



*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...

Friends:

A few years ago, I officiated a wedding in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. After the ceremony, I stayed for the reception and festivities. As darkness fell, I bid farewell to the happy couple and started my journey home. Once inside my car, I entered 'home' on the GPS device and proceeded to follow the subsequent directions. After 30 minutes of driving, I soon realized that the route selected by my GPS was calculated on the geometrical premise, "The shortest distance between two points is a straight line." I was now driving home taking the back roads of rural Pennsylvania.

“We can hear a necessary voice that satisfies the soul and brings a lasting hope.”

Now what would one expect to see traveling the back roads of rural Lancaster County at night? Answer: Amish horse and buggy. I soon realized this when I noticed red and orange emergency lights flashing on and off a mile down the road.

Initially I thought the blinking lights meant that someone's car had broken down and the driver pulled his car alongside the road. My sudden approach upon the lights dispelled that idea. It was an Amish horse and buggy; an Amish family probably making their way home. As I drove around the horse-drawn buggy, I heard the trotting hoof steps of the horse, "Clip-pity-Clop, Clip-pity-Clop." This would be a pattern most of my way home, driving a short distance, then slowing down as I came upon another horse and buggy and hear "Clip-pity-Clop, Clip-pity-Clop." I thought to myself, "I'll never get home considering this slow pace." Suddenly a self-revealing thought came upon me: I am a fast-paced technocratic American irritated by this simple, slow paced approach to life. And what does this say about me?

I came across this quote by Hans Hofman. He wrote, "The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak." And how do we go about

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Our Condolences...

We extend our sincere condolences to the Martin and Houck families on the passing of Lester Eugene (Gene) Houck, brother to Errol, Janet (Martin), and Bob, on April 8, 2023. We extend the same to the Graf family on the passing of Jeff and David Graf's father, Stewart Graf, on March 24th and to the Kurtz family on the passing of Randy's brother, Mahlon Joseph (Joe) Kurtz, on Sunday, March 5th.

May God bless you and hold you close to his side as you mourn your loved one's passing and celebrate his or her life.





- 2 Irby Cole, III
Laura Gast
Jeff Horner
- 3 Diana Crochunis
Peggy Dovell
- 4 James S. Hoffman
- 5 William "Will" Otwell
Amanda Phillips
- 7 Lindsay Zachman
- 8 Beverly Rill
Debbie Schubert
- 10 Chase Green
Cindy Rill
- 11 Connor Insley
Cynthia Sowash
- 12 Adrienne Kurtz
Linda Yost
- 13 Rachel Kemp
- 14 Cory Waltrup
- 15 Meredith Smith
- 16 Kathy Gutierrez
- 17 Dean Brewer
- 21 Michael Martin
- 26 Molly Smith
- 27 Brenda Benson
Patsy "Tootie" Harris
(sister of Debbie Schubert)

- 28 Greg Horner
Nan Lishman
Kaylyn Phillips
Seth Sowash
- 29 Kenneth Miller



- 4 Ruth Rill
- 7 Jonathan Yost
- 10 Cheryl DeVilbiss
- 14 Ryan Baumiller
Scott Stauffer
- 18 Patty Harris
- 19 Dolores Bennett
Cynthia Davey
- 22 Bruce Davidson
- 26 Sarah (Yost) Smith
- 27 Alex Myatt
- 28 Lindsey (Horner)
Baumiller
Clay Myatt, Jr.
- 29 Jim Watkins
- 30 Henry Myatt



- 2 Gary & Vicky Wilmer
- 4 Kyle & Amanda Phillips
- 7 Randy & Jan Kurtz
- 15 Ken & Fay Miller
Greg & Connie Wiegel
- 26 Clay & Cindy Myatt



- 2 Brad & Tracey Rill
Andy & Stephanie Smith
- 9 Michael & Brittany Watkins
- 10 David & Dawn Graf
- 12 Aaron & Lauren Horner
- 14 Bruce & Judy Davidson
- 15 Michael & Rosemarie Sichel
- 16 Brian & Melissa (Phillips) Jones
- 17 Scott & Davona Palmer
- 20 Daniel & Stacey Graf
Jeff & Jana Zachman
- 23 John & Brenda Hess
- 26 Wayne & Cindy Rill
- 27 Allen & Mindy
(Daugherty) Dehority
H. Lee & Gladys Smith
- 30 Rick & Laura Waltrup



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

**Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-
and Denny Rill**
3674 Stewartstown Rd.
Stewartstown, PA 17363

Jean Colton
Longview Nursing Home
Room 214B
3332 Main St.
Manchester, MD 21102

Shirley Rytel
15 Pheasant Ridge Rd.
Hanover, PA 17331

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

Dot Benedict
Longview Nursing Home
Room 107A
3332 Main St.
Manchester, MD 21102



The Troop 380 Auction



Wesley's Scout Troop (Troop 380) is having its annual auction on Saturday, May 6, 2023!

The Troop is seeking good condition or better family treasures and used items that you might like to donate (no upholstered items, please!)

If you would like to coordinate a pick-up for heavy items, please email or call Bob Frey at bob.frey@exitresults.com or (410) 960-9555. Thank you for your support!

