDs of past church services available for you to take home and listen to, if you cannot make it to our service on a Sunday. No need to check out the CDs, just bring them back when you are finished with them.******

The month of December!!! Celebrating the birth of Jesus and preparing for Him to arrive here once again! How do others celebrate? What are some traditions, crafts, music, FOODS, festivities, and fun things that are observed and completed? We went to the bottom shelf behind the couch in your library and found in the 300's section a series of books on Christmas in different places. Enjoy these suggestions:

Christmas in Washington, D.C. by World Book (300) Officially, the government of the United States does not celebrate religious holidays. Unofficially, of course, it does. There is a *national* Christmas tree; there is a *Capitol* Christmas tree; there is a White House decked out for the holidays; there is Christmas on the National Mall, a holiday celebration not quite like any other in the world. This book contains history, traditions, crafts, recipes, music, and pictures of Christmas in Washington.

Christmas in the Holy Land by World Book (300) This book starts with: 'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6.' In the text, we are treated to scriptures followed by explanation and history behind the scriptures. The back of the book contains carols and crafts.

Christmas in Switzerland by World Book (300) Want to learn how to make a Chocolate Advent Tree? Or, how about a recipe for Anise Cookies? You'll find these and more about traditions and history of Christmas in Switzerland. Tourists make a pilgrimage each year to the small village of Einsiedeln in order to see the Black Madonna and the Bethlehem Diorama. The celebration of St. Nick is explained in detail. In a country where not only French, but also Swiss-German is the spoken language, a multitude of customs and history abound!

Christmas in Spain by World Book (300) What is the history behind, and the traditions of, the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany? Letters are written by children with requests of presents and are addressed to the Three Kings. A King's Day treat is a kind of fruitcake with a tiny, inexpensive toy hidden inside. Crafts in this book include Christmas tree ornaments and there is a recipe for Spanish-style hot chocolate.

Christmas in the Philippines by World Book (300) December 16th is the true beginning of the Christmas season in the Philippines. This is the day that the church bells call the people to the very early "Mass of the Rooster" that begins at 4 am. Every morning from that day through Christmas Eve, people attend church for nine days of prayer. Also, to prepare for Christmas, Filipinos clean the house, old items are replaced by new ones, new clothes are bought, and the church and churchyard are cleaned carefully. The idea behind all this is to prepare for Christ by cleansing their houses and their souls. Music, recipes for a holiday feast, and directions for making a star lantern are in the back of the book.

Christmas in Poland by World Book (300) In Poland, the anniversary of the first day of the life of Jesus is a very holy day. There is mass at midnight, called the Shepherd's Mass. Then, there is mass at dawn, called the Angel's Mass. The third mass on Christmas is the Mass of the Three Kings. Some Poles attend all three masses. There are directions for Polish ornaments in this book, as well as information about the fairy-tale stables (mangers) in Poland. Recipes and carols are in the back of the book. Twelve-Fruit Compote sounds yummy!

Our library is for you to use and enjoy. Remember to sign your name and date to the card found in the back of the book. File the card in the yellow box under the letter that begins your last name. When you return a book, find the card, put the return date on the card, and put the card in the pocket of the book. You can stack books on the shelf beside the yellow box or on the desk; the librarians will re-shelve them. Please return borrowed items within 6 months.

Donated items may be left stacked on the library desk. Please leave a paper with your name and the names of the donated items so that we can give you proper credit. Remember that we only take items suitable for a church library. The librarians reserve the right to determine suitability.

