



*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...

What a difference a month makes! As I write this, I am looking out on a beautiful snowy Thursday. I have never minded winter much, having grown up in Upstate New York, where we had some of the longest, snowiest winters around. Even though there is a lot of turbulence in the world (and in our own local communities) right now, it is good to simply be still, look around at the beauty of God's creation, and give thanks.

Last month at this time, I was starting to feel better. There was a respite from doctors and testing. I was looking forward to returning to work, and feeling so very, very grateful to Wesley for your support and kindness during my surgery and recovery. Denny and I also thank you all so much for the generous Christmas gift from the congregation. We are grateful! Over the next couple of weeks, I begin visits

with a new medical oncologist. I am not exactly certain what the future holds, but I do not feel worried or alone. Rather, I am learning what it means to take one day at a time and trust God completely. For that aspect of my cancer journey, I am also grateful.

“Rather, I am learning what it means to take one day at a time and trust God completely.

In the meantime, it is time to get back to work. As I look around me at church, I am encouraged to see a good number of people in the pews, considering the fact that the Omicron variant of Covid-19 is out there. The Administrative Council has done a magnificent job of staying abreast of the pandemic, especially as it affects our congregation. Please continue to wear masks whenever you are inside the church, practice social distancing, and get your vaccines and booster shots. Our Administrative Council will continue to evaluate and re-evaluate, and you will be informed if and when there are any changes to our Covid-19 protocols.

Besides the global pandemic, I keep thinking about something The Rev. Dr. Stanley Harrell said to me after worship

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Inclement Weather Policy

Please remember Wesley UMC’s inclement weather policy:



If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect in Carroll County at 6 AM, Sunday School and Fellowship Time will be cancelled. The 11 AM service will depend on the severity of the weather.

In the event of inclement weather, a message will be left on the church answering service by 7 AM regarding services, but please use your discretion for the weather in your area. We don’t want anyone getting injured!



- | | | |
|--------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 Heather Sater | | Tyler Rill |
| 2 Asher Zilberman | 14 | Cherie Hughes |
| 3 Megan Myatt | | Jason Martin |
| 4 Dan Graf | | Heather Schaefer |
| | | Mason Waltrup |
| 5 Alayna Mahosky | 16 | Sterling Davis, III |
| 6 Amanda (Hughes) Hannon | | Trisha Sater |
| | 18 | Gladys Smith |
| 7 Jennifer Ejk | 22 | Bryce Davey |
| 9 Haydn Schaefer | 23 | Jeff Graf |
| 11 Daniel Baumiller, Jr. | 28 | Lana Montgomery |



- 1 Dennis & Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-Rill
- 4 Dean and Roxane Brewer
- 11 Ben and Carolyn (Graf) Whetsell
- 12 Patrick & Kristen Reilly
- 20 Earl & Bonnie Christiani
- 29 John & Stephanie Halley



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.

Contact Information Changes

Brenda Kennedy

New Email Address: brendask2011@outlook.com

Clay and Cindy Myatt

Temporary Address: 2712 Vistas Drive
Manchester, MD 21102

Dana Walton

New Address: 4050 Brownstone Drive, Apt. 918
Evans, GA 30809

Dennis and Cathy Mitzel

New Address: 8607 Wintergreen Ct., Unit 202
Odenton, MD 21113



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

Peggy Dovell

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

Stewart Graf

Longview Nursing Home
Room 139
3332 Main St.
Manchester, MD 21102

Jean Colton

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



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



On behalf of the staff at Wesley UMC, we would like to thank the congregation for the kindness and generosity that you showed us through the 2021 Staff Appreciation Gift. Your response to the ministry in which we engage is so thoughtful. Thank you.

In ministry together with you, The Staff at Wesley UMC

Our Family would like to thank everyone who gave us condolences, sent cards, and gave memorials in remembering Betty Horner's life and passing. She dearly loved Wesley Church and the people here. It is comforting to know she touched so many lives in her service and faith.

Wayne, Peggy, and Jeff Horner

Some notes of appreciation from earlier in 2021...

Dear Friends: Thank you so much for your generous summer gift...to Helping Up Mission.

This is truly a tough season as we continue to deal with the challenges of COVID-19. And when you add to that a decline in giving, I am especially grateful for your loyal partnership this summer.

Because you care, men and women who are working to overcome homelessness and addiction are receiving the critical care they need. And for many, this means a brand-new life in Christ — one filled with hope and promise.