New Address

Fran Crispin has a new address. Feel free to visit or send a note or card to her at the following location; you can also call her at the below number:

Ms. Fran Crispin
1765 Powder Mill Rd
Apartment 50
York, PA 17403
(410) 374-4969



A special thanks to Rose Sichel, who accompanied the Choir on her flute, as they performed the Easter cantata. The beautiful sound of Rose's flute enhanced the meaningful music and scriptures.

A huge Thank You to Jeff Horner who plays the piano and organ beautifully throughout the year. Especially during the Lenten season, he shares his talents in the cantata, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and extra special music on Easter.

We are blessed to have such wonderful and willing musicians at Wesley.

Anonymous

A big shout out to Dave Hudgins who joined a Zoom SPRC meeting from his bed in Rehab. Not only is Dave dedicated to Wesley UMC, but he was very well dressed in his hospital gown! Get well soon, Dave!

Anonymous

Wayne Rill thanks the Wesley congregation for the many cards and prayers he has received will going through his illness. He and Cindy continue to ask for your prayers in overcoming health concerns.

Wayne & Cindy Rill

John Sies thanks the congregation for all of the love and kindness he has received after the passing of Mrs. Deanna. The Wesley family is wonderful.

John Sies

"From the Desk of the Pastor" Continued from Page 1...

eliminating the unnecessary? One positive unintended consequence we gain from moving from one house to another house is that we are given the chance to discard the clutter in our lives – things such as exercise bikes we no longer ride, end tables that are missing one leg, old books we thought we might read again but haven't, snow boots we haven't worn since the '92 blizzard, and on and on the list goes. We can de-clutter our lives and learn to travel lighter.

This applies to our spiritual lives as well. What are things that occupy our interior lives that you and I need to de-clutter so we can hear a necessary voice that satisfies the soul and brings a lasting hope? As we go about our spring-cleaning and prepare for summer, let us remember Thoreau's motto: "*Simplify! Simplify!*"

Grace & Peace, Gary

Pastor's Article from April...



Friends:

Henny Youngman told the story about a man who entered an antique shop and asked the question, "*What's new?*"

Such a question might bring a grimace on the face of an antique dealer, yet how would we, as we reflect on ourselves and the world around us, respond to the question, "*What's new?*" Taking a quick glance at what's going on in the world might lead us to conclude that there is nothing new – it's just the '*same old, same old.*' We observe the political landscape and still notice polarization and partisan bickering. We minister to the poor while the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. We are aware of the sudden rise of opioid related deaths which now has become a national epidemic. My home state of West Virginia ranks at the top of the list in trying to deal with this problem. We are observing an increase in "*Xenophobia*" – the fear of strangers. At times, it is hard to look around and not succumb to cynicism and despair. And so, what propels us to embrace those things that bring newness and healing to our lives and to the world?

Soon, the church will enter its most sacred time – **Holy Week**. Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday** – the day we remember when Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a lowly beast of burden. It moves to **Maundy Thursday** – which commemorates the last meal Jesus had with his disciples in the upper room. **Good Friday** is a time to remember that Jesus went to the cross where he suffered and died. Three days later, God raised Jesus from the grave. It is **Easter morning** – the day of resurrection.

Faith in the resurrection is what gives us new hope and new life. The resurrection propels us to be a people of hope; that enables us to move into the future with a message that death and decay does not have the last word. The resurrection is not just a private, individual experience. It is a radical change for the world. Dorothee Soelle, in her book *The Strength of the Weak*, wrote: "*We cannot believe in resurrection for some but not for others. It is an all-inclusive symbol of life for everyone, a kind of life that gives meaning to death. No one has died in vain. This is the claim that resurrection throws in the face of death.*"

So, I end with the question, "*What's new?*" Because of the resurrection, we are made new and granted a new lease on life – eternal life that is lived now with a steadfast promise kept forever.

Grace & Peace, Gary

Outdoor Food Cupboard

Wesley Outreach would like to thank everyone for the support of the food cupboard. In the winter months, it always looked full and has been used. Please help refresh it for the Spring. The items that have really been used are any paper goods, detergent, soap, toothpaste, (etc.)—also, pasta and sauces. Anything you are able to do is greatly appreciated. You are the best!

Secretary Transition

Jess Sichel, the current Secretary for Wesley UMC, has resigned from her position effective May 22nd. The SPRC is working to screen candidates for her replacement; ideally, the new staff person will be in place by early to mid-May. Jess thanks the congregation for its support over the more than fifteen years she has held the position. You are loved!

Graduate Information Needed!

The United Women in Faith are seeking graduation information for those who have graduated since last June. If you or someone in your family fits that description, whether at the high school or college levels, **please send in the following information to Connie Wiegel at wiecon12@yahoo.com or call Connie at (410) 374-3675:**

**Full Name of Graduate • School of Graduation • Date of Graduation
Degree or Diploma • Parents of Graduates • Future Plans**



United Women in Faith • March 16, 2023, at 11 AM

Those in attendance: Jackie Grabowski, Linda Yost, Linda Hollman, Betty Barr, Connie Weigel, Jan Graf, Kim Peake, Brenda Hess and Janet Martin.