Bonnie Catron and Nan Lishman, Librarians

Outreach Committee Minutes • November 10, 2020

Members present: Chet and Pam Phillips, Davona Palmer, Jan Kurtz, Connie Weigel, Linda Yost, Rev. Amy, Janet Martin, Cindy Myatt, Jason Montgomery, Nan Lishman

- ✉ Treasurer's Report — We are doing well. All of our bills are paid.
- ✉ Soup Sale — \$674 Thank you everyone!
- ✉ College Students — Still trying to reach out to them. If you know a college student in our church, please send their address to Vicky even if they are currently home.
- ✉ Operation Christmas Child- Brenda reports we have had a good turn out (about 30) with many people putting extra money towards the postage. She will use the extra money to fill additional boxes.
- ✉ Cookie Walk — Cancelled
- ✉ Caroling — Cancelled
- ✉ Thanksgiving Food Drive — Janet/Vicky will deliver to NESAP the week of Thanksgiving
- ✉ Baked Potato Luncheon — Jan. 31st
- ✉ Christmas Families — Cindy has contacted NESAP for families. We will also be helping a family in our church. Due to COVID we will be doing this a little differently. Cindy will purchase one gift/toy for the children 14 and under. We will collect gift cards for the remainder of the gifts. Gift cards can be from Weis, Walmart, Marshall's or Target and placed in a box at the back of the church or on the Wilmer's porch.
- ✉ Westminster Rescue Mission needs — Pam has sent out a list of items that they can always need. There is a collection box in the fellowship hall.
- ✉ Takeout Tuesday update — One family that received meals has reached out to us for help. We have provided groceries, a frozen ziti and soup. We decided to purchase a meal from Bob Evans for the family for Thanksgiving.
- ✉ Rummage Sale — April 16-17
- ✉ Inreach — We would like to restart the phone tree. I will be asking for volunteers to help.
- ✉ Tutoring — Nan says that she has been contacted to tutor 2 children so far.

Next Meeting: January 13th

From the Editor...



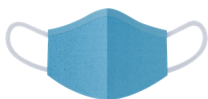
From the Editor

Hello to all of our readers! Just a few notes:

- Correction from last month's issue: John Sies was erroneously left out of the Charge Conference Notes attendees—my apologies!
- Don't forget to turn your Journal submissions in by the fifteenth of the month.
- Submissions for the bulletin should be turned in by Wednesday.

Thanks for your help with keeping the congregation informed!

Jess Sichel



Do you or a neighbor need a face mask? Let us know!
Contact Vicky Wilmer at wilmervicky@gmail.com or 443-340-7703.

Administrative Council Minutes • November 19, 2020

Attendees: Matt Sichel (temporary chairperson), Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-Rill, Dennis Rill, Brenda Kennedy, Jess Sichel, Janet Martin, Laura Waltrup, Linda Yost, Jonathan Yost, Davona Palmer, Vicky Wilmer, Sandy Cole, and John Sies.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM on ZOOM. Matt shared a devotional from *My Utmost for His Highest*. A takeaway: God's order runs right across the natural order; our personality needs to be united with the Lord. We then joined in prayer.

Outreach: *(Please see separate minutes in this issue of The Wesley Journal)*

- The bills are up to date.
- The Soup Sale brought in about \$700.
- If you [are or] have a college student (even at home!), get in touch with Vicky Wilmer to let her know. We'd like to be in contact with our college students.
- Operation Christmas Child is going well. About 30 boxes have been turned in as well as a good amount of extra funds.
- The Annual Cookie Walk and Christmas Caroling have both been cancelled.
- The NESAP food drive is going on through November 22nd.
- There are tentative plans for a Baked Potato Luncheon on January 31, 2021.
- We are adopting four Christmas families (including one of our own families) this year [please see the announcement in this issue of The Wesley Journal.] We will be doing it a bit differently this year. Certain members of the families will be getting a wrapped gift, while gift cards are recommended for the families for other items.
- The Westminster Rescue Mission has an "Always List." The first delivery occurred last weekend.
- Takeout Tuesday has ended, but meals, groceries, etc., have been shared with individual(s) in need.
- There is a Rummage Sale planned for April 16th and 17th, 2021.
- Two students have reached out for tutoring.
- Outreach would like to restart the phone tree from early on in COVID to check in with our congregants, especially during cold weather months.

Education: Linda Yost

- The younger Sunday School classes have been recording for Sunday School. With the COVID spike, they will continue to record.
- Lisa Kemp's 4th/5th/6th class's Facebook page will continue (two more teachers would be needed in order to conduct face-to-face classes based on Safe Sanctuaries).
- Matt Sichel's class is both in-class and online [hybrid-style—all are welcome!].
- Jan Graf has a few women attending the Women's Sunday School class.
- Nan Lishman and Chet Phillips have a good number of High [and Middle] School students attending.