These folks share my gratitude for all you do and for the many blessings you have made possible. So, on their behalf, thank you for your generosity and heart of compassion.

Gratefully, Robert K. Gehman, Chief Executive Officer, Helping Up Mission

Dear W.U.M. Church, Thanks so much for your support! God Bless You

Dear Friends,

Restart...Relaunch...Refresh...all words that describe our ministry in the days ahead. Chaplains are getting ready to return to "normal" with Bible studies, classes, and services. We praise the Lord for preserving the opportunity to minister to the incarcerated and we THANK YOU for standing with us as we reach out to the forgotten people behind bars with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are reminded every day (particularly over the past 16 months) that we do not control this ministry. God alone opens doors, provides chaplains, and supplies the resources. Thank you for allowing the Lord to use you and your gifts for His Glory.

God Bless, Jon Evans, President, Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

"I was in prison, and you came to me." Matt 25:36

January 28, 2022 | A Message from Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

BISHOP, BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE,
PENINSULA-DELAWARE CONFERENCE

REV. ANTOINE C. LOVE *Assistant to the Bishop*

JOYCE A. KING *Administrative Assistant to the Bishop*

ERICA ROBINSON-JOHNSON *Chief Administrative Officer*

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – Luke 12:34

I greet you in the name of Jesus and celebrate the love that connects us in Jesus’ name.

We celebrate because this past year, in spite of challenging economic uncertainties, 78 percent of churches in the Baltimore-Washington Conference acted out of a spirit of discipleship and paid 100 percent of their mission shares. Even as they continued to recover from the impact of COVID-19, churches contributed at levels that came in above the Conference budget. In 2021, the collection rate was 90.7 percent, with \$13,515,334 given by congregations to support mission and ministries beyond the local church. This is a remarkable recovery from the 82.6 percent collection rate posted in 2020, and it is comparable to the pre-pandemic level of commitments expressed by local churches giving to our connection.

This generous giving was a testimony to the work and spirit of God alive in the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

I am profoundly grateful for and appreciative of the faithfulness demonstrated by our congregations in their stewardship this year. This blessing is only possible because the disciples of Jesus Christ are practicing the spiritual discipline of tithing and generosity, even during a pandemic! Also, at a time when too many are weaponizing their giving, the saints in our affiliated conferences are modeling spiritual maturity. Thank you for living your faith and enabling the denomination to fulfill our mission and ministry to the world.

I am also grateful for the hard work of our district staff and conference stewardship team. To God be the glory for the unity of purpose and vision you have all demonstrated.

Please accept my gratitude for all that you do to help build the Kingdom of God. Your generosity comes out of deep faith and often great sacrifice, and I greatly appreciate your commitment to God through The United Methodist Church. God has remarkable things in store for us as we journey forward in discipleship together.

Blessings and Peace,

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

Baltimore-Washington Conference
The United Methodist Church

Updated COVID Procedures:

Because of the recent surge of cases of COVID-19 around us, Wesley UMC's Administrative Council discussed and decided on an updated masking and social distancing policy. At this time, masks are required to enter the church buildings and must be worn the entire time of the visit. Attendees are also asked to socially distance when possible (sit between the blue pieces of tape on the pews) and use hand sanitizer, which can be found near the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for your help in protecting each other!

If you or someone close to you has been exposed to COVID and/or you have been in the church building while possibly contagious, please notify Jan Kurtz at jan.kurtz@gmail.com or by phone at (443) 340-6497. Thank you!

The Wesley UMC Administrative Council

From the Pastor's Desk (*Continued*)



last Sunday. After telling me I need to speak louder while leading worship, he reminded me that we are looking toward General Conference 2022 later on in the year. United Methodism is facing one of its greatest challenges yet, with a looming division, should the "protocol" pass. He suggested that the Administrative Council needs to practice evangelism during the process. I have been thinking about that all week. When one has a serious illness, priorities shift. I find myself feeling ambivalent toward the arguments within United Methodism over human sexuality, but very engaged in wanting to share the good news of Jesus Christ whenever I can for as long as I am able. You might notice a shift away during my preaching and pastoring toward the things that matter most to me now. I want to share the love of Jesus more than I ever have. I want to do more visiting, as long as my body allows it. I want to see more children in the hallway between Sunday School and worship. Finally, I want to focus less on anything that has no eternal consequences! Please bear with me as I work toward keeping the main thing (Jesus and his love) the main thing.