Response Moment — Connie read from the March/April Response magazine; topic: Continuing the Legacy. March 23rd is the Day of Giving for the UWF. We gathered to celebrate our foremothers by giving to the Legacy Endowment Fund. The gifts we give help to carry forward the work the women began on March 23, 1869.

Program — Note: Connie commented that she is waiting on the 2023 UWF program book to be delivered. Instead, she shared her Max Lucado daily devotion, scripture and prayer reading written by Laurie McClure, editor for online FaithGateway.com. Laurie talked about the witness of the storms in her life and the storm in our lives and how it relates to this daily devotional scripture reading: Matthew 14:22-33

The following was discussed and agreed to:

- To spend down our UWF account balance. Mission givings were reviewed, and changes were made to increase mission donations to Access Carroll and Carroll Hospice. Special gifts will be given to our UWF Legacy Endowment Fund, Pledge to Mission and the Westminster Rescue Mission
- UWF will host this year's Baltimore Suburban District 2023 Spring Prayer Breakfast on April 15th from 10:00am - 12:30pm. The theme will be: **Who We Are—What We Do—A Sisterhood**. Our guest speaker will be Yvonne Terry, the Executive Director of Susanna Wesley House. Wesley UWF will provide various types of breakfast casseroles, juice, coffee, (etc.) Our group will meet on April 14th at 10:00am in the fellowship to prepare casseroles and set up the fellowship hall for the event.
- On April 20th, the UWF will meet at 9:30am to prepare a turkey dinner for the Westminster Rescue Mission; we will also share our lunch. We will deliver the turkey dinner to the Westminster Rescue Mission the same day.
- Prayers and Concerns shared: Connie updated us on Fran Crispin, Wayne Rill continues to heal feeling better, Rev. Amy's daughter is having oral surgery, Janet Martin is traveling to New Mexico; her brother has been admitted to hospice care. Rennie's niece, Shirley, has health concerns and is adjusting to life back at home.

Meeting minutes were recorded and submitted by Brenda Hess.

WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS?

HE HAS RISEN!

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb.

They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid." Mark 16: 1-8

I'VE GONE THROUGH THE HARRELL LIBRARY CUPBOARDS AND HAVE ORGANIZED.

The TOP LEFT cupboard contains supplies for the coffee bar. The TOP MIDDLE cupboard contains Sunday School supplies. The TOP RIGHT cupboard contains seasonal decorations, some light bulbs and cleaning supplies. The BOTTOM LEFT cupboard contains material used for Grief Share. The BOTTOM MIDDLE cupboard contains lots of coffee cup sleeves and photo albums of Camp Wesley days. The BOTTOM RIGHT cupboard contains supplies needed and used by the librarian for processing book entries, etc.

In the process of organizing, I have discovered we are in possession of THREE CD PLAYERS. If there is a need for TWO of these to be used elsewhere, please let me know. Rev. Stanley recently donated a THIRD one, which I will keep for The Harrell Library.

DID YOU KNOW? Paper copies of the Wesley Journal are now available in The Harrell Library as well as the church office.

COFFEE TABLE READS FOR APRIL 2023**WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE** by Harold S. Kushner

Harold S. Kushner asked that universal "Why?" for ten long years as he lived with the knowledge that his son was doomed by a disease so rare most people have never heard of it. Through his family's shared ordeal, he came to see God as he never had before - a God who does weep with us, won't abandon us, and can fill the deepest needs of an anguished heart.

OVERCOMING LIFE'S CHALLENGES by Bill Crowder

Ref. Romans 8:28 The author takes you back to Genesis to look at the life of Joseph - who shows us what it means to walk by faith in the midst of overwhelming trials.

THE GOD WHO WALKS BESIDE US by David Roper

The author reminds us, "God is never surprised by what we have done or what we're doing. He will not give up or go away until His work is done.

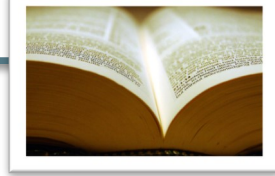
RIVER OF MERCY by Sheila Walsh

A tender account of the relationship between a mother- and daughter-in-law and how they discovered God's extravagant grace in the midst of what could have been the most tragic experience of their lives.

SIGNING OUT AND RETURNING A BOOK: Instructions are posted by the yellow box on the shelf.

HAPPY READING! Reenie Harris, Librarian

May Lectionary... GET INTO THE WORD!



May 7: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 14 (Mother's Day): Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 21 (Ascension Sunday): Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

May 28 (Pentecost): Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers for the Worship Services are needed. These currently include **ushers and greeters**, who welcome congregants to worship and help with the offering, and **livestreaming coordinators**, who run the MEVO video camera and tablet on Sunday mornings (**training available!**). **If you are able to volunteer for any of these positions, please contact Janet Martin at jhmartin@comcast.net or (410) 848-8768.** Many hands make light work—volunteer today!



Outreach Minutes • April 12, 2023

Members Present: Norma Beam, Vicky Wilmer, Janet Martin, Connie Wiegel, Jan Kurtz, and Madison Smith

Treasurer's Report: Cindy reported that we have paid our 2 quarter donations.