SPRC: Linda Yost

- SPRC has finished applicable staff reviews for the year as of last month.
- The last Conference form has been submitted to Conference for the year.
- The group will be meeting virtually in January, at which time, they may take up goals that they would like to work on with the staff and Pastor.

Trustees: Linda Yost

- There is a tree at the parsonage that has been losing limbs, and it will come down on Saturday. It was trimmed away from the parsonage, and there was no damage to the parsonage from the recent limb that fell.

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Other trimming will also be happening.

- Roof Right is working on “water tracing” to try to figure out the leak that has appeared in the ramp-side tower again.
- Hymnals and Bibles have been moved to the downstairs Sunday School room.
- Calvin and Linda are working together to keep up the church. Calvin is very COVID-conscious. Calvin has also replaced all the batteries in the smoke alarms.
- The Trustees will not meet in December, but will meet again in January. The November meeting was a hybrid-style meeting (virtual & in person); hopefully, they will do this again in January.

Pastor’s Report: (Rev. Amy submitted a report ahead of time—see below)

- Since the last Administrative Council meeting, I have officiated at one funeral (Shar A. Hohmes) on Friday, November 6, 2020. Robert L. Gunnarsson, Sr.’s funeral will take place on Wednesday morning, November 25, 2020 at 11 AM at Eline Funeral Home in Hampstead, MD. Interment to follow at Wesley UM Church cemetery immediately following the funeral. I have had not officiated at any baptisms nor weddings since the last Administrative Council meeting.
- Janet Martin, the Worship Committee, and I have been making plans for Advent and Christmas. We will be having a live nativity this year on December 13, 2020 (December 20 is rain/snow date). The live nativity will take place during the 10 AM worship hour. The community is invited. There will be scripture readings and Christmas carols. There will be one in-person Christmas Eve service at 7 PM on December 24, 2020. Bishop Easterling and the BWCUMC Cabinet will be having a First Sunday After Christmas service on December 27, 2020. There will be no in-person worship on December 27, 2020. All other Worship Committee details are in the November 5, 2020 Worship Committee meeting minutes.
- Feedback from my e-mailed weekly devotion has been positive. This week’s devotion will arrive later than usual, due to a larger-than-usual workload this week.
- We are still in need of an Administrative Council Chairperson for next year. The Lay Leadership Committee and I will work on that until the end of the year.
- A reminder to everyone to be sure to get your Advent “JOY” devotions into the Church Office this week.
- I am still writing the second draft of my Th.D dissertation proposal. I need to put more time into that aspect of my continuing education work. I am behind schedule.
- On November 24, 2020, I will be having an MRI done on my back. On December 10, 2020, I will be having an epidural put into my back to relieve pain from arthritis and some disc issues I am having. The procedure will take about an hour and a half start to finish, but I will be out of work for the rest of the day.
- I have asked the Bishop to let me remain in place as pastor for Annual Conference year 2021-2022. I think it is important that we continue without a pastoral change due to Covid-19 and the impending 2021 General Conference. It is my belief that stability, in terms of pastoral leadership, is important during these uncertain times in the life of our country and denomination.
- I am grateful for the encouraging words, cards, gifts and love from Pastor Appreciation Month (October 2020). This year has been challenging, and your kindness means the world to me. Thank you!

Worship: Janet Martin

- Worship met November 5, 2020.
- Gladys Smith is retiring from the Altar Guild [effective 1/1/2021—Thank you for your service, Gladys!] Cynthia Davey and Peggy Horner will be taking her place.
- Food Drive—Vicky Wilmer and Janet will take the food to NESAP
- Lana Montgomery will be making a handout with a message of hope for the Live Nativity.
- Janet Martin provided minutes from the November 5th meeting; **please see these minutes in this issue of The Wesley Journal.**
- The next meeting will be January 21st, 2021.
- The Christmas Eve service(s) were discussed. There will be one in-person Christmas Eve service at 7 PM. Rev.