Have a delightful February. Love, Rev. Amy

February Lectionary... GET INTO THE WORD!

February 6: Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

February 13: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

February 20: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

February 27 (Transfiguration Sunday): Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)



From the Editor...



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

- Don't forget to turn your Journal submissions in by the fifteenth of the month prior!
- Submissions for the bulletin should be turned in by Wednesday.

Thanks for your help with keeping the congregation informed!

Jess Sichel, Secretary

Devotional Submissions Needed for the 2022 Lenten Devotional!



Let's get it together! **It's time to be thinking about, praying over, and submitting entries** for this season's devotional. The theme is "Love" – sacrificial love, love for the least of these, love for each other, etc. A list of scriptures is available on the large closet doors inside the church office entrance, but if you find a different, appropriate scripture reading – great! **Please feel free to submit more than one devotional. Devotionals are due Wednesday, February 9th.**

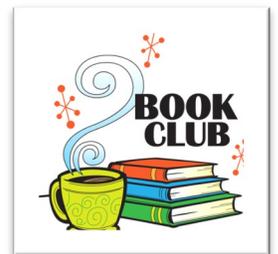
Submit your writings to Jess Sichel by dropping them off in the office, mailing them to the church office, or emailing them to wesley@wesleychurch-hampstead.org. **Thank you for your participation!**

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! Here are the next **Book Club Reading Selections and Meeting Dates through May:**

FEBRUARY 24, 2022: The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hill by Robert Dugoni

(Sam Hill always saw the world through different eyes. Born with red pupils, he was called "Devil Boy" or Sam "Hell" by his classmates. "God's will" is what his mother called his ocular albinism. Sam persevered, buoyed by his mother's devout faith, his father's practical wisdom, and his two other misfit friends.)



MARCH 31, 2022: Our Country Friends by Gary Shteyngart

(Humor ... Eight friends, one country house, and six months in isolation – a novel about love, friendship, family and betrayal.)

APRIL 28, 2022: Rush of Heaven by Emma McKinley

A woman's miraculous encounter with Jesus after spending 18 years in a wheelchair. (This book is found in our Wesley Church Library. See *Library Notes* in December Journal.)

MAY 26, 2022: Lady Clementine by Marie Benedict

(1909 – Winston Churchill's wife)

GriefShare Session: Tuesdays Beginning March 1st



The next session of the GriefShare Program will **start up Tuesday, March 1st, and run through Tuesday, May 24th.** We will be meeting every Tuesday evening from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm in the church library. Prior to the start-up date, we will be distributing pamphlets in the surrounding community as well as welcoming those in our Wesley family who have lost loved ones.

This is an excellent program to show us how important a role God plays in helping us through our journey of grief. Please talk to Bonnie Catron and/or Reenie Harris if you have questions or are interested in participating. You can also call the church office at (410) 374-4027.

Wesley's Food Cupboard

Wesley's Outreach Committee would like to bring our new Food Cupboard to your attention. The purpose is to help anyone in our congregation and community with non-perishable goods. If anyone you know in your neighborhood or family has a need, please let them know about the Food Cupboard. Also, if you are in church on Sunday and you see something you could use, please take it. Our motto is, **"Take what you need and replace if you can."** We ask for the winter months that anything that may freeze not be stocked in the cupboard.



Wesley is such a giving family, and this is another way that we can offer our services. Blessings to all.

COVID Testing Site—Ag Center in Westminster

Having trouble finding a testing site? The Carroll County Health Department recently opened a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site at the Agricultural Center in Westminster. They plan to offer about 250 tests there each day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays **by appointment only to Maryland residents who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 (not for work or travel).**



To make an appointment, register online at:
https://portal.ciandx.com/register?team=cian_dx_md_cchd

Ag. Center Address and Phone:
 706 Ag. Center Dr.
 Westminster, Maryland 21157
 Phone: 410-876-4848

Wesley UMC is Hiring!

Job Description: **YOUTH GROUP LEADER**

Salary: \$15/hour, 5 hours/week, based upon 44 weeks annually, totaling \$3,300

Start date: February, 2022

Description:

Develop a spiritually-driven youth program for grades 6 through 12. Program should be consistent with United Methodist theology and polity and be designed to inspire youth in our local community to serve Jesus Christ. Position requires a paid 90-day probationary period.