Meals: No one currently receiving meals

College Students: Vicky sent 13 cards and gift cards(\$25 Amazon) to our college students.

Westminster Rescue Mission Meals: Provide with Women in Faith. Other groups are providing meals as well, so we will provide one meal a month from our church.

- May 15 week- Cindy will coordinate. Chicken casserole and bread
- June- Janet will coordinate. breakfast casserole
- July- Jan will coordinate. Barbeque
- August-

Alpha Pregnancy Bottles: Will be available between Mother's and Father's Day.

Easter Baskets: Delivered 26 Easter baskets to Shepherd's Staff.

Night by Night Shelter: Bringing things every other week. Donations continue.

Outdoor Pantry—Connie: Going well, things are being provided and taken

Suits for Success—Jan: 3 suits, 18 sport coats, 25 dress pants, 39 shirts, various belts and ties, 2 pain of shoes

Tarts, Cobblers, & Pies: Making plans

Church Picnic: Sept 10th

Back to School Drive: Will happen for NESAP during July.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 10th, at 6pm



The Wesley Book Club: Upcoming Dates, Times, and Readings

Wesley Book Club meets at MJ's Café & Baking Co. in Manchester, MD, on the last Thursday of each month at **12 Noon**. All are welcome! Contact Reenie Harris with questions at ichdeh@comcast.net or (410) 848-1121.

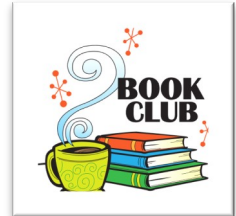
Here are the next **Book Club Reading Selections and Meeting Dates; all are welcome!**

Meeting MAY 25, 2023: SINGING TREES by Boo Walker

Meeting JUNE 29, 2023: THE RIDE OF HER LIFE by Elizabeth Letts

Meeting JULY 27, 2023: BECOMING MRS. LEWIS by Patti Callihan

Meeting AUGUST 31, 2023: LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY by Bonnie Garmus



Happy reading! Reenie Harris 📖 🐾

Administrative Council Minutes • February 21, 2023

Attendees: Jan Kurtz (Chairperson), Reenie Harris, Janet Martin, Connie Wiegel, Linda Hollman, Rose Sichel, Matt Sichel, Pastor Gary, Denny Rill, Vicky Wilmer, Linda Yost, Scott Palmer, Jen Ejk, Michelle & Dave Hudgins, Lee Ann Crochunis, Laura Waltrup, Jess Sichel, Roger Daugherty, Brenda Kennedy, Jonathan Yost, John Sies, Lisa Kemp.

The **meeting was opened** at 7:02 PM in prayer by Pastor Gary.

SPRC:

- **March 11th:** Church Conference date for "Stay or Go" vote. A snail mail letter is to be sent to everybody for all members. The District Superintendent will be sending out an emailed letter. The ballot will be a paper ballot and will be anonymous. Meeting time is 1 PM In Sanctuary. There will be a short presentation of finances, an explanation of the ballot, and the vote.
- Can we post current membership list on the tack strips in the hallway? Yes.

Trustees:

- HVAC directions are in the Furnace Room; Chet Phillips has access/use of the system. We need a list of people who really need to know how to use it, such as Trustees, Sunday School, Calvin Lucy, Lisa Kemp, and people who let folks in for the organ tuner.
- The thermostat in the hall was also replaced; it is not WIFI.
- The Honeywell Home app (another company bought Honeywell Home) can be seen/used off-premises.

Finance: No report; we're okay right now.

Pastor's Report:

- Ash Wednesday Worship Service tomorrow at 7 PM.
- Pastor Gary is doing a sermon series entitled, "Tables of Lent"
- The Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference will be at the Hilton Hotel in Baltimore from May 31st through June 3rd. Pastor Gary will be attending.

Christian Ed.

- The Valentine's Day "God is Love" celebration was fun and great and had a great lesson. The next combined

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Sunday School will be on Palm Sunday; Christian Ed. will be planning that.

- The last day of Sunday School is May 21st.
- The team has tentatively set VBS dates; it still needs to look at curriculum. Dates are June 20th through June 22nd in the evening. More to come.

Outreach:

- Thank you to everybody for making, buying, eating, and otherwise consuming 74 quarts of soup plus pies, rolls, bread, etc. Soup was sent to various places (Westminster Rescue Mission (WRM), member homes).
- Janet delivered breakfast casseroles tonight to WRM; thank you for the donations. They were a huge success; Outreach will do it again soon. In March, Outreach will give gift cards, and in April, Outreach will provide.
- Pantry donations and Night-by-Night shelter doing really well
- Around Mother's Day & Father's Day, Alpha Bottles will be available.
- Suits for Success: Already have suits in; gentlemen are cleaning out the closets. It would be better to bring them up hung up; they can be put on the back racks at church.
- WRM has a tea on April 22nd. There is only 1 table left out of 25.
- Easter baskets will be coming out for Shepherd's Staff in two weeks. Outreach will provide a list of suggested donations; congregants can bring baskets back in filled. They will be sealed here.
- WRM—a group that meets at Baugher's on the first Thursday of the month (an Agra Business meeting) will host Stephanie and her boss, who will be making a presentation. If you want to be there, RSVP with the Ag. Center.