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Amy provided some insight regarding that decision, namely the fact that our attendance has been in the 20s indoors. The service will be a traditional Wesley candlelight service with Communion and without the choir singing. More discussion ensued, including signing up and when to send out the sign up, service times, and possible numbers of attendees. At the conclusion of the discussion, one service at 7 PM remained in place, with the possibility to reconsider if necessary.

Membership Secretary: Sandy Cole

- Sandy is still working on the directory, making a few more modifications after providing it to certain people who required a copy.
- She is also adding old information into the Servant Keeper system.
- Sandy will be helping Jess Sichel in the church office with mailings.
- Sandy will also be doing advertising.

Seminary Student: Matt Sichel

- Matt has officially been accepted for a doctoral program with London School of Theology and Asbury Seminary. He still has an interview to do. Intake should be in February. He received positive feedback from his Master's degree leadership, but the doctorate is intimidating.
- Matt is still in the candidacy program [for ordination]; he is meeting every month with his mentor. His situation is contingent on the August 2021 General Conference.

Treasurer: Laura Waltrup [*Financial reports are available upon request; feel free to ask Jess in the office or Laura directly*]

- Laura gave a Financial report in brief.
- Our General Fund balance is in good position. Of note: our WIP (Wesley Improvement Projects) fund has almost the exact same as last YTD. The Bill Harris Music Fund has a positive balance, which may be used to purchase a new keyboard.
- General Fund Receipts are down some; after a bit of research by the Finance Committee, it was determined that this was for myriad reasons—no real, sole reason.
- We are under budget in just about every category, totaling under budget at around \$23,000.
- We have a decent amount of cash in the bank; much of it has to do with the PPP grant funds. Also, we have a three-month forgiveness of pension and medical expenses from the UMC for the last three months of 2020. Laura has a pretty strong feeling that we will end up with a good balance in the checking account at the end of the year.
- Finishing up with the PPP forgiveness looks pretty straightforward.
- The 2021 budget has several items that are a little/slightly less than 2020 (i.e., program expenses, salary & compensations, utilities, operating expenses, apportionments). Maintenance and repair has a bit more of a budget.
- The proposed budget was discussed a bit. The hope that we wouldn't have to cut staff was raised. No further discussion was held; the budget passed unanimously.

Lay Leadership

- Linda Yost asked if there would be a "retreat" (planning meeting) in January. Rev. Amy said that we would not; instead, we would have regular meetings. We could discuss goals in the first meeting. Rev. Amy has two main goals for next year: 1) Get us through COVID, and 2) Get us through the 2021 General Conference. Discussion followed about the inability to plan; we need to move step by step.
- There was also discussion about the probable separation of the UMC. The current Protocol for separation will be considered by the Judicial Council ahead of the Conference. It could, however, be amended from the floor.
- **In the meantime, we still do the work of Jesus—feed the hungry, visit the sick.**
- The church leadership was thanked for this year's work. Matt Sichel was thanked for pinch-hitting in Ad. Council role. There is rejoicing that mighty works of the Spirit are still being done now. There is much to be

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grateful for—sticking with things, not giving up hope... Thanks were extended to Outreach; it has been a joy to see what has been going on. Laura Waltrup expressed how her spirits were lifted unexpectedly at the recent Fried Chicken Drive-Thru Supper; she mentioned that the isolation is getting to some of us. Linda Yost mentioned the blessings of community.