Supervision:

Pastor; Chairperson Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Duties and Responsibilities:

Design, develop, and manage a comprehensive and vibrant Christian youth group program for 6th through 12th graders; work closely with the Pastor to assure program meets United Methodist standards; participate and assist Church leadership with the planning of Christian events and activities. Provide spiritual leadership to youth. Maintain logs of completed tasks, current events, and future activities. Attend monthly meetings and/or submit monthly reports to Wesley Administrative Council.

Minimum Qualifications:

Self-motivated leader with excellent communication skills. Proficient with computer programs, internet research and related tools for marketing and promotion; adept at various social media including but not limited to texting, emails, Facebook, Twitter, etc. Prior professional training and/or education in Christian youth ministry is desired but not required.

Position requires ability to physically interact with youth in playing indoor and outdoor games, activities such as camp, Conference-involved events such as ROCK, and community service projects, such as Camp Wesley, Volunteers in Mission, etc. Position also requires familiarity with Safe Sanctuary requirements in order to incorporate these requirements, policies and procedures into the youth program. Ability to successfully complete a criminal background check and fingerprint verification is mandatory.

Provide references upon request.

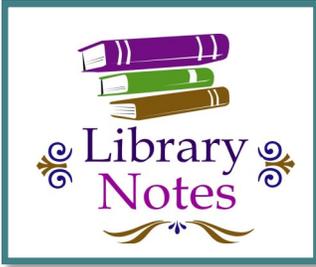
Contact:

Forward resumes with cover letter via Church mailing address, or email to Linda S. Yost, Chairperson, Staff Parish Relations Committee, LJYost@verizon.net.

Wesley United Methodist Church

3239 Carrollton Road, Hampstead, MD 21074

Phone: 410-374-4027 | wesley@wesleychurch-hampstead.org



In this month of love, we can strive not only to love Our Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit, but also know that when we love God, our capacity to love others grows. We can think of circumstances in which we can love others, speak well of them, pray for their well-being, and come together in community.

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.” Colossians 3:1

We found some accounts, both fiction and non-fiction about prayers and relationships with God and others. We’ve listed some here:

Change Your Words, Change Your Life: Understanding the Power of Every Word You Speak by Joyce Meyer (232). Words are a big deal. They can increase or decrease our level of joy. They can affect the answers to our prayers and have a positive or negative effect on our future. Meyer examines the power of words and provides a series of guidelines for making sure that our talk is constructive, healthy, healing, and used to achieve good results.

Eight Ways to Become Christian: Sharing Your Story of Faith by Douglas E. Wingeier (263). The eight stories in this book look at eight different paths that persons take as they come into a relationship with Christ or the Christian community. Study questions help the reader examine his or her own story. The last chapter shows how to develop and tell your story of Christian faith.

A New Kind of Christian: A Tale of Two Friends on a Spiritual Journey by Brian D. McLaren (Fiction). A lively and intimate conversation between Pastor Dan Poole and his daughter’s high school science teach, Neil Oliver. They reflect together about faith, doubt, reason, mission, leadership, and spiritual practice in the emerging postmodern world. This offers a tale of hope and spiritual renewal for those who thought they had to give up on faith, God, and church.

Defying Gravity by Tom Berlin (266) Escape the pull of consumerism and enter Christ’s orbit. Some feedback written about this book...“Defying Gravity is for people who want to follow Jesus but find it hard because of the powerful hold money has on our lives. Written by a thoughtful and effective pastor, this book is a means of grace along the uphill road from scarcity to generosity.” “This book challenges us to pause our busy life, take a deep breath, and discern as disciples of Jesus Christ whether we will live a life conforming to the world or a life transformed in Christ.”

Breakthrough Prayer by Jim Cymbala (245) Do you long to break through your limitations to a life transformed by God? *Breakthrough Prayer* helps you connect with God’s heart and obtain answers to your prayers. Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle—a church built on prayer—explains the principles of faith-filled, mountain-moving prayer that can transform circumstances, change lives, and draw you closer to God than you’ve ever imagined.

Children in the Worshiping Community by David Ng (265) A resourceful book inviting congregations to understand, to learn, to include children in the total life of the church. A warm and sometimes humorous look at the pitfalls and potentials of children and worship, featuring: child development, examples, practical suggestions, strategies, and programs. Corporate worship includes everyone (that means children too!). Children contribute to the richness and expressions of love vital to Christian worship. David Ng and Virginia Thomas tell why and how.

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.