Worship:

- Next Friday, March 3rd is the World Day of Prayer. The Sanctuary open 3 to 8 PM; there will be resources, time for prayer, (etc.). It was mentioned that we could do this observation as a full Sunday service one year.
- There will be an Agape Meal in the Fellowship Hall on April 6th at 7 PM for Holy Thursday.
- The Choral Cantata will be on Palm Sunday.
- Good Friday & Holy Saturday will be Stations of the Cross. The Sanctuary will be kept open 3 to 6 on Friday and 9 to 12 on Saturday. Worship is still looking for anyone who would like to do a station—Lisa has a list of scriptures and such to choose from. Lisa can answer questions, as can others that have done it before. We need a flyer for Sunday School & Chicken Dinners (plus Easter Services)
- There will be a Sunrise Easter Service at 7 AM followed by a Potluck Breakfast then normal 11 AM Worship. (No Sunday School)

Lay Leadership Report: Lay leaders are very active.

UWF: Will be holding an Italian Luncheon on Sunday. Everybody come—\$10 per person.

GriefShare: Starts on February 28th in the Library. There are currently ten people including two leaders (put ad. in Northern News—2 publications)

Visitation:

- The committee is trying to reach out by sending cards to those in listed in the bulletin in nursing homes; The first Wednesday will be the next batch. They will definitely do Easter Cards (may do St. Patrick's Day cards).
- Reenie updated us on Dot Benedict, Jean Colton (Sunday, Feb. 26th—100 years old; we should hold a card shower for Jean's birthday. Jess Sichel should advertise.), Wayne Rill. The young couple that was in church a few weeks came up. Do we do any kind of Outreach to them? Visitation has welcome packets that need to be updated. It is important to follow up with people—the main thing being to talk to folks. We also had a couple of recent visitors at the Pancake Supper (neighbors).
- Membership Secretary and Jess Sichel need to put the attendance pads back in the pews

New Business:

- **UMM Report:** Pancakes have been well received. Two Pancake Breakfasts and a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Sup-

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per. The UMM have the Westminster Rescue Mission on their mind. At the March meeting, the UMM will look at where they are and will make a donation in the name of John Martin for the John Martin Conference Room. One more pancake breakfast may be in the works after Easter.

- **The Drive-Thru Fried Chicken Church Supper:** It will be on April 1st, 2023. Jan is checking the cost of the chicken; as soon as the cost comes in, we will need a LOT of Advertising. Some folks will be out of town, but Friday & Saturday morning, we will need help for sure. The supper will be from 12 to 3:30 PM.
- **Lisa Kemp:** Lisa is hosting an open Sanctuary on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 for spontaneous prayer. There may be a small time for Worship. Basically, Lisa Kemp would be opening and closing. This can be put on the sign (through Lent).

The meeting was closed by Rev. Matthew Sichel in prayer at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Jessica Sichel, Recording Secretary

Minutes

WESLEY UMC CHURCH CONFERENCE
PRESIDED BY REV. DR. ANN LAPRADE, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

March 11, 2023 | 1:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Church Conference is to take up one resolution: “Wesley United Methodist Church to Disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church.” The professing Members of the congregation of Wesley United Methodist Church will vote in FAVOR or AGAINST disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. Members may also abstain from the vote.

At 1:00 sharp Rev. Dr. Ann Laprade called the Church Conference to order. She provided some instructions to include silencing phones. No recordings of any kind to be allowed and she does not consent to being recording. She made introductions: Lou Piel, Jerry from Salem, Dick Hardin to assist. Rev. Ann thanked Linda Yost for her work and engagement from the heart. Rev. Gary Sheffield-James offered a prayer.

Laura Waltrup, Treasurer, provided a brief presentation on terms and conditions, especially the financial aspects of disaffiliation. The financial requirements of disaffiliation are set by the BWC. 50% of assessed property value, one additional year of mission shares, previously known as apportionments, and a pro rata share of unfunded pensions for the entire conference. The total amount required is \$616,840. If the Church Conference results in a 2/3 vote in favor of disaffiliation, the BWC Annual Conference must approve the disaffiliation and is scheduled for 5/31-6/3, 2023. If approved, then a disaffiliation agreement will be drawn within approximately 90 days. Wesley will need to dissolve its legal entity and transfer assets, titles, etc. to a new entity. All costs for these transfers are the responsibility of Wesley. The church will then have 12/31/23 to satisfy all requirements. If we cannot satisfy requirements to include the funding, then the disaffiliation will be null and void.

Laura indicated it has been too early to determine how we will get funding. If we achieve 2/3 vote, it will be imperative to develop a funding plan as quickly as possible. Regardless of the outcome, Wesley will be impacted financially. Funding is not impossible, and options may include 1) a loan 2) pledge campaign 3) renting the parsonage 4) selling the parsonage. Wesley has previously and successfully borrowed money, paid loan obligations, and raised money via campaign. Further at the Ad Council meeting held January 24, 2022 it was voted that there will be another Church

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Conference within 60 days to determine future path of Wesley (alignment with another denomination, etc.). A financial plan will be influenced by any future church structure. Laura emphasized two points: If funding can't be obtained, any vote to disaffiliate will be null and void; and, regardless of vote outcome today, a funding plan will be needed to address anticipated financial impacts.