This is the last meeting of the Ad. Council for the year. The next meeting will be January 27th (4th Wed. of the month.) A few parting notes: **Leadership for 2020 should assist the leadership of 2021 in transition. Also, committees should identify a secretary to take notes during their meetings.** The meeting was closed in prayer at 8:51 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Jess Sichel


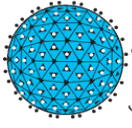
Worship Committee Minutes • November 5, 2020

Attendance: Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-Rill, Linda Yost, Jan Graf, Lisa Kemp, Lana Montgomery, Cynthia Davey, Janet Martin

1. Gladys Smith is retiring from the Altar Guild – Recognition will be Jan. 10. Replacements: Cynthia Davey (Altar Cloths) and Peggy Horner (Banners and Flowers)
2. All Saints' Day 2021 – Personal Invitations for families of deceased. Ask for pictures and biographical information to display. Flowers – white carnations. Also, white candles.
3. Veteran's Day 2021 – Bonnie Catron will take care of that
4. Advent – November 29, December 6, 13, 20.
 - a. Decorate on Nov. 22 or 23
 - b. Tree – Nan, Chet, & Youth
 - c. Families Needed for Lighting Advent Candles – Linda Hollman
 - d. Poinsettias – Linda Yost
5. Live Nativity – Dec. 13th (snow/rain date Dec. 20th). In place of regular service.
 - a. Outside – social distance, masks. Bring lawn chairs and blankets.
 - b. Cookies and hot chocolate provided.
 - c. Jan Graf – Carols and readings
 - d. Lana – Gospel Message of Hope
 - e. Cynthia – Costumes
 - f. Linda Yost – Cookies
 - g. Sandy Cole & Jess Sichel – Getting the word out.
6. Traditional Christmas Eve Service – 7 PM. Contemporary Worship Pre-Recorded Service In-Person? Time: TBA?
7. Need someone to organize for liturgists and acolytes in advance.
8. Epiphany – January 3rd
9. Lent – February 17th
10. Discussion of music before services
11. Discussion of Audio-Visual Concerns
12. **Next Meeting – Zoom – January 21st at 7 PM**

DECEMBER 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10 AM Traditional Worship Service 1st Sunday in Advent: Hope	Register for Worship! (12/6 Worship Service)	1	2 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM	3	4 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM	5
6 10 AM Contemporary Worship Service 2nd Sunday in Advent: Peace (Hall in Use—JMW, 11-?)	7 Register for Worship! (12/13 Worship Service)	8	9 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM	10	11 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM	12
13 10 AM Live Nativity—Outdoors 3rd Sunday in Advent: Joy	14 Register for Worship! (12/20 Worship Service)	15 January Journal Submissions Due Today!	16 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM	17 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM	18 Office CLOSED	19
20 (Rain/Snow date for Live Nativity) 10 AM Contemporary Worship Service 4th Sunday in Advent: Love	21 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM	22 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM	23 Office CLOSED	24 Christmas Eve Worship Services 4 PM: Virtual 7 PM: In-Person	25 	26
27 Worship Service will be a Virtual Service Hosted by the Balt.-Washington Conference. No In-Person Worship	28 Register for Worship! (1/3/21 Worship Service)	29	30 Office CLOSED	31  New Year's Eve	Worship Schedule: Worship services are being held indoors and in-person at 10 AM. The services will also be live-streamed for those unable to participate in person.	

SCHEDULE OF



WORSHIP

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

1 Peter 2:9 (NRSV)



We're on the Web! Visit us at:
www.wesleychurch-hampstead.org

Phone: (410) 374-4027

Email: wesley@wesleychurch-hampstead.org

Office Drop-In Hours: See Calendar Inside!

We seek to be a community filled with the hope and love of Jesus.

How to Be Prepared for In-Person Worship:

- DO:** Register your plans to attend each Monday via Sign-Up Genius or a phone call or email to Jess Sichel
- DO:** Bring your Bible!
- DO:** Wear your facemask
- DO:** Use hand sanitizer when you arrive and when leaving
- DO:** Stay 6 feet apart
- DO:** Stay home if you are experiencing any symptoms of illness (and use our online virtual worship options!)
- DO:** Carefully decide if you are at risk, and if so, seriously consider staying home and worshipping online (We don't want anyone to become ill!)
- DO:** Praise God for each other and for being with us through these difficult times. Alleluia!



Wesley United Methodist Church

3239 Carrollton Rd.

Hampstead, MD 21074

The Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-Rill, Pastor

Address Service Requested



The Wesley Journal

December 2020 Issue