Outreach Minutes • January 12, 2022

Members present: Jan Kurtz, Vicky Wilmer, Linda Yost, Connie Wiegel, Cindy Myatt, Kim Peake, and Nan Lishman

Treasurer's Report: We have paid our bills for the first quarter, including delivering a \$100 gift card to Express Care in Hampstead

Meals – Bonnie: Janet reports they have been very helpful

College Students: Sent gift cards to 10 students at Thanksgiving

Operation Christmas Child: Brenda reported that we sent 39 boxes to children.

Baked Potato Luncheon: Cancelled due to the rise in COVID cases.

Christmas Families: Cindy reported that we collected \$1,355 gift cards for NESAP! Thank you for your generosity, Wesley Church!

Rescue Mission: Has lots of needs at this time due to the rise in COVID cases.

- Meals – Pam
- Food truck drivers - no special license needed. Mon, Tue, Thurs, and Fridays 8 am to 1 pm.
- Gift cards for staff (Target, Walmart, grocery stores, Panera, Chick-fil-a, etc.) - would be nice to be able to give the staff those as a thanks for all of the extra they're doing.
- A thank you meal/treat for staff (like a Cinco de Mayo meal, maybe for an all staff in-person mtg). Jan will do goodie basket for staff
- A work day where they do something like help Harvie put up plexiglass, paint the old library, do a major cleaning of spaces like bathrooms and pantry at the nest, create a rose garden in the spring, install flooring???
- ↳ Cindy will do January
- ↳ Jan will organize February
- ↳ March is the Church Supper – send meals from Supper

Alpha Bottles/Carroll County Pregnancy Center: We will have Cindy check this out with Bonnie. Vicky will check with Laura to see if there is a way to donate online.

Easter Baskets: Kim will check to see what Shepherd Staff would like — a donation or baskets

Night by Night Shelter needed ready made meals. Vicky dropped some off to them.

Church Food Pantry

Refugees: Jan Kurtz

- Continuing to explore options.
 - ↳ Spoke with Pastor Jerry at NCCPUMC
 - He was interested and was going to meet with the churches in his group to determine interest and get back to me in January.
 - He liked the idea of churches working together
 - ↳ Jan spoke with Donn Dietrich at NESAP and he referred us to Stephanie Albright at Crossroads church. Jan sent email to Stephanie Albright and waiting to hear from her.

New business:

- NESAP needs assistance
 - ↳ Food pantry, Dock, In store, Delivery of food to elderly, Fuel support for people for winter
 - ↳ Outreach will send \$1,000 check to help with this.

Next Meeting: February 9th

Scholarship Opportunities

The Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church Scholarship Program provides scholarships to help supplement the financial needs of today. Scholarships are for undergraduate students enrolled full-time in an accredited college or university in the United States.

Funding for the BWC scholarships is provided through the [United Methodist Student Day Special Offering](#), the BWC Board of Trustees, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, the United Methodist Women, the United Methodist Men, and other designated gifts. Students will need to complete the online application each year. Applications are reviewed by members of the Joint Scholarship Task Force.

Scholarship applications are accepted online only **Dec 15, 2021 – March 24, 2022**. Awards are determined by the Joint Scholarship Task Force. Scholarship award email notices will be sent out in June and July 2022. Payment of scholarship awards are sent directly to the College/University for the fall term.

Important Dates:

Dec. 15 through Mar. 24: Online Application Process

Mar. 25 through May 23: Application Review Process

June/July: Award Letters Sent via E-mail to Students

Sept. 1 through Sept. 4: Checks sent to approved colleges/universities for approved students

Please review scholarship descriptions below **BEFORE APPLYING ONLINE** for a scholarship; more information can be found at <https://www.bwcumc.org/administration/local-church-resources/scholarships/>. Rev. Amy is happy to sign any scholarship application forms that students fill out.

Administrative Council Notes • December 19, 2021, and January 2, 2022

Notes from the Called Administrative Council Meetings on December 19, 2021, and January 2, 2022

The Administrative Council for Wesley United Methodist Church met on December 19th and January 2nd following the 11 AM Worship Services on those dates in order to discuss the COVID situations at those times and how to proceed as a congregation.

December 19th Attendees: Jan Kurtz, Rev. Dr. Frank Richardson, Laura Waltrup, Linda Hollman, Linda Yost, Michelle Hudgins, John Sies, Janet Martin, Connie Wiegel, Matt Sichel, Jess Sichel, Rose Sichel, and Jennifer Ejek.