A copy of the remarks Laura provided is [available upon request].

Rev. Ann gave a description of next steps: professing members will walk up to the table, registered using the roster provided by the UMC, those will receive ballot and return. Do not mark the ballot at this point. Any member who cannot reach the table, we will register those by raising their hand and ballot. Do not vote until you hear the explanation of the ballot. Linda Yost indicates there are pens.

Professing Members received paper ballots from Brenda Hess after Linda Yost validated their membership against Wesley's official membership rolls and were registered for the vote. Rev. Ann validated everyone who wanted one received a ballot.

Rev. Ann read portions of paragraph 2553 from the Book of Discipline, the paragraph under which this vote is occurring. Voting in favor, you are voting to disaffiliate. Voting in opposition, means you are voting to stay. There is an option to abstain. You may write a third line if you wish to abstain. This does not count as a vote. If there are 100 ballots and there are 10 abstentions, then the number to calculate percentages will be 90.

In Favor means, "go" and In Opposition means "stay," as asked by a member and affirmed by Rev. Ann.

Linda Yost directed the members to stand to fold the ballots, place in baskets, and pass them to the inside of the pew. Members will pass the collection basket.

Rev. Dr. Ann Laprade declared the vote open at 1:43 p.m. Ushers, Jan Kurz and Kim Peake opened the baskets, placing all ballots within a collection bin, which was brought to the choir loft to be counted.

Votes were counted in the choir loft at the front of the Sanctuary by Linda Yost and Rev. Lou Piel, with the counting overseen by Administrative Council Chair, Jan Kurtz. Jonathan Yost observed. Votes were counted twice. Jan Kurtz recorded the votes, and calculated percentages of votes. Per the direction of the District Superintendent, the percentage calculated and required to determine the outcome of the vote did not include abstentions. A 2/3 majority in FAVOR is required for church disaffiliation.

Results of the Vote – Announced by Jan Kurtz, Ad Council Chairperson (2:01)

In FAVOR of disaffiliation	48
In OPPOSITION of disaffiliation	48
Abstentions	1
Percentage in FAVOR: 50%	

The resolution to disaffiliate did not pass.

Rev. Ann indicated that this is not a time for celebration. Wesley UMC will remain with the United Methodist Church. Rev. Ann called Pastor Gary forward for prayer and indicated that the Church Conference will be closed afterwards.

Submitted by Lee Ann Crochunis, Vice-Chairperson of the Administrative Council

Administrative Council Minutes • March 22, 2023

Attendees: Rev. Gary Sheffield-James, Denny Rill, Linda Hollman, Michelle Hudgins, Jonathan Yost, Connie Wiegel, Linda Hollman, Dave Hudgins, John Sies, Patty Harris, Vicky Wilmer, Matthew Sichel, Roger Daugherty, Janet Martin, Jan Kurtz, Lee Ann Crochunis, Brenda Kennedy, and Jess Sichel.

Pastor Gary Sheffield-James **opened us in prayer** at 7:04 PM.

SPRC: Linda Yost

- 3/11/23—Congregational Vote to Stay or Go; well known results.
- Meeting in April to discuss a few things.
- Pastor Gary: wishes to stay (it is a connection; he is not the final “say-so,” but his intention is to stay. He has spoken to the District Superintendent who is okay with that, too, he thinks.

Trustees:

- Renewed groundskeeping contract
- Back playground sprayed for weeds
- Will be putting benches into meditation area
- Chet is training people with the Heating System
- Fire Alarms were tested.
- Had some issues with the breaker for the HVAC in the sanctuary being tripped (breaker(s) located in the pipe organ room). There was a small short in the main breaker that feeds into a breaker in the pipe organ room. Has been fixed—no problems since then. Chet did a write up for Trustees minutes; Lee Ann needs to add.
- Linda will oil or graphite the lock to the pipe organ room.

Renting the Parsonage: Read aloud the message from Laura Waltrup: “I have a new agenda item to bring forward - which is a Trustees / Ad Council item. Someone from the Mission that is near and dear to our heart is interested in renting the parsonage. Some of you may have met him through various Mission related events. He is currently [working] at the Mission and is well loved by all. Ryan... is a single Dad who has his two girls (12 and 7) on many weekends and sometimes the most wonderful old golden retriever service dog (he has shared custody of Harry too). Ryan is familiar with Wesley through the Mission - he has attended services and Stephanie and I would highly recommend him as a sound tenant. He is also very handy and self-sufficient. And all around GREAT guy. Ryan understands that we use the pavilion and outdoor space at the parsonage for church functions and he is 100% on board and expressed excitement to be a part of that - he is very outgoing and social. Ryan is also excited to attend Wesley and have his girls attend when they are with him on some weekends. Please consider and let me know as he came to me to liaison with whoever.”