In the first meeting, Jan Kurtz, Chairperson, stated that she thought a good representation was needed to make decisions about COVID. The "Omicron" variant of COVID is a concern, and Carroll County's numbers are higher than the rest of Maryland. The question is whether or not we should close down and go "remote." At that time, there was no directive from the Conference. Rev. Frank Richardson texted the District Superintendent, Rev. LaPrade, who stated that there was nothing new but thanked us for taking things seriously. Jan reviewed why this variant is more contagious.

Vaccines were encouraged at least twice during the overall conversation. Jess Sichel noted that some people are morally opposed to the vaccine and others have experienced difficulty after receiving the vaccine. Janet Martin noted that we have to assume there are people who are unvaccinated.

Jan stated that she was reluctant to shut down and that she prefers to base things on science. It was in her opinion that masking should be an absolute, and that if someone contracts COVID, he or she should let everyone know for

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contact tracing. Jan felt that it is important to gather in God's name. This wave of the virus is different from the initial wave since we now have more tools to remain safe and with vaccinations the risk is much lower.

Linda Hollman suggested that we hold off on Sunday School through January 9th due to Christmas gatherings; this would give time for the virus to "settle."

Linda Yost talked about the legacy that we leave for our children and grandchildren. We can work hard now to help nip it in the bud.

It was suggested that there be signs on the doors that masks are required and people should be socially distanced. Rose Sichel said that masks should be required; she also mentioned that the social isolation of shut-down is difficult. The group ethic is kind of essential.

Linda Hollman said that we could practice social distancing and re-evaluate in a few weeks, to which Jan replied that that's what we are inclined to do.

John Sies noted that one of the sister churches have services with registration to keep record. This was discussed, and during the discussion, Laura Waltrup offered to make up a registration form for Christmas Eve Service and sign people in. She will also hand out masks. Jess Sichel expressed that manpower is an issue with signing people in for worship.

Matt Sichel moved that we continue to meet in person. Linda Yost amended the motion to say that we will require masks throughout the entire church at this time. All were in favor of the amended motion.

After this, singing was discussed. It was noted that the congregation will be in masks all the time, but that the choir members could take off their masks when singing. That might cause some concern with the congregation, though. Pastor Frank said that the choir could separate standing next to one another. Jan Kurtz said that the risk would be to the choir, so the choir could meet and decide. That recommendation was affirmed: the choir can take up the discussion on singing in worship, etc.

In preparation for the Christmas Eve Service and the mask requirement, a mass email was to be sent (Jan Kurtz sent it later that day). Linda will provide paper masks.

Jan Kurtz emphasized that we should worship together as much as we can; there is nothing like being here. Rose Sichel said that this is not the time to get scared and noted that we will have to live with COVID. More discussion was held.

The meeting closed at 12:39 PM in prayer.

January 2nd Attendees: Jan Kurtz (Chairperson), Linda Yost, Jonathan Yost, Denny Rill, Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-Rill, Linda Hollman, Dean Brewer, Roxane Brewer, Matt Sichel, Jess Sichel, Rose Sichel, Isaac Sichel, Bonnie Catron, Nan Lishman, Gary Wilmer, Vicky Wilmer, Scott Palmer, Davona Palmer, Reenie Harris, Jennifer Ejik, John Sies, and Chet Phillips.

The January 2nd post-worship meeting was opened up to any who had attended the worship service who wanted to stay. It was called to order in prayer at 12:16 PM by Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-Rill.

Jan Kurtz further opened the meeting by introducing the question at hand: congregants have asked again about going "virtual." Jan said that we do not have a virtual service, but rather we have just a live-streamed version, so in order to provide a virtual option we would need to have an infrastructure that does not now exist. Jan also acknowledged that the COVID numbers are high, but she is very reluctant to shut down the church. We have gone to lengths to protect one another, and those who do not feel comfortable may choose not to come and watch the service through livestreaming.

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Linda Yost noted that everyone is carefully seating in social distancing. She felt that those who were here were acting responsibly.

Nan Lishman stated that the church lifts one another and is family; Satan is enjoying the disruption.

Denny said that 48 people here in attendance spoke volumes, noting that to be in community is important.

Linda Hollman affirmed the idea that we should not shut down and that there is the option to stay home for those who feel that they should.

Chet Phillips noted that the discussion/decision should not be political and needs to be people for people. He also said that the numbers speak volumes about people wanting to be here. However, he did say that there are 300 employees with COVID who are out and that the health care system is being stretched like a thin rubber band. Friday, Pam had 65 phone calls in 8 hours at her job and is feeling the strain. We should try to do things as long as it is feasible to stay open.

Matt Sichel said that the church is not acting dangerously and that the county is not the same as Wesley's environment. We are being as helpful as possible, and he does not feel that it is the church that is causing concern.

Bonnie Catron felt very comfortable here. Roxane Brewer said that the congregation is probably highly vaccinated, is masking, and is social distancing. Jan Kurtz noted that larger churches that have shut down have more fluid congregation than Wesley's. Reenie Harris felt that it is important to be together and worship. She further stated that it is all common sense; while she hasn't felt comfortable in other situations, she felt okay at Book Club.

Jess Sichel spoke about the importance of not judging people for their decisions about vaccination, as different people have different perspectives for reasons.

Jan Kurtz talked about the Urgent Care Center and supporting it. A donation was/will be made to help with the stress at Urgent Care.

Further discussion ensued.

Other emails came in for this meeting regarding votes about staying open or going virtual:

- Michelle Hudgins voted not to stay open.
- Laura Waltrup suggested going virtual for two to three weeks and reevaluating; she also noted that it can't be presumed that going virtual would be easy. She is making a personal decision to keep her distance at this time, but she will go along with whatever the majority decides for the church.
- Connie Wiegel said that she is concerned; she voted to go virtual this month to be safe.
- Janet Martin voted to go virtual.
- Patty Harris said she would go with what we decide and mentioned the Sunday School families.

A motion was made that we stay open for the foreseeable future (with the current precautions). The motion was seconded.

Rev. Amy was asked about her opinion. She said that she is concerned about COVID, but is in favor of staying open.

Rose Sichel said that she was concerned about the technology if we go virtual; Chet Phillips said that he will be taught ("teach me").

A vote was taken. All present in person were in favor of the motion, meaning the majority of the total votes were in favor, so the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by Jessica Sichel, Recording Secretary



FEBRUARY 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Girl Scout Meetings 6:30 to 8 PM	2 Visitation at J&Ps Restaurant 12 Noon Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM Trustees 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM	3 Choir Rehearsal 7 PM <i>Camp JOY Information Meeting 7 PM on Zoom (see ad on page 7)</i>	4 Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM	5
6 11 AM Traditional Worship Service	7 Small Group 7 PM in Harrell Library	8 Worship Committee Meeting on Zoom, 7 PM	9 Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM Outreach 6 PM SPRC 7:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM <i>Submissions Due for the Wesley Lenten Devotional</i>	10 Choir Rehearsal 7 PM	11 Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM	12
13 11 AM Traditional Worship Service	14	15 Girl Scout Meetings 6:30 to 8 PM <i>March Journal Submissions Due Today!</i>	16 Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM Finance 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM	17 United Methodist Women's Meeting 11 AM Choir Rehearsal 7 PM	18 Office Drop-In 2 to 4 PM	19
20 11 AM Traditional Worship Service <i>After-Church Lunch Bunch following Worship</i>	21 United Methodist Men's Meeting 6:30 PM	22 Office Closed	23 Administrative Council 7 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM	24 Book Club 1 PM at MJ's Café & Baking Co. Choir Rehearsal 7 PM	25	26
27 11 AM Contemporary Worship Service	28					

Worship Schedule:
Worship services are being held indoors and in-person at 11 AM. The services will also be live-streamed for those unable to participate in person.

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**.

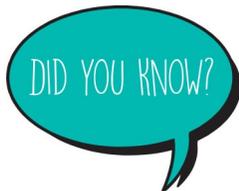
Worship Participants for February:

February 6: Liturgist—Jess Sichel, Acolyte—Will Otwell, A/V—The Sichels

February 13: Liturgist—Linda Hollman, Acolyte—Isaac Sichel, A/V—The Sichels

February 20: Liturgist — Laura Waltrup, Acolyte—*Need*, A/V—Linda Yost

February 27: Praise Team Leader — Lisa Kemp, Acolyte—Will Otwell, A/V—Matt Otwell



- ↪ **Camp JOY! Information Sessions** — See page 6
- ↪ **Wesley's On-site Food Cupboard** — See page 8
- ↪ **We're Hiring! Job Description** — See page 9

...and more!

The Wesley Journal *February 2022* Issue



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The Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-Rill, Pastor
Address Service Requested