- Dave: two questions: What would be considered a fair rental amount? Also, what about rental liability insurance? Vicky Wilmer shared that people renting need to have own rental insurance.
- There was a concern raised about the ceiling repair in the parsonage. Denny Rill noted that the parsonage ceiling can be done in around a day. He also noted that if Pastor Gary returns, there will not be a parsonage issue, but if he does not return, the new pastor may need the parsonage.
- Ryan is currently in transformation houses; that’s where he has been staying.
- Pastor Gary—what about events that have taken place at the parsonage? It is important that the renter understands that.
- Furniture—there is some there that might be able to stay.
- Trustees have to take care of some of the details—discussion ensued. The issue was referred to Trustees. Trustees will connect with Laura. John Sies asked if there needs to be any official action; there was a vote to refer the issue to Trustees. Janet moved that the motion be made; Linda Hollman seconded. All were in favor but one abstention.

Finance: A brief update from Laura:

“The Finance Committee met last week and we discussed and agreed to send out a letter to our members (all 240+

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on the rolls) to share 2022 year end financial information, the 2023 budget as approved last Fall and a formal request for financial support from those intending on staying a Wesley UMC Member. Conversely, we will ask that members planning on leaving Wesley, to please advise so that the Finance Committee can proactively forecast and adjust our 2023 budget for the remainder of the year based on anticipated reduction in giving. The letter will include a reply card with a self-addressed stamped envelope for this purpose.

I prepared a preliminary analysis[,] based on informal indications...members intending to leave, those believed to be at risk of leaving or who are redirecting their giving to restricted uses such as Cemetery, Seminary or Outreach is estimated to represent between 20 - 25% of total giving that funds our operating budget. Note this is my opinion - not a collective opinion from the Finance Committee. In any event, we agree that it is critical that the Finance Committee address the expected decline in giving by developing a revised budget which will undoubtedly translate to budget cuts in areas that are not fixed costs. The letter will be going out hopefully in the next two weeks.

Below is information shared with the Finance Committee regarding 2022 giving to the general fund which covers our operating budget: As more and validated information is gathered and analyzed, we will update the Ad Council accordingly." [- Information shared with the Finance Committee is available upon request.]

- Discussion ensued. Linda Hollman and Vicky Wilmer are not comfortable asking people whether they are leaving or staying; instead, just ask people what their financial giving plans might be. Jonathan Yost stated that there has not been a great response from years past with pledges and such. Pastor Gary indicated that these are personal decisions and need to be handled relationally with some sensitivity. Michelle Hudgins then shared that this is not a normal situation and that she will be tactful and know what support we have and get a kind of idea. There was some discussion and dissention. Jan Kurtz does not want people to feel pushed one way or another; maybe send a letter possibly asking folks to increase giving if they can. Pastor Gary stated that the timing is pretty rough, to give folks a period of distance before moving on this, and to allow an opportunity for relational work. Linda Yost understands why the finance committee is discussing the finances because of costs; rather than asking folks to commit, we could put a moratorium on extra spending. Will that help keep costs down? Discussion continued, including discussion to hold on the letter.
- This was a motion from committee to send the letter, but the mailing cannot be done without Ad. Council approval. John Sies asked are we totally against any letter or just the part about a family group? Discussion ensued. The consensus seemed to be that a stewardship letter was still too soon to be sent; wait a month or so? The motion was then adjusted: hold off on letter of any kind until after Easter at least. Then, there was an amendment by substitution that the Finance Committee hold off on any kind of letter until after Easter, then send a stewardship—not membership—letter. **A vote was taken; the "ayes" have it with one abstention.**
- Jan Kurtz stated that instead, we could plan on the reduction and make adjustments accordingly.

Pastor's Report:

- **2023 Sermon Series – The Tables of Lent/Easter**
 - March 26, 2023 – Fifth Sunday in Lent – "A Wide Table" Matthew 28:16-20
 - April 2, 2023 – **Palm Sunday** – "A Turned Table" Easter Cantata – Communion
 - April 6, 2023 – **Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday** – "A Borrowed Table" Luke 22:7-23; Service will be held in the fellowship hall.
 - April 7, 2023 – **Stations of the Cross — 3 to 6 PM on Good Friday; 9 to 12 PM on Holy Saturday.**
 - April 9, 2023 **Easter Sunrise** at 7:00 am at Pavilion behind parsonage. Asking people to bring law chairs. In case of inclement weather, service will be held in sanctuary.
 - April 9, 2023 –**Easter Sunday** – "An Easter Table" Luke 24:1-35
- **Gary is on vacation from April 10 to April 17.** Linda Yost will be the preacher for Sunday, April 16th.
- The last day of Sunday school is May 21st. The Summer Worship time starts on June 4th.
- **The Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference** will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Baltimore – May 31st to June 3rd.
- Ordained Clergy have to get a background check every 5 years now.

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Christian Education:

- Palm Sunday—Joint Sunday School on the Resurrection Story
- Already discussed that there is no Sunday School on Easter
- Last day of Sunday School on 5/21
- Vacation Bible School—June 20th through the 22nd in the evening, like past two years (*time TBA*)

Outreach: Did not meet in March; will meet in April on 12th

- Easter Baskets need to come in this weekend to get them over to Shepherd's Staff (there are still empty Easter buckets if folks want to get and fill them tonight)
- Suits for Success—Donations are still coming in; hanging in the hallway.

The Spring Drive-Thru Fried Chicken Church Supper: A lot of thought, prayer, and discussion went into the decision to cancel the supper; not made lightly. Decided to cancel for a variety of reasons:

- Jan had 26 pieces of chicken sold on Sunday. Sent an email to entire church, did not get to 100. Had ordered 400+ pieces of chicken from Millers. Felt like we needed to respect Millers and give them as much notice as possible.
- Also, potatoes were being picked up on Tuesday; not sure about help situation, (etc.)
- Mr. Stewart Graf may pass at any time (reception at Manchester Activity Center; ask ladies of the church to help put it on, which they will do). [Mr. Graf passed away shortly after this meeting date.] Cancelling the supper helped take some stress off of the Graf family.
- Did carryout during the height of COVID when folks didn't feel comfortable going out and about.
- We are also a little bit later this Sunday due to scheduling conflicts with coordinators.
- Ball season will be kicked off in April.
- Lots of folks have passed away... and so forth.

Worship: Most information has already been discussed.

Lay Leadership: Will need to replace some positions. Some folks have resigned. Pastor Gary said that this is an opportunity to connect with people and will talk to them.

UWF: Met last Thursday.

- Will host district prayer breakfast on April 15th. The speaker will be from Susannah Wesley house.
- Will provide a Westminster Rescue Mission dinner on April 20th, meeting that morning at 9:30 AM.

UMM: Emailed from Dave Hudgins

- The UMM raised about \$500 at the Strove Tuesday pancake supper.
- They've received \$150 in donations toward gift in honor of John Martin for the Westminster Rescue Mission John Martin Conference Room.
- The March meeting was cancelled; the next meeting is April 17 at 6:30pm.

Linda Yost: Has received emails/call about ants; contacted Ehrlich. They were in to spot spray recently; technician will let us know when he gets here.

Pastor Gary: To add to the Agenda: Matt's report—Commissioned Deacon, Prayer Chain, Teaching Sunday School...

Rev. Matt Sichel:

- With regard to his Ph.D.: Very difficult to get faculty to write back; also, advisor in London is retiring, missing an advisor at Asbury. Very frustrating.
- Come to Sunday School!

New Business: GriefShare: 5 or so people there. The session has been worth John's time to be there. It's been a good experience for those who have attended. It doesn't have all the answers, but it has some answers for everybody. GriefShare program is a success.


Closed in prayer by Rev. Matt at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Jessica Sichel, Recording Secretary



MAY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Regular Worship Schedule: 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 11 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>1 Potluck Dinner 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall Small Group Discussion Harrell Library 7:30 PM</p>	<p>2 Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 6:30 to 8 PM GriefShare in Harrell Library 6:30 to 8:30 PM</p>	<p>3 Visitation at J&Ps Restaurant 12 PM Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM Trustees 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>	<p>4 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM</p>	<p>5 Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Regular Worship Schedule</p>	<p>8 Potluck Dinner 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall Small Group Discussion Harrell Library 7:30 PM</p>	<p>9 GriefShare in Harrell Library 6:30 to 8:30 PM</p>	<p>10 Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM Outreach 6 PM SPRC 7:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>	<p>11 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM</p>	<p>12 Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Happy Mother's Day! Regular Worship Schedule</p>	<p>15 UMM Meeting 6:30 PM <i>June Journal Submissions Due!</i></p>	<p>16 GriefShare in Harrell Library 6:30 to 8:30 PM</p>	<p>17 Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM Finance 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>	<p>18 UWF Meeting 11 AM in Fellowship Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM</p>	<p>19 Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Regular Worship Schedule Last Day of Sunday School—Whole Group Activity!</p>	<p>22 Potluck Dinner 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall Small Group Discussion Harrell Library 7:30 PM <i>Jess Sichel's Last Day as Secretary</i></p>	<p>23 GriefShare in Harrell Library 6:30 to 8:30 PM - Last Meeting of This Session</p>	<p>24 Administrative Council Meeting 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>	<p>25 Book Club at MJ's Café & Baking Co. 12 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 11 AM Contemporary Worship Pentecost and Memorial Day Sunday</p>	<p>29 </p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>			

SCHEDULE OF



WORSHIP



We're on the Web! Visit us at:
<https://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.

Worship Participants for May 2023:

- May 7:** Greeters—Brenda Kennedy and Bonnie Catron, Liturgist—Rev. Matthew Sichel, Acolyte—Isaac Sichel, A/V Team—The Sichels, Music—Organist Jeff Horner and The Chancel Choir Directed by Jan Graf
- May 14:** Greeters—Gary Wilmer and Jonathan Yost, Liturgist—John Sies, Acolyte—Need, A/V Team—Need, Organist—Jeff Horner
- May 21:** Greeters—Roxane & Dean Brewer, Liturgist—Linda Hollman, Acolyte—Isaac Sichel, A/V Team—The Sichels, Music—Organist Jeff Horner and The Chancel Choir Directed by Jan Graf
- May 28:** Greeters—Jan & Randy Kurtz, Music—Wesley UMC Praise Team, Praise Team Leader—Lisa Kemp, Acolyte—Will Otwell, A/V Volunteer—Matt Otwell

The Wesley Journal
May
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